



# SHEFFIELD MOORS

## MASTERPLAN 2013-2028

CONSULTATION DRAFT



<http://sheffieldmoors.co.uk>



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# INTRODUCTION TO THE SHEFFIELD MOORS

The 'Sheffield Moors' is a collective name for a group of connected and adjoining upland, and predominantly moorland sites that are all in public or charitable ownership. Collectively, they provide an amazing and very accessible landscape for people and wildlife across some 56 square kilometres (21 square miles) of the Peak District National Park.

The area is situated on the western edge of the City of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, the fourth largest City in Britain, as well as being close to the north Derbyshire villages of Hathersage, Grindleford and Baslow. Please refer to Figure 1.

The landscape is ancient and dramatic, and can provide a true sense of wilderness, despite its closeness to Sheffield. At the same time, this is a popular place for many different types of access and recreation, attracting over a million visits per year, with more active outdoor pursuits like mountain-biking growing in popularity. The numerous 'edges', from the world famous Stanage, to Froggatt and Curbar provide spectacular views of the area and surrounding landscape, as well as being of national importance to the climbing community.

As a result of this many people have a very strong sense of 'ownership' of the area, and a huge passion and knowledge about its wildlife, heritage and recreational importance.

The archaeological remains are also incredibly rich, ranging from pre-history through to modern times, and provide a fascinating record of the changes to the landscape and the people who have lived and worked in the area over thousands of years.

The varied character supports a great diversity of habitats from the open, heather-clad moorland of Houndkirk, and the ancient oak woodlands of Padley Gorge, to the wet mires of Leash Fen, and the wild-flower rich grasslands of Longshaw and North Lees. These support a very rich and varied wildlife, and a number of sites of high geological value.

The key sites within the Sheffield Moors and the primary land managing organisations are:

- **North Lees and Stanage**, owned and managed by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).
- **Redmires Reservoirs**, owned and managed by Yorkshire Water. Much of the surrounding moorland, towards Ringinglow, and conifer plantations, are owned by Sheffield City Council (SCC).
- **Burbage, Houndkirk and Hathersage Moors**, owned by SCC
- **Blacka Moor and Wyming Brook**, both managed by Sheffield Wildlife Trust (SWT) on behalf of SCC, who own the land.

- **Longshaw**, owned and managed by the National Trust (NT).
- **Eastern Moors (including Totley, Ramsley, Big, and Clod Hall Moors, together with Leash Fen)**, managed by the Eastern Moors Partnership (EMP), a collaboration of the NT and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (the RSPB), on behalf of the PDNPA, who own the land.

Please refer to Figure 2 for further detail on the current land managing arrangements.

We want to ensure that people who come to the Sheffield Moors for a whole variety of reasons continue to enjoy and value this wonderful landscape, understand and support any changes that are suggested, and feel positive about our aspirations for the future. We're also keen to encourage more people to get directly involved in caring for the area.

This masterplan gives you the opportunity to share our vision for the Sheffield Moors over the next 15 years (up to 2028) – we aspire to make these plans a reality in partnership with you.



## OUR VISION FOR THE SHEFFIELD MOORS

### **Our Vision for the Sheffield Moors by 2028 is:**

*A dramatic, cherished and working landscape in the Peak District National Park, the Sheffield Moors are being cared for by a thriving collaboration of voluntary, public and private organisations, individuals and the wider community.*

*Through a shared vision and responsibility this partnership delivers exemplar conservation, heritage management, integrated and multi-use access, and inspiring and co-ordinated engagement.*

### **Vision Statement**

Moreover, the vision will mean:

*The Sheffield Moors are the eastern gateway to the Dark Peak, providing exciting and high quality outdoors experiences for all, and bringing people closer to nature through an integrated access network that links 'town and country', people and wildlife.*

*The diverse and distinctive landscape of open moors, dramatic and wild gritstone edges, and enclosed upland pasture is of high quality and management protects and reinforces this historic character, whilst the stories and cultural heritage of the area are shared, cherished and protected.*

*Well-able to adapt to the impacts of climate change, the landscape is rich in characteristic wildlife and geo-diversity, and is managed at a landscape scale. Restoration of moorland and heathland, wildflower rich meadows, wetland and new deciduous woodland and scrub, connect wildlife and habitats across the Sheffield Moors and into adjoining areas.*

*A working landscape, supporting economically viable and environmentally sustainable farm businesses, as well as producing sustainable natural products such as wood, water and food, the landscape helps to drive the wider local economy, whilst providing a high quality environment on the doorstep of many people.*

*Local people from adjoining rural areas and urban Sheffield have a strong sense of responsibility for and understanding of the landscape and its special places. Through active participation, such as stakeholder forums, volunteering and life long learning, they come together, to enjoy, care for and help manage the landscape.*

## WHY DO THIS?

The Sheffield Moors are already cared for and managed by a variety of public and charitable organisations, so why is a masterplan needed?

Currently, the management of the Sheffield Moors is delivered at a 'site-level' through individual management plans (for example, Blacka Moor, or North Lees/Stannage) without as much consideration as there could be of surrounding areas and how each site connects together for the people and wildlife that use and move through the landscape as a whole.

Nationally there is compelling evidence that England's collection of wildlife sites are generally too small and too isolated, leading to declines in many characteristic species. With climate change, the situation is likely to get worse. This is bad news for wildlife but also bad news for us, because the damage to nature also means our natural environment is less able to provide the many services upon which we depend. We need more space for nature. At the same time, people need better access to nature<sup>1</sup>. There is compelling evidence that improving people's access to nature results in a multitude of benefits from health and well-being, education and other learning, to spiritual refreshment.

The masterplan is about working at a *landscape scale*, across all of the Sheffield Moors. In simple terms this is all about making wildlife rich places better, bigger and more joined up for people and nature – a strategic over-arching masterplan framework provides an opportunity to plan *across* the landscape as a whole, promoting a much greater connectivity of access and providing better opportunities for wildlife to move around as well.

For example, are there opportunities to link the bridleway network at Blacka Moor to the rights of way network on Houndkirk and Burbage Moors, or how could potential new woodland help provide 'stepping stones' for wildlife between the moorlands and surrounding in-by-land? How can volunteering and engagement opportunities be better co-ordinated across the land managing organisations, and what are the best ways to tell the stories and history of the landscape as a whole? It is these types of opportunities and connections that the masterplan aspires to identify and champion.

The masterplan should also encourage greater collaborative working, and where appropriate, consistency in policy between land managing organisations in the Sheffield Moors and others with an interest in how the area is cared for and managed. This type of approach is often called 'landscape scale' land management – moving away from a sometimes fragmented approach, to a holistic one. At the same time, it is recognised that the individual and special character of the different areas within the Sheffield Moors needs to be respected.

The Sheffield Moors landscape also provides a huge range of other 'ecosystem services' - public benefits - that all of us depend on, including:

- Supporting local businesses and the local economy. For example, the Sheffield Moors attract visitors to the area, in turn supporting local pubs and

cafes, holiday accommodation, and 'outdoors' shops in local villages, as well as farmers and those employed in looking after the landscape.

- The storage and slow release of water, helping to mitigate flooding in Sheffield in particular, as well providing a local source of drinking water.
- The storage and sequestration of carbon in peat bogs, woodland and other vegetation, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration and refreshment through the landscape and its inherent qualities.
- Sustainable products like timber from woodland management, and food from the livestock that graze the landscape.

The masterplan will help in championing these wider benefits, and promote their better recognition in the day to day management of the Sheffield Moors. It should also help in raising awareness of their value and importance to people in the urban conurbations and rural communities that live around the Moors.

The Sheffield Moors Partnership (SMP) also hopes that the masterplan will help to influence local planning and other policies through greater recognition of the wider public benefits described above. This in turn, should then be translated into action on the ground that strengthens protection of the Sheffield Moors and adjoining areas from inappropriate development and encourages more integrated access linkages and wildlife-rich habitats into Sheffield and North Derbyshire generally.

By working more closely together, the partners and others with an interest in the Sheffield Moors are also better placed to bid for funding and other resources to help in caring for and managing the landscape – looking after the area ultimately requires people and resources such as farmers and rangers.

Natural England and the government are supporting landscape scale land management through its programme of 'Nature Improvement Areas' (NIA's) finalised in early 2012. NIA's are large, discrete areas that will deliver a 'step change' in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. The partnership will plan and deliver significant improvements for wildlife and people, restoring and creating wildlife habitats, connecting local sites and joining up local activity. The Sheffield Moors is included in the Dark Peak NIA<sup>2</sup>, one of only twelve in England, and the only upland NIA. Having a clear vision for the Sheffield Moors will directly influence how the Dark Peak NIA is implemented.

## **Relationship with other policies and strategies**

The Sheffield Moors lie across organisational boundaries - the masterplan will complement many existing strategies developed by the core partners and others. At the same time, it will also link to and drive local delivery of other national and regional strategies. The key ones are shown in Figure 3.

### **References:**

1. Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (2010), which can be accessed at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>
2. More on Nature Improvement Areas and the Dark Peak NIA can be found at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/nia/default.aspx>, and <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/nia/projects/darkpeak.aspx>

# WHAT MAKES THE SHEFFIELD MOORS SO IMPORTANT?

The Sheffield Moors are protected by a range of statutory and other designations, as well as local and national policy that influence how it is managed and enjoyed, and have informed the aspirations of this masterplan. The most important are outlined below (please refer to Figure 4):

## Statutory protection

### National Park

All of the Sheffield Moors lies within the Peak District National Park. National Parks are designated to achieve the following purposes and are managed accordingly:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the national park.
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the park) by the public.

In pursuing these purposes, National Park Authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities.

Where there is irreconcilable conflict between the statutory purposes, the Sandford Principle will be applied and conservation will be given greater weight<sup>1</sup>.

One of the driving forces behind the designation of National Park status for the Peak District is the very high quality of the landscape.

The Sheffield Moors is a sparsely settled area of gritstone uplands lying to the south-east of the Dark Peak plateau. It is an elevated landscape that drops away to the Derwent Valley to the west, and the Yorkshire Peak Fringe to the east, providing a number of vantage points over the city of Sheffield in lower lying eastern areas.

The landscape has been shaped by millennia of human activity, and three distinct character types are recognised<sup>3</sup>:

- Open moors – gritstone moor and heathland, with blanket bog, heather and grass moorland, wide views to distant surrounding hills and valleys, and a sense of remoteness and space.
- Moorland slopes and cloughs - steep slopes and dramatic gritstone edges rising to the open moors, with widespread rough grassland, bracken and heather moor, with exposed views over lower ground.
- Enclosed gritstone uplands - upland pasture associated with high, gently undulating moor tops, sloping in places to higher ground. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, regular fields with patches of acid grassland enclosed by drystone walls, and straight roads.



## **Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**

The Sheffield Moors are collectively of national importance for their cultural heritage.

There are over 40 'Scheduled Monuments' across the area, with those from pre-history, especially the Bronze Age, being particularly evident (please refer to Figure 5). There are also thousands of other recorded archaeological features<sup>3</sup>. Combined these provide a record of the human activity that has created the landscape we know today.

Scheduled Monuments are nationally important sites and monuments, and have statutory protection from damage or disturbance. English Heritage, working in partnership with the Cultural Heritage Team in the PDNPA and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) based in SCC advise on the management of this suite of sites and features, as well as championing our historic places and advising the government on heritage matters.

The land managing organisations across the Sheffield Moors also have a responsibility to protect these monuments and features when undertaking any work in the area, and are encouraged to maintain scheduled monuments in good condition.

Within the Sheffield Moors, there are extensive tracts of land which have had detailed archaeological surveys. This information is used the Cultural Heritage Team in the PDNPA and SYAS to advise on the management of the whole archaeological resource – including the thousands of non-scheduled sites and features.

## **Wildlife, Geo-diversity and Habitats**

The great majority of the Sheffield Moors landscape lies within the 'Eastern Peak District Moors' Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)<sup>5</sup>. SSSI's protect the best of the country's wildlife and geological sites.

The Sheffield Moors are also included within of a European Union designated Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)<sup>6</sup>, part of the Europe wide Natura 2000 network of internationally important sites for birds, and habitats respectively, for example merlin and curlew, blanket bog and ancient sessile oak woodland.

Many species and habitats across the area are also priorities within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). The UK BAP describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources, at national and local levels. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats have been set out to aid recovery<sup>7</sup>.

The area is also important for its geological interest with three designated Geological Conservation Review sites (GCR's) – at Hathersage Moor, Burbage Brook and Leash Fen. GCR's are the most important geological sites in Britain. There is also a range of other Local Geological Sites.

The health (or 'condition') of the SSSI is monitored by Natural England whilst the organisations within the Sheffield Moors Partnership have a duty to ensure the protected wildlife, habitats and geo-diversity is in a 'favourable condition' in liaison with Natural England.

The Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area (please refer to 'Why Do This?' for more information) is not a statutory designation, but it does provide added impetus to encourage the biodiversity value of the Sheffield Moors, and build better connections between people and nature.

## Access and Recreation

Most of the Sheffield Moors is designated as 'Open Access Land' within the Countryside and Rights of Way (or CROW) Act (2000)<sup>8</sup>, which means that access on foot is available across most of the landscape at any time.

In addition, access is provided along a range of designated routes through the existing public and permissive rights of way network (footpaths, bridleways, and byways) that criss-crosses the landscape. Sheffield City Council and Derbyshire County Council, as the respective highway authorities, are legally responsible for the rights of way network across the Sheffield Moors.

## References:

1. Further information on the duties of the Peak District National Park Authority and to view a copy of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2012-2012, go to:  
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/microsites/npmp>
2. Sheffield City Council's strategy for the City's greenspace management can be found at:  
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/out--about/parks-woodlands--countryside/green-and-open-space-strategy>
3. Further information on the landscape character of the Eastern Moors as a whole (including all of the Sheffield Moors area) can be found at:  
[http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/90828/landscape-strategy-eastern-moors.pdf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/90828/landscape-strategy-eastern-moors.pdf)
4. Further detail on Scheduled Monuments in the Sheffield Moors can be found at:  
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/scheduled-monuments/>  
[http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/90828/landscape-strategy-eastern-moors.pdf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/90828/landscape-strategy-eastern-moors.pdf)
5. Further detail on the SSSI of which the Sheffield Moors form a part can be found at:  
[http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/sssi\\_details.cfm?sssi\\_id=2000354](http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/sssi_details.cfm?sssi_id=2000354)
6. Further details on the SPA and SAC of which the Sheffield Moors form a part can be found at:  
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1401> and  
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030280>
7. Further detail on the Sheffield BAP can be found at:  
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/out--about/parks-woodlands--countryside/ecology-service/biodiversity-action-plans/2012-biodiversity-habitat-action-plans.html>  
Further detail on the Peak District BAP can be found at:  
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/biodiversity/biodiversity-action-plan>
8. Further detail on the CROW Act 2000 can be found at:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

# DEVELOPING THE PLAN

## The Sheffield Moors Partnership – its origins and purpose

The partnership developed in early 2010 out of a shared recognition from the various land owners and land managers across the Sheffield Moors of the benefit of increased collaborative working, building on previous joint working. The core partners are:

- Peak District National Park Authority
- National Trust
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Wildlife Trust
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Natural England

The Sheffield Moors Partnership's purpose is:

*'To lead an innovative partnership to establish and deliver the vision of the Sheffield Moors as the UK's leading model on how the uplands should be managed into the future for people and wildlife.'*

The main aims of the partnership are:

- To establish a clear vision and strategic direction, steering delivery across the sites through integrated and holistic planning and thinking.
- To develop a strategic landscape scale masterplan for the SMP area, through a robust process of stakeholder and community engagement and consultation.

A dedicated Project Officer, resourced by the members of the SMP, is co-ordinating development of the masterplan and related consultation. The post is hosted by the National Trust.

The vision for the masterplan looks forward to the next 15 years (to 2028) and the masterplan covers four main themes:

1. **Being involved** – including education, interpretation, volunteering, training, events and visitor experience.
2. **Access and recreation** – including access networks, recreation, gateways into the area, and visitor facilities.
3. **Sustainable land management** – including landscape, archaeology and cultural heritage, wildlife, geo-diversity, and farming and woodland management.

4. **Recognising the wider value of the moors** – including the local economy, tourism and wider ‘ecosystem services’ such as climate change mitigation, and water storage.

The partnership does not get involved in the day to day management of each individual site, relying instead on existing partner arrangements and management plans to continue to carry out project activity at a site level in consultation with the communities and others with an interest in these sites.

In essence, the masterplan provides the long-term vision for the landscape as a whole, but the delivery of the vision will be primarily through site management plans which consider, plan and deliver management through detailed work programmes (Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between the masterplan, site management plans, other relevant local and national strategies).

Some of the site management plans can be viewed on-line.

For the Eastern Moors, go to:

<http://www.easternmoors.org.uk/>

For Wyming Brook and Blacka Moor, go to:

<http://www.wildsheffield.com/nature-reserves/more-about-our-reserves>

## **Engaging with stakeholders – the story so far**

We consider people to be the most valuable resource in planning and implementing the future of the landscape.

Since autumn 2011, the SMP has engaged with a wide range of people and organisations that have a stake in the Sheffield Moors.

This engagement has been undertaken in two stages to date:

### **Stage 1 (Oct 2011 – Jan 2012) – Raising awareness of the SMP**

This stage focused on raising awareness about the Sheffield Moors Partnership, its purpose and the proposal to develop a masterplan.

The SMP met with nearly 25 stakeholder organisations during this period (for example local Parish Councils, both the Peak District and the Sheffield Local Access Forums, and the Sheffield City Council South-west Community Assembly), reaching nearly 250 people.

### **Stage 2 (Jan-July 2012) – Ideas Gathering**

This stage focused on gathering ideas, views and aspirations for the Sheffield Moors from stakeholder organisations and the wider community in the Sheffield and North Derbyshire area.

Over 170 people were directly engaged in this stage, through three public workshops and a workshop with Officers from the SMP partner organisations and other statutory bodies during February and March 2012, followed by a 'feedback session' on the outputs from the public workshops in late April 2012.

At the initial public workshops, participants were asked to work round each of the four masterplan themes (Being Involved, Access and Recreation, Sustainable Land Management, and Recognising the wider benefits of the moors) and answer the following questions:

*Over the next 15 years on the Sheffield Moors...*

1. What would you like to see **more** of?
2. What would you like to see **less** of?
3. What would you like to be **kept the same**?
4. What would you like to see **that's different or new**?

In addition a number of 'focus groups' were held in June 2012 with Officers from the core partners within the SMP and representatives from access, wildlife and cultural heritage interest groups.

To view the full reports generated by the process to date please go to:

<http://sheffieldmoors.co.uk/>

This information, together with other views and comments gathered, has been compiled and analysed. This has then been used to inform and prepare the Vision and Strategic Outcomes, together with the rest of this draft document.

A summary of the key issues raised from Stages 1 and 2 is provided in Appendix 2.



# WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO ACHIEVE – THE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES BY 2028

In 15 years time, delivery of the Vision will enable the Sheffield Moors to be characterised by the following (in no particular order):

## ***Theme 1 – Being Involved***

### **1.1 People and community involvement is at the heart of all activities**

People and communities are actively involved in the Sheffield Moors. Many aspects of the care and management of the landscape are delivered by volunteers, user groups, and the wider community facilitated by appropriate training programmes and other support. Stakeholder forums provide regular and on-going opportunities for people influence how the landscape is cared for and managed, whilst land managers such as farmers are committed to achieving the vision alongside and as part of their economic activities.

### **1.2 High quality visitor experience**

Visitors explore, enjoy and learn about the natural and historic environment, gaining a range of health benefits and a sense of well-being from the landscape and through a variety of experiences, from the wild moorland of areas like Stanage Edge, to the more formally managed like Longshaw.

Fixed interpretation and other signage is focused at key entrances and gateways into the area. Exciting and innovative methods are used wherever appropriate, minimising visual intrusion in the wider landscape.

### **1.3 Inspiring activities and engagement**

A co-ordinated programme of inspiring and innovative activities, events and learning opportunities provides for the surrounding communities and visitors alike. This helps to foster discovery and understanding of the Sheffield Moors and in turn, encourages pride and support for the area and its stewardship from an early age.

## ***Theme 2 – Access and Recreation***

### **2.1 Gateways into the landscape**

Key gateways into the landscape such as Redmires, Stanage, Burbage, Longshaw, and Curbar Gap are identified and managed as welcome points to guide visitors into the Sheffield Moors.

## **2.2 A connected access network**

Appropriately maintained, connected and integrated access routes provide an extensive network for all users across the Sheffield Moors and into and out of the surrounding landscapes and communities, like those of west Sheffield and the nearby villages of Hathersage, Grindleford and Curbar.

The integrated access network is complemented by clear and sympathetic signage of public rights of way and other recognised routes.

## **2.3 An accessible landscape**

Access is managed in an integrated and sustainable manner, ensuring high quality, multi-use access for a wide range of recreational activities that are compatible with conservation and other uses and users of the Sheffield Moors.

Where appropriate, routes and infrastructure are developed along the lines of 'least restrictive access' and promoted as such.

## ***Theme 3 – Sustainable Land Management***

### **3.1 Conservation and enhancement of the landscape**

The Sheffield Moors are managed as a holistic landscape, where the historic and characteristic elements of the landscape, from the open moors, to the gritstone edges and enclosed upland pastures, are protected and where appropriate enhanced.

### **3.2 Protecting and celebrating the rich cultural heritage**

The cultural heritage is in good condition, well recorded and understood, and sensitively protected and managed. It is interpreted in creative, inspiring and innovative ways, particularly through virtual means and at key entrances into the landscape, bringing alive the landscape's amazing heritage and giving visitors and communities a strong sense of understanding.

Cultural heritage and its setting in the landscape are properly considered in the planning and implementation of management activities by land managers.

### **3.3 Management to achieve outstanding biodiversity and protect geo-diversity**

Exemplar landscape scale restoration and management of habitats and species is delivering high quality habitats and 'favourable condition' and beyond of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Geo-diversity interests are protected, well-understood, and appropriately managed and enhanced.

The Sheffield Moors support the full range of healthy, connected and diverse upland habitats including a rich mix of heath, grass, blanket bog, wetland, woodland, wood-pasture and scrub together with associated species that are truly characteristic of upland landscapes. The different habitats are well connected and these help to form

a coherent network with wildlife rich habitats across the wider Peak District and surrounding areas. Invasive species are under control, and have been eradicated from key wildlife areas.

### **3.4 Appropriate grazing to achieve conservation objectives**

Extensive grazing including appropriate livestock and the resident red deer herd is the primary land management tool on the Sheffield Moors. This is delivered through long term partnerships with economically viable and environmentally sustainable farm businesses.

### **3.5 All habitat management works are assessed against the likely impacts of climate change**

Priority is given to habitat management that helps instil resilience to climate change in existing habitats, and at the same time, promotes adaptation to climate change to facilitate the ability of southern species to spread northwards in future years.

## ***Theme 4 - Making the most of the Wider Benefits of the Moors***

### **4.1 Supporting the local economy**

The Sheffield Moors are recognised for the role they play in supporting local businesses, communities and the wider economy in ways that are in balance with the conservation and recreational values of the landscape.

At the same time, mechanisms are in place for local businesses, local communities and others to support the management of the landscape financially, for example through sponsorship, and a growing market for the natural by-products of land management.

### **4.2 Carbon stewardship is promoted**

Management and restoration regimes promote the effective storage of existing carbon and the capture of new carbon stores across the Sheffield Moors, especially through increased development of bog vegetation, in turn leading to increased peat formation.

### **4.3 Appropriate opportunities to sustainably harvest natural products are taken**

Opportunities are taken to sustainably produce and harvest natural products resulting from the agreed management of the landscape such as food, heather, wood, and water.

### **4.4 Water quality and storage is enhanced through management**

Management and restoration regimes help to deliver a clean and high quality water supply and where possible reduce flood risk to surrounding communities.



## ***Theme 5 – Delivering the Masterplan***

### **5.1 The wild and open nature of the landscape is protected**

All management and other activities in the Sheffield Moors are undertaken in ways that ensure that they do not detract from the landscape's historic character and feeling of wilderness.

Management works and activities do not have a detrimental long-term impact on the high valued peace and tranquillity of the landscape.

### **5.2 Working collectively and in partnership to resource and deliver the Vision**

The Sheffield Moors Partnership works collectively and inclusively to identify and secure the financial and other resources necessary to deliver the vision.

The masterplan is delivered primarily through individual management plans for each of the sites in the Sheffield Moors that take the aspirations of the vision and implement them through co-ordinated and connected actions between the partners on the ground.

### **5.3 Management is informed by and demonstrates best practice**

Decision making is informed by expertise and best practice from within the Partnership and wider stakeholders, complemented by examples and learning from outside the area.

Learning and experience from the development and implementation of the masterplan is also being promoted as best practice where appropriate.

### **5.4 Monitoring and review of the masterplan delivery**

The progress of the masterplan is fully reviewed every five years against planned delivery, with the involvement and input of stakeholders.



## WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING TO DO – THE KEY ACTIONS IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

Below are the key planned actions over the next five years that will help deliver the long-term Strategic Outcomes described with the Vision Statement.

A lot of activity is already happening and all the organisations within the SMP have existing policy documents that help guide site management - the planned actions outlined below help capture what more is either needed or needs to be increased to help deliver the Vision.

A visual representation of the key opportunities that are available over the next fifteen years to help deliver the vision in relation to Access and Recreation, Habitats, and Cultural Heritage are illustrated in the next section, Mapping the Future (Figures 6-11).

### Theme 1 Being Involved

Outcome	Ref	Planned delivery actions by 2018	Lead Organisation
1.1	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop better co-ordination, and closer and more joined-up working between those that plan and deliver volunteering and training opportunities within the Sheffield Moors and adjacent areas from 2013 onwards, driven through the initiation of a cross-partner liaison group</li> </ul>	SMP
	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foster greater public and representative group consultation and involvement in Burbage Moors through planning and delivery of the Dark Peak NIA within the Sheffield Moors from 2013 onwards</li> <li>Continue on-going involvement of representative groups elsewhere such as Eastern Moors and Stanage</li> <li>Co-ordinate organisation of 'focus groups' in relation to particular wildlife, heritage or access issues, as appropriate</li> </ul>	NT, and NIA Partnership SMP SMP
	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and support the existing site-based stakeholder forums – Stanage Forum, Blacka Moor and Wyming Brook Reserve Advisory Groups, and the Eastern Moors Stakeholder Forum</li> </ul>	PDNPA, SWT, EMP
	d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2013 onwards deliver an annual 'partnerships' day for the Sheffield Moors, bringing together site-based stakeholder forums across the landscape, together with other user and</li> </ul>	SMP in conjunction with Local Nature Partnerships

		interest group representatives as necessary, to encourage continuing input into the delivery of the masterplan	for the Peak District and South Yorkshire
1.2	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2015, develop and adopt an interpretation plan for the Sheffield Moors, with shared principles, to steer the priorities and co-ordination of written, virtual (for example, web-based, social media, and pod casts) and other interpretative materials for the landscape, and that identifies the key themes, stories and locations that best lend themselves to interpretation (see also Action 3.2b)</li> </ul>	SMP in conjunction with the Peak District Interpretation Plan
	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2013, prioritise the use of existing visitor 'hubs' in and around the Sheffield Moors as 'touch points' for visitor information, engagement and interpretation. For example the Moorland Discovery Centre at Longshaw, Ecclesall Woods Woodland Discovery Centre, and Hathersage</li> <li>From 2013, ensure that through an integrated approach to the visitor journey, the right information and engagement is provided for visitors in key locations across the Sheffield Moors</li> </ul>	SMP  SMP
1.3	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that education and other engagement programmes reach and appeal to the diversity of communities that surround the Sheffield Moors, to help encourage awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the landscape by all, for example through the Moorland Discovery Centre.</li> <li>Encourage a more integrated approach to education and lifelong learning, so that providers across the Sheffield Moors are working strategically to make the most of available resources</li> </ul>	SMP  SMP

## Theme 2 Access and Recreation

Outcome	Ref	Planned delivery actions by 2018	Lead Organisation
2.1	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2016, detailed proposals developed to provide low-key but better managed and presented 'gateways' into the Sheffield Moors where needed, in particular Redmires, with implementation underway by 2018</li> </ul>	SMP SCC with YW, and PDNPA
2.2	a)	<p>Facilitate the creation of an integrated network of footpaths and strategic multi-user routes especially where these form part of the Sheffield and Derbyshire Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans.</p> <p>By 2018, to have developed proposals for new strategic bridleways routes, with appropriate links and to have commenced implementation. Principal routes to be considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From North Lees to Hathersage village (No. 2 on Figure 7)</li> <li>At Eastern Moors – Barbrook Valley, and Curbar/Frogatt Edge (No. 14 on Figure 7) Repair/improve Moss Road bridleway surface as appropriate</li> <li>Through Longshaw and from Upper to Lower Burbage Valley (No's 5,8 and 9 on Figure 7)</li> <li>Between Totley Moor/Blacka Moor and the Houndkirk Road byway (No. 7 on Figure 7)</li> <li>Within Lady Canning's Plantation (No. 4 on Figure 7)</li> <li>Between existing bridleway on White Edge Moor, to the proposed Curbar/Frogatt Edge concessionary bridleway (No. 10 on Figure 7)</li> </ul>	PDNPA and DCC Rights of Way Team. EMP with DCC Rights of Way Team, & PDNPA. SCC & DCC Rights of Way Team, with NT & PDNPA. As above, with SWT. SCC and SCC Rights of Way Team and PDNPA. EMP and NT with DCC Rights of Way Team & PDNPA.
	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local Transport Executives and others to advocate the continuing need for existing and better public transport into and across the landscape</li> <li>In addition, the SMP will contribute to Peak District wide marketing of sustainable travel within the National Park such as Visit Peak District</li> </ul>	PDNPA, with SMP, the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority, and DCC
2.3	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities to develop a low-key, low impact camping offer at Lady Canning's Plantation are explored by 2015, and taken forward as appropriate</li> <li>Opportunities are taken by 2018 to improve the camping offer at the Eric Byrne site on Eastern Moors, whilst keeping its low-key character</li> </ul>	SCC with the local Planning authorities  EMP
	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint working between the land managers will be employed to help to identify and resolve wherever possible recreational pressures in the landscape, linked closely to site management plan development and implementation</li> </ul>	SMP

### Theme 3 Sustainable Land Management

Outcome	Ref	Planned delivery actions by 2018	Lead Organisation
3.2	a)	<p>The planning, design and implementation of management works helps to protect and enhance the distinctive landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2013, all land managing bodies within the Sheffield Moors to have adopted an approach to the management of the Historic Environment that is akin to the best practice model employed by the Eastern Moors Partnership, and its full integration into project planning</li> <li>• By 2016, detailed field survey undertaken across Redmires, White Moss to Rud Hill, Lady Canning's Plantation, Nell Croft, and Blacka Moor</li> <li>• A conservation plan has been developed for Carl Wark hill-fort to reduce visitor pressures, such as erosion, to acceptable levels by 2015, and implementation is underway by 2016</li> </ul>	<p>SMP, with PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team and SYAS</p> <p>SCC and SWT with SYAS and PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team</p> <p>SCC with EH, SYAS and PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team</p>
	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2018 management recommendations are in place at a landscape scale (for the Sheffield Moors as a whole) for monument protection, visibility and interpretation following detailed analysis of all archaeological information on the Sheffield Moors (following completion of the outstanding survey work listed in 3.2a), and linked to Action 1.2a</li> <li>• Opportunities to develop partnerships with Universities to further archaeological research and study are readily taken</li> </ul>	<p>SMP, with SYAS and PDNPA Cultural Heritage Team</p>
3.3	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry heath restoration work continuing on Eastern Moors and North Lees</li> <li>• Roll-out associated dry heath restoration as part of proposed HLS schemes for Burbage and Totley Moors, starting 2014</li> </ul>	<p>EMP, PDNPA, with NE</p> <p>SCC and EMP, with NE</p>
	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and mire restoration work continuing on Eastern Moors (such as Leash Fen) and North Lees</li> <li>• Roll-out associated blanket bog and mire restoration as part of proposed HLS schemes for Burbage and Totley Moors, starting 2014</li> </ul>	<p>EMP, PDNPA, with NE</p> <p>SCC and EMP, with NE</p>
	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildflower meadow restoration completed around Greenwood Farm, Longshaw by 2015</li> <li>• Grassland restoration work continuing around North Lees Hall</li> <li>• Grassland restoration on Eastern Moors (Curbar, and Stoke Flats)</li> </ul>	<p>NT</p> <p>PDNPA</p> <p>EMP</p>

	d)	<p>Take appropriate opportunities to create new native woodland and scrub, targeted within cloughs and valleys, and through the restructuring of existing conifer dominated plantations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burbage Plantations felled by 2015 and replaced with mix of new native woodland (Oak, Birch, Rowan) and open upland habitat</li> <li>• Wood-pasture restoration nearing completion at Sheffield Plantation, Longshaw by 2017 through the phased removal of coniferous plantations</li> <li>• Scrub and dwarf heath developing on slopes below Stanage Edge by 2015</li> </ul>	<p>SCC with FC, and NIA Partnership</p> <p>NT with NE</p> <p>PDNPA</p>
	e)	<p>Take appropriate opportunities to create small woodland/treed clumps between isolated woodland blocks, to act as 'stepping stones' for associated wildlife to move across the landscape</p> <p>By 2015, scattered trees and scrub have been created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from Burbage Edge, and Burbage Valley to Padley Gorge</li> <li>• from Lady Canning's Plantation, Houndkirk Moor to Blacka Moor</li> <li>• On Ramsley Moor, Eastern Moors – new woodland creation</li> </ul>	<p>SCC with FC &amp; NE</p> <p>EMP</p>
	f)	<p>Diversify existing conifer dominated plantations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinning and other woodland management works to be continued at Redmires Reservoir Plantations, and Lady Canning's Plantation</li> <li>• North Lees/Stanage Estate conifer woodlands – management reviewed and implementation of woodland management programme commenced 2014</li> </ul>	<p>SCC with FC</p> <p>PDNPA with FC</p>
	g)	<p>Bring all existing broadleaved and mixed woodlands within the landscape into appropriate active management regimes by 2014, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key remaining woodlands at the North Lees/Stanage Estate</li> <li>• The woodland above Surprise View car park (Hathersage Moors)</li> </ul>	<p>PDNPA (and SCC) with FC</p>
	h)	<p>Improve the interface between woodland and other habitats such as moorland and grassland, by promoting graded margins such as scrub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This approach is integrated into woodland management works as they happen, where appropriate, across the Sheffield Moors</li> <li>• Continue existing coppicing work on boundary between Lady Canning's Plantation and adjoining wetland</li> </ul>	<p>SMP</p> <p>SCC</p>
3.4	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an overall deer management policy for the Sheffield Moors and adopt by 2015</li> </ul>	<p>SMP with expert input</p>

## Theme 4 Making the most of the wider benefits of the moors

Outcome	Ref	Planned delivery actions by 2018	Lead Organisation
4.1	a)	<p>Develop mechanisms for local businesses and others to support the Sheffield Moors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and trial a visitor payback scheme, 2012-2015 with local businesses, and roll out the most successful model post 2015</li> <li>• Explore the development of commercial sponsorship from corporate organisations from 2013, to help support the objectives of Dark Peak NIA</li> <li>• By 2016, associated PhD at Sheffield University – 'Cultural and educational services from green-space: does biodiversity matter? – completed and learning share</li> </ul>	NIA Partnership
4.2	a)	<p>Continue to undertake habitat restoration and management, especially of blanket bog, to protect existing carbon stores and increase the ability of the landscape to store more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue mire restoration on the Eastern Moors (for example Leash Fen)</li> <li>• Introduce appropriate blanket bog restoration at Topley Moss and Burbage Moors as part of proposed HLS agreements, from 2014 onwards</li> <li>• By bringing all woodlands in the Sheffield Moors into appropriate management by 2014</li> </ul>	<p>EMP</p> <p>EMP and SCC with NE</p> <p>SMP with FC</p>
4.3	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate opportunities will be taken to harvest natural products from the landscape, that arise from sustainable management of Sheffield Moors (through site management plans)</li> </ul>	SMP
4.4	a)	<p>Take opportunities to help restore the natural hydrological systems of blanket bog, wetlands and mire, and more generally increase the area of the landscape that supports diverse, semi-natural habitats that are better able to capture and store water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue mire restoration on Eastern Moors (for example Leash Fen)</li> <li>• Introduce appropriate blanket bog restoration at Topley Moss and Burbage Moors as part of proposed HLS agreements, from 2014 onwards</li> <li>• Appropriate conservation management introduced to the developing wetlands at the decommissioned Ramsley and Barbrook Reservoirs from 2014 onwards</li> <li>• Woodland management to increase structural diversity (for example at North Lees) and proposals for new scattered trees and scrub on Burbage and Houndkirk Moors will help reduce the rate of run-off of water from the land</li> <li>• General promotion of land management that reduces flooding</li> </ul>	<p>EMP</p> <p>EMP and SCC with NE</p> <p>EMP</p> <p>PDNPA and SCC</p> <p>SMP with EA</p>

## Theme 5 Delivering the Masterplan

Outcome	Ref	Planned delivery actions by 2018	Lead Organisation
5.2	a)	Secure appropriate agri-environment grant support for all of the Sheffield Moors landscape, to help enable the delivery of environmental benefits across the area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blacka Moor, Burbage Moors, and Topley Moor entered into HLS by 2013</li> <li>• North Lees and Stanage woodlands entered into England Woodland Grant Scheme by 2014</li> </ul>	SCC and EMP, with NE PDNPA with FC
	b)	Take appropriate opportunities to secure other funding and resources that contribute to the delivery of the masterplan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery and completion of the current Dark Peak Nature Improvement Programme by 2015</li> </ul>	SMP
	c)	Invest and grow the capacity for community led fundraising to support delivery of the Vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through on-going support to stakeholder groups, for example a 'Paths for Communities Bid' to NE in 2013</li> </ul>	SMP and NIA Partnership
	d)	Through a process of robust stakeholder engagement and consultation, management plans to be prepared (and existing ones reviewed as appropriate) for the following sites by 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blacka Moor</li> <li>• Burbage Moors</li> <li>• North Lees and Stanage</li> </ul>	SWT SCC PDNPA
5.4	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of delivery by SMP Steering Group, from 2013 onwards</li> <li>• Delivery of the plan fully reviewed in 2018, and new five year delivery programme developed.</li> </ul>	SMP SMP



## MAPPING THE FUTURE

Please refer to Figures 6-11.

These highlight some of the key current issues (as of 2012) in relation to the management of Access and Recreation, Habitats, and Cultural Heritage across the Sheffield Moors and provide an indicative illustration of how these issues may have been resolved or have moved forward in 15 years time (by 2028).

The maps are deliberately indicative because the detail of any proposals will be finalised through detailed planning, generally as part of site management plans, including appropriate liaison with statutory bodies such as Natural England, and the involvement of stakeholders.



# HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER & THE NEXT STEPS

## How we will work together

The Sheffield Moors Partnership will:

- Be streamlined with little bureaucracy (fleet of foot).
- Deliver the masterplan primarily through individual management plans for each of the sites in the Sheffield Moors, taking the aspirations of the vision and implementing them through co-ordinated and connected actions between the partners on the ground.
- Make decisions based on expertise and best practice from within the Partnership and wider stakeholders, complemented by examples and learning from outside the area.
- Work together to attract and pool resources (funding and people) to achieve the vision by 2028.
- Have mutual respect for each organisation's aims and site objectives, while reflecting and balancing the needs of the wider landscape.
- Communicate as one group our successes and best practice.
- Support one another in difficult and contentious issues, offering advice and if possible a partnership view.
- Resolve 'local' issues by working together, using similar practices and approaches, and fostering a culture that delivers on a landscape scale (i.e. the whole is greater than the sum of the parts of the partnership).
- Consult regularly and openly with a wide range of stakeholders and communities.
- Influence nationally, regionally and locally to achieve the 2028 vision (for example, local planning policy).
- Consider opportunities to potentially extend the Sheffield Moors approach to other adjoining areas as these arise.

## Monitoring and review of the masterplan

The Sheffield Moors Partnership will monitor the progress of the masterplan through an associated Steering Group, meeting several times a year.

At the same time, the SMP will co-ordinate an annual 'partnerships' day for the Sheffield Moors, bringing together all existing stakeholder forums like the Stanage Forum and Blacka Moor Reserve Advisory Group, together with other user and interest group representatives as necessary, including those from the farming community. The aim of these events will be provide a formal two-way feedback process on progress towards achieving the vision.

The progress of the masterplan will be fully reviewed every five years against planned delivery, with the involvement and input of stakeholders, and a new five year delivery programme developed. The next full review will be in 2018.

## The next steps

The launch of this draft document is the start of the consultation phase on the masterplan (Stage 3 of the masterplan development).

From the second half of September until Friday 23rd November 2012 we would very much like to know your views and comments on the draft document.

You can let us know what you think in a variety of ways:

- By directing your comments to the Sheffield Moors web site at:

<http://sheffieldmoors.co.uk/consultation>

- By email, addressed to:

[xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)

- By writing to the Sheffield Moors Partnership, addressed to:

Rita Whitcomb,  
Sheffield Moors Partnership,  
C/O National Trust, Peak District Estate,  
Dark Peak Area Office, Edale End,  
Hope, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 6RF  
(Telephone 01433 670905 or 01433 670368)

You are obviously free to provide your comments and view in your own way. However, to help us in collating and analysing your feedback we would be grateful if you could structure your comments by answering the following questions:

### **The Vision for the Sheffield Moors for 2028 (on page 5)**

1. Do you support the vision for Sheffield Moors?
2. Is there anything you want to change to improve the draft vision?

### **What We Are Planning to Achieve (Strategic Outcomes on pages 14 to 17)**

3. What do you like about the Strategic Outcomes proposed in the masterplan?
4. What would you change to improve them?

### **What We Are Proposing To Do (Key Actions on pages 18 to 24)**

5. What are your views on the 'key actions' proposed for the next 15 years?
6. Are there any other 'key actions' you feel should be added? If yes, what are these and why?

## Keeping Informed

7. How would you like to be kept informed about the work of the Sheffield Moors Partnership? (Tick all that apply)
- Through the website
  - Through social media, such as Facebook or Twitter
  - Via email
  - Other (please add) .....
  - I don't want to be kept informed thank you

## Getting Involved

8. Would you be interested in getting involved in the delivery of the masterplan?  
If yes, how?

## Any other comments

9. Do you have any other comments you'd like to add about the draft Sheffield Moors Masterplan?

We will be promoting further awareness of the masterplan and the opportunity for people to share their views by running a number of 'roadshows' in and around the Sheffield Moors during September and October 2012 at key places where people use the landscape, for example Stanage, Upper Burbage, and Longshaw. For further details on the dates and locations of these, please go to:

<http://sheffieldmoors.co.uk/consultation>

or contact Rita Whitcomb on the phone number provided on Page 27 above.

Once the consultation period has ended, the comments and views received will be considered and the masterplan will be refined and amended as appropriate, before being finalised (Stage 4 of the masterplan development).

The finalised masterplan will then be taken to the relevant decision-making boards and committees of the partner organisations within the SMP for adoption in late 2012/early 2013, and the masterplan will then be officially launched in early 2013.

## APPENDIX 1 - List of Stakeholder Organisations

The following table lists some of the stakeholder organisations who have been involved in some form in the development of the masterplan:

British Horse Society  
British Mountaineering Council  
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England  
Curbar Parish Council  
Dark Peak Fell Runners  
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust  
Eastern Moors Partnership  
English Heritage  
Environment Agency  
Forestry Commission  
Friends of the Porter Valley  
Grindleford Parish Council  
Hathersage Parish Council  
Hunter Archaeological Society  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Peak District Local Access Forum  
Peak District National Park Authority  
Peak Horse Power  
Ramblers Association  
Ride Sheffield  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Sheffield Bird Study Group  
Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland  
Sheffield City Council  
Sheffield Futures  
Sheffield Local Access Forum  
Sheffield U3A  
Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group  
Sheffield Wildlife Trust  
South West Community Assembly, Sheffield City Council  
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service  
South Yorkshire Forest Partnership  
Yorkshire Water

## APPENDIX 2 – Summary of the key issues from Stages 1 and 2 of the Masterplan development

The key issues arising from each of the four themes were:

### Theme 1 – Being Involved

People are already involved in the Sheffield Moors in many different ways - as a setting for education programmes, for example secondary school science visits to Burbage Brook; for interpretation – whether written, web-based, as art, or through ranger led events; through volunteering and training programmes such as those provided by Sheffield Wildlife Trust; and also through general events and family activities – like those provided at the jointly managed PDNPA and NT ‘Moorland Discovery Centre’ at Longshaw. Over eight thousand people a year, especially children, take part in life-long learning at the Moorland Discovery Centre, with activities targeted at hard to reach groups, such as those from deprived backgrounds in Sheffield, and ethnic minorities.

The area is also used extensively by ‘outdoor activity’ organisations such as Thornbridge Outdoors that give children and young people often their first experience of the great outdoors through activities like climbing and weaselling.

There are also a number of existing forums that give local people a formal and regular opportunity to influence management of sites within the landscape, such as the Eastern Moors stakeholder forum.

The key related issues that emerged from the community and other stakeholder engagement undertaken to date were:

- Across the Sheffield Moors, there is not enough co-ordination between the different organisations that provide education and interpretation programmes, and more general events, as well as volunteering and training.
- There is a need to get the balance of provision of interpretative information right - between those wanting more ‘hard’ information in the landscape, such as information boards, and those with a preference for ‘softer’ often web-based/virtual means of accessing information that have less visual impact on the landscape.
- As the main ‘visitor facility’ *within* the landscape, Longshaw is not fully grasping its potential to act as the primary ‘visitor hub’ for the whole landscape
- Provision of visitor information and orientation on the Sheffield Moors in surrounding key areas just outside the area such as Hathersage and in Sheffield is piecemeal and not co-ordinated.
- There is an excellent range of local representative organisations from the access, wildlife and heritage communities, such as the British Mountaineering Council and Ride Sheffield, Sheffield Bird Study Group, and Hunter Archaeological Society. These groups are passionate and knowledgeable about the area and keen to be involved in informing how the area is cared for.

- Stakeholder forums do not cover all of the Sheffield Moors landscape. At the same time, there is only so much capacity within the community to support such forums, whilst moves towards a Sheffield Moors wide forum have been suggested.
- There is a general need to engender a greater sense of responsibility and understanding of the landscape, and why and how it is managed.

## **Theme 2 – Access and Recreation**

The Sheffield Moors are a major destination for recreation for surrounding communities and others from further a-field. Over a million people a year visit the area with walking, climbing, mountain-biking, orienteering, horse-riding and fell-running being just some of the things people come to enjoy.

Whilst there is already a good number of rights of way across the landscape, as well related facilities such as car parks, and most of the area is designated as 'open access land', a number of related key issues have emerged from the community and other stakeholder engagement undertaken to date:

- The bridleway network and multi-user routes in general (those for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders) is fragmented and not properly connected, with a number of 'dead end' routes.
- There is a need to improve mutual understanding between different legitimate user groups, and to reduce conflicts with conservation interests in particular areas, for example damage to moorland adjoining the Long Causeway (public byway) due to inappropriate activity.
- Waymarking and signage of public rights of way is not always clear or meaningfully signed, leading to confusion over where and who has legitimate use.
- There are a number of access 'gateways' – key entrances into the Sheffield Moors – that are could be better managed and associated facilities potentially improved sympathetically
- Public transport into and across the area is limited, and potential links to the railway network are under utilised.
- There is a lack of low-key camping facilities in and around the Sheffield Moors
- It is important that areas for quieter recreation and access are recognised and respected.
- Access for the disabled and less able-bodied could be better, both in terms of path surfacing and sometimes poorly designed access structures.
- That existing public rights of way and other access related infrastructure require appropriate maintenance to make the network suitable for legal use, and should use materials that are in keeping with the landscape.

## Theme 3 – Sustainable Land Management

The Sheffield Moors are a working and living landscape, with a high level of statutory designation and protection of landscape, cultural heritage, wildlife, habitats, and geo-diversity directly informing why, how and what land management takes place.

Most areas are in some form of agri-environment scheme, delivering considerable environmental benefits.

The following related key issues emerged from the community and other stakeholder engagement undertaken to date:

- The Sheffield Moors are often perceived as a 'wild' landscape. They also important in providing tranquillity, health benefits and well-being and an escape from the hustle and bustle of the modern world. At the same time, some existing features such as dense conifer plantations are seen as detracting from the high landscape quality.
- There are a variety of views about increasing woodland and trees in the Sheffield Moors, especially within cloughs and valleys.
- Some woodlands receive limited active management, reducing the range of public benefits they can provide for example, for landscape wildlife and recreation.
- There is support for restoration of improved grassland to wildlife rich grassland, for example hay meadows, and blanket bog and mire restoration following past man-made drainage.
- Areas of (dry) heathland have been lost or reduced because of over-grazing in the past or lack of appropriate management.
- There is a need to re-connect the historic farming system links between in-bye grassland and moorland.
- Vigorous invasive species, like Himalayan Balsam are a problem in some areas.
- There has been a loss of 'transitional' habitats such as scrub, and there are sometimes harsh boundaries between habitats, for example plantation woodland and heathland.
- There is a need to ensure areas adjoining the Sheffield Moors are also rich in wildlife friendly habitats, for example for waders that feed on in-bye but breed on the moors, and to promote connectivity of habitats.
- There is a range of views regarding the types of livestock that should be used to help manage the landscape, and suggestions that livestock could be removed from at least some areas to see how the landscape would change.
- The geological interests are not always fully appreciated or understood.
- There is a need to raise awareness of the cultural heritage and ancient nature of the landscape, and ensure that it is properly protected and managed.
- Most of the Sheffield Moors has had recent detailed archaeological field survey but some gaps remain.
- There is support for viable and sustainable farming to deliver a range of public benefits such as food, and water storage.



- Access and other infrastructure improvements are not always undertaken in ways that are sensitive to the national and international importance of the landscape for wildlife and cultural heritage.
- In some areas, limited visitor management is leading to detrimental impacts on more sensitive wildlife and habitats.

## **Theme 4 – Recognising the wider benefits of the moors**

The Sheffield Moors provide a range of well-known public benefits - from attracting visitors into the local area and in turn supporting the local economy – to less commonly appreciated benefits – such as helping to clean and store water that is then directed into our homes.

The latest employment figures show farming and land management to be significant, with the sector employing 3,500 people which comprises 18.5% of total employment in the National Park.

Tourism helps people to understand the special qualities of the National Park and is a major contributor to the economy. Tourism is worth over £356 million per annum to the National Park economy, and is estimated to support around 7,000 jobs. The Peak District currently attracts over 10.4 million visitor days per annum.

The community and other stakeholder engagement undertaken to date brought up the following key issues:

- The landscape has an important role in carbon storage, and in climate change mitigation and adaptation and this could be enhanced through appropriate management.
- Whilst the importance of the Sheffield Moors to the local and wider economy is recognised, this needs to be sustained in ways that continue to protect the high conservation, heritage and recreation value of the landscape.
- Recognition that the Sheffield Moors are a working landscape that whilst meeting conservation objectives can also produce sustainable products like food and wood.
- Blanket bogs and other moorland vegetation can help in cleaning and storing water, with knock-on benefits to flood control in adjoining communities. However, these benefits have been undermined in the past by artificial drainage and inappropriate land management.

## **APPENDIX 3 – Glossary of Terms**

Agri-env – Agri-environment schemes, such as Higher Level Stewardship that reward land managers for a range of effective environmental management

DCC – Derbyshire County Council

EWGS – England Woodland Grant Scheme, an agri-environment scheme overseen by the Forestry Commission that encourages sustainable woodland management

EMP – Eastern Moors Partnership

HLS – Higher Level Stewardship, an agri-environment scheme overseen by Natural England

MFF – Moors for the Future Partnership

NE – Natural England

NIA – Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area Partnership

NT – National Trust

PDNPA – Peak District National Park Authority

RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

SAC – Special Area for Conservation

SCC – Sheffield City Council

SM – Sheffield Moors

SMP – Sheffield Moors Partnership

SPA – Special Protection Area

SSSI – Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SWT – Sheffield Wildlife Trust

SYAS – South Yorkshire Archaeology Service