

1. Introduction

The Peak District National Park is an asset of national, regional, and local importance and plays a special role at the centre of England. It was the first of 15 national parks in the United Kingdom to be designated for their spectacular landscapes, cultural heritage and wildlife, and for people to enjoy them.

It is made up of a diverse variety of landscapes, and these form the basis for its designation as a National Park in 1951. As a tourist destination it attracts over 16 million visitors a year. In addition it is home to some 38,000 residents and provides over 3,000 jobs, many of which are based on the special qualities of the landscape. The effective and proper enforcement of planning controls is therefore essential to protect the landscape and to safeguard the interests of residents, businesses and visitors from the harmful effects of unauthorised development.



The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was published by the Government in March 2012, set out the Government's planning policies and how these were expected to be applied:-

Paragraph 207 of the NPPF stated:

“Effective enforcement is important as a means of maintaining public confidence in the planning system. Enforcement action is discretionary, and local planning authorities should act proportionately in responding to suspected breaches of planning control. Local Planning Authorities should consider publishing a Local Enforcement Plan to manage enforcement proactively, in a way that is appropriate to their area. This should set out how they will monitor the implementation of planning permissions, investigate alleged cases of unauthorised development and take action where it is appropriate to do so.”

The Authority produced this 'Local Enforcement Plan' in response to that recommendation. The plan sets out what breaches of planning control are, explains how potential breaches can

be brought to the attention of the Authority, sets out what may or may not be investigated and the priorities for investigation and action. It also outlines the tools that are available to the Authority to resolve any breaches.

In July 2018, the Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework in which paragraph 58 repeated the above statement with regard to enforcement action and Local Enforcement Plans.