Dales 2015

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Autumn 2015

TOUGH DECISIONS AS FURTHER CUTS EXPECTED

National park authorities have had their budgets cut by 40 per cent in real terms since 2011 - and now the Chancellor has warned that spending could be sliced by a further 25 to 40 per cent over the next four years.

In the case of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, this has resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in staff and impacted on services such as rights of way maintenance, visitor management, car parks, toilets and outreach.

Further cuts would leave the Authority facing some difficult decisions.

Chairman Peter Charlesworth said: "Our funding from central Government is now worth only three fifths what it was back in 2010.

"Over the last five years we have lost programmes such as transport and education and had to significantly reduce our activity in others.



"Next year's rights of way budget will be nearly half that pre-cuts. Could it be that in future we just concentrate on a few select footpaths and have no option but to let the rest deteriorate?

"If we do suffer further substantial funding cuts, we'll be asking you which areas you consider the most important to focus on in future."

The budget for all 15 of Britain's national parks amounts to just 69p per person a year - the price of a packet of crisps - and, for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, just 6p.

How the Government intends to meet its austerity targets should be revealed on 25 November when the Comprehensive Spending Review is published. Details of the grant settlement for national parks will follow.

"Unfortunately we're now in a challenging period of not knowing for some time what the size of any cuts to our Defra core grant might be", said Peter.

"The waters are further muddied by the continuing absence of any announcement about the proposed boundary extension.

"In the meantime, the thing that we do still have control over is achieving our own objectives, including those we've set ourselves for raising our own income."

This year, Members approved a fundraising strategy that outlined how the Authority was going to tackle this going forward. At its core is the aim to move away from a reliance on the Government grant which currently makes up 77% of the Authority's income. By 2020 this figure is likely to have been reduced to less than 60%, with the other 40% coming from the Authority's own efforts.

"We always knew that changing the culture of the organisation couldn't happen overnight and it would take some time to turn some of our bigger ideas into reality", said Peter.

"But we have continued to find additional short-term sources of income and savings, to the extent that we have already reached our income target for 2016/17. Our challenge now is to start to turn some of major projects ideas into external funding that will last for the next two, three, five years."

The UK's 15 national parks have teamed up to form a new company, the National Parks Partnership Ltd, in a bid to find new solutions to the funding crisis.

Peter said: "It is a serious situation. Services are threatened but we are doing our best to get alternative funding.

"We welcome your help and support in working together to meet these challenges and to continue to look after this very special place."

STARRY STARRY NIGHT

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is the place to visit for a spot of serious star gazing - and that's official.

The three 'Milky Way' class sites nominated by the National Park Authority have been accepted by the Dark Sky Discovery site initiative, which identifies places with good public access where people can freely view the night sky.

Tourism Officer Tracey Lambert said: "We've known for a long time just how special the skies are above the Yorkshire Dales National Park but it's nice to have this recognised.

"It's amazing what you can see - the Perseid meteor shower a few weeks ago was spectacular and earlier in the year it was possible to see the Northern Lights."

The Authority has been working with local tourism businesses to help them promote stargazing as another reason to visit the area, particularly between the end of August and the beginning of March when the night sky is at its darkest.

A further business event is planned for 22 October at Kilnsey Park, costing £10 per person and running from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Richard Darn, the amateur astronomer and journalist who is running the workshop, said: "The Yorkshire Dales is a stargazer's paradise. The Milky Way arches majestically across the sky on clear autumn evenings and star clusters sparkle like diamonds on black velvet.

"It's a breathtaking scene that adds so much to the unspoilt character of the region and provides the stuff holiday memories are made of."

The Authority is planning a series of public stargazing events during February half-term in 2016 at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

The three Dark Sky sites at Buckden, Malham and Hawes are the first in the Dales and double the number in Yorkshire as a whole.

Anyone wanting to attend the workshop should email tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk. More information about Dark Sky Discovery is available at **www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk**



Night sky over Ribblehead Viaduct (Matthew Savage)



Maps the way to do it

A brand new map board has been installed by rangers outside Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre.

Designed to help visitors find their way around Freeholders' Wood and discover what makes it such a special place, the board has been illustrated by pupils from Bainbridge Primary School as part of their John Muir Award.

The award, created by UK charity the John Muir Trust, encourages people to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

The National Park Authority can support two school groups a year to go through the award. For more information, please contact Learning & Engagement Officer Catherine Kemp on 01756 751623 and read more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/john-muir-award**

HISTORIC RIVER CROSSING SUSPENDED FOR REPAIRS

An historic footbridge on the Dales Way in Wharfedale is being repaired this month as part of the Authority's ongoing work to maintain rights of way.

Local contractors working on behalf of the National Park Authority are carrying out vital repair work to a suspension bridge over the River Wharfe at Hebden.

Phil Richards, Area Ranger for Wharfedale & Littondale, said: "The bridge is unique in its design and it is an important river crossing as well as being part of the Dales Way footpath.

"Its construction in the 1880s allowed local people from Hebden, Thorpe and Burnsall access between the villages, which was not always possible before because the nearby stepping stones would frequently be submerged under floodwater.

Last year the timber decking boards and hand rails were replaced. The main focus this time will be on repairing and restoring the metalwork, including welding the lattice work that forms the side structure of the bridge. The metal, including the four main support pillars, will also be given a fresh coat of paint.

Nick Cotton, the Authority's Member Champion for Recreation Management, said: "There are 706 bridges in the National Park, ranging from a simple sleeper bridge to the one at Hebden.

"Indeed, Hebden Suspension Bridge is one of 30 significant bridges identified in a recent survey conducted by North Yorkshire County Council needing maintenance work. The bridges have a combined asset value of nearly £4million and provide important links in the public rights of way network.

"Each year the Authority carries out maintenance work to help keep them in as good a condition as is possible but this is already proving to be difficult in the current financial climate.

"However, it would be nothing like the potential strain on resources of both the County Council and the National Park Authority if one collapsed, was washed away or just came to the end of its natural life span.

"We will continue to work with the County Council to protect these prominent heritage features that add so much to the landscape and the cultural heritage of the National Park."



National Park Authority staff and contractors at the historic suspension bridge at Hebden on the Dales Way, which is undergoing vital repair work this September

YOUNG PEOPLE GET STUCK IN

Giving young people the chance to learn about the natural environment, wildlife and heritage of the National Park - and care about its future - is an important part of the Authority's work.



This summer, over 800 five to 12-year-olds became nature detectives for a day at our free 'Wild Wednesday' events at Aysgarth Falls and Malham. They went stream dipping, made bee homes and built bark boats.

Our Young Rangers group meets every month to carry out practical conservation tasks. Recently, they helped Tom Lord rebuild a drystone wall on his farm at Lower Winskill, cleared drains on the Pennine Way, and removed Himalayan Balsam by Wigglesworth Beck. The group is open to all young people aged 11 to 16 in the Settle area.

Countryside apprentice Arkardy Bogg-Hargroves led a group from Keighley Play Rangers on a day out in Malham in August. Kardy, 20, who is on a two-year apprenticeship with the Authority specialising in environmental conservation, also regularly helps out with the Young Rangers.

Young people from local charity Skipton Extended Learning For All explored Nethergill Farm in Oughtershaw as part of a trip organised by the National Park Authority. The group helped Chris and Fiona Clark bring in and weigh their sheep, roll fleeces and plant willow trees as part of a river stabilisation project.

Read more about the Young Rangers and how we support group visits at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/education**

Introducing… Phil Richards, Area Ranger for Wharfedale & Littondale



Favourite part of the job?

Being involved with the people who work, live and visit the National Park. In order to manage the wonderful landscape of the Dales it is vital that we work with local communities, landowners and farmers as well as others to protect it.

What did you do before joining the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority?

I have worked for the Authority now for 28 years. Prior to this I did an apprenticeship in drystone walling, followed by working for a contractor at country parks in the Manchester area maintaining paths and ponds.

Favourite place in the National Park?

Has to be Littondale, with its wonderful limestone scenery such as Yew Cougar Scar and Blue Scar.

Favourite thing to do in the National Park?

Getting out on my mountain bike and riding some of the great bridleways which are maintained by the National Park Authority.

Ideal day?

No one day is the same and that's what makes my job special. Part of my role is being involved with the management of the rights of way network, including maintenance of bridges, stiles and gates. I also work closely with the Dales Volunteers who do a great job in assisting with survey work and helping to maintain paths and property, amongst many other things. The Authority's work is diverse and having an input into many areas is very rewarding.

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AIMING FOR THE PEAK OF HEALTH

By Steve Hastie, Three Peaks Manager

The Three Peaks Project is now six years old.

It was launched in 2009 with the aim of raising money each year to fund a ranger to work solely on the heavily-used footpaths around the iconic peaks of Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Whernside.

The area receives around 250,000 visitors a year and, in 1986, was judged to have one of the most severely eroded path networks in the UK.

Since then, a lot of work has been done to produce routes than can cope with the number of walkers coming to experience the fantastic scenery.

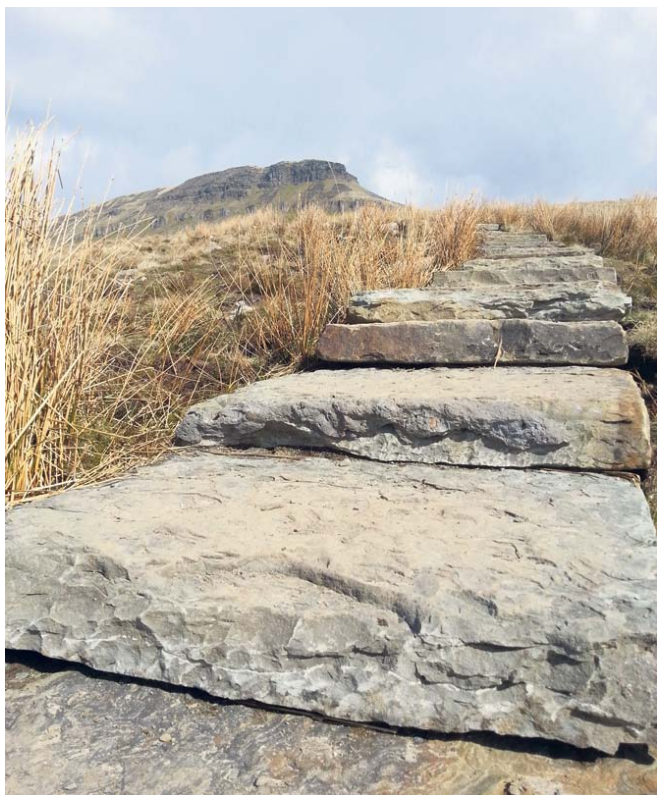
The Project engages with charities, user organisations, businesses and individuals and asks them to consider how they can help in the maintenance and conservation of the network of paths crossing this fragile area of land.

This could be by making donations of time, money or materials, by joining the Friends of the Three Peaks or by buying Three Peaks merchandise. All income stays in the Three Peaks.

Since 2009, in total we have raised £134,000 to support path maintenance.

Grants from other organisations have totalled over £46,000. Much of this has directly funded path work, while some was used to develop the Three Peaks app. This popular tool is packed with information about the area and contains maps with suggested walking routes, and has so far itself contributed over £3,000 in income.

We have talked to a lot of charities who use the area for fundraising, working with them to reduce the impact of their events on local residents and to make the most of coming to the area and the economic benefit that can bring. Lots of local businesses have got involved. Many see the benefit of the Three Peaks to their own turnover and are keen to contribute in return. So far, charities and businesses have raised £61,000.



Stone flags leading up Pen-y-ghent

The Friends of the Three Peaks was set up for people who love the area and want to give something back. You don't have to walk the Three Peaks to join! Individual members have so far contributed over £10,000.

Most recently, we have taken a direct approach to fundraising and this year organised our own Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge day. On 7 June, 56 staff, friends and volunteers gathered in Horton-in-Ribblesdale to take on one of two walks - a Pen-y-Ghent circular or the full 24 mile challenge route. In all, £4,000 was raised from sponsorship.

The really good news is that for the last two years these efforts have fully funded our Three Peaks Ranger, Josh Hull.

We estimate about 50,000 people do the full Yorkshire Three Peaks each summer. If everyone gave just a pound the future of these ever popular footpaths would be guaranteed.

For more information about the Three Peaks Project and how you can help, please go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/donate3peaks**



Sharon Duquemin, Jon Speight and managing director of Wyndham Vacation Rentals Geoff Cowley present a cheque to Steve Hastie after staff from the national holiday lettings company completed the Three Peaks Challenge and raised £1,391 for the Three Peaks Project.

Twenty five staff from Cottages4you and Hoseasons - which are owned by Wyndham Vacation Rentals - completed the walk in under 12 hours and were accompanied by Three Peaks Ranger Josh Hull.

Cottages4you managing director Nick Rudge said: "The Three Peaks Project is important, not only for people and the environment, but also in terms of attracting local investment. We're always delighted to have the opportunity to invest locally and share our passion for the Yorkshire Dales National Park with others."



Access Ranger Nathan Allen stands next to the digger bearing the slogan that was his brainchild. During two weeks' path maintenance work on Whernside earlier this year, £250 was dropped into a bucket by passing walkers - we're sure Nathan's brilliant bumper sticker helped!

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.

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PLANNING MATTERS

LOCAL PLAN MOVES FORWARD

By Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development



The Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2015-2030 - the document that will shape planning decisions for the next 15 years - is now reaching its final stages.

And the Plan is already sufficiently advanced for the Authority to start to give it some weight in determining planning applications in the run up to its full adoption in 2016 - which should lead to new beneficial development inside the National Park.

In June, Authority Members approved the new Plan and a final seven-week-long consultation period took place this summer. The document will now be formally submitted to the Government early in the New Year for examination by an independent inspector to test whether it is fit for purpose.

The new Local Plan is a comprehensive review of planning policy following two years of discussion and consultation with local communities, stakeholders and neighbouring authorities.

It is a local response to issues about the viability of communities in remote rural locations, the development objectives agreed with our partners in the National Park Management Plan, and the national growth agenda.

As a result, it contains some significant new policies on subjects such as the conversion and re-use of barns, delivering more affordable housing and encouraging new business development, as well as continuing to protect the qualities that make this area so special and that underpin its economy.

This is the third National Park Local Plan since 1995. Preparing it is a proactive part of the Authority's responsibility to shape new development in ways that will improve the quality of life of the community and the performance of the local economy, without undermining the quality of the area as a landscape of national importance.

Without up-to-date planning policies, new development is less likely to bring local benefits and there is a greater risk that harmful development will find a way through.

There are a number of proposals in the Local Plan that may prove significant over the next 10 years:

- Scope to require up to 50% affordable housing on larger sites alongside 50% open market housing, which should increase land values, speed up house building and potentially attract new householders to replace some of those leaving.
- Policy to allow residential or business conversion of appropriate roadside barns.
- Greater support for the expansion of visitor accommodation and facilities to increase overnight stays and the benefit this brings to the local economy.
- Identifying new opportunity sites for businesses and jobs - for example, Threshfield Quarry, Linton Camp and the former Bailiol School in Sedbergh.

The Local Plan will be published alongside a Design Guide, which will showcase and promote best practice in design, siting and materials, and a Traditional Farm Buildings Toolkit, a practical guide for people considering whether to convert their barn - both of which are highlighted on these pages.

All the documents can be viewed online at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/local-plan**

Look out for more details on the Local Plan in the coming months and how it will benefit you, as well as how you can access our pre-application services, at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning**

TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS

Traditional farm buildings - or barns as they are more commonly called - are a very important feature of the Yorkshire Dales - but many are threatened by disrepair, dereliction and ruination.

One of the key changes to planning policy introduced in the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2015-2030 is a more flexible approach to development proposals affecting traditional farm buildings. This includes converting them to new uses, allowing them to be repaired or adapted so that they continue in farming use or, as a last resort, contemplating demolition.

Deciding which option is best for a building relies on a series of judgements. How important is the building and why? What condition is it in? Does it have vehicular access and utility services? What changes to the building will be required?

The Traditional Farm Buildings Toolkit seeks to guide owners and applicants, so that proposals are properly informed and offer the best solution for any given building. It includes a simple flowchart to help people through the process.

The Authority is consulting on a second draft of the Toolkit alongside the Local Plan and we would welcome any suggestions for how it might be improved. Once adopted, it will help to guide planning decisions alongside the Local Plan policies.



The new Local Plan will allow many traditional buildings to be put to new uses where the building, and its location, are suitable. It will allow many 'roadside' barns to be converted to housing. Converting a traditional stone barn can be challenging. Each barn will have a number of interesting features, such as evidence of earlier building phases and inscribed datestones, that should be kept and treated sensitively. The overall approach should be to retain the essential barn-like character of the building and to avoid too many new openings, extensions and alterations. The Design Guide (see opposite) provides further advice.

This building at Hall Ings House Farm near Starbotton will become the home of a farm worker.

How planning can help you

The National Park Authority's planning service ensures that new developments are well designed and carefully sited so that they contribute to the quality of the natural environment and built heritage of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Our planning team offers help and advice on whether a development needs planning permission and, if it does, whether it is likely to obtain consent, as well as advice on enforcement matters and appeals.

'Permitted development' can cover many householder or minor types of development, but the regulations are complicated. If you need to know whether your proposal requires a planning application or not, you can send an enquiry form - this service costs £30.

Our Planning Officers can also give pre-application advice. You can choose from a desk-based assessment of your proposal with a written response within 10 working days, or a site visit by a Planning Officer and consultation with Authority specialists with a written response within 15 working days. The fees for these services vary depending on the type of development they relate to.

Just want an informal chat? Make an appointment and visit one of our free planning surgeries:

South Team (Craven)

Every Thursday from 10am to 12 noon at our Grassington office - email planning@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 01969 652350.

North Team (Richmondshire and South Lakeland)

Alternate Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm at our Yoredale office or Sedbergh Community Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh LA10 5AD - email planning@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 01969 652349.

Get in touch with our planning team

01969 652345

planning@yorkshiredales.org.uk

South Team (Craven) 01969 652350

North Team (Richmondshire and South Lakeland) 01969 652349

You can get further details on all our services from our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/pre_application_advice**

Design for life

It is crucial that the National Park has new development that fulfils the needs and expectations of businesses, residents and visitors without undermining the qualities that make the area nationally important.

The Yorkshire Dales Design Guide aims to give developers advice on the quality and form of development that is likely to be acceptable in the National Park and to provide positive help to achieve this.

It is not intended to be prescriptive and say exactly what is allowed and what isn't, but to encourage designers and their clients to produce innovative and sustainable buildings that respect and even improve their surroundings.

The Design Guide focuses on the general approach designers need to take and the key factors that should be addressed for a range of developments - from new build housing and extensions to barn conversions and farm and commercial buildings.

Some factors are common to all types of development, such as the need to respect the context of the site (the landscape, village and neighbours), to design sustainably (such as making buildings energy efficient or improving drainage to reduce flooding), and to produce buildings and spaces which are attractive and pleasant places to live, work and visit.

Some designers have asked for more clarity on specific types of development and the Design Guide gives detailed advice on best practice. It also encourages designers to think creatively. There are many opportunities to use contemporary materials and to come up with innovative designs that respect, and take inspiration from, the landscape and local building traditions.

Some of the Guide's key elements are highlighted here →

The full draft Design Guide can be viewed at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/designguide.pdf**

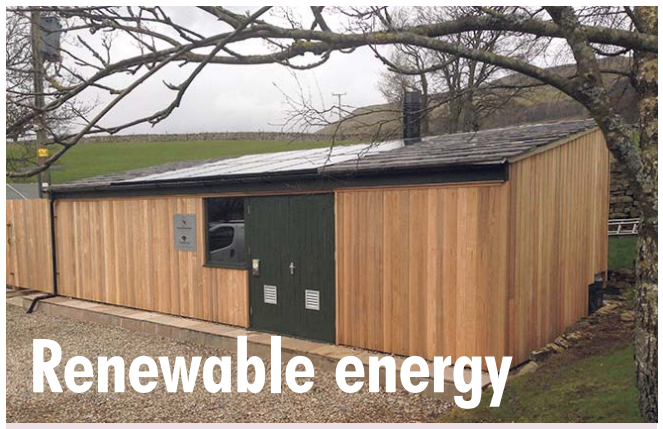


Innovation

Innovative design in the National Park context can involve the use of new or different materials and technologies.

The Thornley Music Studio is a good example of contemporary architecture in a Dales setting.

The enclosed character of the site allowed the architect scope to depart from the form of traditional Dales buildings, and the use of natural stone and the retention of mature trees show a respect and affinity with the location.



Renewable energy

There is considerable scope for incorporating renewable energy technology into new development in the National Park, as well as retro-fitting to existing buildings. Designers are encouraged to think about renewables early in the design process rather than being an 'add-on' once the design has been finalised as this tends to produce much better results.

While ground-mounted solar panels and small turbines are popular, many businesses are now considering installing biomass boilers, like this example at the Stone House Hotel near Hawes. Here a change in ground levels has been exploited to site an unobtrusive, timber-clad boiler house and woodchip/pellet storage. Biomass boilers use a sustainable fuel and can be a cheaper alternative to oil.



Commercial buildings

This building at Reeth Dales Centre incorporates a workshop, display/sales space and office, as well as living accommodation. The Local Plan permits 'live-work' units on brownfield sites and existing business parks. The key is to ensure that the building is designed primarily to accommodate the business and has the functional character typical of workshops, storage or agricultural buildings and not the appearance of a house.

Business sites also offer opportunities for more innovative or contemporary designs that deliver energy efficient, flexible and sustainable buildings.



Farm buildings

These replacement farm buildings have recently been constructed for housing cattle at Cote Farm, Walden, near West Burton.

They relate well to the main farmhouse, existing access track and services and do not break the skyline.

The combination of good siting and design - as well as the careful selection of appropriate finishes, colours and materials - helps to blend the development into the landscape.



New housing

The Local Plan aims to provide a range of affordable new homes. The recent development of seven affordable houses at Grass Wood Lane in Grassington also achieved Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, which means they have superior thermal efficiency, ensuring a 10% energy saving.

Did you know..? 92% of the 526 planning applications decided by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in the last financial year were approved.

Introducing…Emma Heron, Senior Planning Officer

Favourite part of the job?

Getting out and about in the Yorkshire Dales on site visits, particularly when there's the opportunity to talk to people and see how developments are progressing. I also like helping people to better understand the planning process as I appreciate it can be complex. especially if you've never experienced it before.

What did you do before joining the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority?

I worked as a Planner in West Dorset, which included a stretch of the Jurassic Coast from Chesil Beach to Lyme Bay. I loved to head to Portland or Durdle Door for summer walks or a swim after work. My attraction to beautiful places has obviously stayed with me as I knew I wanted to work here in the Yorkshire Dales when I relocated.

Favourite spot in the National Park?

There are many, but the one that stays with me is Kingsdale. It's tranquil and secluded and the scenery is dramatic with limestone outcrops and the horseshoe around Gragareth to Whernside forming the backdrop. I have two favourite viewpoints: one from the bridge over the River Twiss at Twistleton Lane, and the other from the Turbary Road - the ancient green lane above the limestone scar.

Favourite thing to do in the National Park?

I really enjoy trail-running and caving. Funnily enough, Kingsdale is an excellent location for both.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

The role of the Authority's board of 22 Members is to ensure that the organisation fulfils National Park purposes and does so in a way that best reflects the special qualities of the National Park.

Members take strategic policy decisions on conservation, access, recreation, land management, planning and resources.

They have a duty to achieve the efficient, effective and accountable governance of the organisation in the best interests of the National Park, and to provide leadership, scrutiny and direction in pursuing the aim of sustainable development - that is, balancing environmental, social and economic considerations.

Of the 22 Members, 12 are appointed from the local County Councils (North Yorkshire and Cumbria) and District Councils (Craven, Richmondshire and South Lakeland) and 10 are appointed by the Secretary of State. Of these 10, six are 'national' appointments in recognition of the national status of the area while four represent the parishes in the National Park.

Members are the public face of the Authority, providing links to communities. They bring experience, passion and expertise, including financial and business acumen, to their roles.

Read more about our Members, their roles, the committees they sit on and how they make decisions at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**

Carl Lis OBE

Craven District Councillor, lives in Ingleton

Job: Retired, worked in quarrying for 40 years. Authority member since 1996.

Deputy Chairman of the Authority, Chairman of Finances & Resources Committee and Member of Planning Committee. Member Champion for Sustainable Development.

Passionate about:

- Protecting the iconic landscapes of National Parks
- Provision of local housing and employment for our rural communities
- Easy access to our National Parks for all



"We, as members of the National Park Authority, have a responsibility to protect and preserve the landscape for future generations to enjoy. The communities that live within the boundaries of the Park are its lifeblood and it is vital that we do whatever we can to support their future. In real terms, this means the provision of housing that is affordable, and supporting existing employment such as farming, but also looking at innovative job opportunities. I also believe we need to get across to visitors the health benefits that are available in terms of peace, tranquillity and the open air."

Julie Martin

Secretary of State appointee, lives in Richmond

Job: Landscape and planning consultant. Smallholder. Authority member since 2014. Member of Planning Committee and Finance & Resources Committee. Member Champion for Cultural Heritage.

Passionate about:

- Field patterns
- Dales field barns
- Tranquillity
- National Parks for all



"The fantastic Dales countryside and heritage bring so much to my life and I want to share that joy with others, young and old, urban and rural. We need to ensure that our very special and distinctive National Park landscape is conserved and enhanced for future generations and accessible to everyone - as it can bring huge benefits to our health and well-being. The Park is of national importance for its scenery, wildlife, geology, cultural heritage and recreational opportunities. At the same time, farming and other land uses have a vital role to play. The Park's landscapes both depend upon and help sustain local communities."

Spend a penny - and the pounds will take care of National Park

Visitors to the Yorkshire Dales National Park have been helping to look after the breath-taking landscape - by spending a penny.

Government cuts to the National Park Authority's budget mean it has had to find ways of generating additional income, and one of them has been to introduce voluntary donations and charges at its toilets.

Authority Members voted in March this year for a two-year trial to see if the organisation could raise money directly from those using the facilities by introducing a 20p turnstile charge at Grassington public toilets to help pay towards their running costs.

There will continue to be no charge for the disabled toilet facilities, which are accessible by RADAR key.

The Authority provides public toilets at 10 locations around the National Park at a cost of £100k a year. They are maintained to a high standard and are some of the most important services we provide as they are often the first impression visitors have of the area.

Director of Park Services Kathryn Beardmore said: "The Authority is facing a challenging financial position. Budget constraints mean that difficult decisions have to be taken with regard to the future and standard of our services and it is with reluctance that we are trialling this approach.

"Not everyone using the toilets is paying the car park fee. Applying a charge at the point of use is not new and, if this means we can generate income to help maintain these and other services, it's worth trying.

"We are also looking to see how much revenue can be generated through voluntary donations boxes at our toilets at Aysgarth Falls and Malham.

"We hope people will appreciate our reason for doing this".

Early indications are promising; at Aysgarth, £600 was earned in the first three months of the trial, and at Grassington - while by far the busiest location run by the National Park Authority - the gross income achieved in just the first month (August) was £2,000.

Introducing….Fran Graham, Wildlife Conservation Officer

Favourite part of the job?

The sense of achievement when all our efforts do make a difference in conserving and enhancing the National Park's habitats and species. Sometimes this will be as a result of fieldwork, which I love with a passion, but other times this may come from conversations with farmers, local naturalists, other organisations or something more strategic.

What did you do before joining the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority?

Previous jobs included pollen and conservation genetics research at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, collecting Scots Pine seed in the highlands of Scotland, and environmental education in Northern Ireland. Before that I studied at the Glasgow School of Art and still enjoy lino printing. Predictably, the flora of the Yorkshire Dales is usually my subject.

Favourite place in the National Park?

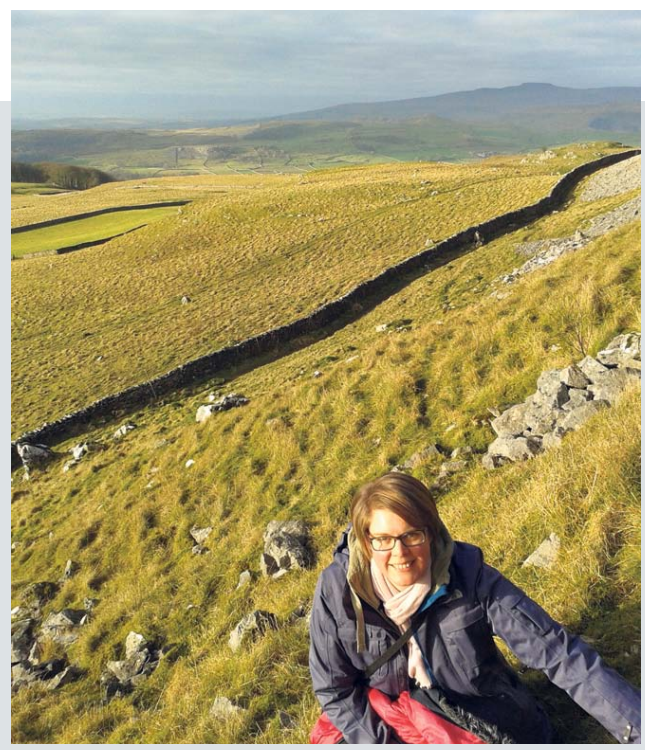
I have a different one for each month, but if I had to choose I'd say Ingleborough National Nature Reserve because it's got it all.

Favourite thing to do in the National Park?

Exploring the best the season has to offer with my family, whether its gryke-hopping, wild swimming, cycling the quiet lanes, reaching a peak or sledging - ideally followed by some good food and a good pint, given half the chance!

Ideal day?

Every day is different which is fine by me. After all, variety is the spice of life.



Find out more about the work of the Authority at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

CASH ON OFFER FOR NATIONAL PARK PROJECTS

Cash grants are on offer to help projects get off the ground in the National Park.

Around £100,000 is available from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund to help individuals, businesses, community groups or voluntary-sector bodies.

Sustainable Development Officer Andrea Burden said: "This year we had £140,000 to offer in total and, so far, about £40,000 has been allocated.

"That means we still have a large amount of grant money available and we would love to hear from people who have great projects - no matter how big or small - that they either want to get started or that are on-going and need some financial help.

"All that we ask is that the project should contribute in some way to looking after the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife or cultural heritage, or it should promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy those things - while at the same time providing some local economic or community benefit."

More details about the Sustainable Development Fund can be found on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**

Spotlight on Sedbergh

With nine local projects receiving cash from the Sustainable Development Fund since 2014, Sedbergh showcases how one community has benefitted.

Grants have gone towards restoring public amenities, improving the visitor offer in the area and supporting conservation projects.

A grant of £9,415 helped refurbish the main entrance of the Peoples Hall in Sedbergh, improving the sustainability of this important community building through better thermal insulation.

A new extension, providing the local community with a gym and fitness centre, was achieved with the help of a separate £9,464 contribution and this will open to the public shortly.



A £4,975 contribution to Sedbergh School Foundation is helping to restore its famous 'Pepperpot Folly' which is located in the school grounds close to the Dales Way. A website interpreting the early 19th century site's history and restoration, a storytelling programme involving local schools and a series of public events will follow.



The Lune Rivers Trust received £8,000 to record and control invasive non-native species that have become established along the river catchment. The project is funding practical control days, two information boards explaining the issues and wider benefits of the work, and engaging the community and local schools in surveying, mapping and recording of data.

Sedbergh Community Swift Group received £4,760 to raise awareness of swifts in the Sedbergh area and highlight some of the reasons for their decline.



Image from Tanya Hoare

The birds rely entirely on buildings for breeding and the project is mapping nesting sites and encouraging homeowners to install nest boxes and bricks.

A busy awareness-raising programme of talks and visits to local shows is taking place, and the Peoples Hall is showcasing the project by incorporating swift bricks and attraction call audio into its refurbished building (pictured).

Sedbergh Chamber of Trade received £916 towards creating a four-minute promotional film about the town to attract visitors to its shops and facilities and promote the special qualities of the area.

Volunteers join ranks

We couldn't achieve half what we do without our army of Dales Volunteers - and this summer's call out for new recruits is set to swell their numbers even more.

Forty five people expressed an interest in joining this expert and dedicated team which gets involved in everything from path repairs and archaeological surveys to leading guided walks - and 16 have now been taken on.

To find out about how volunteers support our work, please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/volunteering**

Shop just a click away

To celebrate the re-launch of our online shop, we're offering a 10% discount on all products until 31 October 2015.

The e-shop features some of our popular Three Peaks merchandise, the proceeds of which go directly to support the Three Peaks Project [read more on page 3].

Visit the online shop at **retail.yorkshiredales.org.uk** and enter the code 'dale5' to receive your discount.

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dita

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COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

As part of its long term commitment to working for people and the environment in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Tarmac is delighted to support the Dales Residents Newspaper.

We also donate quarried materials to local projects, sponsor local events and contribute financially towards improving local amenities.

Quarry Traffic Hotline: 01729 860411

Staffed by Tarmac from 9am - 5pm weekdays, on behalf of all local quarry operators. If you wish to comment about a particular vehicle please try to note the time, location, registration number and haulier name.

TARMAC.COM

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ACCESSIBILITY

By Rachel Briggs, Access Development Officer



A mixture of user determination and new technology has meant that we are taking a new look at what is accessible to people with limited mobility in the Dales.

The fact is that there is as much variation in ability among walkers who are disabled as there is among those who are able-bodied.

The National Park Authority has carried out considerable work over the years to open up a greater part of the rights of way network to more people, usually concentrating on replacing stiles with gates and providing smooth surfaces and gentle gradients. This continues to be important, but recently wheelchair users like Debbie North and Craig Grimes have been showing us just what can be possible.

Using a terrain hopper (a type of off-road electric wheelchair), Debbie completed a Coast to Coast walk between St. Bees and Robin Hood's Bay this April - a remarkable achievement. She worked with Jonathan Smith of Where2walk to plan the route and he also accompanied her for a large part of it. Debbie previously carried out fundraising to allow the purchase of an all-terrain wheelchair which is based at the National Trust office at Malham Tarn and is available for hire.

We have also been working with Craig Grimes, the founder of Huddersfield-based Experience Community - a not-for-profit Community Interest Company that provides films and information about leisure activities for disabled people and the wider community.

With funding from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, Craig is producing four videos showing walks in the National Park that offer varying degrees of challenge to wheelchair users. The first two at Malham Tarn and Aysgarth Falls are now available to view at **www.experiencecommunity.co.uk**

Craig has also run a series of taster days and residentials for people using mountain trikes - the mountain bike equivalent of a wheelchair, complete with suspension and knobbly tyres.

Craig said "The two-day taster sessions give people that first experience of using the mountain trike and, as they build their skills and confidence with the equipment, it will allow them to come out on our 'Exploring the Yorkshire Dales' rambles.

"This opens up more of the National Park by enabling them to overcome rougher terrain they wouldn't otherwise be able to tackle."

One thing this work has flagged up is the difficulty in sourcing information on which businesses and accommodation providers are fully accessible. This is something that we would like to address. If you are an accessible business, or want to look at becoming one, please get in touch - email rachel.briggs@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 01969 652363.

For details of 17 accessible routes in the National Park with free downloadable route cards visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/miles-without-stiles**



Craig Grimes with his mountain trike



MAKING HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES

National Park Authority staff gave a hand bringing in the hay this August from the meadow which grows on the roof of our Bainbridge offices.

The grass roof was created to maximise the building's energy efficiency when it was built in 2006. The thick soil and turf layer provides very effective insulation for our public meeting rooms.

Working alongside Natural England staff and volunteers, who also provided the machinery, the grass was cut and the hay turned and raked ready for baling.

The bales will be fed over winter to Natural England's traditional native cattle herd which grazes the slopes of Ingleborough.



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Test your metal with new app

The Romans sent soldiers to guard it, medieval monks used it to roof their great abbeys, and hearts were broken and fortunes won mining it - and now the extraordinary history of the heavy, grey metal called lead is at your fingertips.

The Yorkshire Dales is crossed by numerous veins of lead ore, and the remains of the industry that grew up around its extraction are part of what makes the National Park so special.

With funding from Historic England, the National Park Authority has developed a new app to help you explore these fascinating sites and find out about the lead industry and the people who worked in it. There are photos and descriptions, seven OS-mapped walking routes, audio trails and a video. The app also contains plenty of useful visitor information from places to eat and car parks to free wi-fi hotspots and accessibility tips.

There is also a fun section for kids suggesting what to do while out exploring, plus a link to an art and poetry project on Grassington Moor undertaken by artists Cheryl Garner and Gavin Jones.

Looking after the area's considerable industrial remains is not easy and Historic England have helped fund much of the extensive conservation work carried out by the National Park Authority over the past 20 years, most recently through the Yorkshire Dales Industrial Monument Management Scheme partnership.

The app will be available to download this autumn - look out for information at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk**, and read more about the history of lead mining in the Yorkshire Dales at **www.outofoblivion.org.uk**