Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Spring 2017

YOUR DALES, YOUR VIEWS

What do you think about the Yorkshire Dales National Park? What do you love about it, how do you think it can be improved, and what do you think are the most important issues to tackle?

These are the questions we are asking residents, visitors and a wide range of stakeholder organisations this summer in order to create a new five year National Park Management Plan.

The Management Plan is the single most important strategy document for the National Park.

It is produced by a partnership of 14 bodies, representing landowners, businesses, local authorities and government agencies, as well as the National Park Authority.

The Plan contains a long term 'vision' for the National Park and a list of specific objectives for the next five years.

As well as guiding the work of all the organisations that operate in the Park, the Management Plan influences other key strategies, such as the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan.

Authority Chairman, Carl Lis, explains: "The National Park Management Plan sets out what kind of place we'd like the National Park to be in years to come - and the steps towards achieving it. It is used to shape the policies and work of all those operating within it.

"As such, it is essential that a wide range of views and interests are represented, and one of the ways we do this is through public consultation.

"We want to know what people think makes the National Park special, but also what concerns them and what changes they'd like to see. This could mean more employment opportunities, work to extend the network of accessible paths, planting more woodland, or action to tackle flooding.

"I'd encourage everyone to take part as the results could affect your future".

Anyone can submit their thoughts via our online questionnaire at **your.yorkshiredales.org.uk** until 3 July. Alternatively, you can complete and return the questionnaire on page 8 or special postcards which can be picked up from our offices or National Park Centres.

Take part in the consultation - go to **your.yorkshiredales.org.uk**



What kind of place would you like the National Park to be? Your views will help to create the new National Park Management Plan

For the National Park Authority, the Management Plan is a powerful influence on the projects it undertakes, how it spends its budget and the priorities it sets each year. It also influences the partnerships it joins, the funding it bids for, and how the public views the area and its contribution to the wider nation.

Over 95% of the National Park is in private ownership. A lot of the investment in the National Park each year comes from private companies, and individuals, as well as public agencies and charitable bodies, like the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. To be effective, the Management Plan, therefore, needs to involve a range of stakeholders and address their priorities.

There is a statutory duty to review the Management Plan every five years. The current Plan runs until 2018 and this review will look forward to 2023. It will take around 12 months to complete, so should be ready for adoption in early summer 2018.

Since the last Management Plan, the National Park boundary has been extended further into Cumbria and, for the first time, into Lancashire. This has added 4,000 new residents not previously involved in a National Park Management Plan review.

This time around, the Steering Group, which is producing the Plan, will hold drop in sessions in the new area of the National Park at Orton Market Hall (13 June) and Barbon Village Hall (20 June) from 4 to 8pm. This will provide an opportunity to engage with residents and organisations there to get a clear view of their hopes and aspirations.

Read more about progress on the objectives in the current National Park Management Plan on pages 4 & 5, as well as the views of a range of people with an interest in the National Park on the issues that they think the new plan should tackle.

HYPERFAST BROADBAND COMES TO DALES COMMUNITIES

Major milestones have been reached in the rapid spread of hyperfast broadband to remote communities in the west of the National Park.

Last year, the communities of Barbon and Middleton got together to bring hyperfast fibre optic broadband to each home in their villages.

From an initial meeting at Barbon village hall in April, many properties have now been connected and are enjoying speeds of up to 1 Gigabit per second by direct fibre optic cable connection and up to 200/300 Mbps by Wi-Fi.

Working with community benefit society Broadband for the Rural North Ltd (B4RN), much of the digging to bring the cable to the villages was carried out by local volunteers and the vast majority of funding raised by local residents investing in B4RN shares.

Now, volunteers have spent the past 11 months bringing fibre optic cables over the fell from Barbon to Dent and Garsdale via a trench dug next to Barbondale Road.

Both projects, owned and run by B4RN, have been supported by loans from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

People in Dent met at the Primary School recently (pictured) to celebrate the arrival of a connection to a cabinet sited at the school, paid for by an SDF grant of £11,300.

In Chapel le Dale - where the project received £9,950 from SDF towards the digging of fibre-optic cables - businesses and households are being connected one-by-one as the network is extended from Masongill, Ireby and Ingleton.



The Dent B4RN project receives a Sustainable Development Fund 'big cheque' from Authority Chairman, Carl Lis (right)

Three further B4RN schemes in the pipeline are set to benefit from SDF in order to continue to expand the broadband network and improve connectivity for communities in the National Park. Casterton has been granted £9,950, Thornton-in-Lonsdale and Westhouse £10,000, and Clapham £10,000.

Authority Chairman, Carl Lis, said: "It is critically important for remote rural communities to have good access to broadband. Businesses need it, while households rely on it to access important services. And because the cables are put underground, there is no impact on the Park's stunning landscape."

"These are exactly the sort of projects our Sustainable Development Fund is designed to support."

More details about the Sustainable Development Fund, and the range of projects and ideas it can support, can be found on the National Park Authority website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION

A particularly warm welcome to the communities who became part of the National Park in August last year. We are thrilled to have you, and it has been a really exciting first few months as we have spent time getting around the new area meeting so many positive and enthusiastic individuals.

You will see that the 'theme' of this newspaper is the National Park Management Plan.

Before you groan into your tea and crumpets because it's 'another plan', can we say that this is one plan that really matters. It sets out the hopes, ambitions and targets for the next five years.

These are ambitions for the whole of the National Park, not just for the National Park Authority. They encompass everything from the future of upland livestock farming to the provision of superfast broadband.

Because of the range of interests involved, the Plan will take about 12 months to update. Please take the time to engage with this process and to let us know what you think.

In the first instance, we would be delighted to have your view on the things that you love about the National Park, how it could be improved, and the things that we need to do together over the next five years to further develop this wonderful area and all its communities.



Carl Lis OBE
Chairman

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

FLOOD-HIT BRIDGE RE-OPENS

Work to replace a bridge that was swept away by Storm Desmond in December 2015 was completed this winter.

The components for the new bridge at Birks Mill near Sedbergh were supplied by Cumbria County Council. It was then constructed by Authority rangers, apprentices and volunteers in a little over two weeks.

A new ramp at one end, steps at the other and surfacing of the path at both ends completed the project.

Unfortunately, the damage did not meet the criteria for flood recovery funding, but, after a rallying cry, financial support came from the county council, National Park Authority, Sedbergh Parish Council, Friends of the Lake District, HF Holidays (Pathways Fund), the Ramblers Association, and the Dales Way Association.

The original bridge - which had a span of 33m - bore the full force of the flooding caused by Storm Desmond, and its disappearance disrupted some local walking routes.

Cumbria Area Ranger Paul Wilkinson said: "The new bridge will save people expecting to cross the River Rawthey between Birks and Catholes a 2km detour via Millthrop.

"And walkers will be able to enjoy a number of circular trails around the town again for the first time in nearly a year."

Authority Chairman, Carl Lis, said: "The construction has been achieved through great teamwork, both amongst those actually working on site, and those providing material and financial support.



"The National Park has more than 2,600km of public rights of way, including almost 900 bridges. This means there is a lot of maintenance work involved to keep the network in tip top condition for all the walkers, cyclists and horse riders who use it.

"We are always grateful for any help we can get - in terms of finance, materials or volunteer workers - from individuals, businesses or other partnership organisation to do the work.

"Without them the bridge would have been virtually impossible to replace."

The brand new Birks Mill Bridge near Sedbergh (above) and after the storm in 2015 (below)



CRAVEN AERIALS & COMMUNICATIONS
- TV and radio aerials supplied and installed
- Repairs, storm damage
- TV installation/wall mounting
- Broadband and telephone points installed/repaired
- Free Advice and Estimates
- Over 20 years experience

Mobile: 07974 745470

St Teresa's Hospice
Giving to life
Supporting **Patients** & **Carers** in South Durham, Teesdale & North Yorkshire.
For **information**, to donate, or **volunteer**, please visit:
www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk
or tel: 01325 254321
Registered Charity Number 518394

DAVID HILL
Rural Chartered Surveyors Providing Professional Advice on:
- Planning
- Sales - Residential, Farm, Land & Equestrian Property
- Valuation
- Land & Property Management and Lettings
- Basic Payment Scheme Applications
- Grants & Environmental Stewardship

RICS
David Hill, The New Ship, Mill Bridge, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1NJ
Tel: (01756) 795621 • www.david-hill.co.uk

T A LAW LTD
Stonework & Building Contractors
Sub Contractors to the Civil Construction Industry
Specialists in all Types of Stonework
The Bield
Ravenstonedale
Kirkby Stephen
Cumbria
CA17 4NQ
Tel: 015396 23215
Fax: 015396 23436
Email: enquiries@masonry.co.uk
www.masonry.co.uk

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Dales is published twice a year by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. It reports on our work and is delivered to all 13,000 households in the National Park.

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, visitor information, and rights of way management.

For specific enquiries concerning *Dales*, contact the editor, Sarah Nicholson, on 01756 751618 or email sarah.nicholson@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

For general enquiries, please:

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

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm (4.30pm Friday)

- 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.

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

FORMER APPRENTICES SECURE DREAM JOBS

Two former National Park Authority countryside apprentices have fought off stiff competition to be appointed as Access Rangers with the organisation.

Suzannah Barningham, 28, from Low Row in Swaledale, is based in the Authority's new office in Orton and is working in the Westmorland Dales area that became part of the National Park last August.

James Firth, 27, from Leyburn, is working in Upper Wensleydale and operating out of a ranger workshop in Hawes.

In their new roles, they will help to maintain the public rights of way network, other access routes and open access areas.

Suzannah and James have an impressive range of skills and experience, having completed two-year Dales Rural Apprenticeships run by the charity, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT). The aim is to enable 16-24 year olds to live and work in the area they grew up in, while learning how to enhance and conserve the landscape.

The apprenticeships combine work-based learning with a local employer with part-time college study towards a Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation or Horticulture. While most of the apprentices go on to full time employment, permanent positions at the Authority are highly prized.

James said: "Completion of my apprenticeship with the National Park Authority in 2012 helped me go on to secure fixed term work with the Ranger Services at Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, and more recently at North York Moors National Park.

"To be successful in gaining a full time permanent ranger post in the Yorkshire Dales has been a fantastic result. I am looking forward to working with landowners to improve public access and bring environmental benefits to the area."

Following her placement, Suzannah took up a maternity cover position with the Trees & Woodlands and Wildlife Conservation teams as Conservation Support Officer, which gave her the chance to see another aspect of the Authority's work.

She added: "I'm delighted to have now secured a job as an Access Ranger - it's an exciting opportunity to work in the beautiful Westmorland Dales following the extension of the National Park.

"Having grown up in Swaledale, I have always wanted to help conserve and look after this special landscape, and completing the YDMT apprenticeship has provided me with the skills needed to do my dream job."



Dream job: former apprentices and newly-appointed Access Rangers, James Firth and Suzannah Barningham

Jo Boulter has overseen rural apprenticeship schemes at YDMT for the last six years.

She said: "I was very proud to hear that James and Suzannah had fought off stiff competition to secure their ideal jobs. It just goes to show that these apprenticeship opportunities can be truly life-changing and often lead to rewarding careers in countryside management."

James and Suzannah will be joining Josh Hull, who completed his apprenticeship in 2012 and went on to be appointed the Authority's Three Peaks Ranger.

Four new young rural apprentices have now joined the Authority and it is hoped that there will be more opportunities available in 2018.

There are also placement opportunities across other areas of the Authority's work. This year, we have been recruiting for communications, historic environment, planning, and environmental conservation apprentices.

We welcome any enquiry about an apprenticeship, even if there is not currently an opportunity advertised with the organisation that fits your exact area of interest.

Keep an eye on **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/apprenticeships** for updates and details.

Yorkshire Dales wins National Park of the Year award



Muker meadows (Tom Collier)

The Yorkshire Dales has won the National Park of the Year award in the BBC Countryfile Magazine annual poll.

The magazine said 56,000 votes were cast across 12 categories, with the National Park award being one of the most popular contests.

It said readers had displayed great affection for a "wild and craggy limestone landscape, replete with waterfalls and hay meadows, stone villages and broadleaved woodland".

"It's clear that thousands of voters have fond memories of time spent here," it said, noting that the Park now covered 840 square miles.

Authority Chairman, Carl Lis, said: "I can only agree wholeheartedly with Countryfile readers and viewers. The Yorkshire Dales is an area of amazing contrasts; it can be raw, grey, awesome or sweetly beautiful.

"Everyone who lives in the National Park and helps to manage the land - not least our farmers - should take pleasure from this award, and perhaps even afford themselves a little pat on the back.

"And to everyone who visits the Park and promotes the understanding and enjoyment of it, thank you - come again soon!"



Live-in Care

Helping you stay safely in the home that you love

For further details, please call Bluebird Care (Hambleton and Richmondshire) on

01748 900717

Care Quality Commission Good





NPMP 2013-2018: the story so far

The current National Park Management Plan was adopted in 2013. It contains 53 objectives, most of which have seen a good amount of progress, thanks to the efforts of many different bodies and local people. Notable successes include:

Woodland

The target to get 66% of woodland into active management by 2018 was reached by June 2016. Local farmers and landowners have also planted around 230ha of new native woodland - well on the way to the target of 400ha by 2020.

Rights of Way

The ambitious target to maintain an average of 90% of rights of way in 'easy to use' condition is being met each year.

Road haulage

Quarry road traffic in Ribblesdale has been reduced by 31% (compared to 2011), thanks in part to the installation of a new rail-halt by Lafarge-Tarmac. The target is to see a 50% reduction by 2018.

Tourism

The value of tourism in the National Park has increased by 11% in real terms since 2012.

Tour de France

The Grand Départ in 2014 contributed more than £600 million to the local economy. Ninety four per cent of visitors surveyed said they would return to the area.

Volunteers

The number of volunteer days has continued to exceed the target of 5,000 per year. More than 10% are by under-represented groups. The number of nature sites being managed by local groups has reached 36, and is on course to reach the target of 45 by 2018.

Broadband

Seventy one per cent of properties in the National Park now have access to good broadband (>10mbps).

Sustainable Development Fund

More than 30 local environmental, economic and community projects are being funded each year through the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

Renewable energy

Local businesses and homeowners have now installed more than 4MW of renewable energy in the National Park.

Local Plan

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan (2015-2030) was adopted in December 2016.

Landscape enhancement

The Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership secured £2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a four-year programme of conservation and community projects, and is now in the second year of that programme.

Unfortunately, not everything has gone according to plan. The following areas have seen less progress:

Conservation Area at risk

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Barns and Walls Conservation Area remains at significant risk. While planning policy now allows the conversion of some roadside barns to houses for local people, the structural condition of the hundreds of other field barns that contribute to the character of this national heritage asset continue to decline.

Mobile phone coverage

A Government scheme to extend mobile phone coverage to rural 'hot spots' collapsed in 2015. Coverage has, however, improved more recently.

Nationally-important wildlife sites

The target of getting 38% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest into favourable condition by 2020 is slipping. The current level is 28%, but has not improved for two years - even though over 95% of all sites are now in good management. Part of the problem is that many SSSIs in the National Park are on peatland, which takes a very long time to recover from damage.

New homes

The target of 150 new affordable or local occupancy homes between 2013 and 2018 is unlikely to be achieved. So far, 81 have been built. It is hoped that the recently-adopted policies in the new Local Plan will now kick start more housing development, including on the 200 plots already allocated for housing.

To read more about the vision and objectives in the existing National Park Management Plan 2013-2018, go to **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk**

We asked a cross section of those who have experience of, knowledge of, or interest in the National Park - who own or farm the land, who represent people who live in the area or community interest groups, or who have a business interest - to find out what they think are the most important areas for the new Management Plan to tackle.



Garry Schofield is the tenant of Heber Farm in Buckden, Wharfedale.

I would be looking for a management plan which would help communities create a sustainable future. Communities are really struggling to keep going. I chair the parish council and we're just trying to hold our heads above water. All we can hope to do at the moment is maintain or protect services. The youngsters aren't coming to live in the village to take over from the old people that are retiring.

The most important thing we've got to do is conserve the environment and make agriculture sustainable. We've got to change farming from being so subsidy-driven, which isn't particularly right for the National Park. People need to learn that intensification isn't the answer, that another 100 sheep isn't the answer to getting out of the hole. We've got to work with what we've got, environmentally, and make the most of it.

We've also got to keep the tourism going, as that creates a flow of money into communities. One of our local issues is keeping the pub open. Our shops depend on outside trade.

Jack Banks, countryside apprentice, from Bainbridge.

The National Park is a stunning place to live and work, especially in lambing and haytime. But there's so much that people don't appreciate. We should be doing more to help people explore the natural beauty of the place.

I'd like to see us do more for birds, especially for raptors such as hen harriers and kites.

We should tackle pollution. Litter is scattered everywhere in places such as car parks and by roadsides, especially during the summer season. It's such a shame to see it.

But my number one priority would be housing. I've been wanting to move out of home since I was 16. But there's not the affordable housing. Even rental prices are extortionate.





Adrian Thornton-Berry is responsible for managing the 1,600 acre Swinithwaite Estate.

The Management Plan gives a chance for stakeholders, including those of us fortunate enough to have direct stewardship of part of this fantastic area, to be involved with setting priorities for the National Park.

Most of the Park is in private ownership, so those of us who work on and with the land need to be engaged. The special qualities of the Park - its birdlife, built heritage and communities - rely on families whose livelihoods come directly from the land and who work, day in day out, for the benefit of all visitors and residents. Engagement in the Management Plan is key.

Overall, I'd like to see an increased understanding of the delicacy of the rural economy and, among other things, support for existing local land users and communities.

The three things I'd like to see included in the Plan are: support for existing rural payments; an understandable assessment of the potential ecosystem services of this landscape, which could be used to plan for the future; and a realisation of the need to remove some of the regulatory hurdles to making things happen.

Mark Corner, Chairman of the charity Yorkshire Dales Society, is from Langcliffe, near Settle.

We need to be more assertive in making the case for upland farming. Farming is at a fascinating crossroads because of Brexit. The Park Authority and others can help to shape the future. It could be positive, or it could be worrying. The Authority can step up in terms of monitoring and managing grant schemes. We need to make sure that public benefits are supported through subsidies. I also like the idea of 'distinctly Dales', pushing locally produced food and drink.

Better solutions are needed for the affordable housing shortage. At the moment, we're struggling to keep communities sustainable. People are moving out of the Park. I would like to see more innovation. Elsewhere public bodies have entered partnerships with financiers and developers, to build lost cost and eco homes. I wonder if we're missing a trick in the National Park. Rather than just being reactive, could we try to stimulate low cost affordable housing?

People can only enjoy the Park if they can get to it and around it. Public transport to and within the Park is critical. It ought to be a far higher priority.



David Stamp is one of the four thousand people who became a resident of the National Park when its boundary was extended last year. He lives in Barbon in South Cumbria.



Areas such as Barbon and Middleton have a lot to offer the National Park. We want to play a role to increase the welcome to tourists, perhaps by offering a part time information point. We need to take account of perceptions of the Park, which can lag behind reality. Some people felt that coming into the Park would be too constraining, but so far the experience has been very positive.

Maintaining rural communities is the most important area to address. The ability for younger families to live and work in the Yorkshire Dales is a high priority. Also public transport is an issue. Some parts of the Park are better served than others. We have one bus every Thursday morning to take residents into Kirkby Lonsdale. The population is aging and will need more support for both transport and social care in the community.

I think it's important for organisations working in the Park to support communities to do things for themselves. I've been involved in a scheme to bring B4RN Gigabit fibre optic community broadband to homes that had poor Internet service from existing suppliers. Continuing to focus on high speed Internet is a vital way of future proofing rural communities. It will help to attract creative businesses and younger people, and generate jobs.

I'd like to see communities being supported to do other jobs such as footpath maintenance and environmental improvements. There's nothing new about that. In the late nineteenth century, Barbon villagers brought mains water to the village themselves.

David Hill, former deputy chairman of Natural England, lives in Swaledale.

I'd like to see a more sympathetic approach to planning and development, which doesn't select just the farming community as the main beneficiary. It can't be right that large farm sheds - that can ruin the local landscape - can be put up with minimal planning control, whilst local residents often have to negotiate planning permission for minor modifications to their property.

We also have to tackle what is happening on many grouse moors. Some of the moors are superb and the people involved are passionate about conservation. But the industry has utterly failed to get to grips with bird of prey persecution.

Visitors and locals are now questioning, in large numbers, what the Authority is doing about this illegal activity. The Moorland Association is working hard in this regard but some owners are still intent on breaking the law. If the industry can't sort itself out, then grouse shooting has to be licenced.

The management plan also needs to improve the economic viability and environmental performance of farming. We're sitting on iconic, internationally important places, which have great natural value - and that is what public money should be funding.

The current single farm payment (ie. subsidies) should be stopped and all that money used to fund 25 year contracts with farmers to farm in a way that delivers environmental improvements as well as good quality food. It is in our local farmers interest to do so since upland areas hold a majority of the country's water, wildlife, and landscape value. Our farmers should be able to take advantage of this new approach to sustain their businesses and our local communities.





Susan Briggs, Director of The Tourism Network, is based in Masham.

I'd like to see the management plan address the tourism offer, which could improve in lots of ways. There's a real need for businesses which help people understand the Dales. Visitors want more than to come along with their flasks and go for a walk and look at the views. They want experiences, such as farm breaks.

I'd also like to see improvements in quality. To take a small example, most people expect a decent cup of coffee now; too many cafés are still opening the jar of instant.

We need small attractions which are open for as much of the year as possible. They can be really small, such as a barn that's got some information inside it and offers a chance for people to sit down and experience it.

At the moment there is no specific, dedicated body responsible for the marketing of the Yorkshire Dales, which means our visitor numbers and revenue are always at risk. Wildlife and nature tourism are growth markets, but we are not doing enough.

Our craftspeople and artists also need more support. Visitors want to take something home with them, but often have nothing local to buy in the shops.

Another major issue is the explosion in the number of second homes and holiday cottages. There's an oversupply. That's having an impact on people living here, and also on existing tourism businesses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ranger service restructured

The Authority's Ranger Service has undergone a reorganisation following the exciting addition of an extra 417 square kilometres to the National Park last August.

The new structure and roles will help us to better carry out rights of way management, which the Authority now has responsibility for across the National Park, as well as providing links between farmers, residents and visitors.

Rangers offer technical advice and support through three area-based teams. Find out who covers your area by visiting **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/rangers**

Hidden heritage revealed

The major new Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership is now underway.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, it aims to reveal the area's hidden heritage, conserve its distinctive character and encourage people to linger longer to appreciate its unique qualities.

This partnership project is being led by the Friends of the Lake District, supported by the National Park Authority, and is currently in what is known as its 'development stage'. Successfully working up the projects, including match funding, will release the full funding in early 2019.

Anyone interested is encouraged to contact David Evans or Nicola Estill at Friends of the Lake District on 01539 720788 or email david-evans@fld.org.uk or nicola-estill@fld.org.uk.

MUSEUM MINES RICH SEAM OF LEAD MINING ARTEFACTS



Miners' wagon on display at the Dales Countryside Museum

The Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes is re-housing and exhibiting one of the country's most fascinating lead mining collections, thanks to National Lottery funding.

A total of 860 objects, including mining wagons and tools, were given to the Authority-owned Museum by the Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum in Earby when it closed in 2015.

A grant of £90,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) means that the artefacts can now be re-examined and displayed, while the stories of miners and of the members of Earby Mine Research Group, who assembled the objects over 50 years, can be told.

As well as bringing the lead mining collection back to life, new exhibitions will be created from the Museum's extensive textile holdings. The lead mining and textile industries were once vital to the Dales, especially in the nineteenth century, and went hand-in-hand, with miners often knitting on the way to work to supplement their income.

Over the next 18 months, the project - entitled 'A Rich Seam: Lead Mining and Textile Heritage in the Yorkshire Dales' - will see significant building work take place, with a mezzanine floor extended to create more space and lighting and decoration improved.

A team of around 20 volunteers will be recruited to work alongside staff on the re-interpretation of the lead mining collection. One of the most challenging tasks will be to reassemble what has been described as the most complete water wheel and double roller ore crusher in the country. The wheel was rescued from the Providence Mine near Kettlewell in Wharfedale and was transferred to the Museum in pieces.

There will be plenty of associated creative and learning activities, with the Museum working with North Country Theatre, local schools and drama groups to create performance pieces inspired by the collection.

The HLF money covers 82% of the project costs. Other funding has come from the Authority (£10,000), the former Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum (£6,000), Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum (£2,000), and a private donor (£1,250).

Museum Manager, Fiona Rosher, said: "We are thrilled to have been successful with our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We've been given a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of lead mining within the Yorkshire Dales. The money means we will be able to display our collections in a way which reflects their significance."

The Dales Countryside Museum is housed in the former Hawes railway station and is open daily from 10am to 5pm from February to October and 10am to 4.30pm in November and December (closed January). Children visit free.

Find out more at **www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk**



A kibble, used to lift material out of the lead mines

Dormice sleep again in the National Park

For the last hundred years the Yorkshire Dales has been missing a tiny creature that was once a key indicator of the health of our ancient woodlands.

The warm hazel thickets of Wensleydale, Wharfedale and Dentdale used to be home to one of the most charismatic of small mammals - the dormouse.

By the end of the nineteenth century the management of traditional hazel coppices had come to an end. They were gradually lost to agriculture and the planting of trees for timber - and the dormouse simply lost its home.

Now, with a little help from their friends at the wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the National Park Authority, this elusive creature is making a comeback.

Dormice were reintroduced into the 12-acre Freeholders' Wood in Aysgarth in 2008.

The monitoring report for 2016, just published, has found the population to be stable - in fact it suggests that numbers are up on the previous year, which is very encouraging.

Despite unsettled weather conditions last summer, there were no prolonged periods of rain, resulting in a reasonable breeding season. Three litters were located in June, two in July, three in August, two in September and three in October.

Licensed fieldworkers recorded the sex, weight and breeding condition of the dormice they found. They recorded them as adults if they had orange-brown fur, or as juveniles if the fur was greyer.

Research suggests that juvenile dormice need to reach a minimum weight of 15g by late October in order to survive their long hibernation. The average weight of juveniles at Freeholders' Wood in October was 16.9g, indicating that there was a good autumn supply of nuts and berries in the wood. This means that the young were in the best possible condition for hibernation.



A torpid dormice at the Freeholders' Wood, Aysgarth, introduction site this spring

A different site near Aysgarth in Wensleydale saw the release of a further thirty eight dormice by PTES and the Authority last year, and they are also feeling right at home - in fact they've already started raising young.

Three months on, 11 of the nest boxes we put up were occupied with 34 dormice. This included 13 juveniles and the same number of small young still dependent on their mothers. There were also 13 unoccupied dormouse nests in other boxes scattered through the wood.

The presence of so many young so early in this second scheme highlights how good the habitat is for dormice and looks positive for the coming years.

The Freeholders' Wood dormice monitoring report was written by the Authority's Wildlife Conservation Officer, Ian Court, and Ian White of PTES, and can be found at **www.natureinthedales.org.uk/dormouse**

Spotlight on local food

A new two-year tourism project, funded by Rural Development Programme England, will focus on local food and heritage, working with businesses across the National Park - and beyond.

A partnership between Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Park Authorities and Howardian Hills and Nidderdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it will deliver a range of initiatives in these special areas, including food trails, festivals, translating part of our website into other languages, and working with businesses on joint projects.

The National Park Authority has employed a Destination Coordinator to lead specifically on the development of delicious food-related ideas.

Local B&B owner, Helen Dalton, will create cheese-themed events (including working with business partners), forest school foraging, crafts, and cookery classes.

Helen will be looking for opportunities to attract people to visit the area at different times of the year and stay longer, and will also develop a Food Tourism Toolkit for local producers, accommodation providers, eateries and retail businesses.

For more information, contact Helen Dalton on 01969 652300, or ask to join our new Facebook group, 'Distinctly Dales - YDNPA business support group'.

MUKER BARNS RESTORATION PROJECT

The classic pattern of field barns and drystone walls, cradling flower-filled haymeadows, is an iconic part of the Dales' landscape.

Nowhere else in Britain has as many field barns in such a small area - in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale alone there are more than 600.

Once used to overwinter cattle and store the hay required to feed them, many have fallen into disrepair due to their remote location and changing farming practices.

Now a scheme focussed on Muker Parish aims to conserve some before they are lost.



A possible barn restoration project in Muker

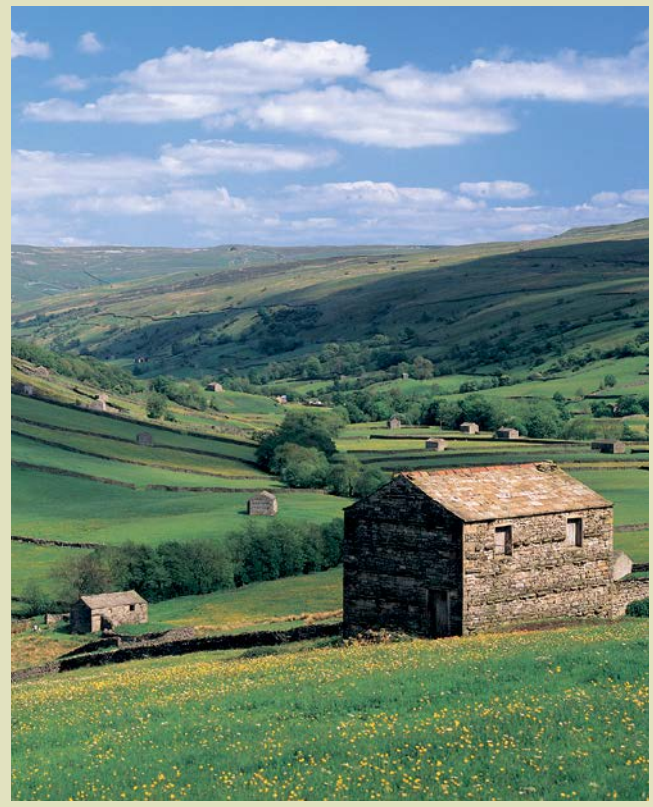
The Muker Barns Restoration Project began thanks to a £100,000 legacy, bequeathed to the Authority for the specific purpose of protecting Swaledale's stunning field barns.

Several have been identified for potential restoration. With additional funding from the Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, local builders will use traditional materials, techniques and craft skills to conserve these important pieces of rural history.

A key element of the project is to secure a sustainable future for traditional structures, such as barns, by supporting training opportunities in built heritage skills. This will be funded through a sister project, Every Barn Tells A Story [read more below].

The new Traditional Farm Buildings toolkit provides information about the heritage assets of these buildings and possibilities for reuse. Planning policy and design guidance, including potential change of use to housing, is set out in the recently adopted Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2015-2030 (which applies to the pre-extension National Park area) and the Authority's new design guide. The project will get together with barn owners to consider the best options for each.

For more information, contact Miles Johnson, Senior Historic Environment Officer, on 01969 752361



The classic 'barns and walls' landscape of Swaledale

EVERY ~~BARN~~ cow'us TELLS A STORY

By Interpretation Officer, Karen Griffiths



When is a barn not a barn? When it is located in Muker in Swaledale, where it is known, uniquely, as a cowhouse - or cow'us in local dialect.

This was one of the first - and most important - things we learned as part of a project that complements the physical barn restoration work launched last year.

Each barn has a special place in the landscape and in the social history of the farming communities that built them. Each has its own tale to tell. The 'Every Barn Tells A Story' project is working with the local community to bring these tales to life and provide opportunities for us to share them with visitors.



Kit and Mary Calvert of Hoggarths, Keld, have their haytime tea in the shelter of Purse Cow'us c.1930 [image courtesy of Chris and Raymond Calvert]

Over the winter, we have been busy recording names and locations, how the barns were used, and the evocative terms associated with them - like rudster, boskin and mew from Norse settlers, and now part of a disappearing language. Our research already shows that some barns are older than first thought, dating back to the seventeenth century.

Local researcher Glenda Calvert has made audio recordings of people's memories of working and playing in their 'cow'us', and we are creating short films about their history and the stories associated with them. Pupils at Gunnerside School have got involved, and we will be creating a kids' walk leaflet as part of the project.

We are now working with accommodation providers and tourism businesses in Muker parish to offer bespoke information for visitors curious about the little stone buildings dotted around the fields.

We will be providing walking routes and interpretation panels, an information sheet for bedroom browsers, a portable display unit, exhibition panels for Keld Resource Centre, and commissioning photography. Some quirky quiz beermats for the Farmers' Arms in Muker and a 'Ghost Cow Parade' celebration event in November are also being developed.

'Every Barn Tells A Story' has been awarded £65,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with the Authority contributing an additional £20,000, and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust £5,000. The Trust plan to set up a fund to continue the restoration work and the project is looking to create saleable merchandise such as bags and mugs that would contribute to that.

Follow the fascinating stories we are uncovering and the project as it develops via our barns blog at **everybarn.yorkshiredales.org.uk** or contact Karen Griffiths on 01756 751619 for further information.





Wensleydale farmers pioneer new agri-environment payment scheme

Wensleydale has become one of two pilot areas in England for a new style of agri-environment scheme, in which farmers retain full control over the management of their land.

Nineteen farms in Wensleydale are taking part in the three-year 'Payment by Results' project.

The project is being coordinated by Natural England and delivered in partnership with the National Park Authority, which is acting on behalf of the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (NUCLNP).

Farmers are being paid for producing species-rich meadows and/or good quality habitat for breeding waders such as curlew, snipe, lapwing and redshank.

The payments, in keeping with all agri-environment (AE) schemes, subsidise the costs to the farmer of managing their land less intensively than they otherwise would to maximise profits.

The big difference between Payment by Results and the previous and current AE schemes - such as Countryside Stewardship - is that it carries no prescriptions for the farmer.

Instead of following a set of rules, such as strict mowing dates, farmers are free to manage the land as they see fit in order to achieve a positive environmental outcome or result.

The farmers will annually assess the well-being of habitats against a set of agreed indicators to achieve an overall 'health' score. From this self-assessment, they can measure their success and set targets for the following year.

For meadows, the greater the number of plant species, the higher the payment, ranging from £112-£371 per hectare.

For breeding waders, good results include the right rush cover, varied sward height and a high quantity of wet features. A farmer will receive a lower payment, if the land is heavily poached, or cut up because of use of heavy machinery. Payments range from £35 - £174 per hectare.

One farmer in the pilot, Tom Fawcett, 58, representing CH Fawcett and Sons of Nappa Scar, Askrigg, said: "It's a good scheme and I hope it succeeds, because it is helping to preserve hay meadows and wetland habitats. There's not too much red tape and you're letting farmers get on with it.

"Without this compensation, you'd need to increase your stocking ratio to meet rising costs. That would mean improving the land by draining it, or adding lime or fertiliser.

"I only hope this scheme is carried on. Millions of pounds have been wasted when ESA schemes have been dropped overnight, with land being improved after the payments stopped."

The Authority's Senior Farm Conservation Officer, Helen Keep, said: "Payment by Results is designed to be simpler and more cost-effective than previous and existing agri-environment schemes.

"It works on the principle that farmers know their land better than anyone, and should not be required to follow prescribed land management methods. The scheme challenges them to produce results - in other words, environmental benefits - rather than to follow management plans."

"The project has been developed in consultation with farmer groups up and down the northern Pennines. Farmers' involvement in the design of the scheme has ensured that it is understandable, practical and achievable."



Chair of the NUCLNP, Professor David Hill, said: "We believe that hill farming is critical to the economy, communities and environment of the Yorkshire Dales and the rest of the northern Pennines.

"Through the LNP, farmers, environmental bodies and agencies are working together to find new ways to support the economic viability of low-intensity farming methods that are more environmentally friendly.

"We're delighted that Natural England is working directly with the National Park Authority to test out this innovative approach, which we hope can then be rolled out to other parts of the northern Pennines."

Farmers wanting more details about the Wensleydale Payment by Results scheme can contact Helen Keep on 01756 751611.

Your Dales, Your Views

Take part in the consultation and have YOUR say on the future of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Visit **your.yorkshiredales.org.uk** or submit your thoughts using the form below on the three questions we are asking about what makes the National Park special, the issues it faces and potential solutions.

1. What do you love about the National Park?

   .....

   .....

2. How do you think the National Park could be improved?

   .....

   .....

   .....

   .....

3. What do you think are the three most important issues for the National Park Management Plan to tackle over the next five years?

   .....

   .....

   .....

   .....

   .....

4. Please tell us your interest in the National Park

❑ I live here

❑ I work here

❑ I'm visiting

❑ Other (please state) .....

5. Postcode .....

6. Are you: ❑ male ❑ female

7. Please indicate your age group:

❑ Under 25 ❑ 25-64 ❑ Over 65

Please return this form by 3 July to: NPMP 2017, YDNPA, FREEPOST RLZG-JARG-TXAK, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EL

National Park experts provide free service

Free expert advice for farmers and landowners is now on tap at the Authority's Orton office.

Staff from the Farm Conservation team will be available once a month on a Wednesday, and from the Trees & Woodlands team every other Wednesday, to raise awareness of funding opportunities, discuss project ideas, and offer advice on everything from agri-environment schemes to protected trees.

Senior Farm Conservation Officer Helen Keep said: "It will also give us the chance to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing farmers locally.

Officers will be available all day and drop-ins are welcomed, but the teams may have site visits to make as well, so it is advisable to book a time ahead. Contact the Farm Conservation team on 01756 751611 or the Trees & Woodlands team on 01756 751607.

The Authority also holds a planning surgery at the office on the opposite Wednesdays of the month to give free advice to people wanting to do work to their property.

These sessions run from 11am to noon and an appointment is essential.

To book, email planning@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 01969 652349 by 12 noon the day before. Full details are available at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning-advice-surgeries**

Steve Hastie, the Authority's Area Manager for the Western Dales ranger team, is permanently based at the office along with the Area Ranger for Cumbria, Paul Wilkinson, and two Access Rangers. Steve can be contacted on 01539 626104.

The office's full address is Unit 1A, Silver Yard, Orton, Penrith, CA10 3RQ.

