Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
To be held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 1:15pm
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Meeting to commence at 1.15pm

1. Election of a Chair
2. Election of a Vice Chair
3. Welcome and introductions
4. Attendance and apologies
5. Approval of minutes, and matters arising (not on the agenda)
6. Public Question time
7. Future Forum Meetings
   - Agenda Items
   - Dates
8. Review of nominated LAF members on groups linked to the Forum
9. Public Rights of Way annual report Plan
10. Yorkshire Dales National Park Active Travel
11. Removing barriers
12. Officer's Report (items for note and consideration by Forum Members)
13. 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 (LAF)
Tuesday 9 December 2025
Meeting held via Teams

Members present: Hannah Gardner (HG) (in the Chair), Jon Beavan (JB), Leo Crone (LC), Neil Heseltine (NH) Malcolm Petyt (MP), Abby Day (AD), Lizzie Bushby (LB), Mark Sutcliffe (MS), Ian Clemmett (IC)

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

Members of The Public present: Ruth Annison and Paul Benson.

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

25/13. Welcome and introductions.

HG opened the meeting and welcomed everyone; all attendees made short introductions.

25/14. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Bucknall, Graeme Cowling, Barbara Gravenor and Alex Law.

25/15. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on **6 May 2025**, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

There was a minor amendment to clarify apologies between Members who did not attend or send apologies, and those who had sent apologies. There were no matters arising which were not already covered by items on the agenda.

25/16. Question Time

i) Ruth Annison's Public Statement

Ruth Annison read out a statement relating to the Settle-Carlisle Anniversary events in 2026 which may offer opportunities for the Access Forum to develop or promote some aspects of its own work.

2026 marks the 150th Anniversary of the *opening* of the Settle-Carlisle line to passenger traffic in 1876; (freight trains began the previous year, in 1875).

2026 also marks the 40th Anniversary of the *re-opening* of Garsdale and 7 other small stations which had been closed since 1970. These re-opened stations were: Armathwaite, Lazonby & Kirkoswald; Langwathby, Kirkby Stephen, Garsdale, Dent, Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Ribblehead. The re-opening of these 8 stations (Settle and Appleby had never been closed) brought many rural communities - and their visitors - within reach of a main line railway station once again.

HG thanked Mrs Annison for providing the statement.

Members commented as follows:

- MS – A good opportunity for NPA to combine Active Travel and Settle Carlisle. One big issue is the capacity for bicycles on SC trains needs to be addressed and he offered to help campaign towards this aim.
- HG – suggested organising some guided walks to coincide.
- Lizzie Bushby – Has this been shared with the Comms team? This could be linked with walks with station/ rail routes.
- MP Friends of Carlisle already organise walks, the Authority could compliment these other walks.
- RA – Settle Carlisle walks are free as part of Ride to Stride Festival at Easter. Crowded trains mean lack of space for bicycles.
- AD – How do we help neurodiverse or people with disabilities – look at accessibility issues and communications to encourage and provide for them.
- J Be– Thanked Ruth for highlighting the anniversary and agreed there was potential to lobby Network Rail/Northern. An opportunity to encourage sustainable Mountain Bike/Walking routes include details of accommodation along the line when promoting. Bicycle capacity an issue.

25/17. Future Forum Meetings

Agenda items: None

Dates: Members noted the dates for the next meetings of the Forum on 12 May (in person at Yoredale and 8 December 2026 (Teams meeting online).

25/18. Report back from Advisory Groups

Members noted the report from the Access Officer, who had circulated the draft minutes from the relevant groups.

Access For All Advisory Group
AB raised the concerns that there was a lack of accessible accommodation within the Park.

Action: RB to invite a planning officer to the next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Groups
RB updated the meeting on behalf of Alex Law, explaining the work conducted by the group reviewing large maps of the bridleway network. Any issues were

highlighted on the maps and then digitalised by RB, and the information was passed on to Rangers for project work.

JBe requested the digitised maps be circulated to YDAF members so that they can also comment and raise any issues and make suggestions for short links or improvements to the routes.

Action: RB to email members with the digitised maps.

Cave and Crag Advisory Group
JBe advised that there had not been a meeting for a while and gave an update on the bird breeding. JBe reported that the Gordale Scar footpath restriction was still in place after the rockfall. AH reported back that discussions were still ongoing with the Parish Council and the BMC volunteers had cleared the debris and loose materials from the face. NH also reported that the tree work at the top was still to be completed and the delay meant that the restriction would remain in place.
NH Changes in Land ownership and tricky working with them re access to caves and crags

Update: YDNPA have recently conducted a Risk Assessment in relation to the re-opening of the Public Footpath to Gordale Scar. The conclusion of the Risk Assessment was to re-open, but a closure will be put in place when tree works are conducted at a future date.

Countryside Rights of Way Access (CROW)
HG stated that some activities were not included within the CROW Act (such as water sports). This has been picked up by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature (APPG) made up of all user groups and they have produced a document which was submitted to Govt, requesting revisions to the CROW act to widen access.

Action: HG to send a weblink to LAF Members

JBe pointed out that whilst some activities, such as wild swimming, paragliding, and horse riding, are specifically excluded from the CROW Act, caving is not specifically excluded in the Act. The issue is the ambiguous wording of the act. The matter needs to be raised with Natural England /Defra.
The Chair of the Council for the Northern Caving Community has a meeting with the APPG next week.

25/19. Garsdale to Hawes multiuser route

Presentation by Elliott Lorimer Director of Park Services

- HG - What has been offered to the LO's to take on this scheme.

EL responded that negotiations lead to a valuation by land agents providing a level of settlement. Following negotiations Agreement in Principle could be provided to landowners who could then accept the valuations.

- HG - Can Fipl be money offered?

EL responded that this is only for the period in which the funding is available.

- IC - Will the Landscape Recovery scheme be able to fund this?

Action: EL to find out the details of this scheme from the Director of Conservation and Community and report back

- AD - What are the objections from the Landowners?

EL – 3 main concerns are on privacy grounds; some were around agricultural interests and others around game shooting interests.

- MP – there are 4 recreational lines in the Peak District and there has been a missed opportunity in the past for YDNPA. HG Very supportive for the Garsdale Hawes line as a multi user route.
- JBe - Need to increase capacity for bikes on Settle Carlisle line.
- HG – there is a good film made by Cycling UK extending Pennine bridleway and shows how this could link with Garsdale Hawes multi user route.

25/20. **Donations Schemes**

Presentation by Alan Hulme Head of Park Management
In response to the Audit and Review Committee's concern about future funding of the Rights of Way, an investigation into funding opportunities was conducted. YDNPA already have the 3 peaks donation scheme. A further donation scheme could potentially run alongside this as a 'Donate a gate' type scheme. There are 4,630 stiles and 5,960 gates in the park. By law it is the landowner who has a duty to maintain stile and gates on public rights of way. The Highway Authority is required to make a minimum contribution of 25%. The YDNPA is delegated this responsibility from the three Highway Authorities covering the park. Public Rights of Way are aa Authority Priority Programme and currently conducts this work on behalf of landowners. During investigations various other schemes in the UK and National parks were investigated.

Comments and queries included:

- AD – was astonished that Landowners are responsible but don't do it and don't pay for it and YDNPA take on that responsibility and now are asking for public donations. Is this the situation?

AH responded that is the current and historic situation. He explained that fences and walls gates and stiles were not there originally, so the stiles and gates have been added across the PROW, so the responsibility lies with the Landowner who has added them in the past and the Highway Authority has a duty to provide a minimum of 25% of the costs.
Relations are very good with Landowners and the Authority requires their co-operation and agreement to carry out the continual improvement and enhancement of the network for the publics benefit.

- NH - YDNPA wants the Rights of Way to be consistent and of a high quality and maintained in good condition to benefit all users.
- NH is the donation scheme specifically donating to a fingerpost, stile or gate or can they donate as a general amount?
- LC - is it possible to have a suggestion box on the website so that specific items of footpath furniture can be repaired or replaced.

- HG – Lake District NPA reduced the funding, and the ROW deterriated quickly and are not in good order.Officers spend more time trying to persuade Landowners to repair replace their gates than it would take to repair or replace.
  HG agreed with NH, one pot of money for specific projects.
- JBe - Supportive of the scheme – people like to donate to a specific project rather than a general pot.

AH responded that the donation pot idea can be considered alongside the pilot scheme to seek donations for a specific signpost, stile or gates.

The donations scheme is being piloted with YDMT and looking to securing funding for infrastructure items. However, the Authority will always look at specific donations for specific projects but there is no formal way of the doing that and tends to respond to individual requests as they are made. All the network is regularly monitored and we have a good idea of what repairs projects are required.
Info@yorkshiredales.org.uk can be used to report issue, identify projects and start discussions on the donation process to a specific item or project.

Action: AH - All comments to be taken away and considered

25/21. Officer's Report
RB – provided the dates for the National Park Authority meetings.

Authority Meeting Dates and Venues for 2025/26:

Date	Venue	Time
16/12/2025	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
31/03/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
30/06/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
29/09/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
15/12/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00

A useful CROW report details all restriction and comparisons with other NPA's

Active Travel Plan confirmed 21 multi user routes and 7 local infrastructure schemes have been identified.

The 3 year term of LAF members will be ending shortly, members will be contacted, and recruitment will start in May 2026.A press release will be issued and an interview panel has been set, consisting of the Director Park Services, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.

C2C National Trail update - March 2026 is the official opening.

Westmorland Furness Way – Is a signed walk from Alston to Furness Abbey using existing long distance routes around 200 km and there will be accessible sections connected by bus or by train, the launch will be in Summer 2026.

25/22. Update on Members' Activities

NH – Work on land in Malham on the Pennine Way to improve a wet section making it more accessible was recently completed. It has been funded through Pennine National Trail Partnership supported by Natural England.

25/23. Any other business

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:50 p.m.

Item No. 8

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 12 May 2026

Review of nominated LAF members on Advisory Groups linked to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to:

(a) remind members of the advisory groups that the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF) contribute towards, through a representative(s) of the YDAF attending meetings, and

(b) seek representative(s) from the YDAF on these groups for the current year.

Background

There are several different types of meeting where the YDAF are asked to provide a representative. These can be:

- Meetings looking at a specific project or idea,
- Meetings looking at specific recreation activities with user groups,
- Meetings with other organisations e.g. the Highway Authorities.

From time to time, other groups and meetings also require members from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. A full list of YDAF representatives on each group can be seen in the **Appendix**.

At the meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum on 22 May 2007[1] a paper was discussed on the formation of Advisory Groups. The remit of these groups is to:

- exchange information, and provide a formal mechanism for communication and raising issues of concern on specific areas of interest;
- advise on the management of specific matters.

There are currently seven Advisory Groups:

- Access on Foot Advisory Group e.g. open access, footpaths.
- Bridleway and Restricted Byway Advisory Group e.g. bridleways, restricted byways.
- Air Sports Advisory Group e.g. paragliding, hang gliding.
- Water Sports Advisory Group e.g. canoeing, sailing.

[1] http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/lookingafter/caringfor/managingaccess/ydaf/ydlaf-meetings/ydlaf-archive/ydlaf-may2007

- Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group e.g. caving, climbing.
- Access for All Advisory Group e.g. access for people with limited mobilities.
- Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group (recreational motor vehicular use of green lanes, up to four members appointed from YDAF).

Who should represent the YDAF?

The Annual General meeting of the YDAF gives members of the forum the opportunity to revisit who sits on each group and decide whether representation should be changed in any way. This is to take into account new members of the Forum, together with any vacancies that may have occurred due to members resigning from the Forum.

Ideally, where more than one member is required on a group, YDAF membership to the groups should be balanced. That is to say, if there are three vacancies for members, one should be a user, one a landowner/manager and another to represent those with other interests - as far as practical. This ideal situation may not always occur as members are volunteers and cannot always commit time in this way. The reality is that the YDAF may wish to consider appointing a representative based on their ability and willingness to attend a meeting rather than the particular interest they represent.

Vacancies during the year

The list of groups and membership is brought to the Forum once a year at the first meeting of the year. If any vacancies arise during the year, these will be considered in the Chair/Officers report as appropriate.

Action for the Forum

The Forum is asked to nominate and agree a representative(s) for membership of each of the groups listed in the **Appendix**.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
May 2026

Appendix

Forum Members Attendance at Other Groups and Meetings

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHO CURRENTLY?	REPRESENTING?	NUMBER OF SPACES
Access on Foot Advisory Group	At least once a year	Barbara Gravenor Abby Day	Users	2
Access for All Advisory Group	At least once a year	John Bucknall Abby Day	Landowners Other interests	2
Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group	At least once a year	Alex Law Hannah Gardner	Landowners Other interests	2
Air Sports Advisory Group	When an issue arises	All members to be informed when an issue arises.		
Water Sports Advisory Group	When an issue arises			
Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group	When an issue arises	Jon Beavan Barbara Gravenor Ian Clement	Other Interests Users	2
Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group	When an issue arises	Jon Beavan Malcolm Petyt Hannah Gardner Leo Crone	Other Interests Users Other interests Users	
Yorkshire and Humber Regional LAF	Twice a year	Chair or Vice Chair attends and minutes reported back to the YDAF.		
Other meetings that require attendance	All members to be informed when a member of the YDAF is asked to attend other meetings of interest.			

Item No 9

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – May 2026

Public Rights of Way Annual Report

Purpose of the report

1. To provide Members of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum with the opportunity to comment on the Rights of Way prior to submission to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in June. The annual report identifies progress made on public rights of way maintenance against our own targets under the delegation agreements with North Yorkshire and Westmorland and Furness Councils and Lancashire County Council.

What the YDAF are being asked to do

2. YDAF Members are asked to comment on the Rights of Way Annual Report **Appendix 1** before submission to the Authority.

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

    - **National Park Management Plan Objectives**
      3.1. Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average, 90% remain 'easy to use', and create 5 new 'miles without stiles' routes that are suitable for a diverse range of ages and abilities.

      3.2. Manage and promote the Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway and Coast to Coast Path National Trails and other long-distance routes, and improve linkages from the Coast to Coast Path to five nearby settlements

Background

4. The Rights of Way annual report for 2025/26 (**Appendix 1**), identifies progress made by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) on public rights of way maintenance against our Corporate Plan actions and targets. This work is undertaken through delegation agreements on behalf of the three Highway Authorities that cover their respective areas of the National Park. As part of the agreements, the YDNPA is required to submit a report to these Highway Authorities each year.

5. The Authority has previously taken on responsibility for rights of way maintenance functions on the basis that a well-managed rights of way network is considered essential for the delivery of the YDNPA's statutory purposes.

Ease of Use Target

6. The Authority's current objectives for rights of way maintenance is based on National Park Management Plan objective 3.1. which states:

   Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average,90% remain 'easy to use'.

7. 'Ease of use' in this context is based on a nationally established performance indicator for rights of way and is defined as:

   I. signposted or waymarked where the right of way leaves the metalled road and to the extent necessary to allow users to follow the path;
   II. free from unlawful obstructions and other interference (including overhanging vegetation);
   III. surface and lawful barriers (e.g. stiles, gates) in good repair and to a standard necessary to enable the public to use the way without undue inconvenience.

8. In simple terms, a member of the public should be able to follow a route easily and not encounter anything that detracts from the enjoyment of the route whether on foot, horse, bicycle or using a mobility scooter.

9. There is a note of caution, as the 'ease of use' indicator measures a 5% random sample of rights of way across the network, as such figures will fluctuate year on year. Results over several years are required to average out any sampling variation and determine the figure which is a true reflection of the network.

10. The 2025 survey has resulted in a figure of 88%. Although the National Park Management Plan has a target of 90%, the operational target for 2025/26 was set at 88% to reflect the resource implications of delivering several major projects during the year, including implementation of the Coast to Coast Path National Trail, works at Cross Keys Bridge, and the Smardale to Waitby Greenriggs accessible footpath scheme.

11. The 88% result may, in part, be attributable to the randomised nature of the survey. However, it is also notable that the number of maintenance tasks completed during 2025/26 decreased by 13%, from 794 in 2024/25 to 688 in 2025/26. It is anticipated that, as these significant capital projects reach completion, resources will be redirected back towards routine maintenance activities, supporting future improvements in the 'ease of use' indicator over the coming year.

National Trails

12. In 2022, the Government announced that the Coast to Coast Path would become a new National Trail. The 197-mile path, stretching from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay in the North York Moors National Park, passes through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. National Trail status achieves the previous National Park Management Plan objective B2 in relation to the Coast to Coast Path:

'Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes, identify opportunities for new multi-user routes, and campaign for the Coast to Coast path to become a National Trail by 2024'.

13. Natural England (NE) was allocated £5.6 million of Government funding to improve the route. NE has worked alongside local partner organisations to ensure the path meets the National Trail Quality Standards and is fully open and available for public use.

14. Enhancement works on the route in the Yorkshire Dales National Park have now been completed and culminated in the official opening of the route on the 26 March 2026 at Dales Bike Centre in Reeth.

15. Whilst the Coast to Coast Path has existed for many years, it had not benefited from the promotion and status of being a National Trail. Natural England and partners are continuing to look at the wider benefits of designation, including opportunities to develop link routes and circular routes; engage with local communities and businesses; improve nature connectivity; information provision; and wider tourism opportunities. This work will continue through the establishment of the Coast to Coast Path Partnership in 2026/27, of which the Authority will act as the lead partner.

16. The Authority continues to act as the 'lead partner' and accountable body for the Pennine National Trails Partnership, which oversees the management and maintenance of the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway. During the past year, the Authority has distributed 41 grants to 12 different partner organisations, and the partnership has managed £739k of grant expenditure overall. This included a one-off grant of £340k for accessibility enhancements along both Pennine National Trails.

Volunteers

17. Volunteering opportunities to help survey and maintain public rights of way have continued throughout the year. In total 1000 days of practical work, and 428 days of surveying, were undertaken by volunteers during the year. This equates to approximately 6.5 full time equivalent staff.

18. The surveying of all the 2642km rights of way in the National Park is a significant achievement, and helps the YDNPA plan the work required for the coming year. The survey work includes:

    - Conducting both 'Ease of Use' surveys and Parish Path surveys for the entire network of the National Park;
    - A visual inspection and report on each bridge in the National Park;
    - Inputting all survey information into Authority's IT database.

Funding

19. We continue to seek external income to resource this work programme. During 2025/26 we were successful in bringing in £875k of external funding, with individual contributions and contributions 'in kind' from various sources.

Looking Forward

20. The Authority is now entering the final year of its current financial agreement with Westmorland & Furness Council for the delivery of the delegation agreement referenced previously. Initial discussions have commenced regarding the development of a new delegation and financial agreement, with the aim of ensuring continuity of service provision and enabling the Authority to continue delivering enhancements to the rights of way network for the benefit of all users.

Conclusion

21. The importance placed on rights of way maintenance and access is often cited as one of the advantages of being within a National Park. With the lengthening of the season and increasing importance placed on individual health and wellbeing, this year's visitor numbers have remained high.

22. Works on the Coast to Coast Path have continued after being confirmed as a National Trail, and with this status comes significant financial resources for implementation and future maintenance, as well as the route itself offering 'wider benefit' opportunities to local communities and businesses.

23. Rights of way maintenance and volunteering continue to make an important contribution to the work of the YDNPA and specifically National Parks' second purpose. As a priority programme for the Authority, our aim is to ensure the National Park has one of the best maintained rights of way networks in the country.

Alan Hulme
Head of Park Management

29 April 2026

Appendix 1

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Public Rights of Way
Delegated Highway Authority

Annual Report 2025/26

April 2026

Introduction

1. For the period of this report, April 2025 to March 2026, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) held the delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for maintenance of the 2,642km of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic, and restricted byways) within the National Park area.

2. The public rights of way Delegation Agreements are for: North Yorkshire Council (NYC) 1924km and Westmorland & Furness Council (W&F) 711 km and Lancashire County Council (LCC) 16km.

3. The Delegation Agreements cover a broad range of functions that allow for the management of public paths on the ground. These functions can be summarised as:

    - Signposting of public paths
    - The maintenance and improvement of public paths
    - The maintenance of river crossings
    - Traffic Regulation Orders and Temporary Closure Orders
    - Enforcement and protection of public rights.

4. The Authority has taken on these responsibilities because it recognises that a well-maintained rights of way network is fundamental to the achievement of its statutory purposes, particularly its second purpose - promoting the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park. By holding these responsibilities directly, the Authority is able to undertake maintenance and improvement works in a proactive and coordinated manner, ensuring that the network is managed effectively and in the interests of all users.

About this Report

5. This report identifies the key achievements for the year 2025/26. It considers the Authority's corporate actions, targets and progress relating to the following areas:

    - General maintenance
    - River crossings
    - Major projects
    - Path Orders and Definitive Map
    - Management of the Pennine National Trails Partnership
    - Development of the Coast to Coast Path as a National Trail
    - Unclassified Unsurfaced Roads (North Yorkshire)

Key Achievements 2025/26

Public Rights of Way Maintenance

6. During 2025/26 the following maintenance work was undertaken:

   - 688 improvements to rights of way infrastructure: stiles, gates and signposts;
   - 34 river crossings maintained or replaced;
   - 2.4km of new engineered paths constructed;
   - 920m of engineered paths repaired.

7. A total of **£874,998** of external funding and in-kind contributions were secured for rights of way projects in the National Park. The breakdown is as follows:

Value	Description
£ 38,200	Westmorland and Furness Council contribution;
£ 50,000	North Yorkshire Council contribution;
£ 20,000	National Trust, Cross Keys Bridge, Cautley;
£ 3,083	YDMT & Ramblers Assoc, Cross Keys Bridge, Cautley;
£ 101,156	National Trails Partnership Manager (inc. £16,519 as Lead Partner);
£ 37,305	Pennine Way Ranger;
£ 3,500	Pennine Way, maintenance;
£ 43,743	Pennine Way, Malham Cove, Black Hole Bridge (Access for All, NT);
£ 22,591	Pennine Bridleway Officer;
£ 2,100	Pennine Bridleway, maintenance;
£ 6,169	Pennine Bridleway, The Highway (Access for All, NT);
£ 5,206	Pennine Bridleway, Arten Gill (Access for All, NT);
£ 30,810	Three Peaks Project (£30,810towards staff costs);
£ 17,009	Freeholders Wood, Aysgarth, accessibility improvements;
£ 361,586	Coast to Coast Path initial implementation of route;
£ 73,710	Coast to Coast Path (Access for All);
£ 4,217	Path Orders;
£ 32,192	Works to Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads (NYC inc. £2,281 staff);
£ 12,190	Malham path (FiPL);
£ 3,800	Production of signs from workshop;
£ 2,431	Donations towards various for projects across the park.
£ 870,998	**Total**

Contribution in kind:

£ 4,000	Brackenbottom stone pitching, Heidelberg (Stone blocks)
£ 874,998	**Grand Total**

Pennine Way

8. Total funding secured for the Pennine Way, for 2025/26, was £84,548:

£ 37,305	Pennine Way Ranger;
£ 3,500	Pennine Way, maintenance;
£ 43,743	Pennine Way, Malham Cove and Black Hole Bridge (access enhancements).

Pennine Bridleway

9. Total funding secured for the Pennine Bridleway, for 2025/26, was £36,066:

£ 22,591	Pennine Bridleway Officer;
£ 2,100	Pennine Bridleway, maintenance;
£ 6,169	The Highway accessibility enhancements;
£ 5,206	Arten Gill, accessibility enhancements.

Pennine National Trails Partnership

10. During 2025/26, the Authority continued in its role as the lead partner and accountable body for the Pennine National Trails partnership. It is anticipated that the Authority will continue performing this role for the foreseeable future.

11. Functions of the lead partner include to:

- Accept the grant offer from Natural England (NE) and claim and receive payments;
- Have an oversight of delivery and report to NE about how our financial support has been used by the partnership and what has been; achieved;
- Ensure that partners have the opportunity to participate in the management and development of the maintenance of the trails.

12. Over the last year, the Partnership has met on two occasions once by video conference and once in-person. Through the Partnership, the Authority has:

- Received from NE an initial grant of £398,763
- Distributed 24 grants to 12 different partners;
- Received addition one-off grant for accessibility enhancements of £339,713;
- Distributed a further 17 grants to 8 different partners:
- Total expenditure on the Pennine National Trails in 2025/26 was £781,646 with use from additional reserves.

13. The Authority received £101,156 (100%) grant for the Partnership Manager post including £16,519 income for hosting of the Partnership Manager and its role as lead partner.

Coast to Coast Path National Trail

14. On 12 August 2022, it was announced by the Secretary of State that the Coast to Coast Path stretching from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay in the North York Moors National Park passing through the Yorkshire Dales National Park would become a new National Trail. The official opening of the route took place on 26 March 2026 at Reeth.

15. Natural England continued to work alongside partners to improve the popular route, with £5.6 million committed to upgrade the 194-mile path. The announcement, which delivered on a Government commitment to develop the route, will also ensure long-term support for the National Trail. The Authority is seeking to become the lead partner for the new partnership to be established in 2026/27.

16. The necessary legal and establishment work has been undertaken by the YDNPA to ensure that the path is fully open through the Dales, available for public use, and meets the National Trail Quality Standards. To date, 12 Path Orders and 7 creation agreements have been completed. Only one section remains that has yet to be dedicated as a public right of way. However, this section passes through Crosby Ravensworth Fell, which is dedicated as 'Open Access' land. The Authority will continue to work to secure this section as a public right of way.

17. During 2025/26, work on flagging the route over White Mossy Hill to access Nine Standards Rigg was completed. In addition, the Project Team consisting of a Project Manager, Senior Rights of Way Officer and an Administration Support Officer have implemented a series of enhancement projects, including signing of various sections of the National Trail through the park.

18. During the whole project (from 2024 to 2026), the following has been achieved:

- c.£1.4million investment in the PRoW network;
- 5,503m (of which 1,063m bridleway) of PRoW has been designated as Public Rights of Way;
- An additional 3.2km of PRoW that is step/stile free and a minimum of 900mm wide;
- 2,998m of additional flagged/pitched path to support access and manage surface erosion;
- 5 new bridges, maintenance works on a further three bridges:
- 169m of aggregate path;
- 100m of board walk installed/repaired.
- 12 Diversion Orders completed
- 7 Creation Agreements completed

Three Peaks

19. During 2025/26 implementation of the Three Peaks Project has continued, with a focus on carrying out repairs to 200m of public footpath at Brackenbottom, Horton in Ribblesdale.

20. The Three Peaks Project raised £33,284 towards the cost of the Three Peaks Ranger. The main streams of income are through Donations £16,841, App sales £5,178 and merchandise generating another £8,102.

Path Orders and Definitive Map

21. During 2025/26 progress has continued on Public Path Orders. The following Orders were completed by the Authority:

Public Path Orders

North Yorkshire Council	**Order Process**
Reeth Bottoms, Diversion, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Steps Wood, Diversion, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Otterington Plantation, Diversion, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Cringley Bottom, Diversion, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Nun Cote Nook, Diversion, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Blackthwaite Diversion, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Creation Agreements	
White Mossy Hill, Coast to Coast Path	Completed
Variation Order	
Bunton Hush/High Gorton, Coast to Coast Path	Approved
Westmorland & Furness Council	
Foxhole Rigg, Sedbergh. Diversion, Town & Country Planning Act 1990	Confirmed
Smardale Cottage, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed
Creation agreements	
Ravenstonedale Moor, Coast to Coast Path	Completed
Crosby Garrett Fell (1), Coast to Coast Path	Completed
Crosby Garrett Fell (2), Coast to Coast Path	Completed
Crosby Garrett Fell (3) Coast to Coast Path,	Completed
Smardale Bridge, Coast to Coast Path	Completed
Creation Order	
Tarn Moor, Coast to Coast Path	Confirmed

Temporary and Emergency Closure Orders

North Yorkshire	**Order Process**
Aysgarth Falls Hotel, to allow for development	On-going
Hazel Gill, Mallerstang, to allow for replacement of private access bridge	Completed
Malham, to allow for tree felling Gordale Scar	Completed
Stainforth , to allow for replacement of footbridge	Completed

Resources

22. In 2025/26, there were 8.2 full time equivalent (FTE) members of staff working on rights of way maintenance, and 1 Rights of Way Officer (job share) undertaking Path Orders. The Authority's rights of way maintenance budget was £161k.

23. In addition, there were a further 3.6 FTE externally funded posts. These were:

Pennine Way Ranger (1.0 FTE)
The Authority received 63% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Way Ranger.

Pennine Bridleway Project Officer (0.6 FTE)
The Authority received 63% funding for their maintenance role.

Three Peaks Ranger (0.8 FTE)
During 2025/26, the Three Peaks Ranger post, collected £30,810 through the Friends and corporate members, merchandise and event donations to fully cover costs for the coming year 2026/27.

Coast to Coast Path National Trail
The Authority received 100% funding from Natural England for the Coast to Coast Path Project Team.

Coast to Coast Path, Project Manager (0.6 FTE)

Coast to Coast Path, Senior Rights of Way Officer (0.6 FTE to Sept 2025)

Coast to Coast Path, Administration Support Officer (0.6 FTE to Sept 2025)

24. The Authority is also supported by the Dales Volunteers and other volunteers from partner organisations. In total, during 2025/26, 1,000days of practical work, and 430 days of surveying, were undertaken on the rights of way network by volunteers. This equates to approximately 6.5 full time staff equivalents. The surveying of all the rights of way in the National Park is a significant achievement, and means the Authority is in an excellent place to ascertain exactly the work required for the coming year.

Corporate Plan 2025/26

25. The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan, 2025/26, sets out a programme of works and measures to assist in achieving the aims of the National Park Management Plan.

Specific performance indicators identified for 2025/26:

Performance Indicators	21/22 Actual	22/23 Actual	23/24 Actual	24/25 Actual	**25/26 Target**	**25/26 Actual**
% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road	(98%)	(99%)	(99%)	(96%)	**98%**	**98%**
% of rights of way that are easy to use but may not follow the definitive line	(90%)	(91%)	(89%)	(92%)	**88%**	**88%**

26. Specific Corporate Plan actions for 2025/26 were:

Action	NYC In the park	W&F In the park	LCC In the park	Total	Achieved
Conduct repair works across the National Park so that on average 88% of routes are 'easy to use'	**86%**	**93%**	**0***	**88%**	Yes
Maintain existing roadside signs so that the number of places where a right of way is signposted from a metalled road remains at 96%	**99%**	**97%**	**93%**	**98%**	Yes
Carry out engineering works to 500m of public rights of way, with projects at Cawden (Malham) and Brackenbottom (Horton)	**500**			**500**	Yes
Cross Keys/Cautley project by carrying out works to improve 640m of bridleway.		640		640	Yes
Repair 120m of previously engineered route at Buckden Pike	120				Yes
Implement phase 2 of the Coast-to-Coast Path White Mossy Hill Project		2100			Yes
Replace Gammersgill stepping stones in Coverdale	Postponed to 26/27 to allow for installation within window for licence to work in river.				No
Secure £30,000 towards the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks route.					Yes
In conjunction with NYC, continue to implement a programme of improvements to unsurfaced unclassified roads.					Yes
Continue legal works to establish the Coast-to-Coast Path through the National Park					Yes
Install the remainder of the Coast-to-Coast Path National Trail branded signs					Yes

*No routes were randomly selected in the Lancashire area of the park

Performance Indicators by area

27. The table below breaks down the performance indicators further. The individual county figures are given in relation to the network of rights of way within each individual area. (Results are taken from the Yorkshire Dales Access Recording Database, rather than field survey, and for the whole National Park area unless stated).

Performance Indicator	Target	NYC In the park	W&F In the park	LCC In the park	YDNPA
% of Rights of Way that are Easy to Use by members of the public (but may not follow the definitive line) Field Survey	88%	86%	93%	0%*	88%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	96%	99%	97%	93%	98%
% of infrastructure - stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	95%	93%	92%	90%	93%

*No routes were randomly selected in the Lancashire area of the park

Ease of Use results

28. The Authority's 2025/26 objective for rights of way maintenance is based on the National Park Management Plan 2025 - 2030. However, the objective for 2025/26 was set at 88%, recognising the resources being allocated to major projects during 2025/26:

Target *Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average, 90% remain 'easy to use', and create five new 'miles without stiles' routes that are suitable for a diverse range of ages and abilities.*

29. In 2013, the English National Park Authorities Joint Improvement Group (JIG) agreed to collect one indicator, across all the English National Parks. The indicator for 'Ease of Use' for the English National Parks is:

- % Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' but may not follow the exact definitive line.

30. Each year's survey selects, randomly, a number of paths making up a minimum of 5% of the overall network. In total, approximately 127km were surveyed (102km NYC, 25km W&FC & 0km LCC) in the National Park in 2025. The 'Ease of Use' figure is then calculated from the length of routes which pass the 'Ease of Use' definitions as agreed by the English National Parks Joint Improvement Group.

2025 Ease of Use Results	NYC In the Park	W&F In the Park	LCC In the park	YDNPA
% Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' but may not follow the exact definitive line in the National Park	88	93	0	**88%**

Signing

Target. *Maintain at 98% the proportion of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road in 2025/26.*

31. The Authority's 2025/26 objective for 'signing' was based on the whole of the National Park and Corporate Action Plan targets. The calculations below give a accurate picture of the situation across the National Park.

32. The Access Recording System indicates that there were 2,316 places in the National Park requiring a signpost at the roadside. There were (98%) in-situ with 40 (2%) missing. During 2025/26, 84 directional signs were replaced or repaired where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (footpath/bridleway), distance and destination. In addition, 60 signposts have been replaced or repaired, indicating direction, distance or status along public rights of way in the National Park.

33. Signposts from a Metalled Road based on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Recording System:

	Total	Present	Missing	% in situ
YDNPA	2316	2277	40	**98%**
NYC	1475	1461	14	99%
W&F	813	789	24	97%
LCC	28	26	2	93%

General Maintenance

34. The following section provides a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out during 2025/26, in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the rights of way network. Maintenance tasks conducted (688) have decreased by 13% during 2025/26, as against (794) in 2024/25.

Infrastructure

Type	**Total improved 2025/26**
Ladder Stile	13
Timber Step Stile	53
Stone Step Stile	94
Stone Squeeze Stile	95
Fieldgate > 5ft	113
Handgate < 5ft	94
Kissing Gate	3
Boardwalk	18
Signpost (directional on route)	60
Waymarker post	33
Information Sign	1
Roadside Signpost Present	84
Steps	9
Culvert	6
Cross drains	12
Total	688

River Crossings (includes bridges and stepping stones)

TYPE	**W&F**	**NYC**	**YDNPA**	
	repair/replaced/ erected	repair/replaced/ erected	Total improved	Total in Park
Bridges	5	29	34	915
Stepping Stones	0	0	0	34
Total				949

Miles without Stiles

35. 'Miles Without Stiles' is a term that's been adopted by UK National Parks for stile-free routes, meaning that they are suitable for those with limited mobility. Wherever an existing right of way is being maintained, the opportunity to replace potential barriers to access with more accessible features will always be considered, e.g. replacing a ladder stile with a gap or gate. The less remote a route is, the more stringently this criterion will be applied.

36. The Authority also continue to measure two 'access for all' indicators against strict criteria as laid out by The Sensory Trust in its document 'By All Reasonable Means'. The first was originally based on the Countryside Agency 'Zone A' national standard (equivalent to BT Access for All Standard 3), that is routes designed for wheelchair users. The second was more challenging routes capable of being used by wheelchair users with someone strong assisting.

37. The length of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited mobility is 266km. Physical barriers along rights of way continue to be reduced by removing stiles and replacing with gates.

Major Projects

38. Under the delegation agreements, the Authority has responsibility for the surface condition of rights of way. Each year projects are identified by Rangers, for specific works which either improve 'Ease of Use', or enhance a route. The projects listed below are those with a capital expenditure greater than £1,000 (and in most cases significantly more).

Route	**Works Undertaken**
North Yorkshire Council	**Maintain Previously Engineered Routes**
Brackenbottom, Horton in Ribblesdale (3 Peaks route)	200m
Buckden Pike	120m
Westmorland and Furness Council	
Cautley Spout Bridleway	640m
TOTAL	**920m**
North Yorkshire Council	**New Engineered Routes**
Cawden, Malham	300m
White Mossy Hill, Coast to Coast Path	2,100m
TOTAL	**2,400m**

Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads

39. In the National Park there is a significant network of unsurfaced unclassified roads (UUR). These routes often provide connections into and within the existing network of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). This network consists of over 120km of routes that are available to a wide range of users. These are not recorded on the Definitive Map and are therefore not part of the delegation agreements with NYC or W&FC. They are, however, recorded on the 'list of streets' which these highway authorities have responsibility for maintaining.

40. Over the years, the Authority has worked in an opportunistic manner (primarily with NYC) on improving the condition of a number of these routes due to their significance within the rights of way network. In 2021, a more formal working arrangement was established with the appointment of a UUR Officer at NYC. This has led to the Authority receiving funding for works to help maintain these routes on an annual basis.

41. During 2025/26 the following projects, funded by NYC, have taken place in the National Park at a total cost of **£32,192**:

UUR Code	UUR Name	Location	Description or work
Craven			
U1946/60	Hunter Bark	Long Preston/ Settle	Surfacing and drainage
U808/80	Mastilles Lane	Kilnsey	Surfacing and drainage
U2279/80 & U2281/30	Black Hill/Forest Road	Appletreewick	Surfacing
U232/1/40	Stake Road	Buckden	Surfacing
Richmondshire			
U228/9/30	Cam High Road BOAT (Roman Road) Surfacing & Drainage	full length	Surfacing and drainage
U230/9/70	Busk Lane Marsett	Marsett	Surface
U232/1/40	Stake Road	Stalling Busk	Drainage

Conclusion

42. Rights of way maintenance remains a 'priority programme' for the Authority and an area of work where it makes a clear and visible difference to the National Park. The Authority helps farmers and landowners maintain their stiles and gates, whilst users of the network (both visitors and residents) have certainty about where they can access the countryside, as well as an enjoyable experience of the area. Businesses benefit

with people's access to the National Park's special qualities, via the rights of way network, underpinning much of the local tourism economy.

43. We continue to seek external income to help resource this priority work programme. During 2025/26 we were successful in securing a total of £875k additional external income and in-kind contributions to support rights of way work across the National Park. In addition, the work with Dales Volunteers and other volunteers goes from strength to strength, with all the rights of way in the National Park once again being surveyed by volunteers.

Looking ahead to 2026/27

44. The new Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan for 2025-30 seeks to achieve the following objectives for public rights of way and green lanes to:

    3.1. Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average, 90% remain 'easy to use' and create 5 new 'miles without stiles' routes that are suitable for a diverse range of ages and abilities.

    3.2. Manage and promote the Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway and Coast-to-Coast National Trails and other established long-distance routes, and improve linkages from the Coast-to-Coast route to 5 nearby settlements by 2030.

    3.6. Enhance at least five 'green lanes' by 2030 and manage use by recreational motor vehicles and motorcycles - encouraging and supporting responsible use and enforcing restrictions where necessary.

1. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority continues to manage the entire network of 2,642km of rights of way in the National Park and will continue to receive funding from W&F and NYC during 2026/27 (part of 3-year and 5-year agreements respectively) which will aid delivery. The 'ease of use' figure over the period of the previous National Park Management Plan has averaged 90%, which is very pleasing and we will continue to seek to maintain this level for the next management plan period to 2030.

45. The confirmation of the Coast to Coast path to join the family of National Trails by the Secretary of State, comes with financial resources for implementation and future maintenance as well as for 'wider benefit' opportunities. We look forward to continuing to manage the route through the Yorkshire Dales over the coming year, and to preparing for the Authority's role as lead partner in the establishment of the Coast to Coast National Trail Partnership.

Further Information

Further information regarding the report is available from:

Alan Hulme,	email	Direct Line
Head of Park Management	alan.hulme@yorkshiredales.org.uk	01756 751647
Colvend, Hebden Road		
Grassington BD23 5LB		

Item No. 10

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 12 May 2026

Active Travel Update

Purpose of the report

To update members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum on the funding to National Park Authorities from Active Travel England to develop their active travel plans.

Active Travel England Capability Fund for National Park – Phase 2

Active Travel England has announced additional funding to support National Parks in developing their active travel plans. Phase Two funding will enable further development of the Yorkshire Dales Active Travel Plan, building on earlier work to improve walking, wheeling and cycling opportunities across the National Park.
The funding will enable us to deliver Phase 2 activities, including:

Garsdale – Hawes Rail-to-Trail Accessibility Audit - Feasibility for accessible, family-friendly link options from Garsdale station to the start of the proposed Garsdale-Hawes multi-user route.

Feasibility study on the Skipton – Grassington corridor - Feasibility stage design for the development of a section of the Skipton- Grassington Active Travel corridor.

Quiet lanes pilot scheme – Work alongside North Yorkshire Council on a review of their quiet lane policy and evidence gathering for potential pilot schemes in the North Yorkshire area of the National Park.

Prioritisation and integration - Development of phase one Active Travel Plans to prioritise schemes in the identified corridors for investment to produce a 1, 3 and 10-year project pipeline for the 21 multiuser and local intervention schemes listed.

Staff resource and skills development – Funding for staff time, training and attendance at Active Travel conferences.

North Yorkshire Council Active Travel Consolidated Active Travel Fund

North Yorkshire Council Consolidate Active Travel Funding has been confirmed for resurfacing Austwick – Clapham public bridleway to a bound surface appropriate for all bridleway users. The YDNPA will project manage the delivery to take place 26/27.

Mayor's Active Travel Fund

YDNPA have been awarded funding from the Mayors Active Travel Fund to create a safe and accessible road crossing to Threshfield Primary School and safely linking the local community into the rights of way network.

The fund is also supporting an innovative behaviour change programme within four Protected Landscapes enabling walking, wheeling and public transport use to create healthier, more active communities across the region. YDNPA will be the delivery partner for this work in the YDNP.

Rob Ashford
Access and Recreation Team and Projects Manager
May 2026

Item No 11

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 12 May 2026

Removing Barriers Update

Purpose of the report

To update members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum on Access for All funding aimed to remove barriers to accessing the National Park.

DEFRA Removing Barriers Fund – 2025/26

In 2025/26 YDNPA received a £113,000 capital funding grant from DEFRA to improve accessibility in the National Park. The funding enabled us to undertake the following activity:

Access Improvements at **Cautley Spout** – including pathworks and a safer accessible walkway from the road to the new bridge.





An extension to the **accessible trail at Aysgarth** to create a circular route suitable for all.



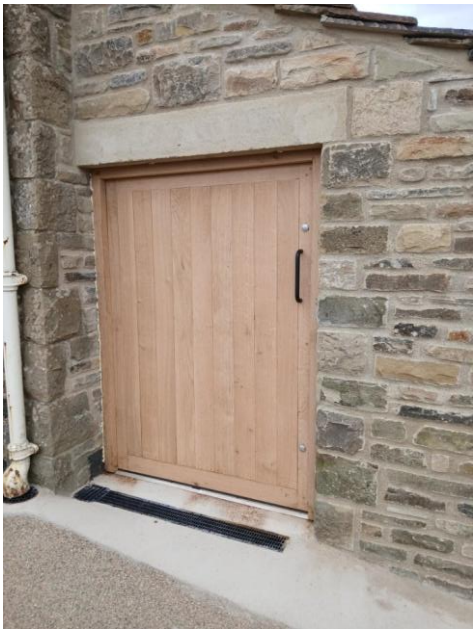


Access Improvements at key visitor destinations including **Hawes Creamery and Stainforth Foss**





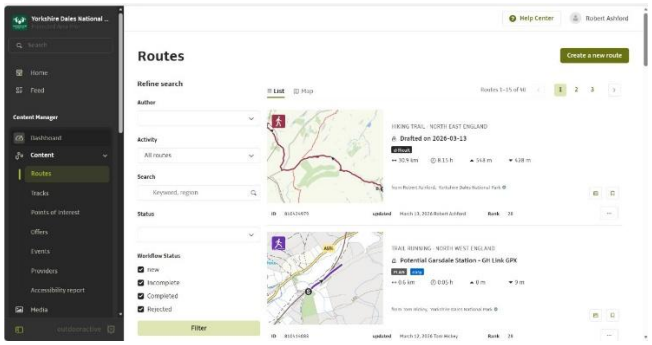
Purchase of a **tramper and storage** at the Dales Countryside Museum and Grassington Visitor Centre.





Expert advice from **Experience Community** and an Outdoor Access licence to support a full Audit of the National Parks existing and potential Miles without Stiles Network





Production of an **Accessible Resting Places Design Guide** and a **pedestrian Crossing Assessment** Grassington & Threshfield for a new accessible crossing point.

Access Grant 2026/2027

DEFRA are continuing their support for increased accessibility in the National Park with a new DEFRA Access Grant for 2026/27. This funding will support the delivery projects including:

- Development of a costed schemes for **a new Miles without Stiles route from Kettlewell to Buckden** and a new **Tramper route from Grassington Visitor Centre**

- Accessibility enhancements from **Burnsall to Hebden Suspension Bridge**
- A new **Accessible Toilet at Linton falls car park** and improved accessibility to Linton Stepping Stones.
- Working with Yorkshire Water to investigate visitor access improvements at **Grimwith and Embsay reservoirs.**

Rebecca Greenfield
Head of Access and Engagement
May 2026

Item No. 12

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 12 May 2026

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. Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Membership

At the beginning of 2026 a selection process took place for members to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Forum:

- Melanie Willis representing tourism and health.
- Zana Jackson representing landowners and equestrian use.

We would also like to welcome back Jon Beavan, Leo Crone, Malcolm Petyt and John Bucknall for a further three year term.

Graeme Cowling has resigned from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. On behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority we would like to thank Peter for his commitment to the work of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and Advisory groups and wish him well for the future.

3. Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

The following are the dates for meetings during 2026:

Tuesday 12 May 2026, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

Tuesday 8 December 2026, 1.15 pm on Teams

4. 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 2026:

Date	Venue	Time
30/06/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
29/09/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
15/12/2026	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00

5. Happy birthday to the Settle Carlisle Railway

The Settle Carlisle railway line turned 150 in April. Throughout 2026, events to celebrate this milestone will provide an opportunity for passengers to travel back to the age of steam and take in views throughout the Yorkshire Dales. For more information, visit https://settle-carlisle.co.uk/.

6. Launch of the Coast to Coast National Trail

The Coast to Coast is now officially a National Trail, 53 years after Alfred Wainwright devised a 190mile, Coast to Coast walk between St Bees and Robin Hood's Bay on the Noarth Sea in 1972.

On the 26th of March, a launch event was held at the Dales Bike Centre, Reeth and featured the unveiling of a new stone milepost which was set in place at the halfway point at Keld the following day.

7. North Yorkshire Mayor visit

The Mayor visited Horton in Ribblesdale station on Thursday 16 April. The visit was to officially open the new lifts and stairway which have been installed to make this station access compliant. Prior to this, access was via a pedestrian level crossing.

Elliott Lorimer , Kate Hilditch and Thomas Andrews had a chance to spend a brief time with the Mayor and tell him about our work in this area and particular the Three Peaks. He was also able to view the improvements we have made to the section of the route at Beecroft and hear about the Three Peaks donation scheme. This was a very short visit due to a late change to the Mayor's timetable, but we also had a chance to update him on our active travel development, and how our work links to the funding programmes and activities of the Combined Authority.

Rachel Briggs
Access and recreation Officer
May 2026