

David Butterworth [via email]

Chief Executive

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Bainbridge

DL8 3EL

30 November 2023

Dear Mr Butterworth

Draft Nature Recovery Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park

I am writing to congratulate you on the draft Nature Recovery Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park; please pass on our gratitude to the relevant staff for their hard work.

We were particularly pleased to see recognition of **road verges** as important reservoirs of grassland species that help connect areas of less-rich countryside – as well as the inclusion of a target for 2030 to identify, survey and map best examples of grassy roadside verges.

Additionally, as you finalise the Nature Recovery Plan, we would like to emphasise the importance of facilitating restoration through **natural regeneration** and acknowledgement of the importance of the **fragments of temperate rainforests** – a concept that has really gripped the public imagination.

Connectivity could be further emphasised – it is highly relevant to nature recovery across all habitats (not just woodland). **Invasive species** are such an important driver of biodiversity loss that they probably merit their own section.

We now look forward to seeing full and clear recognition of the special qualities of the National Park reflected in the emerging Nature Recovery Plans of North Yorkshire, Cumberland and Lancashire Councils. More specifically, we hope to see the incorporation of the **objectives and targets of the YDNPA Nature Recovery Plan** by these local authorities as they draw up their own Nature Recovery Plans to guide the process of restoring the region's biodiversity.

We would also like to highlight the importance of the development of the next Yorkshire Dales Management Plan and the critical need to ensure full coherence between this and the Nature Recovery Plan.

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This is especially the case given that according to the Progress Report for Management Plan implementation (June 2023), the **three objectives where little or no progress** is being achieved include Priority Species; Woodland Management and Invasive Non-Native Species. We look forward to engaging with you during the forthcoming consultation on the Plan.

Finally, please let us know if we can be of further assistance as you finalise the draft Recovery Plan and begin the crucial stage of implementation. As the Plan notes, we need to work together and, if we do, we can achieve much for nature recovery.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Riley

Chair, Planning and Policy Committee