Dales 2014

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Autumn 2014

A DIAMOND in the landscape

Happy 60th birthday Yorkshire Dales National Park!

With its windswept heather moorland, dales filled with flower-rich hay meadows, drystone walls and traditional field barns, expanses of limestone pavement and stunning Three Peaks, it is no wonder it is beloved by naturalists and outdoor activity enthusiasts alike.

Designated in 1954 for its extraordinary natural beauty, the diversity of its wildlife habitats, its rich cultural heritage and opportunities for outdoor recreation, this treasured landscape officially reaches its diamond anniversary on 16 November when the act that created it came into being.

This summer we received the extraordinary birthday present of the Tour de France coming to the Yorkshire Dales, and this autumn we are delighted to host the National Park Societies Annual Conference, with its theme of opportunities for young people in Britain's protected landscapes.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is one of a family of 15 in the UK, widely recognised as its most iconic areas of countryside and protected for future generations to enjoy,

While there is much to celebrate, these living, working landscapes also face challenges from the economic hardships of upland farming, pressures from tourism, the need for affordable housing and climate change.

The staff and Members of the National Park Authority work alongside many partners to ensure this special place and its communities have a sustainable future. Over 250 volunteers also give their time - 5,000 days a year - towards guided walks, archaeological surveys, walling and footpath repairs.



Summer meadow near Muker © Tom Collier

Last year we published the new National Park Management Plan and you can read about progress one year on on page 5.

It covers the issues that you told us were important to you - helping young people to stay and live in the National Park, supporting rural broadband, encouraging re-use of redundant barns and looking after this beautiful landscape.

Protecting fragile habitats and iconic species, such as black grouse and red squirrel, and taking care of the 1,300 miles of footpath, bridleway and green lanes is the focus of much of our work.

The Plan also addresses some of the challenges that the National Park - and the people who live and work here - face. 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 Plan have seen major reductions in resources in recent years.

We are focusing on the things that can be done and should help to make a real difference.

Success will depend on everyone who cares about the National Park working together to help secure its future and ensure it is a place to be proud of for generations to come - as intended by those who fought for its creation 60 years ago.

Life is blooming in the National Park

A new report shows the National Park is home to many rare species of plants and animals - from red squirrels to black grouse - and that they are thriving.

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) - called '2020 Vision' - was unveiled in 2010 that identified a range of nationally and regionally important habitats and species that were at risk and set out the conservation work needed to protect them over the next decade.

Now the Trends and Status Review which looks at the LBAP's progress in the first four years says it is hitting target after target.

Populations of some of our important priority bird species like lapwings, curlews and black grouse are even bucking trends nationally.

Adrian Shepherd, Head of Land Management, said: "The LBAP had two primary objectives. The first was to make sure that 65 per cent of the area of priority habitats in the National Park was in 'good' condition - we have achieved an 89 per cent success rate so far. We have also found that the populations of 38 of the 46 LBAP species (78 per cent) that are currently 'monitorable' are stable - which has exceeded our initial target.

"This is great news for the National Park and it's a real testimony to the work by landowners, farmers and all the agencies to deliver a wide range of collaborative projects."



Black grouse © Whitfield Benson

More than 95 per cent of upland hay meadows has been classified as in good condition.

The distribution of red squirrels is stable, as is the dormouse population following its successful re-introduction in 2008 at Freeholders' Wood next to the Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre.

Other populations found to be stable include two LBAP priority invertebrates species, the fine-lined pea mussel and the round-mouthed whorl snail, Yorkshire feather moss, which is endemic to the Ingleton area, and 61 per cent of priority plant species, including lady's slipper-orchid.

The Trends and Status Review can be viewed on the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum website **www.natureinthedales.org.uk/bap** which showcases information about 150 of the species and 14 of the habitats found in the National Park.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star

With large areas completely free from local light pollution, the National Park is a fantastic place to enjoy the sky at night.

And we are asking residents to nominate their favourite spot to view the stars to feed into a national network of best locations round the country.

As well as being away from the worst of any light pollution, the criteria for a Dark Sky Discovery Site is that it provides good sightlines of the sky and has good public access, including firm ground for wheelchairs.

There are two ratings: 'Orion' - the constellation's seven main stars are visible to the naked eye - and 'Milky Way' - much darker sites found in more rural locations where you can see the galaxy that contains our Solar System.

The plan is to put forward around 10 sites initially.

'Dark skies' events are already being held by different organisations around the National Park and we are bringing these together into one exciting promotional programme, as well as running some new ones at the Discovery Sites.

We are keen to make links with local star-gazing societies, enthusiasts and anyone with a skill in this area who would like to get involved.

Contact our Tourism Officer on 01756 751650 or tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk to find out more. Or you can discover the project online at **www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/dark-sky-discovery-sites/map.html**

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Welcome to the autumn edition

Well, it's been quite a summer with the spectacular international event of the Tour de France visiting our area.

The impacts of the race are still being assessed but early indications seem to be that it's been something of a boon for local businesses, which makes all the work of individuals and local communities very worthwhile. Thank you to everyone who got involved.

This edition of our newspaper moves away from our recent focus on recreation and tourism to concentrate a little on our first purpose - conserving and enhancing this wonderful landscape and its cultural heritage.

Hopefully, you can see some of the excellent work that has taken place and is planned for the future, involving local people in a number of projects and initiatives.

It's always worth pointing out that with so much of the National Park in private ownership the contribution of the farming and landowning communities is absolutely vital. The viability of these businesses, which help to sustain so much of what makes this National Park special, is crucial to future success. We will be using our best endeavours to promote them wherever and whenever possible.

We have also been reviewing the National Park Management Plan one year on to see what's working and what isn't. Please take the time to have a look and let us know your views.

All the very best.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Peter Charlesworth
Chairman

BEST WHEEL FORWARD



By Mark Allum, Recreation and Tourism Manager

What a fantastic spectacle the Tour de France in Yorkshire was this summer.

It was thrilling to see the stunning backdrop of the National Park showcased to a global TV audience, as both an incredible cycling and a wonderful visitor destination.

A large number of people in the UK and overseas will have discovered the area for the first time. On the back of the millions of pounds worth of publicity, we hope to see an increased number - both cyclists and non-cyclists, first time visitors and returnees - come here, spend money with local businesses and boost our rural economy. And we want to see these benefits spread across the whole of the National Park.



A packed Grinton Moor during Stage 1 of the Grand Depart on 5 July.

Le Tour was a culmination of much investment in cycling tourism from the Authority and we want to help businesses make the most of the opportunities.

One of the regional legacy aims is to see more people cycling more often.

Our two cycling websites - **cyclethedales.org.uk** and **mtbthedales.org.uk** - are a great starting point for anyone looking to get out on two wheels.

There are a huge range of routes along with downloadable maps and descriptions, including the long distance trails the area boasts - the Yorkshire Dales Cycleway and the Way of the Roses, as well as the ever popular 16km Settle Loop of the Pennine Bridleway.

Cafés and cycle-friendly places to stay are all promoted online, as well as bike shops, bike hire and mechanics.

Over the years we have helped accommodation providers in the Dales develop their facilities for cyclists, equipping over a hundred sites with secure cycle parking and making sure you can fill up water bottles at all our toilet facilities.

We'd love to hear from businesses and local communities who would like to help with the positive cycling legacy. We already know there are potential developments for electric bike hire and secure bike storage at a number of hotels. Our Sustainable Development Fund *[read more on page 4]* can provide funding towards schemes which deliver benefits to the National Park.

We are currently working with the National Trust to create a 7km family-friendly route around Malham Tarn and will be busy carrying out improvement works to the existing track this winter.

Our annual newspaper - The Visitor 2014 - features a pull-out cycling supplement and is available free to any business that would like to stock it for their customers.

We also appreciate that more people cycling means getting out the message that we all need to share the road. In particular, we will be further promoting how cyclists need to make their presence known to horse riders.

Digging up military memories



By Miles Johnson, Countryside Archaeological Advisor

The excavation of some mysterious zig zag First World War trenches near Giggleswick School is just one of the exciting opportunities 2014 has brought for the Authority's archaeology team.

Last September, James Spry joined us as a one year Community Archaeology Training Placement - funded by English Heritage and administered by the Council for British Archaeology - and this extra post has allowed us to go much further in engaging local communities with the archaeological heritage of the National Park.

James' bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund lead to £7,000 being awarded to our 'Training and Trenches' project, and the local community were invited to help uncover the history of three sites in the Settle area with wartime connections.

Alongside enthusiastic volunteers - individuals and local groups - we investigated Castleberg Drill Hall (now the home of Settle Scout Group), a rifle range at the base of Attermire Scar, and the zigzag earthworks on the Giggleswick School estate.

The highlight was the excavation in June of these strange trenches that may have been used to give soldiers a taste of what life would be like when they were shipped to battlefields in Europe.

The event was open to the public and more than 200 people came along, including local schoolchildren and our Young Archaeologists Club.

We know that the drill hall and firing range were used by members of the Craven Territorials, Village Guard and Giggleswick School Officer Training Corps.

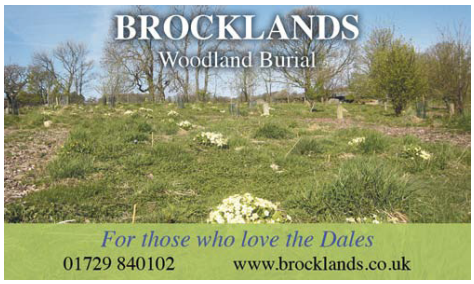
The trenches may have even been dug by the Training Corps. If further research reveals this to be the case, it will be a poignant story as many of those schoolboy officers went on to fight and die in the war and are commemorated in the school's chapel.

This year, we also provided advice and support for Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group's 'Big Dig' in Reeth. Originating from Channel 4 TV series Time Team, 'Big Dig' projects are a really fun way to find out about origins of villages by carefully excavating small test pits and analysing the types and dates of finds within them.

Alongside this, we've held four training courses on topics such as geophysical survey and recording traditional farm buildings, designed to enhance skills and help local archaeological groups run successful projects. We plan to run more of these in future.



David Johnson (bottom left) of Ingleborough Archaeology Group leads an excavation of the zigzag trenches at Giggleswick School



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Apprenticeships are just the job

Ten young people are getting the chance to learn how to look after the beautiful landscape of the National Park thanks to the Dales Rural Trainee Scheme.

They have taken up apprenticeships with local organisations to learn new skills that will benefit them and the countryside.

The scheme was launched last November by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) with the aim of providing 18 to 24 year olds with a life-changing opportunity.

The two-year programme combines hands-on work placements with a complementary Level 2 Diploma in either environmental conservation, forestry, horticulture, game keeping or butchery through part-time attendance at Craven College, Askham Bryan or Newton Rigg.



Arkady Bogg-Hargroves (pictured left) joined the scheme after completing a BTEC in joinery at Craven College in Skipton and chose one of two placements specialising in environmental conservation with the National Park Authority.

"I took this apprenticeship because it involved more woodworking", the 20-year-old said.

"It has always appealed to me going out and making larger things like gates but I thought it was impossible to get that sort of work and I didn't know how to go about it.



"Now I'm learning all sorts of things from using strimmers and chainsaws to footpath maintenance."

Arkady was invited to help supervise the Authority's Young Rangers group, formed to encourage 11 to 16-year-olds who have an interest in the outdoors by teaching them new skills.

"Originally it was a one-off thing but I really liked it so I asked if I could do it every month," he said.

"Most of my friends work but they don't enjoy it as much as I do. I feel very lucky to have got a place. It's giving me so many skills and will potentially open so many doors for me for the future but, hopefully, when the scheme finishes, I will get a job with the National Park."

Suzannah Barningham (pictured above) also opted for a placement with the Authority.

"I live in Low Row in Swaledale, my Dad farms there and I am interested in the environment and getting the balance right between the two," she said.

"My heart has always been in working in the countryside and being outdoors.

"I did two weeks' work experience with the Authority when I was 14 and was based in Hawes with the Area Rangers. I really enjoyed it so when I saw the ad I decided to go for it.

"I've done drystone walling, repaired stiles, made gates and helped with dormouse monitoring.

"I also go to college with Arkady and the other apprentices and I've done training courses on things like using pesticides, quadbiking and 4x4 off-road driving."

The 25-year-old has no doubt that the apprenticeship is a life changer for her.

"I would definitely like to continue working in environmental conservation and the training scheme is helping me to get all the qualifications I need - it's ideal."

Head of Ranger Services Alan Hulme said: "Opportunities for young people in the Yorkshire Dales can be limited, so it's a real pleasure for us to be part of the Dales Rural Trainee Scheme.

"Through it, YDMT brings a range of different employers together under one umbrella to provide real working experience and opportunities for our young people and I can only see it going from strength to strength."



Masham Sheep Fair

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 September 2014

Sheep Show, Sheep Racing, Craft Market, Fleece Stalls, Wool Competition, Sheep Dog Demonstrations, Old Time Children's Fair, Morris Dancers and much, much more

For further information visit www.mashamsheepfair.com

Never-before-seen artefacts are on show in a revamped Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. Stunning new spaces have been created in the former Victorian railway station, with the new Waiting Room gallery (pictured) showcasing the work of local artists and makers and visitors enjoying a bright new information and retail area.

To plan your trip - including discovering the popular Hidden Secrets outdoor sculpture trail - visit **www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk**.

Open daily 10am to 5pm - free for children.



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**compared with current pellet cost v current oil cost @ 80% oil boiler efficiency

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 strives to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in conservation and recreation policy and practice, and in the quality of the landscape, and to deliver efficient and welcoming services. We aim to inspire local communities and businesses to ensure it is a thriving area, one that is treasured by those who live here and those who visit. We welcome your comments and suggestions about our work.

CASH HELP FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Grants totalling £160,000 a year are available through the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) to kick-start or develop environmental projects, community schemes and business ideas.

The fund is open to any individual, business, group or voluntary-sector body. It provides a simple and accessible source of money for a range of schemes that will result in positive benefits for the National Park's environment, economy and communities, while enhancing and conserving local culture, wildlife, landscape and land use.

Since it started in 2002, the SDF has given out nearly £2.1 million to 237 projects - three great projects it supported last year are featured here.

The SDF was previously administered by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on behalf of the Authority, but applications can now be submitted directly to us for the 2014/15 fund.

More information, including the key dates for submission, can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**.

Squirrels get the X Factor

Red squirrels are settling into a new role as TV stars thanks to SDF funding.

The Wensleydale Red Squirrel Group (WRSG) has been given £2,100 to set up a video camera focussing on a feeder near a house in Appersett Ghyll that is owned by a Group volunteer.

The equipment will record live video footage of the animals and send it via the internet to a special 32" monitor in the free area of the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes so that visitors can watch them feeding in their natural environment.

After the first year, the annual running costs of about £1,000 will be met by the National Park Authority. Rangers and volunteers from WRSG have helped with the installation and will supervise the project's long-term management.



Red squirrel at Snaizeholme © Tony Smith

Dales farmers in a class of their own

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) has been given £15,262 of SDF cash towards the cost of setting up a scheme to bring the classroom into the farmyard.

The 'Dales Farmers in Education Project' offers practical support to farmers wanting to set up school visits to farms in the National Park.

The year-long project - due to finish in summer 2015 - includes a series of taster events.

A mapping exercise will also be undertaken to identify what opportunities there are for more visits and what support farmers need in running them.The project offers one-to-one support to farmers before, during and after the education visits.



Farmer Rodney Beresford at Colt Park with children from Reeth & Gunnerside Primary School



Beekeeper John Wilkinson with one of the Grinton hives

Churchyard a-buzzing

Bees are busy doing what they do best in Swaledale after the SDF gave £2,000 to the Grinton Churchyard Environment Project.

St Andrew's Church in the village is home to several bat species and, in 2012, the SDF contributed to a successful project that included a display panel, seasonal bat walks and a bat detector.

The new project is an extension of this work and aims to establish a thriving colony of bees in the churchyard to encourage pollination of nearby flowers - at the same time increasing awareness of the insects, encouraging young beekeepers and helping the public to understand the importance of bees for the environment.

The SDF grant has paid for bees, three hives, and clothing, tools and equipment - and the first 11lb honey crop has just been collected..

What YOU think

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a special place - that's what 97% of you agreed in a survey of 800 National Park residents carried out earlier this year.

This was even more than in the previous two surveys in 2009 (91%) and 2004 (94%).

Seventy seven per cent mentioned the 'natural beauty, scenery and views' as the key special quality, putting this way out in the lead over 'open space, freedom and remoteness', 'villages and traditional buildings' and 'peacefulness and tranquillity'.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Residents Survey is carried out every five years to find out residents' awareness of and attitudes towards it as well as the National Park Authority, the organisation that cares for it.

Whilst an overwhelming majority of residents recognise that they live in a special place, 60% also think that the National Park is faced with threats and pressures.

Unprompted answers to what these threats are centred on planning and development management issues, with 25% mentioning Government direction on planning policy. Interestingly, exactly the same number of residents (23%) gave the 'lack of affordable housing development' as a threat as those that mentioned 'building more housing'.



A special place. Pen-y-ghent © John Leigh

Meanwhile, 98% of residents said they had come into contact with one or more of the services provided by the Authority, with 72% having face-to-face interaction with a member of staff in the last five years.

Overall, 60% of residents surveyed said they were satisfied with the way the Authority does its job.

It was good to learn that for a number of our services - National Park Centres, rangers, volunteers and the Dales Countryside Museum - satisfaction levels were over 80%.

Services that still scored higher satisfaction scores than dis-satisfaction but were at the lower end of the scale were planning advice and applications (52%) and consultations (47%). However, it was good to see that those farmers, landowners and tourism business owners who had actually come into contact with the appropriate service were more inclined to agree that the National Park Authority gives good advice than those that hadn't.

While 76% of residents agree that we carry out our first statutory purpose, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and 66% agree we meet our second purpose, to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public, it has not gone un-noticed that only 33% of residents agreed with the statement that we are in touch with and understand the needs of local people. Clearly, there are lessons to be learnt.

With regards to keeping in touch, we were also keen to find out how residents like to be informed about our work.

At the top of the list are local media, this newspaper and our other publications, but there is a clear trend towards people requiring more communication through digital channels - website, social media and e-newsletters. This, however, doesn't apply so much to our older residents so we will do our best to maintain a variety of online and offline communications for the foreseeable future.

Overall 61% of residents agreed that they 'feel as informed as I need to be' about the work of the Authority.

Chief Executive David Butterworth said: "In the context of five years of Government cuts to our budgets which now total 40% and the consequent reductions we've had to make to staff numbers and services, many aspects of the survey are pleasing.

"However, feedback shows that we need to up our game in some areas. We'll take that on board and use it to help us to continue to improve how we work with and on behalf of the residents of this wonderful National Park in future".

Read the full National Park residents survey at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/performance**

Partners working well to care for the National Park

Last year your responses to our consultation helped create a new National Park Management Plan, the document which sets out our ambitions for how the area will be helped to thrive over the next decade and beyond.

The Plan was launched by a partnership of 14 organisations, which include district and county councils, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Natural England, as well as representatives of local farmers, landowners and tourism businesses.

The partnership set 53 objectives to be achieved in the next five years.

Twelve months on and funding for nearly 40 local community and economic projects is among the Plan's successes.

The Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership received stage one approval from English Heritage for a £2.4 million programme to enhance the wider landscape of Ribblesdale and Chapel-le-Dale.

Ten local apprentices have been taken on through the 'Dales Rural Trainee Scheme' *[read more on page 3]* and 250 'session places' were provided to enable local disadvantaged people to undertake activities in the National Park.

Farmers and landowners entered new Environmental Stewardship Agreements covering over 15,000ha. More than 400ha of woodland has been brought into active management and over 100ha of native, broad-leaved woodland has been planted.

There is now well over 1mW of installed renewable energy schemes, while 2.6km of overhead power lines were placed underground through schemes at Ribblehead, Park Rash and Beckermonds.

And ninety per cent of public rights of way are now 'easy to use'

Progress is monitored by a steering group made up of representatives from the organisations.



Sedbergh

Authority Chairman Peter Charlesworth said: "This is a plan for the National Park, not just for the Authority, and, overall, encouraging - and, in some cases, excellent - progress has been made in the first year.

"At the same time, the steering group has identified a few areas of potential concern where there has been less progress than hoped and these will be kept under review."

One of the objectives is to extend the tourism season and get more visitors to stay overnight with the aim of increasing the value of tourism by 20 per cent in real terms by 2020.

Latest figures show that, for 2013, visitor numbers were up by 4.6 per cent on the previous year at 3.5 million and the total number of days they spent here was 4.55 million compared with 4.4 million in 2012. The serviced accommodation sector, which includes bed and breakfast businesses and hotels, saw the biggest increase in visitor numbers - 8.8 per cent up on the previous year.

The economic impact of visitors has increased both in terms of the actual spend and when indexed to 2013 prices. Day visitors generated £104.2m while staying visitors spent £109.3m, compared to £96.5m and £103.6m respectively in 2012.

In real terms, the 2013 increase in spend rose by 3.3 per cent compared to 2012.

Follow progress on the National Park Management Plan at **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk**

Landowners give thumbs up to public access - but issues remain

By Alan Hulme, Head of Ranger Services



Landowners and managers in the National Park believe that increasing the ease of public access to the countryside is important - but gates being left open and the behaviour of dogs in the countryside remain key issues, research has revealed.

A survey, commissioned this year through the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum, aimed to find out more about landowners' attitudes towards public access and land management, identify any concerns and capture any suggestions for improvement, comparing 2010 figures.

The range of land owned was shown to be vast - from less than 10 hectares to over 200 hectares - with 60% of respondents having 100 hectares or more and the majority having public rights of way crossing their land.

Landowners agreed that making public access to their land easier - reducing physical barriers and creating new routes - was good, if it was effective for all concerned and maintained correctly.

But they also highlighted some of the problems they faced, the top four being gates left open, people straying from paths and climbing over walls, and dogs worrying livestock - the same as in the 2010 survey.

We asked for suggestions to help tackle these areas of concern. Although a quarter felt that there was little the Authority could do to prevent the issues occurring, we will continue to work at those we can, such as improving signage and public education.

There was very positive feedback about the Authority's services from those who had had face-to-face interaction - but awareness about the range of services we offered was low.

A fantastic four fifths of those who had come into contact with our rangers, farm advisors and trees and woodland team rated the support they received as good or very good.

Nearly half the landowners surveyed had been in contact with their local ranger in the last year and the vast majority were clear how to get in touch with them - full details including the areas they cover are available on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/rangerservice**

Only a third of landowners surveyed (37%) had heard of the Local Access Forum (LAF), the independent body that provides guidance on ways to improve access and recreation in the National Park.

The LAF is currently recruiting new members - read more on page 6 for your chance to have your say.

Our services to you

Just one fifth of respondents to our landowners survey indicated that they were aware of the services provided by the Land Management Section - although almost three quarters do use services that fall under that banner.

Our **Farm Conservation Team** provide advice on the grants available to farmers and landowners, how to apply for them and help with completing the paperwork. They cover all aspects of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme and help with understanding the new Rural Development Plan schemes as they come in, such as the Environmental Land Management Scheme which incorporates Catchment Sensitive Farming and supports High Nature Value farming *[read more on page 7]*.



Senior Farm Conservation Officer Helen Keep (left) with Anita Coates on her farm Braida Garth for a Catchment Sensitive Farming event

Contact them on 01756 751611 or farming@yorkshiredales.org.uk

New woodlands provide wildlife habitats, shelter for stock and make it easier to manage land. The **Trees and Woodlands Team** is putting a call out to landowners interested in managing or extending woodlands. They can help you put together Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plans in order to draw down funding, as required by the new Environmental Land Management Scheme coming next year.

The team can produce management plans, access grants from the Forestry Commission and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and find suitable contractors, and they also deal with protected trees.

Contact them on 01756 751648 or trees@yorkshiredales.org.uk

The **Wildlife Conservation Team** provide a comprehensive advisory service on wildlife and associated land management, covering conservation issues during the planning application process and how to balance looking after wildlife with access and recreation.

Contact them on 01756 751627 or wildlife@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Please visit our website **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk** to find out more about all the services we offer, the ways we can help you and your business and how to get in touch.

LOCAL PLAN moves forward



By Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development

The new Local Plan - the document which sets out our policies for delivering sustainable development through planning decisions - has moved a step closer to completion.

In June we placed a draft version on our website - see **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/draft-local-plan** - and in libraries around the National Park for public view.

The emerging plan for the next 15 years recognises that there are some significant issues facing the National Park and its communities in terms of employment opportunity, holding onto community services and improving visitor facilities.

We invited comment on detailed draft policies from business, residents, local and national organisations. This follows our earlier discussions about important issues such as the future of quarrying, extending the range of visitor accommodation, making better use of traditional farm buildings and identifying sites for new business.

We had an encouraging response from more than 80 consultees most of whom welcome the additional flexibilities and opportunities for appropriate new development that we are proposing.

Housing is, of course, a perennial issue and relevant to most other forms of development. There has, therefore, been further discussion about whether our existing housing policies should be subject to early review, particularly in the wake of changes to national policy and the persistent low levels of house building in the National Park.

At the time of writing, the Authority is considering whether to include a selective review of housing policy as part of the new Local Plan or wait until after the document is adopted next year. This may affect our timetable to publish the new Plan in early New Year.

Introducing our four parish council-elected Members

Two new faces have joined the National Park Authority as parish council representatives.

Neil Heseltine has been confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment as a Member for Craven covering the western 'Airedale' group of parishes, while Ian McPherson represents South Lakeland.

They join Harold Brown - representing Richmondshire - and Andrew Colley - covering Craven's eastern 'Wharfedale' group of parishes - to complete the four seats on our 22-strong board which are reserved for parish Members.

Neil Heseltine is a fourth generation farmer from Malham and was educated at Ermysteds Grammar School in Skipton and Seale Hayne Agricultural College. He spent time travelling and working on farms in New Zealand and Scotland before returning to the area.

A keen rugby player and cricketer, he is a member of Malham Parish Council and is a former chairman of the Malham Show.

Ian McPherson moved to Sedbergh after retiring as a solicitor and became very active in community matters, first sitting on South Lakeland District Council and then Sedbergh Parish Council.

Grassington Parish Councillor Andrew Colley joined the National Park Authority in 2008. In the latter part of his working life, Andrew ran the four-wheel drive auction mart in Skipton. He owns a B&B in the village and for many years kept rare breed sheep.

Farmer Harold Brown - chairman of Grinton Parish Council since 1975 - is the Authority's Deputy Chairman as well as chairman of the Planning Committee. He is a member of the Country Landowners Association and Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

The National Park Authority's board consists of 22 Members: 16 'local' Members made up of county and district council appointees as well as the four parish representatives, and six 'national' Members appointed by the Secretary of State.

For further information about all our 22 Members, their role and the committees they sit on, please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**

The parishes in the National Park represented by our four parish council-elected Members:



Craven East

Andrew Colley

Appletreewick
Arncliffe
Barden
Beamsley
Bolton Abbey
Bordley
Buckden
Burnsall
Conistone-with-Kilnsey
Cracoe
Embsay-with-Eastby
Grassington
Halton East
Halton Gill
Hartlington
Hawkswick
Hazelwood-with-Starbotton
Hebden
Hetton
Kettlewell-with-Starbotton
Linton
Litton
Rylstone
Thorpe
Threshfield



Craven West

Neil Heseltine

Airton
Austwick
Calton
Clapham-cum-Newby
Eshton
Flasby with Winterburn
Gargrave
Giggleswick
Hanlith
Hellifield
Horton-in-Ribblesdale
Ingleton
Kirkby Malhamdale
Langcliffe
Long Preston
Malham
Malham Moor
Otterburn
Scosthrop
Settle
Stainforth
Stirton with Thorlby
Thornton-in-Lonsdale



South Lakeland

Ian McPherson

Dent
Garsdale
Sedbergh



Richmondshire

Harold Brown

Arkengarthdale
Askrigg
Aysgarth
Bainbridge
Burton-cum-Walden
Caldbergh with East Scrafton
Carlton Highdale
Carlton Town
Carperby
Castle Bolton with East & West Coverham-with-Agglethorpe
East Witton
Ellerton Abbey
Grinton
Hawes & High Abbotside
Hudswell
Marrick
Marske & New Forest
Melbecks
Melmerby
Muker
Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh
West Scrafton
West Witton

Access Forum needs new members

A group that helps to improve public access and recreation in the National Park is on the lookout for new members.

There are currently eight vacancies on the independent Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

The forum's job is to work with individuals and organisations who live and work in the 680 square miles of the National Park and those who visit the area, and provide guidance on ways to improve and manage access and opportunities for open-air enjoyment in this beautiful landscape.

This can be anything from looking at mobility issues to suggesting an upgrade of a specific footpath. Members also respond to consultations on a range of documents and strategies issued at local and national level.

The forum should represent a balance of interests ranging from land management and agriculture to local business and outdoor recreation and meets three times a year.

The deadline for applications is 7 November.

For more information contact Mohammed Dhalech on 01969 652363 or accessforum@yorkshiredales.org.uk or visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/ydaf**



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FARMING FOR WILDLIFE

Farmers in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are trying to find ways to improve their income - and care for the landscape and wildlife at the same time.

And they are looking for easier ways to talk directly to decision makers at national level.



Swaledale sheep and mules at Kidstones © John Akrigg

Many upland hills farms in the Yorkshire Dales contain land classed as High Nature Value (HNV), which means they use low intensity farming systems that are particularly valuable for wildlife, the wider environment and people.

But this traditional method of farming is more labour and capital intensive and, because they don't use intensive methods - which could pose a threat to some of the sensitive habitats and species - their costs are higher and their income is lower.

In Buckden parish in Upper Wharfedale, HNV farmers have investigated the true cost of their traditional methods. They want to raise awareness of the work they do to manage these important habitats and species, and they hope to highlight issues that need addressing if viable traditional farming systems are to continue.

The parish contains 13 nationally and internationally important habitats and 29 similarly important species, including upland hay meadows, calcareous grassland, native woodland, red squirrel, black grouse and Northern Brown Argus butterfly. And two thirds of the farms contain a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

John Akrigg, from Manor House Farm in Cray, said: "It's really important to get involved in this kind of discussion as a group of farmers. We need to show policy makers and the public that we are doing a good job looking after the environment and providing high quality food. We need greater recognition - and being termed a High Nature Value farmer may help with this."

With funding provided by Natural England and help from the National Park Authority and local land agent Windle Beech Winthrop, the farmers' took part in an economic study, reviewing financial margins, impact of subsidies and schemes, quantifying the unpaid-for aspects of environmental management and detailing the farmers' own perspective on the work they carry out.

The study revealed that profits are marginal - on average £16,500, compared to the national upland average of £26,000 - and, because the majority of farms are also tenanted, investing in new infrastructure or long-term projects is more challenging.

Farmers are working extremely long hours for the equivalent of less than the minimum wage. The livestock enterprise provides 55% of the total farm income, with the remainder coming from Government support payments and diversification.

It is this ratio between support payments and total farm income that farmers are keen to address. The long-term aim would be to increase the total farm income, which would enable the farmers to invest in more modern farm infrastructure and renewables like wind turbines and solar panels and would further improve animal welfare. They say there would be additional benefits to the environment such as improved water quality and sustainable, efficient soil and grassland management

The farmers from the Buckden study and from similar ones in Nidderdale, the north Pennines and Northumberland are particularly interested in developing a Northern Upland Farming Forum, akin to ones in the South West. The forum would be the voice of the upland farmers - putting them in direct contact with politicians and policy makers - and would enable the development of joint initiatives focused on upland farming.

They also want to see a change in the distribution of agri-environment scheme payments so that more money is targeted at upland areas where the majority of HNV farmland is. This targeted support will help sustain the traditional farming techniques, support farm incomes and retain the iconic landscapes and wildlife.

Read more about High Nature Value farming in the National Park at **http://beta.yorkshiredales.org.uk/hnvf**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Share our brand

Based in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Our five 'locator' logos - based on the famous Swaledale ram design - can help identify your business, event or product as being in or of the National Park.

To find out more and how to apply, please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/logo**

Visitors flock to site

The peregrine falcon viewing scheme at Malham Cove - a partnership between the Authority and the RSPB - has welcomed its 200,000th visitor since it began in 2003.

Volunteers at the viewpoint provide weekly updates on our special website at **www.malhamperegrines.org.uk** - you can also follow them on Twitter (@malhamperegrine) and the Malham Peregrine Watch Facebook page.

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As part of its long term commitment to working for people and the environment in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Lafarge Tarmac is delighted to support the Dales Residents Newspaper.
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Young people discover wild ways to achieve nature award

Young people have been getting stuck into all kinds of fun outdoor activities this summer in order to achieve a nationally-recognised conservation award.

Craven Youth Support Services (CYSS) - which works to improve life chances for young people in and around the Skipton area - first brought a group to the National Park at Easter, when they enjoyed team-building adventure tasks with Settle-based Yorkshire Dales Guides and helped with archaeology restoration work at Conistone.

Spurred on by this experience, CYSS took up the offer from Outreach Officer Catherine Kemp to help keen youngsters work towards achieving their first level of a John Muir Award.

Named after the Scottish-American naturalist, born in 1838, who spent years exploring the wilderness areas of the United States and advocating their preservation, the award is an environmental scheme focused on wild places.

It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration and has four challenges at its heart: discover, explore, conserve and share.

To achieve their award, the 13 to 16-year-olds had to do a minimum of four of the six days of activity offered.

The first day at Tom Lord's farm at Lower Winskill saw them discovering wildflower meadows and feltmaking using fleece.

At Malham they explored Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss and shared what they'd learnt by printing fabric banners and a sign to hang at the National Park Centre (pictured).

Nethergill Farm in Oughtershaw was all about conservation, learning about agri-environment schemes, treeplanting and visiting the bird hide, and carrying out typical farm jobs - worming and weighing lambs, egg collecting and fleece rolling.

The group also had a day climbing at Giggleswick and one geocaching and mapreading at Buckden, with the final day spent learning how to use these skills to stay safe in the hills.

Catherine said: "We run two awards a year with local schools or young people who don't necessarily have easy access to the National Park.

"It was very rewarding to work with the group and see the change in them over the weeks. I hope they'll share what they've learnt with their families and friends and bring them back here - not least to see the great sign they made for Malham National Park Centre!"

Jane Holdsworth of CYSS said: "This fantastic experience has given them new skills and found something for everyone to enjoy, and I think is summed up by this one comment: 'I can't believe how much I enjoyed it - especially as I didn't want to come to begin with'!"

Read more about the work of the John Muir Trust at **www.jmt.org**



Local wildlife for local people



by Mark Hewitt, Wildlife Conservation Officer

If you wonder how you can get involved in looking after the amazingly diverse wildlife around you then maybe we can help.

Our Wildlife Conservation Team runs the Parish Wildlife Project - a community-based scheme that supports residents in developing their own biodiversity projects throughout the National Park.

If you have the land but perhaps not the confidence or the bodies to tackle a project, or alternatively are keen to get involved in conservation work but don't have a site of your own, that's where we come in.



One of the scything workshops hosted by Tom Lord on his farm at Lower Winskill in July.

In the first five years, we have assisted with over 35 projects working with small groups of friends, schools, allotment groups and charities. A huge amount of conservation work has been achieved from planting a kilometre of hedgerow and bringing 4.5 hectares of grassland and 1.5 hectares of woodland into good management to creating two artificial otter holts, two orchards and three ponds.

We can offer specialist advice and ideas, training and help in developing and running activities, as well as putting people and projects in touch with each other.

This summer we have run courses on scything and peening - the technique for preparing the blades for sharpening using hammers.

We're also holding a workshop on 18 October at a specialist nursery for anyone wishing to get involved in our new 'growing native plants' project.

Small grants are available to enable people to bring schemes to fruition and maintain them long term, whether it's planting hedges, building nest boxes or managing habitats for bumblebees - as well as, crucially, fencing or walling to prevent stock encroachment.

Our aim is to see long term, sustainable schemes managed by local people for local wildlife. We want them to be your projects, allowing you to contribute to the very special biodiversity of the place where you live and work.

To explore your ideas further, please contact Mark on 01756 751627 or mark.hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk.



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