# Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
# To be held on Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 1:15pm
# Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

10.30am: An Active Travel workshop for members will precede the meeting.

Meeting to commence at 1.15pm

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Attendance and apologies
3. Approval of minutes, and matters arising (not on the agenda)
4. Public Question time
5. Future Forum Meetings
   - Agenda Items
   - Dates
6. Report Back from Advisory Groups
7. Coast to Coast – presented by Angela Hobson
8. Miles without Stiles survey – presented by Rachel Briggs
9. Officer's Report (items for note and consideration by Forum Members)
10. Update on members' activities (brief reports of activities relating to the Forum)

*Statutory Function: To provide advice on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area, and to provide advice on the improvement of public access to land in the area for any other lawful purpose.*

# Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum(YDAF)
# Tuesday 14 May 2024
# Meeting held at the Yoredale, Bainbridge

Members present: Jon Beavan (JB) (in the Chair following his re-election), Hannah Gardner (HG) (Vice Chair following election), John Bucknall (JBu), Lizzie Bushby ( LB), Abby Day (AD), Rachel Forsyth (RF), Barbara Gravenor (BG) Neil Heseltine (NH), Alex Law ( AL) and Malcolm Petyt (MP).

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) officers present: Rebecca Greenfield (RG), Alan Hulme (AH), Elliott Lorimer (EL) and Rachel Briggs (RB) (taking the minutes).

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

## 1. Election of Chair

Jon Beavan was nominated for the position of Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

**RESOLVED: that Jon Beavan be appointed Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.**

***Jon Beavan in the chair***

## 2. Election of Vice Chair

Hannah Gardner was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

**RESOLVED: that Hannah Gardner be appointed Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.**

## 3. Welcome and introductions

The meeting welcomed new member Abby Day to the meeting, and each member shared information about their background and interests as relevant to the Forum.

## 4. Apologies

Peter Baggaley (PB) Graeme Cowling ( GC), Leo Crone (LC)

## 5. Approval of Minutes

The third bullet under item 5 should state that there were 3 applications where access was requested and not 1.

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 20 February 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

## 6. Public Question Time

No public questions or statements had been received.

## 7. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 10:00 a.m.by virtual meeting.

### Future Agenda Items

- Cautley Spout and the improvements to the bridleway bridge.
- Wild swimming (possibly an item for the Water Sports Advisory Group)

## 8. Review of nominated LAF members on groups linked to the Forum

RB introduced this item with an explanation of the remit of each of the seven advisory groups and RG provided additional detail regarding membership of the Green Lanes Advisory Group. RB asked for expressions of interest from members.

The following expressions of interest were made:

- Access for All – Abby Day

JB advised the meeting that he also attends the Cumbria and North-West Regional LAF.

## 9. No fence collars

Matt Gardner (MG), a National Trust grazier, met remotely to introduce how no fence collars have been working with his cattle. The presentation was gratefully received by members.

MG explained that the no fence collar system draws a virtual boundary where you want the animals to be kept and that an audible warning, and then a small shock, is used to train the animals where to stay. It is used as a way of managing conflict between farming and users as well as safety for all.

Members discussed the use of no fence collars in the Yorkshire Dales. Some framers are already using the system (Kingsdale Head) and FiPL is funding some schemes.

The cost is an issue (around £230 per collar and a subscription charge of £700 per year) as well as the need for a 2G signal, which is lacking in some of the more

remote areas. However, Members saw the benefits as described by MG as well as the conservation advantages where cattle can we kept off protected areas.

MG was thanked for his presentation.
that the Countryside Code be relaunched/refreshed

## 10. Public Rights of Way Annual Report

AH introduced this report and gave a presentation.

Members were particularly interested to hear about the financial contribution to the public rights of way network from the Local Authorities. Westmorland and Furness Council has agreed to contribute to the network for the next three years. However, North Yorkshire Council has not been forthcoming at this stage. A meeting has been arranged for May 2024 for officer and members of the YDNPA, NYMNPA and NYC to discuss further.

NH asked AH how this has affected the teams working on PROW. AH said that due to a decreased capital budget, staff were being diverted onto priority projects, such as the Coast to Coast, where funding was available.

Officers were congratulated on the external funding that has come into the department – a total of £378k last year. AD wondered if there was room for a new post to look, specifically, at project development and funding. RG explained that new posts have an element of external funding within their job titles now and that the National Park Partnership is used for specialist funding opportunities.

## 11. Yorkshire Dales Active Travel Plan

RG gave a verbal update on the Active Travel Plan for the YDNP.

Active Travel England (ATE) have awarded the YDNPA £100k to write an Active Travel Plan for the National Park area. A new post has been appointed (Access and Recreation Manager – Teams and Projects) and it will be their role, for the next 12 months, to write the plan.

JB asked how members of the YDAF can be involved with the plan. RG said that there will be an Advisory Group established and that there may be LAF member involvement on that group.

Members were keen to ensure that all users are considered in the plan i.e. those with limited mobilities and horse riders. RG agreed and ensured members that this was being considered.

## 23/12. Coast to Coast

AH gave a verbal report on the Coast to Coast National Trail.

Planning for the work on White Mossy Hill has begun. This section will be flagged. The costs are expected to be in the region of £600k to £700k and this will have full

cost recovery. HG said that when laying the flags, adding the odd passing place might be a good idea.

JB asked for regular updates on the project.

**23/13 Officer's Report**

RB presented the Officers Report with items for information. She asked that any comments on the Terms of Reference be sent to her so that a redraft could be written for the next meeting.

**Action: All LAF members to send comments to RB on the Terms of Reference**

**23/14**. **Update on Members' Activities**

RF – The National Trust has extended the off road permissive footpath between Buckden and Hubberholme. This is fully accessible and can be extension to the miles without stiles route.

**2/15. Any Other Business**

AH informed members that the new bridleway bridge at Cautley had been granted planning permission. However, W&F Council had raised concerns regarding the width as does not fit with British Horse Society guidelines.

JB asked about the fencing that has been erected in Barbondale. His concerns are that the fencing is metal, and does not fit in with the landscape, and that there are very few access points. AH said he would try to find out more information from the conservation team.

The meeting closed at 3:55pm.

**Item No 6**

# Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 3 December 2024

# 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 6 November 2020. 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 3 October 2024**.** The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 1.** 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 9 February 2023. 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 minutes can be seen in **Appendix 2.** 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 2024

**Appendix 1**

# Minutes of Meeting of
# Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group
# Held on Thursday 3 October 2024
# Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present:

| | |
|---|---|
| Caroline Bradley (CB) | British Horse Society |
| Alex Law (AL) | Yorkshire Dales Access Forum |
| Peter Baggaley (PB) | 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 Lucy Sterry (LS).

## 2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved.

## 3. Membership of the group

RB asked members to consider the membership of the group as there were currently no carriage drivers present at the meeting. It was agreed to try and hold 2 meetings per year and for one oft hem to be held in the evening to try and get better attendance. RB said she would look at the terms of reference for the group and circulate it to members. This would then be amended and put to the full Local Access Forum for agreement.

**RB to circulate the terms of reference to members of the group.**

## 4. Active Travel Plan

RA gave members an introduction to the Active Travel Plan (ATP). All English NPA's have been given £100k from Active Travel England to produce an Active Travel Plan. For the YDNPA, this has meant the recruitment of a new post (Access and Recreation Project and Team Manager) to write the plan and implement it. The ATP will identify active travel opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, wheeling and powered cycling.

The first stage for RA is to engage with stakeholders. A conference will be held on the 17th of October at Grassington Town Hall to do just this. An invite has gone to all members of the LAF. If anyone else would like to attend, please inform RB.

The next stage will be to establish a steering group which will include user groups, Sustrans and the Local Unitary Authorities. A draft of the plan will be written by March 2025.

A public consultation will start next week (w/c 7/10/24) whereby people will be asked to show any improvements or suggestions on an interactive map. This will last for 4-6 weeks. This raised a discussion between members about how improvements can be made for local communities making short trips for local services and included parking and local transport issues.

CB expressed some concern with regards to shared routes between horse riders and cyclists.

RA thanked members for their input.

**RB to circulate the consultation to members of the Bridleways and the Restricted Byways Advisory Group and the full LAF when it open.**

## 5. Coast to Coast

AH gave an update on the Coast to Coast route.

CB thanked officers for working to get higher rights on the route.

PB said he had attended a recent meeting to look at the route at Cringley Bottom where the PROW descent to the bridleway bridge is too steep for horse riders and mountain bikers. The suggestion from the site visit was to continue along the walked route to the steep section and for the Coast to Coast path Project Manager to explore further options although it is recognised the slope is quite unstable.

## 6. Bridleway/Restricted Byway Issues

Marrick Park

The route upgrade of 2.5km of public footpath to bridleway at Marrick Park is now complete. The development of this project by Sheila Roberts, Rights of Way Officer and Michael Briggs, Area Ranger with the co-operation of the landowners along the route received a nomination from the BHS for the Lady Elizabeth Kirk Award which proved successful. Both officers will be attending a presentation ceremony at Newbury Racecourse to collect the award from HRH Princess Anne

## 7. Any Other Business

CB has been working on the following definitive map modification orders (DMMOs):

- Aysgarth – Stake Road
- Busk Lane – Stake Road
- Sedbusk – Skell Gill

RA added the following DMMOs:

- Malham Moor
- Thwaite Lane
- Dacre Lane – Langber Lane

## 8. Date of the next meeting

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

**Appendix 2**

**YORKSHIRE DALES GREEN LANES ADVISORY GROUP**
Thursday 7th of November 2024
Teams

Present:
Chair: Lizzie Bushby, (YDNPA Recreation Management Member Champion)

**Members present:**
John Bevan (Businessman and LAF)
Malcolm Petyt (Walker, cyclist and LAF)
Hannah Gardner (Horse rider and LAF)
Mike Gurney (North Yorkshire Council)
Leo Crone (TRF and LAF)
Hazel Wainwright (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Andy Brown (North Yorkshire Council)
Nathan Yeo (4x4 users)

**Officers in attendance:**
Rachel Briggs (YDNPA)
Rebecca Greenfield (YDNPA)
Rob Ashford (YDNPA)

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Neil Heseltine (Farmer & LAF), Andrew Macintosh (Natural England), Judith Neaves (Cumbria TRF), Mark Dale

All members of the group introduced themselves and were welcomed.

## 2. Notes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

## 3. Annual green lanes report 2018/19

The annual report was reviewed. Points discussed were as follows:

RB clarified how the loggers detect vehicles in terms of acoustic and magnetic readings. This allows for a distinction to be made between motorbikes, 4x4s and farm traffic.

MP asked about the increase in traffic on The Highways and asked if there was any way to tell which direction vehicles were accessing the route from. RB said that there is a logger at the Mallerstang end so it could be possible to look for correlations in data. RB explained that the figures show a percentage increase in numbers of

vehicles on the route and that the numbers of vehicles are still relatively low. A condition survey will be undertaken on the route to look at condition of the route.

JB asked if there was an update on Thwaite Lane in Clapham. Bethan Brown, North Yorkshire Council Definitive Map Officer, joined the meeting to give an update. An application went to the Planning Inspectorate to classify the route as a BOAT and a Restricted Byway for the tunnels section. The inspectorate decision has been to classify the whole route as a bridleway. This will be advertised in the local press from 7/11/24 and site notices will be erected. Comments to be received by 9/12/24. If there are any objections, then this is likely to go to a hearing. Bethan was thanked for her useful input.

## 4. Active Travel Plan

RA gave a presentation to the group on the Active Travel Pan for the Yorkshire Dales. He explained that there is currently a public consultation process whereby members of the public can make suggestions to the network. The consultation will end on the 22/11/24.
https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/3f589e75090c496193107e266ae27104

RA explained that whilst the plan doesn't include mechanically propelled vehicles, the plan may include some shared use routes that members of the YDGLAG might want to comment on. LC added that the Swale Trail is a good example of a shared use route. Share with care.

## 5. North Yorkshire Path Keepers

AB gave useful background on the North Yorkshire Council Path Keepers Scheme, which has been running since 2017. This involves practical work on the PROW and UUR network. The TRF are involved with the scheme, which focuses, mainly, in the East and West of the county.

LC said he would like to see this scheme extended to the YDNPA. RB said this would need to form part of the current, successful, Dales Volunteer programme and that she would discuss this with colleagues.

## 6. Green lanes condition surveys:

Marsett Bottoms

The report was noted by members.

RB explained to members the two condition surveys are undertaken each year. These are chosen by examining the figures from the vehicle logger data and seeing which have had the greatest increase in use.

JB asked if other users are considered when carrying out maintenance work on routes. This was a specific comment in response to the use of concrete slabs on Marsett Bottoms. AB said that the concrete slabs were textured and so were suitable for cyclists. RB added that the maintenance of the route was, in the main, due to the flooding of the route and that the concrete slabs were a great, durable surface.

Cam High Road, Bainbridge

The report was noted by members.

JB said that two areas showing deviation from the route looked like they were use by 4x4 and not motorbikes. This could, therefore, be agricultural use.

## 7. Any other business

NY asked if officers had any update on Bluecaster near Sedbergh which currently has a restriction on it due to a large hole developing along the route. RB said she would find out more about the issues and report back to the group.

RA suggested that the process by which definitive map work on any consultation received from Westmorland and Furness Council, North Yorkshire Council or Lancashire County Council, with either a potential upgrade or downgrade on the green lanes network, should be filtered through the green lanes advisory group.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in November 2025.

**Item No. 9**

# Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 3 December 2024

# Officer's Report

## 1. Purpose of the Report

The following report brings together, in one place, a collection of items for Members consideration and information.

## 2. Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2025

The following are the dates for meetings during 2025:

Tuesday 6 May 2025, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 9 December 2025, 1.15 pm @ Teams meeting

## 3. Authority Meetings

Any member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum can attend Authority Meetings as a member of the public. Please contact Rebecca Eslick for a copy of the agenda and supporting papers. Please note, it is not a requirement for members of the YDAF to attend Authority meetings, so it is not an 'approved duty' and LAF members cannot claim expenses for attending such meetings.

Authority Meeting Dates and Venues for 2025:

| Date | Venue | Time |
|---|---|---|
| 25/03/2025 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 13.00 |
| 24/06/2025 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 10.30 |
| 30/09/2025 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 13.00 |
| 16/12/2023 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 13.00 |

## 4. Large Scale Events

We are currently reviewing our guidance for organisers planning large scale events in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The aim of this guidance is to promote good practice, and actively engage with organisers to mitigate any negative effects their events may have, such as increased erosion and disruption to local communities, the local economy, and other users and facilities.

The existing guidance can be found here
https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/things-to-do/whats-on/large-scale-events/

Any comments LAF members might have on how the existing guidance might be improved can be brought to the meeting on the **3rd December 2024** or sent to Rebecca.greenfield@yorkshiredales.org.uk before the **14th January 2025.**

## 5. Terms of reference

After the meeting of the YDAF on 14 May 2024, the Terms of Reference for the forum were circulated for comments. Thank you to those members that submitted comments. In order to establish a useful document, it is suggested that a small group of members meet to work through the document outside the full forum setting. Members are asked to volunteer for an online meeting to move this forward.

## 6. Changing Places

As a result of government funding becoming available for the installation of changing places, the second changing places has been opened in the Yorkshire Dales at Grassington.

## 7. Eden Rivers Trust

The YDNPA has been involved with the Eden Rivers Trust National Lottery Heritage Fund project 'Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges'. 2 projects will be delivered in the YDNP – improve access to the Cumbria Wildlife Trust site at Smardale and to create a sensory Trail at Podgill Viaduct. The Defra Access Fund is being used as match funding improvement to the Smardale site.

## 8. Aysgarth

a joint project between the YDNPA and the local landowner has been awarded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grant funding of £102,664.61. This has been to create an accessible route from the National Park Centre to allow people with limited mobilities to access an area that has, previously, been too difficult to get to. The surfacing and fencing of the route will allow for the landowner to introduce livestock, safely and for the breeding wader population to thrive without the disturbance by dogs and people. This project has been the subject of a film on BBC Morning Live (https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0024g89/morning-live-series-6-30102024?seriesId=unsliced&page=1 34 minutes in).

Funding has also been made available for two Trampers on the site. The booking system is managed by Access the Dales and, so far, the feedback has been fantastic!

## 9. Cautley Spout

YDNPA has been funded £250,000 FiPL funding to remove and replace a bridleway bridge at Cautley Spout near Sedbergh. The current bridge has a stepped approach and is too narrow for bridleway access. The new bridge has been designed to be fully accessible and will allow views of Cautley Spout.

## 10. Gasrdale to Hawes

A 5.5 mile section of the former Wensleydale railway line passing through Hawes has been identified as a safe and attractive family-friendly route between Hawes and Garsdale station (on the Settle – Carlisle Network Rail line) and the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. None of this section is currently a public right of way. Progress is as follows:

- There was overwhelming support from the public when we first consulted them on the idea. 77% indicated they are in favour of the project in what was one of the most engaged public consultations the Authority has undertaken. 82% of respondents who described themselves as living and/or working or owning a business in the National Park are in favour of the idea. We are engaging proactively with landowners.
  The project steering group involving both Authority Members and officers continues to meet regularly to drive the project forward.

## 11. Active Travel

The YDNPA has received funding from Active Travel England capacity fund to develop an active travel plan. This has involved: -

- Creation of a new role 'Access and Recreation team and project manager' to lead on the active travel plan
- Active travel conference. Conference to engage key stakeholders and local authorities in October.
- Formed a steering group committee to advise on the development of the active travel policy.
- Public consultation. Residents, visitors and organisations have been asked to suggest their active travel routes around the Yorkshire Dales. https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/public-asked-for-active-travel-wishlist/
- Network planning sessions with the three YDNPA Ranger teams to utilise Ranger local knowledge of any missing links.
- Sustrans were commissioned to identify corridors within the National Park with potential active travel routes and conducted a 5-day cycle tour survey of some routes in the Yorkshire Dales. This has resulted in 4 corridors/areas being identified with active travel potential and a baseline GIS map showing relevant data sets and an aspirational network.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
November 2024