

Park Life

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

PEAK
DISTRICT
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Issue 6 - July 2008



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www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Chair's introduction



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

Many local people think of the Authority just in terms of planning or rangers – and yes, planning and ranger services are vital parts of what we do. But they are only a part.

Here in Parklife, I hope you will learn more about the huge range of our other work.

Our ongoing tasks include:

- formulating a Climate Change Action Plan for the whole national park, working with partners, businesses and communities
- launching a joint campaign with the police and highways authorities to tackle issues around 4x4 driving and trail-bikes
- making great strides through the local Biodiversity Action Plan in improving sensitive habitats and species that were in decline
- supporting retention of local services such as post offices and public transport, helping communities achieve improvements
- giving thousands of pounds to local businesses and communities for environmental/social initiatives through the Sustainable Development Fund
- advising on the upkeep of historic/traditional homes, encouraging heritage skills, launching a Craftsmanship in Building award
- influencing removal of intrusive features such as overhead wires, excessive road-signs
- identifying potential affordable housing sites for local people
- promoting active recreation for health/wellbeing to a more diverse range of visitors
- extending opportunities for young people from rural and urban areas to learn regularly in the natural environment
- recognising environment-friendly businesses, supporting farm diversification and helping farmers take up payment schemes that benefit the national park

It is a long time – 14 years – since our title was simply the Peak Park Joint Planning Board. I hope some of these instances reflect the wide scope of our responsibilities these days.

But caring for this precious national park cannot be done by us alone – thousands of local people and visitors play a part with us in securing its future. Some are featured here in Parklife, and I want to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to them all.

Narendra Bajaria

Chair, Peak District National Park Authority

National Park Authority Members

Chair: Narendra Bajaria *Secretary of State Member*
Deputy Chair: Cllr Hilda Gaddum *Macclesfield Borough Council*
Council-appointed Members:

Vacant	<i>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
Cllr Sylvia Roberts	<i>Cheshire County Council</i>
Cllr Irene Ratcliffe	<i>Derbyshire 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 Dorothy Ward	<i>N.E. Derbyshire District Council</i>
Cllr Colin McLaren	<i>Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
Vacant	<i>Sheffield City Council</i>
Cllr James Muir	<i>Staffordshire County Council</i>
Cllr Edwin Wain	<i>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</i>

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

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



On the right track

A website and leaflets giving advice about recreational use of the countryside by 4x4s and trail bikes have been launched by the Peak District National Park Authority.

The website at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles gives information about the authority's role in protecting the countryside from illegal 'off-roading' and improving the management of legal access for motor vehicles to unsurfaced countryside routes that are classified as roads.

The residents' section contains information on how to:

- *report problems of 'off-roading' and illegal use of land by motor vehicles*
- *deal with noise pollution problems caused by motor vehicle use*
- *find out which councils or other organisations are responsible for dealing with different issues related to motor vehicle use.*

Trail bike riders and 4x4 drivers can use the website to find out the routes they should avoid and get advice on driving responsibly.

Andrew Marchington, chair of the authority's services committee, said: "This issue arouses strong emotions among many residents.

"We are taking practical steps to achieve the balance of welcoming people to the national park, while ensuring that everyone who goes into the countryside is acting responsibly and legally."

Leaflets offering advice to residents and motor vehicle users have also been produced. Copies are available from the authority's office in Baslow Road, Bakewell.



Did you know?

- Although often called off-roading, vehicles do have a legal right to use some types of countryside routes that are legally classified as roads
- 4x4s and trail bikes using the countryside for recreational purposes still need to be taxed, insured and have number plates.
- The Peak District National Park Authority has installed logging machines at secret locations to record vehicles using routes illegally. This information is passed to the police.

Below: Chief Supt Roger Flint, of Derbyshire Police, and Jim Dixon, chief executive of the Peak District National Park Authority, with one of the leaflets offering advice to residents about the issue of motor vehicle use in the countryside.



Working together

The Peak District Local Access Forum, which includes representatives of local communities, is supporting the initiative.

Chair Andrew McCloy said: "We are listening to residents and understand their problems.

"It is not a straightforward issue as there are many different user groups with different demands.

"The website and literature will help enormously with what is a very difficult balancing act for national parks."

Motorist Richard Entwistle, the Peak District representative of the Green Lane Association (GLASS), said: "We are aware that there are problems concerning motor vehicles in the Peak District. Some are about

the vehicles and the legality of their drivers and where they drive.

"Then there is the problem of what is reported as damage to the country lanes and this is an area where we are working with the Peak District National Park Authority to iron out what are real problems and what are perceived problems.

"The recently launched section of the website that relates to vehicles is a step in the right direction as it puts into the public domain a lot of the issues."

Action on climate

Moorland fire



Ladybower reservoir in drought

There may be trouble ahead...

What will climate change mean for the Peak District?

- **Increase in weather extremes** - higher temperatures, drier summers, wetter winters, increased storms and floods
- **Threats to vulnerable habitats** - dewponds, peatlands, rivers
- **Greater risk of moorland fires*** - loss of habitats and peat that absorbs carbon dioxide
- **Threats to vulnerable species**
- **Increased erosion from more visitors and extreme weather**
- **Storm/flood damage to archaeological remains and historic buildings**
- **Impacts on agriculture, game-sports, angling.**

* Cover picture; tackling wildfire on the Roaches

What is the National Park Authority doing about it?

With people, businesses & communities:

Support through:

- Peak District Sustainable Development Fund - offering grants for environmental innovation, recycling, energy conservation, renewables
- Peak District Environmental Quality Mark - the Authority's award for businesses which protect the national park and reduce their carbon footprint
- Community planning - helping people to include climate change action in their Village Plans
- Farming - advising land managers on environmental schemes and sources of financial support
- Communicating environmental messages in publications, news releases, on guided walks, in visitor centres, cycle-hire centres, learning centres

On biodiversity:

- Managing the Moors for the Future Partnership, Edale - UK leader in moorland research and restoration - regenerating active blanket bogs/peatlands as major carbon and rainfall-absorbers (lowering flood-risk) (www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk)
- Managing the Local Biodiversity Action Plan - strengthening resilience in habitats and species (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap)
- Creating habitat clusters and corridors for species migration by working with farmers and communities on a landscape-scale
- Adapting land-management to changes in species and seasonal patterns
- Providing a risk analysis and national test-bed for eco-systems, aiding Government policy-makers with specialist evidence from limestone, gritstone and peatland environments

On transport

- The Authority's own vehicles are low-emission
- Most ranger-guided walks connect to public transport
- Encourages walking, cycling, car-sharing and public transport
- Supports local producers, helping cut food miles
- Park-wide sustainable transport strategy under development

Through planning:

- We require most planning applications to include environmental impact and energy information, and for some, green travel plans
- Guidance given to building designers on energy reduction, sustainable materials and sympathetic renewables in the national park Design Guide (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/designguide)
- Free 'Energy - Renewables and Conservation' document available on measures appropriate to national park setting: (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/energy)

change

Dew pond

Public transport

Moorland Centre Edale

Path erosion

On policy:

- Climate change is being embedded across all Authority policies
- Signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, which commits local authorities to tackle global warming
- Working with government Adapting to Climate Change team, providing data and helping execute national policies
- Creating a Climate Change Action Plan by end 2008 to manage response across the national park, with partners, communities and land-owners.



Cotton grass regenerates CO₂-absorbing moorland

Demonstrating good practice:

In the national park authority's own properties:

- Losehill Hall, the national park's learning centre at Castleton - has Eco-centre status, a bio-mass boiler and serves local, ethically-produced food
- Moorland Centre, Edale - insulated with a sedum turf roof, has a ground source heat pump (using energy from the earth)
- Parsley Hay cycle hire centre - has a ground source heat pump and grey water recycling
- Authority policy to buy locally, ethically, wherever possible
- Environmental Management Policy requires employees to reduce carbon footprint and encourage good practice in others (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/emp)

Future

- Contributing to national CO₂ reduction targets through Climate Change Action Plan, stimulating action throughout the national park
- Emphasising sustainable development in emerging Local Development Framework (blueprint for future planning)

Communities making a difference

Village action group Sustainable Youlgrave won the first national Future Friendly award for community action earlier this year - with prizes worth £10,000.

The judges were impressed by Sustainable Youlgrave's plans for a community-owned green energy company. It plans an anaerobic digester, generating power using local farm slurry and organic waste (subject to planning permission). It has identified a potential site and is taking local farmers to see digesters in action this summer.

The Sustainable Development Fund helped finance the group, which also promotes energy-saving and recycling.

More information:

www.sustainableyoulgrave.org
or 01629 636125.



Sustainable Youlgrave chair John Youatt receives Future Friendly award from Sir Trevor McDonald

Other recently-launched action groups include -

- Sustainable Winster - concentrating on waste reduction and energy savings
- Sustainable Edale - looking closely at the potential for micro hydro-power schemes using its plentiful streams.

For communities interested in water power, Friends of the Peak District has researched the potential for micro hydro-power schemes (supported by the Sustainable Development Fund).

More details: 0114 266 5822
or www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

What can you do?

- Call the free Act on CO₂ advice line 0800 512012 or visit <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>
- Find energy-saving advice on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- Find local advice on www.everybodys-talking.org
- Find national park information on www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/climatechange
- For community schemes try www.energy4all.co.uk
- Plan public transport journeys on www.derbybus.info
- Find help for businesses on www.carbontrust.co.uk
- Buy locally, ethically, seasonally; walk or cycle more; take train or bus when practical; buy low-emission cars; insulate your property; recycle, cut energy/water use, install a water butt.



Keeping communities strong

Villages are the life-blood of the Peak District, and the national park authority cares deeply about their vitality. Its Sustainable Development Fund (financed by Defra) supports many village schemes, and it has £600,000 to give away over the next three years to help communities thrive.

These two pages show examples of authority support:

Green Grindleford

Two years ago the seeds of an idea germinated on the banks of the Derwent in Grindleford.

Spurred by a desire to provide healthy opportunities for non-sporty people, villagers decided to revive an old wartime allotment site, neglected for decades.

Their idea was not just allotments, but community facilities with a barbecue and picnic tables, somewhere people of all ages and abilities could meet.

They approached the national park's Sustainable Development Fund officer Richard Godley, whose advice led to an £11,000 SDF grant, a £5,000 Heritage Lottery grant, and help from the parish council and Grindleford Horticultural Society.

They organised a lease from the parish playing fields committee, and they were in business.

Much hard work later, they have 24 allotments (two-thirds organic) growing vegetables, fruit and flowers, with wheelchair-wide paths. Allotment-holders (ranging from young families to the elderly) pay an affordable £25 a year and there is a waiting list.

To keep it tidy, the only shed is large, sturdy and communal, with a rotavator, water-supply and rain-butts. Manure (local) and seeds are also ordered communally, cutting costs.

Together, they have built dry stone walls and a barbecue. Helped by the national park's Vision for Wildlife



Allotment-holder Sheila Pigott

Project and rangers, they sowed wild flowers, put in a pond, and the plot abounds with frogs, newts, field mice, voles and birds.

Founder chair of the Allotment Association David Smith said: "We hope our example will inspire other villages. It's a beautiful addition to our amenities, giving people healthy exercise and bringing them together."

Former secretary Alan Fairbrother said: "We're happy to advise others how to go about it and where the funds are. Help is there if you know who and how to ask."

An open day (July 12) was organised to help spread the word.

Mary and Patrick Peace, in their 90s, have an accessible raised-bed allotment. "It's made a huge difference to my life," said Mary. "You're never alone here – there's always someone to chat to, and people are kind, bringing me little spare seedlings.



*Oldest gardeners
Mary and Patrick Peace*

It's a real asset to the community."

Psychotherapist Sheila Pigott said of her riverside allotment: "My job is city-based, sedentary and can be stressful, so I come here to unwind. Doing physical work, in tranquillity and birdsong, is healing and rejuvenating. And it's united the community in a way that never used to happen before."

More details: secretary Michael Wren, 01433 630593.

More details on the Sustainable Development Fund:

**www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf
or telephone 01629 816312**



*Some of the organisers David Smith,
Alan Fairbrother and Michael Wren*



We're here to help...

The Peak District is full of committed, energetic residents working for the future of their communities (see Grindleford left). The Peak District National Park Authority values and supports them – and it could help you.

Here are more examples:



• **Rowsley Post Office internet cafe**

Post offices are a vital village amenity – the authority strongly opposed closure of branches in Edensor, Bakewell and Bonsall. It gave a £1,500 Sustainable Development Fund grant to help Rowsley post office set up an internet café.

Co-owner Gary Shaw said: "This grant was crucial in helping us adapt to stay viable. The internet is a hub to get people back into the post office, both locals and visitors who do not have internet access. And it's a sociable place to meet and relax."



• **Silence Mine Heritage Trust**

Great Hucklow and Foolow wanted to rescue a four-hectare abandoned lead-mine site that straddled their parish boundaries. Neglected and overgrown, it was being damaged by illegal off-roaders.

The national park authority made a compulsory purchase order to help

them acquire the site – the first arrangement of its kind. A Heritage Lottery grant helped pay for it, and national park ecologists, rangers and archaeologists advised on looking after wildlife habitats and the industrial heritage.

Trust chair Nick Williams said: "This is a vast improvement for the communities and for visitors – the national park authority's help was crucial to its success."



• **Prize-winning communities**

Hathersage and Eyam won "Excellence in the Community" awards for improving life in their communities. Village Plans drawn up with national park community planners helped achieve their aims:

Hathersage attracted more than £30,000 of grant aid for improvements to the Memorial Hall, village centre, Hathersage Village Day, and action for young people and the environment.

Eyam focused on activities for young people, setting up Eyam Street Elite with weekly events, including football, ice-skating, cinema, volleyball, climbing, hiking and theme-park visits.

Community planners Dan Yates and Adele Metcalfe guide the Village Plans process by:

- *consulting villagers on what they would like to achieve*
- *holding village meetings where people can make suggestions*
- *helping set up a steering group to push it forward*
- *helping villagers achieve funding and skills to do it on their own.*

• **Help for business**

The authority encourages innovative developments that enhance the national park – it recently approved new micro-business units in a listed former farm-building in Hathersage. Its Sustainable Development Fund has also assisted numerous recycling, renewable energy and socially-inclusive outdoor activity businesses.

• **Help for charities, community groups**

The Sustainable Development Fund supports organisations such as Village Aid, a Bakewell charity working in Africa, and Peaks for People – a project with Oldham and Rochdale Groundwork, introducing urban residents to the national park environment.

More information:

General inquiries: Customer Service - customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk or 01629 816200

Sustainable Development Fund: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf or 01629 816312

Village Planning: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/community or 01629 816375 or 01629 816258.



What makes the Peak District special

A major study has been completed which shows what makes one part of the Peak District National Park countryside special and different from another.

The landscape character assessment looks in detail at the different areas that make up the national park.

The Peak District National Park Authority and consultants Countryside have produced it by examining maps and carrying out field surveys.

The main areas are the:

- *Dark Peak – the gritstone uplands area to the south of the Pennine hills*
- *White Peak – the central limestone area either side of the Derbyshire - Staffordshire boundary*

- *South-West Peak – a millstone grit upland area.*
- *Derwent Valley – the main river valley*
- *Eastern Moors – the gritstone uplands to the east.*

Garrie Tiedeman, one of the authority's landscape architects, said: "This document is important because it will shape the way we care for the Peak District countryside over the next 25 years.

"Unless we have a proper record of what the landscape is like now we have no way of accurately monitoring changes or deciding what development is desirable or

appropriate in the future."

The assessment will be used to help:

- *People make planning applications. Applicants will be able to check whether their plans fit in with land uses in the area.*
- *Plan land management, stewardship and forestry development schemes or wildlife protection projects.*
- *Parish councils produce local landscape character assessments that go into more detail about land use in their parish.*

Further details can be seen at:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/index/pubs/lca.htm

Play your part...

Residents and community groups are being asked to play their part in looking after the wildlife habitats of the Peak District National Park.

The Peak District Biodiversity Partnership is encouraging everyone to help conserve and improve the wildlife, habitats and countryside of the Peak District.

Karen Shelley, an ecologist at the Peak District National Park Authority, said: "Everybody can help to improve biodiversity – whether it is in their own back garden or by volunteering to do work in the wider countryside."

Ways for residents to help protect wildlife habitats include:

- *Joining a local conservation group to work on nature reserves or community projects*
- *Creating wildlife friendly gardens at home, work or school*
- *Following the Countryside Code when out walking or cycling*

Further information on how to take part is available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap

Safety first

Joint action to cut road accidents and car-crime is making the national park a safer place to live in and visit. We look at two of initiatives taking place this summer.

Keeping our roads safe

The Peak District National Park Authority has joined an initiative to reduce death and injuries on Derbyshire roads.

The Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership - made up of organisations including Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service - aims to improve safety through education initiatives, road improvements and policing.

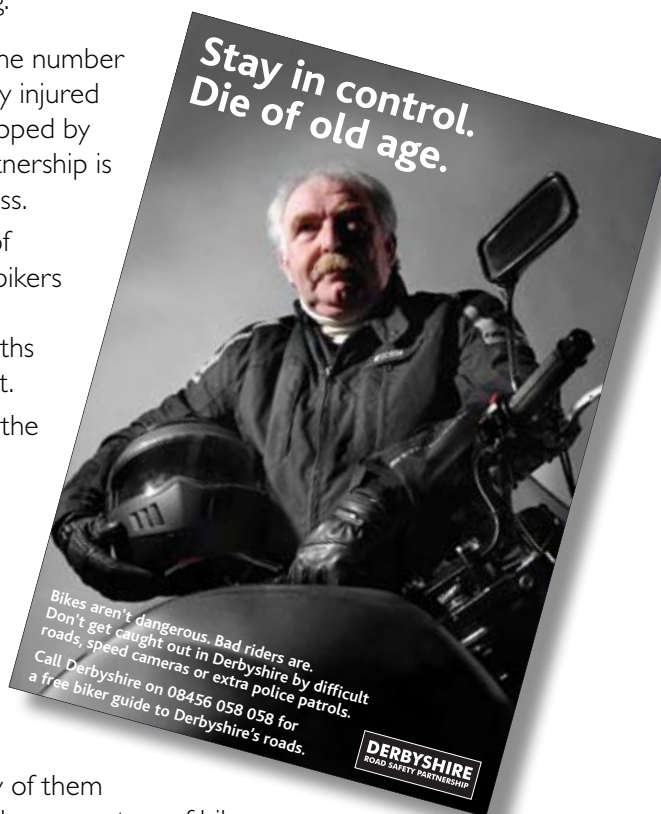
Between 1997 and 2006 the number of people killed or seriously injured on Derbyshire's roads dropped by 30 per cent – and the partnership is keen to build on this success.

One of the biggest areas of concern is the number of bikers who are killed or seriously injured. Many of those deaths happen in the Peak District.

More than a quarter of all the people killed or injured in 2006 were bikers, despite them making up just four per cent of the county's road users.

Partnership manager Robert Hill said: "Bikers are drawn to the Peak District because it offers great rides – but too many of them are running into trouble. Three quarters of bike crashes on rural roads are caused by rider error."

Warning signs have been put up on Peak District roads to tell bikers about casualty rates and the police are carrying out speed checks.



Other road safety initiatives include:

- An advertising campaign reminding motorists it is illegal to drive while using hand-held mobile phones
- Speed awareness workshops for speeding motorists as an alternative to getting penalty points on their licence
- A safety review of the speed limits on all main roads in Derbyshire.

Further information about road safety can be found at www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

Putting the squeeze on car crime

An initiative to deter car thieves from rural Peak District car parks is operating throughout the summer.

The Peak District National Park Authority is working with Derbyshire Police, the National Trust and Severn Trent Water on Operation Python.

In the early 1990s car parks, such as the one at Curbar Gap in Curbar, were seeing up to 20 break-ins a week.

But following the success of Operation Python only a handful of crimes are now reported in Peak District car parks each year.

Measures include:

- The installation of CCTV cameras
- Sharing information between the police and landowners about people acting suspiciously
- Visible patrols of car parks by police and rangers
- Crime prevention advice being given to motorists

Andrew Carson, an estate warden for the authority, said: "We are working on Operation Python with a dedicated police team headed by Sgt Andy Wordsworth.

"We are handing out leaflets to drivers called Nothing In, Nothing Out.

"On one side of the leaflet it offers drivers advice about preventing car crime. If they turn it over it has a

message to potential thieves saying that no valuables are left in the car. This is left in the car windscreen to deter thieves."





An outdoor

Fit for the future

The Peak District may be Britain's oldest national park (founded in 1951), but the young are its future, and we are equipping them to become environmental guardians of tomorrow.

National park staff teach thousands of young people from all backgrounds every year, with outdoor lessons leading to mainstream qualifications, recognition for achievement and awards.

They include pre-schoolers, youth groups, hard-to-reach teenagers, youngsters with disabilities and college-students.

Inner city children breathe country air for the first time, rural children learn the value of their own environment.

Here are a few of the ways young people benefit:

Pennine schools aid climate-change research

Pupils from 13 secondary schools, ranging from urban Barnsley and Tameside to rural Chapel and Cheadle, gathered moorland data for national research into climate-change.

The 14-16 year-olds, working with the national park learning team, rangers and researchers, devised experiments to investigate man-made damage to peatlands that could, in a healthy state, combat climate-change.

Braving freezing March temperatures they collected data for a Moors for the Future Partnership study being conducted by Manchester and Durham universities.

Sue Dunn, head of science at Chapel-en-le-Frith High School said: "It was good for them to see science in action. They've done a lot of study on climate-change in the classroom, but this really brought the theory to life. They're looking forward to going back in September to see what's happened since."

And teacher Rick Ashley, of Royston High School, Barnsley,

added: "It was unusual to be able to contribute to genuine research. The pupils felt like they were making a difference."



Chapel-en-le-Frith students conduct research at Derbyshire Bridge

School goes wild for outdoor lessons

St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, Longnor, has gone wild in the best possible way.



Ranger Andy McGraw with pupils in the outdoor classroom

National park rangers and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust teamed up to help pupils design and create a new wildlife garden and community woodland.

Funded by £9,500 from BBC Breathing Places, it has an outdoor learning space, hazel coppice and willow tunnel, and later the children will grow a sensory garden and wildflower meadow.

National park ranger Andy McGraw has

already worked with the pupils for three years, helping them achieve the John Muir Trust Award for discovering, exploring and conserving the natural environment.

Headteacher Sue Evans said the children were excited about their new outdoor classroom: "We hope this will be the start of a lifelong interest in the environment."

In February the school helped rescue a nearby derelict woodland near Earl Sterndale, by planting trees with the national park woodland team.

classroom



Learning comes to life in the great outdoors



National park chair Narendra Bajaria says: "Learning outside the classroom has got to become an integral part of mainstream education. We have fantastic resources to offer – we open the door, it's up to schools to lead pupils through it."

Two centres work with numerous inner city and rural schools. On the Greater Manchester side, we have the Longdendale Environmental Education Centre (jointly-run with United Utilities), and on the Sheffield side, the Moorland Discovery Centre at Longshaw (jointly-run with the National Trust).

Pupils range from pre-school and Key Stage 1 to GCSE and A-level, learning about wildlife habitats, geology, history, hydrology (pictured left), conservation and climate change.

To arrange a visit, or request teachers' packs, contact:

Longdendale Environmental Education Centre tel: 01457 868127

Moorland Discovery Centre tel: 01433 637907 or www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

Losehill Hall - centre for environmental learning

Losehill Hall, the national park's learning and environmental conference centre at Castleton, is strengthening its international reputation for environmental learning services.

Its superb residential facilities and dedicated learning team offer a combined service to schools, youth services, social services, community groups, colleges and environmental organisations from all over the country, reaching thousands of people a year.

Learning team manager Nic Hutchins said: "We put particular emphasis on reaching individuals whose circumstances mean they may rarely visit a national park.

"We welcome all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Learning outside the

classroom is becoming increasingly important, it should not be an occasional 'add-on' – pupils absorb core-subjects better when they can see their application in the environment. And healthy activities in the fresh air open their minds to new experiences."

More details: 01433 620373 or www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about

- Some 240 pupils from Lady Manners School, Bakewell, benefited from field trips to Stanage this year, their geography



teachers working closely with the Losehill Hall learning team and youth engagement officer. They also explored controversial national park issues and conservation.

Youth Rangers rise to challenge

The Peak District Youth Ranger programme introduces young people from diverse backgrounds to the varied and challenging work of the national park rangers.

They learn navigation, bushcraft, interpretation of the landscape, biodiversity and conservation skills, and make new friends.

Teenagers from Manchester, Oldham, Sheffield, Barnsley, Derby, Kirklees, Cheshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire get involved through youth services, community groups and schools.

They acquire not only new skills but credits toward qualifications.

The Youth Ranger programme gained a three-year £150,000 Heritage Lottery grant last year to help spread its benefits to youngsters from less-privileged backgrounds or with disabilities.

More details: 01433 620373 or youthranger.admin@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Peak quality food



Keep it local

Local food, drink and farming will be the theme of National Parks' Week.

The week - from 28 July to 3 August - will raise awareness of the reasons for the existence of national parks, and celebrate their beauty, diversity and the opportunities they offer to enjoy their special qualities.

Keep an eye out in the local media and on our website at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk to find out about events taking place in the Peak District during the week.

Events will include farmers' markets, guided walks and promotions at local restaurants, shops and farms.

Why not make your mark on protecting the environment?

The Peak District Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) is an award for businesses that demonstrate they are working to conserve the Peak District National Park.

Look out for businesses with the EQM and use them safe in the knowledge that they are adopting the best environmental practices.

Many farmers – including several of the Peak Choice farmers - have achieved the EQM because they are looking after the special and characteristic features of the Peak District National Park.

These include the wildflower meadows, heather moors, limestone dales, dry stone walls, traditional stone buildings and lead mining heritage.

All EQM farmers are:

- *Managing part of their land for nature conservation*
- *Keeping the special habitats on their farm in good condition*
- *Maintaining their traditional buildings*
- *Preserving the archaeological and historical features on their land*
- *Keeping their land tidy to make it a special part of the Peak District landscape*
- *Using good agricultural and animal welfare practices.*

The EQM project is run by the Peak District National Park Authority, working with Natural England and the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership.

For more information contact Faith Johnson on 01629 816321, email faith.johnson@peakdistrict.gov.uk or visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eqm

Greater choice as old meets new

A co-operative of 12 Peak District farmers are combining traditional values with modern marketing by selling beef and lamb on the internet.

Peak Choice is an online service that allows customers to order traditionally reared meat from the website - www.peakchoice.co.uk The boxed and chilled meat is then delivered to their doorstep.

Business manager Heather Burns said: "The original idea for the business came from Prince Charles when he met with some of the farmers in 2005.

"They explained they were in danger of going out of business unless they got a better price for their meat. If that happened their animals would not be grazing the fields so the land would return to scrub and the traditional Peak District landscape would start to disappear."

The Prince of Wales suggested they

formed a co-operative to market their meat for sale and asked Business in the Community – of which he is president – and the English Farming and Food Partnership to help set it up.

Peak Choice started trading in July 2007 and has a quickly growing customer base that even includes butchers in cities like Coventry. It is currently working to achieve the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark.

All the farms are already in an environmental stewardship scheme, which shows their farming methods safeguard the Peak District landscape and encourage wildlife.

Beeley-based farmer Rupert Turner, who is chair of Peak Choice, said: "Traditional family farms are the life-blood of the Peak District. We're all family farms in less-favoured areas, so we're looking to sustain our businesses and carry on looking after the Peak District landscape."



Peak Choice chair and Beeley farmer Rupert Turner



Disabled ramblers - on a roll!

Disability is no barrier to enjoying the Peak District.

And every year hundreds of disabled people prove that by enjoying rambles in the Peak District countryside in mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

They include members of the national Disabled Ramblers group. Chairman Mike Bruton said: "The big battle we face is the perception that disabled people can't do this type of thing. We want to show people that we can do a lot more than they think."

"We have done more walks in the Peak District than in any other national park and have visited a lot of the more accessible parts."

"Last year we went on a trip around the Upper Derwent Reservoir but have been to many areas including the High Peak and Tissington Trails."

"On average we have 14 people per ramble but during the year 364 people take part in our rambling events nationwide."

This year the group were going on rambles around Macclesfield Forest on 22 July and Monyash on the following day.

But it's not just organised groups. Last year more than 300 disabled people hired either mobility scooters, bikes with wheelchairs or hand powered tricycles from Peak District National Park Authority cycle hire centres.

Robert Dallison, cycle hire manager, said: "These cycles and scooters are available for hire every day that the centres are open so enable groups with both disabled and able-bodied people to enjoy time out together."

Cycle hire centres

Find out more about our accessible scooters and bicycles at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/cycle

Ashbourne: 01335 343156 - has a mobility scooter.

Parsley Hay: 01298 84493 – has two adapted bicycles with wheelchairs on the front, two hand-powered tricycles and two adult tricycles.

Derwent: 01433 651261 – has a mobility scooter, a bicycle with wheelchair, two hand-powered tricycles and one battery powered tricycle.

Green way to explore Peak District

Able-bodied ramblers can suss out the bus or let the train take the strain with a new Peak District walking guide aimed at cutting car-pollution.

The "Ride and Ramble" book offers the 'green' way to roam, with 20 linear walks through beautiful Peak District scenery, all linked to buses or trains.

They can use the book's free bus timetable to plan their days out and at the same time help the Peak District environment.

For more information visit www.visitpeakdistrict.com/peakconnections "Ride and Ramble" costs £6.95 from visitor centres in and around the Peak District or online at www.nationalparks.gov.uk/pdshop



Pick up a "You're Welcome" leaflet at visitor centres, giving details of easy-access paths suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs, the elderly or families with young children



Quarrying

Dale View quarry



A tale of two quarries

One of the main reasons the Peak District National Park was designated in 1951 was to protect the beauty of its landscape, but quarry permissions granted long ago can make the Authority's job problematic.

Two contentious areas have been Stanton Moor and Longstone Edge. Now, we have brighter prospects on one, but more difficulties on the other:

Stanton Moor

At time of writing, a final agreement was imminent on Lees Cross and Endcliffe quarries, ending years of dispute. Though dormant, they still had a 1952 planning permission, and their proximity to the ancient Nine Ladies Stone Circle and wildlife habitats made a possible re-opening highly sensitive.

In 2006, quarry company Stancliffe Stone proposed to give up, without compensation, its rights over Lees Cross and Endcliffe in exchange for permission to extend nearby Dale View quarry, further away from the moor's sensitive sites. The Authority, which had worked hard with all parties to achieve the best outcome, resolved to approve this with Secretary of State assent.

Completion of the legal agreement took longer than anticipated due to complex negotiations between the landowners, the company and the Authority. But it is good news for Stanton Moor and ends years of uncertainty for local villagers, parish councils and action groups.



Lees Cross and Endcliffe quarries - long overgrown

Longstone Edge

The Backdale site on Longstone Edge



A High Court judgment in March was bad news for the landscape of Longstone Edge. The judge overturned a 2007 public inquiry decision which had upheld the Authority's view that limestone operations at Backdale went beyond the 1952 planning permission.

It was the latest twist in years of legal and planning actions to try to resolve the disputed permission.

Both the Authority and the Department for Communities and Local Government are appealing, and a new coalition of national, local and environmental campaign groups urged Government ministers to step in.

Work resumed at Backdale last September. Under the High Court judgment, it currently appears that the Authority cannot prevent irreversible landscape harm.

West Derbyshire MP Patrick McLoughlin raised the issue with Environment Secretary Hilary Benn in the House of Commons in May.

Mr Benn replied that it was a source of concern to many: "I am keen to find a permanent solution to the despoliation of one of the most beautiful parts of our countryside.

"The [Defra] Under-Secretary, who has done a lot of work on the matter, and I commit to continue working with the right honourable Gentleman, other honourable Members, the national park authority and local people."

The Authority is continuing discussions with the Government, the landowner and operators in its efforts to achieve such a permanent solution.

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



Come on in...

National Park champions



Kirit Mistry

A group of community champions from inner city areas are working to encourage visitors from diverse backgrounds

to come and enjoy the Peak District.

The Mosaic Partnership and the Peak District National Park Authority run training sessions so community champions can experience activities such as walking, cycling, conservation volunteering, youth work and local traditions like well dressings.

They then return to their communities and help break down barriers that might be preventing people from black and ethnic minority community groups from considering visiting the Peak District National Park.

Kirit Mistry has been a community champion for more than two years and is also executive director of the Derby Racial Equality Council.

He said: "I became a community champion because I wanted to take

members of black and minority ethnic communities - and mainly young people - to the Peak District National Park so they could experience for themselves the wonderful green opportunities that exist on their doorsteps.

"I know the area well as I spent many years bringing groups of young people from Leicester to the Peak District National Park for camping and youth activity programmes in my previous role as a youth worker."

As a community champion Kirit is also on the panel for the Peak District National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund. The panel assesses grant applications for community projects that benefit Peak District National Park communities.

Kirit added: "In the future I would like to enhance my knowledge and skills by working at a board level to help ensure the work of Mosaic is embedded within the Peak District National Park Authority.

"This will enable community champions to be better engaged and take an active role in promoting the Peak District National Park and the work of the authority."

Reconnecting with the natural world



A community group is giving autistic children and their parents from Birmingham the opportunity to enjoy the Peak District National Park.

The Birmingham ATHAC (Access to Heritage, Arts and Culture) community group visits the Peak District 10 times a year for guided walks, conservation and artwork.

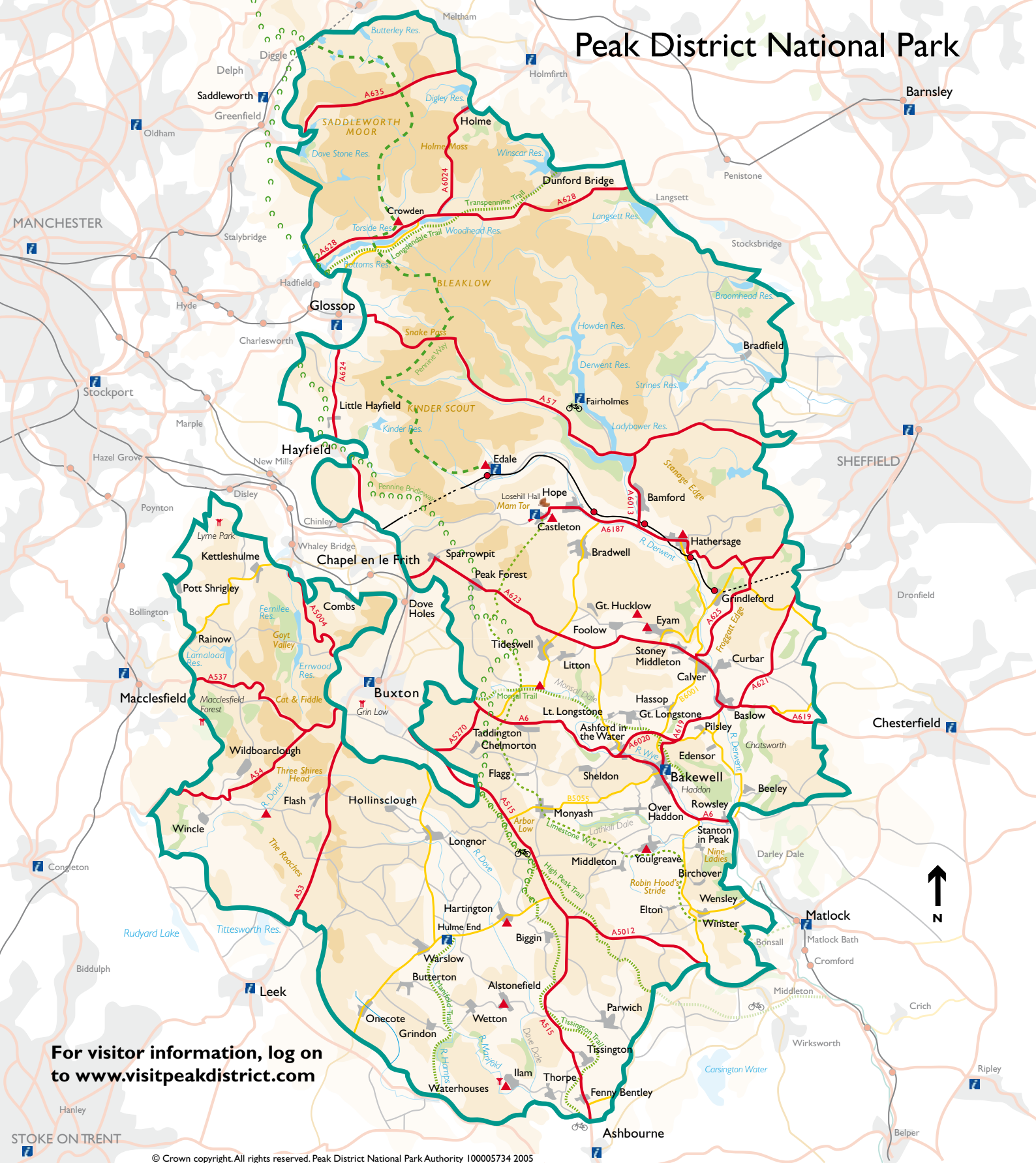
ATHAC organiser Carol Reid said: "It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the natural environment."

The project was initially aided by the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund but is now self-financing.

Ranger Lynn Burrow has helped the Birmingham ATHAC community group to blossom on their many visits over the past three years. She said: "They've moved from complete unawareness of the national park, to taking part in real conservation work."



Peak District National Park



For visitor information, log on to www.visitpeakdistrict.com

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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						

0 Kilometres 5

Peak District National Park Visitor Enquiries: 01629 816558 or email bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk
 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
 Stockport Tel: 0161 474 4444

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