

**PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL
PARK AUTHORITY CORE
STRATEGY-
Submission Version**

Sustainability Appraisal Report

**Prepared for the Peak District
National Park Authority
by
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August 2010

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APPENDICIES

- Appendix A** – Response to Scoping Consultation Comments
 - Appendix B** – Plans, Policies and Programmes Review
 - Appendix C** – Full SA Framework
 - Appendix D** – Refined Options Assessment
 - Appendix E** – Submission Version Assessment
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I. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

- I.1. This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC) as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Peak District National Park Core Strategy, working with and on behalf of the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).
- I.2. The Sustainability Appraisal process is concerned with consideration and assessment of social, economic and environmental factors that can be influenced by the Core Strategy. This report forms the Sustainability Appraisal of the Peak District National Park Core Strategy Submission Version and should accompany and be read in conjunction with that document.
- I.3. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Core Strategy is being undertaken alongside this SA and the results from that assessment are being taken into consideration throughout the SA process.

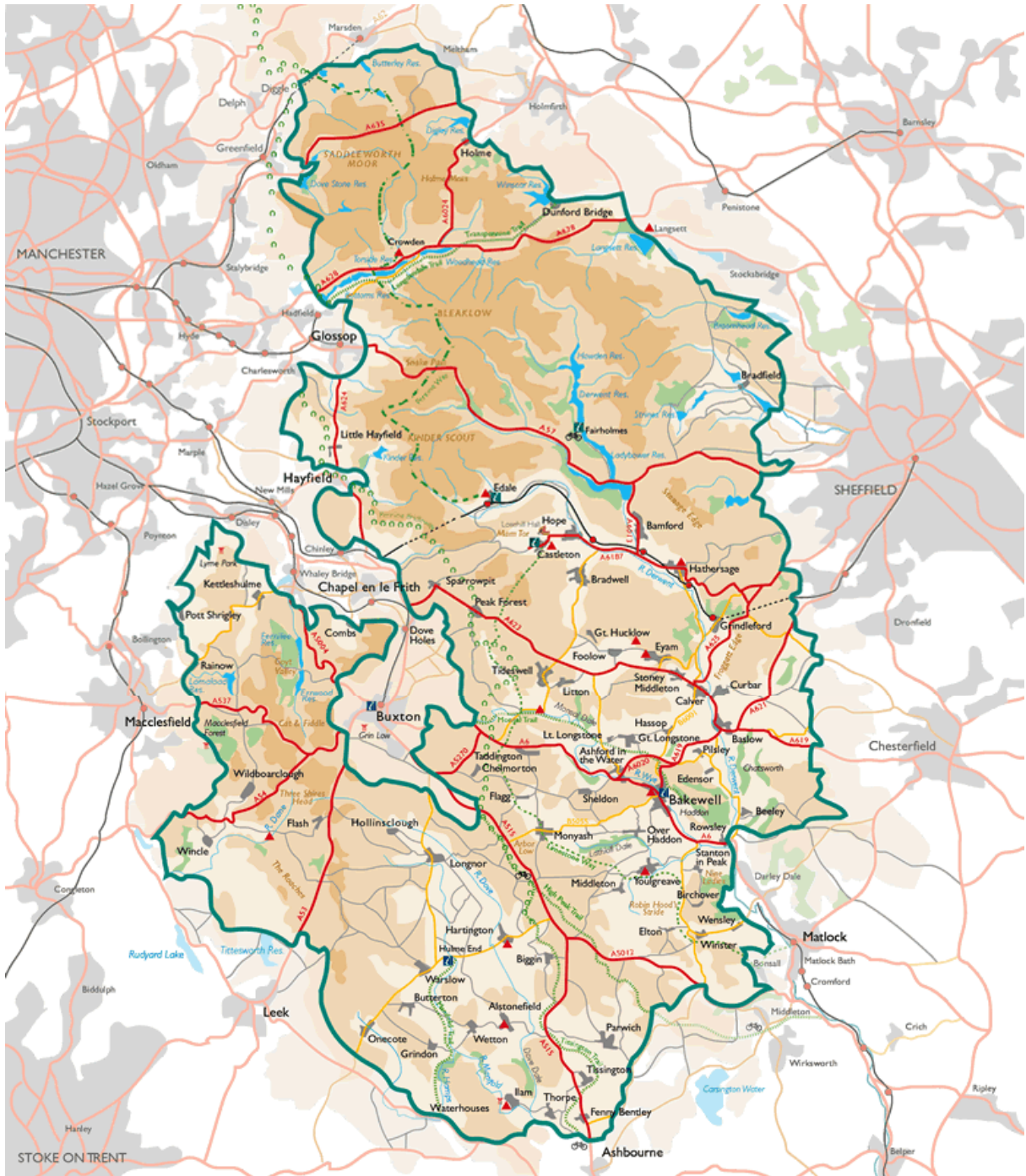
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

- I.4. The Peak District is an upland area located in central and northern England. In 1951 the Peak District¹ was the first National Park to be designated in Britain. It sits at the southern end of the Pennine Chain² sandwiched between Sheffield and Manchester and covers 1438 km². Gritstone edges, wild heather moorlands, and gentle limestone dales shaped by humans over thousands of years, attract between 18-22 million day visitors and 2.5 million visitors who stay overnight annually, from all over the country and worldwide to visit the National Park.¹
- I.5. The National Park is home to 38,000 people making up 20,000 households. 60% of the population is of working age with 25% being self-employed, twice the English national average. Tourism and catering make up 24% of all jobs within the National Park and quarrying and agriculture both create a further 12 % each.²

¹ Tourism in the Peak District – Fact Sheet 2. Peak District National Park Authority.

² The Peak District National Park Authority – Living in. Accessed 11/08/09 (<http://www.peakdistrict.org/index/living-in.htm>)

Figure I.1: Peak District National Park Area



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|--------------------|--|------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Railway and Station | | Pennine Bridleway | | Information Centre | | Settlement |
| | Land over 400 metres | | Railway Tunnel | | Pennine Way | | Cycle Hire | | Reservoir |
| | Land over 300 metres | | A Road | | Trail | | Youth Hostel | | Woodland |
| | Land over 200 metres | | B Road | | Limestone Way | | Country Park | | |
| | | | Minor Road | | | | | | |

Peak District National Park Authority © 2008

Figure 1.2: Peak District local authority and regional boundaries (Peak District National Park Management Plan 2006 – 2011)



PEAK DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY

- I.6. The Core Strategy sets out the long term spatial vision and objectives for the National Park, and the strategic policies and development principles that are required to deliver that vision over the period up to 2029. It sets out broad locations for delivering housing and other strategic development needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development. It is anticipated that a small number of development control policies are to be included within the Core Strategy to help with the practical implementation of the vision and objectives.
- I.7. At a late stage in completing the publication version of the plan, the Authority learned of the commitment of the Coalition Government to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies. The Authority has subsequently amended references to the East Midlands Regional Plan, referring more correctly to the role of the Regional Plan as an evidence base in developing the strategy, rather than as a document with which policies need to be in conformity. Accordingly this final version of the SA report has also been revised to take into account changes to the Core Strategy.
- I.8. In the National Park it is essential to make sure that all policy development (including the use of tools such as SA/SEA) focuses on and prioritises the purposes and duty of National Parks, as set out in the Environment Act 1995. The **purposes** are to:
- ‘Conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage’, and
 - ‘Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment (of the Parks) by the public’
- I.9. In pursuing these purposes the Authority has a **duty** to ‘seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities’.
- I.10. Since the National Park Authority is bound by the purposes and duty set out in the Environment Act, this document seeks to embed them firmly within the SA/SEA process. It is the purposes and duty that guide strategic policy in the National Park Management Plan and the Local Development Framework. This approach has been supported consistently by Government Planning Policy Statements and by Inspectors presiding over development plan policy.
- I.11. Where there is a conflict between the purposes themselves (perhaps from proposals for recreational development that would harm the valued characteristics of the National Park), the “Sandford Principle” has established to Government’s satisfaction that the conservation purpose should prevail. Existing plan policies take this understanding about National Park purposes into account.
- I.12. The **Peak District National Park Management Plan 2006 – 2011** indicates that the National Park purposes and associated duty will be delivered through sustainable development and sets the framework for all activity pursued in the National Park by a range of stakeholders and it will be vital that the Core Strategy and Management Plan are aligned.
- I.13. The Core Strategy also needs to be aligned with the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Because of the complex geography of the National Park ten Sustainable

Communities Strategies require consideration. In terms of population cover the **Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009 – 2014** is the most significant and sets the aims for the area and provides policy priorities for the Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) being produced by the District / Borough councils and the National Park Authority to guide future development in the area. The Strategy sets out the following vision:

‘The Peak District will be a distinctive, high quality rural environment with...

- a) *people of all ages who are healthy and safe;*
- b) *high-wage, high-skill jobs;*
- c) *affordable, decent homes for local people; and*
- d) *towns and villages that offer a high quality of life.’*

- I.14. The LDF (including the Core Strategy) should be the spatial representation of the aims set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- I.15. The Core Strategy will be supported by the following statutory Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs):
 - Development Management Policies DPD;
 - Proposals Map covering the whole National Park, plus detailed inset maps of villages;
 - Design Guide SPD (already produced);
 - Technical Design Supplements SPD;
 - Climate Change and Sustainable Building SPD; and
 - Replacements for existing supplementary planning guidance covering the local need for affordable housing and the design of farm buildings.
- I.16. These documents in combination make up the Peak District LDF and when adopted, will, together with the Regional Plan, will become the Statutory Development Plan for the National Park.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- I.17. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is designed to ensure that the Development Plan Document (DPD) preparation process improves the contribution that a Plan makes to the achievement of sustainable development and to the minimisation of adverse environmental impacts. The SA process appraises the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies within a DPD from the outset of its development.
- I.18. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory assessment process under the SEA Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633). The Regulations require

formal strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment and set the framework for future consent of projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under EU Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC concerning EIA. The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment, as defined in Article 1 of the SEA Directive is *‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development’*.

- I.19. SEA is a separate process to SA but has similar aims and objectives. Simply put, Sustainability Appraisal includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts of plans, whereas SEA is more focussed on environmental impacts. The 2009 Planning Advisory Services’ Plan Making Manual clearly shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements through a single appraisal process undertaking a joint SA/SEA, and it is possible to present an SA report that includes the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This document has been prepared in line with this integrated approach, and where the abbreviation SA is used, this should be taken to also incorporate the requirements of SEA. **Table I.1** below signposts where each requirement of the SEA Directive has been met within this SA report.

Table I.1 Summary of the requirements of the SEA Directive and where these have been addressed in this SA Report (after Appendix I, SA Guidance, ODPM, 2005)

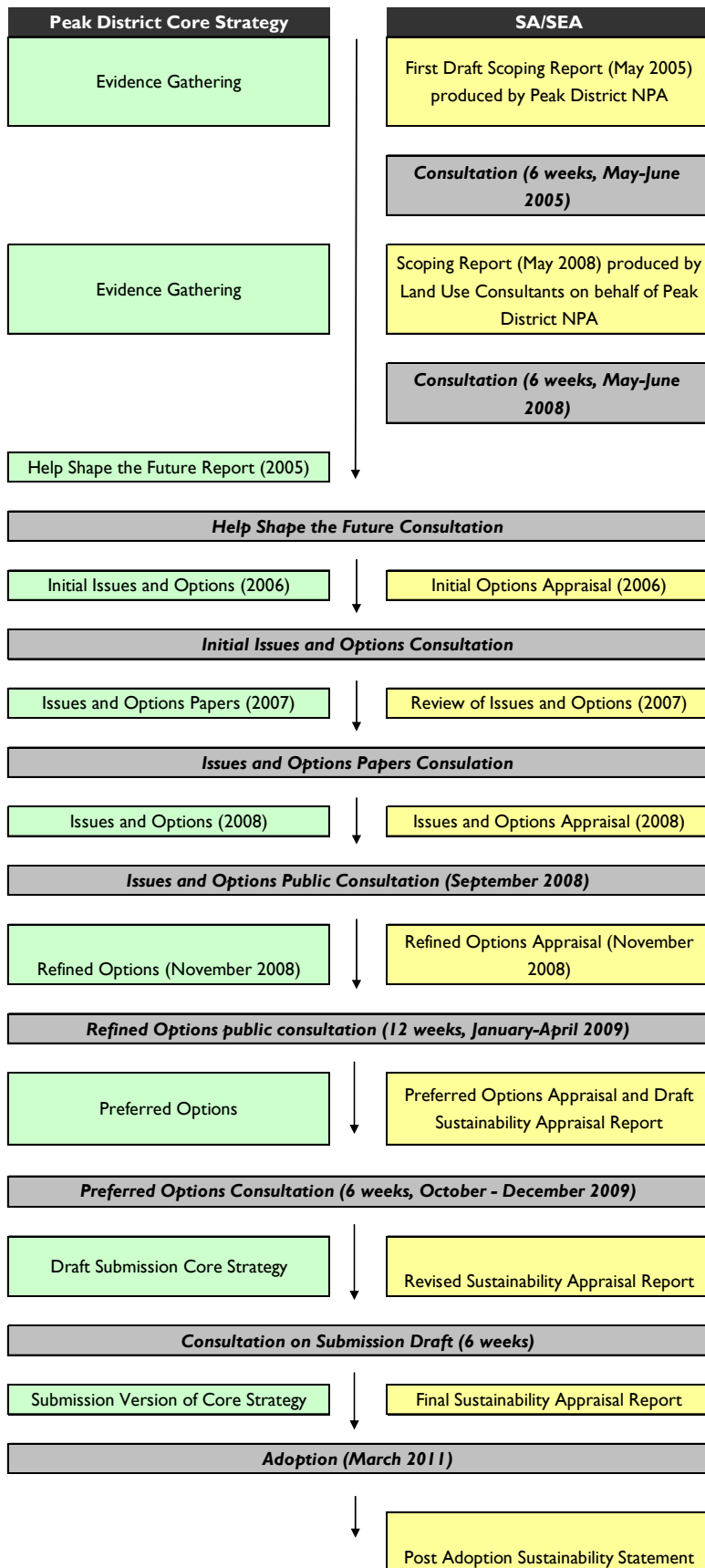
SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in SA Report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes; 	Chapter 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme; 	Chapter 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected; 	Chapters 4 - 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.; 	Chapters 4 - 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation; 	Chapters 4 - 16 and Appendix B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects); 	Chapters 4 - 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme; 	Chapters 4 - 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information; 	Chapter 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10; a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings 	Chapters 4 - 16 Non-Technical summary at the front of this report
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	Chapters 2 and 4 - 16
Consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	Scoping Report and Appendix A

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in SA Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	Consultation on this SA Report and previous and subsequent stages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	Not applicable
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	To be addressed at a later stage
Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	To be addressed at a later stage
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	Chapters 4 - 16
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (Art. 12)	This table demonstrates where the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met throughout the report.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The approach taken to carrying out the SA of the Peak District Core Strategy is based on current best practice and the following guidance:
- *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (November 2005); and
 - *Practical Guide to the SEA Directive*, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (September 2005)
 - *Sustainability Appraisal Planning Policy Manual*, Planning Advisory Service (2009)
- 2.2. The methodology below describes and documents the work that has been undertaken to date and provides information on the subsequent stages of the SA process. **Figure 2.1** below illustrates the key milestones in the SA process and shows how it runs in parallel and interacts with the production of the Core Strategy.

Figure 2.1: Core Strategy Production and the SA Process



SCOPING

- 2.3. The SA process for the Peak District Core Strategy started in 2005 when PDNPA produced the first draft of the Scoping Report, which covered both the LDF and the National Park Management Plan. The Scoping Report was published in June 2005 for consultation with various stakeholders and the following statutory consultees; English Nature, Countryside Agency, The Environment Agency and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage). The Scoping Report was also posted on the National Park website (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk) to enable the public to contribute to the consultation.
- 2.4. Following this consultation process the Sustainability Objectives were considerably refined. Some initial appraisal work was then undertaken on some early options. A stakeholder presentation was held in October 2005 to present the findings of these early appraisals of options and also obtain feedback on the scoping work.
- 2.5. A decision was then made to separate the Core Strategy and Management Plan processes and Land Use Consultants (LUC) was commissioned in 2007 by PDNPA to undertake a review and verification exercise of the joint scoping report which was produced in 2005. As a result of this process, some key gaps in the baseline data were identified as well as problems with the definition of key issues.
- 2.6. LUC was then commissioned to revise the scoping report concentrating solely on the Core Strategy and then to carry out the remainder of the SA process for the Core Strategy.
- 2.7. A second draft of the scoping report was then produced and issued for consultation to the statutory consultees - Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency - in May 2008. The comments received were analysed and necessary changes to the scoping report were made in July 2008. **Appendix A** lists the comments received and the responses made.
- 2.8. The scoping stages and accompanying reports encompassed the following procedures and outputs.

Review of Policies, Plans, and Programmes

- 2.9. The Core Strategy is not prepared in isolation; it is greatly influenced by other policies, plans and programmes. Importantly, it needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to the environmental protection legislation and sustainability objectives established at an international, European and national level.
- 2.10. A review was undertaken of other plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Core Strategy at an international, national, regional and local level. This review included information from an initial study undertaken as part of the first draft scoping report (June 2005) and some supplementary work that was undertaken as part of the second draft scoping report (May 2008). The conclusions drawn from this review,

alongside the review of baseline data, trends and issues, have informed the development of the SA Framework (see **Appendix C**). The full review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in **Appendix B** (the original version has since been updated to ensure that the information included remains current). There are a number of key strategies of particular importance relating to each SA Objective and these are highlighted in **Chapters 4-16** of this SA Report.

Baseline

- 2.11. Baseline data provides the context for the assessment of sustainability and the basis for identifying trends, predicting effects and monitoring outcomes. The requirements for baseline data vary widely, but it must be relevant to the environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and ideally have sufficient records to identify trends.
- 2.12. Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive requires data to be gathered on the following topics: *biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors*. Additionally 'sustainability' topics were also included, covering housing, access to services, crime and safety, education and engagement, tourism and recreation, rights of way and open access, employment characteristics, transport and accessibility, market towns and villages and rural deprivation.
- 2.13. Most of the baseline data was drawn from the State of the Park Report, the recent scoping report on the Design Guide and the following emerging evidence reports:
 - Strategic Housing Needs Survey
 - Population projections
 - Landscape Character Assessment
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
 - Gypsy and Traveller Study
 - Employment Land review
 - Transport Study
 - Open Space Study
 - Climate Change Study
 - Housing Market Assessment
 - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
 - Retail Study.
- 2.14. This approach is in line with that recommended in the Planning Advisory Services *Sustainability Appraisal Planning Policy Manual*, (2009) which advocates the avoidance of duplication between the evidence base prepared for the DPD and the baseline prepared for the SA.
- 2.15. The information was supplemented by discussions with staff from the Peak District National Park Authority and updated recently with necessary by additional sources which have been referenced separately.

- 2.16. The baseline information relating to each SA Objective is presented in **Chapters 4-16** of this SA Report.

Sustainability Issues

- 2.17. Drawing on the review of plans, policies and programmes and the baseline data, the key **Sustainability Issues** were highlighted (including environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive). Opportunities were also identified where relevant. The Sustainability Issues are presented in **Chapters 4-16**, underneath the corresponding SA Objective.

SA Framework

- 2.18. The **Sustainability Appraisal Framework** sets out the Sustainability Objectives. The development of SA Objectives is a recognised way in which environmental and other sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. Although not a requirement of the SEA Directive, the use of objectives is a recognised way of considering the environmental and sustainability credentials of a plan and comparing the impacts of various alternatives. The SA Objectives are used in conjunction with the baseline data to predict the likely sustainability effects.
- 2.19. The formulation of SA Objectives is based on the environmental topics identified in Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive to ensure that all the issues detailed were considered: “*biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*”. Additional social and economic topics were also covered within the SA Objectives. Environmental protection, social and economic objectives identified in other plans, policies and programmes and results from the baseline data collection and identification of key issues also fed into the development of the SA Objectives.
- 2.20. ODPM’s SA Guidance recommends that the SA Objectives are developed in consultation with key stakeholders. This took place during the two iterations of the Scoping Report. The first SA Framework was presented in the first draft of the Scoping Report in June 2005. The SA objectives were informed by *the State of the Park Report*, Annual Monitoring Reports, and by consultations with representatives of other National Parks and constituent authorities. They were also informed by both national and regional guidance, and it was considered that the SA Objectives fulfilled the statutory purposes of the National Park. Where appropriate, targets and indicators have been used to enable these objectives to be measured.
- 2.21. The SA Framework was then refined following a review of the first scoping report in June 2007, a review of the SA Objectives in the Peak District Design Guide prepared in November 2006, and further consultations with statutory environmental consultees. The draft SA Objectives were also subject to further comments from statutory environmental consultees on issue of the Scoping Reports. The SA Objectives are set out according to the National Park’s purposes and duty.
- 2.22. **Table 4.1** summarises the resulting framework for the SA of the Core Strategy, setting out each SA Objective and showing its links with the topics that the SEA

Directive requires to be addressed, as well as other key sustainability topics. The full framework, including sub-objectives and criteria, can be seen in **Appendix C**.

Table 4.1: SA Framework

Sustainability Objectives	SEA Directive and Other Key Topics
1. To protect, maintain and enhance the landscape and townscape of the National Park	Landscape
2. To protect, enhance and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests	Biodiversity, flora, fauna
3. To preserve, protect and enhance the National Park's historic and cultural environment	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
4. To protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise and light pollution	Soil, water, air
5. To minimise the consumption of natural resources	Material assets
6. To develop a managed response to climate change	Climatic factors
7. To achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development	Material assets
8. Increase understanding of the special qualities of the National Park by target groups, young people (14-20 years); people from disadvantaged areas, with disabilities and from ethnic minority backgrounds	Population, human health
9. To promote access for all	Population, human health
10. Promote good governance	Population
11. To help meet local need for housing	Population, built environment
12. Encourage better access to a range of local centres, services and amenities	Services and facilities
13. Promote a healthy Park-wide economy	Economy
14. To reduce road traffic (especially private cars and freight), traffic congestion and improve safety, health and air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car	Air, human health

- 2.23. It was decided to scope out SA Objective 10 “Promote good governance” as the various iterations of options and Preferred Approaches had showed a neutral impact on this SA Objective.

Consultation

- 2.24. Consulting on the Scoping Report through public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA/SEA and plan-making process. Consultation helps to ensure that the SA Report will be robust and have due regard to the appropriate information that will support the plan in its contribution to sustainable development. The Scoping Report was published for a six week consultation period (exceeding the requirement for a five week consultation in the SEA Regulations) and focused on the Statutory Consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage). In line with best practice and PDNPA’s desire to be as inclusive as possible, a wide

range of stakeholders were consulted. All consultation responses referring to the SA process are presented in **Appendix A**.

ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES & REFINED OPTIONS

- 2.25. Following on from the scoping stage, the process of understanding the potential impacts of the options began. The SA process is iterative, ongoing and cyclic, rather than sequential and in the spirit of this approach, as PDNPA has been developing and refining the issues that need to be addressed by the Core Strategy and the alternative ways that these issues could be addressed, a series of SA assessments have been undertaken on the emerging options. These iterations were made available to consultees to help inform their comments on the Issues and Options papers at various points and have also helped to inform the plan making team as they refine and develop the Options. These various iterations are explained below in more detail. All of the SA assessments described below are available from PDNPA on request.
- 2.26. In 2005 PDNPA produced a consultation document entitled '*Help Shape the Future*' which started to explore issues facing the National Park and the potential options for addressing these issues. Following public consultation on this document, in October 2006 PDNPA went on to produce an initial Issues and Options paper. This paper underwent a high level SA review to help inform the development of the options.
- 2.27. In the Spring of 2007, PDNPA published and consulted on an Issues and Options paper covering a wide range of themes that the Core Strategy may need to address. A SA accompanied these papers to help inform their development and for consultation.
- 2.28. In 2008, a final Issues and Options paper for the Core Strategy was produced and a full SA assessment was undertaken using the SA framework that was developed as part of the scoping phase to accompany these refined options. The SA assessment was published on the PDNPA website alongside the Issues and Options paper and in September 2008 a workshop was held with key stakeholders to present the work being done on the SA and to discuss the initial findings relating to the Issues and Options.
- 2.29. In November 2008 the Refined Options for the Core Strategy were produced and a full SA assessment was again undertaken to accompany them. The Refined Options and accompanying SA underwent a 12 week public consultation between January and April 2009. The assessment and refinement of options is discussed in more detail in **Chapter 3** and **Appendix D** along with a summary of the main findings.

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED APPROACHES

- 2.30. In October 2009 PDNPA published the Preferred Approaches version of the Core Strategy, and again a full SA assessment was undertaken (see summary of findings in **Chapter 3**). The Preferred Approaches paper and accompanying SA report underwent a period of public consultation between October and December 2009. The appraisal process at this stage was far more detailed than at the earlier Options stages, considering significant effects including temporal, geographical and cumulative effects described below.

Significant Effects

- 2.31. The potential significant positive and negative effects of the policies on each of the SA Objectives were described. A significant effect is defined as being of the highest magnitude and is represented by either a double positive (++) or negative (--). Some effects are likely to be significant individually, whilst other potential effects have been identified through the assessment of cumulative effects (see below).

Cumulative Effects

- 2.32. The assessment process has scrutinised each policy for both positive and negative effects. Many environmental problems however, result from the accumulation of multiple small and often indirect effects, rather than a few large and obvious ones. These effects are difficult to deal with on a project-by-project basis through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It is at the SA level that they are most effectively identified and addressed. Annex I of the SEA Directive requires that the assessment of effects include indirect (secondary), synergistic and cumulative effects. Therefore the geographical scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects are also considered in the summary for each SA Objective.
- 2.33. Indirect or secondary effects are those effects that do not result directly from the Core Strategy, but that occur away from the original impact or as a result of a complex pathway. For example, a development that changes the water table may affect the ecology of a wetland in a different part of the river basin, or the construction of a road may facilitate and attract other developments associated with the logistical benefits that a road can provide.
- 2.34. Synergistic effects arise where several developments each have an insignificant effect but together combine to have a significant effect, for example where two developments in combination end up fragmenting a habitat whereas on their own the habitat would still be linked.
- 2.35. Cumulative effects produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects, and over time they are often not recognised. For example, air pollution and climate change are both cumulative in nature. When the hundredth application comes in on the same seemingly small level, this can be the 'straw that breaks the camel's back'. The assessment of cumulative effects was based on current baseline conditions against the accumulation of effects from each policy and the likely scale and duration of those predicted effects.

Recommendations / mitigation

- 2.36. A key advantage of SA is that it enables plan-makers to consider a large amount of information when making decisions on whether and how to provide for an identified need. In this respect, the assessment of the policies identifies recommendations on how their sustainability could be improved in the following version and these recommendations were summarised and fed back to the plan making team. The way in which the Core Strategy is implemented will also be key to determining its impact, and so recommendations and best practice/mitigation measures that need to be taken into account when implementing the policies were also detailed.

Monitoring

- 2.37. The monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process are recognised as placing heavy demands on responsible authorities. It is therefore beneficial if the monitoring framework builds on monitoring systems that are already in place and uses data that is routinely collected by PDNPA and partner organisations. The indicators will help measure the environmental, social and economic effects (including unforeseen effects) of the plan and its overall success in terms of meeting the sustainability needs of the area. Potential indicators were given for each SA Objective and particularly focussed on those aspects of the environment that are likely to experience negative impacts, or where the impact is uncertain. The inclusion of potential indicators at this stage allows PDNPA and its partner organisations to start to engage and discuss how future monitoring might take place and link with other monitoring processes. PDNPA will be responsible for monitoring the sustainability of the Core Strategy once it has been adopted and will need to publish monitoring reports periodically.

SUBMISSION VERSION

- 2.38. Following on from the assessment of the Preferred Approaches, the SA findings contributed to the development of the Submission version of the Core Strategy. The SA findings have subsequently been updated to reflect the Submission version and this SA Report presents the SA assessment of the Submission version (see **Chapters 4-16 & Appendix E**) including temporal, geographical and cumulative effects. It also includes details of possible mitigation measures and a monitoring schedule. **Chapters 4-16** of this SA report, which presents the findings of the appraisal, has been set out to follow an objectives-led approach, with a chapter for each SA Objective.
- 2.39. A non-technical summary is also included at the front of this SA report, in order to comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive but also to enhance its accessibility to a wider audience.

NEXT STEPS

- 2.40. This SA Report will be published alongside the Submission version of the Core Strategy. The two documents will then undergo a six week formal public consultation, and will be published on the PDNPA website.
- 2.41. Comments from this consultation will be taken into consideration and PDNPA will go on to develop the final publication version of the Core Strategy. As this is not expected to differ greatly from the Submission version, it is anticipated that it will not be necessary to produce a further full SA report at that stage. Instead, an updated version of this SA report will be produced and made available alongside the publication version of the Core Strategy, or alternatively as an Addendum depending on what is most appropriate at that stage.
- 2.42. The final publication version of the Core Strategy will then go out for public consultation, but this time referring only to its soundness and not to its content. Following this consultation, the final publication version of the Core Strategy will be

prepared by PDNPA and the SA Report will be updated to reflect any notable changes.

Examination

- 2.43. The Examination will consider matters of procedure, conformity and consistency with regard to the Core Strategy. A Planning Inspector will be appointed to ensure that legal requirements have been met (of which the Core Strategy being subject to Sustainability Appraisal is one) and to determine whether the Core Strategy is sound i.e. is justified, effective and consistent with National Policy (See PPS12).
- 2.44. Once the Core Strategy has been adopted, a Post Adoption Statement will be produced summarising how environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Core Strategy, including the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and also the measures decided concerning monitoring. This will ensure compliance with Article 9 (1) of the SEA Directive.

Monitoring and Implementation of the Core Strategy

- 2.45. The SEA Directive specifically requires monitoring to take place, in order to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken where the predicted effects prove to change. As described above, monitoring recommendations are presented within **Chapters 4-16** of this report and PDNPA will be responsible for monitoring the effects of the Core Strategy over its lifetime.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORE STRATEGY

- 3.1. As outlined in the Methodology above (Ch 2) the Core Strategy has gone through a significant amount of refinement and development to arrive at the Submission version. This has included looking at alternative ways of developing the plan in order that adverse environmental and sustainability effects are avoided. Alternatives are also a key statutory requirement of the SEA process. The SEA Directive (Article 5.1 and Annex I(h)) requires that ‘...reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated’ and ‘an outline for the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with’ is provided. Alternatives must be reasonable and can only be prepared within the legal scope of the responsibilities and powers of the plan that the relevant authority is preparing. In developing the range of options, full recognition of geographic, technological and financial constraints must also be taken into account.
- 3.2. The Sustainability Appraisal process has played a key part in helping to identify and refine alternatives for the Peak District Core Strategy.

SITUATION WITHOUT THE CORE STRATEGY

- 3.3. One of the first contributions that the SA process made to identifying and refining alternatives was the assessment of the situation without the Core Strategy. The SEA Directive requires the provision of information on “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution therefore without implementation of the plan or programme.” Without the development of a new planning policy framework represented by the Local Development Framework and other Local Development Documents the current planning policy context for the Peak District National Park would continue to apply.
- 3.4. The policy framework for the Peak District National Park at the time the Scoping Report was written and the development of the Core Strategy started was the statutory Development Plan, which was composed of two parts:
- The Structure Plan, and
 - The Local Plan

The Structure Plan set out the National Park’s land-use strategy for 10 to 15 years ahead, and was replaced in March 2009 by the East Midlands Regional Plan. The Structure Plan outlined basic directions and policies, taking into account key local issues and trends, Government policy and the policies of neighbouring authorities. The Local Plan, adopted in 2001 was required to conform with, and help implement, the strategy put forward in the Structure Plan. Legislation covering the change over to the new Development Plan system required the National Park to save a number of the structure and local plan policies beyond September 2007. Saved policies are valid until the Structure Plan and Local Plan have been fully replaced by the Local Development Framework documents. The following Supplementary Planning Guidance has also been adopted:

- Meeting the need for affordable housing (2003)
- Energy: renewables and conservation (2003)
- Agricultural developments (2003)
- A new Peak District Design Guide SPD was adopted in 2007

3.5. A number of likely implications of continuing this policy framework for the future of the National Park have been outlined below:

- Legislation and national policy – While many important principles established in the Structure Plan continue to be directly relevant, some aspects of the Plan are now outdated and do not accurately correspond to current legislation or national policy guidance. In particular the Structure Plan was written before the Environment Act 1995.
- Evidence base – The evidence contained within the Structure Plan and Local Plan is between 7 and 14 years old. Therefore, current policies are based on outdated information. A new policy framework, based on updated evidence is therefore required to ensure that development is directed in the most sustainable and appropriate way in accordance with current objectives and targets.
- Regional Spatial Strategy – Without new policies, it is unlikely that the National Park would adequately contribute to the targets of the East Midlands RSS, including those related to energy and waste and minerals apportionments.
- Consultation – The new LDF is also needed to provide “full and fair opportunities for public consultation and community engagement” in accordance with the UK Governments Sustainable Development Strategy (2007).
- Biodiversity – Data on biodiversity status and priorities for conservation would not be updated and policies would therefore fail to respond effectively to the needs of threatened species and habitats or the indicators and targets contained in the Regional Environment Strategy.
- Energy and climate change – Changes in technologies, targets and legislation, mean that the current policy context is unlikely to be adequate to meet the requirements for renewable energy provision in the National Park. In particular, the Energy SPG is now five years old and fails to address the targets of the UK Energy White Paper. Therefore, in the absence of new policies, the National Park would be unlikely to provide an adequate contribution to the UK target of reducing CO2 emissions by between 26 and 32% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.
- Economic – The new plan will need to take into account the current economic position as set out in the commissioned Employment Land Review to help understand how best to react to the changing economic needs of the National Park. In particular, the Plan needs to create a policy environment which is compatible with the changing nature of agriculture, mining and quarrying and tourism whilst prioritising the conservation aims of the National Park. New policies will need to consider the scope for encouraging sustainable travel to

work patterns (including home working), provision of adequate and appropriate levels of employment land, and the ability to take advantage of new technologies and business models (e.g. retail, logistics and IT). In addition, new policies will need to consider the changes in agriculture and forestry and their potential role in meeting bioenergy targets and the economic benefits that this represents. Without a new set of policies to address this negative demographic trends and unemployment are likely to continue/increase.

- Housing – Between 2001 and 2016 population is likely to fall by around 6%, working age population will fall by around 29%, and the population aged 60 years and over will rise by around 47%. However, the overall level of housing completions is also forecasted to fall as mills available for conversion become fewer in number. If present trends and forecasts continue the numbers of affordable housing completed will be a greater proportion of the overall numbers of housing permitted.
- Transport – Traffic has increased since the last plan, and failure to adopt new transport policies would therefore miss opportunities to address transport according to current local requirements. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) gives powers to National Park Authorities to make traffic regulation orders to close routes, or to introduce speed restrictions, where unacceptable damage is being done by vehicular pressures.
- Waste – As a result of changes in technology and legislation since the adoption of the Structure Plan and Local Plan, the current policy framework would be inadequate. In particular, current National Park policy fails to correspond to the EC Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) and recycling targets.
- Flooding – Existing policy also does not take into account the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2008), and could therefore direct new development according to outdated or inadequate information, leading to flood impacts.

3.6. Since work started on the Core Strategy, the Structure Plan has been replaced by a new regional level planning framework (the East Midlands Regional Plan) which was adopted in March 2009. This means that currently the policy framework for the Peak District National Park is the East Midlands Regional Plan and the Local Plan. The Regional Plan sets the spatial framework to inform the preparation of Local Development Documents including the Core Strategy. The East Midlands Regional Plan is therefore a significant influence on the Policy Approaches proposed in the Core Strategy. Therefore the recent adoption of the Regional Plan means that the situation without the Core Strategy would be a mixed one. Whilst its introduction means that the new policy direction it promotes (that will also be reflected in the Core Strategy once it is adopted) will start to have an influence, many of the findings given above would still stand as there is no local mechanism to implement the new policy direction of the Regional Plan.

3.7. The Policy context is continually changing, with new national policy being introduced and amended and the continuing development of the Regional planning framework. A

partial review is currently being undertaken on the East Midlands Regional Plan and so even the Regional framework that the Core Strategy is trying to align with will not be static for very long.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALTERNATIVES

- 3.8. In 2005 PDNPA produced a consultation document entitled '*Help Shape the Future*' which started to explore the issues that faced the National Park and the potential options for addressing these issues. Following the public consultation on this document, PDNPA went on to produce an initial Issues and Options paper in October 2006. This paper underwent a high level SA review to help inform the development of these options. This SA Assessment is available from PDNPA on request.
- 3.9. The SA found that there were some general issues that needed attention such as the large number of policies presented, the level of detail in the policies and the fact that alternative options were not presented for all issues. The policies were also heavily concentrated on minerals yet the general more prudent use of natural resources was not addressed, and renewable energy needed more consideration as did the use of previously developed land and 'softer' transport measures such as the use of travel plans.
- 3.10. In the Spring of 2007 PDNPA published and consulted on 12 Issues and Options papers covering a wide range of themes that the Core Strategy may need to address. A Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken of these papers to accompany them for the public consultation. This SA is available from PDNPA on request.

Issues and Options

- 3.11. In 2008 a final Issues and Options paper for the Core Strategy was produced and a full SA assessment was undertaken using the SA framework that was developed as part of the scoping phase. The SA assessment was published on the PDNPA website alongside the Issues and Options paper and a workshop was held with key stakeholders in September 2008 to present the work being done on the SA and to discuss the emerging findings. The Issues and Options SA is available from PDNPA on request. Key findings at this stage included:
- There needs to be a stronger steer on what type of economic activity PDNPA wants to promote, for example Green Technology?
 - Opportunity to promote eco-tourism and high value tourism in the facilities that are provided rather than tourism in general.
 - The reuse of existing buildings needs to be promoted above new build.
 - Transport policies should focus more on the locally specific visitor / tourism transport impacts that the National Park faces.
 - Access and future provision of public transport needs to be considered when looking at settlement patterns.

- A balance needs to be found between climate change adaptation, mitigation and short and longer term landscape impacts.
- Ensure very best practice is implemented with regards to reducing environmental impacts such as noise, dust and transport.
- The energy hierarchy should be central to energy policies and should be applied to all sizes of development.

Refined Options

- 3.12. Following the recommendations made in the SA Report for the Issues and Options, the options were further refined and a final set of Refined Options were produced in November 2008. These options were also subject to SA, and the findings showed that a significant number of uncertainties still remained with regards to their likely sustainability effects (the appraisal findings are shown in **Appendix D**). The Refined Options and accompanying SA report underwent a 12 week public consultation between January and April 2009 and the full SA for the Refined Options Stage is available from PDNPA on request.

Preferred Approaches

- 3.13. Following the consultation on the Refined Options for the Core Strategy, a Preferred Approaches paper was published in October 2009, and again underwent a full SA assessment. The Preferred Approaches paper and accompanying SA Report were subject to a period of public consultation between October and December 2009. The full SA Report is available from PDNPA on request. Key findings of the SA at this stage included:

- Most of the Preferred Approaches were considered likely to have a positive effect on the sustainability objectives; however significant uncertainties remained.
- This uncertainty should be reduced as the Preferred Approaches are developed into the final policies for inclusion in the Submission version.
- More could be done to actively promote sustainable practices such as renewable energy use and high standards of sustainable building design.
- The potentially negative effects identified resulted from policies relating to the landscape, housing, the economy and transport.

- 3.14. Given the findings of this and previous assessments we decided to scope out SA Objective 10 “Promote good governance” as the various iterations of options and Preferred Approaches had showed a neutral impact on this SA Objective.

Submission Version

- 3.15. The findings of the SA at each stage were fed back in to the plan making process in order to be taken on board during the development of the next iteration. Following the Preferred Approaches consultation, PDNPA identified the policies that would be taken forward to the Submission stage. This process is outlined below.

IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING THE SUBMISSION VERSION POLICIES

- 3.16. The policies set out in the Submission version of the Core Strategy, which this SA Report accompanies, have been identified by PDNPA and developed internally through a process of iteration before being finalised. As outlined above, the previous three iterations each underwent a Sustainability Appraisal, the findings of which were fed back to PDNPA to be taken on board throughout the development of further policies.
- 3.17. The Submission version of the Core Strategy has undergone a thorough SA employing the SA Framework, the baseline data and the review of plans, programmes and policies (see **Chapters 4-16**). The full detailed policy by policy assessment can be found in **Appendix E**. Generally this assessment has shown that **a wide range of positive and significant positive effects are likely to arise** from most of the policies, in particular in relation to the natural environment (landscape, biodiversity, air, soil and water quality etc.). **None of the policies were considered likely to result in significant negative effects** on any of the SA Objectives, although a small number of minor negative effects were identified (see below). The policies that are likely to have a significant positive impact are shown below:

Table 3.1: Policies expected to have a significant positive effect on one or more Sustainability Objectives

Policies	Reasons for potential significant effects.
DS1: Development strategy	The policy aims to preserve landscape character, and to ensure that development is appropriate in terms of its style and design. It advocates the development of affordable housing and approves development that will support key industries within the Park.
GSP1: Securing National Park purposes	The application of the precautionary principle should ensure that development does not harm the natural assets of the Park.
GSP2: Achieving enhancement of the National Park	Undertaking development work in a way which conserves the surroundings of the site will help to conserve the natural assets of the Park, e.g. by avoiding noise and light pollution.
GSP3: Development management principles	The policy makes strong provision for the protection of the Park's landscape from any adverse impacts relating to development.
L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics	Restricting development in the Natural Zone will conserve landscape character and enhance the condition of species and habitats within the Natura 2000 sites that largely underpin the Natural Zone.
L2: Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity importance	Development will be strictly controlled to ensure that no adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity

Policies	Reasons for potential significant effects.
	occur.
L3: Cultural heritage assets of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance	The policy includes a range of measures that will help to conserve and enhance the historic built environment.
RT1: recreation, education and environmental interpretation	Development will be controlled and will be required to justify its location, in order to ensure that the carrying capacity of the nearby environment is not exceeded.
RT2: Hotel, bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation	Development will be restricted where it may have an adverse effect on the landscape. Retaining traditional buildings for accommodation uses will reduce the need for new development within the Park.
RT3: Caravans and camping	Caravans and campsites will only be allowed where they are well-screened, and the appearance/landscaping of existing sites will be improved.
CC1: Climate change and sustainable building	The measures set out in the policy will help to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The policy emphasises the sustainable use of natural resources and advocates a range of carbon reduction measures.
CC2: Low carbon and renewable energy development	Renewable energy developments will not be allowed to adversely affect the landscape, with this concern taking priority over others.
CC3: Waste management	The Authority will require the restoration of waste sites for biodiversity and recreation benefits.
CC4: Waste management – on-farm anaerobic digestion of agricultural manure and slurry	Large-scale facilities that may have had an adverse impact on their surroundings will not be permitted, and using waste for renewable energy production through on-farm anaerobic digestion will help to reduce the consumption of natural resources.
CC5: Flood risk and water conservation	Measures such as SuDS will help to ensure that new development is not at risk from flooding.
HC2: New dwellings for workers in agriculture, forestry or other rural enterprises	Housing for key workers will be provided and retained for that purpose for as long as is necessary and will then be added to the stock of local affordable housing.
HC3: Buying existing dwellings to add to the affordable housing stock	An increased number of affordable homes will be available for local people.
HC5: Provision and retention of community services and facilities	The policy sets out a range of measures designed specifically to secure and improve local services, which will result in a wider range of good quality services being accessible to local people.

Policies	Reasons for potential significant effects.
MIN2: Fluorspar proposals	The ongoing mining of fluorspar should continue to bring revenue to local businesses and provide employment to local people.
MIN4: Mineral safeguarding	Minerals will be safeguarded from sterilisation, therefore remaining available to be exploited for economic benefits to the local area.
T1: Reducing the general need to travel and encouraging sustainable transport	The natural assets of the Park will be conserved, and this concern will take priority over others when planning transport systems.
T3: Design of transport infrastructure	Transport infrastructure will be appropriate and in keeping with the landscape.
T4: Managing the demand for freight transport	Freight facilities will be located appropriately to avoid harming the natural assets of the Park.
T5: Managing the demand for rail and reuse of former railway routes	Safeguarding rail infrastructure will make this an increasingly feasible mode of transport and should therefore reduce road traffic within the Park.
T6: Routes for walking, cycling and horseriding and waterways	Improved walking, cycling and horseriding routes will enable a wider range of transport modes to be used within the Park, reducing the volume of road traffic contributing to carbon dioxide emissions.
T7: Minimising the adverse impact of motor vehicles and managing the demand for car and coach parks	Making provisions for alternative forms of transport other than motor vehicles will encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport.

3.18. In addition, **five policies were identified as being likely to result in minor negative effects** on various SA Objectives:

- The overarching Development Strategy (DSI) may have negative effects on the consumption of natural resources (SA Objective 5) as the policy may result in development at a scale that would put pressure on the mineral resources of the Park;
- Policy L3 (cultural heritage assets of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance) may have minor negative effects on SA Objective 11, meeting the needs for local housing as housing development is likely to be restricted in the interests of preserving heritage assets;
- Policy RT2 (hotel, bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation) may have a negative effect on SA Objective 13 (promoting a healthy Park-wide economy) as it is likely to restrict the development of accommodation facilities which may

have an adverse effect on the local tourism industry if capacity cannot keep up with demand; and

- Policy RT3 (caravans and camping) may have a negative effect on SA Objective 14, reducing road traffic as it is likely to result in an increased number of car-towed caravans and larger camper vans being present on the roads of the National Park.

4. SA OBJECTIVE I: LANDSCAPE & TOWNSCAPE

SA Objective I: To protect, maintain and enhance the landscape and townscape of the National Park

Sub-objectives

- To conserve and enhance landscapes including moorland edge, valley, woodland, grassland and their history.
- To protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
- To protect open spaces within settlements.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
 - The purpose of the Strategy is to maintain and enhance Europe's biological and landscape diversity by 2015. The Strategy is a Pan-European response to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 4.2. Peak District Landscape Character Assessment (March 2008) Peak District NPA
 - The LCA establishes a baseline audit of the current state of the landscape and develops a system for the measurement of change.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 4.3. The National Park extends over 143,830ha of gritstone moorland and edges, limestone upland and dales. The Landscape Character Assessment highlights that the National Park and its surrounding area has been divided into a series of eight Regional Character Areas representing broad tracts of landscape which share common characteristics. The three main character areas are Dark Peak, the White Peak and the South West Peak. This includes broad open moorlands, more intimate enclosed farmlands and wooded valleys. The landscapes have been shaped by variations in geology and landform and the long settlement and use. A variety of other habitats such as hay meadows, limestone heath, lead rakes and dew ponds are also important at a national level, and contribute to the landscape character.
- 4.4. Linear features (1991 stats) include: 8,756km of drystone walls and banks; and 1,710km of hedgerows. Nearly all of the land in the Peak Park is privately owned. Some of the farms may not be owned by farmers, but by other landowners including the National Trust and the Water Companies.

Current Trends

- 4.5. Under present conditions it is likely that moorland condition will continue to decline due to over-grazing, inappropriate moorland burning and air pollution.

KEY ISSUES

Landscape Character

- 4.6. Private ownership of land can restrict landscape and biodiversity improvements.
- 4.7. Over-grazing and inappropriate moorland burning can lead to loss of habitat and negatively affect the landscape.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 4.8. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 4.9. A large number of the policies are expected to have significant positive effects on this objective. Particular positive effects are likely in relation to the general spatial policies, the recreation and tourism policies and the transport policies.
- 4.10. A significant number of the policies aim to conserve the landscape and character of the National Park, or contain a clause which states that where landscape interests conflict with other aims of the Policy, the conservation and enhancement of the landscape will take priority.

Significant negative effects

- 4.11. No significant negative or minor negative effects were identified in relation to this objective.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 4.12. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective I, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective I: To protect, maintain and enhance the landscape and townscape of the National Park.						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
++	Direct	National	High probability	Short - Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.13. Greater consideration could be given to the long-term management and protection of the environment in the light of climate change.

MONITORING

- 4.14. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Landscape quality and understanding of landscape character (including historic landscapes and coverage of Historic Landscape Characterisation and Countryside Quality Counts). (Local Authorities, Natural England and English Heritage).

5. SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY

SA Objective 2: To protect, enhance and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests

Sub-objectives

- To conserve and enhance designated nature conservation sites and vulnerable habitats and species.
- To protect geology and geomorphology.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

5.1. Habitats Directive 1992/43/EC

- Contributes to the conservation of bio-diversity by requiring EU Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status in the Community, giving effect to both site and species protection objectives.

5.2. Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005) DCLG

- This PPS sets out the Government's national policies for the conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity. In the context of the PPS, biodiversity is the variety of life in all its forms as discussed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and geological conservation relates to sites that are designated for their geology and/or geomorphological importance.

5.3. Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan

- The Plan aims to conserve and enhance the rich variety of wildlife habitats and species in the Peak District, with particular priority to those which are of international or national importance, those which are particularly characteristic of the Peak District, and those which are endangered, vulnerable or declining.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

5.4. Conservation designations:

- Natura 2000 sites account for 33% of the Park covering 47,022 ha.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) cover 35% (50,000 ha).
- Dovedale National Nature Reserve accounts for 0.25% (356 ha).
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas cover 74,788ha.

- 5.5. 72% of the SSSIs are in unfavourable condition (2003), compared to 4% nationally, and approximately 61% of all upland SSSIs.

Current Trends

- 5.6. Several species are already extinct within the National Park, including the black grouse, dormouse and lady's slipper orchid. Due to loss of habitat, some once common birds are now in rapid decline, including the skylark, song thrush and grey partridge. Protected species procedures (PPS9) are reported to be working well and are considered to be making a significant contribution to bat conservation. Wildlife may be disturbed by the level of use on some of the 32,143ha of moorland that are open to the public. Moorland birds (and sandpipers on the banks of streams and reservoirs) nest and roost on the ground and are therefore especially sensitive to people passing by. Orienteering, mountain biking and hang gliding are likely to cause unexpected disturbance.

KEY ISSUES

Biodiversity

- 5.7. Additional species to those identified will continue decline, or become extinct.
- 5.8. Permanent alternations to the weather from climate change will also contribute to changes to the landscape, rare habitats and species. Those on the edge of their range within the Park may decline, degrade or disappear (such as peat bogs and Jacob's Ladder) and be replaced by others.
- 5.9. Moorland condition affecting biodiversity will continue to decline due to over-grazing, inappropriate moorland burning and air pollution. Improved grassland (where fertilisers and herbicides are used) will also affect biodiversity.
- 5.10. Disturbance by recreational use and human activity is also a concern for some species and habitats.
- 5.11. The loss of surface remains referred to under the historic environment is also having a negative impact on ecological communities.

Geology

- 5.12. There are three main types of rocks underlying the National Park: - Limestone, in the south and centre of the Park, forming the White Peak; Millstone Grit, forming a horseshoe shape around the Park, which is called the Dark Peak; Shale, a softer rock which lies at the foot of the Millstone Grit edges and forms the fertile valleys of the Park. Permanent alterations to the weather may contribute to changes to the underlying geology. Extant permissions for mineral operations could also be a threat.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 5.13. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 5.14. Many of the policies are expected to have significant positive effects on this objective, particularly those relating to landscape and conservation, transport and the general spatial policies.
- 5.15. The interests of the natural environment are directly protected by the wording of many of the policies, e.g. those that prevent development in situations where it may result in damage to biodiversity or geological interests.

Significant negative effects

- 5.16. No significant negative or minor negative effects were identified in relation to this objective.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 5.17. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 2, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 2: To protect, enhance and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
++	Direct	Local to international	Short - medium probability	Medium Term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.18. Best practice guidance should be followed when carrying out all types of development in order to mitigate the potential impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, for example dust generation should be assessed when planning mineral extraction activities.
- 5.19. Measures which enhance biodiversity with a view to adapting to the effects of climate change, for example wildlife corridors, stepping stones and refuges, will have particular benefits in relation to this objective.

MONITORING

- 5.20. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
 - Populations of wild bird species (farmland and woodland species) – reported in AMR and National Statistics but based on Breeding Bird Survey (BTO/JNCC/RSPB).

- Trends in Local Biodiversity Action Plan Priority habitats and species and achievement of BAP targets.

6. SA OBJECTIVE 3: THE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

SA Objective 3: To preserve, protect and enhance the National Park's historic and cultural environment

Sub-objectives

- To preserve and enhance sites, features, areas and settings of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 6.1. Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) DCLG
- PPS15 provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment. It explains the role played by the planning system in their protection.
- 6.2. A Regional Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2011: The Place of Choice (2006)
- The Strategy affirms the region's commitment to culture including the arts, sport and physical activity, museums, libraries, archives, heritage, media and tourism. It also applies to less formally defined cultural activities.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 6.3. Within the National Park there are 457 Scheduled Monuments including Arbor Low stone circle and Mam Tor hill fort. There are 109 Conservation Areas, and a total of 2,897 listed buildings, of these:
- Grade I = 49
Grade II* = 105
Grade II = 2,745
- 6.4. Currently only 44% of the National Park archaeological features have been surveyed. The National Park includes a number of registered historic parks and gardens including Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall.
- 6.5. The *Cultural Heritage Strategy* implemented through the Park Management Plan recognises the integral role people play in defining the cultural heritage of the area. Cultural traditions such as well dressing are an important part of local tradition. Other events include Victorian markets, Village in Bloom and Open Festivals.

Current Trends

- 6.6. 222 listed buildings are 'at risk' (7.3% of the Listed Building stock), without funding, this number will continue to rise as more fall into disrepair than are rescued. Around 59% of the National Park remains unsurveyed for its archaeological content and the condition of known archaeological features in the Park are not monitored.
- 6.7. The Peak District Annual Paper in 2002 advertised 820 events in 2003 (compared to 896 in 2002). The Peak District National Park Interpretation Team works with partners and local communities on projects that help people understand the environment and the rich cultural heritage of the Park. Interpretation panels, leaflets and trails help to provide visitors with information.

KEY ISSUES

- 6.8. The conservation of the historic landscape can be threatened by the trend towards larger fields, post and wire fences. It is also reliant on Environmental Stewardship agreements with farmers to protect the historic environment.
- 6.9. A survey of lead mine surface remains has shown a dramatic loss of leadmine waste hillocks and associated features (since World War II) due to removal through agricultural and industrial purposes.
- 6.10. A further issue identified by PDNPA is the need to achieve a balance between enabling settlements to develop, and maintaining their local character, reflecting in particular the historic environment, for instance recognition needs to be given to the key differences between settlements on the limestone plateau and gritstone.
- 6.11. Over grazing of moorland discussed above also has an impact on archaeology.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 6.12. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 6.13. The majority of the significant positive effects associated with this objective are expected to result from the general spatial policies and the transport policies.
- 6.14. The positive effects identified are mostly as a result of policies which have the direct purpose of conserving the historic and cultural environment of the National Park, or where they state that protection of the landscape / townscape and the historic environment will take priority over other policy aims.

Significant negative effects

- 6.15. No significant negative or minor negative effects were identified in relation to this objective.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 6.16. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 3, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 3: To preserve, protect and enhance the National Park's historic and cultural environment						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
++	Direct	National	High probability	Short - Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.17. It is important that the spatial strategy takes account of the need for spaces where the protection and enhancement of the cultural aspects of the National Park can be fostered; such as ensuring that appropriate amenity spaces are created for cultural activities.

MONITORING

- 6.18. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Listed Buildings, Buildings at Risk (English Heritage, Heritage Counts Indicators)

7. SA OBJECTIVE 4: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SA Objective 4: To protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise and light pollution

Sub-objectives

- To reduce air pollution
- To maintain and improve water quality and supply
- To maintain and improve soil quality
- To preserve remoteness and tranquillity

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 7.1. Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- A holistic approach to water management and will update existing EC Water legislation through the introduction of a statutory system of analysis and planning based upon the river basin.
- 7.2. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007), Defra
- Sets out details of the objectives to be achieved and introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles, similar to the approach being proposed in the new European air quality directive, which is currently under negotiation.
- 7.3. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) HM Government
- The Act implements key elements of the Government's Rural Strategy (published in July 2004) and creates a new integrated agency, Natural England, to act as a powerful champion for the natural environment, and formally established the Commission for Rural Communities.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 7.4. Air pollution is within allowable limits and many pollutants have reduced in the last five years. Nationally NO₂ emissions declined by 13% between 1970 and 1996, but between 1996 and 2000 NO₂ levels increased significantly at Bakewell, Baslow and Bradwell.
- 7.5. The outline and area of the Park is clearly visible for its lack of light pollution. There is noise and general disturbance associated with mineral extraction operations at

certain sites. For example, at Backdale complaints refer to operations commencing in the early hours of the morning (5:00am) working a 13 hour day, and over the weekend. Various forms of motor sports are also practised in the National Park, but the Authority's policy is to discourage these as they can cause damage to the landscape, intrusive noise and pollution to air or water.

Agriculture and soils

- 7.6. In 2002 there were 2,555 agricultural holdings, 11% of these had no farmland attached. The average holding size was 57ha. Many Peak farms are dependent on subsidies, therefore reviews of CAP and agri-environment schemes will also have significant effects. Biodiversity interests may be affected by a decline in hay meadow, pasture and rough grazing conservation.
- 7.7. Policies on agricultural buildings are considered likely to have an effect on stock numbers and out-wintering of stock, and this may have adverse implications for hay meadow, pasture and rough grazing conservation. Private ownership of land can restrict landscape and biodiversity improvements.

Woodlands

- 7.8. 80 % of limestone ash wood habitat (ancient woodland and other semi-natural woodland sites) within the Peak District falls within SSSIs. The majority is also within the Peak District Dales cSAC. Approximately 625 ha (28 - 30%) of upland oakwoods are included within SSSIs. Several upland oakwoods are included within the South Pennine Moors cSAC. A number of oakwoods are identified as Wildlife Sites. The Peak Park Authority manages 480 hectares of woodland and is involved in encouraging others to manage their woodland. The Water Companies and Forest Enterprise (own large areas of coniferous woodland, mostly in water catchment areas).

Water and Flood Risk

- 7.9. Threats to water quality are from farming practices that release chemicals harmful to wildlife into the water, and from flooding. River water quality is generally good or very good except at the lower end of Strines Dyke and on the River Wye, near Buxton sewage works' outflow. The River Derwent catchment contains 3 SACs and 1 SPA The South Pennine Moors – Dark Peak and the integrity of the moorland sites determines their capacity to hold water and contribute towards flood management. Many valleys are dammed and flooded to create reservoirs where water is stored to supply the towns and cities around the Peak Park (such as Leicester and Nottingham). There are 55 reservoirs of over 2 hectares in the National Park. These supply around 450 million litres of water a day. Percentage of rivers rated 'good' or 'fair' (2000) is 99.57% (Environment Agency). The River Derwent catchment contains 3 SACs and 1 SPA. The South Pennine Moors – Dark Peak and the integrity of the moorland sites determines their capacity to hold water and contribute towards flood management.

Current Trends

- 7.10. Nationally, the levels of main pollutants are declining, which is similar for the Park's overall monitoring sites overall. Poor air quality is the third biggest factor in degrading the quality of SSSIs. However, Acid Rain has affected the Peak Park's moorlands for 200 years. Oxides of sulphur and nitrogen are emitted from factories and power stations and also from cars. These emissions particularly affect mosses and lichens and have been responsible for the decrease in sphagnum moss. Nitrogen Dioxide and PM₁₀ emissions are likely to increase in relation to traffic growth on cross-Park routes. Other sources include large-scale combustion – this relates to the cement kiln at Hope Park and the deposition plume of a neighbouring power station.
- 7.11. Levels of tranquillity in the National Park remain good. However, noise and light pollution in rural areas are increasing gradually across the country and this may continue within the National Park under gradual development pressure.

Agriculture and Soils

- 7.12. Threats to water quality are from farming practices that release chemicals that are harmful to wildlife into the water, and from flooding. There is also a move away from dairy farming, in favour of farms with cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. The number of cattle and sheep has declined by 10% between 2000 and 2002. Increase in agricultural holdings, but a decrease in their size. The National Park Hay Meadow Project found a 50% loss and an additional 26% decline in hay meadows between the mid 1980s and mid 1990s. A follow-up survey highlighted a further 25% loss/or decline in the quality of meadows with the greatest losses occurring in intensive dairy areas such as Peak Forest.

Woodland

- 7.13. The National Park BAP (2001) indicates trends for woodlands:
- Upland Mixed Ash Woodland (priority habitat) (approx 900 ha) moderate increase over last 200 years (2001).
 - Upland Oakwood (priority habitat). 2050 – 2020 ha. Between 1909 and 1974 there was a loss of 8-68% in different areas. However, currently the extent is stable although the quality is gradually declining locally.
 - Wet Woodland (priority habitat). Estimated at approximately 200 - 250 ha. Historical decline but currently stable.
 - Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland (priority habitat).

KEY ISSUES

Noise and light pollution

- 7.14. Noise is associated with transport movements and mineral extraction operations as well as quarry industry vehicle movements, cross park transport movements and motor sports.

Water and Flood Risk

- 7.15. Threats to water quality are from farming practices that release chemicals harmful to wildlife into the water, and from flooding.

Air Quality

- 7.16. The quality of air within the Park is largely determined by the conditions from the surrounding areas outside, and by traffic. Certain weather conditions mean that cross-boundary and trans-country pollution occurs.
- 7.17. Recent developments including incinerators and industrialised tyre burning are considered to require monitoring.

Agriculture and soils

- 7.18. Many National Park farms are dependent on subsidies, therefore reviews of CAP and agri-environment schemes will also have significant effects. Biodiversity interests may be affected by a decline in hay meadow, pasture and rough grazing conservation.
- 7.19. Policies on agricultural buildings are considered likely to have an effect on stock numbers and out-wintering of stock, and this may have adverse implications for hay meadow, pasture and rough grazing conservation.
- 7.20. Private ownership of land can restrict landscape and biodiversity improvements.

Woodlands

- 7.21. Maintaining favourable conditions for key woodland habitats through appropriate management regimes by working with private landowners and farmers.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 7.22. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 7.23. The majority of the significant positive effects relating to this objective are associated with the transport policies.
- 7.24. Positive effects are anticipated to arise from policies that specify the protection of the special qualities of the National Park, which includes tranquillity (so would require noise and light pollution to be avoided).

Significant negative effects

- 7.25. No significant negative or minor negative effects were identified in relation to this objective.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 7.26. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 4, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 4: To protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise and light pollution						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Indirect	Local	Medium probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.27. Best practice guidelines should be followed when undertaking all new developments, in order to ensure that negative impacts on air, water and soil quality are mitigated and to avoid excessive noise or light pollution. For example, the use of porous surfaces and SuDS techniques will reduce soil sealing and allow water filtration.

MONITORING

- 7.28. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Tranquillity maps (CPRE) & Dark Skies data.
 - % of rivers of good or fair ecological and chemical water quality (Environment Agency)
 - Number of pollution incidents (reported to Environment Agency)
 - Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the area, as well as whether their objectives are being met (PDNPA)
 - Number of days on which air pollution is moderate or high (PDNPA, Environment Agency)
 - Ozone levels (annual mean of daily maximum 8-hour mean)
 - Area of farms with Environmental Stewardship agreements (Defra)
 - Change in amount and condition of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Defra)

8. SA OBJECTIVE 5: NATURAL RESOURCES

SA Objective 5: To minimise the consumption of natural resources

Sub-objectives

- To safeguard mineral reserves for future generations and promote the reuse of secondary materials.
- To reduce waste generation and disposal and increase recycling.
- To reduce water consumption.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

8.1. Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)
ODPM

- The guidance outlines Government policy on waste management and states that the overall objective of Government policy on waste is to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible.

8.2. Minerals Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals, (Nov.2006), DCLG

- Minerals Policy Statement 1 (MPS1) is the overarching planning policy document for all minerals in England. It provides advice and guidance to planning authorities and the minerals industry and it will ensure that the need by society and the economy for minerals is managed in an integrated way against its impact on the environment and communities.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

Minerals and Quarrying

8.3. Mineral extraction is traditional and important to the local economy but leaves scars on the landscape, and causes pollution and traffic congestion.

8.4. The supply of local building and roofing stone to the repair of historic buildings and structures and for new buildings is an issue in the National Park and is being considered in the context of the Minerals Development Framework.

8.5. Many of the quarries and mines in the Peak District were operating before the area became a National Park. The National Park boundary was drawn so that it excluded many of the main limestone quarries in the Buxton area. There were 27 active surface workings on 1,273ha and 1 active underground working (170ha) recorded in 2007. A further 5 inactive surface workings, and 2 inactive underground workings

were recorded, and 2 dormant surface workings, and 3 dormant underground workings (2007).

- 8.6. Of the 27 active surface workings in October 2007, 5 quarried vein minerals, 11 quarried limestone, 10 quarried sandstone and one quarried shale. The total area covered by active sites was 1,274 ha. The total area covered by all sites – including both inactive sites and sites in the process of being restored on in aftercare – was 1,475 ha. This represents about 1% of the PDNP area. There was just one underground site in operation in 2007.
- 8.7. **Limestone** from the Peak District is supplied to the East Midlands, North Western and Yorkshire regions. Today there are 11 active limestone quarries in the PDNP. The largest quarries are at Hope (owned by Lafarge Cement (UK) Ltd) and Tunstead/Old Moor (owned by Tarmac Central Ltd, trading as Buxton Lime Industries Ltd). Limestone is quarried for cement at Hope works. There are extensive permitted reserves at Hope and Tunstead/Old Moor. Limestone is also used for aggregate production. The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS8) sets out the aggregate apportionment for each Authority. For the PDNP this is currently set at 66.9mt over the period 2001-2016, representing an annual rate of 4.18mt per annum. This figure is derived from the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party (EMAWP), which meets regularly to discuss aggregate production and related issues in the region.
- 8.8. **Sandstone** - ten quarries extract sandstone mainly for use as building stone. The largest quarries are at Grindleford, Stanton Moor and Glossop. The stone is used in local buildings either for walls or as details such as cornerstones and quoins on limestone buildings. It is also used in other parts of the country, particularly for new build and restoration work on historic buildings. The PDNP has around 9mt of gritstone/sandstone permitted reserves. The permitted aggregate reserve for gritstone was around 183,000 tonnes at the end of 2006.
- 8.9. **Vein Mineral Ore** - the PDNP is a major source of vein mineral ore (including fluorspar, barytes, calcite and lead). About 400,000 tonnes of vein minerals are extracted each year. Most is processed at Cavendish Mill, near Stoney Middleton.

Waste

- 8.10. The quantity and variety of types of waste generated within the National Park are relatively low and limited when compared with the surrounding areas due to the Park's rural nature, economy and relatively low density of population. They are generally restricted to inert, domestic, commercial and industrial waste categories. In 2006/07 the National Park recorded the following achievements for waste management:
- 18% of waste was recycled (3,551 tonnes);
 - 14% was composted or treated by anaerobic digestion (2,703 tonnes);
 - 4% (847 tonnes) was used to recover heat, power or other energy;
 - 63% was sent to landfills (12,264 tonnes)

Current Trends

Minerals and Quarrying

- 8.11. The rate of limestone extraction rose from 1.5 million tonnes in 1951 to a peak of 8.2 million tonnes in 1991, but has since declined to around 4.7million tonnes in 1999/00. Changes in the industry towards greater efficiency continue (through company mergers/take-overs), with reduced employment and increases in extraction rates.
- 8.12. In recent years there has been an upturn in sales of gritstone for dimensional/building stone uses. Reworking of lead spoil heaps associated with old workings is generating concern for conservation of valued cultural and national heritage features.
- 8.13. Extraction is likely to persist in the National Park as some minerals are difficult to find elsewhere. However, this is likely to be at a lower scale as Minerals Authorities are increasingly attempting to meet their apportionments from outside the Park boundary.

Waste

- 8.14. There are fewer 'active waste disposal sites' in the Park now than in the past few years. There are also increasing numbers of unauthorised waste disposal sorting and/or treatment operations.

KEY ISSUES

Minerals and Quarrying

- 8.15. Mineral extraction is traditional and important to the local economy but leaves scars on the landscape, and causes pollution and traffic congestion.
- 8.16. The supply of local building and roofing stone to the repair of historic buildings and structures and for new buildings is an issue in the National Park and is being considered in the context of the Minerals Development Framework.
- 8.17. The Peak District National Park Authority is to challenge a High Court ruling over its enforcement action to control the extent of limestone quarrying at Backdale on Longstone Edge

Waste Planning

- 8.18. Levels of recycling will increase as councils are required to hit 'targets' for domestic recycling.
- 8.19. There may be increased demand for locally sited recycling sites within villages.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 8.20. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 8.21. All of the significant positive effects associated with this objective relate to the policies for climate change, natural resources and sustainable building as in general these policies seek to conserve mineral resources for the future and avoid sterilisation.
- 8.22. The promotion of the reuse of existing buildings throughout the polices is likely to have an overall positive effect on this objective, as is the reuse of construction and demolition waste on site.

Significant negative effects

- 8.23. Although none of the policies are expected to have a significant negative effect on this objective, there is some potential for minor negative effects resulting from the Development Strategy as the policy may result in development at a scale that would put pressure on the mineral resources of the Park.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 8.24. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 5, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 5: To minimise the consumption of natural resources						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+/-	Direct	Local	Medium Probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.25. The promotion of the use of recycled aggregates and materials during development (new and conversion) projects would significantly benefit this objective.

MONITORING

- 8.26. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Area of minerals sterilised by development (Minerals Planning Authorities)
 - Recycling rates (Audit Commission Area Profiles)

9. SA OBJECTIVE 6: CLIMATE CHANGE

SA Objective 6: To develop a managed response to climate change

Sub-objectives

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- To conserve and enhance carbon sinks within the Park
- To promote the use of renewable energy exploring innovative techniques.
- To achieve efficient energy use
- To ensure development is not at risk of flooding and will not increase flooding elsewhere

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

9.1. Kyoto Protocol 1997

- Legally binding agreement under which industrialized countries will reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% compared to the year 1990. The goal is to lower overall emissions from six greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride, HFCs, and PFCs - calculated as an average over the five-year period of 2008-12.

9.2. Planning Policy Statement 1: Draft Supplement Planning and Climate Change (March 2007), DCLG

- Planning and Climate Change sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable.

9.3. Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (Dec. 2006) DCLG

- Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) sets out Government policy on development and flood risk. Its aims are to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Where new development is, exceptionally, necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, reducing flood risk overall.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 9.4. The National Park's location and altitude of between 100m and 623m above sea level dictates the climate. This means there is higher rainfall, lower temperature and lower sunshine hours overall than the average for England and Wales.
- 9.5. Only small installations are permitted in the National Park. In 2006/07 three domestic solar energy collectors and one domestic wind turbine were completed with a total capacity of 24kW
- 9.6. Many valleys are dammed and flooded to create reservoirs where water is stored to supply the towns and cities around the Peak Park (such as Leicester and Nottingham). There are 55 reservoirs of over 2 hectares in the National Park. The River Derwent catchment contains 3 SACs and 1 SPA. The South Pennine Moors – Dark Peak and the integrity of the moorland sites determines their capacity to hold water and contribute towards flood management.

Current Trends

- 9.7. From 1993 to 2003 on average, the Peak District experienced less rain, more hours of sunshine, higher temperatures and lower wind speeds, compared to the average for 1961 to 1990, indicating a warmer, calmer environment. There has also been a fluctuation in the annual rainfall during 1998 to 2003.
- 9.8. It is likely that renewable energy schemes will continue to be based on small scale projects and bioenergy from agriculture and forestry.
- 9.9. Climate change predictions from April 2002 (Environment Agency) suggest that England's temperature could rise between 2° and 3.5° by 2080, and by up to 3° by 2100 in the East Midlands.
- 9.10. According to the SFRA, this could lead to the following effects:
 - The current Flood Zone 2 (1 in 1000 year return period) will, over a period of 50 to 100 years, become Flood Zone 3 (1 in 100 year return period)
 - The current Flood Zone 3a (1 in 100 year return period) will become Flood Zone 3b, functional flood plain (1 in 20 year return period)

Water and Flood Risk

- 9.11. In recent years the Environment Agency have explored scope for flood defence schemes along the River Wye through Bakewell and Ashford in the Water.
- 9.12. Problems have occurred at Stoney Middleton when a tailings dam burst flooding the village and closing the A623. A major flood event also occurred in 1989 in the Wildboarclough/Kettlethulme area.

KEY ISSUES

Climate change and Renewable Energy

- 9.13. Increased temperatures and changes in the weather will affect the economy of the National Park, particularly farming and tourism.
- 9.14. Permanent alterations to the weather will cause changes to the landscape, rare habitats and species of the Peak District.
- 9.15. There will be more frequent moorland fires due to drier summers and flooding, from higher rainfall in winter.
- 9.16. There is a need to encourage the use of renewable energies, and the conservation of energy in homes and businesses.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 9.17. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 9.18. There are a number of significant positive effects associated with this objective, mainly arising from the policies relating to climate change, natural resources and sustainable building and those relating to transport.
- 9.19. The recommendations for the use of renewables and achieving sustainable low carbon development should have significant benefits for the National Park's response to climate change.
- 9.20. The transport policies encourage the use of sustainable transport and reduced vehicle traffic within and around the National Park which should help to respond to climate change.

Significant negative effects

- 9.21. No significant negative or minor negative effects were identified in relation to this objective.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 9.22. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 6, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 6: To develop a managed response to climate change						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility

++	Direct	International	Medium probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.23. All new developments should incorporate sustainable design and construction measures, which will help to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change within and around the Park.

MONITORING

- 9.24. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Amount/proportion of energy produced from renewable sources (DBERR Energy Trends)
 - Annual CO2 emissions (www.sustainable-development.gov, Audit Commission)
 - Incidence of flooding events

10. SA OBJECTIVE 7: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND BUILT DEVELOPMENT

SA Objective 7: To achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development

Sub-objectives

- To maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings
- To consider sustainable construction in the design of development
- Spatial development to be focussed in settlements

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 10.1. Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (November 2006), DCLG
- The priority for development should be previously developed land, in particular vacant and derelict sites and buildings
- 10.2. Code for Sustainable Homes Technical Guide Version 2 (2009), DCLG
- The Code is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The Code aims to reduce our carbon emissions and create homes that are more sustainable and supports the government target that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016. The technical guide sets out the requirements for the Code, and the process by which a Code assessment is reached.
- 10.3. Planning Policy Statement 1: Draft Supplement Planning and Climate Change (March 2007), DCLG
- Planning and Climate Change sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable.
- 10.4. Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Growth (2009), DCLG
- Planning for Sustainable Growth promotes the vitality and viability of towns and villages and supports the provision, improvement and retention of rural services and facilities to meet local needs.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 10.5. The annual housing report shows that over the last 5 years there are 130 commitments for local needs housing, whereas in the previous 5 years there were only 32. While the overall number of units may fall as larger brown-field or

conversion opportunities dry up, the proportion of commitments that are for local needs housing is expected to rise.

KEY ISSUES

- 10.6. Larger previously developed land and building sites is likely to run out soon, so more difficult previously developed sites and buildings will have to be developed.
- 10.7. Rural isolation, market conditions and small populations may result in the loss of vital services that keep village communities alive. Smaller settlements will continue to find it difficult to sustain services required, and coupled with a falling (and increasingly elderly) population this will affect the labour supply and rural businesses, as well as affecting the costs of maintaining public services.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 10.8. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 10.9. There are a small number of significant positive effects associated with this objective, most of which are expected to result from the policies relating to climate change, natural resources and sustainable building.
- 10.10. The endorsement of reusing existing buildings and previously developed land throughout many of the policies should lead to significant positive impacts on sustainable land use and built development within the National Park.

Significant negative effects

- 10.11. No significant negative or minor negative effects were identified in relation to this objective.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 10.12. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 7, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 7: To achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Both direct and indirect	Local	Medium probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.13. The promotion of sustainable design and construction techniques could be made more widespread throughout the policies.
- 10.14. When assessing the financial viability of affordable housing projects, the long term financial costs and benefits of sustainable design and construction techniques should be taken into account. Wider environmental benefits for the community should also be considered.
- 10.15. Buildings that are felt not to be in keeping with local character should be remodelled, keeping as much of the existing frame as possible, through the use of recladding and landscaping etc, rather than being demolished.

MONITORING

- 10.16. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- New dwellings built on previously developed land or through conversions or all new development on previously developed land (Defra -Govt sustainable development indicator)
 - Area of greenfield land developed (Local Planning Authorities)

11. SA OBJECTIVE 8: TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARK BY SPECIFIC GROUPS

SA Objective 8: Increase understanding of the special qualities of the Park by target groups, young people (14-20 years); people from disadvantaged areas, with disabilities and from ethnic minority backgrounds

Sub-objectives

- Increase learning opportunities, information and interpretation.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

11.1. East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-2010

- This is perhaps better described as a visitor strategy. The main markets are people living in the region or near it, including people who live locally. Although there is an emphasis in favour of attracting more people who will stay overnight, and that implies a further distance, the Strategy is realistic in its understanding that tourists from overseas or far distant places are unlikely to be the bread and butter of tourism in the East Midlands.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

Education and Engagement

- 11.2. The National Park is surrounded by urban areas, and local authorities and voluntary groups such as Sheffield Black and Ethnic Environmental Network play a full role in the MOSAIC project. Losehill Hall, the Peak District National Park's Study Centre, provides a range of learning opportunities for people of all ages and encourages them to find out more about looking after the Peak District National Park. The Education Service offers advice and information to schools, as well as organising educational visits for schools and colleges.

Current Trends

Education and Engagement

- 11.3. Government policy approaches seeks to encourage greater engagement with disabled, black and minority ethnic people and those living in areas of multiple deprivation, as well encouraging children to participate in outdoor activities in areas such as the National Park.

KEY ISSUES

Education and Engagement

- 11.4. Encouraging and actively engaging with new audiences and children to participate in learning and outdoor activities.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 11.5. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. The vast majority of the policies are not expected to impact on this objective; only a small number of potential (but uncertain) positive and negative effects were identified, most of which relate to recreation and tourism. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 11.6. The policies are not expected to have any significant positive effects on increasing understanding of the special qualities of the National Park by target groups.

Significant negative effects

- 11.7. The policies are not expected to have any significant negative effects on increasing understanding of the special qualities of the National Park by target groups.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 11.8. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 8, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 8: Increase understanding of the special qualities of the Park by target groups, young people (14-20 years); people from disadvantaged areas, with disabilities and from ethnic minority backgrounds						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
0	Indirect	National	Uncertain	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.9. This SA Objective is not really addressed by the policies. Where there is any reference to increasing understanding, specific groups are not targeted. The supporting text for the policies could emphasise more strongly those groups that PDNPA particularly wants to encourage to understand and enjoy the National Park.

MONITORING

11.10. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:

- Visitor demographics e.g. age, ethnic background etc. (PDNPA)

12. SA OBJECTIVE 9: ACCESS FOR ALL

SA Objective 9: To promote access for all

Sub-objectives

- Increase use of the National Park by under-represented groups from surrounding urban areas.
- Manage the range of recreational activities so that all types of users can enjoy the Park and its special qualities.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 12.1. Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism, DCLG, May 2006
- The guidance highlights that the economic benefits of tourism in particular can help to sustain and improve both the natural and built physical environment.
- 12.2. East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-2010
- This is perhaps better described as a visitor strategy. The main markets are people living in the region or near it, including people who live locally. Although there is an emphasis in favour of attracting more people who will stay overnight, and that implies a further distance, the Strategy is realistic in its understanding that tourists from overseas or far distant places are unlikely to be the bread and butter of tourism in the East Midlands.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

Population

- 12.3. The National Park's resident population has remained at around 38,000 over the past decade. It is an ageing population and the average age is 43 years (compared to a national average of 38.6).
- 18% of the population are aged under 16 years
 - 73% are aged 16-74 years
 - 9% are aged 75 and over
- 12.4. Rural isolation, market conditions and small populations may result in the loss of vital services that keep village communities alive. Young people in particular find it difficult living in isolated villages where there are fewer services and cultural activities available.
- 12.5. Decline and ageing of the National Park's population will also affect the demographic make up of communities in certain areas.

- 12.6. Findings show that a doubling of the building rate (e.g. to around 95 per year, might stabilise the population level but would also increase the overall numbers of elderly.
- 12.7. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that this level of development can stabilise local service provision, i.e. make shops, post offices and schools which are more affected by local political, and commercial drivers.
- 12.8. In constrained rural areas therefore the conclusion is that it is not possible to 'build your way' out of the problem: this would take so much development that it would be incompatible with the statutory National Park purposes.
- 12.9. Policy will need to consider how best to tackle these issues in the context of National Park constraint.

Tourism and Recreation

- 12.10. The National Park is easily accessible to millions of people. In 1991, 32% of England's population lived within one hour's drive of the National Park. 85% of tourists arrive by car, and many continue to use their cars to tour around the National Park. Day visitors are the main type of visitor (77%) spending on average £3.30 per day, and those staying spend an average of £25.72 per day.
- 12.11. Most visitors come from Derbyshire (14%), South Yorkshire (13%), Cheshire (12%) and the other Counties that are partly within the National Park. Over 60% of all recreational visits to the National Park are made during the months of May to September. In a typical summer week over 500,000 visits are made, while a typical low season week may have over 250,000 visits. Sundays are the busiest day.
- 12.12. Gateways to the National Park (outside the Park itself) include Ashbourne, Buxton, Glossop, Matlock, Wirksworth and Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The level of farm-based holiday accommodation increased by 45% between 1991 and 2000, and is an important part of rural regeneration.

Rights of Way and Open Access

- 12.13. In total 52,432 ha of the National Park (37%) is open for public access. The CROW Act 2000 created a new right to access open country and in 2004 significant new areas of the Peak District were made available for open access.
- 12.14. The Public Rights of Way include:
 - Public Rights of Way (PROW) account for 2,459km
 - Footpaths 2,136km
 - Public Bridleways 293km, and other PROW 30km
- 12.15. Routes suitable for wheelchairs have been developed; an adapted fishing platform has been provided at Ladybower.

Current Trends

Tourism and Recreation

- 12.16. The increasing provision of holiday accommodation, particularly self-catering accommodation by conversion of traditional buildings on farms, is seen to have helped farm businesses to survive during the difficult times of BSE, Foot and Mouth, and changes in grant regimes.
- 12.17. The Peak District 'brand' is considered one of the strongest in the East Midlands due to the beauty of the area.
- 12.18. The Management Plan is seeking to shift the emphasis from passive to active recreation provision for visitors and local residents. This is to include active sports such as cycling, mountain biking, and canoeing in suitable locations.

Rights of Way and Open Access

- 12.19. A number of trails within the National Park pass along old railway lines and could be affected by future railway development. Some could be safeguarded for future schemes.
- 12.20. The Park Recreation Forum alongside the Local Access Forum, the Stanage Forum and the Hope Valley Forum are tackling access issues arising including the use of trail bikes and off road vehicles, and a constructive way for all recreation interests to share views.

KEY ISSUES

Tourism and Recreation

- 12.21. To retain ease of access to the Park from surrounding areas for short day visits by encouraging sustainable forms of transport, as well as benefiting the local economy and tourism sector.
- 12.22. Some activities threaten the 'wild' and more tranquil areas of the National Park which are valued for quiet enjoyment.
- 12.23. Some of the most popular honeypot areas attract large numbers of visitors resulting in overcrowded car parks, blocked roads, and overstretched local facilities - particularly on summer Sundays.

Rights of Way and Open Access

- 12.24. Many thousands of tourists hike over the moors, wearing away the sparse vegetation and exposing the bare soil (inc. peat) which is then subject to erosion.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 12.25. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

12.26. Only one of the policies is expected to have significant positive effects on this objective, which is one relating to recreation and tourism.

Significant negative effects

12.27. The policies are not expected to have any significant negative effects on promoting access for all.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

12.28. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 9, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 9: To promote access for all						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Direct	Nationally	Medium Certainty	Medium Term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

12.29. As with SA Objective 8, more could be done to ensure that target groups are encouraged to visit the National Park.

MONITORING

12.30. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:

- Visitor demographics e.g. visitor origin, age, ethnic background etc. (PDNPA)

12.31. SA Objective 10 Promote good governance has been scoped out of the assessment process.

13. SA OBJECTIVE 11: HOUSING

SA Objective 11: To help meet local need for housing

Sub-objectives

- To provide affordable/social housing which meets identified local need both in terms of quantity and type.
- To ensure housing in the National Park is appropriate in terms of quality, safety and security.
- To ensure that new housing is located appropriately in terms of employment and services.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

13.1. Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, (Nov 2006), DCLG

- PPS3 has been developed in response to recommendation in the Barker Review of Housing Supply in March 2004, and draws on a range of research and subsequent consultation exercises. The Government's key housing policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live.

13.2. Peak District Annual Housing Report (2007) Peak District NPA

- The Annual Housing Report 2007 updates information on housing development, land availability and contributions towards local housing needs in the Peak District National Park (PDNP) from 1991/92 to 2006/07. The information helps the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) develop housing policy for the area.

13.3. Derbyshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2008)

- The main objective of this study was to assess the need for additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller site provision within Derbyshire in at least the next 5 years. It identified broad location of where any additional sites should be located, and to have these apportioned to local authorities.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

13.4. The Derbyshire Structure Plan allowed for 1,000 new dwellings to be built during the Plan period 1991 to 2006 through a mixture of new build/conversions to meet local need. 1,512 dwellings were completed between 1991/92 and 2006/07 (one and a half times the 1,000 identified).

13.5. A Housing Needs survey (2006/07) identifies that in Derbyshire Dales and High Peak the suggested thresholds for affordable housing should be based on an area-wide target:

An area-wide target of 248 pa affordable homes over the next 5 years in the Peak sub-region. This number represents:

- 70% of the anticipated capacity of sites without planning permission and above the 15 threshold over the period 2006/7- 2010/11. 248 represent 41% of the overall requirement under the most favourable economic conditions (Table 12.2)
- A target of 200 pa affordable homes on allocated and windfall sites in the urban areas. 200 is based on the survey evidence that the urban areas account for approximately 80% of the forecast shortfall (see Table 8.6a)
- A target of 48 pa affordable homes on allocated sites and exception sites in the rural areas with 32 pa of these in the National Park. 48 is based on the survey evidence that the rural areas account for approximately 20% of the forecast shortfall – (see Table 8.6a)

- 13.6. Average household size has been decreasing in line with national trends, from 2.5 persons to 2.34 persons per household between 1991 and 2001. The number of households has risen to almost 16,000 (2001) and the number of household spaces is 17,196.
- 13.7. The proportion of people living in the National Park owning their homes outright was much higher (42.9%) than England as a whole (29.2%, 2001). Around 4.1% of dwellings are second and holiday homes (compared to 0.6% nationally).
- 13.8. The latest Housing Needs Survey (2007) indicates that 26.1% of households in the rural areas were found to be living in problem housing. The Peak National Park Authority areas within High Peak Borough and Derbyshire Dales District have the highest number and proportion of households in problem housing.

Current Trends

- 13.9. Recent population projections (2007) indicate that population numbers will fall unless around 95 dwellings a year are provided.

Population

- 13.10. When the anomalous large sites are excluded, the residual level of housing completions (48 per annum) is likely to lead to a population decline and changes in the population structure, with 47% of the population aged 60 and over in 2026, and 20% aged 75 and over.
- 13.11. The *Annual Monitoring Report (2006/07)* estimates that between 2001 and 2026 the likely scenario is that the population of the Park will fall by around 6%; the working age population will fall by around 29%; and the population aged 60 years will rise by around 47%.

KEY ISSUES

- 13.12. High house prices are one reason for young people moving to other areas, something which is also affected by the gap between wages and house prices.
- 13.13. A large number of open market housing completions resulted from the change of use of large disused mills. There are now fewer in existence, so completion rates will fall.
- 13.14. If present trends and forecasts continue there will be less affordable housing completed than anticipated in the Structure Plan, but all other housing types will be well above.

13.15. The annual housing report shows that over the last 5 years there are 130 commitments for local needs housing, whereas in the previous 5 years there were only 32. While the overall number of units may fall as larger brown-field opportunities dry up, the proportion of commitments that are for local needs housing is expected to rise.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

13.16. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

13.17. Most of the significant positive effects associated with this objective are expected to result from the policies for homes, shops and community facilities. A number of the positive affect arise because policies allow for the provision of affordable housing specifically to help meet local need.

Significant negative effects

13.18. The policies are not expected to have any significant negative effects on housing. However, one of the landscape and conservation policies is likely to have minor negative effects, as housing development is likely to be restricted.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

13.19. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 11, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 11: To help meet local need for housing						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Direct	Regional	High probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

13.20. PDNPA should ensure that the housing needs of the local population are correctly and accurately understood through time. This needs to be undertaken with an emphasis on effective local participation in decision making.

MONITORING

13.21. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:

- Number of new dwellings provided

- Proportion of new dwellings classed as 'affordable'
- House price: average income data
- New housing supply by tenure (Annual Monitoring Report)
- Demand for affordable housing (Strategic Housing Market Assessments)

14. SA OBJECTIVE 12: ACCESS TO SERVICES

SA Objective 12: Encourage better access to a range of local centres, services and amenities

Sub-objectives

- To improve access to and retention of schools, shops, post offices, pubs and GPs in order to support local need.
- To improve access to and retention of countryside parks, open space and formal leisure and recreation facilities.
- To increase opportunities for skills development and access to education and training.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

14.1. DEFRA Rural White Paper

- Aims to maintain and stimulate communities, and secure access to services which is equitable in all the circumstances, for those who live or work in the countryside and to conserve and enhance rural landscapes and the diversity and abundance of wildlife (including the habitats on which it depends).

14.2. Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004), ODPM

- This PPS7 sets out the Government's national policies on sustainable development in rural areas. The policies apply to the rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

Access to Services

- 14.3. Village services continue to decline with shops, post offices, pubs and banks closing. The National Park has proportionally fewer services per parish than nationally. The number of supermarkets in and around the Park has almost doubled between 1995 and 2002.
- 14.4. A Countryside Agency survey (2000) found that with the exception of doctor's surgeries, there were proportionally fewer services per parish than nationally. 7 parishes did not have any services, and a further 14 had only 1 service; 21 parishes (17%) did not have a scheduled bus service (similar to national average of 16%).

- 14.5. IMD data shows that access to health services is low across rural areas of the East Midlands, including in and around the Peak District.³

Current Trends

Access to services

- 14.6. 51 parishes have seen a loss of services since 1994, and this trend has been accelerating.

KEY ISSUES

Access to services

- 14.7. Smaller settlements will continue to find it difficult to sustain services required, and coupled with a falling (and increasingly elderly) population this will affect the labour supply and rural businesses, as well as affecting the costs of maintaining public services.
- 14.8. It should be noted that the statistics about local supermarkets increasing in number. Policy will need to take into account the ability to access services, whether they are actually in the settlement or brought to it via mobile services, or by transport options taking people to the services.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 14.9. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 14.10. Only two of the policies are likely to have significant positive effects on this objective – one relating to homes, shops and community facilities and one relating to accessibility, travel and traffic.

Significant negative effects

- 14.11. The policies are not expected to have any significant negative effects in terms of encouraging better access to a range of local centres, services and amenities.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 14.12. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 12, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

³ East Midlands Health Profile: Access to Services. Available online at:
<http://www.empho.org.uk/Download/Public/8355/1/38.pdf>

SA Objective 12: Encourage better access to a range of local centres, services and amenities						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Both direct and indirect	Local	Medium probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I4.13. PDNPA should promote innovative, sustainable and small-scale methods of providing utilities in areas where it may otherwise be difficult to provide community amenities, for example the use of on site renewable energy generation.
- I4.14. PDNPA should also consider innovative schemes to provide amenities and services to the population without the need for a new physical structure, either through encouraging the multiple use of buildings such as public houses, providing post office facilities, or through mobile services.

MONITORING

- I4.15. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Percentage of the population with access to: employment, primary school, secondary school, hospital and supermarket. This is based on access at the neighbourhood level by foot or public transport. (Defra & DfT)
 - Extent of accessible open space
 - Quality of open spaces data from PPG17 Open Space Audit
 - Amount of investment in the creation and management of green space (Local authorities).
 - Quality, extent, and use of public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways) (Local authorities, Natural England).

15. SA OBJECTIVE 13: THE ECONOMY

SA Objective 13: Promote a healthy Park wide economy

Sub-objectives

- To encourage a viable and diversified farming and forestry industry.
- To increase and improve jobs related to National Park purposes including tourism.
- To encourage business growth.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 15.1. Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2009 ‘ A Flourishing Region (2006), EMDA
- The third Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands setting out the East Midlands Development Agency’s vision and aspirations to 2020. The Draft East Midlands Regional Plan is required to co-ordinate closely with the RES.
- 15.2. Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands
- Aims to develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation, creating a climate within which entrepreneurs and world-class businesses can flourish; to provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies; and to create high quality employment opportunities and to bring about excellence in learning and skills, giving the region a competitive edge in how we acquire and exploit knowledge

BASELINE CONDITIONS

Employment

- 15.3. The main employment for National Park residents is professional, managerial and administrative jobs (38%).
- 25% of residents are self-employed;
 - 24% are employed in tourism and catering;
 - 19% are employed in manufacturing;
 - 12% of jobs are in agriculture, forestry and fishing; and
 - 12% of jobs are in quarrying

- 15.4. Unemployment rates are lower than nationally (1.9% in the Park compared to 3.3% nationally). Businesses in the Park tend to have fewer employees than regionally or nationally, and wages tend to be lower. Approximately half of the working population of the National Park commute out of the Park to work, and 4 out of 10 jobs in the Park are filled by workers living outside its boundaries. Tourism provides a third of all employment in the Park, but such jobs are often low paid, low skilled and seasonal by nature.

Market towns and villages and rural deprivation

- 15.5. There is only one settlement with a population of 3,000+ Bakewell, where 10% of the population of the National Park live. The remainder of the population live in the other small town of Tideswell and the 100 villages and hamlets.
- 15.6. There are wards within both Derbyshire Dales District and High Peak Borough that qualify for Objective 2 funding.
- 15.7. Characteristics of the National Park are low levels of unemployment, a high share of knowledge workers, a developing tourism sector, an iconic Peak District brand, attractive market towns and rural landscapes and a high quality of life.

Current Trends

Employment

- 15.8. The traditional economic bases of farming, quarrying and manufacturing have suffered job losses in recent years. In 2001, mining and quarrying accounted for only 304 jobs, but over 3,000 people were working in agriculture.
- 15.9. There has also been an increased reliance on seasonal employment as part of the tourist economy.

Market towns and villages and rural deprivation

- 15.10. A total of £7.639m has been made available to the Peak District Objective 2 Programme up until 2008. This is implemented through the Rural Action Zone which is made up of public, private and voluntary sector partners from across the wider Peak District (whole of Derbyshire Dales and High Peak, plus some parts of north and east Staffordshire.)
- 15.11. A weakness of the local economy include a declining economic base, below regional average GDP per head, below regional average activity rates amongst women and below regional average educational attainment.

KEY ISSUES

Employment characteristics

- 15.12. Increase in seasonal and part-time jobs as a proportion of National Park employment, combined with loss of jobs in the traditional employment activities of farming, quarrying and manufacturing.

Market towns and villages and rural deprivation

- 15.13. The purpose of the Rural Action Zone (RAZ) is to stimulate economic development and regeneration activity within the wider Peak District in order to create a ‘high skills – high wage economy.
- 15.14. There is a shortage of modern office accommodation and few appropriate development sites, combined with poor access to services, and poor road and rail connections.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 15.15. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 15.16. A small number of significant positive scores have been identified in relation to this objective, mainly resulting from the minerals policies which tend to promote economic activity associated with that industry, as well as from the overarching Development Strategy.

Significant negative effects

- 15.17. The policies are not expected to have any significant negative effects in terms of promoting a healthy Park-wide economy. However, one of the recreation and tourism objectives may have minor negative effects as it may restrict accommodation development to the point where this has an adverse effect on the potential of the local tourism industry.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 15.18. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 13, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 13: Promote a healthy Park wide economy						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Direct and Indirect	Local	Medium probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.19. The unique selling points of the National Park should be utilised more to make businesses distinctive and also to add to the uniqueness of the Park. For example,

businesses that keep the craft skills of the National Park alive should be promoted along with green technology businesses that will help to ensure the sustainability of the National Park.

MONITORING

15.20. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:

- New business registrations
- Employment levels
- Employment land provision (EMRA)

16. SA OBJECTIVE 14: TRANSPORT

SA Objective 14: To reduce road traffic (especially private cars and freight), traffic congestion and improve safety, health and air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car

Sub-objectives

- To promote the provision of public transport.
- To increase opportunities for walking and cycling.
- To reduce levels of traffic congestion.

KEY RELEVANT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 16.1. Planning Policy Statement 13: Transport, 2001, DCLG
- The objectives of PPG13 are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce the need to travel, especially by car.
- 16.2. Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, and Derby Joint Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, Final LTP2, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, March 2006
- There are two Local Transport Plans in Derbyshire. The Derbyshire Local Transport Plan covers most of the county. The second plan is the Derby Joint Local Transport Plan, which includes the whole of Derby and those parts of the county adjoining the city boundary.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 16.3. The number of cars owned by residents continues to be higher than nationally, and is increasing. In 2001, 86% of households had access to a car or van compared with 73% in England. The number of vehicles per household rose to 1.5 in the Park compared with 1.1 nationally.
- 16.4. The Park is at the hub of trans-Pennine routes linking the surrounding conurbations; this also generates additional commercial and business traffic on cross-Park journeys.
- 16.5. A small number of significant industries have to transport locally derived products from the area – this applies to quarrying industry and farming.

- 16.6. IMD data shows that access to health services is low across rural areas of the East Midlands, including in and around the Peak District.⁴
- 16.7. Regional data shows that the prevalence of obesity in both men and women in the East Midlands has been higher than the national average and is continuing to rise. Improving nutrition and rates of exercise participation amongst young people will be key to tackling this issue⁵.

Health

- 16.8. Just under one third of the population of 28,000 considered themselves to have a limiting long-term illness (similar to the national figure). The Peak District is slightly better than the average in England, falling in the top 40% of authorities with the healthiest and least disabled populations.
- 16.9. Levels of radon are relatively high within the Peak District. Half the Park's parishes need full radon precautions, and a further fifth need secondary radon precautions to be incorporated into the design of new dwellings.
- 16.10. There is a common commitment to healthy communities across the Community Strategies of constituent authorities that share the National Park area.
- 16.11. Regional data shows that the prevalence of obesity in both men and women in the East Midlands has been higher than the national average and is continuing to rise. Improving nutrition and rates of exercise participation amongst young people will be key to tackling this issue⁶.
- 16.12. Average rates of smoking in the East Midlands are in line with the national average. However, within the region, levels of smoking are lower within the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak areas than most other local authorities. Smoking prevalence across the region is continuing to reduce⁷.
- 16.13. Life expectancy within the region is almost exactly in line with the national average; however the Derbyshire Dales local authority area has one of the lowest life expectancies for men within the region at 72.3 – 73.7 years. Cancer is the main cause of death amongst both males and females in the East Midlands.⁸

Current Trends

- 16.14. Traffic has increased on all roads around the Park and there are indications that average car occupancy is decreasing.

⁴ East Midlands Health Profile: Access to Services. Available online at: <http://www.empho.org.uk/Download/Public/8355/1/38.pdf>

⁵ Improving Health in the East Midlands, Keeping Health in Mind, Report of the Regional Director of Public Health in the East Midlands (2006) EMRA

⁶ Improving Health in the East Midlands, Keeping Health in Mind, Report of the Regional Director of Public Health in the East Midlands (2006) EMRA

⁷ Improving Health in the East Midlands, Keeping Health in Mind, Report of the Regional Director of Public Health in the East Midlands (2006) EMRA

⁸ East Midlands Health Profile: General Health and Health Inequalities. Available online at: <http://www.empho.org.uk/Download/Public/8350/1/24-31.pdf>

- 16.15. The number of trains stopping within the Park at least once has increased, but scheduled buses have shown a slight decrease.
- 16.16. The Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership aims to encourage the use of buses and trains within this valley.

KEY ISSUES

- 16.17. It will be necessary to encourage environmentally sustainable modes of transport and to locate new development in places that minimise the need for additional journeys by private car. The retention of public transport services for people living within the Park and visitors is essential.
- 16.18. Residents within the National Park want to see less traffic and signage within villages.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 16.19. **Appendix E** sets out in detail the likely sustainability effects of each policy on this SA Objective. Significant positive and negative effects are set out below.

Significant positive effects

- 16.20. A number of the policies relating to accessibility, travel and traffic are likely to have significant positive effects on this objective, due to their emphasis on encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport and reducing vehicle use.

Significant negative effects

- 16.21. The policies are not expected to have any significant negative effects in terms of reducing road traffic and reducing the need to travel by car. However, one of the recreation and tourism policies may have minor negative effects as it may result in the increased movement of caravans and large campervans within the Park.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 16.22. The table below sets out the likely cumulative effects of all policies within the Core Strategy on SA Objective 14, including SEA Directive requirements to consider the scale, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of those effects.

SA Objective 14: To reduce road traffic (especially private cars and freight), traffic congestion and improve safety, health and air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car						
Score	Direct / indirect	Scale of importance	Probability	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
+	Direct and Indirect	Regional	Medium probability	Medium term	Ongoing	Permanent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 16.23. The Plan promotes modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transport and when implementing the Plan effort should be put into investigating the barriers that currently prevent people from using public transport in the National Park as well as creating the physical infrastructure to enable this modal shift. The health benefits of encouraging more sustainable modes should also be publicised.
- 16.24. The benefits of modal shift to the natural environment as well as the health of the population should also be emphasised and fully considered when the implementation of new infrastructure is being considered. For example, reducing congestion on roads will have significant landscape benefits and this needs to be fully weighed up against any potential harm caused by implementing new infrastructure such as cycle lanes etc.

MONITORING

- 16.25. Suggested indicators and/or sources for indicators/monitoring data are:
- Levels of travel by different modes, in terms of numbers (journeys made) and passenger –km (distances travelled). Measures may be categorised by a number of factors, such as journey purpose, time, etc. Key sources include: Highways Agency; Department for Transport; National Travel Survey; Office for Rail Regulation; local transport authorities' Local Transport Plans (LTPs)
 - Travel patterns, especially for journeys to work and education. Key sources include: National Travel Survey (NTS); Labour Force Survey (LFS).
 - Levels of freight movement, by tonnes (goods moved) and tonne-km (distances over which moved). Key sources include: Department for Transport (surveys of goods transport); Office for Rail Regulation (ORR).
 - Provision of transport infrastructure, by length and by category / mode: roads, rail and light rail lines, busways and bus priorities, levels of services provided, cycleways, footways, waterways. Key sources include: Highways Agency; Department for Transport; ORR; local transport authorities' LTPs.

17. CONCLUSIONS

- 17.1. The Submission Version of the Core Strategy is likely to have a generally positive effect on the SA Objectives and the SEA Directive topics. There are, perhaps unsurprisingly, no significant adverse effects expected as a result of the policies, and only relatively few minor adverse effects. These are likely to be relatively small-scale, localised and the result of policies that deliver significant benefits to other SA Objectives. However, some caution is needed as there are still a number of policies with mixed or as yet uncertain effects and so the way in which the policies are implemented will be the key determinant of their eventual impacts.
- 17.2. Although the predicted adverse effects are relatively minor, and overall the policies are likely to have a positive effect on the sustainability of the National Park, because of the very nature of the National Park, the NPA should be aiming to be an exemplar of sustainability for other Local Authorities to follow. The Submission Version of the Core Strategy is, rightly, quite protectionist in its defence of the special qualities of the National Park, yet it is our opinion that the Core Strategy could go further in actively promoting sustainable practices that would set the Peak District out as a leader in sustainability. This would not only help to improve the sustainability of the Park, but help to enhance and reinforce its image as one of the most important areas for the environment in the UK. Taking this approach would also help to redress the balance between landscape and other sustainability considerations, as presently the plan is heavily skewed towards protection of the landscape and biodiversity.
- 17.3. The Plan does not convey as clear a message or position in terms of the future direction of the National Park as it could potentially do. At present, the policies of the Core Strategy are very much focussed towards conserving the current natural assets of the Park, and although their conservation and enhancement is clearly of particular importance in the setting of a National Park, it is also important for the Core Strategy to adequately set out the future vision and direction of the Park in terms of climate change and also future socio-economic sustainability, considering the likely and desired future of the area in terms of its population, housing and key industries.
- 17.4. Specific recommendations relating to each of the SA Objectives are included in **Chapters 4 – 16**, and these are to be taken into account during the implementation of the Core Strategy.

NEXT STEPS

- 17.5. Public involvement through consultation is a key element of SA. Consultation also takes place with statutory consultees. In England these are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Articles 6(1) and 6(2) of the SEA Directive outline the requirements for public consultation, stating that the authorities and public will be consulted on the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.
- 17.6. This SA Report (which includes the Environmental Report as required by the SEA Directive) will be published for a 6 week public consultation alongside the Submission

Version of the Core Strategy. The consultation will run between 15 September and 26 October 2010. Any consultation comments or queries regarding the SA Process should be sent to:

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