Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Winter 2019

Stepping up to tackle the climate change emergency in the Dales

Since Members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority declared a climate change emergency in September, work has been stepped up to set ourselves demanding new targets, and an action plan of how to meet them.

South Lakeland, Eden, Craven and Richmondshire District Councils have also declared a climate emergency. We will be working with them and the county councils to galvanise public support for decisive action across the National Park to tackle the issue.

At the Authority we have cut our own greenhouse gas emissions from our operations such as visitor centres and offices by 62% since 2005, switching from burning oil to renewable heating and halving our use of electricity. In 2012 we were given the national low carbon council of the year award by the Local Government Chronicle and a year later we became - and continue to be - a net zero carbon organisation.

More widely, we helped to set up the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, which has worked with landowners to restore natural drainage to 19,000ha of degraded peatland that was losing carbon to the atmosphere. We have also supported the Dales Woodland Restoration Programme which has created 1,200ha of new native woodland since 2005, helping to remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.

But there is still huge potential for even more people and organisations to come forward and contribute to 'green' initiatives involving land management and peat restoration.

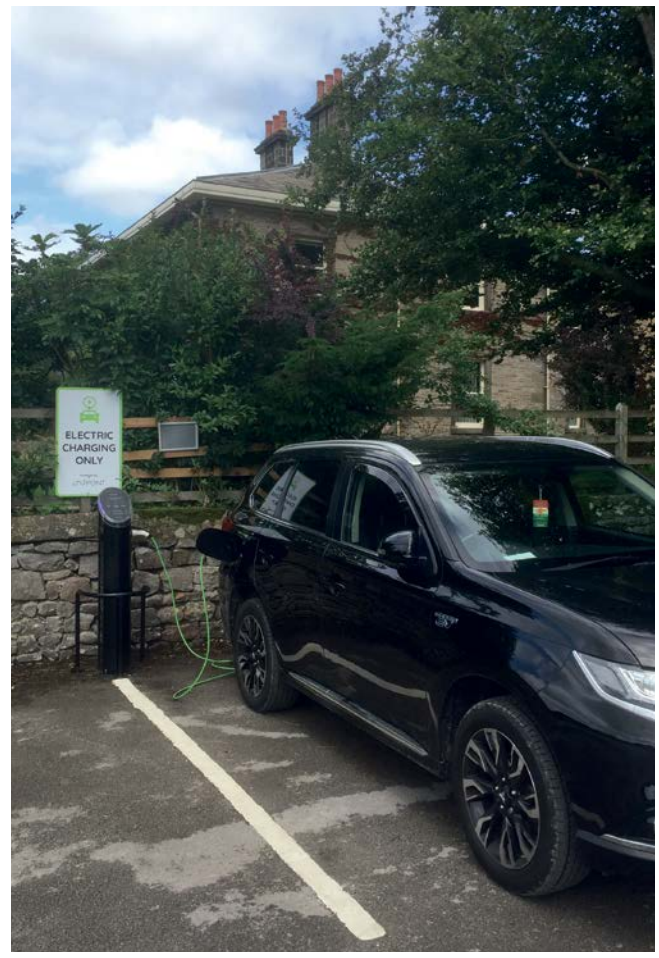
Authority Chairman Carl Lis said: "Over the past decade we have done a lot to put our house in order, but our big message is that it is not enough. Helping local people, businesses and organisations to cut carbon emissions generated in the National Park must be part of the day job.

"As a start, we want to work with other local authorities and businesses to achieve the ambitious objectives set out in the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan. These include creating a zero carbon National Park by 2040 at the latest, an ambition which is supported by eight shorter term objectives, including a radical increase in peatland restoration and more woodland planting."

Other related objectives agreed by local partners in the Management Plan include large-scale natural flood management projects, reducing road haulage from quarries, preventing the spread of new invasive non-native species, reinstating the Wensleydale Railway, and continuing to promote sustainable tourism.

Most recently we installed electric car charging points in Grassington and Hawes car parks, with a third to follow at Aysgarth Falls.

To find out what the National Park Management Plan is seeking to achieve and the measures it is proposing to tackle climate change - as well as progress on these - visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/management-plan**



A PodPoint electric car charging point in use in Grassington car park

Pilots lead the way for National Park education programme

While primary school children from Lancaster learned about rearing cattle and sheep on a real farm experience this summer, pupils from Sedbergh were raising - and releasing - their own eels.

The activities were part of a series of education pilots that aim to meet a Government target to give 60,000 children each year the chance to experience a National Park.

Over three separate visits, the Wilson family welcomed 90 reception-aged pupils from a Lancaster primary school to Gill Garth Farm in Selside.

National Park Authority staff and volunteers worked with the school and farmer to design a fun, structured day that reflected life on the farm for children who have very little experience of farming. The five-year-olds enjoyed a trip to the cow shed to learn about dairying, bottle-fed lambs, and lunched on hay bales in the barn.



Lunchtime: enjoying a real farm experience at Gill Garth Farm, Selside

The school has now embedded the farm visit into their curriculum and is paying the farmer to deliver further days.

Meanwhile, an 'eel-lite' team at Sedbergh Primary School was caring for a tankful of European eels, a critically endangered species.

Working with the Authority's Young Rangers Officer, the pupils took delivery of around 50 young eels, known as 'elvers', which had been caught in the Severn.

In partnership with the Lune Rivers Trust, the children were taught about the lifecycle of an eel, as well as local river ecology. And in late June, Year 3 and 4 pupils released their charges into the Rawthey, a river where eels were once abundant and are now scarce.

The two pilots are helping to shape a new Authority-led education programme to get children out exploring the National Park.

From next year, schools will be able to book a fieldwork day with a leader, choosing from modules in geography and biology, and set within the context of the local environment. Developed with and delivered by teachers, and designed to fit the GCSE curriculum, the material can easily be adapted for primary schools.

Education and Events Manager Catherine Kemp said: "The underlying purpose of our new learning programme is to get young people outdoors and into the National Park. To understand and enjoy it is to care for it.

"We've helped deliver John Muir Awards for The Wensleydale School and Skipton Girls High School this year, and are keen to hear from other secondary schools wishing to do the same.

"There will be more opportunities to visit Gill Garth Farm during lambing time as part of our 2020 guided walks programme. In the meantime, feedback from the real farm pilot is helping us to support other farmers to deliver educational activity."

The new education programme will be advertised on **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk** from March. If you are a teacher and would like to be on our mailing list to hear about opportunities, please contact learning@yorkshiredales.org.uk

The eels project was funded through the Green Futures programme, which is led by local charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Carl Lis OBE
Chairman

A warm welcome to the winter edition of *Dales*

We hope you enjoy the content of this edition. You will see that the cover story relates to what has recently been described as the Climate Emergency.

We make no apologies for returning to this particular subject, even though it seems to fluctuate up and down the political agenda.

It is an issue that we have always taken seriously as an organisation and it is one which I know concerns many in our local communities.

We are well aware that the issue can seem a rather daunting one and it often appears there are many who over complicate the subject in order to avoid taking any action or responsibility.

Our collective ambition over the coming months and years has to be to introduce changes to our lives to ensure that our children and grandchildren have a more secure future and get the opportunity to live their lives to the full.

As one group of young people recently said to us: "Can you help us sort these problems? If you can't or won't, would you mind getting out of the way so that we can work with those who can".

A powerful message indeed!

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

Those lucky enough to live in the National Park know what it is to experience the immense sense of tranquility and wonder of true dark skies.

Our skies are among the darkest in England, with North Yorkshire the fifth darkest county and the Yorkshire Dales the third darkest National Park. Almost 80% of the National Park's night skies fall into the darkest category in a Campaign to Protect Rural England study.

Now, the National Park Authority, working with Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is seeking designation for the Yorkshire Dales as an International Dark Sky Reserve. There are currently just 15 such Reserves in the world, and 5 of these are in the UK.

The idea was initially mooted through the Parish Forums in 2017, and had support during the more recent National Park Management Plan consultation.

Designation by the International Dark Skies Association will bring benefits to tourism businesses at what is otherwise the quietest time of year.

It will provide a fantastic opportunity to promote locations and events which offer people the chance to look up and see the Milky Way, shooting stars, and maybe even the Northern Lights.

It will enable us to work with local highways authorities to ensure that our dark skies are protected - for example, that new or replacement lighting is designed to reduce upward light spill and minimize glare - and we will provide guidance for homeowners and businesses on using appropriate lighting.

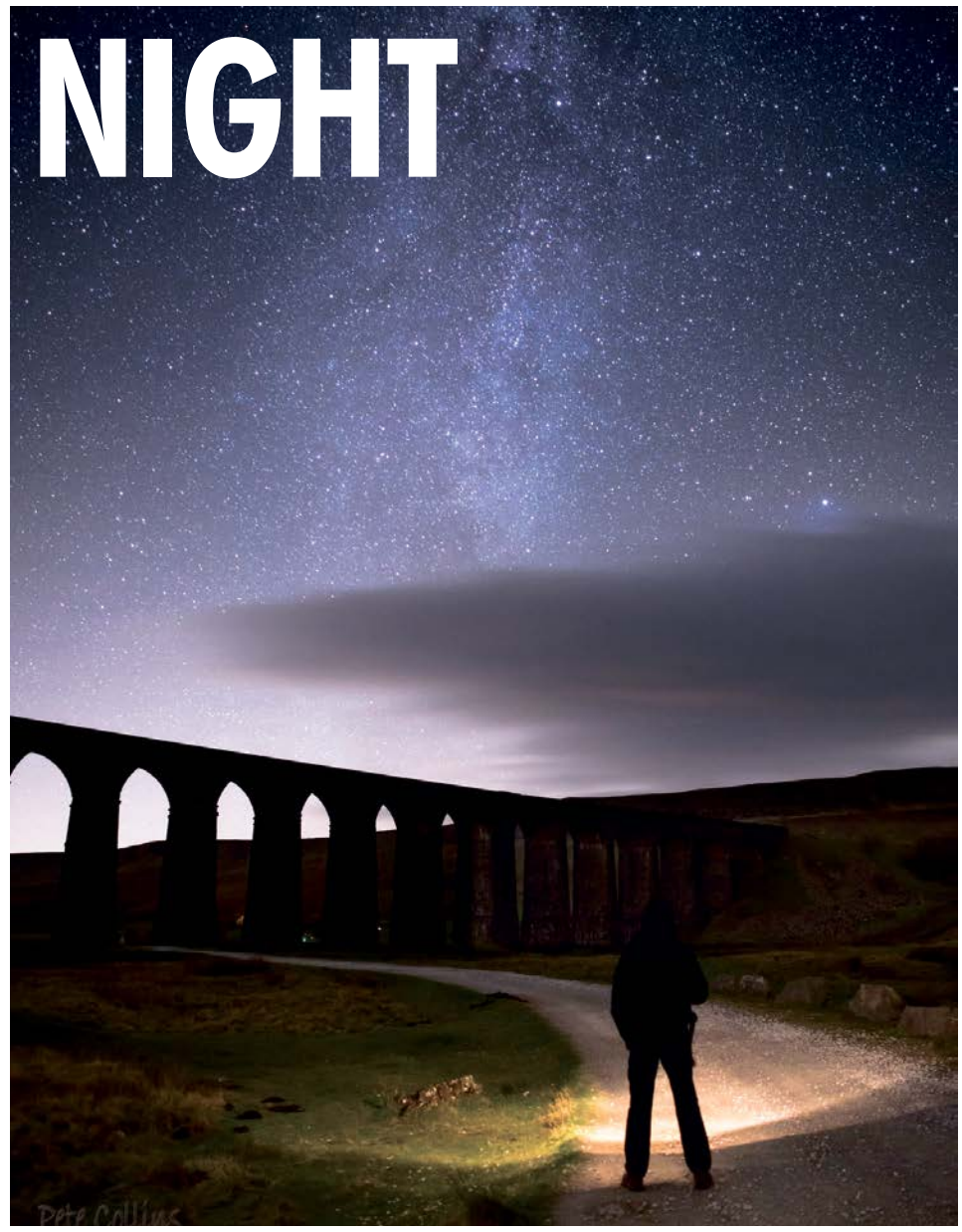
So, how does the National Park become a Dark Sky Reserve?

With the help of a small number of dedicated volunteers the Authority has mapped the quality of night skies throughout the National Park.

It has enabled us to identify an extremely dark 'core', with the remainder of the area acting as a buffer. A lighting management plan is nearing completion and this will help to ensure that the core area remains dark.

We have held four Dark Skies Festivals, providing opportunities for us to talk to residents and visitors about their thoughts, and to enthuse the next generation of astronomers through planet trails, moonlit bike rides and other events.

The fifth Dark Skies Festival will run from 14 February to 1 March 2020 - keep an eye on our website for details.



The Milky Way over Ribblehead Viaduct © Pete Collins

To be successful we will need to show that individuals and communities support the application - letters of support addressed to Head of Access and Engagement Rebecca Greenfield at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority are welcomed.

We hope to submit our application next July and aim to achieve International Dark Sky Reserve status by the end of 2020.

Between now and then we will be talking to parish councils about our plans, holding Citizen Science activities to measure the visibility of the stars in the Orion Constellation, and supporting small changes that can make a big difference to help protect our very special dark skies.

We currently have four Dark Sky Discovery Sites at Malham, Buckden, Hawes and Tan Hill Inn. These are easily accessible locations, open to all, and great places to start a stargazing adventure.

While stargazing can take place at any time of the year, it is a particularly great activity for the winter months. Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/stargazing**

DAVID HILL
Chartered Surveyors Providing Professional Advice on:
• Planning & Development, including Residential, Barn Conversions, Farm Diversification and Tourism
• Property Sales and Valuations
• Land Agency
RICS RTPI
David Hill, The New Ship, Mill Bridge, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1NJ
Tel: (01756) 795621 • www.david-hill.co.uk

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

Eden SCAFFOLDING
Please call now for competitive prices
07969 508829
07891 523476
edenscaffoldingltd.co.uk

1783 BAR & RESTAURANT
For a truly authentic Yorkshire Dales experience
Open Christmas & New Year
LOCAL-SEASONAL-RELAXED-FINE DINING
View our seasonal menus at www.1783restaurant.co.uk
01748 884292 | enquiries@theburgoyne.co.uk
The Burgoyne Hotel, The Green, Reeth, Swaledale, North Yorkshire, DL11 6SN
Flavours of Herriot Country Awards 2019 Finalist

Craven Aerials & Communications
Craven Alarms & Security
• Alarm systems and CCTV supplied and installed
• TV installation/wall mounting
• Broadband and telephone points installed/repaired
• Free Advice and Estimates
• Over 20 years experience
Based at Hebden, nr Grassington
Mobile: 07974 745470

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, tourist information, and footpath and bridleway management.

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

For general enquiries, please:

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

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm, (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.

PARK PROFILE:
POPULATION AND ECONOMY

Building 50 new houses a year might be enough to combat a depopulation of the National Park, but it would not prevent the continuing decline of younger people in the area.

These are some of the headline findings in three studies published by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority which look at key economic trends.

The studies - entitled 'Socio-economic Wellbeing', Demographic Evidence' and 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment'- were commissioned to provide baseline evidence for the development of a new National Park Local Plan.

Previously, the Authority had to rely on wider research which tended to mask the more rural situations within the sparsely populated National Park.

The new studies - commissioned by the Authority and its district and county council partners, and undertaken by a leading regional research consortium - found that the total population of the National Park stopped growing in 2009 after continuous expansion since 1970. It reached a peak of 24,200 people in 2008 and is now stable at around 23,400. Population growth has been strongly dependent on people moving into the area.

The age structure is heavily skewed towards older age groups. The population over 65 has grown by 45% since 2001. Pre-school, primary school and secondary school populations have all declined since 2001, and particularly since 2010.

Total employment has nevertheless grown significantly since 2009, particularly within Craven district.

Accommodation and food services is the largest and fastest growing work sector. Farming is still very important with 1 in 6 jobs, even expanding since 2010.

People on rates of pay equivalent to police officers, nurses, fire fighters and teachers need more than five times their income to afford to buy the cheapest 25% of the housing stock. The price of housing to rent is, though, more affordable.

The studies also project forward - looking at the likely trends in population, housing and economic development, and the likely impacts of some of the policy options available.

This research is now providing background evidence for a review of planning policy as we start the process of creating a new Local Plan for 2023 to 2040 (see back page). We strongly encourage you to have your say - the issues raised through the studies are at the heart of the consultation.

The findings are also supporting partnership projects to address community sustainability. We know that retaining and increasing the number of young people living in the National Park is an issue that residents care about deeply.



Grassington village centre

Want to find out more? The studies are available on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning-policy**, where you can also read about current and future planning policy in the National Park.



24HR CARE FOR YOUR PET

Our out of hours calls are answered by a member of our own staff and emergencies are treated at the Settle clinic by our own companion animal vets

SETTLE | BENTHAM
01729 823538
www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk
RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE



Our property management service includes a range of options:

- Property maintenance
- Housekeeping
- Customer contact service
- Legal compliance
- Gardening services
- Property checks

For a professional service contact us on 01947 878595
Holiday Home Management Yorkshire, The Shop on the Bridge, Bank Foot, Hawes DL8 3NL
www.holidayhomemanagementyorkshire.co.uk

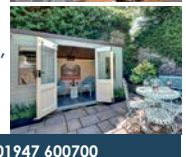
Ingrid Flute's YORKSHIRE HOLIDAY COTTAGES
Yorkshire's Leading Independent Holiday Lettings Agent



Holiday Home to Let?



- ✓ We need quality properties to meet visitor demand
- ✓ Local office in Hawes
- ✓ Property management available



If you want professional, friendly and, above all, local service contact us today on 01969 689220

Hawes Office: 01969 689220
The Shop on the Bridge, Bank Foot, Hawes DL8 3NL

Whitby Office: 01947 600700
8 Flowergate, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 3BA

www.yorkshireholidaycottages.co.uk

PLANNING FOR THE PEOPLE

by Jim Munday, Member Champion for Development Management



Victoria Russell, an artist living in Bishopdale, wanted to convert the beautiful, medieval Tom Lear Barn into her home and work studio. The barn, in the village of Starbotton in Wharfedale, was for sale.

First, she wanted to get an idea of the chances of getting planning permission. So she got in touch. A site meeting was set up with our principal planning officer for the south of the National Park, Katherine Wood.

They discussed the character of the building, what openings might be needed and so on. "It was her feedback that gave me the confidence to go for it," said Victoria, who also came along to one of our free planning surgeries.

A year and a half later she bought the barn. An architect was employed and drew up plans. But she said this turned into a "disaster". A plan to fully glaze a gable end was knocked back, and the architect's drawings were shelved.

"So, I went to see Katherine myself with all my scribbles," said Victoria, "and she came up with this great idea - what we are doing now - for a skylight that would run the length of the roof. It would flood the whole workspace. And we would leave all the other openings basically the same. I was open to something industrial rather than 'cottagey and cutesy'."

The new plans were submitted and came to Planning Committee. The decision was unanimous approval.

"The planning team has been absolutely and totally supportive," said Victoria in November, while builders from local firm, Alan Mudd Construction, were busy around her.

Why am I telling you this story? Because it illustrates that we are here to help you and here to say 'Yes!'

In the year to the end of this March, 91.5% of all planning applications were approved. That is higher than the average approval rate for planning authorities in England. It is a fact: you are more likely to get planning permission inside the National Park than outside it.

The key is to contact us at your earliest opportunity and take up the offer of pre-application planning advice from our experts in order to help you towards a successful application.

We are here to help everyone when it comes to developments, whether it be a porch or extension or full housing plans.

Our aim is to keep this special place special for generations to come. We do that by working with people in partnership.

To book an appointment at one of our FREE Planning Advice Surgeries in Kirkby Lonsdale, Grassington, Bainbridge and Sedbergh, email planning@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 01969 652350 by 12 noon the day before.

For more information on submitting a planning application, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning-advice-service**



Victoria Russell outside her barn conversion with builders Peter, Jez and Anthony

Unbridled passion: the Pennine Bridleway

The 10 mile Settle Loop - the first section of the Pennine Bridleway to be opened in the National Park in 2005 - is as familiar to Peter Lambert as the mud he and his mountain bike are currently splattered in on this bright October day.

As part of the ranger team during the route's inception back in 2000, and Pennine Bridleway Officer since 2008, Peter helped to develop and build this first National Trail designed specifically for cyclists and horseriders, as well as walkers.

Looking after all 55 miles of the route in the Dales, from Long Preston to where it officially finishes at the Fat Lamb Inn in Ravenstonedale, means keeping gates, signs, surfaces and drains in good order, as well as organising large-scale projects to repair and improve it.

As an avid cyclist, the job is a good fit.

"I get out on my bike 2 or 3 times a month, riding the route" says Peter, as he stops to inspect a culvert. "It's one of the best ways to check what maintenance work is needed, as well as seeing it from the rider's eye view.

"The Pennine Bridleway provides 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".

There are two National Trails running through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The new kid on the block, the Pennine Bridleway, stretches 205 miles from Derbyshire to Cumbria, while the granddaddy, the Pennine Way - the first National Trail to be created in 1965 - offers 268 miles of some of the finest upland walking in England from the Peak District to Northumberland.

Now, through an objective in the National Park Management Plan, the National Park Authority is supporting a campaign to designate one more - the Coast to Coast path - by 2024.

"You might be forgiven for thinking that the Coast to Coast is already a National Trail", says Peter.

"Devised by Alfred Wainwright in his 1973 book, it runs 182 miles horizontally across the North of England and passes through three National Parks. It has been a much-loved - but unofficial - trail for nearly 50 years".

"It is one of the most famous long-distance paths in the UK and tourists come from all over the world to walk it", says Peter. "Recognition as a National Trail would give it the status it richly deserves, as well as bringing additional financial resources to its management".

Meanwhile for Peter, there is the prospect of 137 miles of the Pennine Bridleway northern extension still to create, from Ravenstonedale to Byrness, of which 13 miles is in the National Park.

"The Pennine Bridleway provides great opportunities for local businesses along its path", Peter says. "Stonetrail Riding Centre in Mallerstang has been involved from the start and we are always looking for more providers who can accommodate bikes and/or horses with secure storage, stables or grazing.

"There is also a new website - nationaltrailbreaks.com - promoting holidays to the National Trails. Accommodation, services and attractions can all list themselves for free, and we are working on some sample itineraries to include as well."



Pennine Bridleway Officer Peter Lambert checks that the trail is in good order

Want to find out more? Visit **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/management-plan**

Why paying for results, rather than promises, is getting farmers on board with wildlife

For farmer David Metcalfe one of the unexpected outcomes of a pioneering environmental farming trial on his land has been a new found passion for wildlife and their habitats.

"Once I saw pignuts start to appear, the chimney sweepers came along too", he said with quiet delight at the launch of the three year 'payment by results' scheme report in October.

The sun-loving, day-flying moth - so-called for its sooty black wings - only feeds on the pignut plant. As soon as you know this, you understand why seeing them is extra special.

The EU-funded pilot in Wensleydale and Norfolk was run in partnership with Natural England. In the National Park, the focus was on improving hay meadows and habitats for wading birds.

Rather than a flat-rate payment, farmers were incentivised to develop their own ideas and measure their own results before bringing in experts to verify what they'd done and justify the amount they'd receive. The better the habitat, the higher the payment.

One of the key findings was that haymeadows and wader habitat in Wensleydale had performed better than those in conventional agri-environment schemes. The data showed a significant increase in the diversity and frequency of species in the meadows and this was reflected in the habitat assessment scores, with 63% of farmers increasing their scores and payments.

The payment tiers correlated strongly with the advisers' assessments, demonstrating that farmers could accurately self-assess.

And the pilot saw motivated farmers gain confidence and knowledge - with the environmental side becoming something of a matter of pride.

"This pilot has shown that farmers are more engaged than with schemes imposed upon them", said National Park Authority Deputy Chair and Malham farmer Neil Heseltine.

"There is competition between them as to who can grow the most flowers. If I can have six more curlews and a few more bird's-eye primroses than my neighbour then that's going to be a good talking point down the pub."

David has been collecting seeds and growing plants and now has something of a plant nursery on his farm, learning by trial and error how to raise species such as the melancholy thistle.

Caroline Harrison, who farms at West Scrafton, is passionate about wild birds. "Other schemes just tell you what to do and you don't stop and think about it. Now I understand why I do what I do", she said.

"National Park staff provided all the information and guidance. If I know my waders are breeding, I get the cattle out of the field to protect the hatchlings. I want to succeed and I want to get paid for my success."

Aysgarth farmer Juliet Maddan said: "Farmers are custodians of the future and this pilot study is waking everyone up. It's so rewarding to see a bit of land that's beginning to flourish - and you do when working with, not against, nature. But it needs to be long-term, and it needs to pay."



Farmer David Metcalfe (right) on his Burtersett farm at the 'payment by results' pilot report launch in October

The scheme is now being directly funded by Defra for a further two and a half years. All the Wensleydale farmers signed up to continue and increased the amount of land covered.

The report concluded that that a payment-based approach had 'considerable potential' for shaping the Government's future vision for farming outside the EU.

"The project has been a leap of faith for all involved, and in the end it's the farmers who've delivered the results", said Neil.

"We're hoping by the end that this is how we look at schemes in the future, with an eye to public goods, the environment, biodiversity. By 2021, our hope is that this kind of locally-designed, locally delivered scheme can become the norm."

Want to find out more? Go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/rbaps** for information on the scheme and the full report on the pilot.



Tarmac is proud to support the Dales Residents Newspaper

We are committed to building a long-term relationship in the communities we operate in.

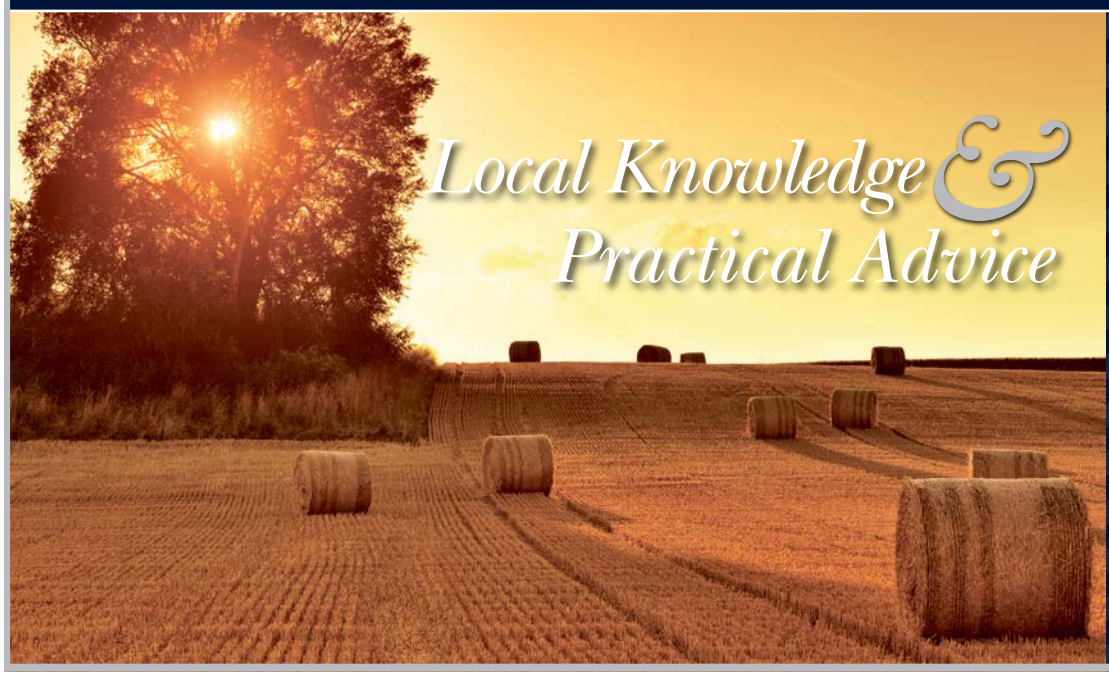
Each year we support local projects by donating quarried materials, sponsoring events & contributing financially towards improving local amenities.

Building our future TARMAC.COM

Quarry Traffic Hotline:
01729 860411
9am-5pm, Mon-Fri,
Excl. bank holidays

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.

RURAL & AGRICULTURAL | COMMERCIAL | PROPERTY & CONVEYANCING | ESTATE PLANNING | FAMILY



McGarry & Co SOLICITORS

Barnard Castle	Sedbergh	Hawes	Leyburn
t. 01833 600 160	t. 015396 223 40	t. 01969 666 290	t. 01969 621 230
DL12 8EQ	LA10 5AB	DL8 3QS	DL8 5EH

mbmcgarry.co.uk e. office@mbmcgarry.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by The Solicitors Regulation Authority Number 606950

Money available for schemes with big ideas

Sixteen local projects that contribute to conserving the National Park or help people to share in and understand it have received £119,000 in grants from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) this year.

And there is £56,000 still available in the pot.

Member Champion for Sustainable Development Chris Clark said: "The fund provides a simple and accessible source of money for a wide range of initiatives. It's open to individuals, community groups, businesses and the voluntary sector.

"The three projects highlighted on this page show the type of diverse scheme that SDF can support.

"With money still available in 2019/20, we encourage applications from good projects that will have multiple benefits and a long-term outcome".

Want to find out more?
Contact Andrea Burden to discuss your project on sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk or visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**



CRO team member Paul Nichols tries out the new kit
© Cave Rescue Organisation

Breakthrough in keeping rescue volunteers in touch

New radio equipment is helping to keep emergency service volunteers in constant touch with each other wherever they are in the Dales.

The Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO), a charity based in Clapham, has upgraded its communications from an analogue to a digital system in keeping with mountain rescue teams across the country.

A grant of £7,500 from the Sustainable Development Fund has helped to cover the costs of putting a new base station repeater network in place with the CRO securing other funds to pay for new radio handsets and associated kit.

CRO team member Jonty Rhodes said: "We are very grateful for the SDF grant as the significance of the new repeater network is huge.

"It means for the first time that, even if our people are on the other side of the fell, they can keep in touch with each other. It also enables each person's location to be tracked on a PC at our base or remotely via a mobile tablet.

"We have received 95 call-outs this year, some of them complex operations, and it's extremely reassuring to know we have complete communications coverage wherever we are working."

www.cro.org.uk

New lease of life for Old Courthouse

Residents in Shap were worried about the viability of the Old Courthouse and with it the threat of losing their library, playgroup and meeting space. But after a series of improvements earlier this year, the volunteers running the community facility are celebrating as its future is now secure.

Shap Community CIO attracted financial support - including a top-up grant of £9,000 from the Sustainable Development Fund - that paid for conversion work to make it fully accessible. A new porch transformed its external appearance and made it much more energy efficient.

Although beyond the National Park boundary, the Old Courthouse acts as a gateway, actively promoting the Westmorland Dales, and housing an information board and stock of *The Visitor* magazine.

CIO trustee Liz Kerrey said: "One of our volunteers used to sit in a blanket in the winter, but no longer.

"The place is so much warmer and more welcoming and the number of visitors and groups using it are going up all the time.

"We have exhibitions, music evenings, poetry readings and places to showcase arts and crafts.

"It has been an ambitious project and at one point it looked as if we might not make it. It was do or die and then the top-up grant was offered and it made all the difference."

www.theoldcourthouse.org



Authority Chairman Carl Lis (third from right) meets trustees and volunteers at the Old Courthouse, Shap

Raw milk cheese to go on sale from mobile 'dairy barn'

Dales villagers will soon be able to buy a newly-produced raw milk cheese, thanks to the vision of farmer Ben Spence.

Ben has built a raw milk cheese processing room at Home Farm, Aysgarth, helped by £9,500 from the Sustainable Development Fund, which has topped up other sources of funds.

Now, milk from his dairy herd of 92 Friesians is being turned into cheese. The first test batches have been produced and Ben hopes it will go on sale before Christmas.

The cheese will be sold from the mobile 'Home Farm Dairy Barn', a converted horse trailer which travels around Aysgarth, Hawes, Askrigg and West Burton on different days of the week.

"The trailer has been in operation since February selling pasteurised milk from a vending machine which has gone down really well with customers," said Ben.

"It's an amazing platform from which to sell our cheese. This diversification will make a huge contribution to the sustainability of our business, which supports four members of the family."

www.thehomefarmer.co.uk



The Home Farmer's Ben Spence (right) in the milking parlour © Stephen Garnett Photography

After the flood: the clean-up operation

By Alan Hulme, Head of Park Management



Around 60 farmers and up to 200 people were affected as unprecedented flooding swept through Swaledale and Arkengarthdale on 30 July.

Since then, National Park Authority staff and volunteers have been working hard alongside landowners and local communities to return things back to as normal as possible in the wake of the devastation.





Left, the flood-damaged bridleway at Langthwaite, and inset, a volunteer rebuilds the drystone wall

Sixteen Temporary Closures were immediately put in place around the footpath and bridleway network to safeguard the public from the dangers the receding waters left behind.

This included 13 foot and bridleway bridges that were damaged or missing and around 3.5km of rights of way covered in debris or landslips, with some sections completely washed away.

We assessed the impact, identified a schedule of works, and got started straightaway.

To date, the Authority has been unable to secure any specific funding to assist with these works. Resources have been made available by reprioritising some of the activity that was planned for the year. But, in total, there is estimated to have been approximately £600k of damage.

Despite the lack of funds an incredible amount of effort has gone into the clear up.

It has been a privilege for our teams to work alongside such proactive bodies as Arkengarthdale Parish Council and its Chair Stephen Stubbs, and Dales Bike Centre, who organised a volunteer day which saw 65 people turn out to shift 150 tonnes of debris from a Langthwaite bridleway. Dales Volunteers and rangers rebuilt over 60 metres of retaining drystone wall on the same route.

Within a fortnight the important Coast to Coast footpath was re-opened, with the bridge being replaced at Ellers, Marske. Volunteers gave over a thousand hours surveying routes and carrying out works in the most badly affected areas.



Above, debris at Slei Gill footbridge, which was partly washed away by the floods, and below, the bridge rebuilt

The Authority's Historic Environment team has been assessing damage to the important Scheduled Monuments in the area, while our Farm Conservation officers are continuing to offer assistance to landowners and farmers with paperwork relating to the various payment and grant schemes available.

There is still a great amount to do over the next 24 months, but already the area is getting back to normal with many trails unaffected and plenty of opportunities to explore. The message is still 'business as usual'.

We will work alongside our partners in making the area more resilient to this type of event in the future. This will include looking at catchment management and how the flow from the fells into the rivers can be slowed down.

National Park review publishes its findings

In May 2018 the Government asked for an independent review into whether the protections for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) were still fit for purpose, 70 years after their designation.

In particular, the review was to look at what might be done better, what changes will help, and whether the definitions and systems in place were still valid.

Led by writer and broadcaster Julian Glover and supported by an experienced advisory group, the review panel visited every English National Park and AONB and held meetings with those interested in the landscape.

As part of its submission last December, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority argued that National Parks should be 'better places for nature'. It called for a 'more ambitious agenda for wildlife and biodiversity' and a 'radical new approach' to supporting farming in the National Park.

The review's final report was published on 21 September and the Government is now considering its findings.

Authority Chairman Carl Lis said: "Members and officers are digesting the contents of the Glover Review. Some of the proposals are obviously exciting. The review could herald positive change for the environment and National Parks in the UK.

"We are looking forward to working with Defra and Julian Glover to make the most of opportunities that would benefit landscape, local communities and the country."

Want to find out more? Visit **www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review**



Yours to explore

Did you know? *Dales* has a sister publication that gives you all the information you need for getting out and making the most of the National Park.

The Visitor is packed with features about the heritage and wildlife of the area, and how to enjoy it, and includes a huge 22-page events listing.

A fantastic guide for everyone who wants to know what's happening in the National Park and how to discover it on family days out and more, the magazine is available FREE from information centres, shops, pubs, libraries and cafes throughout the National Park.

Dale's dairying past on show at museum

Wensleydale's dairying heritage is being celebrated in an exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

Thirty local farmers or cheesemakers have shared their memories for 'Dairy Days', while farm account books have been studied and photographs brought to light.

The Authority's Dairy Days Project Officer, Karen Griffiths, said: "We have recorded hours of stories as well as gathering a unique collection of historic images from local families over the last eighteen months of this project. Set alongside the research, which has taken us right back to cattle farming in prehistoric times, the exhibition is a remarkable insight."

Member Champion for Cultural Heritage, Julie Martin, said: "In the exhibition you'll hear from Fawcetts, Scarrs, Kirkbrides, Masons and Metcalfes – these are people whose memories of dairying practices might have died with them without the Dairy Days project. Anyone curious about Wensleydale will have a marvellous time finding out about an industry which has shaped both the landscape and local communities."

Part funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Dairy Days runs until 23 February.

Want to find out more? Follow the Dairy Days blog at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dairy-dales**

TIME TO SPEAK UP: A NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR THE EXTENDED NATIONAL PARK



The Hirst Centre, Sedbergh School's new sports facility: development that celebrates its Dales setting © Sedbergh School

Every year, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority receives hundreds of public comments on planning applications. This tells us that local communities care deeply about development in the Dales.

We are now starting the process of creating a new Local Plan, because the extended National Park - it grew by nearly a quarter in 2016 - needs a single Plan to cover its entire area.

Planning application decisions are based on our Local Plan, so to make sure that we can make the right decisions in the years to come, we need you to let us know what you want to see in it.

We need everyone, regardless of age or income, whether you're new to the Dales or have lived here all your life, to influence this new Plan, which will guide development in the Yorkshire Dales National Park over the next 20 years.

What can the new Local Plan do?

The new Local Plan **can**

- decide how much development should happen
- allocate sites for development
- adapt existing policies or create new policies to guide decisions on planning applications
- help to safeguard the environment, enable adaptation to climate change, and secure high quality accessible design.

The new Local Plan **can't**

- guarantee that sites will be developed
- allocate funding for development
- address complex issues alone, such as an ageing population or climate change.

This short survey will give us an initial idea about what **YOU** would like to see included in the new Local Plan. National Park Authority Members won't vote on a final version until 2023, giving us plenty of time to hear everyone's thoughts and ideas.

Want to find out more? Please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/new-local-plan** where you can also fill out this survey online.

For more copies of this survey and a handy factsheet, visit Sedbergh Library or our offices at Bainbridge and Grassington.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is committed to ensuring the responsible collection and use of personal data in the course of its business, under the requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We will ensure that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully in strict accordance with our responsibilities, and that the rights of data subjects are properly respected. For further information, please visit www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/access-to-information

1. What do you think is the most important planning issue in your part of the National Park?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Based on the objectives of the National Park Management Plan and our evidence gathering to date (see page 3), we have some suggestions of what the new Local Plan could contain:

- a greater focus on making space for wildlife
- more land made available for the right type of housing so younger people can live in the National Park
- proposals for live/work accommodation and co-working spaces so more people can work remotely
- greater flexibility for householders creating 'granny flats'
- policies to allow more diverse land uses on farms and estates, such as tourism and local energy generation
- proposals for extra care housing for older people and people with special needs
- an updated barn conversion policy
- a 'use it or lose it' approach to encourage developers to build homes on allocated sites
- proposals for new and extended leisure facilities for residents
- more support for energy-saving measures and siting of new development in locations that will minimise vehicle movements
- a new requirement for 'Fibre-to-the-Premises' broadband on new developments
- an expanded list of business development sites to foster new employment opportunities
- new policies to ensure that more properties are permanently occupied.

2. (cont) Do you think this is what the new Local Plan should contain? What have we missed?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. How would you like to be involved in the creation of the new Local Plan? Please tick as many that apply.

☐ Email ☐ Post
☐ Social media ☐ Workshops
☐ Exhibitions ☐ Drop-in sessions
☐ Community meetings ☐ Other (please indicate)

.....

.....

4. If you would like to be kept informed about the Local Plan, please supply your preferred contact details:

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Email .....

Telephone number .....

5. Please indicate your age group

☐ Under 18 ☐ 35-44 years ☐ 65+
☐ 18-24 years ☐ 45-54 years
☐ 25-34 years ☐ 55-64 years

Post your completed form to **Freepost YORKSHIREDALES** by Friday 14 February 2020.

Find out more at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/new-local-plan