Dales 2013

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Autumn 2013

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

Help young people to stay and live in the National Park, support rural broadband, protect wildlife, encourage re-use of redundant barns and look after this beautiful landscape - these were some of the things that you told us were important to you when we asked for your views last year on the future of the National Park.

Your responses have now helped to create a new Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan which sets out ambitions for how this very special place will be looked after over the next five to ten years.

At its heart is a vision: that, through their passion for this special place, local people and businesses will keep it a thriving area, that its unique landscape will be treasured, and that millions will be inspired to be a part of it.

There are six elements to this vision, each carrying equal weight, which are displayed in purple boxes on the following pages.

As well as taking into account residents' views, the Plan tries to address some of the challenges that the National Park - and the people who live and work here - are currently facing. These are challenging times. Farmers are waiting to see what the new CAP reform deal will mean for them, the UK economy is only very slowly starting to recover, the population of the National Park is getting older, average houses prices are high, and most of the public organisations involved in funding the work in the Management Plan have seen major reductions in resources in recent years.

However, the long-term ambitions for the National Park remain undimmed. The Plan is focused on the things that can be done, and should help to make a real difference.

This edition of Dales shows how the important issues you identified will be worked on in the years to come, not just by the National Park Authority but by all the organisations, businesses and individuals who have an interest in the National Park.

The success of this Management Plan will be dependent on everyone that cares about the National Park working together to help secure and enhance its future and ensure it is a place to be proud of for generations to come.

Read about the Plan and progress on it at **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk**



Through the fields, Muker © Mat Robinson

Website showcases Park's natural world

A website launched this summer is a must for those interested in wildlife conservation in the National Park.

Aimed at residents and visitors, students, local naturalists and professionals, **www.natureinthedales.org.uk** has already won the praise of TV presenter and environmental campaigner Professor David Bellamy.



Upland areas such as National Parks are now nationally important for breeding waders - there are around 1,500 pairs of snipe (pictured) in the Yorkshire Dales.

'Nature in the Dales' is the website of the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum and is hosted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Its content has been written and illustrated by a wide range of organisations and individuals - the very people who love this landscape; a mammoth collaborative effort with stunning results.

After exploring some of the hundreds of pages on the website, Professor Bellamy said: "What a fantastic window onto one of the most beautiful corners of Britain. The Yorkshire Dales is one of my favourite places - so I hope Nature in the Dales will help many more people discover its treasures and understand its value."

The website showcases local information about 150 of the species and 14 of the habitats found in the special landscape of the National Park accompanied by 300 amazing images, many of them generously donated by local naturalists, landowners, visitors, academics and conservation professionals.

It also contains details of conservation projects pioneered in the National Park, 18 of the best places to see wildlife, the Biodiversity Forum's Species and Habitat Action Plans, and a wide range of opportunities for people to get involved in looking after their natural environment.

Authority Wildlife Conservation Officer Frances Graham said: "Thanks to our farmers and landowners, the Yorkshire Dales National Park is home to some of the finest wildlife in England, and there is a lot of great wildlife conservation work taking place to help it stay that way."

"Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England."

Recruitment drive for Young Champions

A new project aims to recruit 16 to 25-year-olds who live in or near the National Park to become Young Champions in caring for this beautiful landscape.

As well as learning new skills and sampling what's on offer themselves, they will become youth leaders, promoting the National Park to other young people and advising the National Park Authority on the services and activities it offers, as well as ways to become more youth-friendly.

The Mosaic Youth Project is led by the Campaign for National Parks and delivered in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Youth Hostel Association. It is funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery - Reaching Communities Fund.

The project's main aim is to improve health and confidence through involvement with National Parks. It offers training and accreditation, fun-packed activity days and residential visits.

Michael Miles, one of the project's first Young Champions, attended a taster day at the National Trust-owned Hudswell Woods near Richmond in August: "The day was great", he said." The project is opening up so many opportunities for me that I was unable to do - or unsure how to do - myself."

A programme of monthly activity days is now being organised, starting this autumn.

Anyone aged 16 to 25 wanting to get further information should contact Jan Bruce, Mosaic Youth Project Officer (Yorkshire Dales), on jan@cnp.org.uk or 07972 630135.



Young Champion Michael Miles, left, learns about conservation work on a managed site at Hudswell Woods near Richmond as part of the new Mosaic Youth Project.

In this edition

Share in National Park brand - p2

Park profile - p4

Gearing up for Tour - p5

Farming grant continues - p7

A warm welcome to the autumn edition of Dales

I was thrilled and honoured to be elected Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in June. I was also a little daunted about following in the rather large footsteps of my predecessor - Carl Lis. Of course what Mr Lis failed to bring to the area, for the last couple of years at least, was a superb summer and I am taking full credit for the upturn in fortunes! This summer really has showcased the Yorkshire Dales at its very best.

In my early days as Chairman, I have appreciated the opportunity to meet many local businesses, farmers and other local people; the type of people who make this area what it is. I am acutely aware of some of the threats that are facing Dales communities and businesses.

The Authority, along with many other groups, has been involved in trying to raise some of these issues at a national level - funding for rural schools, the retention of rural GP services, and the difficulties of improving access to broadband.

On the positive side, it has been really heartening to see some individuals and communities 'stepping up to the plate' and finding their own local solutions (you can read more about this on page 4).



Finally, can I say thank you to all those who have been so welcoming, and assure you that whilst I am fortunate enough to hold this position I will do my very utmost to work in the interests of the National Park and its communities.

Peter Charlesworth
Chairman

Skipton & Craven Action for Disability
Seeing Caring & Doing
In a largely rural area such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park, many people struggle with transport problems. If you also have a disability, you will know how much more difficult it is. SCAD Transport was set up to provide an efficient, safe and reasonably priced transport system for people in areas who have a disability and are unable to use public transport. Our minibuses (equipped with wheelchair lifts) collect from door to door. Members use us to travel to visit friends and family, do their shopping, attend college, doctors and hospital appointments etc., or just to get out for the day.
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Ram's head logo goes large

This year - following an enthusiastic thumbs-up to the idea from businesses - we invited local people to share in our brand, offering out the National Park logo to those proud to operate within this very special area.

Five designs - based on the famous Swaledale ram's head - were created to help individuals and organisations position their business, event or product within or of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The logos represent the place, the National Park, and can be used in any way the applicant likes - within the bounds of some simple guidelines to ensure the value of the brand is maintained for all. The logos are not a quality mark or endorsement, nor do they imply any other support or funding from the National Park Authority.

We've had an excellent response with over 100 now signed up and the ram's head is appearing on websites, vehicles and menus across the National Park - and even 10,000 ice cream cartons.

Glenn Payne of Herriots Hotel in Hawes said: "We wanted to support the National Park, and thought the logos summed up what we're trying to do.

"People do like to hear about sustainability and traceability, and I think this shows a togetherness. We've had good comments from our guests."

Gill Harrison of Wensleydale Ice Cream said her mother spotted the offer in the newspaper: "I normally cast these things aside but in this case I thought it was a fantastic idea", she said. "The Yorkshire Dales National Park logo is a very strong one and the image is synonymous with the Dales."

"As farmers we are proud of our environment and we thought what a brilliant opportunity to unite the produce from the Dales and link it to its environment. It is exactly what we are trying to promote: great food from a beautiful area."

Susan Briggs of The Tourism Network applied because she is proud to live and work in the Yorkshire Dales and passionate about sharing that with others.

"I've been encouraging tourism businesses and artists to apply for and use the logo because it's extra reassurance for visitors, shows the strength of our local pride and, if we all use it collectively, will have extra power and benefit everyone.

"Research by VisitEngland has shown that the Yorkshire Dales is one of the most recognised destination brands and the logo is a great way to demonstrate we're all part of this fantastic area."

The website - **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/logo** - details everything you need to know to apply, including criteria and application forms.

The Authority is not charging for use of the logo but as it is trademarked there is a £50 fee from the Intellectual Property Office to register licensees with them. However, the Authority has agreed to pay that fee for the first year of operation to encourage take up.

The licence lasts in perpetuity and the deadline for the free offer is 12 November, so now is the time to get your application in!

National Park buildings in the frame

The historic buildings of the Yorkshire Dales National Park form an important part of our cultural heritage - they are a link to past generations and an asset we need to conserve for the benefit of future generations.

And they are currently being highlighted in a free exhibition at the Authority's offices in Bainbridge.

The photos have been selected from the Yorkshire Dales Historic Environment Record and were originally taken to inform the day-to-day work of our Historic Environment team.

Buildings make a major contribution to local distinctiveness and to a sense of place. This includes use of local materials and craft skills, the way traditional buildings were designed or developed in response to the upland environment and climate of the Dales, and a patina of age.

Susan Wrathmell, Senior Listed Buildings Officer, said: "Many - but by no means all - of the images are of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, or buildings within conservation areas. Some show particular buildings or building groups, others concentrate on small details of buildings.

"This is deliberate - detail is so important in maintaining character but unfortunately it is the fine detail of buildings which can so easily be overlooked and lost, often without thinking, as buildings are maintained and updated for the twenty-first century."

Called 'Every Picture Tells a Story', this popular exhibition is running until the end of September between 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday - but if you miss out you can also view it on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/everypicture**



Datestones and inscriptions are often a great help in giving a date for a building, but can be moved or re-used so have to be interpreted carefully. This is in its original location.

Historic building help

This year our annual day school 'Caring for Your Historic Building' will be held jointly with Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on Saturday 12 October at Burnsall Village Hall.

Aimed at homeowners, building managers and anyone who just wants to learn more, there will be practical presentations on repair and maintenance as well as illustrated talks by leading specialists. The £15 fee includes a buffet lunch.

For more information please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/caringforyourhistoricbuilding**, call 01423 712950 or email aonbevents@harrogate.gov.uk

Apprenticeships are just the job

Josh Hull didn't have much idea of what he wanted to do when he left school.

There was some talk of going to university to study physics with acoustics - but that didn't really grab him.

Apart from that, all he knew for certain was that he loved mountain biking and he wanted to be outside as much as possible.

So he took a year out, did some travelling, found a job and did some voluntary work with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in his spare time - as well as working towards a mountain bike leader award.

Everything changed when he heard about an apprenticeship in environmental conservation being offered through the Dales Countryside Trainee Scheme run by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT).

"I applied for a place - and have never looked back," Josh said.

In the next 22 months as a trainee ranger with the National Park Authority, he learned a sackful of new skills ranging from making gates and using a chainsaw to off-road driving and handling pesticides.

"I had never considered doing an apprenticeship until this came up but it has opened so many doors and I'm doing things I never thought I'd be doing," he said.



Former apprentice Josh Hull learns how to use a mortising machine while on a traditional gate-making course at Gayle Mill in Wensleydale

After completing the course he obtained a temporary contract with the Authority to help create an alternative walking route between Pen-y-ghent and Ribblehead over Whitber Hill - and promptly broke his leg in a mountain biking accident.

That put him out of action for a year but he got back into circulation just as the then Three Peaks Ranger decided to move on. Josh applied for the job - and, at the age of 23, he is still doing it.

"The apprenticeship has altered my life - who knows what I'd be doing if I hadn't done the course," he said.

The Dales Countryside Trainee Scheme provided 12 places on a two-year apprenticeship in a range of public, private and charitable businesses and organisations within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

James Firth also undertook an apprenticeship with the Authority and is now working at another National Park - Loch Lomond and The Trossachs in Scotland.

Like Josh, he learned a whole new set of new skills and, after completing his apprenticeship, he covered part time for an access ranger who was off sick.

"The traineeship has given me confidence in my own abilities and I've learnt much about working life in general," he said.

"Experience in conservation work is hard to gain these days and to have been paid to do such an enjoyable job has been a bonus."

The current training scheme has now come to an end but a new one is in the pipeline, according to Alan Hulme, the National Park Authority's Head of Ranger Services.

"We are developing a new scheme with YDMT and hope to be appointing two apprentices within the Ranger Service," he said.

"We are also looking to develop training opportunities in other areas of work across the Authority."

David Sharrod, YDMT's Director, said: "We're delighted to be able to launch another Countryside Trainee Scheme this year with the support of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. It's proved to be an extremely successful way of enabling young people to stay and work in the Dales, and equip them with the skills we desperately need to maintain this precious landscape into the future.

"The scheme is a win-win for the young people and organisations involved - as well as for the Dales - with many trainees going on to rewarding careers with organisations in this area."

"Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage, which underpin a flourishing local economy."

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

National park authorities have two purposes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the parks by the public.

In carrying out these purposes, national park authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.

To fulfill these purposes, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority offers services that provide help and advice on a wide range of issues, including environmental conservation and enhancement, planning, historic buildings and sites, tourist information and footpath and bridleway management.

If you would like more information please:

write to, or call in at, our offices...

Open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

- Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EL
- Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB

telephone...

0300 456 0030

email...

info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

or visit...

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority aims to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in environmental and conservation policy and practice, and in the quality of the services we deliver and in the quality of the landscape - we welcome your comments and suggestions about our work.

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Building in biodiversity

Could you integrate a bat box into your building development? Could your garden shed include a bird box, or are you thinking about planting a couple of native trees?

The National Park Authority is keen to encourage planning applicants to identify existing wildlife habitats and consider whether there is any opportunity to enhance them - or create new ones - as part of their building project.

And a new guide has been put together with advice and case studies to help residents and developers maximise these opportunities to build in biodiversity.

Doing so at the earliest design stage makes it much easier to include as part of the overall development and helps continue to make a positive contribution to the special qualities of the National Park through the planning system.

View the guide at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/adding-biodiversity**

Yorkshire Dales Woodfuel Fair

Saturday 2nd November 2013 - 10.30am to 2.30pm

GRASSINGTON TOWN HALL

A free event for all residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund which is managed by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Organised by Yorwoods, the Woodfuel Fair will feature exhibits from woodfuel and woodfuel heating equipment suppliers from in and around the Dales area. Yorwoods staff will be on hand to give free independent and impartial information, advice and guidance to people interested in taking advantage of the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive for home owners and there will be a series of short presentations throughout the day on how to get the best out of your woodfuel heating equipment.

Yorwoods
no need to book, just turn up on the day
For more information contact the Yorwoods office
01765 609355
info@yorwoods.org.uk
www.yorwoods.org.uk
YORKSHIRE DALES National Park Authority
YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST



Peatland restoration milestone reached

Around 100 square miles of Yorkshire's precious peatlands have been restored in a multi-million pound project.

The Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) aims to preserve these vital habitats and help cut global warming by reducing the amount of carbon escaping from them into the atmosphere.

This significant milestone means nearly a quarter of Yorkshire's damaged peatlands have been brought back to health and an estimated 29,500 tonnes of greenhouse gas CO_2 prevented from being emitted - equivalent to the amount of carbon produced annually by 62,000 UK households.

The YPP is led by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, funded by Natural England, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and supported by North York Moors National Park Authority, National Trust, Pennine Prospects, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, National Farmers' Union and the Moorland Association.

More than 60 per cent of the restoration work took place in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, home to more blanket bog - the habitat in which peat is formed - than any other National Park in England.

And YPP programme manager Dr Tim Thom said that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had been key to the project's success in the region.

"Peatland restoration not only ensures the survival of rare plant and animal species, it also increases carbon storage, helps purify drinking water quality by reducing sedimentation from peat flushed into reservoirs by surface run-off and preserves tranquil landscapes for all of us to enjoy well into the future."

"The Authority has provided financial, practical and logistical support throughout, without which the YPP would not have reached this 10,000 hectare milestone."

The Authority's Head of Land Management, Adrian Shepherd, said: "We're delighted we have been able to help and that the challenge of restoring our internationally-important peatlands has been taken up so enthusiastically by landowners and farmers in the National Park".

Since 2009, the YPP has spent more than £5 million restoring peat, most of which had been provided by Natural England through its Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

Richard Johnson, a landowner in the Yorkshire Dales whose advice and cooperation will lead to the restoration of 435 hectares of peatland, said: "Working with organisations to deliver restoration can be a challenge. But with cooperation, communication and often compromise the best outcome can be achieved for both Yorkshire's peatlands and also for those who work and derive their livelihood from the moorland areas with resulting benefits for the local economy"



Restoring eroded peatland such as this prevents harmful carbon escaping into the atmosphere, as well as ensuring the survival of rare plant and animal species.

"Resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces."

A community effort

The National Park offers visitors stunning scenery, exceptional heritage, friendly people and warm, welcoming places, each with its own special character.

Perhaps less obvious to the casual observer is its culture of community spirit, self-sufficiency and self-belief - shaped by the area's physical environment and remoteness.

Looking around the National Park today, there is plenty of evidence that this spirit is alive and well with the number of fantastic projects being developed and delivered by and for local people.

Broadband is critical to the economic and social well-being of communities in the National Park. In our last issue, we featured Fibre GarDen, a Community Interest Company set up by Garsdale & Dent Parish Councils to provide superfast broadband to every property in Dentdale and Garsdale.

The company is about to launch a community share issue to raise the final slice of funding needed to complete the build, with installation due to start this autumn - see http://fibre-garden.co.uk for details.

In Upper Wharfedale, a community-led Fast Broadband scheme has already been installed. The wireless signal is transmitted from a hub at Kettlewell primary school to masts at different locations throughout the dale and is now being extended to Littondale.

The scheme has been largely funded by North Yorkshire County Council, with match funding from local residents. Visit **www.fastuwdale.net** for more information.

Alongside the arrival of fast broadband, the Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Sustainability Working Group has been working to encourage more people to live and work in the area.

The Group has set up a website - **www.upperwharfedale.org** - providing information about the individual communities, the education and employment opportunities and the amazing leisure activities available.

It provides links to many local resources, as well as covering the practicalities of life in an upland rural community.

And in Carlton-in-Coverdale, the village pub - the Foresters Arms - was saved from closure by the local community in 2011. The Coverdale Community Pub Co-operative raised funds to buy, and then renovate and refurbish the building. Read their story at **www.coverdalecommunitypub.co.uk**

The National Park Authority has been able to offer funding, advice and practical support for many of these and other projects. Through the new National Park Management Plan, in partnership with district councils, statutory and environmental bodies and a wide range of other organisations and individuals, it is committed to helping communities retain, take on and deliver their own local services.

PARK PROFILE

THERE ARE 1,770 BUSINESSES IN THE NATIONAL PARK, WITH AN ANNUAL TURNOVER OF £422 MILLION, PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR 6,900 PEOPLE

NEARLY HALF of all the limestone pavement in the UK is found here in the National Park

Covering 680 square miles, the Yorkshire Dales is the second largest National Park in England after the Lake District

Designated in 1954, it was the eighth National Park to be created and celebrates its 60th BIRTHDAY next year

There are around 6,000 traditional farm buildings in the National Park, including over 4,000 field barns

The National Park is at the southernmost tip of the UK's core area for RED SQUIRRELS AND BLACK GROUSE, both endangered species

The National Park is home to 19,761 people - 41% are under 45 (national average 59%) and 35% aged 60 and over (national average 23%)

Yorkshire Dales National Park volunteers put in 5,715 work days in 2011/12

THERE ARE 8,804 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NATIONAL PARK - 22% OF HOMES ARE NOT PERMANENTLY OCCUPIED

The Authority's annual grant in 2011/12 was £5.1m - this will have REDUCED TO £4.2m by 2014/15

88% of the National Park is in North Yorkshire and 12% in Cumbria

THE NATIONAL PARK CONTAINS 1,714 LISTED BUILDINGS AND 203 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Pennine Way / Pennine Bridleway — Two National Trails go through the National Park

There are 2,162km of rights of way in the National Park, with 130km accessible to all abilities, including wheelchair users

Woodland covers 4.82% of the National Park — just 2.88% is broadleaved and mixed, the rest is conifer

There are 8,689 km of drystone walls in the National Park

There were 3.1m day trips to the National Park in 2011 and the estimated annual tourism expenditure was £199m, supporting 3,790 jobs (full time equivalent)

Sources: Office of National Statistics, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, English Heritage

National Park Authority helps businesses gear up for Tour

The countdown has begun to the day millions of people will be watching the beginning of the Tour de France on TV and online - as it passes though the Yorkshire Dales.

And extra help is on hand for local businesses and communities gearing up to make the most of the 2014 Grand Départ in the National Park.

A series of factsheets has been produced offering practical advice on setting up a temporary car park or campsite, planning a village party or advertising your business.

You can find them on the National Park Authority's website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/letour** which will be continuously updated with a range of helpful information ahead of Le Tour's arrival on 5 and 6 July next year.

Shops, accommodation providers and tourist attractions are also being offered the chance to get free bike rings to install outside their premises to encourage cyclists to visit them, as well as simple bike maintenance kits to keep guests on the road.

Interested businesses should contact Meghann Hull on 01756 751600 - there is a limited number available so it will be on a first come, first served basis.

And cyclists and visitors wanting to explore the Yorkshire Dales National Park on two wheels have a revamped, up-dated service at their fingertips to help them plan their trip.



Gemma Blood and Simon Baker from Cirencester with a bike stand at The Traddock Hotel in Austwick

A huge range of routes is included on the new-look Cycle the Dales website, along with downloadable maps and descriptions. And there are new sections full of information about classic hill climbs and the Tour de France to be found on the site at **www.cyclethedales.org.uk**

Funding may also be available from the National Park Authority through parish councils.

Local Plan: we've been busy!

By Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development

Last December we asked you what you considered to be the main issues facing the National Park so that we could respond to them with new planning policies.

You told us that we should increase the re-use of traditional farm buildings, support high speed broadband (20mbps) and provide sites for new Extra Care elderly services in Hawes, Reeth Grassington and Sedbergh.

You also wanted to see a more flexible approach to grow new employment, business and tourism, develop brownfield rather than greenfield sites, maintain the vitality and viability of our high streets and reduce road haulage from quarries.

We have looked at these and other issues and the evidence behind them, and are particularly concerned about the continued trend for services and jobs to move further away from the National Park. The population has stopped growing for the first time since 1970 and there has been a significant drop in the number of children and couples of child-producing age. This has significant implications for future elderly care, school places and the continued viability of local services.

We are now asking for your thoughts on a range of policy options to tackle these issues. This is probably the most important stage in the preparation of the new Local Plan - the document that will guide future planning policy in the National Park. We are:

- investigating allocating brownfield sites near Grassington and Sedbergh to develop new business uses
- proposing a new, more managed approach to the re-use of barns
- proposing a wider range of high street uses to maintain vitality within our local service centres
- considering a more flexible approach to the development of new camping and touring pitches and the development of visitor facilities to encourage more overnight stays
- inviting comments on options to either stop all future quarrying in the National Park or allow a more flexible approach that will permit some quarrying but subject to strict conditions - for example, in relation to the movement of quarry products by rail rather than road.

If you are interested in these issues and wish to contribute to the policy-making process please go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/future-policy** - we are inviting comments by 29 October.



A barn conversion in Oxnop, Swaledale

Barns survey

By Tom Harland, Planning Policy Officer

Few would doubt that the traditional, stone-built field barns are one of the defining features of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Equally, few would have failed to notice that we have yet to find a way to stop them falling down.

There are around 4,000 in the National Park. Most, if not all, have outlived their original agricultural purpose, and many are in a very poor condition.

The message is simple - despite the millions of pounds put into barn restoration in the last 20 years, and the many individual successes - the current approach isn't working. If the building still doesn't have a use, there is no incentive to maintain it, so the cycle of slow decline starts again.

Is it time to consider some more radical options? The Government certainly thinks so. In August it launched a consultation on a proposal that would remove the requirement of applying for planning permission to convert barns to houses.

National Parks would not be exempted from the changes and up to three barns on any agricultural holding could be converted. Physical changes to the building, including demolition and rebuilding where necessary, would also be included in the changes.

The Authority would still need to be notified of proposals, and could have a say in some detailed aspects of the conversion, but the principle of the change of use couldn't be questioned.

The alternative is a more managed approach to releasing conversion potential. The National Park Management Plan, adopted in June this year, gave a commitment to provide clear guidance by 2015 on which barns could be converted, which should benefit from grants for repair, and which could be allowed to decline. We could use our planning policies to decide which barns were most suited to residential conversion according to their historic and landscape importance, location, and the type of housing that is created - that is, whether it is for local housing needs or the wider market.

This autumn we are consulting on these two options in a new Local Plan for the National Park.

Should there be full planning control over barn conversions?

Is it important that there is a mechanism to control where conversions can happen, what they should look like, and whether they should be homes for local people, holiday, retirement or second homes?

Do the benefits of removing 'red tape' outweigh the risks?

Please let us know your thoughts - see Local Plan, page 5.

Award for National Park woodland scheme

A tree planting scheme in the Yorkshire Dales National Park has won a top national award.

John and Freya Hart, who own Swarthghyll Farm in Langstrothdale near Oughtershaw, have planted thousands of native trees on 21 hectares of their land after receiving funding from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the Forestry Commission and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

And their efforts were rewarded when they were presented with the John Boddy Rose Bowl Trophy at the Great Yorkshire Show. This year's theme was the best woodland creation scheme to demonstrate woodland resilience.

Judge Crispin Thorn of the Forestry Commission said: "We picked Swarthghyll Farm because it is significant in terms of size and this, combined with a wide range of tree species, makes it more resilient to challenges such as climate change.

"It contains a mix of native woodland and the design includes Scots Pine to provide food for the red squirrels in this important reserve area"

Mr Hart said: "We were knocked out when we heard we had won. These schemes are important for the environment and we just want to give the wildlife a chance. We want to leave things better than when we arrived."

Senior Trees and Woodlands Officer Geoff Garrett said: "We are very pleased that John and Freya have been given the recognition they deserve.

"We're always happy to talk to landowners who are considering similar woodland schemes, which are so important for this nationally-protected area."

People wanting to plant trees in the Yorkshire Dales National Park can now get more expert help and advice.

A free booklet has been produced with information about creating woodland which does not look out of place in its surroundings.

The National Park Authority has a target in the current financial year to work with partners to support the planting of at least 80 hectares of new native woodland and to fund bringing at least 65 hectares of semi-natural woodland into good management.

New woodlands can have a major effect - both positive and negative - on the important landscape of the Dales so it is essential when planning to plant that they compliment the landscape and become part of it as the new trees mature.

The Woodlands Siting and Design Guide can be downloaded at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/woodlandsadvice.**

Traffic regulations on sensitive routes to remain

The majority of trail riders and 4x4 users who come into the National Park to ride on 'green lanes' are responsible people who help to protect this fragile landscape by going only where they are allowed legally.

But there are always a few who think they are above the law and can go where they want, irrespective of the impact they have on the National Park or others.

In the recent past, some routes have been used by up to 250 recreational motorbikes a month. Now, the situation is vastly different.

In 2006 an extensive assessment of all the National Park's green lanes led to recommendations for future management for those most sensitive to use by recreational motor vehicles.

For ten this meant permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), which prohibited this use indefinitely.

A five-year review of these TROs took place earlier this year and considered, amongst a number of things, whether the 'status' of the route - as shown on the legal record of rights of way (the Definitive Map) - had changed and whether all agreed management measures were still in place.

It looked at whether the TRO had been effective in reducing or eliminating use by recreational motor vehicles, and whether there had been any change in use by agricultural/land management motor vehicles.

It considered whether the condition of each route was deteriorating, static or improving, and also whether a TRO was still required to achieve the aim of protecting the special qualities of the route.

The review showed that TROs have led to a significant - and in most cases, dramatic - decrease in the use of the routes by recreational motor vehicles - and the support of user groups and the police in achieving this is fully acknowledged.

The outcome is that permanent full-time Traffic Regulation Orders will remain on eight routes. However, on two - Cam High Road (Far Gearstones) and Ling Gill (Old Ing to Cam End) - the Authority will look to revoke the TROs because clarification of the Definitive Map status means they are no longer needed.

For further information please contact Tourism and Recreation Manager Tracey Lambert on 01756 751626.

It is illegal to ride a car or motorbike on any public footpath, bridleway or restricted byway so trail riders and 4x4 users are urged to make sure they know where they can legally drive away from the metalled road.

Further information is available on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk and from organisations such as the Trail Riders Fellowship and Land Access Recreation Association (LARA).

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"A friendly, open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities."

Farming grant scheme continues

By Jane le Cocq, Farm Conservation Adviser

It's been a very busy spring and summer for the Farm Conservation Team. The Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) project's capital grant scheme has proved to be extremely popular with 43 farmers applying - that's double the number from last year.

At the moment we know that 29 have been offered the grant totalling almost £244,000 to be spent on items such as roofing over muck stores, feeding yards and silage pits. These are useful practical items which will benefit the environment, stock, farmers and the local rural economy.

Over the next few months the project will be focusing more on soil husbandry which is particularly relevant at the moment as last year's extreme weather left much badly damaged and in need of remediation work.

Twenty farmers will be offered the chance to have a soil husbandry report undertaken. This will include soil testing and analysis, identification and ideas to tackle problem areas identified by the farmer.

There will be two soil husbandry events taking place in September on farms in Clapham and Dent. These will look at the importance of soil and how it influences crop production and stock health. Participants will be given the chance to learn how to identify different soil types, the importance of regular soil testing and how soil nutrients interact with each other.



Open day: farmer Simon Coultherd talks about his CSF capital grant-funded building works at Home Farm, Clapham

Also in September, as a follow up to a previous trip last year, we will be taking interested farmers up to the Scottish Agricultural College at Dumfries to look at cow health, nutrition, soil and grassland management.

We have just heard that the CSF programme will be running again in 2014/15 and that the capital grant scheme will be repeated. This will come as welcome news for farmers who are increasingly looking to take advantage of the many benefits of the scheme.

Contact the farm team on farmconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01756 7516108.

Monuments conserved

By Robert White, Senior Historic Environment Officer

For the last couple of years, we've been carrying out a programme of work to conserve some of the scheduled industrial monuments in the National Park.

The centrepiece of the conservation programme is on Grassington Moor. The multi period lead mines and processing works and the twentieth century barytes mill is the largest scheduled monument in the National Park.

The designated area covers some 203 hectares although the mining remains themselves extend outside the boundary, forming part of a much more extensive historic landscape.

The most obvious remains are associated with the introduction of a large scale water-powered mechanisation in the early nineteenth century and the later barytes reprocessing works which re-occupied some of the nineteenth century works: more subtle remains in the Grassington area take the story of lead-mining back several centuries.

At the core of the Grassington Moor monument is the ruined cupola lead smelting mill and a network of over 1.7km of ground level flues which took poisonous gases away from the smelters working in the mill to a 20m high chimney.

As the gases cooled some lead fume settled on the sides of the flue so one of the less attractive jobs in the industry was scraping down the sides of the flues so that the dust could be flushed down to settling ponds near the mill. Here it was collected and then re-smelted to increase production.



The chimney from the former lead smelting mill on Grassington Moor

Over the last couple of years - with generous funding from English Heritage - contractors working for the National Park Authority have been consolidating some of these remains, particularly the smelt mill and flue, a bridge over Coalgrovebeck and a unique embankment under which a metal hawser ran, transferring power generated by a large waterwheel, to lift spoil and ore rich material up one of the deep shafts.

These emergency works have now been completed but the site still faces problems: in addition to the impact of weather, parts suffer from rabbit infestation, robbing of spoil heaps and dumping. There is even illicit motor bike and sometimes even recreational 4x4 activity over fragile, often highly toxic, spoil heaps which is also highly damaging to the botanical interest of the site. Continued monitoring and maintenance is necessary to ensure the special interest of this nationally important part of our heritage survives for future generations to enjoy.

There is a waymarked trail around some of the principal remains which was laid out by the National Park Authority. If visiting the site please help protect it by not walking along the top of the flues.

Get appy

A new smartphone app helps you make the most of your visit to Yorkshire's iconic Three Peaks - and also raise vital funds for this fragile area.

It features walk and mountain bike routes, stunning 360° panoramas and an exciting augmented reality layer which identifies the peaks around you as you stand on the summits of Pen-y-ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/y3peaksapp**

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Leading the way

Just five years ago Burnsall village hall was in a poor state - the roof was leaking, the heating and electrical systems needed overhauling and, as a result, bookings for events were falling rapidly.

Now the building is thriving and has again taken its place as a centre of village life.

"We have a lot of event bookings from both local people and from others coming in from outside - including wedding receptions," said Colin Townsley, a member of the village hall management committee.

"We also have a business plan in place to ensure we have enough income to maintain the hall regularly and properly so we can keep it as a focal point for the village in perpetuity."

The transformation came about thanks to a number of grants, the largest of which was £85,213 from the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme - a multi-agency partnership bringing together representatives from voluntary sector organisations, public bodies and private businesses to address the problems of 'rurality'.

Work on the hall took about three years to complete and included the construction of a two-storey extension, installation of audio/visual equipment, updated electrical and heating systems and improved disabled access.

"The hall was in a spiral of decline - it would have ceased to exist in a few years time if it hadn't had this major overhaul - and the LEADER funding was critical," Colin said.

LEADER also came to the rescue of a vital organisation that has saved the lives of hundreds of residents and visitors alike over the years.

The Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team was in dire need of new vehicles, so members set about trying to raise the cash they needed.



One of Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team's two new Land Rover ambulances, bought with Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme funding.

Jill Armstrong, the team's fund-raising officer, said: "We had a couple of very old, battered vehicles that needed to be replaced and we had raised about £45,000 by the time the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme started so we applied for a grant.

"We received £39,167 and now have two fantastic, specially converted, four-wheel-drive Land Rover ambulances, so we can transport patients as well as equipment.

"We average about 30 callouts a year as well as providing safety cover for some of the regular events that go on in the Dales like the Swaledale Marathon and the Scott Trial.

"And, increasingly, we find ourselves working much more closely with the statutory emergency services and, in periods of bad weather - generally flooding or snow - we have often gone on stand-by for the Yorkshire Ambulance Service because their ambulances can't get to remote farms and our vehicles can."

Rima Berry, the Dales LEADER co-ordinator, said: "The LEADER funding is being made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union.

"So far, in the last five years, nearly 120 vital, community-led activities and projects in rural communities within the Dales have benefitted from more than £2.4m of cash.

"And we will be going out to consultation in 2014 to identify the next set of priority issues that we will need to fund between 2015 and 2020.

"LEADER is a unique way of solving local problems - and the next programme will develop with that sole aim, hopefully providing a financial lifeline to many more community projects in the Yorkshire Dales."

For more information about the LEADER Programme - including the project blog and up-to-date news and views on Twitter and Facebook - visit **www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk**

A green solution for school

By Richard Witt, Director, Sedbergh School Foundation



The swimming pool at Sedbergh School was a great but underutilised resource for the local community.

Sedbergh School Foundation was keen to find out how to encourage more use so it carried out a survey amongst the local population to identify what was preventing them from enjoying the facility. Top barriers were the cold changing facilities, poor showers and cold pool environment.

The School responded by developing plans for a major refurbishment of the changing facilities to create a more user-friendly environment with modern showers and better heating and insulation.

These plans incorporated significant energy-saving measures as part of the 'Greening of Sedbergh' initiative underway across the School estate. This works towards a reduction in fuel usage to save costs and reduce carbon emissions by 5% a year in line with Government targets.

Improved insulation throughout the building and roof were integral to this target but the School also hoped to put in place a green energy scheme to provide the electricity to heat the pool.

So with a successful application to Sport England for a £150,000 grant to refurbish the changing rooms, the School then approached the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund for help with the cost of mounting 16 photo-voltaic panels on the pool roof. The Authority was pleased to approve the application because it incorporated a number of wider community benefits as well as renewable energy, and we received £18,498.

Now installed, the panels will generate sufficient electricity to save 1.6 tonnes of carbon per annum and over 3,000KW of energy - helping significantly to create the pool hall and changing environments that were clearly craved by the local community.

Work on the changing rooms began in August and the smart new facility will be launched later in the year when the School will provide access at various times throughout the week for local schools, groups and individuals.

If you are interested in finding out more about the pool and when you can use it, please contact eventsmanager@sedberghschool.org

The Authority's Sustainable Development Fund - administered by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supports projects that promote a more sustainable way of living and working in the National Park while conserving and enhancing our local landscape, wildlife, culture, land use and communities.

If you've got a good idea, however big or small, find out more by visiting **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**.

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