

North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership Strategy



Nature



People and
communities



Economy



Climate
change



The vision of the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is:

“To see the natural environment of North Yorkshire & York conserved, enhanced and connected for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy.”

Foreword

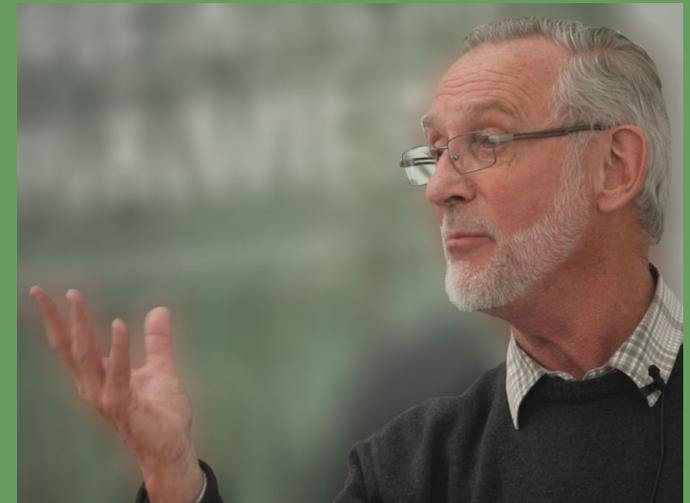
In 2010 I chaired an expert panel that produced a report for Government entitled Making Space for Nature. The report argued that in order to stop the ongoing loss of wild plants and animals we need “more, bigger, better (managed) and joined (up)” places for nature. In the Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice) that followed, Government proposed the establishment of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) as one way to deliver more space for nature “at a strategic scale” to “improve the multiple benefits we receive from good management of the land.”

My panel and the LNPs recognise that it will never be possible for conservation bodies to deliver really effective nature conservation on just their own land. It will require the co-operation of other sympathetic landowners in ‘consortia of the willing’ to manage the countryside

and urban green spaces for wildlife and deliver all the other things we require, from food and fibre to flood-control and fishing. And scale matters. There is very clear scientific evidence to show that “more, bigger, better and joined” delivers more effective conservation.

The North Yorkshire and York LNP is particularly special for me. I have lived in York since 1971 and feel privileged to have access to some of the wonderful countryside within its boundaries; two of my favourites are the Howardian Hills and the Yorkshire coast. I wish the partnership every success as it strives to make more space for nature on my doorstep. This is not just a self-indulgent wish. There is now overwhelming evidence that contact with nature is good for people’s mental and physical health. As the leader of one north of England local authority said to me recently: “Maintaining and

creating high-quality green space and access to nature is not a barrier to economic development. It is fundamental to delivering it.” The NY&Y LNP has a vital role to play in getting this message across.



Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS
Chairman, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Executive summary

This LNP is one of 48 in England endorsed by Defra in 2012 to create a step-change in how the natural environment is managed, and embed the value of the environment in local decisions to support healthier people and a thriving economy.

This LNP covers the County of North Yorkshire and the City of York, excluding the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. North Yorkshire and York are famous for impressive landscapes and a wealth of natural and historic assets. Indeed, these are vital to the area's economy – 77% of the land is agricultural, and tourism activities provide 13% of the area's workforce. However, agricultural intensification and development pressures have led to a rapid decline in species and habitats in the last 70 years, seen here and across the UK. Such habitat loss has led to a dramatic decline in key pollinator species, some by as much as 72% since 2001.

Such declines will have a dramatic impact on our economy and health and wellbeing, as the range of services nature provides for people

are gradually undermined. Recent studies have estimated a £1.5 billion price tag on inland wetlands, valued so high because they help to produce clean water, and reduce the effects of flooding.

To deliver its vision, the LNP has a series of objectives based around four themes:

- **Habitats & Species** - we will conserve, restore and create natural sites and strengthen natural corridors for species movement.
- **Economy** – we will develop connections between nature and the local economy.
- **People & Communities** – we will increase access to nature to improve public health and increase engagement with local communities on nature projects.
- **Climate Change** – we will strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation through natural solutions.

To make a real difference, the LNP will seek to add value to existing work by linking it with other projects, help share good practice and

provide a unified voice at a strategic level. This will help to draw down resources to make delivery more effective and efficient. The LNP will also identify gaps in delivery and seek to establish new mechanisms with buy-in from communities and local partners.

Using green infrastructure as an evidence base, the LNP has identified seven priority landscapes across its area to begin delivering its objectives. Some include existing landscape partnerships, whilst others have unique opportunities or threats and the potential to become landscape-scale projects. Over time, the priority areas will change and new areas of focus will be identified.



Narrow-bordered five spot burnet moth.

Key roles of the LNP include:

- linking with the priorities of the [Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\)](#) and the [North Yorkshire and York Health and Wellbeing Boards](#) for greater delivery between these partnerships;
- work with the individual nature projects active in the priority areas delivering LNP objectives and determine their needs and constraints to activity;
- identify the potential to join up local projects at a landscape scale to deliver significant and integrated benefits;
- help identify funding opportunities for local projects in the priority areas, including EU funding via the LEP growth programme.

The LNP is directed by a Partnership Board with a range of organisations that represent the variety of sectors and interests of the Partnership. Each Board member acts as a champion of a priority area, theme or sector. The champions will set up and lead delivery groups as necessary to achieve

LNP objectives. High level targets in the strategy will be broken down into the priority areas as projects develop. Performance will be monitored and reported using existing mechanisms where possible to minimise bureaucracy and duplication.

The LNP will initially focus on developing and coordinating work in the seven priority areas, to develop a series of cohesive landscapes across the LNP area. Communications will also be developed so that the wider partnership is kept abreast of LNP Board activity and can influence the work of the partnership. The LNP and its strategy will be reviewed after five years to monitor the success and relevance of its objectives and will be revised if appropriate.

One measure of the success of the LNP will be that the natural environment and the benefits it brings will become integral to everyday decision making rather than being seen as a separate issue. In this way, maximum benefits will be realised for the people, economy and natural environment of North Yorkshire and York.

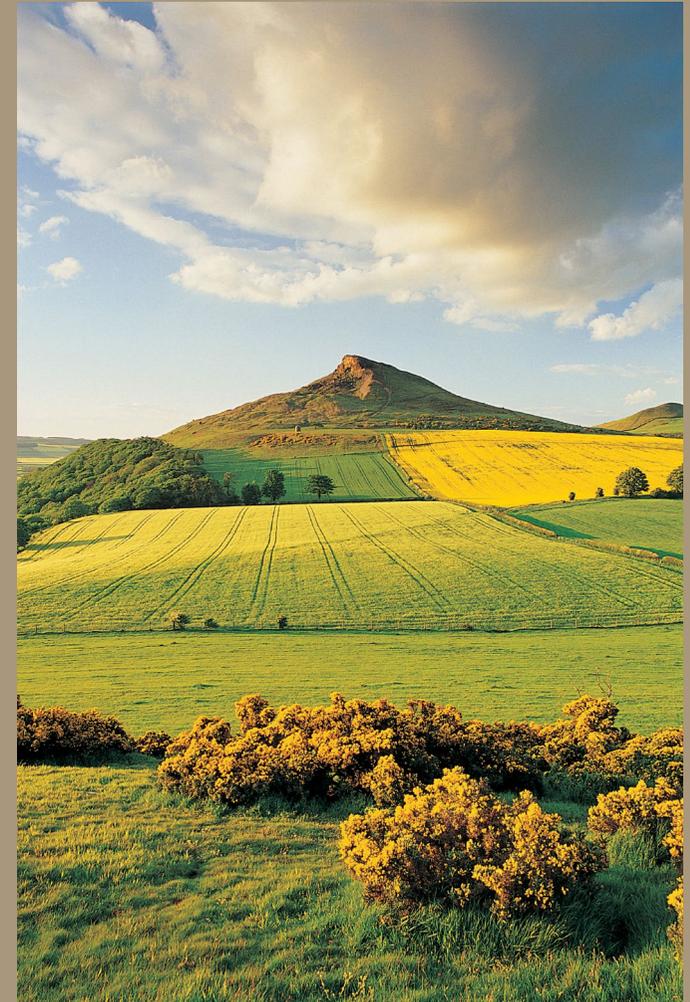


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1. Introduction

North Yorkshire is well known for its impressive landscapes which owe their unique character to natural processes and human interaction through the ages. The natural and historic assets of the County's landscapes and the City of York are valued and enjoyed by residents and visitors all year round. However, pressures brought on by the need for growth have historically led to the intrinsic value of landscape assets taking second place to more quantifiable benefits such as income, health and inward investment.

In its Natural Environment White Paper (2011) the Government put forward its ambition for Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs). LNPs will help their local area manage the natural environment effectively and embed the value of the environment in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. To do this effectively, LNPs will need to be self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with the credibility to work with and influence other local strategic decision makers. The aim is that LNPs will:

- drive positive change in the local natural environment, identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.
- help achieve the Government's national environmental objectives locally, including identifying local ecological networks.
- be local champions influencing decision making relating to the natural environment, in particular, through working closely with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The proposal for a North Yorkshire and York LNP was accepted by the Government and given official status in July 2012. This joint strategy will be used to coordinate action and align the resources of the individual organisations within the partnership, providing greater efficiency and less duplication of



effort. Achieving Government endorsement is a positive signal to all that the LNP is serious about integrating the natural environment into decision making, and that the LNP provides a credible opportunity to help deliver real benefits for the environment, residents and businesses of York and North Yorkshire.

“LNPs will help their local area manage the natural environment effectively and embed the value of the environment in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.”

The value of nature and the issues it faces

Despite concerted local and national efforts over nearly 20 years to halt biodiversity loss, the state of nature in the UK is still very much under threat:

- 62% of UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and 32% of priority species were still in decline. Eight species have been lost since the UK BAP was started¹;
 - 97% of England's lowland meadows and pastures have been agriculturally improved or lost since 1940, with less than 8,000 hectares left²;
 - 72% of butterfly species have decreased between 2001 and 2011, including a decline of common 'garden' butterflies by 24%³;
 - Since 1954 10 UK plant species went extinct. In 16 counties, one plant species went extinct every other year⁴;
 - Currently less than a third of our water environment achieves 'good status'⁵.
- Such losses will have dramatic impacts on our health and economy – the UK [National Ecosystem Assessment \(2011\)](#) highlighted the range of services nature provides for humans, including:
- the total value of pollinating insects in the UK agricultural economy is estimated at £430 million per year;
 - inland wetlands have been valued at £1.5 billion, because they help to produce clean water and reduce the effects of flooding.



Pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.

72%

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The total value of pollinating insects in the UK agricultural economy is estimated at

£430m per year



2. Geographical coverage of the LNP

This LNP covers the County of North Yorkshire and the City of York, excluding the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which are part of the Northern Upland Chain LNP (Figure 1).

The Northern Upland Chain LNP is one of several LNPs that border the North Yorkshire

and York LNP boundary (Figure 2). This LNP recognises that natural corridors and the opportunities they present for people and the economy can cross LNP boundaries. We have agreed with our neighbours that if areas of mutual cross-boundary interest are identified, the relevant LNPs will ensure that any activity is handled efficiently and without duplication.

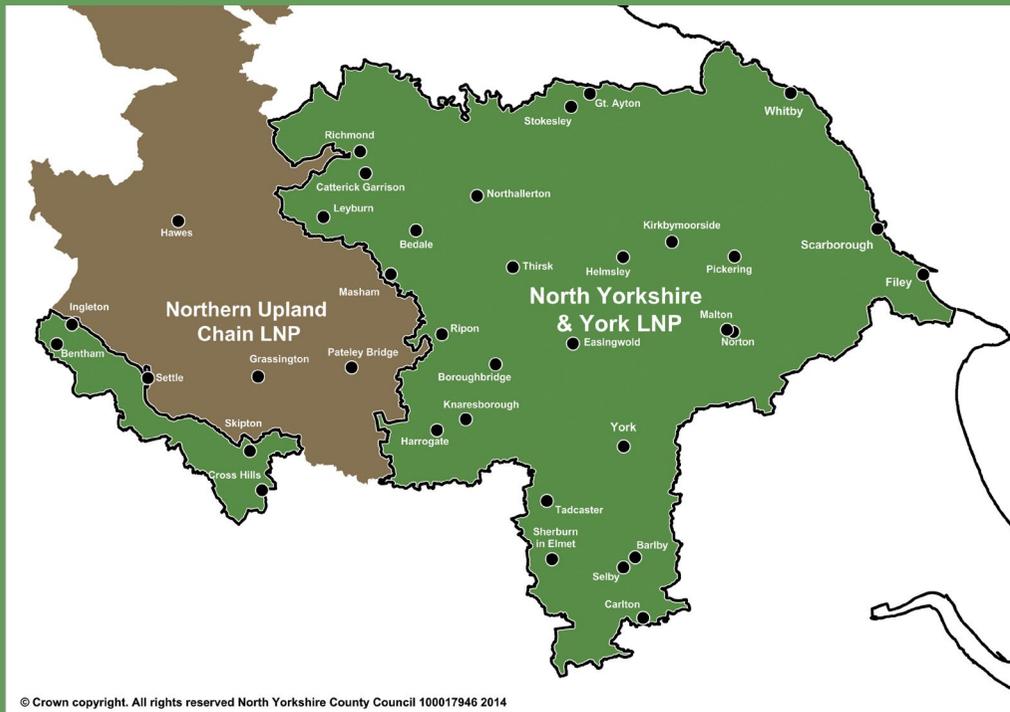


Figure 1: North Yorkshire and York LNP Boundary

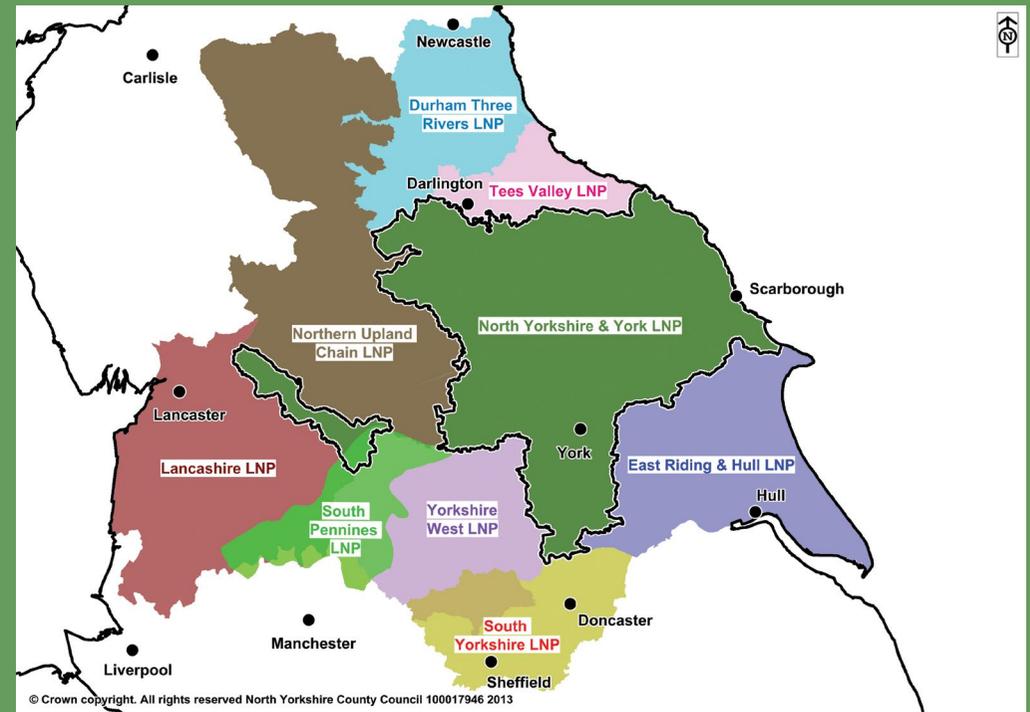


Figure 2: Neighbouring LNPs

3. The character of North Yorkshire and York LNP area

What makes the area unique?

- The North York Moors National Park (NYMNP) has the highest density of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) in the North of England⁶.
- The NYMNP has the largest block of continuous heather moorland in England⁷.
- A stunning heritage coast, with some of the best Jurassic and Cretaceous geology in the world, and cliffs containing an array of spectacular fossils⁸.
- York and Selby areas contain 2% of the country's lowland heathland⁹.
- Approximately 10% of the national floodplain meadow resource occurs in the York area¹⁰.
- The area hosts a range of rare and iconic species such as the tansy beetle, 'the Jewel of York', whose UK population is only found along a 40 km stretch of the River Ouse¹¹.

- York Minster is the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe¹².
- York is one of only five Areas of Archaeological Importance in England¹³.
- Star Carr is a world famous archaeological site, dating to the Mesolithic period. It is famous for its 11,000 year old deer skull head-dresses, bone harpoons, amber and shale jewellery and for having the earliest evidence of carpentry in Europe¹⁴.
- The area contains the longest rights of way network in the country¹⁵.
- 77% of North Yorkshire's land supports agriculture¹⁶. Farming underpins the UK's largest manufacturing sector, the food and drink industry, which turns over some £300 billion a year and employs 5.5 million people¹⁷.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing account for 17% of businesses in the LNP area, with three and a half times as many businesses in the sector as would be expected based on

national average¹⁸.

- An inspirational place for arts and literature, appearing in Heartbeat, Harry Potter, and Brideshead Revisited, and books like Dracula and All Creatures Great and Small.
- Tourism activities provided 6% of the GVA*, and 13% of the workforce of the area. A substantial portion of this would be nature-related tourism¹⁹.
- Tourism-related jobs represent 19% of all employment in Scarborough borough. Around £442 million was spent on trips there in 2011 by overnight and day visitors²⁰.
- Harrogate was voted the UK's happiest town²¹, and North Yorkshire was voted the second best place to live in the country²².
- North Yorkshire has four of the eight most sparsely populated districts within England²³.

* Gross value added (GVA) is a measure in economics of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector



The LNP area contains the majority of England's largest county, and stretches from Scarborough on the North Sea coast to Bentham in the West, and from the edge of Teesside to south of the M62. Settlements range from large towns and cities to small villages, rural hamlets and farmsteads. The area contains a diverse range of landscapes and historic assets; from the designated areas of the North York Moors National Park and Howardian Hills AONB to areas rich in historic and cultural value such as the City of York and the historic parklands of Castle Howard. There are thousands of European, nationally and locally protected wildlife and cultural sites and an extensive network of rights of way. A detailed list of designations for the area is located in [Appendix 3](#).

A wide range of landscapes are found across the area from the uplands, renowned for their exposed moorlands and blanket bog,

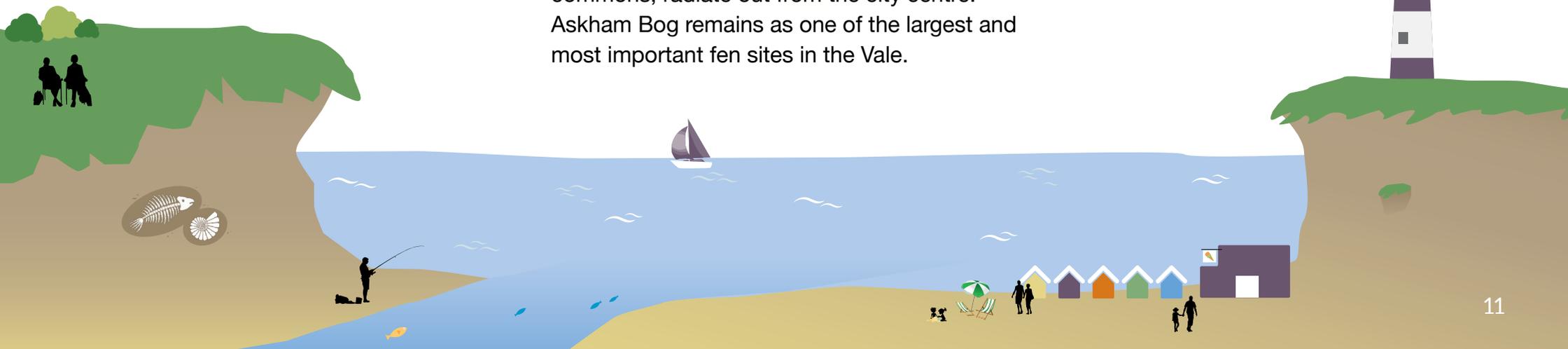
giving way to river valleys with woodland and sheep grazed pasture. In the undulating fringe landscapes, with the distinctive character in the west of field barns, woodlands become more extensive and historic monastic sites and stately homes are present. Many of these estates have wood pasture and parklands associated with them, often including impressive veteran and ancient trees.

Further south the landscape becomes flatter and more open and in the lowland areas, fertile soils have encouraged large-scale arable farming. Within the Vale of York the floodplains of several major rivers cross through the city and these floodplains contain extensive wetland and grasslands, known as 'ings'. One river that feeds these ings is the European protected Derwent.

The City of York has a high historical value and the extensive strays, traditionally grazing commons, radiate out from the city centre. Askham Bog remains as one of the largest and most important fen sites in the Vale.

The coastline along the east, stretches of which are defined as heritage coast, is endowed with dramatic cliffs and bays, seaside towns and sandy beaches. This is home to important specialist habitats that support valuable populations including cliff nesting sea birds, as well as the largest mainland gannetry. The coast is also an important tourist and holiday destination full of tradition and historic sites such as Scarborough Castle and Whitby Abbey, along with the picturesque fishing villages at Robin Hood's Bay, Staithes and Runswick.

A detailed assessment of the rich and varied landscape character along with the range of land uses and historic features within the LNP's boundaries can be found in the [North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment](#) and the [National Character Area assessments](#).



4. LNP priority themes and objectives

To achieve its vision of an integrated natural environment, the LNP has set out its ambitions through four key themes with associated objectives and targets. These will also support a range of local, regional and national strategies (see Table 1).

LNP Theme	LNP Objective	LNP Targets	Key Reference Strategy
 Habitats & Species	Conserve, enhance and create natural sites (e.g. wetland, woodland, grassland, rivers, geological assets)	Support delivery of priority habitat restoration/creation (potential habitat target of 5700 hectares (ha))	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
	Strengthen natural corridors for species movement (e.g. river corridors, hedgerows, field margins, ponds)	75% coverage of Green Infrastructure (GI) corridors in LNP priority areas in positive management for biodiversity, e.g. stewardship agreements, woodland grant schemes, external grant funding	The Water Framework Directive Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Strategy
 Economy	Enhance connections between nature and the local economy	Support the increased uptake of stewardship options that benefit insects such as pollinators and pest predators, to increase crop yields (potential habitat target of 3,000 ha)	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Strategic Economic Plan
	(e.g. wildlife-friendly farming, local produce, tourism, sponsorship, business diversification, labour productivity and business relocation)	Increase (%) in visitors visiting the area for nature interest Increase (£) in tourism economy generated from nature tourism (both as a sample from 20 sites)	
	Improve the quality and use of the area's Green Infrastructure to attract appropriate inward investment	Increase in number of developments that enhance local GI or incorporate GI into them	
 People and Communities	Increase access to nature to improve public health (e.g. footpaths or multi-user trails, accessible natural/greenspace areas, promote outdoor activity, organised walks)	Increase volunteering opportunities for nature conservation at 20 wildlife sites/public green spaces (number of new volunteers and amount of habitat restored) Increase footfall along promoted routes (seven walks)	North Yorkshire joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy York joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
	Increase engagement with local communities on nature projects (e.g. project planning, practical volunteering, training and education)	1,500 new people actively involved in conservation activities (e.g. guided walks, training days, community wildlife events, wildlife survey and monitoring)	
 Climate Change	Strengthen climate change mitigation through natural solutions (e.g. carbon storage through habitat work, reduced carbon emissions through increased walking and cycling)	Support the restoration of degraded peatlands, to reduce carbon emissions and store water (potential habitat target of 650 ha) Support tree planting to store carbon and reduce flood risk	'Your Climate, Our Future', Climate Change Plan for Yorkshire and the Humber 2009-2014 Adapting to Climate Change: The National Adaptation Programme
	Strengthen climate change adaptation through natural solutions (e.g. floodwater management, temperature regulation, habitat corridors)	Support delivery of flood alleviation schemes which incorporate high biodiversity wetlands (potential habitat target of 1,300 ha)	

The LNP will use the objectives and targets as a framework for activity across its area. It will support existing groups and projects best placed to deliver these targets, and identify how they can deliver action on the ground with greater efficiency.

Table 1: The North Yorkshire and York LNP themes, objectives, targets and associated strategies

Habitat targets are summaries of habitat creation/restoration potential in Landscape Character Areas found within the LNP. See [Appendix 4](#) for more detail.

5. Outcomes of the partnership

To deliver its vision, the LNP sees the following as key measures of success:

Habitats & Species

- The areas of highest wildlife value will be protected and managed sustainably allowing healthy populations of wildlife, including vulnerable or declining conservation priority species, to recover and thrive.
- Habitats will be better connected, helping species thrive and adapt to change.
- Rivers and their floodplains will function more naturally, helping slow the flow of water.

People and Communities

- There will be greater understanding and appreciation of the range of services and benefits that the natural environment brings to North Yorkshire and York's communities and economy.

- The health and wellbeing of local communities will be enhanced through access and use of natural spaces and by physical outdoor activity that puts people in contact with their environment.
- Local communities will directly benefit from the natural environment, through community planning, local events, practical conservation tasks, volunteering, training, skills and access-to-work opportunities.
- The rights of way and cycling network will be maintained and improved where it will deliver greatest benefits for local communities.
- Educational attainment will be enhanced through use and understanding of the natural environment.

Economy

- The tourism economy of the area will increase due to a higher quality environment and wildlife offer, with better promotion and accessibility.
- Environmental based enterprises (e.g. farming, forestry, mineral and waste) will be encouraged to conduct their businesses in a way that benefits the natural environment whilst supporting the local economy.
- Encourage a wide range of businesses to identify ways to improve their local environment that will benefit their staff, customers and profitability.
- More businesses will relocate or choose to expand locally, in part because of the high quality environment and quality of life.
- There will be greater employment opportunities in the environment and associated sectors such as forestry and land management.

Climate Change

- The area will be better prepared for extreme weather events
 - River catchments will be managed holistically to provide cleaner water and minimise flood risk and the ability of landscapes to store and slow rainwater will be increased.
- The carbon storage potential derived from a range of habitats will make an increasing contribution to climate change mitigation in the area, including peatlands and woodland.
- Soils will be better managed, to improve the carbon storage thus mitigating climate change impacts, whilst increasing biodiversity and improving agricultural productivity.
- The rights of way network around urban centres will play an increasing role in non-motorised (low carbon) access for commuting, access to services and other day-to-day activities.

6. Cultural heritage

Thousands of years of human activity has shaped the landscape character that we see today and has had a strong influence on the natural environment. The historic environment is not a key theme for the LNP, but its assets are integral to the unique nature of the LNP environment and landscape character. The influences and sensitivities of the historic environment need to be understood and built into landscape project design and community activities at the beginning.

There are a number of good examples locally of heritage interests being integrated with nature conservation activities, such as the **Cayton and Flixton Carrs Wetland Project** near Scarborough. The LNP will encourage this approach where possible in the priority areas and in its wider activities, to prevent irreversible loss of our heritage and allow better knowledge of the evolution of our landscapes and the role of humans within them.



The Mausoleum, Castle Howard.

7. Public health and the economy

To maximise delivery of its objectives, the LNP has begun making links with other major partnerships in the sub-region. These include biodiversity, river catchment and waterways partnerships, as well as neighbouring LNPs and the Leeds City Region's Green Economy Panel. The LNP wants to develop working relationships with any projects and partnerships that are contributing towards LNP objectives.

The LNP strategy is aligned with the strategies of the [York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP](#), the [North Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Board](#) and the [York Health & Wellbeing Board](#) to identify where the LNP can add value or contribute to the aspirations of these partnerships, or where objectives overlap. The table below shows some examples of how the LNP can support the priorities of these partnerships.

Enjoyment and use of the natural environment of North Yorkshire and York provide benefits to both our health and wellbeing and to the economy. The importance of the environment has been recognised for example in Natural England's '[Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment](#)' (MENE) fourth annual report. Between March 2012 and February 2013 approximately 2.85 billion visits to the English outdoors were made. These visits are keeping us healthy and are good for the economy - during this survey period, the public spent an estimated £21 billion visiting the outdoors, an average of £27 spent per visit for those which incurred expenditure. The LNP wants to promote the value of the natural environment and work with partners to strengthen its role within the health and economy sectors. Further case studies can be found on Page 17.



Strategy	Priority	Opportunity through the LNP
LEP Strategic Economic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profitable and ambitious small and micro businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a locally-led, environment-based economy of micro-businesses, e.g. via LEADER and sustainable development funds.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A UK leader in food, agriculture and biorenewables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the resource efficiency of 'High Nature Value' farming e.g. develop local woodfuel supply chains and business networks, linked with ancient woodland restoration. Increase production and deliver better environmental outcomes in arable farming.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop green, high-quality tourism with a unique, locally-distinctive offer, e.g. provide support and advice through bespoke mentoring and capacity building for tourism businesses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workforce with the skills that businesses need to grow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of opportunities with countryside apprenticeship schemes.
North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase ease of access to countryside walks and regular activities to promote physical activity in green spaces.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emotional health and wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the tranquil nature of the local countryside and easy ways to access it. Promote exercise and activity in the natural environment – access to nature provides significant increases in mood and self-esteem, and promotes recovery from stress.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social isolation and its impact on mental and wider aspects of people's health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting active groups, countryside volunteering, and employment opportunities to open up ways for people to meet and be healthy. Links with social prescribing of physical activity to prevent low mood.
York Health and Wellbeing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing health inequalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing ease of access to countryside walks and regular activities to promote healthy lifestyles, reducing smoking, alcohol use and obesity. Promote access to older people, people with disabilities and socio-economically deprived groups.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving mental health and intervening early. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote exercise and activity in the natural environment – access to nature provides significant increases in mood and self-esteem, and promotes recovery from stress. Encourage volunteering via wildlife charities and other groups and promote the benefits this has to alleviate mental health issues.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling all children and young people to have the best start in life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and creation of better links between easily accessible natural places to learn and be active, e.g. nature reserves.

For more information about the economic opportunities please see the Annex C of the [York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan](#). For more information about the health opportunities please see the [Environment Topic Summary](#) of the North Yorkshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

CASE STUDY

Natural Health Service

In December 2012 North Yorkshire County Council, on behalf of the LNP, commissioned the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to research the potential for a North Yorkshire Natural Health Service, developing opportunities through the natural environment and cultural heritage to improve the health and wellbeing of some of the county's most disadvantaged residents. This pilot project was based on the highly successful model developed through [People and the DALES](#).

The work highlighted the current health issues in the LNP area in Craven, Harrogate and Richmondshire, and how nature can address some of these problems. This led to a networking event bringing together possible service users, experience providers, project partners and interested organisations to explore the range of health and wellbeing benefits that the local countryside could provide. The opportunities were focussed within the priority areas of Craven Lowlands, River Swale and River Ure.

The report is available from the www.nypartnerships.org.uk/lnp. The LNP will use this to make links to the work of the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board. It can demonstrate opportunities to deliver priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Links will also be made with opportunities highlighted within the priority areas, examples of which can be seen in [Appendix 1](#).

CASE STUDY

The Yorkshire Moors Agricultural Apprenticeship Scheme

This Scheme was developed with the support of the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme to enhance the upland hill farming skills base in the North York Moors and equip the younger generation with the skills to take on this role in the future. In 2008 farmers identified a shortage of labour and an aging population of both hill farmers and contractors (56% of the local farmers and workers with hill flocks were over the age of 45), which threatened the future viability of the sector.

With support from the North York Moors National Park and Andersons Farm Business Consultants, a local partnership with farmers and Askham Bryan College was established to create a high quality apprenticeship scheme. Seven apprentices were recruited and placed with 10 upland farms across the area. This provided valuable 'hands on' experience, an NVQ Level 2 in livestock production and training including dry stone walling, heather burning, basic first aid, fork lift driving and chainsaw use. The partnership also led to labour sharing and collaborative working, improving the capacity of farmers in the group.

All 7 apprentices moved on to permanent employment within the sector and achieved further qualifications, including becoming a self-employed fencing contractor, and managing their own flocks of sheep.

Funding from the Princes Countryside Trust has led to a third group of apprentices being enrolled. The scheme has been recognised nationally and was cited as a good practice case study in Defra's Uplands Policy Review. The LNP recognises the value of developing further skills packages which will link high quality landscapes to the important local economic drivers of agriculture and tourism.

8. Encouraging sustainable development

Nature is a key factor for people moving to, working and living in the area. Therefore environmental issues must be properly incorporated into new developments. The LNP will seek to influence strategic opportunities that arise, where they may link inward investment, creating a better place for people and a more integrated landscape. The LNP will encourage local planning authorities to take account of the LNP objectives in their activities and in their plan making, for example via the Duty to Cooperate. This will help strengthen the positive role the planning system can have in protecting and enhancing the natural environment whilst allowing sustainable and appropriate development to proceed.

The LNP is not able to comment on planning applications in its area. Instead the LNP will focus on commenting on Community Infrastructure Levies and Green Infrastructure strategies, and exploring the scope for biodiversity offsetting schemes. In this way the LNP will seek to highlight the areas where biodiversity is most at risk and biodiversity gain is best achieved.

Biodiversity offsetting provides the opportunity to better recognise and reduce the potential loss of biodiversity through development, provide funding for biodiversity enhancements outside of developments, whilst allowing the planning process to be more efficient for developers. However, the set up and running of such schemes require ecological expertise, either from the local authority or an independent 'broker'. Where relevant, the LNP will seek to influence the development of such schemes, which could involve identifying biodiversity offset areas and appropriate brokers to support the set up and administration of an offsetting scheme.



The Eco-depot uses

76%

less energy than a traditional air-conditioned office.



York City Council's Eco-depot, one of Europe's largest timber frame straw bale clad buildings.

9. Green Infrastructure Network

The natural environment will provide the best benefits for wildlife, people and the economy if it is strengthened and integrated throughout our landscapes. A good way of achieving this is through a Green Infrastructure approach.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is the network of rural and urban spaces which collectively provide a wide range of services integral to people's health and quality of life. It includes habitats such as woodlands, moorlands and rivers, as well as coastal rocky shore and reefs, beaches, cliffs, dunes and inshore waters. Cultural and designated historic sites are included, such as historic buildings, parks and gardens, and ancient monuments as well as footpaths, hedgerows and game covers found in the wider countryside. GI also includes allotments, public parks and other urban open spaces.

The [Yorkshire & Humber Green Infrastructure Mapping Project \(2010\)](#) provides a useful starting point for a long term vision of a stronger, better connected and better integrated natural environment in North Yorkshire and York. The corridors are indicative, highlighting where consideration of Green Infrastructure issues should be addressed.

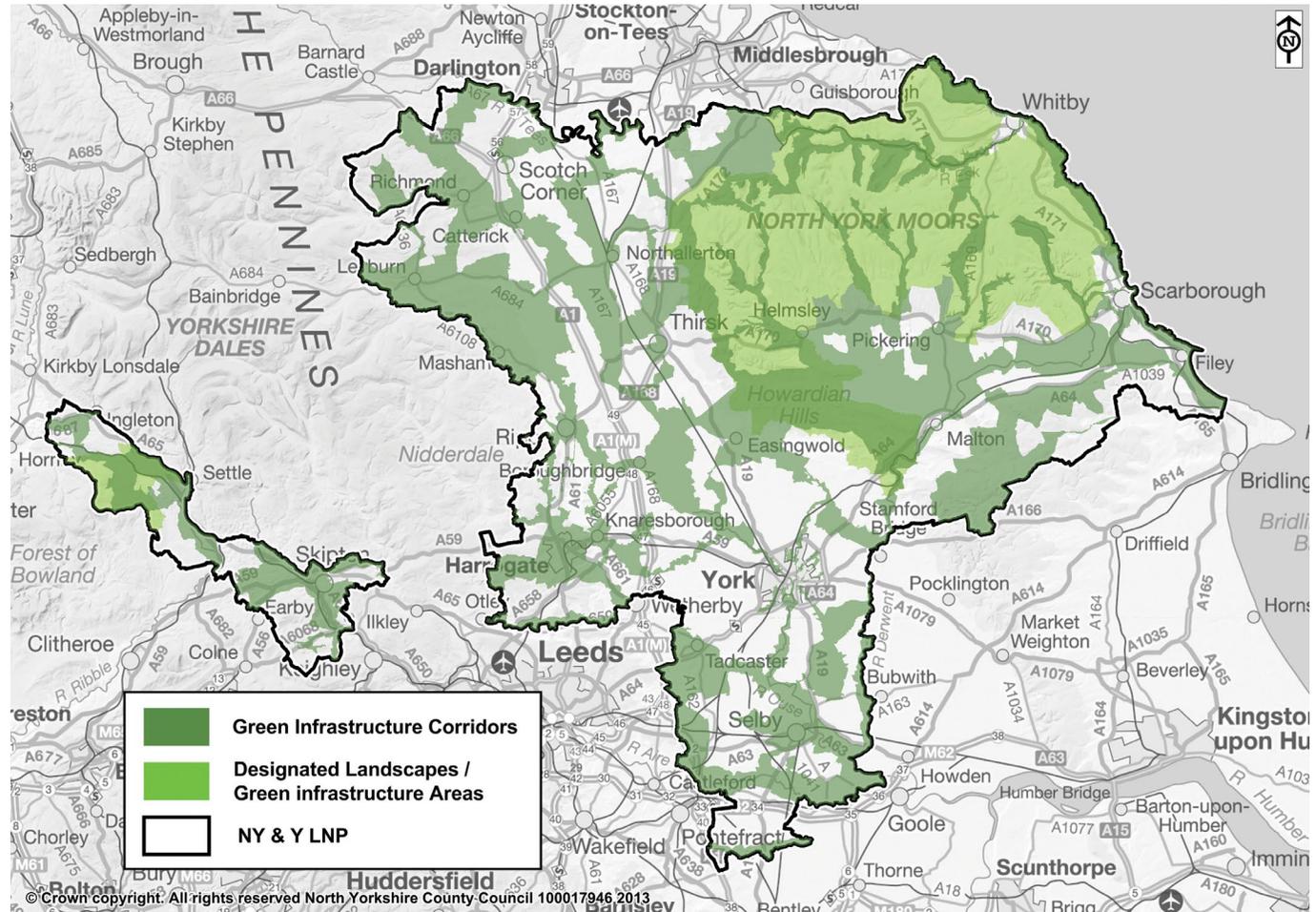


Figure 3: North Yorkshire and York section of the Yorkshire and Humber Green Infrastructure Network

Therefore further interrogation will be required when developing localised projects to ensure that existing and potential wildlife sites and corridors are clearly defined, as these will be the primary focus of the LNP. High quality wildlife sites and clear linear corridors are less likely to be found in more developed urban areas. Instead more focus will be given to enhancing wildlife in green spaces to act as stepping stones for wildlife to move between urban areas and the open countryside.

Figure 3 shows a strategic map of the Yorkshire GI network across the LNP area. Each of the corridors has been assessed as important regionally, sub-regionally or at district level, based on the range of benefits they can provide (see Figure 4).

The concentration of assets in the National Parks and AONBs was recognised to be so high that they were classified as Green Infrastructure Areas. However, there are still corridors running through these areas which provide useful links between the designated and non-designated landscapes.

Developing Green Infrastructure allows exciting opportunities to link nature, health and wellbeing and the economy. Investment in Green Infrastructure can make a place more pleasant to live and work, create corridors that encourage walking and cycling, and make new developments climate resilient. For example, sustainable urban drainage schemes and rainwater gardens help alleviate flooding and pollution whilst creating recreational areas, and green roofs and green walls can provide heat and noise insulation. Tree lined streets and hedgerow trees help with urban cooling. These options can all have links to local food production. Such inward investment can help make businesses more efficient, by reducing running costs and creating a healthier and happier workforce.

This LNP recognises the important value of this regional GI project as a tool to help identify where activity can be best targeted.

CASE STUDY

Developing local Green Infrastructure

Harrogate Borough Council is an example of a planning authority that has developed a specific GI planning policy (IN2), supported by local projects and detailed mapping that sets out local corridors and priority areas. This latter work builds on the Yorkshire GI Mapping Project.

Harrogate Borough Council's **Green Infrastructure Guide** will help applicants and developers to ensure that proposals for development make the most of opportunities to improve existing and create new GI. The guide:

- Explains the benefits of GI in addressing a range of issues.
- Gives case studies of how GI can be incorporated into urban and rural developments of a range of sizes in the borough.
- Describes GI opportunities in the urban hubs of Knaresborough, Ripon and Harrogate.
- Includes a GI checklist for applicants and developers to show how the Council expects proposals for development to meet the requirements of their GI Policy.

Opportunities highlighted in the guide can help towards the LNP's objectives, and gives a good example of maximising the benefits a development can bring to people and the local environment.

The guide won a Landscape Institute Award in 2013 in the Policy and Research Category.



10. Priority areas



River Ure in Ripon.

Establishing a fully integrated network of Green Infrastructure across the whole of the LNP area will take a considerable number of years to achieve. To maximise the effectiveness of its collective resources, the LNP will work in select areas of the network. After an initial five years, these areas will be reviewed and new areas of the network will be selected as appropriate.

Figure 4 shows the initial landscapes where the LNP will focus on delivering its objectives. The GI corridors have been simplified so that the priority areas are clearer, and show which

corridors are of regional, sub-regional or district importance.

Some of the chosen priority landscapes have existing local partnerships and projects and some have been selected for their potential to become landscape-scale projects, or because of unique opportunities or threats within them. The LNP will tailor its approach to a

landscape depending on whether it is an existing or a proposed project area. The boundaries of the protected landscapes have not been narrowed down due to the range of resources and opportunities within them, but work will identify projects and activity within the area specific to LNP objectives. The list below shows which category each priority area falls into:

Rural Landscape priority areas

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Craven Lowlands | Existing project |
| 2. River Swale Landscape Project | Proposed project |
| 3. River Ure Landscape Project | Proposed project |
| 4. Selby Landscape Project | Proposed project |
| 5. Howardian Hills AONB (HH AONB) | Protected landscape |
| 6. Vale of Pickering Landscape Project | Existing project |
| 7. North York Moors National Park (NYMNP) and Coast | Protected landscape |

Urban Green Infrastructure priority areas

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| A. City of York | Proposed project |
| B. Harrogate Town | Proposed project |



Appendix 1 provides details on why these areas were selected as priority landscapes, example opportunities within them and links to objectives of the Local Enterprise Partnership Strategy and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Details of how the LNP will operate can be found in Section 12.

In December 2012 North Yorkshire County Council, on behalf of the LNP, commissioned Golders Associates to collate information on key sites and projects in each area. This resulted in a series of reports, including tables of opportunities in each area, and their links to the four LNP themes.

The work also captured ideas on boundaries and potential focus areas. Part of this work was to develop Statements of Ambition for each priority area. These intend to capture what is unique about each area, and help identify the key priorities and aspirations that the LNP will promote and pursue to help deliver its objectives. The Statements of Ambition can be seen in Table 2.

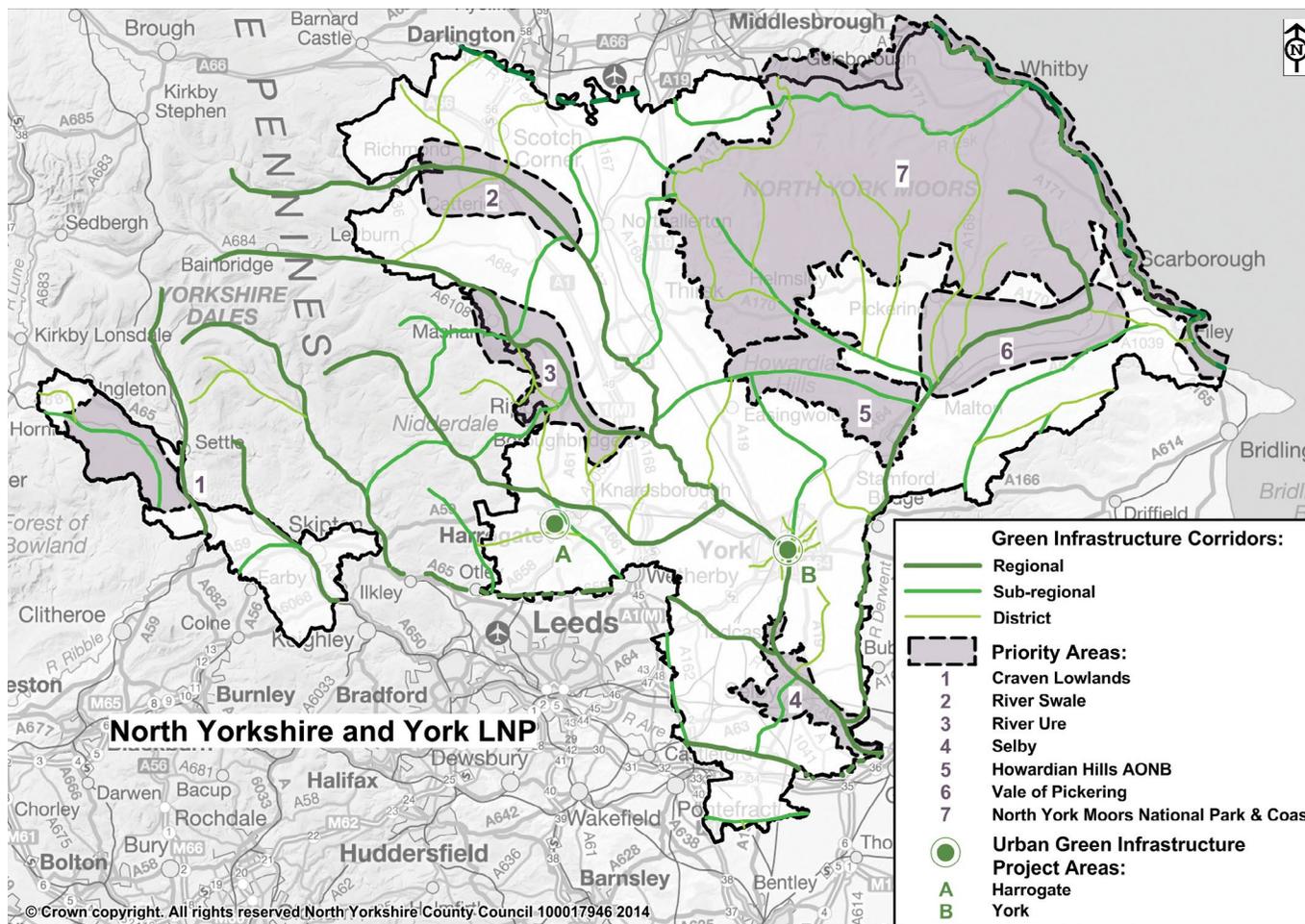


Figure 4: Initial LNP priority areas, in relation to Yorkshire and Humber GI Corridors

“To maximise the effectiveness of its collective resources the LNP will work in select areas of the network.”

Priority area	Statement of ambition
Craven Lowlands	Progressive enhancement of the valuable environmental, wildlife and cultural assets of the River Ribble and floodplain at Long Preston within sustainable farming systems. Actively encourage the use and enjoyment of these natural assets by strengthening connections to local businesses, communities, schools and the wider public.
River Swale	The River Swale Priority Area group will work to sustainably protect and enhance the unique natural and cultural heritage assets of the river corridor and wider landscape. Recreational connectivity will be enhanced throughout the area; improving access for the benefit of communities, visitors and the local economy. Connections between the natural assets, cultural assets, urban areas and local communities will be encouraged. Promotion of revenue generation through green tourism will support nature improvement projects throughout the corridor. Through the LNP, coordination of mineral restoration plans will be linked to ensure natural connections are maximised to their full potential.
River Ure	The brand of the River Ure will be enhanced and promoted; revenue generation will be used to support nature improvement projects throughout the corridor. Connectivity will be enhanced throughout the river corridor for the benefit of nature, which in turn benefits communities, economy and climate change. Connections along river corridors will link the rich network of historic parks and cultural sites, creating a 'brand' for the Ure corridor that can be celebrated. Central to the Ure Valley brand is Ripon, which acts as the gateway to the area. Through the LNP, coordination of mineral restoration plans will be linked, to enhance connectivity and help reinforce the Ure brand.
Selby	To create a unique and inspiring landscape by celebrating and integrating the rich industrial and cultural heritage of the area; and by engaging with communities, empowering them to interact with and benefit from their local environment.
HH AONB	Conserve, protect and enhance this traditional and tranquil natural landscape for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy; promote sustainable development, to sympathetically manage and preserve the diverse natural and cultural assets of the area, while promoting and enhancing farming, forestry and other areas of the rural economy; increase opportunities for communities and visitors to enjoy and benefit from the AONB by improving links and accessibility and raising awareness of the area.
Vale of Pickering	The Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire's hidden vale, will be promoted as a destination for nature and cultural tourism. The area has a unique location as a bridging and transient zone between protected uplands, the urban conurbations to the west and the east coast. The LNP will support a change in farming to ensure the restoration and preservation of peat and carbon storage and the development of land management practices that enhance the natural and ecological environment.
NYMNP and coast	Conserve and enhance the natural environment through an ecosystems approach that increases the value of the area for wildlife, communities and the economy; maintain and promote an integrated landscape that recognises the diversity of habitat, including coastline, rivers, woodland, grassland and moorland; and by promoting opportunities for communities, businesses and visitors to maximise the benefits that this vitally important resource provides them in a sustainable way.

Table 2: North Yorkshire and York LNP Priority Area Statements of Ambition

11. Working in the priority areas

The LNP will coordinate activity with strategic partners for each area based on the key themes and objectives. The opportunities highlighted in the priority areas will be developed having due regard to a range of existing relevant documentation, strategies and evidence bases. Where partners and projects are active in priority areas, the LNP will seek to add value to their work, avoiding duplication or confusion.

The most effective, lasting solutions to environmental management are those that have strong community support and involvement. There are many active individuals and local groups taking action and making real differences on the ground. A role of the LNP is to identify the potential to join up local projects at a landscape scale to deliver significant and integrated benefits.

The North York Moors National Park and the Howardian Hills AONB are good examples of places within the LNP boundary where continued work with landowners, land managers and other partners has led to landscapes that provide a wide range of services for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy. Much can be learned from the approach taken in these areas and applied to

other landscapes across the LNP area where environmental assets are more fragmented and their management less co-ordinated.

The LNP will not be able to work with all the individual nature projects in its area, instead focussing on those active in the priority areas. However, the partnership is keen to hear from any projects outside these areas who feel they

are exemplars in any of the LNP themes, to act as case studies and explore opportunities for mutual benefit.

To achieve significant landscape gains reasonably large sums of money are likely to be needed. Particular focus will be given to funding sources that provide substantial amounts, e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund, LIFE+



Long Preston Wet Grassland Project area, part of the Craven Lowlands.

and Water Framework Directive funding. The LNP will also seek to influence new agri-environment funding and other funding streams most effectively with regard to landscape scale delivery and maximise benefits from it going forward. Biodiversity offsetting schemes may present opportunities for nature conservation, and some local authorities have already expressed an interest in this approach. A role of the LNP is to help identify funding opportunities for local projects in the priority areas, and provide support where possible to allow these to deliver work on the ground.

The LNP has forged strong links with the LEP growth strategy, to help ensure the potential of European funds for projects is maximised to help support LNP objectives and make the economy of North Yorkshire and York more prosperous.

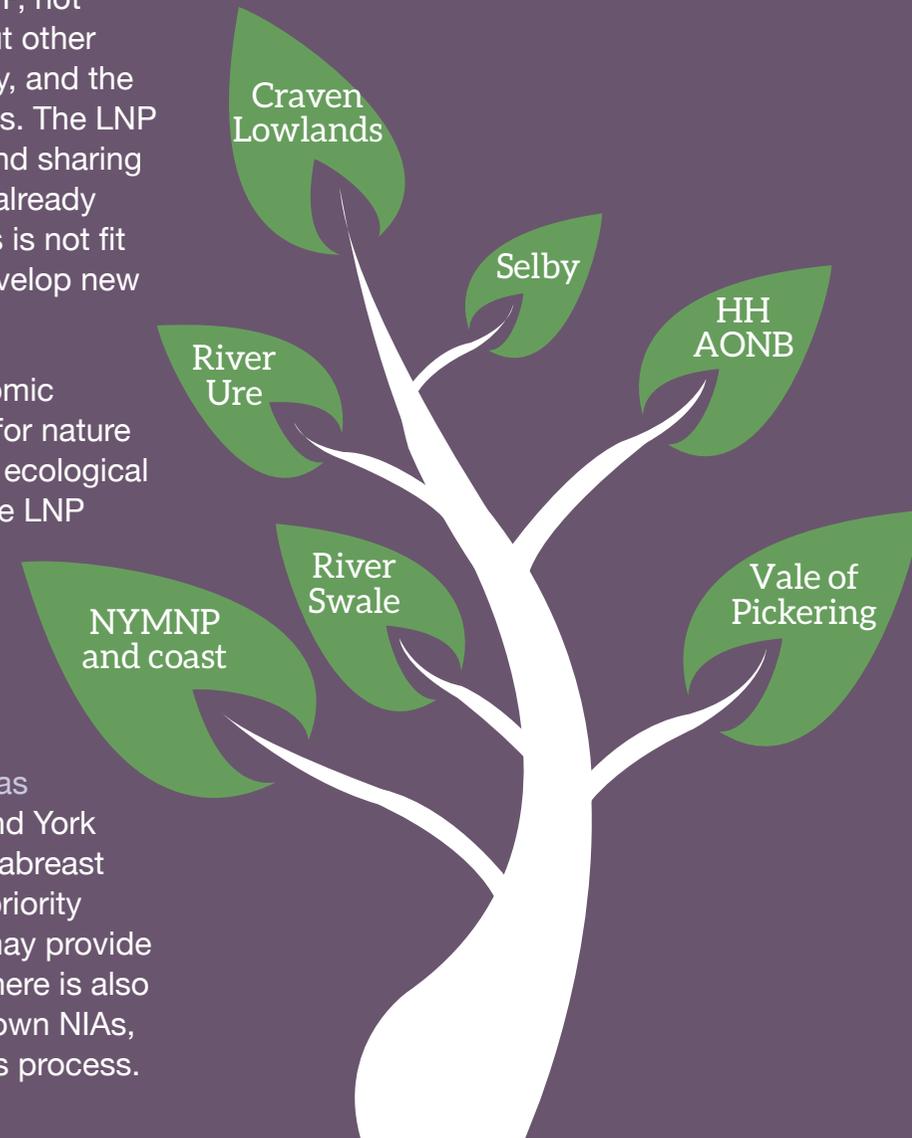
The LNP will inform and encourage communications and feedback on national and international events in its area, to minimise damage to the natural environment and secure future benefits. For example, Le Grand Depart of the Tour de France in 2014, brought an international audience of hundreds of thousands to North Yorkshire, recognising and appreciating the beauty of the area's landscapes. Despite the event being limited to the Yorkshire Dales area, its legacy can be

found across Yorkshire, with more residents and visitors accessing the countryside of North Yorkshire and York sustainably.

Research and monitoring will be necessary to understand the impact of the LNP, not just about species and habitats, but other areas such as soil and water quality, and the public's awareness of wildlife issues. The LNP will encourage an understanding and sharing of what reporting and recording is already taking place by partners, and if this is not fit for LNP purposes, it will look to develop new monitoring.

Sustainable and appropriate economic growth whilst maximising benefits for nature can only take place if there is clear ecological data to inform decision making. The LNP will advocate availability of good quality information and determine whether current practices can be more efficient.

There are currently no Government endorsed Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) within the North Yorkshire and York LNP boundary. The LNP will keep abreast of future opportunities to have its priority areas recognised as NIAs, which may provide funding and other opportunities. There is also scope for LNPs to designate their own NIAs, and we will explore the value of this process.



12. LNP structure and operation

The full partnership structure consists of the LNP Board and Delivery Groups enabling free-flowing communication and feedback from all partnership members.

Partnership Board and champions

The LNP is directed by a Partnership Board (the Board), which currently consists of 12 members. Representation is balanced between local authorities, the community and voluntary sector, and other Government and non-government organisations.

Membership of the Board comprises representatives of:

- North Yorkshire County Council
- City of York Council
- Harrogate and Selby District Councils (on behalf of the North Yorkshire district authorities)
- North York Moors National Park Authority
- Howardian Hills AONB Team
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
- York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership
- Natural England (on behalf of all DEFRA bodies)
- English Heritage
- North Yorkshire and York Forum
- National Farmers' Union

The current list of Board members can be found at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/lnp and the terms of reference for the LNP are located in [Appendix 2](#).

Board members hold a senior position within their organisation and have sufficient influence to steer resource and action planning. The Board provides overall leadership and agrees the strategic priorities for the partnership. Board members act as champions for a specific Delivery Group based on priority area, sector or theme.

Board membership will be reviewed regularly and where necessary additional board members will be invited to join to reflect new work areas or sectorial needs.

Delivery Groups and lead officers

Each champion is connected to a lead officer responsible for co-ordinating Delivery Groups within a priority area, sector or theme. A Delivery Group could be long term or temporary (task and finish) depending on the nature of the work they are delivering, or expertise sought from existing groups, such as the North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group. Figure 5 illustrates the partnership structure. The lead officer works with the Board champion to report on progress and lever support and influence from other partners as appropriate. The champion

and lead officer are not always from the same organisation. The action plans for the individual projects or work streams of the LNP are live documents which are updated on an annual basis. They can be found at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/lnp.

The membership of the LNP is open to all individuals, organisations and groups connected to LNP activity or projects. The LNP wishes to be fully inclusive and also welcomes anyone with an interest in its work to become a member even if they are not directly connected to current activity within the LNP.

Performance and monitoring

The LNP will break down the high level targets in Table 1 into the individual priority areas. The Board champions and lead officers will monitor progress through the development of performance indicators based around the LNP themes. Links to existing partnerships that report on benefits to the natural environment, such as the Local BAP partnerships, the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) partnership and project partnerships will be established to maximise efficiency of reporting and minimise bureaucracy, using existing reporting mechanisms such as the [Biodiversity Action Reporting System](#).

Areas of best practice identified within a specific sector, theme or project will be highlighted to see if they are applicable elsewhere. Local projects struggling with strategic issues will be discussed by the Board and, if appropriate, a task and finish group may be formed to help address the matter.

Partnership structure



Figure 5: LNP Partnership Structure

Communications

The partnership will identify a range of communications methods to keep organisations abreast of developments and share knowledge and expertise. It will also promote the successes of the LNP with the public and raise awareness of issues as necessary. Communication methods may include website development, newsletters, e-forums and workshops.

Other strategic partnerships

The LNP will work with a range of local and national partnerships and groups to deliver its objectives efficiently, identify funding opportunities and promote the benefit of the natural environment to a variety of sectors. The key partnerships are shown in Figure 6, but others will be identified as the LNP develops.

“The membership of the LNP is open to all individuals, organisations and groups connected to LNP activity or projects.”



Figure 6: National and local partnerships relevant to the work of the LNP

13. Next steps

The LNP was formally launched and the strategy adopted in summer 2014. Initial LNP activity will focus on the priority areas, led by the relevant champions. This work will aim to make the high level targets more meaningful to groups working on the ground, and help them understand the benefits their work has as part of a bigger vision for the area. It is hoped the work and opportunities in the priority areas will lead to a series of cohesive landscapes across North Yorkshire and York.

The LNP and its strategy will be reviewed after five years, to keep it in line with changes in national policy and monitor if its objectives and targets are still relevant.



Appendix 1

Summary of the seven LNP priority areas, their relevance against the LNP themes, example opportunities and how these could support other strategic partnership priorities

Craven Lowlands priority area					
Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and Communities	Economy	Climate change	
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential expansion of current successful Long Preston Wet Grassland Project and Ribble Restoration Plan, which is restoring the River Ribble SSSI and surrounding environment • Opportunities to continue river restoration • Combined management of the historic environment and increased biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with local landowners and engaging with village communities • Localised walking trail • Enhancing sense of place and community cohesion • Volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased tourism potential • Local business networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural floodplain wetland • Increasing carbon storage through habitat creation • Enhanced natural corridors for species migration • Wetland and lowland peat carbon storage 	
Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes			
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Improve connections into the priority area from Settle.	Opportunity to use Settle as a gateway and access hub, provide new crossing links over A65.		X	X	
Investigate options for regionally unique food produce, e.g. Long Preston Wet Grassland Project Beef.	Promote local produce, high quality, locally sourced, sustainable, organic options to a premium market.	X	X	X	X
Links to other strategies					
Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus				
York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Profitable and ambitious small and micro businesses. A UK leader in food, agriculture and biorenewables. Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses. A workforce with the skills that businesses need to grow.				
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Healthy and sustainable communities. Emotional health and wellbeing. People with long-term conditions. Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes.				

River Swale priority area						
Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and communities	Economy		Climate change	
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for river restoration, increased biodiversity and management of the historic environment • Better co-ordination of quarry restoration projects in the Scorton area • Habitat buffering along rivers to prevent run off and diffuse pollution from agricultural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access and recreation for local centres of population (Richmond, Catterick Garrison) • Maintaining and enhancing sense of place • Volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food produce, farming heritage, local businesses networking • Increased tourism potential • Business networking in areas of focused opportunity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow river to re-connect with natural floodplain • Enhanced natural corridors for species migration • Increasing carbon storage through habitat creation 	
Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes				
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change	
Area-wide minerals restoration strategy for River Swale priority area.	Work with minerals operators to produce corridor-wide minerals restoration strategy. Develop masterplan for whole river corridor. Link with other LNP features, e.g. PROW, leisure destinations, SSSIs, SINCs, parks and gardens.	X	X	X	X	
Build upon existing nature and cultural assets to create 'destinations' in the priority area.	Identify assets with potential to be grouped/expanded as 'destinations', e.g. potential Tancred education centre, area popular for bird watchers, car park, improve interpretation and create a destination for communities and visitors.	X	X	X		
Links to other strategies						
Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus					
York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Profitable and ambitious small and micro businesses. Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses. A workforce with the skills that businesses need to grow.					
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Healthy and sustainable communities. Emotional health and wellbeing. People living with deprivation. Social isolation and its impact on mental and wider aspects of people's health. Create opportunities to support, expand and grow the contribution people can make in developing safer, supportive communities. Maximise opportunities for local economic and job development, including continued development of a more sustainable transport system. Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes.					

River Ure priority area					
Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and communities	Economy		Climate change
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for river restoration, increased biodiversity and management of the historic environment • Better co-ordination of quarry restoration projects between Masham and Ripon • Habitat buffering along rivers to prevent run off and diffuse pollution from agricultural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access and recreation for local centres of population (Ripon, Boroughbridge, Masham) • Longer distance walking and cycling routes between key sites along the Ure • Maintaining and enhancing sense of place • Volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food produce, farming heritage, local businesses • Increased tourism potential • Business networking in areas of focused opportunity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow river to re-connect with natural floodplain • Enhanced natural corridors for species migration • Increasing carbon storage through habitat creation
Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes			
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Improve fish habitats.	Work with Ure Salmon Trust to improve habitats for migratory fish and travel along river through weirs.	X	X	X	X
Ripon neighbourhood plan.	Work with Ripon City Council in the development of the neighbourhood plan. The priority area can provide sites for environmental improvements implemented on the back of development. Work with 'Discover Ripon Hub' and GRIP (Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership).	X	X	X	
Links to other strategies					
Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus				
York North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses. A workforce with the skills that businesses need to grow.				
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	<p>Healthy and sustainable communities.</p> <p>Emotional health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Social isolation and its impact on mental and wider aspects of people's health.</p> <p>Create opportunities to support, expand and grow the contribution people can make in developing safer, supportive communities.</p> <p>Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes.</p> <p>Maximise opportunities for local economic and job development, including continued development of a more sustainable transport system.</p>				

Selby priority area					
Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change	
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland enhancement project to demonstrate the various uses of wetland and open water habitats Opportunities for river restoration and increased biodiversity Habitat buffering along rivers to prevent run off and diffuse pollution from agricultural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access for communities in Selby and surrounding villages for health and wellbeing Enhancing sense of place and community cohesion Improvements to degraded landscape character Volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased tourism potential Potential for bio-fuel crops sensitively placed within mosaic of wetland habitats Increased access via water heritage trails and links with visitor attractions in the area Increased inward investment, business re-location and house pricing due to enhanced character of place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow River Ouse to re-connect with natural floodplain Enhanced natural corridors for species migration Increasing carbon storage through habitat creation 	
Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes			
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Use of industrial landscape.	Change derelict areas into assets to create opportunities for unique identity such as large scale land art through reclamation. Utilise examples such as the Landschafts Park (Germany), The High Line (New York), and the Gas Works Park (Seattle).	X	X	X	
Utilise disused railway lines as pedestrian and cycle links.	Identify railway lines and potential links to existing destinations, urban areas and pedestrian cycle routes. Opportunities to create features along routes to give identity (e.g. 'solar system' cycle route between York and Selby).	X	X	X	
Links to other strategies					
Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus				
York North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Profitable and ambitious small and micro businesses. A UK leader in food, agriculture and biorenewables. Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses. A workforce with the skills that businesses need to grow.				
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Healthy and sustainable communities. Emotional health and wellbeing. People with long-term conditions. Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes. Social isolation and its impact on mental and wider aspects of people's health. Create opportunities to support, expand and grow the contribution people can make in developing safer, supportive communities. Maximise opportunities for local economic and job development, including continued development of a more sustainable transport system.				

Howardian Hills AONB priority area

Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Protected landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of landscape character • Restoration of a series of habitats on a landscape scale for biodiversity and geodiversity • Archaeology and historical features • Historic houses and gardens, abbeys and monasteries • Invasive plant control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access and recreation • Important educational opportunities on cultural and natural heritage • Community participation in project planning and volunteering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased tourism potential • Promotion of economic links with habitat restoration, e.g. forestry grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced natural corridors for species migration • Increasing carbon storage through habitat creation

Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes			
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Utilise existing 'hubs' as a way to draw visitors to natural areas.	Investigate creation of links from 'hubs' to wider natural landscape. Provide facilities and information at these locations, linking to natural and cultural assets within the area. Improve existing public rights of way, disused railway lines or create new links.	X	X	X	
Improve habitat connectivity.	Look at connectivity mapping and identify 'gaps'. This will provide a starting point for prioritising areas to connect these sites.	X	X		X

Links to other strategies

Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus
York North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses. A workforce with the skills that businesses need to grow.
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Healthy and sustainable communities. Emotional health and wellbeing. People with long-term conditions. Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes. Social isolation and its impact on mental and wider aspects of people's health. Create opportunities to support, expand and grow the contribution people can make in developing safer, supportive communities. Maximise opportunities for local economic and job development, including continued development of a more sustainable transport system.

Vale of Pickering (VOP) priority area

Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining together of the successful Cayton and Flixton Wetland Project with the work being undertaken on the prehistoric archaeology • Combined management of the historic environment and increased biodiversity • Opportunities for river restoration • Habitat buffering along rivers to prevent run off and diffuse pollution from agricultural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access and recreation • Green links and transport links between Scarborough and VOP • Enhancing sense of place and community cohesion • Volunteering opportunities • Targeted work with deprived communities on access to nature for health and wellbeing • Enhanced awareness and educational understanding of local landscape significance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments to local farmers and land managers • Increased tourism potential by creation of visitor centre and footpath routes to features of interest • Business networking in areas of focused opportunity • Links into Nature Tourism Triangle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow River Derwent to re-connect with natural floodplain • Enhanced natural corridors for species migration • Increasing carbon storage through protection of natural peat resource and wetland habitat creation

Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes			
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Preservation of peatlands.	Change farming practices to prevent further drying of the peat. Drying leading to degradation of organic archaeological remains and release of carbon into atmosphere.	X		X	X
Health and education.	Increase access to nature areas for health, wellbeing and education purposes. The Vale of Pickering is a vast external resource for neighbouring population centres of Scarborough, Malton and Pickering.		X	X	

Links to other strategies

Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus
York North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Profitable and ambitious small and micro businesses. A UK leader in food, agriculture and biorenewables. Distinctive market and coastal towns that run as successful businesses.
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Healthy and sustainable communities. Emotional health and wellbeing. People with long-term conditions. Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes. Social isolation and its impact on mental and wider aspects of people's health. Create opportunities to support, expand and grow the contribution people can make in developing safer, supportive communities.

North York Moors National Park and Coast priority area

Existing or proposed project area	Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Protected landscape (and surrounding linked areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important ecological networks covering a range of habitats e.g. woodland, grassland, moorland, wetland, coastal and marine • Large areas of ancient woodland, commercial forestry plantation and a nationally significant veteran tree resource • Extensive tracts of internationally designated heather moorland, with blanket peat and upland bird assemblages • A diverse coastline with active natural processes and coastal stream catchments, in particular the River Esk harbouring key priority species (e.g. salmon, trout, freshwater pearl mussel) • River valleys interlinked with complex networks of wetland, grassland and woodland that support rare and threatened species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant market towns and attractive villages along the coast and throughout the wider National Park • Close proximity to large population centres, including deprived communities for whom accessing the natural environment is often difficult but which may improve their quality of life • An extensive rights of way and open access network, including national trails and visitor infrastructure • Important educational opportunities and links with academic institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant tourism economy with a network of tourism businesses who already work together to promote the North York Moors brand • A farming landscape that holds a diverse range of agricultural sectors including upland hill farming, dairy, pigs, poultry and arable • Contribution of the country sports sector to the area's rural economy including shooting, fishing and horse riding • Strong links between local farming and retailers based on quality local produce • A profitable forestry sector • A landscape that provides crucial ecosystem services for the economy including food, fuel, clean water and natural flood risk management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability to climate change for habitats and species at the edge of their range • Communities living in potentially hazardous environments, e.g. coastal erosion and flood zones • Natural flood risk management for surrounding areas as storm conditions increase, e.g. Slowing the Flow Project for the Pickering catchment • Increasing carbon storage through habitat creation/restoration, e.g. peatland and woodland • Consider and minimise the impact of coastal squeeze and the evolution of habitats primarily due to sea level rise • Small scale renewables being developed within communities

Examples of opportunities	How	LNP themes			
		Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Improve community connections.	Promote sustainable and nature-based tourism that recognises the role the natural environment plays in providing a quality offer and brings investment into the area that benefits biodiversity. Investigate options for utilising the ecological qualities of the area for educational purposes.	X	X	X	
Consider scope for carbon/biodiversity offsetting programmes.	Potentially deliver conservation goals and enhancement projects within the priority area as compensation for losses from other parts of area. Where appropriate initiate schemes to preserve peat. Develop the role the Park's woodland and forestry can play in climate change mitigation.	X	X	X	X

Links to other strategies

Strategy	Theme or priority area for focus
North York Moors National Park Management Plan	All.
York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership	Annex C to the Strategic Economic Plan provides a Local Growth Plan for the LEP's protected areas which sets out a range of positive ways in which these areas can support the delivery of all of the LEP's priorities.
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Healthy and sustainable communities. Emotional health and wellbeing. People with long-term conditions. Encourage positive lifestyle behaviour changes. Create opportunities to support, expand and grow the contribution people can make in developing safer, supportive communities.

Pilot Green Infrastructure area	Nature	People and communities	Economy	Climate change
Harrogate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance wildlife in urban parks and green spaces to act as stepping stones between the town centre and open countryside Develop links between the natural and historic features of the town to enhance sense of place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access for recreation and active travel Integrated partnership working with town neighbourhoods on projects and volunteering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased inward investment Increased tourism potential Business networking in areas of focused opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of wildlife stepping stones for species Develop and promote green travel routes for walking and cycling to reduce carbon emissions Enhanced tree planting and vegetation to provide cooling effect in town centres Maximise sustainable urban drainage potential of green spaces Explore opportunities for green roof projects
York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance wildlife in urban parks and green spaces to act as stepping stones between the city centre and open countryside Maximise wildlife corridor opportunities along the rivers Develop links between the natural and historic features of the town to enhance sense of place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access for recreation and active travel Maximise access routes alongside the rivers to connect the urban centre to the wider countryside Integrated partnership working with town neighbourhoods on projects and volunteering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased inward investment Increased tourism potential Business networking in areas of focused opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of wildlife stepping stones for species Develop and promote green travel routes for walking and cycling to reduce carbon emissions building on York's existing success in this area Enhanced tree planting and vegetation to provide cooling effect in town centres Maximise sustainable urban drainage potential of green spaces Identify areas for passive river flooding and develop them as landscaped flood parks Explore opportunities for green roof projects



Appendix 2

Terms of Reference North Yorkshire and York LNP

Function of the LNP

The LNP Board will be responsible for:

- Setting the direction of the LNP, defining priorities based on a GI approach that will generate multiple benefits for nature, people and the economy.
- Ensuring that the LNP's strategy is up-to-date, relevant and reflects the views of the partnership and the needs of the local area.
- Developing working relationships with existing Delivery Groups and setting up long term or temporary (task and finish) Delivery Groups as required.
- Engaging with regional and national organisations to promote and support the delivery of LNP objectives.
- Developing a communication plan as a means to communicate and engage with a wider audience, promote the identity of the LNP and also gather feedback on future action and priorities as put forward by the public.
- Ensuring the future sustainability of the partnership.

- Channelling existing resources into agreed partnership activity and applying for external funding where required.
- Monitoring the performance of the partnership and setting targets.
- Raising awareness of the LNP's work with other decision-making bodies in the sub-region, such as the LEP and the Health and Wellbeing Boards.



The LNP Delivery Groups will be responsible for:

- Developing specific activity and performance measures based on LNP priorities; utilising existing documentation, strategies and local knowledge relevant to the partnership.
- Consulting with local strategic partnerships on community engagement.
- Ensuring that the vision of the partnership is realised and targets are met.
- Supporting wider public engagement by internally and externally communicating relevant progress and achievements.
- Promoting good practice and sharing knowledge on successful activities.

The Role of Board Members

Chair

To provide leadership for the Board, and to act as an influential advocate for the partnership's vision.

Principal duties and responsibilities:

- To champion the vision of the North Yorkshire and York LNP and build support for the aims and priorities of the partnership.
- To foster a supportive and productive partnership approach to deliver the LNP's vision.
- To chair meetings of the LNP, having regard to agreed procedures.
- Represent the LNP at appropriate events, meetings or functions.
- Act as a spokesperson for the LNP where appropriate.
- Fulfil their duties in a manner that is free from political bias and influence.



Board members

To assist the LNP in developing and delivering its aims and objectives by:

- Helping identify priority actions and setting targets for the LNP, utilising their group or organisation's existing knowledge, contacts and methods.
- Acting as a champion for their chosen priority area, theme or sector.
- Contributing to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of partnership policies, strategies and activities.
- Influencing the strategies and plans of relevant organisations and groups in order to complement the aims and purpose of the LNP.
- Representing the LNP and its objectives at public meetings, events and workshops as necessary and promote and champion the work of the LNP.
- Operating in an open, accessible, responsive and accountable manner and represent the interests of their sector at partnership meetings.
- Reporting the outcome of LNP meetings to their organisation/partners.
- Acting in a way that promotes a culture of mutual respect.
- Promoting equality of opportunity in the work of the LNP.



Common Spotted Orchid.

Lead officers

To act as a link between the LNP Board and Delivery Groups by:

- Preparing activity and performance measures for Delivery Groups working with their designated LNP Board champion.
- Prepare progress reports for the designated LNP Board champion.
- Report back to delivery groups on the outcome of LNP Board meetings.

Operational arrangements

All groups within the LNP will be expected to work in line with the operation arrangements below:

- The board will meet quarterly to set strategic direction and monitor progress.
- All partner organisations should ensure that appropriate representatives attend meetings. Where the nominated representative is unable to attend, a suitable substitute must be sent in their place.
- It is hoped that the Board should normally be able to reach agreement on recommendations by discussion and consensus but where required, each member shall be entitled to one vote.
- Where a decision is needed urgently, the Chair has delegated authority to make the decision. This must then be reported to the next meeting for retrospective agreement.
- Where there is no majority consensus, the Chair will place a casting vote.

- Absentee voting will be permitted provided that the Chair has been notified of the individual Board member's vote prior to meeting.
- No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless a minimum of six members of the Board are present.
- The Chair sits for two years and can be re-elected up to three times.
- Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.
- Membership of the LNP Board will be reviewed every two years.
- All members can request an item for consideration to go on the agenda.
- All members must declare any potential conflicts of interest to the Chair prior to the commencement of Board meetings.
- The Board can temporarily co-opt a new Board member with particular expertise or invite representatives to meetings to discuss particular issues.
- The agenda and supporting reports will be circulated at least one week in advance.
- Past agenda, minutes and reports will be available to the public.

Secretariat

North Yorkshire County Council will act as secretariat for the LNP until March 2015. After this, there is potential for the secretariat function to be provided by another LNP Board member's organisation on a rolling basis.

The secretariat will assist and support the function of the LNP and provide secretariat to Delivery Groups where no equivalent post currently exists.

Accountable body:

North Yorkshire County Council will act as the accountable body of the partnership. This role will include:

- Administering and taking responsibility for any central funds awarded to the LNP, ensuring that structural financial procedures are in compliance with NYCC financial regulations or the requirements of the funding party.
- Ensuring that funding resources are spent according to agreed plans and priorities.
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems of auditing and monitoring spend.

Appendix 3

Designations and landscape assets of the North Yorkshire and York LNP

The LNP area contains*:

- One of England's nine National Parks (North York Moors National Park)
- One designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Howardian Hills) and part of a second (Forest of Bowland)
- A stunning heritage coast
- 13 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- 5 Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- 1 Ramsar
- 150 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- 4 National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- 12 Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- 749 Sites/Candidate Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- 148 Sites of Local Interest (SLI) (York only)
- 10,251 listed buildings
- 1,441 scheduled monuments and many thousands more undesignated heritage assets recorded in Historic Environment Records
- 40 registered parks and gardens
- 5 registered battlefields
- 1 protected wreck
- 1 Area of Archaeological Importance
- The largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe
- The longest rights of way network in the country covering a total distance of 7050 km/4380 miles

* The number of designations is subject to change.



Appendix 4

An indication of potential for restoring/expanding priority habitat by National Character Area (NCA) across North Yorkshire and York LNP area, based on a Natural England study

Priority Habitat	Area within NCAs (ha)*	Area adjusted to LNP area (ha)**	Flood alleviation habitats in LNP area	Pollination habitats in LNP area	Carbon sequestration habitats in LNP area (excludes woodland)	Comments
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	420	420				
Traditional orchard	375	250		x		
Hedgerows	80	60	x	x		Assumes average width of two metres
Ponds	175	100	x			Assumes mean pond size of 0.05 ha
Arable field margins	5,760	1,900		x		No particular width assumed for this figure
Lowland heath	170	70			x	
Lowland dry acid grassland	355	200		x		
Lowland meadow	560	460		x		
Lowland calcareous grassland	400	220		x		
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	560	350				
Upland hay meadows	35	35		x		
Upland calcareous grassland	205	205		x		
Upland heathland	205	205			x	
Upland flushes, fens and swamps	260	190	x		x	
Lowland fens	300	150	x		x	
Reedbeds	115	60	x		x	
Lowland raised bog	200	10			x	
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	1,275	825	x			
Maritime cliffs and slopes	20	15				
Total	11,470	5,725	1,385	3,330	685	

Some priority habitats were not included in this study, notably woodland, rivers and ponds. These are still key habitats for the LNP and work on these habitats will be captured. When habitat potential data becomes available for these habitats, they will be included.

* *Highlighted* figures show habitats that are mainly outside of the LNP area, e.g. Humberhead Levels, Yorkshire Wolds, Southern Magnesian Limestone.

** *Red* numbers reduced based solely on proportion of NCA in North Yorkshire and York LNP area. More work is required to quantify these more accurately.

Appendix 5

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Limestone country near Marske.

www.nypartnerships.org.uk/Inp

If you have any questions about the LNP contact us at:
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