Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Winter 2020

DARK SKY RESERVE STATUS ANNOUNCED FOR NATIONAL PARK


Gazing at Comet Neowise in Kingsdale. (Andy Ward)

The exceptional quality of the Yorkshire Dales National Park's night sky has been recognised with its designation as an International Dark Sky Reserve by the US-based International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).

The accolade, confirmed on 20 November, celebrates the awe-inspiring beauty of the National Park's starscape, free from light pollution and appreciated by both residents and visitors alike.

It is the culmination of three years of engagement activity and data gathering by the National Park Authority, local authorities, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, interest groups and individuals.

The application - the only one in the UK so far to be against the IDA's more onerous 2018 criteria - needed to show light meter readings that illustrated sufficient darkness, and that at least 67% of properties had 'dark sky friendly' lighting - importantly, the National Park already has 90% of residential properties meeting this standard.

The Authority also needed to demonstrate at least 80% support for the application by area and population. Communities across the National Park gave their strong backing. A phenomenal 71 Parishes endorsed the bid, representing 84% of the National Park's population and 81% of its area.

The Yorkshire Dales now joins a select global family of 150 Dark Sky Places across 21 counties and 6 continents, 12 of which are in the UK. The Dales' neighbouring northern National Park, North York Moors, had its own Reserve status confirmed on 30 November.

National Park Authority Chair Neil Heseltine said: "Those lucky enough to live in the National Park know what it is to experience the immense tranquillity and wonder of true dark skies. It is thrilling that the Yorkshire Dales has received recognition for one of its most special qualities.

"Designation provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate this quality, to encourage tourism in the autumn and winter months, and to work with local authorities, businesses and communities to ensure our dark skies are protected.

"I would like to thank all those who took the time to offer their support and who collectively helped to bring international recognition for the National Park."

Since 2016, the Authority has run a Dark Skies Festival during February half-term. Obtaining Reserve status will help develop astro-tourism, encouraging staying visitors out of season.

Neil said: "Local support for the application makes it clear that people see the seasonal business opportunities, with increasing numbers seeking out the Dales for stargazing as an accompaniment to superb food, drink and hospitality.

"Visitor feedback shows how much they appreciate the National Park's lack of light pollution, in complete contrast to the urban areas where they live. Something we should celebrate and not take for granted."

Principal Planning Officer Katherine Wood said: "We are fortunate that our dark skies have long been recognised as a special quality, and this means that the Authority has asked for details of lighting schemes as part of planning applications since 2006".

"Importantly, Dark Sky Reserve status doesn't mean no lighting, it means thinking about good lighting. We recognise lighting is required for all sorts of reasons, but we ask people to consider only lighting the area needed and no brighter than necessary, minimizing blue light emissions, and ensuring the light is pointing downward."

Director of Park Services Kathryn Beardmore said "The traditional nature of our buildings and associated lighting means most residential properties in the National Park already have 'good' lighting for dark skies. We'll be offering grants to help pay for changes to install dark-sky friendly lighting at non-residential properties. This should help reduce running costs too. Poor lighting can have other negative effects; it can disrupt natural sleep rhythms, disturb wildlife, and affect insects leading to a reduction in pollinators. Details of the grant scheme will be announced in the New Year.

"We are particularly grateful to the commitments made by the District and County Councils to ensure when street lights are replaced they are shielded with 3000K not 4000K colour lighting - that is, warm white not cool white."

The Dark Sky Reserve covers the whole National Park area, with the darkest 'core' comprising a large arc of land which includes the upper parts of Wensleydale (excluding Hawes), Swaledale, Mallerstang, Garsdale, Littondale and Wharfedale. In total, the core area amounts to 658 km², 30% of the area of the National Park.

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch with Claire Hodgson at claire.hodgson@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01969 652369.

Achieving Dark Sky Reserve status by 2021 is one of the objectives set out in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-24 - the single most important document for the National Park.

The Plan guides the work of the many organisations that operate within the National Park, and requires all those that have an interest in the National Park to work together to achieve its aspirations.

For further information and to follow progress on achieving the Plan's objectives, visit **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk**

A warm welcome to this winter edition of *Dales*

Living and working in the Yorkshire Dales you tend to think you've seen everything. Flood, fire and pestilence have often featured, but never have we faced something so life changing as COVID-19.

At a time when some are facing a, literally, life and death situation, it may be difficult to concentrate on the day-to-day responsibilities.

However, we have spent the past year trying to ensure that, in providing our services to the public, we retain as high a standard as possible. That's been shown in some of the successes this year, most notably the Dark Skies initiative and the Tees-Swale Project.

Continuing our work as before has not been easy in some services and we thank you for your forbearance at this difficult time.

You can read more about how we responded as an organisation to the pandemic on the centre pages.

Moreover, our longer term focus must remain on combatting the impact of climate change, assisting in nature recovery, fighting the corner for the future of farming and land management in the Dales, and ensuring the National Park is accessible to as wide a range of people as possible.

None of that can be achieved without the people who live, work and cherish this wonderful landscape. Let us hope 2021 brings sunnier times as we face these challenges together.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive



Neil Heseltine
Chair

Farmers 'score' their habitats for last time as part of trial scheme

Eighteen farmers taking part in a 'Payment by Results' trial in Wensleydale have undertaken their habitat condition surveys for what is thought to be the last time.



Farmer Stephen Bostock in one of his hay meadows in July

The innovative pilot project, which is managed by Natural England in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, is coming to the end of its five year term - although Defra has not ruled out an extension.

The scheme in Wensleydale and Coverdale is paying the farmers according to the results they produce for two important habitats: upland hay meadows and habitat for breeding waders, such as curlew. Some 50 hectares of hay meadow and 285 hectares of wading bird habitat are part of the project.

The approach contrasts sharply with the prescriptive approach of conventional schemes, which pay farmers for following set rules, such as not cutting before a specific date. Payment by results encourages the farmer to make the management decisions to improve the habitats on their land, with the added incentive of a higher payment for their efforts. The better the health of the habitat, the higher the payment.

Stephen Bostock, who farms in Coverdale, offered one of his traditional hay meadows, which was already in an agri-environment scheme, to be a control site for comparison against meadows in the results-based pilot.

He said: "Any scheme that can preserve these hay meadows is a good thing. The flowers have gone from a lot of fields around here, as land has been improved. But I think things are changing and people are beginning to value the traditional meadows and what they do for the environment.

"The income from agri-environment schemes has been a lifesaver for family farmers and has also enhanced the land from an environmental perspective."

The Authority project team will now analyse the results from this year to see how the habitats have fared and how accurately the farmers have assessed them. This, together with further analysis by Natural England, will feed into the design of the Government's proposed Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, which will replace existing schemes from 2024.

For more information, please contact the Farm Conservation Team on 01756 751611 or farming@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Ash dieback continues to take grim toll in the Dales

by Nicola Child,
Trees & Woodlands Officer



Ash dieback has resulted in the widespread mortality of young ash within our woodlands and open landscape. This summer, though, we saw a dramatic decline in older, stand-alone field trees in the Yorkshire Dales, not helped by the late spring frost and drought earlier in the year, stressing the trees even further.

The disease is having a devastating impact across the National Park. This is a tree which is ubiquitous within our field boundaries. It often provides the only obvious remnant feature of ancient hedgerows, and our upland ancient semi-natural ash woodlands and wood pasture are among our most precious, biodiverse habitats. Ancient and veteran trees in particular are irreplaceable in providing an ecological niche for rare lichens, fungi and invertebrates, as well as protected species such as bats.

Although the majority of our ash trees will be lost, a small proportion is likely to show some tolerance to the disease. These precious trees will, over time, provide us with the next generation and this, combined with the development of disease-resistant ash, means that we can be optimistic that the landscape will eventually recover.

As the disease progresses, landowners need to be looking at the condition of their ash trees. While summer gave an indication of tree vitality, now that the leaves have fallen we can look at them structurally. It is also the best time of year to spot wood decay agents, such as honey fungus, which can gain a hold in weakened ash trees that have become more vulnerable to secondary infections.



The fruiting bodies of armillaria (honey fungus), a basal rot, found on a mature roadside ash near Hetton

Safety is the priority, but it is important that ash trees are not felled unnecessarily. Trees with no symptoms or that are showing reasonable levels of vitality should be monitored. Where affected trees will cause no harm if they fail, such as in the open landscape or in private woodlands, they can be left to decline naturally. Alternatives to felling should also be considered, such as canopy reduction, which can safeguard valuable habitat and allow retention of the trees for longer in the landscape.

Pre-empting the inevitable loss of ash, we would encourage landowners to act now and plant suitable replacements for felled trees, such as common alder and sessile oak.

To find out how to assess ash dieback disease in your trees, and what you should do about it, contact the Trees & Woodlands team on trees@yorkshiredales.org.uk or read Nicola's blog at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/ash-dieback-in-the-dales**

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Westmorland apprentices take new skills in their stride

Four countryside management apprentices will graduate next March having acquired a vocational qualification, a range of practical skills, and some unique opportunities along the way. And there will be callout for the next four placements to start in August 2021.

'Skills for the Future' - part of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership (WDLP), led by the Friends of the Lake District with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as the accountable body - is providing eight work-based apprenticeships over the four-year course of the scheme, and a further apprenticeship in cultural heritage.

Funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the WDLP aims to reveal, conserve and celebrate the hidden heritage of the area that became part of the extended National Park in 2016.

Belinda Lloyd, Apprentice Supervisor (WDLP), said: "If you would like a job working outdoors in the countryside while gaining a qualification, the Westmorland Dales Countryside Apprenticeships could be the opportunity for you.

"In the last 14 months, our current apprentices have undertaken archaeological surveys, conducted small scale heritage hunts, and assisted with crayfish rescues. They've gained skills from wildlife identification and surveying to drystone walling and woodworking, and achieved a catalogue of practical qualifications, including Chainsaw, ATV and First Aid. They leave with a range of fantastic skills to offer their next workplace".

Billy Capstick from Kendal came to the apprenticeship from school at 16, without academic qualifications, but with a lot of practical experience and wildlife knowledge. He volunteered with the Lake District National Park rangers at Keswick who encouraged him to apply for the role.

He said: "I would highly recommend this apprenticeship. Take every opportunity that is given to you and take in everything that is taught."



On the job: the four countryside management apprentices busy fencing

Rebekah Alison from Penrith started her apprenticeship at 18, having excelled in her A levels but preferring to enter the workplace over university. She started volunteering as a Young Ranger with the Lake District National Park Authority at 15 and went on to do her work experience with Eden Rivers Trust.

She said: "Every skill we've learnt has been useful and can be applied to many situations - even DIY at home!"

Sarah Clarke moved to the Dales from Cheshire to set out on the apprenticeship at 30 after studying for a Masters degree in Philosophy.

"I was looking for a career change and this seemed the ideal foundation on which to learn skills and enter the conservation sector", she said. "The apprenticeship has given me amazing practical skills, team working skills and all the attributes needed for getting a job in conservation."

Abbi Woof from Sedbergh began her apprenticeship at 16, having done well in her GCSEs but preferring to continue her education outside school. A Dales Young Ranger from the age of 13, she completed her Duke of Edinburgh Award with the Authority ranger team at Orton.

Abbi said: "I've always loved the outdoors so what better way than to learn while doing it. You learn communication skills, problem solving and how to think your way through jobs. All the qualifications are a big help, making us more employable."

The next four Westmorland Dales Countryside Apprenticeships will be advertised in May 2021 to start in August 2021.

To apply, go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/jobs**. For more information, contact Belinda Lloyd on 07971 528776 or belinda.lloyd@yorkshiredales.org.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, 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:

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

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Playing our part in the coronavirus challenge

The National Park Authority had to find new ways to deliver its services when the nation went into 'Covid lockdown' in March 2020. Here's a look at how we responded to the Government's restrictions and worked with local communities and visitors.

Fresh faces attracted to National Park

For many years the typical visitor to the Dales has been described by some as older, white and middle class. Lockdown changed that - a bit.

You probably noticed that those coming here seeking to restore their spirits and take in the fresh air were younger and more diverse. In June we conducted a face-to-face survey with people at locations across the National Park. A total of 388 people spared us a couple of minutes, and we compared the results with our last visitor survey in 2017.

Nearly a quarter said they were aged between 25 and 34, an increase of 100% compared with 2017. In June, 92% of people said their ethnicity was white British, compared with 98% in 2017. British Asian visitors accounted for 5% of those surveyed, compared with 1% in 2017.

People came mainly from urban areas on the edge of the National Park such as Leeds, Bradford, Harrogate and Manchester. There were more first time visitors than usual, with 1 in 5 people saying their first ever visit to the Dales was in 2020. What didn't change, however, was what people said they most enjoyed about their visit, with 73% citing the scenic landscape.



Families and friends enjoying blue skies and sunshine near Malham (Garry Cook)

Advice service moves outdoors

During periods when our four National Park Centres and partnership centre in Reeth had to be shut, information advisors and often our volunteers took to the open air to welcome people. Even at a two metre distance, we found that a smile could go a long way. The local community-run Dales Makers in Malham did a great job in engaging with people to get the most from their visit.



Information Adviser Sue Barker meets and greets at Aysgarth Falls in November



One of our infographics features curlews, otters, Belted Galloways - and a certain type of farm vehicle

Attention please!

Like many local businesses and organisations, we helped amplify the messages coming from Government on handwashing, masks and social distancing. We took a National Park approach - who knew that two metres equated to nine red squirrels or two Swaledale ewes? More than a million people who viewed our 'infographics' on social media do now!

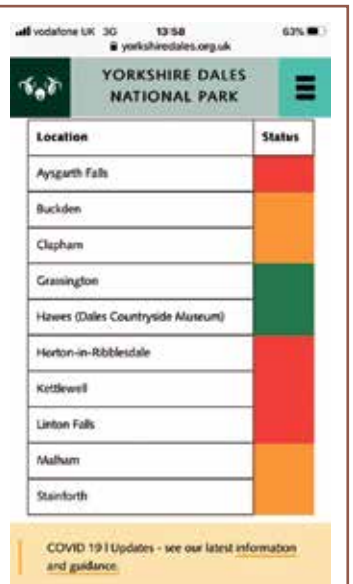
We also printed and pinned up rather a lot of notices to try to influence behaviour. If you visited any of our ten public toilet blocks or the most popular footpath routes, you may have seen them.

Car parks 'staked out'

As the Dales became busier, we launched an online 'traffic light' system for our ten public car parks.

Volunteers and staff staked out the car parks at weekends. If a car park began to fill up, they marked it as amber. Once full, they turned it red. The idea was to help people plan their visit and avoid crowded places.

The response on social media was good, and in the month of May our traffic light car parking webpage got nearly 20,000 views. We wound down the service as the school holidays drew to a close.



How the car park traffic light system looked on a smartphone

No more rubbish excuses

It was great to see a younger, more diverse range of visitor discovering the Yorkshire Dales National Park. And for those new to the experience, and perhaps unsure of what was on offer and how get the best from it, we were on hand to distribute maps of short walks and to help with advice.

While we were always ready to go the extra mile, our rangers and volunteers did have occasion to explain that, while their role was to help visitors, that didn't extend to helping them carry a barbeque back to the car!

Like many outdoors spaces across the UK we had our fair share of littering. Stories came in from across the National Park of large amounts of discarded packaging and drink cans by paths and becks. Many individuals and local community groups, such as the 'Wharfedale Wombles', a group dedicated to keeping their area 'clean and safe', tackled the problem. Our learning and engagement team set up their stall to promote understanding about litter and encourage visitors to take their rubbish home.



Staff were diverted from their usual duties to pick up litter at visitor hotspots and help people with the Countryside Code (Garry Cook)

National Park Rangers assist North Yorkshire Police

During lockdown in April, rangers worked closely with police officers to help ensure that the coronavirus restrictions were being observed. They served as eyes and ears for the emergency services, spending a lot of time out and about talking to people they came across.

A Whatsapp group of police officers, rangers and parish councillors was set up to aid communication. Our way of working was always low key. An important part of the job was to help reassure local communities worried about the impact of more people in the National Park during the pandemic.



Area Manager Matt Neale (right) carries out road checks with the police

A special delivery service

Our staff were keen to help out local authorities and community hubs looking after people who were extremely vulnerable. Rangers delivered prescription medicines and carried out welfare checks in places such as Wensleydale and Swaledale. In Craven, we were able to support Craven District Council by delivering free Morrisons food parcels weekly to Skipton food bank, Grassington Hub, Settle Victoria Hall, Bentham Community Youth Café and to Age UK in Settle, Ingleton and Hellifield.



Morrisons staff Lisa Firth, Caroline Williams and Andy Bradley with Wharfedale ranger Rob Wilson at a pick up of essential supplies

Planning service overcomes challenges

The pandemic did not result in a drop in the number of planning applications received - quite the contrary. In the seven months from April to October, 378 planning applications were lodged, while the number of notifications received by our enforcement officers from members of the public concerned about possible planning breaches went up.

Like all organisations, dealing with this work was much more challenging than normal. Some staff fell ill with COVID-19 and were unable to work; others had to juggle work with extra childcare duties, or were supporting partners working in the NHS or care homes. We were grateful for the patience shown by applicants, and for the way that residents helped out by pinning up site notices and providing photographs during the time when site visits weren't possible.

The average time taken to process applications has increased during the pandemic, although we are still meeting the Government's targets. We have also dealt with a handful of applications for new economic development during the pandemic. Exciting plans for a new hotel at Linton Camp and new business units on the site of the former Craven Limeworks were approved, and should bring new jobs to the National Park in the next few years.



Plans were approved in October to build a hotel with exemplary sustainability credentials on the site of the currently derelict Linton Camp

Young Rangers make a difference in the Dales



By Paul Brady, Young Rangers Officer

Dales Young Rangers is for anyone aged 11 to 16 who loves the outdoors and is keen to find out more about our amazing National Park.

During lockdown, the Young Rangers learned together online. In May, for example, we studied the swift and its screaming call, before people went out into their local areas to record nest sites.

When we could meet again in person the first thing we did was to 'bash' some Himalayan Balsam near Sedbergh - an invasive non-native plant species that needs controlling.

You needn't just take it from me that young people thrive doing essential conservation work; our Young Rangers have been publishing blog posts throughout the year.

Emily, 13, reported on a day at Malham Tarn. "We removed seed heads of reeds and cut them back. This was quite gentle work and it was good to be outside as the sun was out. There were lots of dragonflies, and I saw a frog," she said.



Young Ranger Benji studies hazelnuts for signs of dormouse activity at Freeholders' Wood

"Reedbeds are an important habitat for wildlife, especially for birds, and have been in decline in Britain so they need looking after. We were split into two groups of six, with one group working on the reeds and the other on removing a fence, and then we swapped over."

Benji, 15, has been a Young Ranger for two years and wrote that he has "absolutely loved doing it".

He said: "Getting outside to new and different places has been really good for my well-being. I've done tree planting at Crosby Ravensworth, a butterfly survey near Settle, sphagnum moss planting on two peat bogs, owl box building at Grassington, and a dormice survey at Aysgarth."

"If you find a hazelnut with a neat round hole in the shell, then it's probably been opened by a small rodent. Dormice leave very smooth holes in the nut, as opposed to voles or wood mice which leave teeth marks on the nuts," he said.

Max, 11, has been to three events. "We were making owl boxes for a local farmer," he said.

"A land management adviser from the National Park Authority started off by talking about owls and why we were doing it for the farmers. We went through all the different kinds of owls, some I had not seen or heard of before. We learnt that nowadays most barn owls nest in boxes as their natural nest sites have declined."

There are currently three Young Ranger groups, based in the south, west and north of the National Park. Each group meets once a month to take part in some practical work. All the groups are run by experienced, qualified staff and volunteers from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The north and west Young Rangers groups are funded by the Community Fund through Green Futures, part of the Our Bright Future partnership programme. The south group is part-funded by the Heritage Fund through Stories in Stone, a programme of conservation and community projects concentrated on the Ingleborough area. Both schemes are led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

If you want to know more, please email learning@yorkshiredales.org.uk or follow our Facebook page 'Dales Young Rangers'. Read the Young Rangers blogs at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/blog**



Cracoe primary school pupils enjoy autumn nature activities at Grass Wood, Grassington (Stephen Garnett)

Free outdoor education sessions offered

Two new faces have joined the Authority's Learning & Engagement Team, expanding its educational offer to schools.

Education Officer Rebecca Swift and Education Support Officer Alex Green will provide outdoor learning sessions on the National Park.

Rebecca has already started to deliver activities to local schools, including a catch-up geography fieldwork day for secondary school students, and sessions exploring autumn habitats, within school grounds and local woodland, for Key Stage 2 pupils.

"We can offer outdoor activities and virtual learning on many different aspects of the National Park, including geology, habitats, dark skies and bushcraft", said Rebecca. "Our sessions are fun, active, and deliver against the curriculum."

All sessions are COVID-secure and free of charge. A travel fund supports the cost of group transport.

If you would like to arrange an outdoor session for your school or youth group, please contact the team at learning@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Help us shape the National Park's new Local Plan

By Carl Lis, Member Champion for Sustainable Development



The National Park Authority would like local people to shape planning policy. That's why we have been busy gathering information and opinions from all over the National Park to form a new 'Local Plan'. It's an important subject, as the document will determine what development takes place in the National Park up until 2040.

In February 2020 we were pleased to receive 275 responses to a first public consultation. These responses set the agenda for a piece of work that will take around three years to complete.

We looked to build on that promising start by launching a second public consultation, called 'Ambitions', in August. It sought views on three main topics: the number of houses that should (or shouldn't) be built in the National Park; how the Local Plan should respond to climate change; and what the farmed landscape should like in the future. We received 120 responses. Please visit the Authority's website to see a full report on what people said.

Then in September we launched a consultation on our social media platforms for people between the ages of 15 and 30. We are determined to hear the voices of young people and are asking, what do you want your National Park to look like?

The Authority has received 69 responses so far, covering all aspects of the Local Plan and showing the breadth of experience and ambition of young people in the National Park.

Respondents are calling for more face-to-face meetings, focus groups, school visits, hands on activities, youth committees, town hall meetings and more social media presence. The message we received was loud and clear: 'LISTEN TO US!'

If you or your younger friends and family want to send us your thoughts on the future of the National Park, click on the link on our website homepage.

The next Local Plan consultations will take place in early 2021. We'll be asking your views on issues such as where you think new housing should be located, whether and how we should protect some housing for local people, and how far we should go in allowing barns to be converted to houses.

Meanwhile planning is being hotly debated at the national level as individuals and organisations from all over the UK, including National Park Authorities, respond to the Government's planning white paper.

For more on the development of a new Local Plan for the National Park, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/local-plan-process**

Money available for schemes with big ideas

Seventeen local projects that contribute to conserving the National Park or help people to share in and understand it have received £91,000 in grants from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund this year.

And there is £69,000 still available in the pot.

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.

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



Seventeen homes are currently being constructed in West Witton. Local people are to be asked for other sites where they would like development to take place.

Brewery pays for Pennine Way works

Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery staff Stu Taylor and James Law have walked a popular section of the Pennine Way in Wensleydale, raising a bottle to the volunteers and rangers who repaired the path in the summer.

The brewery donated £6,350 to the repair project, having held back ten pence from every bottle or pint sold of one of their ales, the Pennine Ambler.

The amber beer is aimed at thirsty long-distance walkers.

Reclaimed stone flags, sourced from Lancashire and West Yorkshire, were laid along 115-metres of the Way near the village of Hardraw, where existing flags had become uneven or broken.



Bolt the dog, Stu Taylor and James Law with ramblers approaching on the Pennine Way

For three days Dales Volunteers Dick Laidler and Richard Humphries marshalled a digger, operated by an access ranger, and used spades and bars to make sure the flags were laid level.

Stu Taylor from Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery said: "We use the Pennine Way trail ourselves, and are lovers of the outdoors - so it's good to be able to give something back."

Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager, Jo McAllister, who brings together more than a dozen local authority and other partners to maintain the 267-mile National Trail, said: "The Pennine Way takes a lot of looking after and we couldn't do it without the help of volunteers as well as supporters such as Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery. The assistance provided by the landowner and tenant farmer in storing and transporting the stone flags was also much appreciated."

She added: "If you want a challenging and spectacular walk on well-maintained paths, followed by a fine pint at a local pub, then look no further than the Pennine Way."

Last year, 258 days of volunteer time were given to maintaining the Pennine Way, most of them in the North Pennines AONB, the Peak District or the Yorkshire Dales.

‘Story of Schools’ told in new exhibition

By Fiona Rosher, Museum Manager



In 1954, three sets of twins attended tiny West Burton School in Wensleydale. This lovely photo is one of more than 2,000 to have been collected as part of a project led by The NASH (National School Hawes) and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Authority’s Sustainable Development Fund.

Memories and photos have been shared by local people of all ages, and the project’s Education & Outreach Officer Heather Hodgson has been working on activities with local schools ahead of a new exhibition here at the Dales Countryside Museum.

Sally Stone, who submitted the photo and was a pupil and later a teacher at the school, told us: “We were just in the village during playtime, because that’s how West Burton is structured - around a big green. If there were local village people walking around, we’d talk to them. I don’t recall teachers being out to supervise us back then.”

The images will be used to create a huge mosaic that will be displayed alongside oral history recordings, a film, archives and objects. ‘The Story of Schools in the Upper Dales’ will run from 30 January to 21 April 2021.

In another exhibition earlier this year we showcased new work by Ribblesdale artist Hester Cox. Hester re-printed woodblocks created by Dales Countryside Museum co-founder Marie Hartley, and led a printmaking workshop for secondary school pupils.

As part of the project, we republished the 1936 classic book Wensleydale, written by Ella Pontefract and illustrated with the Marie Hartley woodblock prints, as an audiobook.

We hope that the project will make the work accessible to a new audience, as well as attract another generation to discover the area.



Seeing triple: three sets of twins attended West Burton school in 1954

The audiobook is available to download free at soundcloud.com/yorkshire-dales.

We’ve moved many things online this year to keep the Museum’s collection accessible. Our website offers family fun with ‘Created for Kids’ activities, plus the chance to explore past exhibitions - as well as viewing those that were not able to open physically on site. More is being added each week and we continue to share the Museum’s stories through our Facebook and Twitter pages @dalesmuseum (#museumfromhome).

Discover the story of the Dales, its landscape and its people, at **www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk**

Ingleborough tribute to Queen Elizabeth repaired

In February 1952 a garage owner from Ingleton came up with an idea to commemorate the imminent coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



Ingleborough’s new toposcope looking towards Whernside, part of the summit shelter rebuild

Reg Hainsworth wanted to light a beacon on the summit of Yorkshire’s second highest fell, Ingleborough, and erect a permanent stone shelter.

The Ingleton Fell Rescue Team, which he led, took on the project. The result was a crosswall shelter topped with a bronze toposcope, or orientation table, completed just in time for the coronation on 3 June 1953.

After providing cover from high winds for nearly 70 years, the shelter had become worn and the toposcope unreadable. Now, however, it looks back to its best after undergoing major repairs carried out by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as part of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust’s Stories in Stone programme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

During the summer the four walls of the shelter were dismantled and rebuilt. Drystone Walling Association Master Craftsman Laurie Lambeth, of specialist stonework contractors Lambeth Stonework, led the work assisted by National Park rangers, included replacing the large flag stone seats. A new, replica bronze toposcope was installed to finish the job.

A 15-minute film on the project has been produced and can be seen on You Tube on the National Park Authority’s ‘The Yorkshire Dales’ channel.

Materials such as sand, flags and cement were lifted to the site by helicopter, but the original builders had a much tougher time of it, as Bill Hinde, 84, a volunteer on the original project, has recalled:

“Reg having the local dealership for Ferguson tractors had access to the appropriate vehicles and he knew all the local farmers, which was invaluable in getting building materials up Cod Bank onto Little Ingleborough.

“There were many logistical problems, various vehicles getting stuck, some for many days - including Reg’s breakdown truck. The most assured way of moving small quantities was in your rucksack, but building tools and materials become heavier the further you carry them. Building stone had to be found and carried from the upper millstone slopes as nothing could be used from the summit plateau, and water came from the Swine Tail spring and was stored in milk kits.”

The original brass toposcope - bought for £45-10-0 - indicated the fells that could be seen from Inglebrough’s summit, marking, for instance, the 39 miles to Scafell in the Lake District and the 22 miles to Pendle Hill in Lancashire.

The shelter was unveiled on the evening before the coronation with the beacon or bonfire - still a traditional Ingleton celebration of national events - ignited by a flaming torch carried in relay by pupils from Ingleton school.

Authority Member Champion for Cultural Heritage Julie Martin said: “There is a fantastic story behind Ingleborough’s summit shelter.

“As well as being a practical structure used for respite by many people walking Yorkshire’s ‘Three Peaks’, it stands as a magnificent tribute by local people. And once again people can study the toposcope and learn the distances and directions to all the surrounding peaks.”





Farmers put at heart of ground-breaking nature recovery project

Two of the most outstanding landscapes in the English uplands are set to be connected, restored and enhanced in one of the most significant nature programmes in the UK.

The 'Tees-Swale: naturally connected' programme - led by the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership, in collaboration with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority - received £5.7 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in July. With a further £3 million committed by local partner organisations, the 5-year programme will be the country's leading example of farmer-focused nature recovery work on a landscape scale.

It will centre on two nationally treasured upland landscapes: Upper Teesdale in the North Pennines AONB, and Upper Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Working with farmers across an area of over 800km^2, the programme will help to reverse the decline in biodiversity through hay meadow and peatland restoration, river enhancement, and wetland and woodland creation. Works will be focused on sites that will deliver multiple public benefits - including helping to reduce the risk of flooding and storing carbon.

The unprecedented level of investment in the 'natural capital' of the area will also include support for farm businesses and local contractors to develop new skills and business opportunities, as well as 20 traineeships for local young people - helping to support a 'green recovery', a proposition that has seen strong support from the British public.

In preparation, the programme team has worked closely with farmers and landowners. Over 60 have already committed to carrying out works to benefit both people and wildlife in the first two years. The partners aim to work with all 300 farmers in the area over the programme's lifetime.

The programme will also facilitate visits by schools, youth and community groups from nearby urban areas to help them better understand the wildlife, landscapes, and lives of the people who live and work here, and to enjoy and explore these dales.

Authority Chair Neil Heseltine said "We've had a fantastic response from the farming community in Swaledale and we're looking forward to working together on this programme. This investment will be a great boost for the area that was so badly affected by the flooding last year."

The first phase of recruitment has now been completed, with the appointment of a Programme Manager and three Farming and Nature Officers, and work planned for this winter will be starting soon.

For more information, visit **www.northpennines.org.uk/tees-swale-naturally-connected**

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO AUTHORITY'S BOARD



Upland hill farmer Neil Heseltine was elected the Authority's new Chair in June.

A Member for six years and one of four Parish Council appointees on the board, Neil produces beef, lamb and wool at his farm in Malham, alongside a range of 'public goods' such as wildflower meadows and pastures rich in biodiversity.



Julie Hutton was elected Deputy Chair at the same meeting. Born in North Yorkshire, Julie was part of the senior management team at Yorkshire Forward, responsible for a £240m programme of regeneration and economic development projects in York and North Yorkshire. She currently works for Hambleton District Council.

The National Park Authority has also welcomed two new Members to its board.

Mark Corner and Derek Twine were appointed by the Defra Secretary of State in July.



Mark Corner is a former trustee and chairman of Friends of the Dales. He retired from Royal Dutch Shell plc in 2009 after 30 years, and lives in Langcliffe.

Mark knows the area intimately through his interest in walking and photography. He also owns and manages two woodlands, for wildlife and amenity, and is a keen beekeeper.



Derek is a former Chief Executive for the Scout Association in the UK and has had a number of management and leadership roles in youth work, adult training, corporate development and community engagement. He was appointed CBE in 2007 for services to young people, and lives in Burley-in-Wharfedale.

The National Park Authority board currently comprises 25 Members. However in March, following the publication of the Government-commissioned Landscapes Review, the Authority approved a future reduction to 16.

Neil said: "We had been examining the issue since the extension of the National Park in 2016 because we recognised that the board was too large and the current arrangements were unfair and unbalanced.

"We were also mindful that the Government's Landscapes Review proposed that National Park boards be made much smaller (9-12) and made up entirely of Members appointed directly by Government - removing all local representation.

"We are determined to maintain local representation, with greater sway given to Members appointed from local Parish Councils. We are currently in discussions with Defra about how and when to implement the changes."

To find out more about how the Authority operates and to meet all our Members, visit the 'Park Authority' section of our website **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk**



