

Consultation No.2: Exploring our options

AMBITIONS

This is the first of three ‘Exploring our options’ consultations designed to gather your thoughts on the direction of the travel that the new Local Plan should take.

Establishing a vision

The new Local Plan will contain a ‘vision’ and a set of ‘strategic objectives’ which will guide all development that takes place in the National Park during the Plan’s lifetime.

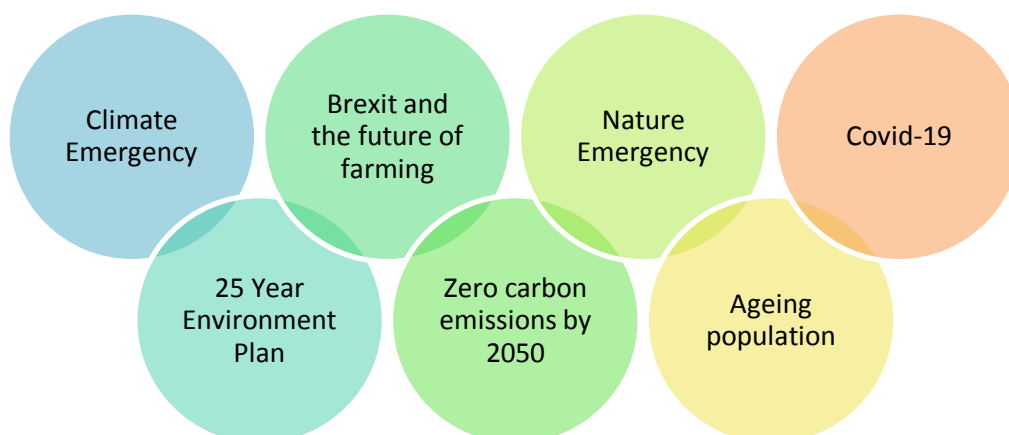
We have already consulted widely on a vision for the National Park as part of the National Park Management Plan, published last year. It is very important that the Management Plan and the Local Plan work in harmony and we believe that the Management Plan’s vision, which has been endorsed by all the District Councils, still holds true:

By 2040, the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be:

- *A distinctive, living, working, cultural landscape that tells the ongoing story of generations of people interacting with their environment.*
- *A friendly, open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities.*
- *Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England.*
- *Resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces.*
- *Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage, which underpin a flourishing local economy.*
- *Home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need.*

Facing up to new challenges

At the same time, we recognise that there have been a whole host of changes in the planning landscape since the last Local Plan was published, and it’s essential that our new Plan is responsive. It may be necessary for the new Plan to strengthen its policies or forge ahead in a new direction to ensure that we are addressing these challenges. We’ve highlighted some of these below.










Where next?

We've taken your ideas from the 'Setting the agenda' consultation, drawn out three of the most critical issues and set out three separate approaches for each that the Plan might take.

These are **Community sustainability**, **Carbon futures** and **On-farm development**.

To help you to consider which options to go for, we've thought about some of the likely impacts of each option. These impacts can be positive, negative or neutral, depending on your point of view. We've split these impacts into categories to make comparison easier. The categories are as follows:

	Impacts on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
	Impacts on the landscape.
	Impacts on natural capital* and ecosystem services**.
	Impacts on cultural heritage.
	Impacts on tourism and recreation opportunities for locals and visitors.
	Impacts on access.
	Impacts on communities, including on housing, wellbeing and services such as shops and schools.
	Impacts on the local economy.

* **Natural capital** describes the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things.





** **Ecosystem services** are derived from natural capital and these make human life possible. They include food, water and the plant materials we use for fuel, building materials and medicines. Other less visible ecosystem services include the climate regulation and natural flood defences provided by forests, the billions of tonnes of carbon stored by peatlands, or the pollination of crops by insects. Also included are spiritual and cultural services and the benefits which nature brings to our wellbeing.





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Community sustainability

These numbers have been taken from the strategic housing market assessment commissioned by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. It is available to view on our website.

	Option 1: No new homes	Option 2: 30 new homes per year 510 over the Plan period	Option 3: 70 new homes per year 1190 over the Plan period
Changes to planning policy	Other policy instruments required to stabilise population e.g. more controls on second homes and holiday lets.	Decrease from current target of 55 dwellings per year.	Increase from current target of 55 dwellings per year.
	GHG emissions saving.	GHG emissions from construction.	Higher level of GHG emissions from construction. Higher population means increased GHG emissions Higher housing numbers may allow for new low carbon technologies to be financed, such as local renewable energy production or district heating networks.
	Iconic landscape protected.	Potential for negative impact on landscape depending on design and location.	Potential for negative impact on landscape depending on design and location.
	No impact on natural capital. No financing of natural capital improvement through Biodiversity Net Gain.	Opportunity to off-set development impact by enhancing local nature through the Biodiversity Net Gain system. Potential for negative impacts if located on sites within flood plains, or where drainage systems are already at capacity.	Opportunity to off-set development impact by enhancing local nature through the Biodiversity Net Gain system. Potential for negative impacts if located on sites within flood plains, or where drainage systems are already at capacity.
	No impact on cultural heritage.	Potential for negative impact on cultural heritage depending on design and location.	Potential for negative impact on cultural heritage depending on design and location.

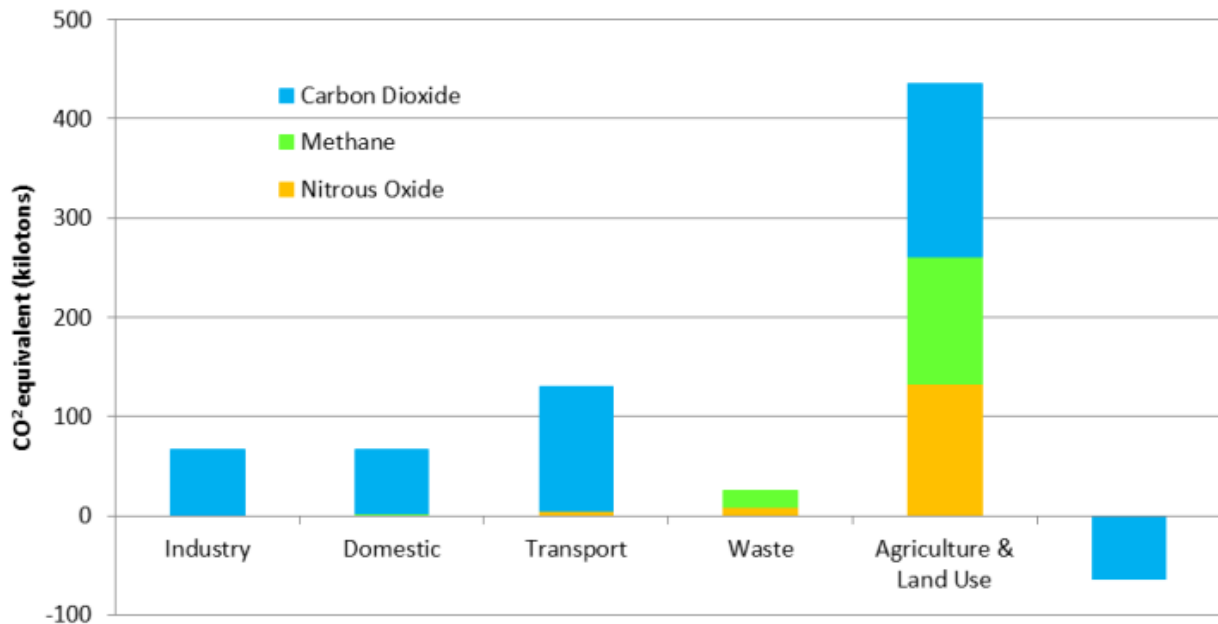
	<p>Population decline threatens local recreation services.</p> <p>Fewer workers available for tourism sector.</p>	<p>A stable population should help to retain services to support local tourism and recreation.</p>	<p>A growing population should retain and encourage new services to support local tourism and recreation.</p>
	<p>Population decline threatens the retention of public transport.</p>	<p>A stable population supports the retention of some public transport.</p>	<p>Population growth may secure the expansion of public transport provision.</p>
	<p>Population decline means that some existing services may be lost.</p> <p>Age imbalance threatens the future of local communities.</p> <p>Lack of young people means more local schools may close.</p>	<p>Maintains current population level but age imbalance remains a factor.</p> <p>Maintaining population level supports existing services.</p> <p>Lack of young people means that local schools may close.</p>	<p>Offers highest level of population growth and best chance to redress age imbalance (as long as young people can afford the new homes).</p> <p>Population growth retains services and encourages creation of new services.</p>
	<p>Population decline means fewer workers and lower local spending.</p>	<p>Potential to maintain working age population and local spending.</p> <p>Housebuilding supports the local construction industry.</p>	<p>More households in the Dales means more workers and more local spending.</p> <p>Housebuilding supports the local construction industry.</p>

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Carbon futures









The chart below shows the 'production-based' sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Yorkshire Dales using the most recent data sets available (2006 for carbon dioxide; 2008 for methane and nitrous oxide). On the basis of national trends, it is likely that carbon dioxide emissions will have fallen by around 30% since then.



Total emissions from the National Park are relatively low due to the small population and relative lack of development. However, emissions per head of population are relatively high. This is because of the distance to services; high dependency on travel by car, and the relative inefficiency of much of the housing stock.

The most significant source of emissions is farming and land management. However, it is also the most powerful potential tool for *removing* carbon dioxide from the atmosphere – through things like peatland restoration, improved soil management, and woodland planting. This is what the final column of the chart shows. The section on the Future of Farming and Land Management explores how this could be supported using different planning policy approaches.

This section focuses on what contribution the built environment can play in reducing carbon emissions. It is worth bearing in mind that national policy has an enormous part to play here. A new national 'Future Homes Standard' is currently being developed, so local planning authorities are discouraged from imposing their own energy efficiency standards for new homes. However, this does not stop us exploring how the new Local Plan could deliver low carbon futures.



	Option 1: Zero carbon	Option 2: Low carbon	Option 3: Status quo
Changes to planning policy	All new buildings must be zero carbon. Policy prioritises small and medium scale renewable energy production.	All new buildings must be low carbon. More flexibility to allow small scale renewable energy production.	All new buildings must adhere to sustainable design principles. Policy support for small scale renewable energy production.
	Zero GHG emissions from building construction or use.	Low GHG emissions from building construction or use.	No reduction in GHG emissions.
	Greater landscape impact from renewable energy production. Buildings use a higher proportion of bio-based buildings materials and are designed to have a lower impact on the landscape.	Greater landscape impact from renewable energy production. Buildings use a higher proportion of bio-based buildings materials and are designed to have a lower impact on the landscape.	Gradual increase in landscape impact through development and renewable energy production.
	Major requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain from new development.	Increase requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain from new development.	Policy for Biodiversity Net Gain from new development.
	Some impact to cultural heritage. Requires acceptance that new zero carbon buildings will not look like 'traditional' Dales homes.	Some impact to cultural heritage. Requires acceptance that new low carbon buildings will not look like traditional Dales homes.	Limited impact to cultural heritage.
	Total shift to eco-tourism. .	Priority given to eco-tourism businesses.	Tourist businesses expected to abide by sustainable development standards.
	New development must be connected into public transport and walking/cycling networks.	New development will have greater connections to public transport and walking/cycling networks.	Connection to public transport and walking/cycling networks where possible.
	Shift to low-carbon lifestyles.	Gradual shift to low-carbon lifestyles.	Mixed reception to low-carbon lifestyles.
	Higher initial development costs but lower long term running costs.	Higher initial development costs but lower long term running costs.	Lower initial development costs but higher long term running costs.






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On-farm development

There are many changes coming to UK farming. Though we don't know precisely what farming in the Dales will look like in the future, we do need to consider what planning policies will be needed to support the sector moving forward and what impacts these might have. Below are three possible options for the future of farming in the Dales. The likelihood is that all three will be implemented in different locations, but by asking you to consider how these changes will affect the built landscape we can use this input to help create the most effective policies for the new Local Plan.

	Option 1: Rewilding	Option 2: Nature friendly farming	Option 3: Intensification
Changes to planning policy	<p>Not permitting new buildings or extensions for agricultural purposes</p> <p>Providing greater flexibility for farm diversification.</p>	<p>Allowing new development which supports low intensity, low carbon farming which protects the environment.</p> <p>Providing greater flexibility for farm diversification.</p> <p>Support development of renewable technologies.</p>	<p>Allowing farms to build more and larger new units to support intensification.</p> <p>Support improvements to farm infrastructure and access for larger vehicles.</p> <p>Facilitating the building of anaerobic digesters to convert animal manures, crops and crop by products into renewable energy.</p>
	<p>Enhanced carbon storage through tree planting, peat restoration and transformation of some farmland to more natural processes.</p> <p>High reduction in GHG emissions (including methane) from operations, fertiliser use and livestock.</p>	<p>Enhanced carbon storage through tree planting and peat restoration and better management of soils.</p> <p>Reduction in GHG emissions (including methane) from operations, fertiliser use and livestock.</p>	<p>Damage to soil structure reduces carbon storage potential.</p> <p>Increase in GHG emissions from operations, fertiliser use and livestock.</p>
	<p>Conversion of significant amount of moor and grassland to woodland.</p> <p>Loss of some of the iconic Dales landscape of barns and dry stone walls.</p> <p>Loss of iconic landscape features such as hay meadows and small stands of trees.</p> <p>Increased sense of wildness and remoteness.</p>	<p>Conversion of some moor and grassland to woodland.</p> <p>Retention of most of the iconic Dales landscape of barns and dry stone walls.</p> <p>Retention of iconic landscape features such as hay meadows and small stands of trees.</p>	<p>Conversion of semi-natural habitats to productive grassland.</p> <p>Loss of barns and dry stone walls as intensive farming expands.</p> <p>Larger impact of farm buildings and ancillary buildings on landscape</p>

	<p>Reintroduction of species and widespread improvement in most biodiversity.</p> <p>Loss of some iconic species and habitats such as breeding waders, hay meadows and heather moorland.</p> <p>Clean water in Dales rivers.</p> <p>Potential short term increase in non-native invasive species.</p>	<p>Improvement in biodiversity.</p> <p>Retention/increase in iconic species and habitats through better management.</p> <p>Cleaner water in Dales rivers.</p>	<p>Reduction in biodiversity.</p> <p>Removal of trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>More pollution in rivers.</p>
	<p>Natural regeneration of vegetation could disturb archaeological sites.</p> <p>Barns and drystone walls obscured by vegetation so become derelict faster.</p> <p>Some traditional farmsteads abandoned as farming sector shrinks.</p>	<p>More managed natural regeneration of vegetation leading to less disturbance of archaeology.</p> <p>Barns and drystone walls retained for livestock management.</p>	<p>Potential damage to archaeology through deep ploughing.</p> <p>Barns and drystone walls removed to allow intensification.</p> <p>New farm buildings may not be sympathetic to cultural heritage.</p>
	<p>More opportunities for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Visitors encounter a wilder landscape.</p>	<p>More opportunities for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation.</p>	<p>Intensive farming creates a landscape which is less appealing to visitors.</p>
	<p>Loss of grazing management makes it less easy to access some parts of the Park.</p>	<p>Improved access through better funded maintenance.</p>	<p>Higher livestock numbers inhibit public access.</p>
	<p>Loss of section of farming community.</p> <p>Loss of farming culture in the Dales.</p>	<p>Retains farming with livestock as a core part of community life.</p>	<p>Retains farming with livestock as a core part of community life.</p> <p>More and larger farm vehicles on public roads, increasing traffic.</p> <p>Potential for farms to produce renewable energy and sell the surplus to the local community.</p>

	<p>Loss of some farming jobs.</p> <p>Opportunity for new jobs as the sector diversifies.</p>	<p>Most farming jobs retained,</p> <p>Opportunity for new jobs as the sector diversifies.</p> <p>Most farms business become more viable as costs decrease.</p> <p>The rural economy is well supported through Environmental Land Management Schemes.</p>	<p>Some farms able to offer more jobs as they become more profitable.</p> <p>Many farm businesses become unprofitable as costs increase more rapidly than income.</p>
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