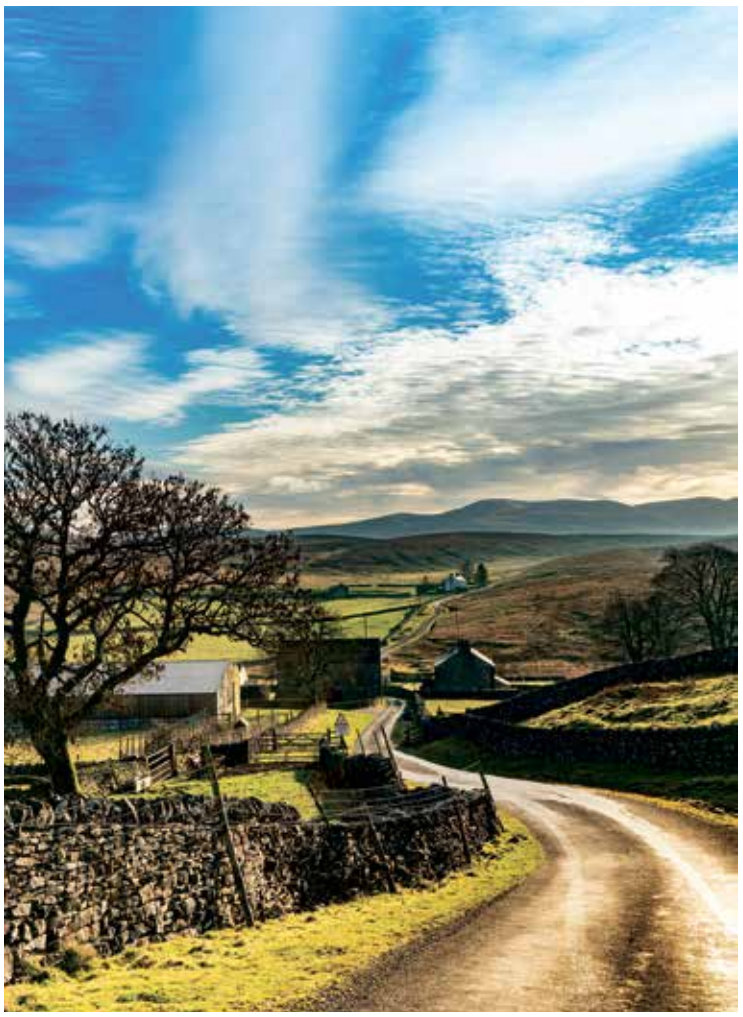
Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Summer 2022

BUDGET SET TO TACKLE KEY ISSUES IN COMING YEAR



Potts Beck in the Westmorland Dales

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has committed to its biggest programme of expenditure to date in order to "grasp the nettle" on issues such as climate change, farming and biodiversity.

The organisation has set a budget of £11.2m for the coming financial year to enable it to expand work programmes that both its Members and the Government have made a priority, and which will have a positive impact on everyone living in, working in, and visiting the National Park.

The budget will allow the Authority to provide funding and advice to local farmers and landowners to support 'High Nature Value' farming, deliver the 'Catchment Sensitive Farming' programme to help reduce agricultural pollution in the Swale and Ure Catchments, and improve natural flood management and water quality.

Working with local partners, it will deliver big programmes such as Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected - funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund - which is working towards nature recovery on a landscape-wide scale across Upper Swaledale and Upper Teesdale, Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes, which has £1.3m available in grants in 2022/3, and the Foundation for Common Land's national 'Our Common Cause' project, which is taking action to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of several Commons within the National Park.

This 2022/23 spending programme is made possible by additional external project-specific funding, the availability of £670,000 from the Authority's reserves, and a return to pre-pandemic levels of visitor-related income - for example, an unprecedented income from car parks. This has balanced what would otherwise be a large deficit and allowed the Authority to address some areas where it was under pressure.

Authority Chair Neil Heseltine said: "We want to grasp the nettle in tackling these important issues. We've made a calculated judgement in preparing this one-year budget and committing our reserves, and feel that the timing is right in terms of climate, nature recovery and farming."

With agriculture going through a complicated transition that is creating some confusion among farming communities, Neil believes that measures need to be put in place which are good for the National Park's farming families and businesses.

"We want to help those communities that are so important to us as a National Park and that have such a key role to play in the climate and nature aspirations of both ourselves and the Government", he said.

This year's spending programme enables the Authority to continue to drive forward nature recovery projects, provide funding and advice on new native woodland and woodland management schemes, and see progress on a new Local Plan, the first to cover the whole of the National Park since its extension in 2016.

The organisation will also use the money to create and promote more opportunities for people to use the park for health and recreation, and continue to maintain and improve the National Park's extensive rights of way, making more routes suitable for all users.

"We want to demonstrate to the Government that we support them all the way in their objectives. But we also need continued funding to deliver on these ambitions.

"The National Park played a vital role in people's well-being throughout the pandemic, and as we recover from its impact, and there needs to be recognition of that in funding terms."

Neil continued: "Going forward, the sustainability of tourism in particular is set to be one of our biggest tests.

"We want to encourage a greater diversity of visitors. But we need to be mindful of the conflict between attracting greater numbers and being an exemplar on climate change mitigation and conservation. Finding that balance will be a challenge."

For more detailed information on the Authority's work and objectives, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/national-park-management-plan**

Pilot to create local school 'ambassadors' for environmental education

Pupils at six local primary schools are experiencing the wonders of the natural world while their teachers gain the skills to deliver self-led quality outdoor sessions as part of the Authority's new Ambassador Schools Programme, launched earlier this year.

Since April 2021, the Authority has offered free outdoor learning sessions for all schools within and close to the National Park, and - through the Generation Green project - for schools from areas of deprivation and with pupils from under-represented groups.

The Authority's Learning & Engagement team has a busy year with over 2,500 pupils taking up the offer.

Education Officer Rebecca Swift said: "To have a long term impact on the quality and provision of outdoor learning, and a greater understanding of the role of National Parks, it is important that teachers have the skills and confidence to deliver such sessions by themselves.

"Environmental education needs to be embedded into the curriculum as an entitlement for all, not seen as a 'bolt on' enrichment activity delivered only by external providers."

The Ambassador Schools Programme aims to support schools to achieve this quality provision by upskilling teachers, supporting curriculum planning, and developing centres of good practice. These 'Ambassador Schools' will then share their knowledge with other schools and support them in improving the quality and breadth of their own outdoor learning.

Rebecca said: "Going forward, young people from the Ambassador Schools will be able to actively support the National Park aims of protecting the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales, taking action to reduce the impact of climate change, and preventing biodiversity loss."



Cracoe & Rylstone CE Primary School pupils taking part in an outdoor learning session at Grass Wood in Wharfedale

For information on all our outdoor learning opportunities for young people, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/learning-and-engagement**

A warm welcome to the summer edition of *Dales*

As you read this, hopefully we are well out of the Covid pandemic period. As things return to some kind of 'normal' the challenges facing the National Park and its communities come increasingly into focus.

From now on we are likely to concentrate on four main areas: tackling climate change, nature recovery, helping with the major changes taking place in agriculture post-Brexit, and access to the National Park.

The first three of those are clearly inter-related, and the significant political and policy changes taking place internationally and nationally continue to act as the focal point of all our work. Put simply, if we don't continue to work together to tackle those issues, there will be no future to contemplate.

At the same time, we have to balance these three issues with the importance of the National Park to peoples' lives - their spiritual, mental and physical well-being. We have seen over the past couple of years just how important it is for people to visit and enjoy these fantastic landscapes. Of course this brings its own challenges, but, compared to the issues and turmoil that many others on our planet are currently facing, we are indeed blessed to be living and working in this wonderful area at this particular point in time.

Have a wonderful summer.

Neil Heseltine
Chair

David Butterworth
Chief Executive



New affordable housing development at Hill Croft, Long Preston

New Local Plan makes progress

By Carl Lis, Member Champion for Sustainable Development



The new Local Plan - the first to cover the whole of the Yorkshire Dales National Park following its extension in 2016 - will make provision for new housing and other development over the next 17 years, as well as having regard for the climate emergency and the changes taking place within farming.

Changes to national planning policy and concerns about the impact on biodiversity will mean that future development proposals will have to more than compensate for the loss of habitat they will cause.

Increasingly, development proposals will need to be scrutinised by the National Park Authority to ensure that they will be resilient to the changing climate and located and designed to minimise carbon emissions.

For the last two years we have been consulting on a new housing target and looking at the evidence for the type of new homes needed. The Authority is planning for 50 each year and targeting new homes at permanent occupancy.

A new study of the local housing market area has revisited the figures around the viability of building new homes in the area. It identifies Wharfedale as the highest house value area, which means that new schemes there should be able to contribute up to 50% affordable dwellings. In the rest of the National Park - including the areas that will become part of the new Westmorland and Furness Council area - house prices are lower, but schemes should still be viable with a mix of 30% affordable housing.

The starting point for the new Local Plan is to analyse the effectiveness of current policy. One way the Authority does this is by monitoring permissions and publishing an annual survey of building activity. This year's survey is still underway, but it is encouraging to see that housing sites that were first allocated 10 years ago are finally being completed after much partnership working with landowners, local builders and Rural Housing Enablers.

Hill Croft, for example, is a new development of 16 affordable homes on a brownfield site on the edge of Long Preston - a mixture of units for rent and affordable shared ownership. A scheme of 17 new houses, including eight affordable homes for discounted sale or rent, is nearing completion in the village of West Witton. And a scheme for 50 houses at Station Road, Sedbergh, is due to begin work any day.

In June, the Authority will consult on the emerging Local Plan's preferred planning policies. This will enable residents and other stakeholders to comment on the direction of travel before the strategy and detail are finalised. Almost every subject of local planning policy is being reviewed this time, although not every policy will need to change.

Later this year, the Authority will publish its new list of housing site options. This will open the debate about where the housing target can be met. Officers are currently working through a list of nearly 140 options looking at the constraints and opportunities for new housing around landscape, flood risk, utilities, and their fit with spatial strategy.

In 2023 the outcome of the preferred policies and housing site options will be put together to create a 'publication Local Plan' which will then be submitted to the Government for examination. Hopefully, that will lead to formal adoption and shape decisions about future development.

To find out more and to respond to the latest consultation, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/local-plan-2023-40**

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Starry skies at Hard Level Gill near Old Gang Smelt Mill in Swaledale (Paul Clark)

Dark Skies Festival success boost for businesses

This February's two week long Dark Skies Festival is estimated to have helped generate more than £200,000 of income for businesses and organisations across the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks.

With a significant proportion of the 100-plus events selling out early, the popularity of this event underlines its status as a calendar fixture and its importance as a valuable off-season income booster for businesses.

Since the first Dark Skies Festival back in 2016, the event has grown both in terms of the number of visitors and where they travel from, as well as the breadth of events that are organised, underlining both National Parks' standing as a 'go-to' night sky destination.

Helen Pollard of Stage 1 Cycles, based in Hawes, said: "We have watched the Festival develop over the last 5-6 years to the established event it is now.

"It's extremely positive for our business as it allows us to showcase our activities to a wide range of visitors. It starts the season early, helping to encourage people to explore the Dales outside the traditional holiday peak seasons.

"It's an example of the National Park Authority working at its best, helping businesses to positively promote active sustainable holidays and visitors to consider longer stays."

Despite the first few days being hampered by gales and wintry weather, this year's Festival attracted almost 5,000 visitors, with many businesses saying they could have replicated their events three times over to meet demand.

Gillian Harrison of the Wensleydale Ice Cream Parlour and Café said: "We were a little nervous hosting our first Dark Skies event as we had not done anything like it before. However, the YDNPA's staff were excellent and held our hand along the way and provided the confidence we needed.

"It's been a sell-out on both occasions we've hosted it."

Based on the attendance numbers and using an event evaluation calculator, it's estimated this year's Festival will have helped generate over £200,000. This figure relates to both direct purchases such as event tickets as well as indirect spending on items such as food and drink or overnight accommodation.

National Park Authority Tourism Officer Helen Dalton explains: "When we look back to the initial Festival, the events were mainly centred on traditional stargazing and astronomy evenings. While these remain a very important core, we've seen more businesses and organisations putting their own spin on the theme to appeal to new audiences - whether it's stargazing combined with an evening meal, a cycle ride, a paddle on a reservoir or a mindfulness session. Many businesses recognise the benefits associated with astro-tourism."

Importantly, the Festival is also a platform to share the wider message that our dark skies are worth protecting, and that reducing light pollution - with the added benefit of energy reduction - helps mitigate climate change. Information and advice on how to improve your own external lighting can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/good-lighting-advice**

The Festival has seen a number of milestones over the last 6 years. 2020 saw both National Parks awarded International Dark Sky Reserve status, as well as the first Fringe Dark Skies Festival staged - the latest will take place on 21-30 October this year. Find out about this year's programme and more at **www.darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk**

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A Highland bull on Julia Carr's farm at Marrick Park where she has been making improvements for wildlife

Farming for wildlife in the National Park

Pedigree Highland cattle breeder Julia Carr is using new funding programmes to make improvements for wildlife on her farm in lower Swaledale.

Julia, from Marrick Park farm in the north east of the National Park, is working with the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme and Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, as well as a new woodland creation scheme called Grow Back Greener, which is funded by the Woodland Trust.

Hay meadows are being restored and several kilometres of hedgerows have been created as part of Tees-Swale, a natural heritage programme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This work will go on to support the principle of bigger, better and joined up habitats that underpins the programme.

Through Grow Back Greener, a 12-acre woodland was created last month near Marrick village, with more than 5,600 trees and shrubs planted. A permissive footpath has been created through the woodland, funded by the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

Julia said: "I've done annual hedgerow, infill, individual trees and copse planting in the past, but that has always been limited not so much by the finances but the manpower because we only have between November and April to get stuff in the ground, and with everything else we're doing there are limits.

"I've always wanted to do more. So I've been looking out for good schemes that will help with the manpower - and failed - until Tees-Swale came along. Tees-Swale was the first grant that has allowed me to get enough people together to plant as much as I'd like in a season."

She added that the new Grow Back Greener-funded woodland near Marrick village, with its permissive access path, would bring benefits to all.

"If new woodlands are to be created, they should be for the benefit of people as well as wildlife. For me it makes complete sense," she said.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the North Pennines AONB Partnership are working together to deliver Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected. Tees-Swale puts farmers and land managers at the forefront of nature recovery in the nationally-important landscapes of Swaledale and Teesdale. Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/tees-swale-naturally-connected**

Launched in 2021, Farming in Protected Landscapes is a dedicated grant programme for farmers and land managers in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It pays for projects that provide value for money and meet at least one of the outcomes under the four themes of climate, nature, people and place.

The Authority has £1.3 million to award this year. Read more in the article below and find out how to apply for a grant at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes**

Ian McPherson, the Authority's Member Champion for the Natural Environment, said: "Increasingly, it pays to be a nature-friendly farmer in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The public, and in turn the Government, wants to support those farmers who are prepared to lead the nation's response to the climate and nature emergency."

In an in-depth Q&A published on the National Park Authority's blog, Julia Carr shares fascinating details about her farming practices. Read more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/qa-with-nature-friendly-dales-farmer-julia-carr**

Details of all the woodland creation grants available - including those from The England Woodland Grant Offer (Forestry Commission), Grow Back Greener (Woodland Trust), and White Rose Forest - SUNO catchment (Borough of Kirklees Council) - are available on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/getting-help-with-new-woodland**

'Good start' to farming grants programme

'Regenerative farming' has received a boost in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, owing to a new grants programme which has completed its first year of operation.

More than thirty projects - nearly all of them farmer-led - have got off the ground with support from Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, which is being administered by the National Park Authority.

Farm manager Jim Beary has used a grant to introduce a rotational grazing system, called 'mob' or 'regenerative' grazing, at Gaythorne Hall Farm near the village of Asby in the Westmorland Dales. It has helped pay for infrastructure to supply water around the farm and better protect watercourses, while also reducing field sizes to benefit wildlife and livestock.

"We couldn't have done what we are doing without the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme", he said. "The grant has enabled us to start transforming the farming system. It's been a very quick process. We've been able to discuss with the National Park Authority what both of us want and come up with a plan that suits everybody.

"We want the farming system to be more resilient and more sympathetic to the environment. Resilience means we'll be better placed to continue farming in the future, from both a financial perspective and dealing with climate change and all the challenges that will bring."

A total of 31 multi-themed projects were supported in the first year of Farming in Protected Landscapes in the National Park. A local panel - the membership of which includes several local farmers - met seven times during the year to assess all the applications against the benefits they would bring to climate, nature, people and place.

The 2021/22 projects included 300ha of land being managed with regenerative farming techniques, four projects incorporating educational visits to farms, 708ha of habitat improvement for biodiversity, and 15 projects increasing the resilience of nature-friendly sustainable farm businesses, contributing a more thriving local economy.

For the year to the end of next March a further £1.3 million is available to farmers in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. In the third and final year of the Farming in Protected Landscape programme, in 2023/24, £1 million will be available.

Ian McPherson, the Authority's Member Champion for the Natural Environment, said: "It's been a good start to the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and we expect it only to pick up from here. What's so encouraging is that farmers are using the grants to create profitable farming systems.

"A regenerative rotational grazing system such as that being introduced at Gaythorne Hall Farm will substantially reduce the need for inputs of feed, fuel and fertiliser, while the new hedgerows will make the farm a better home for wildlife. People are going to benefit, too, as there are plans for a camping enterprise to make the most of the farm's high wildlife and landscape value.

"I would like to take this opportunity to warmly invite farmers to contact us with their ideas. A Farming in Protected Landscapes grant can help farmers achieve their ambitions."

For information on the type of projects supported and how to apply for a grant, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farming/farming-in-protected-landscapes**



Farm manager Jim Beary has used a Farming in Protected Landscapes grant to introduce a rotational grazing system at Gaythorne Hall Farm in the Westmorland Dales



A cyclist heads over Far Moor Bridge, one of the major construction works in the creation of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, now marking its 10th anniversary (Joolze Dymond)

Unbridled passion: National Trail reaches a milestone

This year, the first National Trail to be designed specifically for horse riders and cyclists, as well as walkers, reaches a major milestone.

The Pennine Bridleway - which stretches 205 miles from Derbyshire to Cumbria - is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its official launch.

The trail offers a fantastic opportunity to explore our stunning countryside, secure in the knowledge that it is designed with miles of off-road tracks, safe road and river crossings, and no stiles or steps to negotiate.

An investment of £3.5 million went into creating the 55 miles of trail which pass through the Yorkshire Dales National Park, including 7.5 miles of completely new bridleway, giving access to parts not previously accessible to horse riders and cyclists, creating loops, and providing a bridleway link across the Ribble Valley, as well as the construction of the award-winning Far Moor Bridge.

Businesses along the Pennine Bridleway's path can benefit by offering services to users and promoting the trail to visitors, from bike hire and secure storage to horse trekking and accommodation with stabling and grazing to make multi-day experiences possible.

Stonetrail Riding Centre near Kirkby Stephen has been involved from the start.

"Over the last 10 years the Pennine Bridleway has given us a unique opportunity to take many riders on a wonderful journey to experience the outstanding scenery of the Yorkshire Dales", said owner Alison Muir.

"The trail has remained one of our most popular routes, and has really helped us to grow our business. There are few long distance journeys which combine tranquillity, adventure and wonder as much as this trail does."

Alastair Scholey of Three Peak Cycles, based in Settle, also noticed the positive impact on his business.

"Our stretch of the Pennine Bridleway includes the Settle Loop that starts and finishes outside our shop, so we get loads of business coming through.

"We have seen increased through-custom as people pop in for advice and information. The trail supports not only the bike shop, but also local cafés and B&Bs".

Pennine Bridleway Officer Peter Lambert said: "The trail is an amazing asset, but sections through the Dales are underutilised.

"Visitors might not realise that the route literally 'leap frogs' the Settle-Carlisle railway line, almost tracing its path from Long Preston station in the south to Kirkby Stephen (via link routes) in the north. So it's possible to walk or cycle a linear route in day sections, and then get the train back."

Work on a link from the most northerly point of the trail to the Eden Valley loops will be completed this year, improving recreational options in the far north of the National Park, and with a view to the Pennine Bridleway extending northwards in the future.

Opened on 12 June 2012 by Martin Clunes as President of the British Horse Society, the Pennine Bridleway is one of two National Trails through the National Park. The other is the 268 mile Pennine Way, the first National Trail to be created in 1965.

Now, through an objective in the National Park Management Plan, the National Park Authority is supporting designation of the Coast to Coast path.

Devised by Alfred Wainwright in his 1973 book, this route runs 182 miles across the North of England and passes through three National Parks, an AONB and two areas of Heritage Coast. It has been a much-loved - but unofficial - trail for nearly 50 years. National Trail status would bring additional financial resources to its management.

Are you a local business who would like to get involved? Contact penninenationaltrails@yorkshiredales.org.uk to find out more, and check out the business toolkit on the National Trails website at **www.nationaltrail.co.uk**

The National Park Management Plan is the single most important statutory document for the National Park. It provides a work programme for a whole range of organisations operating in the area over the next five years. To follow progress on its objectives, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/national-park-management-plan**

The new, free Yorkshire Dales National Park walking app offers a number of circular walks from train stations along the Settle-Carlisle line which includes sections on the Pennine Bridleway from Dent, Garsdale and Settle. Download it at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/walking-app**

New podcasts on 'Our Ingleborough'

The Dales Countryside Museum has published six new Voices From The Dales podcasts starring people from the mountainous heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, as part of the 'Wild Ingleborough' nature recovery project.

Podcast characters include the Muslim Hikers, a builder, a farmer, an access campaigner, a guide known as the 'Dales Dipper', and the man at the helm of England's most remote signal box.

They share their personal stories and visions for the landscape across six 15-minute episodes, presented from the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve by oral historian Anna Greenwood and Andrew Fagg, from the nearby town of Hawes.

Commissioned by Wild Ingleborough, the podcasts have been produced as part of a wider community arts project called 'Our Ingleborough' which culminated in a festival in June.

Wild Ingleborough lead Jono Leadley said: "As part of nature's recovery, it's vital that we listen to the voices of local people and their visions for the future. This series highlights the importance of Ingleborough for people, nature and livelihoods and the complex demands placed on our natural environment".

Oral Historian Anna Greenwood, from Nidderdale, said: "The beauty of oral history is that it captures people's thoughts, beliefs and perceptions in their own words and using their own expressions. It brings us closer to each other and expands our understanding in ways that written history cannot."

Voices From The Dales is available on all podcast platforms.

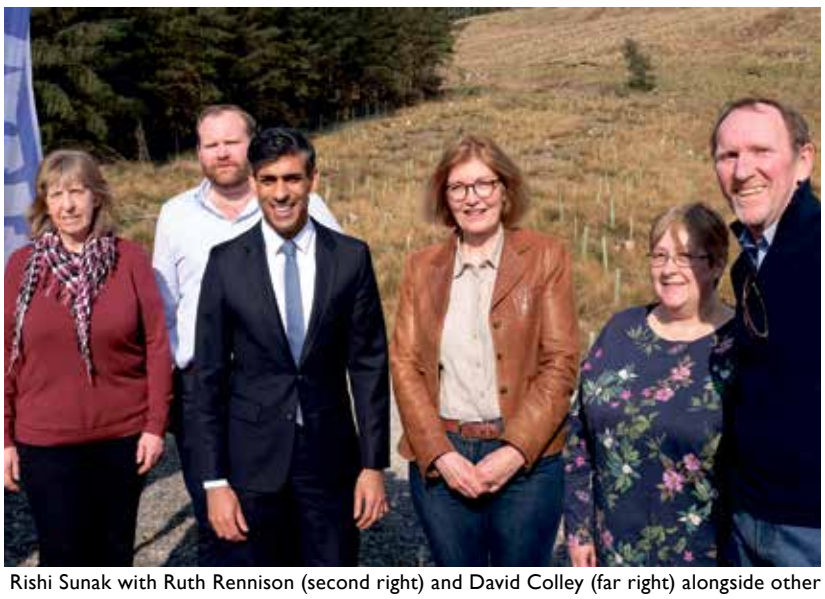


Dent contractor Middleton Mole Ploughing Ltd digging in broadband cables for B4RN in Mallerstang, a project supported by the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund

Fund helps rural broadband connect communities

Householders in some of the most remote parts of the National Park are enjoying the fastest internet speeds in the country.

Residents in Mallerstang and Wharton parishes, south of Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria, and in Cotterdale, Upper Wensleydale, have spoken about the 'wonderful' service they are receiving after working with Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN) to lead fibre optic cables into their homes.



Rishi Sunak with Ruth Rennison (second right) and David Colley (far right) alongside other members of the Cotterdale community benefitting from B4RN

Each group received support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) in order to get their projects off the ground.

John Peel from Outhgill, the volunteer leader of the work in Mallerstang, said B4RN had laid cable from the top of the valley at Aisgill Moor Cottages, on the Cumbria-Yorkshire border, to Water Yat at the valley bottom, connecting 84 homes and 17 businesses:

"The householders that are fully connected are all delighted with the speed of the new service compared to what we have endured until now. This service will make a huge difference to our lives out here in the wilds of Mallerstang."

Tom Woof from Wharton said a "stable, incredibly fast and reasonably priced internet connection" had arrived.

"The Sustainable Development Fund was absolutely critical to getting this service installed so quickly in Wharton. I am incredibly grateful that this has happened as I and many others in the parish work from home and have suffered for years from poor internet access. The use of the fund to support this initiative improves the sustainability of our community in a direct and obvious way."

In Cotterdale volunteers were visited in late March by Rishi Sunak MP for the switch-on of their new internet connections.

Resident Ruth Rennison said: "When the girls lived at home if you wanted to download anything it took hours, whereas now if we want to download something - even a film - it's finished before you've even noticed. Simple things, like I do a shopping order every week. That could take me an hour to do before, whereas now it takes seconds. My daughters are up and gone to Leeds, but we actually have faster internet here in Cotterdale than they do there. It costs £30 a month, which is a lot cheaper than it used to be, too."

Another resident, David Colley, who served as the volunteer project leader for the eight months it took to complete the work, highlighted the importance of the £10,000 of shares purchased by the Sustainable Development Fund.

He said: "The SDF helped us immensely. It was the first big chunk of money, the first big affirmation that this was a project that people could get behind. After that lots of people in the community fell in and invested a thousand pounds here, fifteen hundred pounds there. So it really was the starting point for the money coming in."

If you need support for a project that will help promote a more sustainable way of living in, working in and visiting the National Park, while conserving and enhancing its local culture, wildlife, landscape and communities, please contact Andrea Burden on sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01969 652337 or visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf** to find out more.

Celebrating community wildlife projects



by Mark Hewitt, Wildlife Conservation Officer

Since its launch in 2009, the National Park Authority's Parish Wildlife Project has aimed to encourage and enable local people to undertake small-scale schemes that deliver wildlife-positive actions in their local area, outside of the larger projects that have been targeted at farmers and landowners.

Thirteen years on from the very first of these schemes - meadow and orchard creation in Dentdale - Dales communities have delivered a huge amount for wildlife and habitats across the length and breadth of the National Park.

Over 150 projects have been undertaken, supported by National Park Authority officer time and a small grant fund. These include small-scale tree and scrub planting, pond creation, wetland restoration, artificial otter holts and nest boxes. Staff have delivered workshops on scything, growing local provenance plants, species identification and surveying, and First Aid.

The Authority's Land Management team follows the 'Lawton Principles' of 'bigger, better and more joined up' (Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites, 2010) when it comes to delivering positive wildlife outcomes - and the Parish Wildlife Project has a direct involvement in this.



Mark and a volunteer sowing yellow rattle at Scalegill Mill, Hanlith near Malham

Over the years, thousands of volunteer hours have gone in to creating, restoring and managing mainly small areas of land for wildlife. Cumulatively, these areas provide significant benefits for our wildlife and for ourselves - for example, new hedgerows linking in to existing hedges and woodlands, and small-scale meadow and verge diversification providing the corridor for plant, animal and insect species to move more easily through the landscape.

Here at the National Park Authority we are moving our attention to more focussed projects which we hope will have a big impact for wildlife in specific areas.

The Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund - launched in 2021 - has £30k per annum to offer in grants to projects within its geographical area.

In partnership with a local farmer, we are also developing a local provenance plant nursery in Burnsall to grow the varieties needed for particular projects. This includes purging buckthorn for the priority species tissue moth, and the production of sub-montane and montane species for re-introducing into the uplands. Volunteers are welcome to take part.

Look out for opportunities to get involved in wildlife projects in the National Park and for information on grant schemes at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wildlife-conservation**

Our services: your views

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority exists to secure for the public good the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and better understanding of the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales: its landscape, wildlife, and cultural heritage.

We strive to deliver high quality, efficient and welcoming services that are effective in helping ourselves and others to achieve that aim.

If you live or work in the National Park, I would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to give me your impressions of the service currently being provided by the Authority: what's going well and what could be improved.

David Butterworth, Chief Executive

1. Have you ever needed to access services provided by the Authority?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you haven't needed to access Authority services in the last twelve months, please jump to question 6.

2. If you've ever needed to access services provided by the Authority, when was this?

☐ 0 to 12 months ☐ 1 to 2 years

☐ 2 to 5 years ☐ 5 years+

3. In the last twelve months which service(s) provided by the Authority have you used?

☐ Development management (planning, Local Plan)

☐ Land management (farming, trees, wildlife)

☐ Park management (rangers, trails)

☐ Visitor services (tourism, National Park Visitor Centres, Dales Countryside Museum)

☐ Access and engagement (education, interpretation, volunteers)

☐ Other (specify) . . . . . .

4. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality of the service you received from the Authority?

☐ Very satisfied

☐ Fairly satisfied

☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

☐ Fairly dissatisfied

☐ Very dissatisfied

5. Have you noticed any changes in the quality of the service in the last 12 months?

☐ The service has improved

☐ The service has stayed the same

☐ The service is worse

If you answered that the service has improved or is worse, can you tell us why?

Please specify . . . . . .

. . . . . .

6. Which best describes you?

☐ I live in the National Park

☐ I work in the National Park

☐ I live and work in the National Park

☐ Other, please specify . . . . . .

7. How do you normally contact officers at the Authority?

☐ Telephone ☐ Email

☐ By post ☐ Website

☐ In person

☐ Other, please specify . . . . . .

8. How easy is it to contact officers at the Authority?

☐ Very easy ☐ Easy

☐ Hard ☐ Very hard

If you answered Hard or Very hard, can you tell us why?

Please specify . . . . . .

. . . . . .

9. Has contacting officers at the Authority been easier or harder for you in the last twelve months?

☐ Easier ☐ About the same

☐ Harder ☐ Not applicable

10. Do you have any suggestions as to how we can improve our service(s) in the coming months?

Please specify . . . . . .

. . . . . .

Please return your questionnaire to us by end of July 2022, writing simply 'Freepost YORKSHIREDALES' only on the envelope - no address needed.

You can also complete the survey online at **www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FL8GSP3**

New Members for Authority board

Following the local elections in May, the National Park Authority has welcomed both new Members and re-appointments to its board.

Subject to formal confirmation by the Secretary of State, Neil Heseltine (Craven West parishes), Liz Hall (Craven East parishes) and Allan Kirkbride (Richmondshire parishes) all return to serve on the Authority until the next parish elections in 2026/7, alongside Libby Bateman who was elected as the fourth parish Member (South Lakeland, Cumbria and Lancashire parishes) and replaces Ian McPherson.



After the North Yorkshire County Council elections, five Members have been nominated to sit on our board for the next five years. David Ireton, Yvonne Peacock, Karin Sedgwick and Richard Foster return, while it is a first time appointment for Andrew Murday (pictured right). We lose former Members Stuart Parsons and Gillian Quinn.



As Richard Foster previously represented Craven District Council, the Council has also appointed a new Member; Sue Metcalfe (pictured left) will join the Authority's board until the District Councils are dissolved on 1 April 2023.

Additionally, the Authority will be welcoming a new Member from Lancashire County Council as Cosima Towneley is standing down due to other commitments, having been appointed Mayor of Burnley. The appointee had not been confirmed at the time of going to press.

Find out more about the Authority's Members, who they are and what they do, at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/meet-the-members**



Support our campaigns to:
› Protect the peatlands
› Restore verges for biodiversity
› Plant trees, but without plastic

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To share comments on a particular operator please call our Quarry Traffic Hotline to report the location, registration number, haulier name and time (where possible) and we'll make sure it's followed up.

A Day for the Dales: get hands on with us

New for 2022, we are offering a series of one-off conservation action days which are open to any individual or small group to join.

Meet new people, learn new skills, and take a unique 'behind the scenes' look at the National Park and our work. It's the perfect opportunity to get involved with no long term commitment - just bring your enthusiasm (and the good weather!).



Three Peaks Ranger Ian Colledge cleans out a cross drain on the footpath on Whernside

There are already two sessions being planned this August and September led by Three Peaks Ranger Ian Colledge in the magnificent mountain setting of Yorkshire's Three Peaks.

Offer Ian a valuable extra pair of hands (or six) and help us tackle the litter problem in a workplace with views that will take your breath away. Or get stuck in to a practical task and help him fix the cross drains on the mountain side. Over lunch, hear about Ian's experiences as the ranger for this unique and special area.

Other tasks in less challenging environments will be arranged in the months to come.

All tools and protective clothing will be provided, and staff and volunteers will be on hand throughout the day.

Booking will be in advance via Eventbrite. All ages are welcome - under 18s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bring lunch - and remember to dress for the weather and working outdoors as it is likely the event will go ahead unless the weather is truly unkind!

If you want to make a real difference through just a day of your time, contact volunteers@yorkshiredales.org.uk to find out more, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to be the first to hear about other opportunities.

Digging up the past

Members of the public are helping to uncover the history of Ravenstonedale on a fascinating community archaeological dig.

The Authority's Historic Environment team is working with the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership (WDLP) to deliver a project that involves excavating up to 30 one metre square test pits around the village to investigate what finds from the topsoil can tell us about its history.

As well as digging each test pit in a team of up to four people, volunteers have been assisting with sieving the spoil for small finds, washing and processing. Training is being provided and no prior archaeological experience is required.

So far the dig has discovered a wide range of finds shedding new light on Ravenstonedale's past. These include a worked flint of prehistoric date, a number of shards of Medieval and Post Medieval pottery, and a variety of other items, such as burnt animal bone, clay pipes, and later ceramics dating from the late 19th to early 20th centuries.

The 'Digging the Past' project is being run by Douglas Mitcham, the Authority's Community Heritage Officer, and supported by Hannah Kingsbury, WDLP Cultural Heritage Officer, with work in the field supervised and led by professional contractors, Eden Heritage Ltd.



Volunteers, following completion of a test pit on the Millenium Field, Ravenstonedale



Members of Lunesdale Archaeology Society record one of the test pits (Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)

Find out about future historic environment volunteering opportunities by contacting Douglas Mitcham on douglas.mitcham@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01969 652353, and follow Yorkshire Dales Archaeology on Facebook @dalesarch.

Discover more about the National Park's fascinating history and archaeology and the work of the Historic Environment team at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/heritage**

