Dales

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

YORKSHIRE DALES 1954 | National Park | 2024

Winter 2024

75 years of National Parks marked in the Yorkshire Dales

The 75th anniversary of the Act that created National Parks has been celebrated by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the national youth charity YHA (England & Wales).

Around 50 guests gathered at Malham youth hostel in November, close to the village of Kirkby Malham where the legislation was conceived, to witness the unveiling of a Yorkshire Society blue plaque to John Dower.

Born in Ilkley, Dower was a civil servant and architect who, while living in Malhamdale in the 1940s, wrote the seminal report which led to the creation of National Parks in the UK. The parliamentary paper set out the purposes of National Parks and identified the areas within England and Wales which could be considered for National Park status.

The report, 'National Parks in England and Wales', was published in 1945 and led to the development and passing of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act four years later.

John Dower died at the age of 47 just before the passing of the Act, which became part of the re-build of Britain following the trauma of the Second World War. It provided a level of protection for the nation's finest landscapes and an opening up of the countryside.



The 75th anniversary of the Act that created National Parks - and the man behind it - was marked at YHA Malham on 18 November: l-r Robin Dower (third child of John and Pauline Dower), Baroness Hayman (Sue Hayman, minister responsible for access at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), Margaret Hart (Chair, YHA), James Blake (CEO, YHA) and David Butterworth (CEO, YDNPA)

Chief guests at the 18 November celebration - held at the YHA hostel Dower designed - were his children and grandchildren.

Also present was Baroness Hayman, the minister responsible for access at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), as well as representatives of Natural England, the National Landscapes Association, Campaign for National Parks, Field Studies Council and the Open Spaces Society.

The event happened just two days after the 70th anniversary of the date on which the Yorkshire Dales National Park was established in 1954.

In a short speech, Robin Dower, the youngest of John and Pauline Dower's three children, said his parents, fearing the outbreak of war, came to Kirkby Malham in 1939. His father, invalided out of the war, was appointed by Sir John Reith, minister of town and country planning, to draft a report on National Parks.

"As my father died when I was eight I cannot really remember much about his work on the National Parks Report, except through the lens of my mother's work to fulfil his vision after her appointment in 1949 as a Member, and later Deputy Chair, of the National Parks Commission.

"The friends and colleagues with whom my father had campaigned before the war for the creation of National Parks and the establishment of wider access to the countryside remained a huge and loyal circle of friends for my mother. They greatly encouraging offered her hospitality both in London where the Commission's office was her base, and out in or near the National Parks on her frequent field visits to determine boundaries or the impact of proposed quarrying, road development or forestry planting.

"She was meticulous in presenting evidence at public inquiries and was glad to be able to stay with friends within easy reach of a site."

Defra Minister Baroness Sue Hayman said: "These landmark laws were instrumental in improving access to nature, enshrining the rights of people in post-war Britain to be able to experience the many benefits of spending time in green spaces.

"Today's event on the 75th anniversary of National Parks and National Landscapes is an opportunity to celebrate these special places, the people that made it happen and look ahead to their future. This Government will make our Protected Landscapes greener and wilder, so they are enjoyed for years to come."

Read more about the National Park story at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/history**

Callout for 2025 'green' volunteering and training programme



Up Skill, Down Dales participants Heena and Kanjana drystone walling

Up Skill, Down Dale is a programme for people aged 18 to 29 who want to learn new skills to help them begin a career in the environmental sector.

Every April, participants join us for a year-long supported programme to explore a range of exclusive volunteering and training opportunities with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The programme offers a variety of environmental action task days which develop nature and conservation awareness, skills and confidence. In 2024 this included tree planting with Wild Ingleborough, foraging and bushcraft in Cleatop Wood, drystone walling in Swaledale, and peat monitoring with Yorkshire Peat Partnership.

Participants gain insight into different job roles, the people and the organisations behind them, and make useful connections to support their routes to employment and other opportunities in the sector. Over 40 young people have been through the programme since it started in 2020, and at least 8 have gone on to find work in the green economy.

In January we will be inviting young people to apply to join the 2025 programme.

Find out about the Up Skill, Down Dale programme, see what previous participants got up to, and look out for the announcement about the 2025 intake at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/up-skill-down-dale-youth-volunteering**

Welcome to the Winter edition of *Dales*

Many of you will be aware that 2024 represents the 70th anniversary of the designation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 1954.

Much has changed since those early years, and it was hoped that the marking of the anniversary might be an opportunity to unlock the huge potential of National Parks, rather than continuing down the recent path of budget reductions leaving future generations with a poorer legacy.

The jury is still out on whether the new Government will take up the cause of the radical post-war Government which established National Parks in the United Kingdom in 1949.

In the meantime, we will continue to make the case for people, place and nature. National Parks represent our finest landscapes. They are rightly famed for their spectacular beauty, rare flora and fauna, and rich cultural heritage. Time and time again their vital recreational role and ability to act as breathing spaces for the nation has been shown.

As we look forward, we shall present the argument that National Parks can be so much more. They can become beacons for a sustainable future by playing a leading role in tackling the climate and nature crisis. And contributing even further to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the nation.

Surveys have shown that the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park believe that our principal role should be in nature recovery. And a nature-led mission to make National Parks an intrinsic part of the Government's plan to rebuild the country remains central to our ambition.



Derek Twine
CHAIR

David Butterworth
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Public asked how 'active travel' can be improved

Residents and visitors to the National Park have been asked to share ideas on how active travel routes into, and around, the Yorkshire Dales National Park could be created or improved.

Active travel refers to journeys that involve some form of physical activity. In the National Park this includes walking, 'wheeling' (wheelchair or active mobility aid), cycling and horse riding.

Suggestions could range from infrastructure changes such as a crossing point on a busy road, a better link from a housing estate to a school, or the creation of traffic-free rights of way between towns and villages.

In this first stage, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has carried out a six-week survey asking people to submit their route suggestions on an interactive map.



Walkers at Ribblehead (Visit North Yorkshire/ROAM)

Responses will be used to draw up the first 'Active Travel Plan' for the National Park. This will complement work being undertaken by Lancashire, North Yorkshire and Westmorland & Furness Councils, with the aim of developing more opportunities for safe and accessible routes and improving key connections into and across the National Park.

Member Champion for Recreation Management Lizzie Bushby said: "We would like to see walking, 'wheeling', cycling and horseriding become easier options for making everyday journeys, for residents and visitors. The aim is to improve routes and connections so that they are suitable and attractive, for example, for a family, or for self-propelled as well as all-terrain electric wheelchair users. We have an excellent and well-maintained highway network in the National Park, but, at the moment, it's only the most confident cyclists who will take to the main roads.

"Our survey on active travel is essentially a mapping exercise. We are looking to find out where people want to go and how they want to get there. It's about identifying and improving routes which provide opportunities for local communities and visitors to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing."

The work of producing an Active Travel Plan has been made possible by a grant of £100,000 received from Active Travel England. All National Park Authorities in England have received the same amount of funding.

Ms Bushby added: "It's good to see these resources being focussed on rural areas because up to now active travel has usually been seen as being about improving urban spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. This work represents a real opportunity to improve our locality."

The aim is to create a draft Active Travel Plan by next March, to be refined and approved by the end of 2025.

Once the plan has been finalised the intention is to identify potential funding so that the Plan can be implemented over a 10-year period. This would support both strategic, traffic-free, multi-user routes as well as small, so-called 'missing links' to provide communities and visitors with easier access to active travel infrastructure.

Follow the active Travel Plan as it develops at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/active-travel**



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Major work on Coast to Coast Path National Trail

Rangers began work this summer on improving a 2.9km route stretching across White Mossy Hill, an area of important peatland habitat above Birkdale, as part of works to make Alfred Wainwright's 'A Coast to Coast Walk' a National Trail.

Phase 1 of the works is now complete, with 850 metres of flagstones - reclaimed from a former mill site in Preston - and all the associated board walks installed across the route.

Having been hauled by tractor and trailer to remote Birkdale, between Kirkby Stephen and Upper Swaledale, the flags were airlifted the final few hundred metres from the road to the fellside path. A helicopter pilot dropped pallet loads every few metres.

It is the biggest single project ever undertaken by the Authority's ranger service, with the works on White Mossy Hill expected to be finalised by October 2025.

People are still able to walk the route during the path construction. One couple from the Netherlands, Karlyn and Rorik, volunteered to have their picture taken as Area Ranger Michael Briggs laid out markers on White Mossy Hill in August.



Hill walkers Karlyn and Rorik on White Mossy Hil

"We are loving it, every step," said Karlyn. "It's nice to go coast to coast - we put our left feet in the Irish Sea and will put our right feet in the North Sea."

Member Champion for Recreation Management Lizzie Bushby said: "This is a massive project for us. All our rangers across the National Park are being timetabled to work on this job. The surface from White Mossy Hill is already quite badly eroded and typically you see people having to jump over boggy bits and wind about looking for decent footing. The flagstone path will protect the surrounding sensitive peatland and give people a really enjoyable experience."



Rangers laying the first flagstones on the Coast to Coast path at White Mossy Hill in August

The 192-mile Coast to Coast route is thought to be the most popular long distance walking trail in England. The Government decided in 2022 to make it a National Trail.

The designated Coast to Coast Path National Trail will closely follow the path devised by Alfred Wainwright in his 1973 book, 'A Coast to Coast Walk'.

In addition to the works being undertaken on White Mossy Hill, the Coast to Coast project team are working to bring a further 11,700 metres of path into the public rights of way network by securing a permanent route on the definitive map. So far, realignments have taken place at Rampsholme near Muker, Cleasby above Healaugh, and near the riverside at Reeth. The Authority is continuing to work with landowners and stakeholders and is expecting to complete the realignment work by the end of next year.

Angela Hobson, Coast to Coast Project Manager, said: "With the route progressing on White Mossy Hill, and new signage and waymarkers being installed, it's an exciting time for the project. These works will improve access along the Coast to Coast Path for future generations of users, and all of us working on the project feel very privileged to be involved."

Natural England has been given £5.6 million of Government funding to improve the route. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is one of several project partners working to ensure the path meets National Trail quality standards and is fully open and available for public use, as well as enabling people with disabilities to better access appropriate parts of the route. The National Park Authority is undertaking the legal and practical work for the trail in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/coast-to-coast** and **www.nationaltrail.co.uk/coast-to-coast**

Website showcases a landscape through time

A popular website that aims to make the fascinating history and archaeology of the Yorkshire Dales National Park accessible to a wide audience, has received a refresh.

This year the National Park Authority site - **www.outofoblivion.org.uk** - has been moved to a more accessible platform, and renamed 'The History and Archaeology of the Yorkshire Dales: a landscape through time' to make it more responsive to online searches, while retaining its original URL.



The ruins of Pendragon Castle in the Mallerstang Valley

The information contained on this valuable resource can be searched by historical or archaeological period, theme, or site. Themes include agriculture, industry, settlement, religion and recreation, with each illustrated by example sites and features.

The website also features self-guided walk information, videos relating to projects on the cultural heritage of the National Park, educational resources, and relevant reports and literature.

The online resource was originally named 'Out of Oblivion' as it brought a selection of archaeological information from the Authority's Historic Environment Record out of the archives and online for the first time. It aimed to give a wider audience greater enjoyment of the Yorkshire Dales by enabling deeper understanding about its cultural landscape.

Find out more about the historic and cultural heritage of the Dales at **www.outofoblivion.org.uk**





Managing ash dieback: a decade on

By Meghann Mezzanotte, Trees & Woodland Officer



It's been 12 years since the first case of ash dieback was confirmed in the UK, caused by the fungal pathogen Hymenoscyphus fraxineus. Although some areas have been more severely affected than others across the Yorkshire Dales, the disease continues to have a devastating impact on our landscape.

Upland ash woodlands are amongst our most precious, biodiverse habitats, and ash trees are ubiquitous within our fieldscape and historical field boundaries, often remnant features of ancient hedgerows and wood pasture.

Those of us close to the land will have noticed that the last few summers in particular have revealed a dramatic decline in older, stand-alone ash trees. The number of tree work applications we have received this year to protected ash trees has been telling, not to mention disheartening.

But not every ash tree has to be felled. In some cases, alternatives to felling - such as heavy canopy reductions - can reduce the risk of failing limbs, while retaining valuable habitat for longer in the landscape. This is especially important for ancient and veteran ash trees which are irreplaceable ecological niches for rare lichens, fungi and invertebrates, and are also used by protected species such as bats.

For this reason, it's important that ash trees are not being felled unnecessarily. Landowners should consider whether trees with ash dieback can be left to decline naturally - such as those which will cause no harm if they fail or drop branches, typically in the open landscape or within woodlands.

Landowners should continue to assess the impact of ash dieback on their holdings, and now is the best time of year to look at trees structurally. It's also the best time of year to see wood decay agents, such as honey fungus, which is more likely to gain a hold in trees with ash dieback.

Any tree work should be undertaken by a qualified arborist who understands the risks to felling ash trees.

Remember to consider restrictions such as felling licence requirements (diseased trees are not exempt) and trees protected by preservation order or conservation area status, as well as the timing and impact on wildlife. Bird nesting season is generally March to August. Bats use the canopy of some trees in summer for maternity sites and tree cavities for hibernation in winter, so these times of year should be avoided for trees with bat potential.



Ash dieback: the fruiting bodies of armillaria (honey fungus), a basal rot, found on a mature roadside ash

Many landowners are already planting trees on their holdings in anticipation of the loss of ash in the landscape. But where trees are felled, we encourage suitable replacements: sessile oak, lime, aspen, field maple, sycamore, beech, birch, rowan, disease-resistant elm, hazel and hawthorn all support a high number of ash-associated species.

There is no precise way of knowing how an individual ash tree will cope with the disease. Age, growing conditions, weather, and genetic resistance all play a factor.

But while we expect to lose the majority of our ash, a small proportion are showing some higher genetic tolerance to the fungus. As long as these are not removed during the necessary management of badly-affected trees, these will, over time, slowly provide us with the next generation of ash trees in the Dales.

For more information and guidance about managing ash dieback, as well as funding opportunities for new woodland planting and management, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/trees-and-woodlands**



One of the new National Park Ranger vans at the electric vehicle charging point in Buckden car park

Driving towards a greener future with our new electric vehicle fleet

A large proportion of the Authority's leased vehicle fleet will be switched to electric vehicles by 2025, taking another big step forward in its commitment to a greener future.

The Authority's Carbon Reduction Plan, agreed in 2020, committed the organisation to reducing its emissions by 95% by 2030, compared with a 2005 baseline. However, to reach its goal of 'well beyond net zero' by 2040, switching the appropriate vehicles - used by rangers and field officers - is necessary.

Transportation is a major source of global greenhouse gas emissions, with the Authority's small vehicle fleet generating 18 tons of tailpipe emissions annually. Moving to electric vehicles will reduce the organisation's total carbon emissions by around 8%.

Before making the change, both practical and financial implications needed to be considered. The availability of infrastructure was key in the decision-making process. Electricity supply and capacity in the Dales can be problematic, but the Authority has now installed 7kwh public charging points across all its 10 car parks.

The number of charging points at Grassington, Malham and Hawes have recently been increased through a partnership with the BMW UK 'Recharge in Nature Project', resulting in 32 individual charge points across the National Park. The Authority is seeking to work further with partners to improve the electric vehicle infrastructure.

We expect to take delivery of 10 new electric vehicles, including five ranger vans, one maintenance van, and four pool cars. The addition of solar panels at our offices in Bainbridge and Grassington also means that we have the opportunity to power vehicles from renewable sources.

Member Champion for Corporate Management Julie Hutton said: "I am really pleased at the way we have continued to find ways to run our buildings and vehicles in a more environmentally friendly way, and save money on our running costs.

"Reducing our own emissions is just one small part of the much bigger challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the whole of the National Park area, including things like visitor travel. The National Park Authority will continue to work with North Yorkshire and Westmorland & Furness Councils to support their ambitions to reach net zero across their wider areas. This activity will be reflected in a new Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan to be published next year."

Taking the pulse of our peatlands



Yorkshire Peat Partnership officers survey a snowy Melbecks Moor (Matthew Snelling)



By Lyndon Marquis, Peat Communications & Engagement Manager, Yorkshire Peat Partnership

Nearly one quarter of the Yorkshire Dales National Park is blanket bog peatland, but much of it is severely degraded owing to historic drainage for agricultural improvement after the Second World War. However, restoration efforts have been gathering pace since the formation of Yorkshire Peat Partnership in 2009.

Recently marking its 15th anniversary, the Partnership is funded by Defra, the Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural England and Yorkshire Water, and is led by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is one of our key partners.

Our goal is to restore and conserve upland peat resources in order to ensure the long-term future of these unique and valuable habitats.

Because of the ground-nesting bird and grouse seasons, monitoring and surveying is generally carried out on the peatlands between November and March. Here, Joseph and Gautier tell us about their work, which usually takes place halfway up a mountain and in the worst weather Yorkshire has to offer.

Joseph Haywood, Peat Project Officer

Temperatures are dropping fast, the air is thick with rain, and clouds loom ahead across the vast Yorkshire Dales. Once the heavens open, there looks like no sign of them closing, and the rain rolls in from all directions destined to follow us all day.

Below zero, mist freezes on almost all the surrounding vegetation, encrusting it in ice that glistens in the fractures of sunlight slipping through the clouds. All this, however, will not stop Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's intrepid, dedicated peatland-restoration team from yomping up hills and across rough terrain to map eroding blanket bogs.

Every day starts the same, with a long drive to a remote location high up in the hills. The correct clothing is very important, so my team meticulously put on layer upon layer to keep warm and dry (if keeping dry up on the hills in winter is a thing).

Once we're survey-ready, it is time to spread across the landscape like hungry bees searching for flowers and nectar. Our job is to assess the land, identifying what plants are growing where and how deep the peat is (sometimes up to 4m deep!). We also locate areas of eroding peat and suggest ways of restoring those areas back to fully functioning and thriving habitats.



Joseph Haywood on a brighter day earlier this year at Angram Reservoir (Sam Halliday)

I am walking up a hill and come face-to-face with a 3m high eroding peat face; I must gather all the information I can, such as its height and steepness to suggest a restoration technique. Once recorded, I move onto the next feature. Maybe a vast gully like a tear in the land's surface or an open patch of bare peat, barren and vulnerable.

Through mapping the landscape and gathering all this information, we can design management plans that will help to restore these enigmatic places to a historic state where biodiversity blossomed.

Gautier Nicoli, Research & Evidence Assistant

Although peatland restoration still represents the bulk of our work, in the last couple of years the Nature for Climate Fund gave us the opportunity to significantly increase our monitoring capabilities. With equipment now deployed all over the Yorkshire Dales, we are continuously taking the pulse of our peatlands. The data we collect informs us on how these landscapes react to different environmental pressures, as well as helping us quantify the impact of our restoration methods.

Our monitoring essentially takes place in two blocks. For one month in summer, we look at the vegetation ground cover. Abundance and diversity in sphagnum moss species is a good indicator of a healthy bog. However, most of our monitoring work happens in autumn and winter. During that time, our teams travel from Skipton across the Dales to measure the depth of the water table in restored and yet-to-be-restored sites. The more waterlogged the peat, the more positive biodiversity gains we observe.

While it is the best time of the year to look at peatland hydrology, the increasing rain, snow and wind as the season progresses make upland peatland monitoring quite challenging. Although the weather can be harsh, it often creates otherworldly conditions that we have all come to love at Yorkshire Peat Partnership. That being said, climbing up Buckden Pike in the fog, carrying monitoring kit, while enduring horizontal rain remains a task that many of our team would rather avoid.

Peatland monitoring is also the perfect activity for sharing our love for bogs with the inhabitants of the Dales. People volunteering with us are offered an opportunity to connect with their landscape and heritage in a unique way. If you would like to volunteer for our monitoring activities, please contact us at **info@yppartnership.org.uk**



Gautier Nicoli (right) and his colleague Ellen monitoring peatland vegetation at Kingsdale Head

Healthy peatlands sequester carbon and so restoring peat is critical to achieving our net-zero ambitions. By 2030 it is hoped that all peatlands in the Dales will be restored. The target is one of the 49 objectives of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan - see page 8.

Find out more about peatland restoration in the Dales at **www.yppartnership.org.uk**



Festival marks 10 years of celebrating our dark skies

February 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of the Dark Skies Festival in the Yorkshire Dales, and it is shaping up to be an unforgettable celebration. This year's Festival promises to be the biggest and best yet, with Broughton Sanctuary near Skipton set to host the milestone launch event in the Dales.

The Festival - held jointly with North York Moors National Park - has grown year on year, with more than 50 events created and hosted by businesses across the National Park in 2024. From thrilling night-time zip wires to tranquil stargazing, planetarium shows and mindfulness workshops, it offers something for everyone.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Tourism Officer Helen Dalton said: "We've been amazed by the level of interest from local businesses keen to hold events for the Dark Skies Festival.

"Business owners tell us they appreciate the extra promotion they receive, and visitors love the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the fabulous starry night skies, providing even more reason to visit the National Park all year round.

"The full programme is now available on the National Park Authority's website. With events held across multiple locations, planning a visit is easier than ever with the Festival's new interactive map feature."

Next year also marks another significant milestone: the fifth anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales being designated an International Dark Sky Reserve. Awarded by Dark Sky International (formerly the International Dark Sky Association), this places the Yorkshire Dales as one of only 22 locations worldwide formally recognised for its pristine dark skies.

As part of efforts to maintain Reserve status, the Authority has been working with local communities and businesses to encourage the adoption of the five principles of responsible outdoor lighting, as highlighted by Dark Sky International, and identify where improvements to external lighting could be made.

By showcasing the benefits of minimal light pollution for wildlife and humans alike, the annual Dark Skies Festival not only highlights the wonders of the night sky, but also provides local businesses with a chance to attract both residents and overnight visitors during the traditionally quieter winter season.

And Dark Skies activities aren't just limited to the Festival itself. Throughout the year, businesses across the National Park host a variety of themed events, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to witness the breath-taking view above.



A starry night over Twistleton Scar (Danny Lawson)

The 10th Dark Skies Festival runs from 14 February to 2 March 2025. Visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dark-skies-festival** to find out more.

Young voices to join Finance & Resources committee

The National Park Authority hopes to welcome two young, co-opted members to its Finance & Resources committee in the New Year as part of an initiative to amplify youth voices and connect with hard-to-reach audiences.

The recruitment campaign this autumn had a strong response and reflects the organisation's commitment to empower younger generations in shaping the National Park's future.

The successful co-optees will serve for two years on the Finance & Resources Committee as non-voting members, participating in key discussions, offering fresh perspectives, and helping to drive long-term, transformative change. They will also be invited to attend full Authority meetings and other Member events.

Authority Chair Derek Twine said: "We must engage young people, the true stakeholders, in their futures. The biggest investment we can make is to ensure that young people are themselves engaged, empowered and encouraged to create, to own and to bring about those long-term transformative changes ready for their own successors."

The callout attracted 19 applicants through social media, local universities, and targeted outreach, resulting in four interviews. The two successful candidates will receive the same allowance as other Members, underscoring the role's significance and responsibilities.

This bold step is part of the Authority's wider effort to embrace diversity and innovation, making the Yorkshire Dales a National Park for everyone.



The Authority hopes to welcome two 'young voices' to its Committee in 2025

Second Changing Places toilet opens in National Park

A fully accessible public toilet and changing facility has opened in Grassington.

The facility - next to Grassington National Park Visitor Centre - is for people who may need hoist equipment and extra space to use the toilet safely and comfortably.

It is the second Changing Places toilet the Authority has opened in the National Park, with the first unveiled last year at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. The hope is that Changing Places toilets will help make the Yorkshire Dales National Park a more welcoming place for all.



The new Changing Places facility at Grassington

Local Access Forum member and sociology professor Abby Day, who has multiple sclerosis, has an interest in improving access to the National Park for people with limited mobility.

She said: "I'm really excited to see this facility open. It will make people who want to come to one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world a lot more confident to do so. They can come, and feel welcome, and feel that this is a place for them.

"We live in a diverse nation and I want to make sure anyone can come to the Yorkshire Dales National Park to enjoy it."

Elliott Lorimer, the Authority's Director of Park Services, said: "This is a fantastic addition to the visitor services we run in the National Park.

"The Changing Places toilet fits into a bigger picture in which we are trying to make as much of the visitor infrastructure in the National Park as accessible as we can, whether that's increasing the 'Miles Without Stiles' rights of way network, having electric vehicle charge points in our car parks which have bays wide enough for wheelchair users, or providing sturdy motorised wheelchairs for use at sites such as Aysgarth Falls."

A map of all the Changing Places toilets in the UK can be found at **www.changing-places.org/find**

Accessible routes to enjoy the National Park can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/miles-without-stiles**

New project champions National Parks for Everyone



Championing National Parks for Everyone: Project Officer Jamila Gaskin, pictured at Malham, is looking to recruit Community Champions who will support others from culturally and ethnically diverse communities to visit in future.

A new project is aiming to give everyone the confidence to visit and enjoy our National Parks by addressing inequalities in accessing them, including for people from culturally and ethnically diverse communities.

'Championing National Parks for Everyone' is a joint project led by Peak District Mosaic in partnership with the Peak District, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities, and Derbyshire Dales CVS.

The project vision is that everyone should feel supported to visit and receive the health and well-being benefits of spending time in National Parks, as well as gaining the knowledge to help protect them.

Jamila Gaskin, Project Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, said: "At the heart of the project is the 6-month Community Champion Training programme.

"This aims to provide participants with awareness of the benefits of National Parks and the skills and confidence to independently run safe and enjoyable activities for friends, family and community members in these special landscapes.

"It builds on the success of previous projects and aims to leave a successful legacy of Community Champions who will support others to visit in the future."

Recruitment has started for potential Community Champions; a trainee, who will support the project officer in achieving the project outcomes, will be recruited in 2025.

In the next 12 months, Jamila will be working with community groups in East Leeds, Bradford and Keighley to support visits to the Yorkshire Dales and showcase local business and activity providers that will interest and excite new and returning visitors to the National Park.

Ultimately, the project aims to work with people from culturally and ethnically diverse communities to support more people to connect with nature and enjoy the National Parks, and provide new employment and training opportunities in the sector, as well as a variety of volunteering opportunities meeting the needs and interests of these communities.

The Championing National Parks for Everyone Campaign is made possible with the National Lottery Heritage Fund with the support of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

To find out more about the Championing National Parks for Everyone partnership project, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/championing-national-parks** or contact Jamila Gaskin on 07974 463388 or **jamila.gaskin@yorkshiredales.org.uk**



One of Broadacres Housing Association's completed affordable home schemes in Bainbridge

New Local Plan moves closer

Work on the development of a new Local Plan (2025-40) for the Yorkshire Dales National Park is now entering its final stages.

During September and October, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority consulted on a preferred list of housing development sites (Consultation No.7). These are the sites recommended to be included as allocations within the new Local Plan, with the aim of providing a significant amount of affordable housing cross-subsidised by open market housing - all for permanent occupation only - over the next 15 years.

A total of 263 consultation responses was received from members of the public, parish councils, and a range of other organisations.

The feedback will now be considered at a meeting of the Full Authority in December where Members will decide which sites to include in the Publication Draft Local Plan. The Publication Draft is essentially what the Authority considers to be its final version of the Local Plan, which will include a full set of planning polices for the National Park, designed to last up to 2040.

The Publication Draft Local Plan will be subject to a further, more formal six-week consultation period in early 2025 when people can make formal representations on its content.

The final Local Plan, together with the representations made and all the supporting documents, will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

As part of this an Inspector will hold public hearings to help assess whether it is fit for purpose so that it can be adopted and used for decision-making.

To find out more about the process of creating a new Local Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park - and how to have your say - visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/local-plan-2023-40**

textiles · felt · glass work · candles
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The long green trail: Pennine Way at 60

Next year sees the 60th anniversary of the opening of the original National Trail - and one of the most iconic - the Pennine Way.

The 268-mile journey runs from the Peak District National Park all the way to the Scottish Borders and travels right through the Yorkshire Dales, taking in Malham Cove, Pen-y-ghent and Swaledale on its way.

The original idea came from Tom Stephenson, a British journalist and keen walker, who wrote an article in 1935 asking for a long distance walk in England - a 'long green trail'. It took another 30 years, but Tom - by then secretary of the Ramblers' Association - was there on Malham Moor at the opening ceremony on 24 April 1965.

The trail was the result of a real change in how people came to value and use the countryside in the early decades of the twentieth century.

As part of the Pennine National Trails Partnership, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will be celebrating the 60th anniversary throughout 2025, with themed events, volunteer projects, and working with youth groups.

An exhibition entitled 'A Trail of Inspiration', showcasing artwork, music, poetry and film inspired by the Pennine Way, will be hosted by the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes from February to May, before moving to other venues along the route.

To find out more about the Pennine Way's 60th anniversary, visit **www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way-at-60**. If you are planning your own anniversary event we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Hannah Kay, Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager, at **hannah.kay@yorkshiredales.org.uk**



Walker and writer Tom Stephenson who had the idea for the first long distance walk in England

Views to be sought on new Management Plan

The National Park Management Plan - the single most important document for the Yorkshire Dales National Park - is taking a step closer to publication.

The five-year plan is produced and monitored by a Partnership of local organisations, including farming, landowning and tourism business interests.

The Partnership will agree a new set of draft objectives this December to cover the period 2025-30. The draft objectives will then be published for public consultation in January. Once adopted, these objectives will guide the work of all the bodies operating in the National Park for the next five years.

At the start of 2024 an initial consultation asked the public to rank their top six priorities for the organisations working in the National Park to tackle. Over 1,100 individuals and 27 organisations completed the online survey.

Of 18 potential priorities, 'help nature to recover' was ranked first by all groups of respondents, including those who live or work in the National Park. Protecting rare and threatened species came second, with improving river water quality third.

More than 500 local people took part in the survey. The top three priorities for residents were nature recovery, helping younger people to live/work in the National Park, and reducing the impact of second homes and holiday lets.

Six short 'Evidence Reports' were then produced - one for each of the six ambitions for 2040 in the current Management Plan - which cover the themes 'Living Landscape', 'Finest Variety of Wildlife', 'Flourishing Local Economy', 'Welcoming Place', 'Climate Mitigation', and 'Strong Communities'. The Reports are available to view on the Authority's website, alongside a full summary of the results of the first public survey.

In May, the Partnership held its Annual Forum, to which all the bodies with an interest in, or role to play in, delivering the objectives in the Plan, including all parishes, were invited.

Following the Forum, six expert 'drafting groups' were set up. They were asked to produce an initial set of new objectives for each of the Management Plan's six ambitions - based on the Evidence Reports and the results of the consultation and Annual Forum. From these proposals, a final set will be agreed by the members of the Partnership at a meeting in December.

Following further public consultation early next year, the Partnership will assess feedback and agree the final objectives. A new Management Plan will be adopted in June 2025.

Follow progress on achieving the objectives in the current National Park Management Plan, and the development of a new Plan for 2025-30, at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/national-park-management-plan**


'Help nature to recover' was named by survey respondents as the top priority for action in the new National Park Management Plan

Grants available for community projects

The National Park Authority's long-running grant scheme supporting community initiatives still has £40k in this year's pot waiting to be allocated.

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) can support a wide range of projects that promote a more sustainable way of living in, working in and visiting the National Park. Schemes must have multiple benefits, value for money, clear outcomes, and a legacy.

Grants so far in 2024/25 have gone to a range of small community-led projects. Moorcock Agricultural Society aims to ensure that the annual Moorcock Show continues to be run safely and smoothly. The Society received £500 to carry out a risk assessment and fund new Health & Safety policies. A grant of £7,500 helped Linton Church to improve its kitchen and toilet facilities, and the community-owned pub in Hudswell, the George & Dragon, received £349 to install a wall-mounted 4-bike rack for visitors.

Over the last 21 years, the SDF has committed over £3.5 million to 476 projects.

This year the scheme was tweaked to favour projects which benefit younger people. One-fifth of the £150,000 annual SDF budget has been ring-fenced for applications from people under 30 years of age, or from anyone where the emphasis of their project is on young people.

An example of the sort of grant application that will be supported is the one brought in 2022 by trustees of the former army drill hall in Settle, now owned by the Scouts.

An SDF grant supported construction of a small extension of the Grade II listed building, to provide covered, lift access to the drill hall. At the moment access to the room is from an external stone staircase, which has caused difficulties for some children and adult youth leaders.

The change to the SDF is intended to encourage applications from young people themselves or from any organisation, such as schools or charities, which are engaged in promoting activities and initiatives that benefit younger people. However, the fund remains open to a full range of projects, benefitting all ages.



Moorcock Agricultural Show committee member Colin Luckett receives the SDF 'big cheque' from Sustainable Development Officer Andrea Burden

Further information on the Sustainable Development Fun and how to apply can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf** or by emailing **sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk**