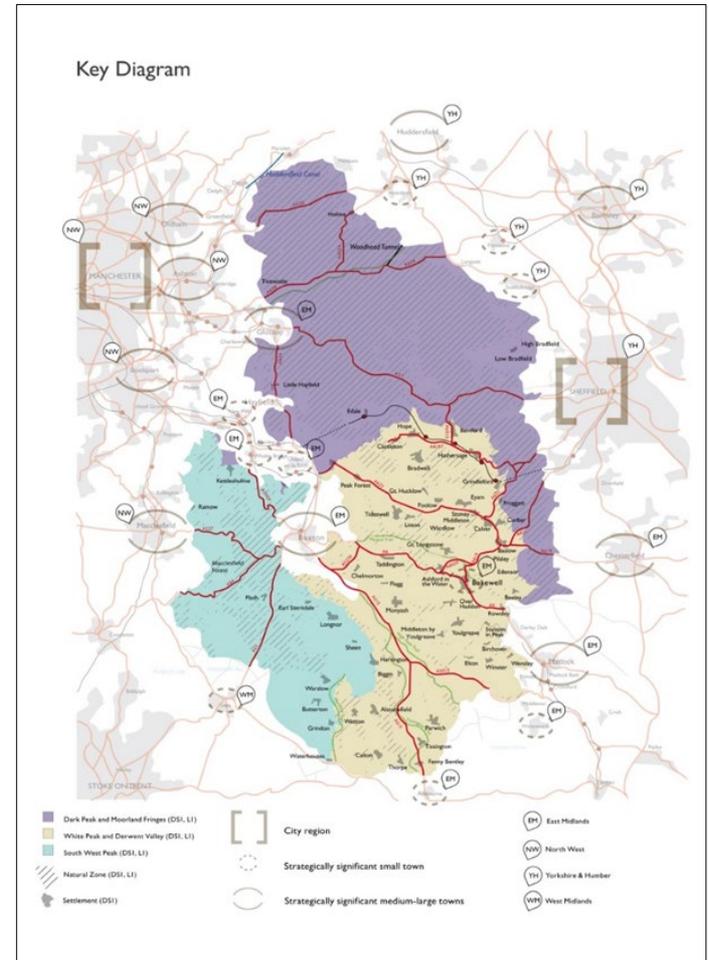


# Spatial Strategy



## Headlines

- The Natural Zone restricts development in the most sensitive parts of the National Park landscape.
- Landscape character is a key factor in determining whether development is acceptable outside of settlements.
- Settlement Strategy steers most new development to the most sustainable locations. (No development boundaries except Bakewell.)
- Employment land safeguarded in Bakewell and Derwent and Hope Valleys and the 3-tier road hierarchy continues to guide decisions on highways proposals.
- Policy themes have changed very little since 2001 except new policy for renewable energy, and removal of recreation zones policies.
- Other themes have developed in response to government requirements or opportunity such as sustainable transport, farmstead heritage, village statements and neighbourhood planning.



## What has worked well

- The Natural Zone is free of the most harmful development and is a useful counterbalance where utilities and landowners consider development is needed.
- The Landscape Strategy has informed decisions where development could have a significant impact on valued character (for example wind turbines and major transport works).
- The settlement strategy has steered most new development to sustainable locations.
- The General Spatial Policies have been a useful (essential) ‘bedrock’ for our and Inspectors’ decisions meaning Park purposes are always considered.
- The Local Plan has lead directly to other work areas. For example ‘The Historic Farmsteads’ report which is used to determine development proposals, and projects such as Peak Explorer.
- Neighbourhood planning has been able to work within our policy context
- The climate change policy and Supplementary Planning Document flowing from landscape character has encouraged appropriate scale development and helped prevent harmful development.



## What has worked less well

- Monitoring of outcomes of planning decisions on both cultural heritage (village character) and valued landscape character.
- Landscape Character isn't a useful guide to aid most small planning decisions.
- Removal of recreation zones hasn't enabled the development anticipated at some sites such as Stanage
- Support from big landowners like Estates is patchy (e.g. Chatsworth pushing for its own plan despite landscape character guidance)
- Support from smaller landowners patchy (changes to farming and the proliferation of large modern portal framed buildings occurs irrespective of landscape character)
- Biodiversity is relegated to an afterthought in planning decisions, behind landscape character, cultural heritage and community wishes
- We're not conserving the biodiversity we have. (We assume valued landscape character means its good for wildlife, but it often isn't)
- The National Park Management Plan redefines special qualities periodically so its hard to grasp them and make them meaningful for planning policy and decisions.



## What are the big issues for plan review?

- Is the current split of the Park into three areas based on landscape character the most appropriate spatial strategy for this National Park?
- Is our settlement strategy fit for purpose given the current needs of communities and the potential impact on some village environments where we know capacity for any type of new development is scarce.
- Is the Natural Zone still the right tool to repel the most harmful development in the most sensitive areas in future (highways, telecoms and energy infrastructure) or welcome new development where necessary (reservoirs)?
- Should the Spatial Strategy be changed to better enable us to fulfil our purposes to conserve and enhance (expand) biodiversity and habitats? For example should the spatial strategy identify nature recovery networks as part of new zoning requirement for local plans?
- Is the road hierarchy still fit for purpose as a policy tool?
- Do we need recreation zones(sites) shown on plan as before?