

**CONSULTATION ON CORE STRATEGY  
ISSUES AND OPTIONS  
SPRING 2007**

**Sheet 7  
Recreation and Tourism**



## Peak District National Park Authority

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**Your comments and views on this options paper are welcomed up to 29 June 2007.** Enquiries can be directed to Brian Taylor, Policy Planning Manager on 01629 816 303. This report is also accessible from our website located under [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/plansandpolicies.htm](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/plansandpolicies.htm) .

**We are happy to provide this information in alternative formats on request where reasonable.**

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Issue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing a positive framework for the public to access, enjoy and understand the landscapes and settlements of the NP.</li> <li>2. Safeguarding existing sports &amp; recreation sites and resources</li> <li>3. The scope for serviced holiday accommodation.</li> <li>4. Caravans and camping</li> <li>5. The need for new or improved facilities in the most sustainable locations, e.g. settlements and gateway sites</li> </ol>
Evidence	<p><b>National</b></p> <p><a href="#">1995 Environment Act</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires changes to the wording of National Park purposes to “promoting understanding of the special qualities of the National Park”.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PPG17 Sport and Recreation</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noisy and other intrusive activities should be restricted to locations where they will have minimal or no impact on residents and other recreational users. (however NP designation does not preclude sport and recreation per se)</li> <li>• Tourism developments should be strictly controlled in number, location and extent to ensure conservation of the special qualities and features that led to National Park designation.</li> <li>• Open space or sports fields should be protected from development unless they are surplus to requirements, or an alternative of equivalent of better quality or quantity in a suitable location is provided</li> </ul> <p>PPG17 Good Practice Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies should identify existing spaces and facilities, and consider their protection and enhancement and new provision to fill gaps</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">PPS7. Sustainable Development in rural areas</a> and <a href="#">PPG21 Tourism (&amp; Good Practice Guide)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable tourism and leisure developments should benefit rural businesses, communities and visitors and enrich the character of countryside, towns, villages and buildings.</li> <li>• Convert suitable buildings to hotel and other serviced accommodation, and be positive towards extensions to existing accommodation.</li> <li>• Support other forms of self-catering accommodation where this would accord with sustainable development objectives.</li> <li>• Authorities should support the provision of appropriate facilities to enhance visitors' enjoyment, if they conserve and enhance the surrounding countryside.</li> <li>• Camping and caravan sites should not be prominent in the landscape.</li> </ul>

- Authorities should balance the impact of proposed new or expanded caravan parks and chalets, against the need to protect landscapes and environmentally sensitive sites.
- Authorities should examine the scope for relocation of existing visually or environmentally intrusive sites away from sensitive areas (PPS7).

#### [Good Practice Guidance on Planning for Tourism](#)

- Authorities and the tourism industry should work together to provide sufficient visitor accommodation, but particular care must be taken in designated areas.

#### [Demand for outdoor recreation in the English National Parks \(Countryside Agency\)](#)

- Calls for clear and unambiguous policies in Development Plans and National Park Management Plans, to promote their second purpose.

Principles for sustainable tourism in NPs and AONBs agreed in 2004

- Tourism should be based on the area's special qualities and individual distinctiveness, and if there is irreconcilable conflict, protection of environment and communities must prevail.

#### **Regional**

#### [East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy RSS8](#)

- Recognises the importance of tourism to the regional economy.
- Wants maximum economic benefit with minimum impact on the environment and local amenity.
- Recommends additional facilities including accommodation, and improvements to the quality of facilities.
- Suggests that surrounding authorities should take visitor pressure off the National Park.

#### [The East Midlands Regional Tourism Strategy](#)

- The reasons people visit the countryside (peace and quiet, remoteness, unspoilt landscapes) must be balanced against the impacts that increasing visitor numbers on these landscapes.
- Tourism development should be environmentally sustainable, and improve the quality of life of local people as well as visitors.

#### Perfecting the Peak

- The strategy is to make sure that the Peak continues to be a cherished resource and a top quality tourism attractor.

## Local

### [Structure Plan](#)

#### RT1

- Defines three recreation zones and describes appropriate recreation and tourism development for each zone
- Encourages activities which depend upon the valued characteristics of the National Park and do not have unacceptable impact upon them.

#### RT2

- Safeguards community recreation sites and important recreation areas or features unless a satisfactory replacement is provided.

#### RT3

- Supports the provision of holiday accommodation by conversion or by extension of existing holiday accommodation, but not by new building.

#### RT4

- Supports small scale camping and caravan sites if they are in keeping with their surroundings.
- Rejects large sites, and static caravans or chalets because of their impact on the landscape, particularly in the winter months.

#### Visitor survey 1998

- The main reasons people give for visiting the National Park are ... landscape...peace and tranquillity ... therefore protect these qualities

### [Peak District Visitor Survey 2005](#)

The Peak District is one of the most popular National Parks in the world. But who visits, why and what do they do while they are here?

During 2005 almost 30,000 people were asked about their visit.

Here are some of our main findings:

#### Who visited?

- People of all ages visited although fewest were aged between 16 and 24
- There were similar numbers of male and female visitors
- People from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds visited, though the majority were white British
- Just over half of visitors were employed, one fifth were retired and just under one fifth were students
- Average group size was three people
- Fewer than one in 30 people had a mobility problem. Almost one group in 10 included a person with a mobility problem
- Families made up just over half of the groups but only one group in five included a child

- One group in seven brought a dog

When did they visit?

- People visited throughout the year. There were generally fewer visitors during the winter
- Half visited at least every three months
- Fewer than one in 10 had never been to the Peak District before
- Most visited on a Saturday or Sunday

Why did they visit?

- Almost everyone came to see the scenery and about half to enjoy the peace and tranquillity
- Around half visited because they had been before and over a quarter because they lived locally

What did they do?

- Most people travelled by car or van with an average of three people
- The most popular activity was walking. Other activities including climbing, cycling and sightseeing
- On average people spent £9.65 during their visit, although one in three did not spend anything
- One in three visited more than one location during the day

How long did they stay?

- A quarter of visitors spent at least one night away from home and half stayed in the National Park
- The most popular types of accommodation were caravan or camping, a hotel or staying with friends or relatives
- For each day of their visit most people stayed less than three hours in the National Park

What did they think about their visit?

### [National Park Management Plan](#)

Required outcomes

By 2011, all people, visitors and residents alike, especially those from disadvantaged communities, children and young people and the elderly should:

- feel welcome in the National Park; and
- have the opportunity to participate in diverse recreational activities that enhance the quality of their lives.

By 2011, the number of people staying overnight in the Peak District, and the sustainability of tourism experiences is increased, especially resulting from:

- increased quality of tourism services; and
- a wider range of tourism products based on and compatible with the special

qualities\* of the National Park.

\* National Park special qualities include the 'sense of wildness and remoteness', 'opportunities for quiet enjoyment' and 'opportunities for outdoor recreation and adventure'.

#### Peak District Sustainable Tourism Strategy

- Aims to maximise the local economic benefits of tourism, partly by increasing the number of staying visitors.
- Recommends that more accommodation should be encouraged in the NP but also in surrounding market towns.

#### Recent consultation

- A small number of people were in favour of chalet developments, and felt they could be acceptable in well-screened locations. They say that higher occupancy rates bring more money and jobs to the area.
- Other people thought that chalets and timber lodges were inappropriate in the Peak District landscape.
- Camping and caravan site operators say that holiday makers are demanding more and better facilities including shops, restaurants, sports and leisure facilities; new dwellings for site wardens; larger camping and caravan sites. Site operators want policy that enables this to happen
- Many site operators say that upgrading is vital to the continued competitiveness of Peak District sites in the UK and European market.
- There was no comment on the control of development in the recreation zones, but they have proved to be a useful tool in preventing inappropriate development.
- There was general support for the need to control tourism development to prevent damage to the environment of the National Park and its special qualities such as tranquillity and quiet enjoyment.
- There was general acceptance amongst local authorities and some communities of the importance of tourism to the local economy.

#### Draft NPMP question

Tourism is a vital part of people's enjoyment of the National Park. The Sustainable Tourism Strategy guides tourism development although some question whether the tourism industry in the National Park is really sustainable in the long term. Is tourism development harming the environment that visitors come to experience?

- Gorham, Mr John -  
Yes through volume of traffic and parking facilities ( or lack of) affecting communities. Also, damage to rights of way by push bikes and motor bikes ( a small number of people causing a lot of damage)
- Stewart, Mr Jon - English Nature, Peak District & Derbyshire Team  
Inevitably unmanaged tourism can create problems. Tourism development needs to be appropriate to its location. Not everywhere is sensitive. There does need to be much more support from organisations to back up

conservation work (e.g. on the moors) so that fire risk and other damage is minimised.

- Shirley, Mr Andrew - Country Land and Business Association  
Dialogue is required between NPA and EMT to see what can be delivered through their DMP
- Potter, Mr R G - Peak District Sustainable Tourism Forum -  
Yes - tourism can damage the Park but the area needs tourism for the income which is then regenerated for landscape and building maintenance. -  
The answer is provided by the Sustainable Tourism Strategy. It simply needs to be implemented by ALL Parties
- Cuff, Janet - Ramblers Association Manchester and High Peak area  
Ramblers group favour quiet informal recreation such as walking and cycling but fear that active recreation and large scale events will damage the environment and other visitors' and residents' enjoyment of it. Organised recreation also brings in large numbers of cars and should be strictly limited in the Park. Conservation projects are good organised recreational opportunities which will help people understand the Park and burn off physical energy in a fun way.
- Hayfield Parish Council  
On the whole tourism has to be beneficial though there are isolated problems (overflowing car parks, blocked access points, litter etc)
- Sheldon Parish Council  
Yes tourism is harming the environment that visitors come to experience.
- Salmen, Alison - Hope Valley Access  
Tourism certainly brings heavy traffic which is a problem.
- Stone, Jane - Outseats Parish Council  
Regulate parking places and provide more park and ride from edge of Park because tourism is harming the environment.
- Fyne, Jon - Pedal Pushers - The Sheffield Cycle Campaign  
It is the type of visitor that determines sustainability not the number.
- Dudley, Anne - Bakewell Access Group  
Yes tourists do manage the environment but we are all tourists at some time or other.
- Coope, Irene - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust  
In some areas tourism is harming the Park
- Wilson, Pat - High Peak Borough Council  
Tourism development is essential and we need to include communities and businesses in the process. One way to relieve pressure is to make more of gateway towns such as Glossop, Buxton, Chapel and Hayfield and stress their importance in terms of the services they provide to visitors.
- Merryfield, Judy - PDNPA Area management  
Tourism can never be sustainable - we need to minimise the dangers and maximise the benefits.
- Cartledge, C J - Hathersage Parish Council  
Properly managed tourism doesn't harm the villages and landscapes and the Park is far from full. NPA and DCC approach don't help - obtrusive white lining, big car parks and blue signs which are ineffective and permanent blights on the landscapes and attract crime and anti social behaviour ( all for a few weekends when it is busy).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Billings, Rachel - Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire Tourism needs a set of guidelines and then for each case to be considered on its merits. It is not unsustainable per se.</li> <li>• King, John - Friends of the Peak District Tourism does harm the environment in the National Park. From the visual intrusion of cars parked in the landscape, the erosion of paths and damage to moorland and the emission of pollutants from vehicles that bring visitors. Some of this damage is offset by revenues from tourist expenditure that is then ploughed into environmental schemes. More should be done. Environmental levies should be placed on services and goods that visitors buy, for example hotel rooms. Voluntary schemes should be encouraged. Driving should be discouraged through parking charges with residents' exemption permits.</li> </ul>
Option 7.1.1	<p><b>Issue 1: provision of a positive framework for the public to access, enjoy and understanding the landscapes and settlements of the NP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain the current approach to zoning recreational and tourism activity and amend the policy to accommodate educational uses.</li> <li>• The zoning policy must be informed by Landscape Character Assessment.</li> </ul>
Option 7.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplify the current zoning to just refer to most sensitive areas and areas of heavier recreation pressure</li> </ul>
Option 7.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a more flexible approach to tourism and recreational uses in the National Park to satisfy the demands for attractions and accommodation. To be informed by LCA.</li> </ul>
Option 7.2.1	<p><b>Issue 2: provision of new tourist facilities or facilities aimed at promoting the understanding of the National Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new sites identified with scope for delivery within recreation zone criteria</li> </ul>
Option 7.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New sites identified in accordance with recreation zones and settlement strategy and linked to sustainable gateways or hubs</li> </ul>
Option 7.3.1	<p><b>Issue 3: serviced holiday accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new build accommodation but scope via extension or improvement of existing accommodation and by conversion of traditional buildings outside settlements.</li> </ul>
Option 7.3.2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favour conversions outside designated settlements, and allow some new build in Bakewell.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put Section 106 agreements on holiday homes to control use and external appearance in sensitive locations.</li> </ul>
Option 7.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit new build development in Bakewell and other larger settlements such as Tideswell and Hathersage with scope for conversions inside and outside settlements.</li> </ul>
Option 7.4.1	<p><b>Issue 4: Caravans and camping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only permit small scale caravan and camping sites.</li> </ul>
Option 7.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit larger scale facilities and permanent chalets and static caravans where they can be integrated without harm to the valued characteristics of the National Park.</li> </ul>

**Do you have a preferred option or is there another option you would prefer to see?**