

B. CONSERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Scope of this Function and Introduction

This function includes:

- The Historic Landscape, Historic Buildings, Sites, Monuments, Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Areas
- Community Planning Schemes and the Sustainable Development Fund

The work of this function contributes mainly to the 2007 – 2012 corporate outcomes of:

- **A: The landscapes of the National Park are valued for their beauty, character and natural resources and managed to adapt to the effects of climate change**
- **F: The distinctive cultural heritage characteristics of the settlements and landscapes are conserved and enhanced**
- **I: The Peak District is a living, modern, and innovative area with vibrant and cohesive communities**
- **G: Understanding of the National Park and its special qualities has increased so that people recognise its value, and have the opportunity to make a personal contribution to its sustainable management**

Our Performance in 2006/07

Overview:

Because of the importance of community engagement to achieving our outcomes, we renewed our commitment to working with communities for another 2 years through the extension of the Community Planning Partnership Project.

We produced the Cultural Heritage Strategy as a focus for achieving outcomes for protecting the cultural heritage of the National Park. This guides our work on cultural heritage and we are liaising with stakeholders over their role in its delivery.

We have raised awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's cultural heritage through a walks and talks programme that reached out to over 500 people. In addition we provided 5 cultural heritage training events to staff and partner organisations.

We have let the contract to produce a Landscape Character Assessment for the National Park to enhance our work with owners and managers of land and buildings.

Performance in some areas has been below target because of circumstances beyond our control but this is being rectified through reallocation of staff and resources.

Cultural Heritage Strategy:

- The Strategy was launched in December 2006
- A reduction in income and a prioritisation to writing up National Trust surveys means that archaeological survey of the Park remains at 44%
- 8 Conservation Area appraisals are nearing completion and a further 7 are underway; delays due to staff shortages and a re-focus on statutory work

Landscape Character Assessment:

- Consultants have been appointed and work has started with a completion date of 31st March 2008

Community and Partnership work:

- A new design guide was developed and adopted with guidance notes for work on the built environment

- The Peak District Community Planning Partnership Project was extended for another 2 years
- The Sustainable Development Fund supported 46 projects and obtained over £1.8million in matched funding. Projects included furniture recycling, an experimental bus service, ground source heat pumps and interpretation projects

Grant schemes:

- A review of Authority advice and grant schemes is underway
- 43 Historic Environment reports were completed as input to Higher Level Scheme Farm Environment Plans

Trends in Our Performance During 2005 – 2007

All our grant schemes are oversubscribed and we have continued to meet income targets.

Our community involvement has increased, in partnership with Staffordshire Community Voluntary Service through the Peak District Community Planning Project.

Partnerships with national organisations such as English Heritage continue but scarcity of grants affects our ability to achieve the targets we originally set.

Our Priority Activities and Targets 2007/08

Priority level 1

- Ensure conservation and enhancement at a landscape scale incorporating Biodiversity Action Plan and Cultural Heritage Strategy objectives through the development and provision of approved team and project action plans (Key corporate action A1)
- Provide a baseline assessment of landscape character to inform land use policies and practices for the National Park and also to inform local landscape characterisation (Key corporate action A1)
- Provide learning opportunities to key rural and urban audiences through provision and promotion of walks, talks, education and training events (Key corporate action G1)

Priority level 2

- Sustainable management of the historic environment through conservation action, collaboration, education, understanding and training (Key corporate action F1 & 2)
- Work towards an action plan for the White Peak (Key corporate action I1 and A1)

Financial Summary

Conservation of the Cultural Heritage				
£,000	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Direct revenue expenditure	259	233	207	201
Depreciation	0	0	0	0
Employee costs	457	438	458	479
Recharged support costs	114	120	125	130
Total Gross Expenditure	830	791	790	810
Income: Sales Fees and Charges	(5)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Income: Other external funding	(215)	(177)	(152)	(120)
Net Expenditure	610	611	634	685

B. Conservation of the Cultural Heritage

NPA COMPARISON					ACHIEVED				TARGET		
2006/07	Top 25%	Range	Ref	Indicator	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Target Met	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
☺	42	16 - 109	BV219 (a)	Total number of conservation areas in the local authority area	105	105	109	Green	Discontinued nationally		
☹	35.14%	0 - 100%	BV219 (b)	% of (a) with an up-to-date character appraisal	24.00%	28.00%	28.00%	Red	34.00%	35.00%	Discontinued nationally
			BV219 (c)	% of (a) with publicised management proposals	English Heritage guidance awaited				Discontinued nationally		
			CH1	Number of new archaeological sites or substantial revisions recommended for addition to the county based Sites and Monuments Records	675	1,330	246*	Red	1,200	500*	500
			CH2	Number of archaeological research & conservation projects by or supported by the Authority	15	9	133**	Green	10	130	130
☹	0%	0 - 11%	CH3 (a)	Number of Listed Buildings indicated as 'at risk' as a percentage of the number of Listed buildings in the Park	7.3%	7.1%	7.1%	Green	7.5%	7.0%	7.1%
			CH3 (b)	Number of Listed Buildings 'at risk' rescued by Authority action during the year as a percentage of the total number of Listed Buildings 'at risk' in the National Park	6.2%	4.2%	2.0%***	Red	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%
			CH3 (c)	Percentage of Listed Buildings surveyed	24%	20%	20%	Amber	20%	20%	20%
☺	1914 97%	1914-9179 92 - 100%	CH4 (a)	Number of cultural heritage consultations completed Percentage completed within the required period	8,404 98.1%	9,125 100%	9,171 100%	Amber	n/a 100%	n/a 100%	n/a 100%
			NB2	Overall percentage of the Park surveyed for archaeological content	41%	44%	44%	Red	45%	46%	47%
			LB15 (a)	Number of non-listed Farm/Estate Buildings restored	12	12	9 ⁺	Red	10	10	10

FOOTNOTES:

* Targets for future years reduced due to reprioritisation of work.

**CH2 Significant increase because previous figures only included grant aided archaeology projects but now includes historic building work and farm environment plan responses

*** CH3 (b) Majority of buildings at risk are redundant agricultural buildings which are low priority within the industry

+LB15 NEE – 3 more buildings are work in progress