

West Pennine Moors Management Plan Review

Background/introduction

The management plan for the West Pennine Moors was developed after extensive consultation with partners and the communities of the West Pennine Moors in 2009. At that time the 7 local authorities in the area were very active, however constraints on their budgets have meant that many of the activities have not happened as planned. However, many other partners have been delivering projects.

Review process

Following the last meeting of the West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee it was agreed that the Management Plan needed to be reviewed to enable the priorities for the committee to be identified.

Delivery of actions in the management plan has been reviewed through a basic desktop assessment by officers from the various partner organisations. More detailed information about the activities identified in the management plan that have been delivered, or are scheduled for the future is included in Annex A.

Of the 139 actions identified in the action plan

- 24 (17%) had made minimal or no progress
- 26 (19%) had made some progress, or had been progressed in some parts of the area.
- 31 (22%) had made good progress
- For the remaining 50 (42%) there was no detailed information available on progress

Gaps in delivery

The management plan was divided into 6 themes

- Natural and Historic Environment (40 actions)
- Community and Education (26 actions)
- Local Economy (16 actions)
- Enjoyment and Access (30 actions)
- Partnership and Management (22 actions)
- Responding to Climate Change (6 actions)

Progress has been made on the majority (72% rated green or amber) of the actions around protecting the natural and historic environment. However, much less progress has been made on actions relating to the local economy (31% rated green or amber) and enjoyment and access (27% rated green or amber). Many of the amber actions under the local economy theme refer to potential links to work by Pennine Prospects' Local Distinctiveness project.

Realistic commitments from partners moving forward

During the review process many partners expressed strong feelings that at times of limited resource it is even more important to work in partnership rather than retreat into individual organisations. Whilst some of the actions in the management plan are now aspirational without further resource being secured, it is important that all partners are clear about their commitments.

Local authorities – severely restricted local authority budgets mean that their main commitments are to fulfil their statutory duty to maintain public rights of way, and to maintain those sites in local authority ownership.

United Utilities – have implemented large number of actions through SCAMP 2. Will continue with additional works as part of future asset management programmes and continue maintenance of sites in their ownership and management.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust – have a commitment to implement the South Pennines Grassland Project and to maintain the sites in their ownership and management.