Item No 6

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 9 December 2025

Report Back from Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

Advisory Group Meetings

At the May 2007 meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, a paper was presented on the establishment of advisory groups to look at individual recreational activities. The remit of these groups is to:

- exchange information, and provide a formal mechanism for communication and raising issues of concern amongst users, the YDAF, and other interests;
- advise on the management of specific matters.

The following arrangements have been made for the meetings of the groups:

Access on Foot Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group was 10 March 2018. The next meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Access for All Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access for all Advisory Group was on 12 November 2025. The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 1.** The next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group was on 12 November 2025**.** The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 2.** The next meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Cave and Crag Advisory Group was 15 November 2025. The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 3.** The next meeting of the Cave and Crag Access has yet to be confirmed.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group was on 7 December 2024. The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Air Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Air Sports Advisory Group will convene when a matter arises.

Water Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Water Sports Advisory Group will convene when a matter arises.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
November 2025

Appendix 1

Unapproved Minutes of the
Access for All Advisory Group meeting
Held on 12 November 2025
Teams

Present:	
Craig Grimes (CG)	Experience Community
Debbie North (DN)	Access the Dales
Jonathan Smith (JS)	Access the Dales/Where to Walk
David Shaftoe	Open Country
Steph Hughes (SH)	National Trust
Abby Day (AD)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Vic Cusak (VC)	Yorkshire Dales National park Authority
Rachel Briggs (RB)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Apologies:
Geoff Pardoe (GP)

1. Welcome and Apologies

AD welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of the notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Membership of the Group

There was a discussion regarding membership of the group and whether it represented the right people. RB agreed to update the terms of reference for the group and circulate it to members before suggesting who should be present.

RB to revisit the terms of reference for the group and circulate for comments

Suggestions of, potential, new members were as follows:

- YDNPA communications teams.
- Younger audiences.
- Neurodiverse audiences.
- Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust (YDMT)

4. Updates

Access the Dales
Access the Dales now manages 15 hubs in and around the Yorkshire Dales, Nidderdale and the Forest of Bowland.
Been busy brining different audiences into the NP and have used the Settle Carlilse station at Ribblehead as a way of brining people out. It has been a very successful year for the charity.

National Trust
The National Trust have been looking at the visor journey and making resources available. They have also been published a document titled 'Strategy for widening access'. SH agreed to share this with the group.
They have spent time working with other organisations to share good practice. This includes staff at the Malham National Park Centre.

Open Country
DS has been working with Nidderdale National Landscape.

Experience Community
CG delivered accessibility training last year to protected landscapes. RB attended. They have been working on the development of photo trails and linking it to miles without stiles. There have been problems with the mapping but funding has now been received to update the website.
Working with NPA's, CG is looking at aligning access standards to ensure all access authorities use the same criteria.

YDNPA
VC updated on how the NPA is working with groups. There has been a greater demand for all terrain wheelchairs from groups. The Tramper at Clapham is not available at present and this is becoming an issue for her groups. VC asked DN if a wheelchair could be made available at Ribblehead station. DN said she had been looking at this option for some years.

RB has been working on auditing routes to develop into capital projects.

5. By All Reasonable Means

RB circulated a paper on access standards within By All Reasonable Means and asked members for comments.

CG said the document was a useful information tool to allow people to make informed choices. However, the standard is for the building on new routes not the promotion/maintenance of current routes.

SH added that the NT don't use By All Reasonable Means but, instead, use Access Able Guides and map everything on open street map.

RB asked for any further comments on the standards paper to be sent to her.

6/7 Future projects/Member round up

CG said that accessible accommodation is difficult to find in the Yorkshire Dales and asked if the planning department could consider this when applications come in. He suggested a planner comes to a future meeting.

RB to invite a YDNPA planner to a future meeting.

DN is still on the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) panel and continues to talk about access opportunities at this level.

CG said he would like to meet up with DN and VC to talk about future group work and external funding opportunities.

Thanks were given to the group for attending the meeting. A further meeting will be arranged within the next six months.

Appendix 2

Minutes of Meeting of
Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group
Held on 11 November 2025
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present:

Caroline Bradley (CBr)	British Horse Society
Lucy Baker (LB)	Arklemoor Trekking Centre
Chris Baker (CB)	Arklemoor Trekking Centre
Alex Law (AL)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Rachel Briggs (RB)	Yorkshire Dales NPA
Alan Hulme (AH)	Yorkshire Dales NPA
Rob Ashford (RA)	Yorkshire Dales NPA

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Stuart Price (SP), Hannah Gadner (HG) and Peter Baggaley (PB).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. Membership of the group

Still need more mountain bikers represented on the group, particularly from the south of the park. It was suggested that RB contact the local bike shops to see if anyone would like to attend.

4. Active Travel Plan

RA gave members an update on the Active Travel Plan (ATP).

The ATP has been confirmed and accepted with 21 multi user schemes identified around the YDNP, using a combination of PROW and quiet lanes. It is hoped that more funding will be made available and this will be used for feasibility studies.

Active Travel England (ATE) have been consulting on the new Rural Design Guidelines. One this has been finalised, a copy will be circulated to the group.

RA also gave a brief update on the Garsdale to Hawes multi user route. Members of the YDNPA have approved officers to prepare and make a creation order to

establish legal access, should the Authority fail to reach in-principle agreement with all affected landowners. Members also requested that officers contact landowners yet to agree, to offer another opportunity to engage (or re-engage) with the creation agreement process. In parallel with these continued discussions, the Authority is preparing documentation to begin the creation order process, which is likely to take up to 18 months.

5. Coast to Coast

AH gave an update on the Coast to Coast route.

Work on the route is going well. There is a stakeholders meeting coming up in the next few weeks and the official opening will take place on the 26th of March 2026 in Reeth.

6. Bridleway/Restricted Byway Issues

The main part of the meeting involved members marking up potential projects for horse riders/mountain bikers.

All suggestions will be mapped and looked at by the Ranger staff and then revisited at a future meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Nothing to add.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be in six months' time. RB to circulate dates via Google Poll.

Appendix 3

Unapproved minutes of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group
25 November 2025, Teams

Jon Beavan (JB) - Chair	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF)
Ian Celmmett (ICl)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF) and National Trust
John Fullwood (JF)	British Mountaineering Council (BMC)
Tim Allen (TA)	Caving interest
Mike Appleton (MA)	CNCC and YDMT
Ian Court (IC)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)
Rachel Briggs (RB)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)
Rob Ashford (RA)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)
Kate Hilditch (KH)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Everyone introduced themselves.

KH informed the meeting that Andrew Hinde had retired from Natural England. It was agreed that AH should continue to be invited with his caving interest and that a new representative from Natural England should be sought.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Review of bird breeding

IC gave the following update on bird breeding:

<u>Peregrines</u>
Langcliffe – Peregrines returned to Langcliffe Quarry three years ago and have continued to be a success.

Malham – After an unsuccessful couple of years, chicks were born on the nest at Malham Cove this year. However, they all died. The reason for the failure is unknown.

Blue Scar – Difficult to access the site here due to an uncooperative landowner.

Crummock – There have been no signs of Peregrines this year. A climbing restriction was placed on the site at the beginning of the year to allow birds to settle but it was quickly removed when nesting sites were not occupied.

Peregrine breeding records are as follows:

Year	No. sites checked	No. sites occupied	No. young Fledged	No. sites successful
2020	7	5	11	4
2021	11	5	12	4
2022	12	5	10	4
2023	10	5	6	3
2024	8	5	4	2
2025	8	4	10	3

Ravens
Ravens are doing well. Unable to see whether they have nested at Langcliffe Quarry due to the nest being obscured by trees. A season restriction will be placed on the site in Spring if birds are in situ.

JF agreed that all is going well. He added that some climbers ask why restrictions are used at Blue Scar and not Malham where there is more activity. IC confirmed it is due to the birds are Malham being used to people.

Raven breeding records are as follows:

Year	No. sites checked	No. sites Occupied	Breeding outcome known	No young fledged	No. sites successful
2020	4	3	3	13	3
2021	10	6	4	23	6
2022	7	2	2	9	2
2023	8	3	3	10	3
2024	7	4	3	11	4
2025	8	5	3	12	3

IC – not aware of any bat issues.

4. Climbing

Gordale Scar
JF and KH gave members an update on the recent rockfall incident at Gordale Scar. A temporary closure of the footpath has been placed on the footpath to the Scar to allow the owner (Malham Parish Council) to look into the situation. Volunteers from the BMC have investigated the site and the Parish Council are awaiting a contractor to undertake tree works. KH added that the closure will be removed as soon as the site is safe. MA said that YDMT have been asked by the Parish Council to produce a woodland management plan for the area and they are trying to do this as a priority.

Feizor Nick
JF said that there had been an issue whereby a member of the BMC had tried to access the site but had been challenged by the landowner. As the crag is on CROW open access land, they had every right to be there but left to avoid a challenge. JB added by saying that the landowner has placed a sign on the crag to say 'no climbing'. KH said she would ask the Area Ranger for the area to follow this up.

Crookrise
JF said that there had been a deliberate fire at this BMC owned site earlier in the year. It has been cleared up and the dead wood has been removed to limit risks of further fires.

Kilnsey Crag
Kilnsey Crag is under new ownership. BMC would like to be in contact with the new owner if anyone knows this and is open to sharing contact details.

5. Caving

Turbary Road
KH raised the issue of open cave entrances on the Turbary Road and stock getting into them. This was an issue brought to the attention of an employee of the YDNPA by the landowner. TA said he was aware of this but that there were no real issues. The shake hole covers have been improved over the years. MA agreed and added that the landowner has approached the CNCC in the past about fencing off the shake holes. However, the site is considered to be as safe as it can be. MA would have a chat with the landowner.

Caving and CROW Access
TA updated the group on the legal position with regards to caving as a permitted activity on CROW land. He added that the recent wild camping court case in Dartmoor could be replicated when considering caving. He understood that the YDNPA are required to work to Defra on policies but that the YDAF could offer support to the caving community over the issue. JB said he would raise this at the next meeting of the YDAF when reporting on the minutes of this meeting.

RA added that the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature consultation was an opportunity for recreational NGOs to provide recommendations to the government on public access to nature. BCA & CNCC submitted a response requesting a formalised access for caving activities, similar to the current legislation allowing climbing access un the CROW act.

Skirwith Cave
MA said that there was an amended, slightly improved, access agreement at Skirwith Cave

Scosthrop Cave
MA informed members that YDMT had funded the CNCC to do some conservation work at this site. In addition, access has changed slightly. Cavers are now required to email beforehand to gain access.

Strands Gill
MA said that, thanks to the NT, access to Strands Gill is now slightly improved.

Dow Cave
Dow cave has new landowner – the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

9. Any other business

No other business.

Next meeting to be held in one years' time.

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