



Supporting economic development



Headlines

The landscape is our core asset and support is given to businesses that respect the special qualities of the national park and create jobs for local people.

Leaving the EU, Covid-19 and climate change will all affect how businesses operate in the years to come. We need to support businesses and communities to adapt to these challenging times in a way that is sensitive to special qualities of the national park.



What has worked well

- There have been some significant increases to the stock of employment generating land with important approvals at the Riverside Business Park in Bakewell and the extension of the Carbolite factory in the Hope Valley.
- Monitoring of existing planning policy has shown support for farmers diversifying and businesses locating within/edge of settlements.
- Some employment sites have been safeguarded to ensure the national park has enough employment land available
- Proposals for tourist facilities that help people to enjoy and understand the national park are supported provided they are sensitive to the special qualities of the landscape.
- A new type of accommodation (wooden pods) has emerged and local planning policy has sought to ensure that these are sensitively located where acceptable.

What has not worked so well

The Peak District economy is facing a number of challenges:

- Ageing population
- Smaller workforce
- Climate change
- Leaving the EU
- Covid-19 recovery

The true extend of this has not been assessed yet.

What is clear is that there is a strong desire in local policy to support local businesses and jobs that deliver national park purposes and duty.



What are the big issues for the Plan review?

A new Employment Land Review is needed to ensure we have enough employment land of the right type and in the right location. We also need to conduct a Business Survey to understand how businesses have, and are, adapting to climate change, leaving the EU and responding to Covid19.

Farmers rely on government payments to support their businesses. This, together with low grade farmland and being located within the national park restricts their options to diversify. Information sharing with other national parks on successful farming diversification case studies where similar constraints exist will help us to understand where value can be added.

The impact of bio-diversity net gain and nature recovery on farming and land management needs to be understood within the context of the national park. This could be a collaborative piece of work by Peak District Authority planners, farm advisors, ecologists and the County Council.

A large proportion of people of working age commute out of the national park to work. Has Covid-19 resulted in an increased number of residents working from home, and will this continue? Has this translated into a greater level of support by local people for local producers and services, creating more self-sustaining communities that retain the wealth they generate?