

ParkLife

*The Community Newsletter of the
Peak District National Park Authority*

PEAK
DISTRICT

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Issue 7 - January 2009



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www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Chair's introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of **Parklife**, the half-yearly newsletter of the Peak District National Park Authority.

January is always a time for reflection about the past 12 months and an opportunity to look forward. 2008 ended with celebrations for the Peak District National Authority at regional, national and international levels.



Regional recognition came when Castleton Visitor Centre picked up a silver award at the East Midlands Enjoy England Excellence Awards for the quality of information it provides to visitors. National recognition came from English Heritage selecting us to win its Heritage at Risk award (see page 9).

And international success came when our Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) scheme got a highly commended award in the Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards. The EQM is given to farming and tourism businesses

which demonstrate high standards of care for the Peak District environment. It was up against projects from Brazil, Kenya and Sri Lanka in the category Best for Conservation of Endangered Species or Protected Area.

Shortly before Christmas I also had the pleasure of witnessing the success of others at the Peak District and South Yorkshire Countryside Awards. The awards are run jointly by Friends of the Peak District and the Peak District National Park Authority to encourage building designs, materials and craftsmanship that enhance the national park.

Particular praise goes to the National Trust and its tenant farmers who won our Award for Craftsmanship for their restoration work at Wellhead Barn on Ashes Farm in Derwent.

2009 will be an equally important year for national parks.

It sees the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act. This legislation - which became law on 16 December 1949 - changed the face of Britain as we know it today and led to the Peak District National Park being created in 1951.

Much has changed in those 60 years but in an era of climate change and increasing demand for land the Act remains as relevant today as it was then. A year of activities is being planned to mark this occasion at both a local and national level. So keep an eye out in the local media for more details.

I hope 2009 proves to be a successful year for you and the national park.

Narendra Bajaria
Chair, Peak District National Park Authority

National Park Authority Members

Chair: Narendra Bajaria *Secretary of State Member*

Deputy Chair: Cllr Irene Ratcliffe *Derbyshire County Council*

Council-appointed Members:

Cllr Denise Wilde	<i>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
Cllr Sylvia Roberts	<i>Cheshire County Council</i>
Cllr Judith Twigg	<i>Derbyshire County Council</i>
Cllr Roger Wilkinson	<i>Derbyshire County Council</i>
Cllr Barbara Wilson	<i>Derbyshire County Council</i>
Cllr Jacque Bevan	<i>Derbyshire Dales District Council</i>
Cllr Tracy Critchlow	<i>Derbyshire Dales District Council</i>
Cllr Tony Favell	<i>High Peak Borough Council</i>
Cllr Andrew Marchington	<i>Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
Cllr Hilda Gaddum	<i>Macclesfield Borough Council</i>
Cllr Dorothy Ward	<i>N.E. Derbyshire District Council</i>
Cllr Colin McLaren	<i>Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
Cllr Trevor Bagshaw	<i>Sheffield City Council</i>
Cllr James Muir	<i>Staffordshire County Council</i>
Cllr Edwin Wain	<i>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</i>

Members' contact details: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/members or telephone 01629 816200

Secretary of State Members:

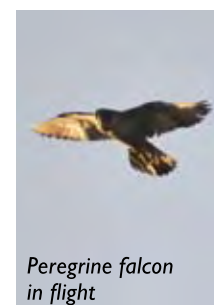
Anne Ashe
Pauline Beswick
Harry Bowell
Geoff Nickolds
Christopher Pennell
Sue Prince OBE
Leigh Rix

Secretary of State Parish Members:

Christopher Carr
Patricia Coleman
Prof. John Herbert
Kath Potter
Ron Priestley
Lesley Roberts

Winning gains for wildlife

The Peak District has seen a tremendous uplift in the condition of its specially-designated wildlife habitats in the past five years.



Peregrine falcon in flight

Just over 85% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are now in favourable or recovering condition, compared with only 28% in 2003.

Among achievements are:

- **Moorlands** – grazing reduced, moisture and vegetation restored thanks to projects such as Moors for the Future and hard work by moorland managers, helped by bodies such as Natural England, the National Trust, National Park Authority and water companies. 75% of blanket bog and 71% of heathlands are in favourable or recovering condition, with 100ha of heather and 185,000 cottongrass plugs planted in 2007-08.
- **Woodlands** – 96% of upland ashwoods and 66% of oakwoods are in favourable or recovering condition. Landowners are planting native trees - United Utilities planted 64,000 oak and birch saplings in 2007-08.

Other highlights for wildlife include:

- **Wetlands** – a Pond Proliferation Project, funded by the SITA Trust, created or restored 75 ponds since 2004, providing up to 42 new great crested newt habitats – 10% of the national target.
- **Species** – 2008 saw the return of peregrine falcons to the South West Peak. Two chicks fledged on The Roaches, a popular climbing edge in Staffordshire - the first for 100 years.
- **Involving people** – schools are creating species-rich areas, helped by projects like Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Grounds for Change.

Natural environment manager Rhodri Thomas said: "I welcome the significant and continuing improvements in SSSI condition, but I am concerned about wildlife-declines in the wider national park. We are working with land-managers to get positive action spread across a wider area."

More details:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/birds
www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk
www.wildlifetrusts.org



Twite - in decline © rspb-images.com



Peregrine falcon chick

Peregrine-watch on The Roaches

Understanding the planning process

Planning for today and the future

Residents in the Peak District National Park know what a special place it is - that's the reason why so many people want to live here.



But the national park isn't a picture postcard stuck in time. Villages and towns are constantly changing and need to do so if they are to remain vibrant communities. There is also a need to protect the features that make national park communities and landscapes so special.

National parks have strict planning guidelines to ensure development is in sympathy with the area's heritage, beauty and wildlife. Despite this 83%

of planning applications received are approved.

Stricter planning policies are more likely to be found in places with:

- Conservation areas
- Tree preservation orders
- A risk of flooding - to prevent unwise development.
- Contaminated land
- An area of special importance that could be threatened.



The National Park Design Guide

Getting good advice

The best place to get advice on making a planning application - or anything else to do with planning issues - is to visit our website at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning

The website contains all our planning policies, guides to help you with the process and other useful planning information. Following this information will improve the chances of getting your application approved.

One of the most important is the authority's Design Guide, which has pictures showing good examples of all types of building design, from single house extensions through to housing estates.

Another offers advice on the types of renewable energy scheme that are most likely to be acceptable in the national park.

If you don't have Internet access - or have looked at the website and are still unsure about anything - we offer a free pre-application advice service weekdays between 9.15am and

12.45pm. To contact a duty planning officer:

- Ring 01629 816200
- Visit our offices at Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
- Email planning.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk or
- Write to Planning Service, PDNPA, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, DE45 1AE.

The advice is given on a 'without prejudice' basis as decisions are only taken when a formal planning application has been made.

We also hold evening planning surgeries at various locations in the national park during the year. Details are advertised in local newspapers and on our website.

Making decisions

Decisions on many small-scale planning applications are made by planning officers using the authority's planning policies to guide them.

More controversial applications, particularly those which go against policy, are referred to the authority's planning committee.



Bob Bryan, head of planning, said: "Sometimes there is a situation where two people in the same village apply to extend their house and one is accepted and the other isn't.

"Finely balanced decisions taken on design issues can sometimes be hard for an unsuccessful applicant to understand. When considering applications we have to judge that application against our planning policies and strive for consistency in decision making."

If you have difficulties during the planning process please ring our planning liaison officer, Wendy Ruddick, on 01629 816328.

Enforcement

If you suspect there has been a possible breach of planning laws in the Peak District National Park you can report it by filling in an online form at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/enforcement or ringing 01629 816200.

From plan to reality

Residents in Waterhouses know first hand the benefits that close co-operation between developers, the national park authority's planning team and the community can have.



The developer was allowed to build 26 houses that use building materials suitable for the location. The houses were grouped together to fit in with the style of existing housing. This involved demolishing some eyesore buildings and removing the unauthorised caravans.

In their place a new pond was installed to encourage wildlife and a complex legal agreement was reached to give the parish council control of an endowment over:

- The sports ground
- A restored bowling green
- A replacement sports pavilion with a meeting room

The social club was beyond repair so some of the meetings held there were switched to the two village pubs to help support their future.

The community bus garage and sports ground car park were also kept as part of the development.

Waterhouses parish councillor Edwin Wain said: "It took about 12 to 15 months of discussions and planning before the project came to fruition.

"The site is now complete and the village has a wonderful new sports pavilion that cost around £200,000. It includes a changing room and meeting room."



Village Post Offices - a vital service



Community Vitality



Villagers take control

It was a proud moment when village officers Adele Metcalfe and Daniel Yates stood back and realised that, at this particular event, they were no longer needed.

It was the Peak District's first Villages Conference at Losehill Hall, Castleton, in December. Villagers, including many that Adele and Dan had guided in developing a host of community projects, were now passing on their knowledge to others.

Residents were hosting workshops on:

- village hall improvements
- starting allotments and community gardens
- sports facilities, youth clubs and play areas
- environment, heritage and arts projects
- energy efficiency and renewables
- community planning.

"It's villagers teaching villagers," said Dan. "The community groups have built up a tremendous pool of knowledge in project management, and we can now help them network with others."

One organisation that has learnt a lot about negotiating with local councils and landowners is Hathersage Village Centre Group, aiming to create "A Heart for Hathersage."

Its chair, Chris Winfield said: "We've benefited enormously from the help offered by the village officers. Adele has patiently attended our meetings over a number of years, and provided encouragement, advice, practical help and resources. I don't know what we would have done without her guidance. We are slowly but surely making progress towards creating an attractive and functional centre in the village or a 'Heart for Hathersage.'"

In the last year or so, the village officers and other members of the national park's Field Services area teams (rangers and estate wardens) have helped communities in other ways.

They held Village Planning days in Youlgrave and Hartington with the Rural Community Council's rural housing enabler Isabel Bellamy when residents suggested possible sites for new developments such as affordable housing.

They hosted Heritage and Environment Days in Warslow and Litton, where villagers shared historic photos and information.

They helped villagers achieve practical projects, such as dry stone walling for Birchover recreation area and traditional lime plasterwork for Elton church.

"There is a tremendous vitality in Peak District villages," said Adele. "Local people know what improvements they want, it just takes someone to help guide them through and keep the momentum going."

More information:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/community
or 01629 816 375/258.

Leaders listen



National Park leaders discuss future plans with Bradfield residents

National Park leaders are visiting local communities, talking to residents, business owners, teachers and parish councillors on issues that matter to them.

That may include affordable housing, or support for rural businesses and services. Before Christmas they went to Hartington, Bradfield and Rainow, and more monthly village visits are being arranged.

National Park chair Narendra Bajaria said: "The National Park's 38,000 residents are its life-blood. We want to work positively to address issues that matter to local people and their families."

Working together on village initiatives

Planning is an important way the National Park Authority can work together with communities to help them develop new schemes and improve quality of life.

In the past year two new village halls and a rural business centre have been given the go-ahead after applicants took advice from National Park planners.



Parwich Memorial Hall committee talks about grants with Big Lottery Fund representative

Both Parwich and Over Haddon had plans approved for modern, energy-efficient village halls to replace out-dated facilities that no longer met the needs of the communities.

And the new Hathersage Hall Business Centre should be complete in mid-2009 – a 21st century use for a 19th century former coach house and stables. The buildings, sympathetically restored, will provide office and conference space for up to 15 businesses.

"It's very much a community-focused project," said estate manager Michael Shuttleworth. "We want to bring high-quality jobs to the Hope Valley, so that people can live and work here rather than commute."

Planning committee chair Hilda Gaddum commented: "Communities working together with planning officers offer the best way to achieve

projects that enhance the national park and strengthen the social and economic well-being of its people."

More information:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning

www.parwich.org

www.hathersagebusiness.co.uk



Parwich

Cash for sustainable communities

Ideas for village improvements are no good without funding – and many worthwhile projects have been kick-started over the past six years by grants from the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

SDF helps communities thrive and evolve by supporting innovative schemes that:

- benefit the environment
- create jobs
- boost community facilities
- promote healthy activities or education
- address climate change
- create social links
- celebrate local heritage

The Fund, managed by the National Park Authority, distributes £200,000 a year from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to businesses and community organisations.

Recent projects given a cash-boost include:

- Sustainable Bakewell – to improve energy efficiency, cut waste, recycling, renewables
- Hartington through the Ages exhibition
- Green Grindleford – beekeeping project
- Bonsall Energy Group – sustainable energy study
- Litton Mill – business case for a wood-chip bio-fuel supply chain

More information:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf
or call 01629 816312



Sustainable Bakewell leaders investigate prospects for hydro-power

Hill-farm heroes

Upper Booth Farm, Edale



Lower Hurst Farm, Hartington

Protecting our heritage

Calver Weir - needs £1.5m restoration

The Peak District National Park is not just a pretty picture, it is made that way by some 1,800 farms covering 89 per cent of the land.

UK hill-farming has faced tough times, but Peak District farmers are battling back – most want to stay on the land, producing good quality local food.

The National Park Authority and its partners work hard to help farmers access rural payments and diversify because the national park's well-being depends on them.

Unfarmed land would gradually revert to wilderness. While some could be environmentally-beneficial, much would turn to scrub or rank vegetation, its biodiversity dwindle, built heritage disintegrate, paths become overgrown, water-courses suffer and visitors turn away – hitting the local economy and our communities.

Pressures on upland farms include:

- steep cost-rises for fodder, fuel, fertiliser
- low returns - average annual income just £7,000 a year
- ageing workforce - average age 58
- scarcity of casual labour

To help hill-farmers, the Government is developing an Uplands Environmental Stewardship scheme which it wants to introduce in 2010. It would reward farmers for looking after walls, buildings, hedgerows, wildlife, heritage and natural resources – and that would help support their businesses.

Farming for conservation

Robert and Sarah Helliwell offer a fine example of farming in harmony with nature.

At Upper Booth Farm on National Trust land in Edale, they keep Swaledale sheep, Belted Galloway cattle and hens, selling online and direct.

They won the 2007 Farmers Weekly Countryside Farmer of the Year Award, and hold a Peak District Environmental Quality Mark in recognition of their environmental work.

Like most Peak District farmers, Robert and Sarah support their farm with outside income – they run a campsite and Sarah is a part-time NVQ assessor.

“Smaller farms are suffering,” admitted Robert. “But farmers are resilient, and most are adapting their business to cope. I hope that the new Upland Stewardship scheme will help both farmers and the environment.

“I think most farmers care about wildlife. We have curlew, snipe, woodcock, twite, wild flowers and

rare fungi. Visitors come to the national park because it's a beautiful place, and I enjoy telling them what we do. It all helps marketing – after all, every visitor to the park is a potential customer of British farming.”

More information:

www.upperboothcamping.co.uk
www.leafuk.org

The Peak District Land Management Advisory Service

helps farmers access support, including Environmental Stewardship and LEADER payments to help diversify.

More details:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/grants/farmersupport.htm

or contact

farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk
or 01629 816270.



Robert Helliwell at Upper Booth Farm

Time teamwork protects the past

The Peak District National Park Authority is harnessing team spirit to remove the area's two remaining historic sites still on the Heritage at Risk list.

Last summer the Peak District was held up as a national role-model when it won English Heritage's first Heritage at Risk award for reducing its high-risk Scheduled Monuments from 17 to just two between 2001-2008.

The vital factor in its success was co-operation. The Authority brings together landowners, communities, councils and conservationists to help each other.

One of the remaining high-risk monuments - Pindale side veins above Castleton (pictured) - is now being helped by such teamwork. These narrow clefts where 17th century lead-miners worked have been repeatedly damaged by trail bikers and vehicle dumpers.

Ken Smith, the Authority's cultural heritage manager, explained: “We needed to help the landowners to stop it being used as a rubbish dump or race-track.

“We brought together the owners' agent, High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, English Heritage, the Peak District Mines Historical Society and Lafarge, who run Hope Cement Works nearby. Together we agreed on ways to create a protective barrier with earth mounds, boulders and fencing.

“This kind of co-operation has rescued many monuments which were in a parlous state. It involves understanding and a commitment from landowners to maintain sites.”

Sites successfully conserved include:

- Pilsbury Castle near Hartington
- Cratcliffe Rocks hermit's cave
- Burial mounds at Tissington, Chatsworth, Kinder Low
- Medieval fortifications near Hathersage
- 6th-7th century earthworks on Longstone Edge



The other remaining high-risk monument is Alport lead-smelting mill, on the Haddon Estate, being damaged by vegetation. The Authority and English Heritage are working with the estate to secure its future.

More information:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritageatrisk
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/chstrategy.htm



Pindale - archaeological heritage damaged by tipping



Pilsbury Castle - conserved



Heritage at Risk award presentation

Current challenges

• Nine Ladies Stone Circle

A Conservation Plan has been drawn up to safeguard Bronze Age remains on the privately-owned but openly-accessible Stanton Moor. People light fires, scratch graffiti, hammer on the stones. “We need to educate people that they're damaging the thing they claim to cherish,” says cultural heritage manager Ken Smith.

• Calver Weir

The National Park Authority is supporting villagers in a race against time to save the 230-year-old Grade II listed weir - important for heritage and wildlife. The residents' Calver Weir Restoration Project (CWRP) needs to raise £200,000 by March 31, or a £1.25m Heritage Lottery grant will be in jeopardy. The weir (pictured, top) powered the 18th century Calver Mill (now apartments). It supports rare wetland habitats, but will collapse without restoration.

More details: www.calverweir.org.uk or 01433 630410



Working with farmers



The work of the rangers



Helping young people explore the National Park

Who else, in their daily job, would need the skills of a teacher, walking guide, youth worker, conservationist, labourer, landscape gardener, safety advisor, fire-fighter, first-aid, orienteer, researcher and diplomat? National park rangers do all this, and more.

Rangers are often people's first point of contact with the national park - they lead free guided walks, look after footpaths, care for wildlife and help people enjoy and understand their environment.

But they also work with the emergency services, farmers, landowners, city and rural schools, disabled groups, young offenders, ecologists, scientists, outdoor sportspeople and volunteers. Plus they build bridges and mend fences - real and metaphorical.

The Peak District has 19 full-time rangers, supported by more than 200 part-timers and volunteers. They all undergo rigorous training in countryside management, recreation and conservation.

They work in Field Services area teams (north and south), which also include estate wardens, campsite wardens and village officers. In addition, Field Services cover visitor and cycle hire centres, rights of way and countryside maintenance staff.

Here's a five-day sample of ranger activities:

DAY 1 - SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

Goyt Valley area ranger Neil Hanshaw leads a lively group from Kettleshulme St James CE Primary School up to Windgather Rocks. He has previously helped them make bird-boxes and renovate a willow-den.

Neil has four schools in his area: "Each school tells me what it wants to cover," he said. "It ranges from wildlife-study to water-courses, local history, geology and art. It's healthy,

hands-on learning, in the fresh air, encouraging awareness of the natural world and what the national park can offer."

Headteacher Paul Quirk said: "Ranger-visits are a bonus of having a school in the national park. Neil supports our curriculum work, and the children widen their understanding of the environment on their doorstep."



DAY 3 - DIGGING FOR VICTORY

Tom Lewis, Eastern Edges and Stanage area ranger, gets down to earth, clearing undergrowth to create a new Wildlife and Conservation Area next to Brunts Barn ranger station, Grindleford.

The former wild-flower nursery had been neglected for 20 years, but now Tom, with part-time rangers and volunteers, is transforming it into an outdoor classroom.

Volunteers include adults with special

needs from the Home Farm Trust, Grindleford, and staff from Steria, an IT company.

It is heavy work, digging a pond, making paths, clearing bracken and rebuilding walls.

Tom said: "The area will be really valuable for schools and wildlife-watchers - a microcosm of different Dark Peak habitats, with a flower-rich grassland, a pond, wetland, wood, a glade and an ant-hill pasture.



"With nest-boxes and a hide, it will become the ideal place to watch wild creatures."

DAY 4 - WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Fiona Draisey, Longdendale area ranger, organises her team to take water-samples and dip-well tests at remote sites, part of university research for the £4.7m Moors for the Future project.

"Rangers can collect weekly samples in all weathers, which the researchers couldn't do," said Fiona. "It's important work, measuring carbon-loss and moisture levels which affect big issues like climate change, fire and

flood-risks and water-quality."

Rangers also handle huge bags of seed, cuttings and matting, airlifted in to restore moorland vegetation and retain moisture. Fiona constantly liaises with landowners United Utilities and Moors for the Future staff.

The same day, Fiona works with the Derbyshire youth offending team, organising community service tasks for young people, mainly on United

Utilities land. "Most live in towns - out here they can let off steam, get healthy exercise and do some good."

Taking samples near Snake Summit



DAY 2 - FACILITATING DISABLED PEOPLE



Derwent volunteer ranger Frank Milner guides the Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group to the craggy summit of Win Hill. Each walker has a sighted helper.

The group's chair, Betsy Wilson, said: "We love these walks, the rangers are like old friends. Frank describes to us the landscape, historical features, plants and birdlife.

"When you can't see, your other senses develop - the feel of the breeze, the smell of the trees, the sound of streams and birds. We enjoy the fresh air, fun, exercise, a sense of achievement and good companionship.

"We've been on plenty of challenging walks with rangers - up Derwent Edge, Kinder Scout, Bleaklow. We wouldn't miss these walks for anything."

DAY 5 - TACKLING WILDFIRES

Rangers gather at Barbrook near Sheffield, training Fire Service incident commanders to use specialist

Wildfire at The Roaches



moorland fire-fighting equipment.

They are part of the Peak District Fire Operations Group - a pioneering network set up with six fire authorities and big landowners such as the National Trust and water companies.

Sean Prendergast, head of national park Field Services, explains: "Wildfires can do massive long-term damage to peat-moors, reversing their action against climate change

and destroying rare wildlife habitats.

"For urban fire services they are a huge challenge. We provide an essential hub for a quick response - equipment, key-holders, water sources, access routes, rendezvous points and helicopter landing sites."

When a fire rages, rangers work from dawn to dusk, using all-terrain vehicles, hoses, back-pack sprays, mobile dams, directing helicopters and liaising with fire-crews.

Gardening for Wildlife

Your own mini-nature reserve

Your garden can be a sanctuary, not just for you, but for wildlife too. Creating your own mini-nature reserve is like setting the stage. You provide the right conditions, then sit back and enjoy the passing show.

Ecologist Karen Shelley, who manages the Peak District Local Biodiversity Action Plan, said: "Gardens have never been more important for wildlife - over the past 50 years the UK has lost some 95 per cent of its wildflower meadows and 50 per cent of lowland woods. This is a huge loss of habitat for plants and animals.

"Gardening is one way that local people can make a real difference to protect our eco-systems.

"Gardens that work in harmony with nature greatly expand our healthy habitats - they help wildlife breed and move around more freely by providing corridors or stepping stones between habitats, and could therefore increase resilience and adaptation to climate change.

"Once-common house and garden species are now listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list. These include hedgehog, song thrush, tree sparrow, house sparrow, great crested newt, common toad and wall butterfly. So wildlife gardening could help to conserve important national and local species."

To invite wildlife in, you need to provide:

- Shelter - native trees, shrubs and hedges; predator-proof bird-boxes, bat- and ladybird-boxes; dry stone walls; wood- and leaf-piles
- Food - plants that provide a sequence of natural food-sources through the seasons: nectar-rich flowers, berries, seeds, nuts
- Water - for drinking and bathing: a pond or marshy area, a bird-bath or just a bucket.

Ideally you should:

- Use natural compost (not peat), a rainwater-butt, and as few chemicals as possible
- Include native plants (from sustainable sources) - such as cowslip, foxglove, poppy, cornflower, English bluebells, lesser celandine, scabious, a "mini-

meadow" of pretty wild flowers such as buttercups, ox-eye daisies, clover and forget-me-nots.

- Encourage climbers such as ivy and honeysuckle to provide extra shelter and food
- Leave a "wild corner" where you can put wood and leaf-piles, and where fungi, nettles, brambles and thistles can flourish, attracting beetles, bees, butterflies, hedgehogs, voles and birds.
- Put a bell on your cat if you have one, and keep it indoors at night (each cat kills on average 30 wild creatures a year).

More advice on wildlife gardens:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap

www.wildaboutgardens.org

www.littlegreenspace.org.uk



"We made a garden, and wildlife just happened to come along."

Mike Williams and Diane Tranter started with a former farmyard when they moved to their converted barn 20 years ago. Now, high on the limestone plateau near Flagg, their neatly-tended garden, surrounded by mature trees and dry stone walls, has become an oasis for wildlife.

Visitors include nearly 30 bird species, from blackbirds to wagtails, curlews, goshawks, tawny and barn owls; and mammals from field-mice, stoats and hares to bats and hedgehogs.

"It was bleak and open to the westerly winds, so we needed to provide shelter," said Mike, a professional photographer. "I planted hedges of mixed native species - hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, rowan, cherry - and went on from there.

"We've never used any chemical treatments on the lawns; we use home-grown compost and manure from our own horses. Di planted herbaceous borders, mainly perennials, which are easy to manage, boosted by a few annuals.

"We have buddleia, which attracts butterflies and bees, and a hidden wild strip, with log-piles, old stumps, leaf-piles and stinging nettles, which are home to butterflies, hedgehogs, fungi. We built a pond with marsh plants where we have frogs and toads.

"We didn't deliberately set out to make a wildlife garden - the wildlife just happened to come along. We enjoy it tremendously. We've had parties and barbecues, and we have a pretty lively dog, but it doesn't seem to bother the wildlife.

"We keep it tidy, but we try to keep it as natural as possible."

Karen Shelley, who manages the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, said: "Mike and Di have shown that a garden can look well-kept and beautiful and still be valuable for wildlife."



Mike Williams checks wildlife in his pond

Pictures by Mike Williams Photography

Peak District National Park Authority HQ, Aldern House, Bakewell

On the right track

Action is being taken to protect 23 of the most vulnerable countryside routes from damage by trail-bikes and 4x4 vehicles.

The National Park Authority is working with highways authorities, police and the Peak District Local Access Forum to tackle erosion and disturbance on these unsurfaced routes which are legal for motor-use.

Actions include warning signs, surface-repairs, new gates and advice to users on sensitive driving or riding. A voluntary restraint-agreement is in place on one route, more could follow, and if all else fails, temporary or even permanent bans.

The first eight routes identified for action are in Pilsley, Brough to Shatton (2), Edale to Chinley, Bamford to Sheffield (Long Causeway), Bonsall and Gt Hucklow.

Police and rangers have also stepped up monitoring to prevent illegal motor-use, including "off-roading" on open land, footpaths and bridleways.

To find advice on legal routes, or how to report problems:
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles



Authority appeals

An appeal by the National Park Authority over limestone extraction at Backdale, on Longstone Edge, is expected to be heard on February 10-11.

The Authority and Department for Communities and Local Government are asking the Court of Appeal to review a High Court decision of March 2008.

That decision over-ruled the outcome of a public inquiry in February 2007 which had upheld the Authority's enforcement action to limit operations. This lengthy and costly dispute stems from differing interpretations of the original 1952

planning permission.

The Authority believes that the large-scale limestone extraction which continued throughout 2008 is unlawful. It wants all parties to agree a permanent solution to halt the devastating harm to the landscape.

More information:
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/longstone-edge

The Authority is also working with

Halt the dumpers

People are being asked to report any fly-tippers they see dumping rubbish in car parks, farmland, woods, verges, old quarries or open countryside.

Fly-tipping spoils the national park, harms wildlife or historic sites and spreads pollution or disease.

Offenders could be fined up to £50,000 or serve 12 months in prison.

The Environment Agency, local councils and the National Park Authority have launched a three-year anti-fly-tipping drive. Its poster, mounted in car parks and lay-bys, has a hotline-number to deter dumpers.

To report fly-tipping in Derbyshire, call 08456 058 058. Anywhere else in the national park, contact your council's environmental health department.

To find a local registered waste carrier to dispose of unwanted items, contact the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506 or:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/publicregister



Derbyshire Dales District Council on a joint appeal against a proposed four-turbine, 102metre (335ft) high wind-farm at Carsington, near Ashbourne.

A planning inspector approved the wind-farm in September 2008 after an eight-day public inquiry. Both organisations oppose its adverse impact on the landscape.

Representing all interests in the national park

National park authorities are unique organisations. They manage national parks for everyone – the people who live there and millions of visitors.

Instead of councillors the Peak District National Park Authority has 30 members who set the policies and budgets. Members are selected in three different ways..



Civic duties: Opening Hoodbrook Bridge, North Lees Estate, near Hathersage

• Secretary of state appointment

Eight members are appointed by the environment secretary after going through an open selection and interview process.

These members are appointed because of a specialist knowledge they have, such as conservation or education. They consider both national and local interests.

Those selected go through interviews to check they are committed, have relevant experience and understand current issues in national parks.

• Parish members

To help reflect the views of local people in decision-making the 125 parishes in the national park collectively pick six members.

Their appointment is confirmed by environment secretary Hilary Benn.

Everyone selected must be a parish councillor or the chair of a parish meeting.

They represent wider national park views and not just their single parish, but they are a vital voice for local residents' opinions.

• Local authority appointment

Twelve district, borough, county and metropolitan councils have part or all their area in the national park.

These councils pick 16 democratically elected councillors between them.

These members bring to the role their knowledge of these councils and the people who live there.

Once appointed all members must consider what is in the best interests of the national park and the views of local people and visitors.

Case study: what a member does

Councillor Irene Ratcliffe, is a Derbyshire County Council representative on the Peak District National Park Authority.



"As deputy chair of the authority I sit on its four committees.

But I'm also involved in teams that look at better ways of running our services and represent the authority on different bodies and partnerships. An important one is the East Midlands Regional Assembly, where I make sure the Peak District voice is heard.

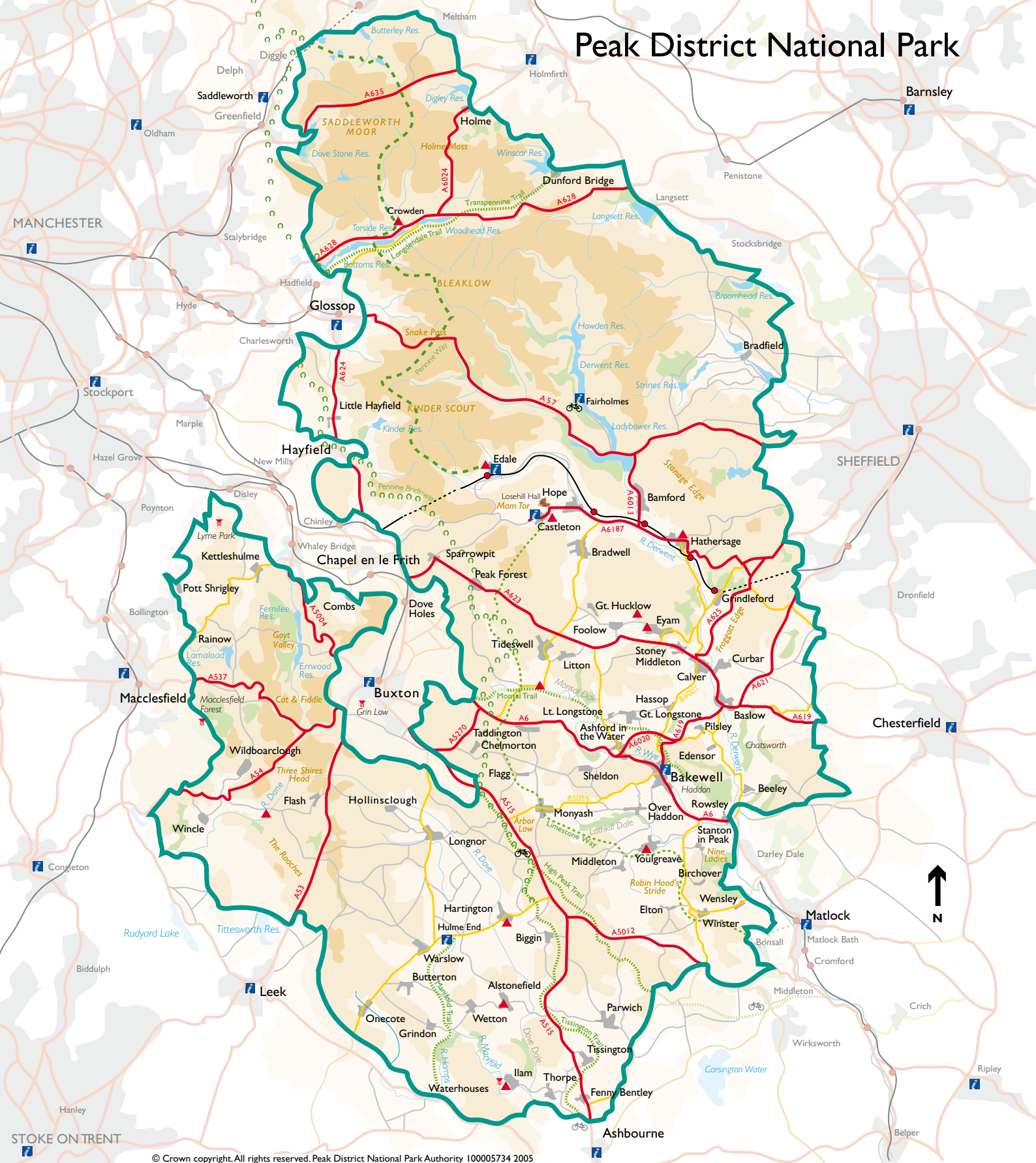
My daily work as an elected member is the thread that binds me to issues that affect people and the communities they live in. It is the thing that spurs me on when sitting through countless meetings.

A recent example was the flash floods that affected two villages I represent. Residents fear it will happen again. Soon afterwards I was in an authority meeting discussing climate change and possible flood prevention schemes with a Secretary of State appointed member.

He highlighted where partnership working between the authority, landowners and water companies to restore moorland will help catch water so it is released slowly into rivers rather than in one go, which causes flooding. This work will really benefit the lives of residents.

At weekends I don my walking boots to enjoy the beautiful landscape of the Peak District. It is this that inspires me to contribute in some small way to the well-being of its residents and to help protect the fabric of Britain's first national park for the generations to come."

Peak District National Park



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	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						

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 Bakewell & Castleton Visitor Centres
 Tel: 01629 816558
 Upper Derwent Valley. Tel: 01433 650953
 Moorlands Centre, Edale. Tel: 01433 670207

Tourist Information Centres
 Ashbourne Tel: 01335 343666
 Barnsley Tel: 01226 206757
 Buxton Tel: 01298 25106
 Chesterfield Tel: 01246 345777
 Congleton Tel: 01260 271095
 Glossop Tel: 01457 855920

Holmfirth Tel: 01484 222444
 Leek Tel: 01538 483741
 Macclesfield Tel: 01625 504114
 Matlock Tel: 01629 583388
 Saddleworth Tel: 01457 870336
 Sheffield Tel: 0114 221 1900
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