Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
To be held on Tuesday 20 May 2014
1.15pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge

Meeting to Commence at 1.15pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Approval of minutes (attached), and matters arising (not on the agenda)
   - Woodland Creation and Fencing of Commons (attached)
4. Public Question time – three minutes per speaker (those wishing to speak should make themselves known to the Secretary at the start of the meeting or in advance of the meeting).

5. Future Forum Meetings
   - Agenda Items
   - Dates - Tuesday 30th September 2014 at Yoredale

6. National LAF Conference (Durham) Feedback
7. Regional LAF (Leeds) Feedback

8. Turbary Road - Update.
9. Tour de France and CRoW restrictions **Tracey Lambert**
10. Public Rights of Way - (report to follow) **Alan Hulme**

11. Report back from Advisory Groups (attached):
    - Bridleways and Restricted Byways
    - Access of Foot
12. Secretary's Report (Items for note and consideration by Forum Members) Attached
13. Update on members' activities (brief reports of activities relating to the Forum)
14. AoB

Unapproved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Held on Tuesday 28 January 2014
1.15pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Peter Bridgstock (PB) Andrew Colley (AC), Nick Cotton (NC), David Gibson (DG), Neil Heseltine (NH), Kevin Lancaster (KL), Alex Law (AL), Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong (JMA), Stuart Monk (SM), Jerry Pearlman (JP), Mike Pryal (MP), John Richardson (JR), Alistair Thompson (AT), Heather Thomas-Smith (HTS), Pat Whelan (PW),

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Mohammed Dhalech (MD) – LAF Secretary, Kathryn Beardmore (KB), Tracey Lambert (TL).

Apologies: Andrew Colley (AC), Jonathan Smith (JS)

Meeting commenced at 1.15pm

1. Election of Chair

KB opened the meeting and took the Chair for item 1, and welcomed new members Mike Pryal, Peter Bridgstock and Nick Cotton the member champion for Recreation Management to their first meeting.

KB sought nominations for the position of the Chair, DG nominated AT, there were no other nominations, AT was unanimously elected as Chair of the YDAF.

AT took over the Chair from KB, and thanked the group for their confidence and support.

2. Election of Vice Chair

AT asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair, JR nominated DG. JR was asked if he would also consider, but declined due to his commitments. DG was unanimously elected as Deputy Chair of the YDAF.

3. Welcome

AT also welcomed new members Peter Bridgstock and Mike Pryal who were selected in December and David Gibson who was reappointed to the YDAF. Nick Cotton the National Park Authority's member champion for recreation management was welcomed. This was followed by a round of introductions.

4. **Apologies** were received from A*ndrew Colley (AC) and Jonathan Smith (JS).*

5. Approval of minutes, and matters arising

Page 1 - Heather Thomas-Smith (HTS), was present at the last meeting

Page 4 item 10 – 1st line should be report not repost .

No update on the extension of the Park Boundaries

Page 5 Item 11 - TdF no news on the ladies tour – an update at the next YDAF meeting on TdF.

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

TL to provide an update on TdF at next meeting

- **Turbary Road update**

MD provided an update following the Chairs letter to NYCC, the response from NYCC:

> **"**Thank you for your recent enquiry about the public highway associated with the Turbary Pasture, Thornton in Lonsdale.
>
> Please accept my apologies, despite having had an opportunity to acquaint myself with the records associated with this route I am unable to make a determination about the actual route on the ground, its continuity through the pasture or its status, as a consequence I am in the process of commissioning legal advice to assist me in my deliberations.
>
> I will contact you in due course but am unable at the moment to provide a due date."

NH and SM had undertaken a site visit three weeks previously, and reported damage on the route, a blocked gateway, and ground very soft in places. SM suggested an emergency TRO on the route to prevent further use by recreational motor vehicles at the present time.

KB explained that National Park Authorities did not have powers to make emergency TROs on unsealed routes under the National Park Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England) Regulations. This would also be problematic because it was not clear where the exact line of the route was on the ground. There was a discussion about the definition and the line of the route, but there seemed to be no clarity on this, as there had been no response from NYCC. It was noted, however, that the route was on the 'list of streets'. KB said that this was a very sensitive route as it was on an SSSI and suggested the best management solution at the present time was to seek 'voluntary restraint' from recreational motor vehicle users with immediate effect. KB explained this would also give sometime to update the detailed route assessment report, which could be considered by the green lanes advisory group at its next meeting. This meeting could be arranged for August.

It was agreed that LARA and TRF would ask their members not to use the route on a voluntary basis with immediate effect (JR and SM to instigate this action following the meeting).

JR agreed to try to speak to Doug Huzzard at NYCC and KB (YDNPA) will also ask him for a response in relation to the definitive line and status of the route.

Data from the vehicle logger on the route would be analysed to establish usage, and the detailed route assessment report would be up-dated.

It was proposed that all the information from various sources need be collated and presented to the Green Lanes Advisory Group in August, where the Advisory Group can discuss a suggested way forward.

Agreed that TRF and LARA would ask their members to not use the route, JR and SM to follow up with user groups and publicise.

JR and KB to ask NYCC for a response, which, if forthcoming, will be taken to the next GLAG.

Logger information to be made available for the next Green Lanes Advisory Group to decide on a way forward.

The next meeting of the Green lanes group in July/Aug to follow this up.

6. Public Question time

None

7. Future Forum Meetings

Agenda Items

- TdF update -TL
- Public Rights of Way - AH
- Deregulation Bill – implications on RoW - TBC

Dates

Tuesday 20th May 1.15pm at Yoredale

Tuesday 30th September 1.15pm at Yoredale

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

AT went through the paper and the vacancies for each Advisory Group and places were filled by members, see attached list at annexe 1.

9. Role of the Recreation Management Member Champion

AH presented the paper and NC introduced himself and his role, NC hopes to grow into his role as member champion, and is keen to progress issues. NC was aware that there were a lot of meetings, and was keen to progress issues by email,

telephone, face to face etc. It was also noted that NC had already made it possible to connect with the right people in the District and County Council on Highway issues. The member champion can be a good conduit to bring people together.

DG raised a question on sales and disposals of land. AH explained that the Authority had reviewed its land holdings to reduce the financial cost to the authority on leases and or land it owns. The outcome was seeking to terminate lease agreements, where they were no longer required or to dispose of a number of sites. It was emphasised that any disposal would safeguard current recreational or nature conservation use as the sites had been dedicated as 'open access' land or 'local nature reserve' where appropriate. JP asked that the papers that were presented to the Authority's Audit and Review Committee, and Authority meeting be circulated to the YDAF.

AH to circulate link to Audit and Review and Authority paper.

10. Report back from Advisory Groups:

- **Access of Foot**

DG presented the minutes - a number of items were discussed including erosion and fencing on footpaths, particularly by rivers; working with the Rivers Trust to manage the best position of fences between rivers and footpaths; Long Preston in which HTS is working with AH to gather evidence with a view to designating a path as a PROW as an alternative to having to use the A65 as now.

AH confirmed that the Long Preston path has a long history but Hellifield is an example of a positive outcome following a public inquiry.

AH confirmed YDNPA policy was not normally signposting in upland or remote areas, unless for a specific reason. AH expressed the view that marking the different types of regional/promoted routes on OS maps was not something he was particularly keen to encourage due the plethora of marked routes already in the Park. However, it was considered sensible to mark the Whitber diversion on OS maps as potentially a 'Permissive' route, to ensure walkers followed the revised route

There was agreement that we didn't want a lot of signage and that it was probably better not to sign the higher areas but disagreement on whether the 3 Peaks route was so important it should be added to the OS map even though that meant that it would have to be signed.

AH to check whether the OS insisted on a waymarked route before adding it to the OS map

- **Access for All**

MD presented the minutes and highlighted the National Trust launch of the tramper at Malham Tarn in April.

- **Crag and Cave**

JB presented the minutes of the meeting, and restrictions are working well in cooperation with the BMC, and good representation from Caving.

11. Woodland Creation (attached)

DG presented the paper, AL raised an issue with the Access Impact Assessment as this does not exist and needs to be clarified. The Forestry commission website provide landowners information on where and what can be planted, and if any restrictions apply, but no mention of RoW.

A number of amendments were made to the paper and the amended version is at annex 2.

- First bullet – change to access assessment and remove the footnote 1
- Final bullet – include to be reviewed every 10 years
- Point 2 – include in line 2 appropriate highway authority permission

Agreed that the document be finalised for ratification at next meeting.

12. Fencing of Commons

Some minor amendment were made to the paper which is at annex 3

- Section 2 and 3 are swapped becoming, 2 Fencing of Commons and 3 Exchange of Commons land
- Section 1 add General
- Section 3 add General
- Section 1.4 to read: The LAF will, in general, not objecting to applications for fencing on commons where they are deemed appropriate for the restoration of moors, amenity woodland planting and similar applications in situations where they are deemed to be appropriate and do not cause loss of access and will follow the following notes and guidelines.
-
- Insert 2.6.4: We wish that there be firm agreement that the fence be removed at the end of the permitted period (with some sanction in case of breach)

-
- 2.7: insert: Where appropriate…

Agreed that the document be finalised for ratification at next meeting.

13. Secretary's Report

MD presented the secretaries report, and asked members for nominations for the Regional LAF meeting on the 21 March in Leeds, DG and JR will attend, and the National LAF Conference on the 7 March in Durham, AT will be attending.

14. Access for All (attached)

MD highlighted the key points on the Access for All paper and the proposed changes to the terms of reference, as agreed by the Access for All advisory group.

The YDAF approved the revised Terms of Reference, with one minor amendment; to insert e.g. before the listing of groups. Attached Appendix 4

15. Update on members' activities and AOB

KB briefed the YDAF on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, funding stream. The Authority is working up a bid with partners at NYCC and NYMNPA, projects are being developed around active travel and discussions are on-going with partners. The project is also linked with business and economic growth.

KB would welcome a letter of support in principle for the LSTF application from the YDAF.

The YADF agreed the Chair write a letter of support to the Authority

Ingleborough Estate - JB informed the YDAF that, following the death of Dr John Farrer of Ingleborough Estate at Clapham, this raises questions on the future of the estate. Are there any plans going forward?

Appendix 1

Forum Members Attendance at Advisory Groups and Other Meetings

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHO CURRENTLY?	REPRESENTING?
Access on Foot Advisory Group	Twice a year	Neil Heseltine Heather Thomas-Smith Alistair Thompson Andrew Colley	Landowners Other interests Other interests YDNPA Member
Access for All Advisory Group	Twice a year	Peter Bridgstock Heather Thomas-Smith Andrew Colley Pat Whelan	User Other interest YDNPA Member Landowners
Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group	Twice a year (evenings)	Alex Law Neil Heseltine	Landowners Land
Air Sports Advisory Group	When an issue arises	Jon Beavan	Other Interests
Water Sports Advisory Group	When an issues arises	Peter Bridgstock Andrew Colley	User YDNPA Member
Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group	Once a year	Jon Beavan Peter Bridgstock Alex Law	Other Interests User Land
Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group	Once a year	Stuart Monk Pat Whelan Jon Beavan David Gibson	User Landowner Other Interests Users
Dales Tourism Steering Group (to bring a broad recreation perspective)		(Jon Beavan)	

Appendix 2

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

Principles for Woodland Creation Applications On Open Access Land

These principles will be used to inform our responses to applications for woodland creation on open access land.

The LAF would normally expect:

- There will be an access assessment with any application.
- That the relevant standards be adhered to (e.g. British Standard 5709 on stiles and gates).
- Local user groups will be consulted before the application is made.
- There will be no loss of access with gates etc being provided at intervals suitable to the terrain.
- Wherever possible, local materials should be used for fences and gates etc.
- All fencing should be non barbed wire, unless necessary for stock control.
- Access should be retained at all times except when closure is required for forestry work. Any closure should be advertised at all entrances to the woodland with maps, if only certain parts are closed.
- To be informed of who will be legally responsible for the removal of any fences and the date they will be removed, this will be reviewed every ten year.

We will, in general, not object to applications for the creation of native woodlands in situations where they are deemed to be appropriate. This would normally include:

1. On CROW Access land that is not common land, where the land has a recreational management agreement or is dedicated as Access Land after the planting has been completed.

2. Where a public right of way (PROW) goes into or borders, the woodland, unhampered access is to be facilitated and maintained (e.g. a on a bridleway sufficient clearance for horse riders and cyclists) with appropriate Highway Authority Permission. In all cases gates are preferred to stiles.

3. Where the woodland parcels cross PROWs or other tracks, desire lines, other routes (e.g. the route of a fell race), its impact on vistas is considered and they should be retained where possible.

4. Where there are tracks on the ground, other amenities or points of interest, access is retained or an alternative provided (e.g. to a viewpoint or rock scramble).

Draft 6 January 2014
Access on Foot Advisory Group

Appendix 3

YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

FENCING OF REGISTERED COMMONS AND EXCHANGE OF REGISTERED COMMON LAND

Guiding principles that will be considered when making comments on applications

1. FENCING OF COMMONS (General)

1.1. All registered commons are open access land.

1.2. S 38 of the Commons Act 2006 gives power to the Secretary of State (defra) to authorise the fencing of commons.

1.3. Urban commons (those in pre 1974 Urban District Council areas) have horse riding rights and other commons may also have other higher access rights.

1.4. The LAF will, in general, not objecting to applications for fencing on commons where they are deemed appropriate for the restoration of moors, amenity woodland planting and similar applications in situations where they are deemed to be appropriate and do not cause loss of access and will follow the following notes and guidelines.

2. FENCING OF COMMONS

2.1. If there are any amenities or points of interest within the fencing or planting, clear corridors to be retained to the amenity and clear areas to be left around each amenity.

2.2. Any tracks visible on the ground should be retained for public use or alternatives provided.

2.3. If any new fences or walls (including temporary ones) need to be erected, they should have a suitable number of gates to enable access. The intervals should be suitable to the terrain and include all existing tracks and desire lines.

2.4. The standard 'Open Access' symbol should be posted at significant points along the fence. Stiles will only be accepted where there is an overriding case following the 'gap, gate, stile' principle. Stiles and gates should be to British Standard 5709 and of the appropriate width for the legally permitted use. Wherever possible, local materials should be used for any fences and gates etc., and efforts should be made to minimize the visual impact of such features. All wire fencing should be non barbed wire unless necessary for stock control.

2.5. In addition to the LAF the appropriate local user groups should be consulted on the positioning of access points.

2.6. The LAF will require to be advised of:

2.6.1. The body which will be legally responsible for the removal of any fences.

2.6.2. The year the fences will be removed.

2.6.3. The process that will be put in place to ensure that fences are removed in that year and not forgotten, especially by anticipating successor land owners and ensuring they are notified of the commitment.

2.6.4. We wish that there be firm agreement that the fence be removed at the end of the permitted period (with some sanction in case of breach)

2.7. Where appropriate a simple notice should be erected at each access point explaining the purpose of the fences, their temporary nature and seeking the co-operation of users in not damaging them. The LAF is aware that some fencing in other areas has been vandalised until the reason was explained in this way.

3. EXCHANGE OF COMMON LAND[1] (General)

3.1. S16 of the Commons Act 2006 gives power to the Secretary of State to authorise the exchange of all or part of a common for other non common land. The original land then ceases to become a common and the new land becomes the common and has all the rights attaching to it of the original common.

3.2. This is generally done to allow planning permission to be granted for the original land.

3.3. In moorland areas it is frequently used to erect wind turbines. It is appreciated that this is unlikely to occur in national parks.

3.4. The main problem is that high common land on top of the moors may be replaced by lower land with less wide views and/or of a lesser value for the access user and have more restricted entry to access along its boundary.

3.5. The Forum will consider the loss of amenity and access when making its views known to the Secretary of State.

4. EXCHANGE OF COMMON LAND

4.1. Applications will normally only be recommended if the exchanged land is of similar size, landscape quality and value to the public as the original land having regard to amenity areas, view points, interesting features and access.

4.2. If the exchanged land is to be fenced then the same criteria apply as in paragraph 3 above

4.3. If the original parcel of common land is to be restored after development or when the need for the development has ceased to exist then the previous status of the land should be restored as far and as soon as possible, either by the further exchange of the common land or by dedication as open access. The exchanged land should be at least as large and where possible larger than the original.

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4.4.1. The body which will be legally responsible for the restoration of the original land and the removal of any fences.

4.4.2. The year the land will be restored and the fences will be removed.

4.4.3. The process that will be put in place to ensure that the land is restored and the fences are removed in that year and not forgotten; especially by anticipating successor land owners and ensuring they are notified of the commitment.

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[1] Useful information can be found in the defra document 'Common Land Consents Policy Guidance' issued in July 2009 and available to download from the defra website. The Secretary of State has delegated his powers to consider these applications to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Appendix 4

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Purpose of the Advisory Group

1. The purpose of the Access for All Advisory Group is:

   To provide a forum for suggestions to be presented to and received from the Authority, on the practical management of public rights of way and 'open access' within the Yorkshire Dales National Park for e.g. communities / groups / people under-represented in enjoying the National Park and taking part in recreation – young people, the unfit and those with health problems, people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people with limited mobility.

Terms of Reference

2. The terms of reference of the Group are to:

   (i) Consider working and liaison procedures between interested parties and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

   (ii) Suggest and consider specific improvements or enhancements of the public rights of way network, open access and permissive routes for e.g. communities / groups / people under-represented in enjoying the National Park and taking part in recreation – young people, the unfit and those with health problems, people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people with limited mobility.

   (iii) To act as a sounding board for all parties to suggest improvements and enhancement of working procedures within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

3. In providing suggestions, the Group will have regard to:

   (i) The needs of legislation;
   (ii) The conservation of the natural beauty of the area including its flora, fauna, and geological and physical features;
   (iii) The management and maintenance of recreational access whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture and countryside management projects within the Yorkshire Dales.

4. The Advisory Group should also have regard to:

   (i) The Authority's statutory purposes and the requirement to conserve the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales and promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public (which affords opportunities for open-air recreation);

(ii) The desirability of protecting the natural resources of the Yorkshire Dales from damage;

(iii) The needs of agriculture and forestry and the economic and social interest of those who live or work in the Yorkshire Dales.

Membership

5. The membership of the Group is as follows:

- A number of Members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
- Access Development Officer
- One Ranger
- Other interested parties

Other officers of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will service and contribute to the Group as necessary.

Other interested parties by invitation as relevant.

6. The Chair of the group will be elected on an annual basis and should be a representative of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum wherever possible.

7. The secretariat will be provided by the Access and Recreation Admin Officer.

8. The Advisory Group will meet twice a year.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

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3. Where the woodland parcels cross PROWs or other tracks, desire lines, other routes (e.g. the route of a fell race), and the impact on vistas is considered and they should be retained where possible.

4. Where there are tracks on the ground, other amenities or points of interest, access should be retained or an alternative provided (e.g. to a viewpoint or rock scramble).

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2.6.4. We wish that there be written agreement that the fence be removed at the end of the permitted period (with some sanction in case of breach)

2.7. Where appropriate a simple notice should be erected at each access point explaining the purpose of the fences, their temporary nature and seeking the co-operation of users in not damaging them. The LAF is aware that some fencing in other areas has been vandalised until the reason was explained in this way.

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3.2. This is generally done to allow planning permission to be granted for the original land.

3.3. In moorland areas it is frequently used to erect wind turbines. It is appreciated that this is unlikely to occur in national parks.

3.4. The main problem is that high common land on top of the moors may be replaced by lower land with less wide views and/or of a lesser value for the access user and have more restricted entry to access along its boundary.

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Item No. 10

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 21 June 2014

Public Rights of Way Annual Report 2013/14

Purpose of the report

1. To receive comments from the Local Access Forum (LAF) on the Rights of Way Annual Report for the period April 2013 to March 2014, prior to submission to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The annual report identifies progress made on public rights of way maintenance against our own targets under the delegation agreements.

Strategic Planning Framework

2. 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 Objective***

   B2 Maintain and promote the network of public rights of way - including the Pennine way, Pennine Bridleway and other recognised regional routes and trails – so that, on average, 90% are 'easy to use' each year

   - ***Corporate Plan Objective***

   Manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that:

   a) at least 90% are 'easy to use' by members of the public even though they may not follow the definitive line.

Background

3. The Authority has responsibility for rights of way functions, delegated from CCC and NYCC in recognition of the fact that a well managed rights of way network is critical to the delivery of the NPAs Statutory Purposes. A network that can be used with confidence is important to visitors and residents alike. Many people use the rights of way network as a means to enjoy the special qualities of the area.

4. As part of the rights of way delegation agreements the Authority is required to submit a report to the two County Councils each year. The report explains what the Authority has delivered, under our delegated powers, in respect of each area.

Objectives and Actions

5. The Rights of Way Annual Report (**Appendix**) also highlights achievements and progress against our own targets and subject to the LAFs' comments this will be sent to the Authority for their meeting in June with photographs added as appropriate.

6. In considering the draft report, LAF Members may wish to note the 'Ease of Use' results for 2013/14. The Authority's objective for Rights of Way maintenance is:

    - At least 90% of rights of way are 'easy to use' by members of the public even though they may not follow the definitive line.

    This year's ease of use figure was 90%. This is up 3% from the 2012/13 ease of use figure of 87% and in line with the National Park Management Plan figure of 90%.

7. Progress against each of the Authority's Corporate Plan actions for 2013/14 is outlined in the **Appendix**. However LAF Members should note that the following actions have not been achieved:

    - Maintain and improve the rights of way infrastructure so that the % of items in 'condition 1'[1] remains at 95%.
    - Repair 6.7km of previously engineered routes including significant works on the footpaths at Scalgill, Kirkby Malham, Airton Mill and Shaw Gill Woods, High Abbotside.
    - Carry out significant works to the stone culvert on Swinden Lane Bridleway in conjunction with the Parish Council and Swinden Quarry, and maintain 15 river crossings so that 92% remain in condition 1.

8. The slippage on these actions is due to a combination of factors:

    a) The number of Access Rangers employed to undertake public rights of way maintenance, during 2013/14 remains at 8. However, the actual staff resource available for rights of way maintenance has been reduced as a result of grounds maintenance of car parks, Authority property and offices being brought in-house, in 2010/11, to save costs and this continues to have a significant draw on the service.

    b) The adverse weather conditions throughout the later part of the year (Sept 13 to Mar 14) have also had an impact on general maintenance in relation to gaining access to some sites as well as preventing one of the larger projects to go ahead. Due to the wet ground conditions we were unable to conduct works on the 2000m section of the Bridleway over Flasby Fell, although all materials are on site. In addition a Volunteer Group planned to conduct works on the 500m section of the Scalegill Footpath, Kirkby Malham cancelled at late notice. Both projects are however, planned for the first quarter of this year, but the result is we have missed out on repairing the 6.7km of the network.

[1] Condition 1 'In good order will last up to three years' - Source doc: YDNPA Maintenance Plan 2012 to 2017

c) Although works were carried out to the 15 river crossing and the stone culvert on Swinden Lane identified in the rights of way maintenance plan, towards the end of the year we received the engineering survey reports for the 30 main bridges in the Yorkshire area of the park from NYCC. The surveys indicate that all are in good overall condition. However the survey has flagged up a number requiring minor works thus placing the majority in condition 2. This has resulted in a drop from 92% in condition 1 to 89.7%.

9. On a more positive note, NYCC have completed the bridge survey at no cost to the Authority and we are in discussions over the work which has been identified with their Rights of Way Department. In addition, and perhaps more significantly we were able to secure an additional grant for work on Pen Y Ghent Summit, on the Pennine Way, which also benefits the Three Peaks Project of 60k in January 2014 with works completed in March 2014. This was an extraordinary effort by the staff involved to both secure the funding and conduct the works within a very tight time frame in one of the most in accessible places in the park.

Trends

10. It is difficult to say if there is a direct correlation between the reasons outlined above and the reduction in the condition of infrastructure. However, this is the third year running where the infrastructure condition target has not been met , but this should be weighed up against the actual improvement in the 'ease of use' figure. This suggests the reductions in resources are having an effect on the maintenance of public rights of way in the National Park, but only in the fact that things are not as in as good a condition as we would like them to be, but are still usable.

11. Given the current progress against objectives, action is being taken this year to conduct a light touch review of all elements that make up the management of access in the national park. This will include looking at delivery of practical works, prioritising, surveying, monitoring, purchasing and the use of volunteers in maintenance works to see where improvements can be made.

Review of Delegation Agreements

12. The delegation schemes with NYCC and CCC came into effect on 1 April 2013 and allow us to carry on with the routine maintenance of the network, such as stiles and gates on behalf of landowner and farmers, but reduce the Authority's overall liabilities by:

- returning the duty to keep the definitive map under continuous review;
- returning maintenance responsibility for larger bridges; and
- limiting the financial burdens in relation to highways out of repair, obstructions or any new public rights recorded on the Definitive Map through Definitive Map Modification Orders.

13. As a result of the changes, one member of staff transferred from the employment of this Authority to NYCC.

14. As mentioned as part of the new delegation scheme NYCC conducted full engineering surveys of 30 significant bridges in the Yorkshire area of the park. CCC conducted a full survey of all river crossings in the three parishes in Cumbria as part of the transfer of responsibilities in 12/13. Previously individual engineering reports were being commissioned by and paid for by the Authority.

Conclusion

15. Rights of way maintenance continues to be an area of work where the Authority makes a clear visible difference to the National Park. Farmers and landowners help maintain their stiles and gates, whilst users of the network (both visitors and residents) have certainty about where they can go, and an enjoyable experience of the area. Businesses benefit because access to the area's special qualities, through the rights of way network, underpins the local tourism economy. The importance placed on rights of way maintenance is often cited as one of the real 'advantages' of being in a National Park. Whilst all National Park Authorities undertake this work, to a greater or lesser extent, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that this work is undertaken for and on behalf of the County Councils.

Comments

16. LAF Members to comment on the Rights of Way Annual report in the **Appendix** for submission to the Authority.

Alan Hulme
Head of Ranger Service

2 May 2014

Background documents:

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (2006) Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan 2012 to 2017.

APPENDIX

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Public Rights of Way
Delegated Highway Authority

Annual Report 2013/14

Photos will be added throughout the report at a later date and to prevent crashing LAF Members emails

April 2014

1. Introduction

2. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) has delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for 2132 km of Public Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic, and restricted byways) within the National Park. The Delegation Agreements are with North Yorkshire County Council (1888 km) and Cumbria County Council (244 km).

3. The 2013/14 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

    In addition the Authority is involved in the:
    - Management and development of National Trails in conjunction with Natural England.

4. The Authority has taken on these responsibilities because it recognises that a well-maintained 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.

5. The delegation agreements with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Cumbria County Council (CCC) were reviewed in 2012/13 and revised schemes agreed which came into effect in April 2013. Specifically:
    - returning responsibilities for keeping the definitive map under continuous review;
    - limiting the Authority's maintenance responsibility for larger bridges in the two County Council areas; and
    - limiting the Authority's responsibility for any significant financial burdens in relation to highways out of repair, obstructions or public rights of way through Definitive Map Modification Orders.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan

6. The importance of the Public Rights of Way network to recreational users and local communities is recognised in the new National Park Management Plan 2013/18:

    B2 Maintain and promote the network of public rights of way - including the Pennine way, Pennine Bridleway and other recognised regional routes and trails – so that, on average, 90% are 'easy to use' each year

    Objective 2013/14 Corporate Plan
    By 2014, manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by members of the public but may not follow the definitive line.

About this Report

7. This report identifies the key achievements for the year 2013/14. Then it considers, in detail, the Authority's corporate actions and targets and progress relating to the following areas of work:
    - Signing
    - General maintenance
    - River crossings
    - Major projects.
    - 'Green lanes' management.

2. Key Achievements 2013/14

Public Rights of Way Maintenance

8. During 2013/14 the following maintenance work was undertaken:

- 923 improvements to public rights of way infrastructure: stiles, gates and signposts;
- 47 river crossings maintained or replaced (39 bridges and 4 sets of stepping stones and 1 ford);
- 4.3km of engineered paths maintained (not including Pennine Bridleway or Pennine Way works);
- 1.9km of new engineered paths created (not including Pennine Bridleway or Pennine Way works);
- 120m of new flagged path on Bruntscar, Whernside, 3 Peaks Project;
- 480m of flagging 80m and 400m surfacing and drainage Craven Way, Whernside;
- 354m of new flagged path on Pen Y Ghent summit, Pennine Way
- 1644m of improved surfacing on Gorbeck Road, Settle Loop, Pennine Bridleway;

9. A total of **£156,753** of External Funding was secured for rights of way projects:

- £93,615 Pennine Way;
- £46,210 Pennine Bridleway;
- £400 individual donation;
- £2,000 Dales Way association donation;
- £300 Council for Protection Rural England (Upper Wensleydale Group) donation;
- £14,228 Three Peaks Project from Friends Scheme, Merchandise and Donations. In addition from the Pennine Way works Grant from Natural England £6,574 of the grant was for works conducted by the 3 Peaks Ranger.

To note

- Under the revised Delegation Scheme NYCC and CCC have agreed to conduct engineering survey of all major bridges in the national park. NYCC conducted the survey of 30 significant bridges which equated to a contribution of 12k. CCC completed their survey in 2012/13

National Trails

10. Natural England conducted a review of national trails and issued a consultation in 2012 called 'Stepping Forward' on the future management of National Trails. Two reports were subsequently published by Natural England:

I. Analysis of responses to Natural England's consultation on 'the future management of National Trails from April 2013'
II. The new deal: Management of National Trails in England from April 2013.

11. These reports and further information can be found at: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/nationaltrails/review2012.aspx

12. Natural England during 2013/14 looked to set up a partnership of local authorities and others to manage each National Trail. As part of the 'new deal' a lead organisation is required for each partnership. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have put themselves forward for this role for the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway Partnership and will be performing the role of lead during the shadow partnership year 2014/15:

    Functions of the Lead Partner include to:

    - Accept the grant offer from Natural England and claim and receive payments;
    - Have an oversight of delivery and report to Natural England about how our financial support has been used by the Partnerships and what has been; achieved
    - Ensure that partners are have the opportunity to participate.

Pennine Way

13. Total funding secured for the Pennine Way for 2013/14 was £93,615:

- £ 28,589 for Pennine Way Ranger Post;
- £ 4,688 for general maintenance works to stiles, gates and river crossings;
- £ 60,338 for works to Pen Y Ghent summit.

14. Various restoration works were completed:

    - 354m of stone flagged path, including 6 stone culverts and 600m of associated drainage on Pen Y Ghent;
    - General maintenance of stiles, gates and culverts

Pennine Bridleway

15. Total funding secured for the Pennine Bridleway for 2013/14 was £46,210:

- £40,210 for Pennine Bridleway Officer Post;
- £4,500 Settle Loop surface repairs;
- £500 Gavel Gap to Cold Keld gate 40m subsoil and surface work;
- £500 BW 56 leading to Swinely Cowm d repair surface damage;
- £500 Miscellaneous – gates – bridges – minor surface repairs etc.

Three Peaks

16. During 2013/14 implementation of the 3 Peaks Project included:

- 480m of footpath repairs were carried out on Grain Ings, Whernside including 80m of flagging and 400m of aggregate re-surfacing.
- 120m of stone flagging was laid at Bruntscar, Whernside, Ingleton extending the current flagged path.
- Three Peaks App Launched

17. Numbers of Friends and Corporate Members have remained constant during the year:

- 340 members of the Friends and 98 Corporate and Charity members are currently signed up to the project.

Rights of Way

18. During 2013/14 progress towards the continuous review of the Definitive Map and Public Path Orders, although some of these duties have been delegated back to the two Highway Authorities the following were completed in:

Public Path Orders:

North Yorkshire	**Order Process**	**Date**
Diversion Footpath, Langthwaite	Order confirmed	2013
Creation Agreement, for footpaths at Threshfield Quarry	Order confirmed	2013
Creation Agreement for footpath to bridleway Old Ings	Order confirmed	2013

Definitive Map Modification Orders:

North Yorkshire	**Order Process**	**Date**
Application to add footpath Hellifield and Long Preston (New House Lane)	Order made	Confirmed by Sec of State
Application to add 6 footpaths Hellifield (Little Newton and Nursery Hill)	Order made	Confirmed by Sec of State

3. Corporate Plan 2013/14

19. The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan, 2013/14, sets out a programme of works and measures to assist in achieving the aims of the National Park Management Plan. Specific performance indicators were identified for 2013/14, in relation to the whole rights of way network in the Yorkshire Dales National Park:

Performance Indicators	O9/10 Actual	10/11 Actual	11/12 Actual	12/13 Actual	**13/14 Target**	**13/14 Actual**
% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road	96%	97.8%	97.7%	97.9%	**98%**	**98.2%**
% of rights of way that are easy to use but may not follow the definitive line	91%	92%	89%	87%	**90%**	**90%**

20. Specific Corporate Plan actions for 2013/14 were:

Action	**NYCC** In the park	**CCC** In the park	**Total**	**Achieved**
Maintain at 98% the number of places where a right of way is signposted from a metalled road.	98.27%	97.25%	98.1%	Yes
Carry out significant works to the stone culvert on Swinden Lane Bridleway in conjunction with the Parish Council and Swinden Quarry, and maintain 15 river crossings so that 92% remain in condition 1.	88.9%	92%	89.7%	No
Carry out engineering works to 1.9km of eroded routes, including new surfacing of the Dales Way at Howgill and a stone flagged path at Haylands, Hawes.	1470m	500m	1970m	Yes
Repair 6.7km of previously engineered routes including significant works on the footpaths at Scalgill, Kirkby Malham, Airton Mill and Shaw Gill Woods, High Abbotside.	4,309m		4,309m	No
Maintain the rights of way infrastructure so that 95% remain in Condition 1.	94%	94.9%	94.1%	No
Three Peaks: Launch the Three Peaks smartphone app and promote the new Whitber Hill/Black Dub route of the Three Peaks walk to 20 charity event organisers. Repair 600 metres of previously engineered works at Bruntscar and Grain Ings, Craven Way, Whernside.	 600m		 600m	 Yes Yes
National Trails: Implement actions identified from the 2013/14 Pennine Bridleway Maintenance Plan including 1,644 metres of new surfacing on Gorbeck Road. Implement actions identified from the Pennine Way Maintenance Plan 2013/14. Work in conjunction with Natural England to seek to establish National Trail Partnerships for the management of the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway.	 1,644m			 Yes Yes Yes

Performance Indicators by area

21. 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, unless stated).

Performance Indicator	Target	NYCC In the park	CCC 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	90%	93.1%	68.3%	90.2%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	98%	98.27%	97.25%	98.1%
% of infrastructure - stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	95%	94%	94.9%	94.1%
% of River Crossings in 'condition 1' (that is in good order and will last up to three years	92%	88.9%	92%	89.7%
% of Rights of Way accessible for wheelchairs	0.6%			0.62%
% of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability	6%			6.1%

4. Resources

22. In 2013/14 there were 8.2 full time equivalent (FTE) members of staff working on rights of way maintenance, and 1 Rights of Way Officer. The annual PRoW budget was 137k and, in addition, there were a further 2.5 FTE externally funded posts. These were:

Pennine Way Ranger
The Authority received 75% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Way Ranger.

Pennine Bridleway Project Officer The Authority received 87.5% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Bridleway Project Officer.

Three Peaks Ranger (0.5)
The Three Peaks Ranger post has continued through 2013/14 as a part-time post. This post was partially funded through income and donations generated by the project during 2013/14 with £14,228 collected through the Friends and Corporate Members, Merchandise and Large Scale Event Donations. In addition £6,574 was secured through the Pennine Ranger working on PYG Summit as part of the Natural England Grant Funding.

23. The Authority also supports the:

Dales Volunteers and other volunteers
In total 1363 days of practical work and 337 days of surveying were undertaken on the rights of way network, by Dales Volunteers, this year. This equates to approximately 8 full time staff equivalents.

5. Ease of Use results

Target *Maintain and promote the network of public rights of way so that, on average, 90% are 'easy to use' by members of the public (by 2018).*

24. In 2013 the English National Park Authorities Joint Improvement Group agreed to collect one indicator, which will be collected for all the English National Parks. The indicator for 'Ease of Use' for the English National Parks will now be:

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

25. Each year's survey randomly selects a number of paths, making up 5% of the overall network, in total approx 108km surveyed in 2013 (95km NYCC and 13km CCC) in the National Park. Half of the routes, (approx 2.5%), are surveyed in May with the remainder surveyed in November. 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.

2013 Ease of Use Results	NYCC In the Park	CCC In the Park	YDNPA
% Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' but may not follow the exact definitive line	93.1%	68.3%	**90.2%**

6. Signing

Target. *Maintain at 98% the proportion of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road in 2013/14.*

26. The Access Recording System indicates that there are 1731 places in the National Park requiring a signpost at the roadside. Currently 1698 (98.1 %) are actually in situ with 33 (1.9%) currently missing (an improvement on the position in March 2032).

27. During 2013/14, 98 directional signs were replaced or repaired where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (footpath/bridleway), distance and destination.

28. In addition, 127 signposts have been replaced or repaired indicting directions, distance or status along public rights of way in the national park.

Signposts from a Metalled Road

Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Recording System

	Total	Present	Missing	% in situ
YDNPA	1731	1698	33	98.1%
NYCC	1454	1428	26	98.2%
CCC	277	270	7	97.5%

7. General Maintenance

29. The following section provides a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out, during 2013/14, in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the rights of way network. It is worth noting that ladder stiles, in the National Park, continue to be removed, a further 13 ladder stiles have been replaced, reducing the overall number from 458 to 4445 in 2013/14. The number of hand gates has also increased, by 31, from 1077to 1110. In addition, kissing gates in the network have also increased. These works continue to improve the accessibility of the overall network for a range of users with limited mobility.

Infrastructure

Type	Total improved 2013/14	Total in National Park
Ladder Stile	21	445
Timber Step Stile	48	800
Stone Step Stile	118	1242
Stone Squeeze Stile	161	1698
Fieldgate > 5ft	213	2871
Handgate < 5ft	105	1110
Kissing Gate	14	199
Boardwalk	3	56
Signpost (directional on route)	127	1798
Waymarker post	91	555
Information Sign	6	305
Roadside Signpost Absent		33
Roadside Signpost Present	98	1698
Steps	23	249
Culvert	12	684
Total	1,040	13,743

River Crossings (includes bridges and stepping stones)

TYPE	Cumbria CC	NYCC	YDNPA	
	repair/replaced/ erected	repair/replaced/ erected	Total improved	Total in park
Bridges	10	29	39	804
Stepping Stones		4	4	11
Total				815

8. Major Projects

30. Under the Delegation Schemes the Authority has responsibility for 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 County Council	**New Engineering Works**
Rylstone BW	185m subsoil path & surfacing
Dales Way, Howgill	200m new surfacing of footpath
Ribble Way Helwith Bridge	50m of new flagged footpath
Stone House to Haylands	225m of new flagged path
Whether Fell	50m new surfacing of bridleway
Windegg Bridleway	500m improved bridleway
Bleaberry Gill	60m Coast to Coast improvement
Dales Way, Burnsall	200m of new surfacing
Cumbria County Council	
High Ellershaw	400m improved bridleway
Dales Way Church Bridge Dent	100m improved surfacing
	Total
	1970 m Planned
North Yorkshire County Council	**Maintain Previously Engineered Routes**
Airton Mill	535m re surfacing works
Cavendish, Bolton Abbey	500m re-surfacing works
Shaw Ghyll	500m re-laying of flagged path
Reeth	680m re-surfacing works
Dales Way, Grassington	125m re-surfacing works
Gordale Scar	644m re-surfacing and drainage works
Weets Top	1200m drainage and improvement works
Additional Works	
Strands, Gunnerside	50m of replacement boardwalk
Freeholders Wood	75m aggregate re-surfacing of footpath
	Total
	4,184m Planned 125m Additional
Three Peaks Project (NYCC)	**New Engineering Works**
Bruntscar (Whernside), Ingleton Parish	120m flagged footpath
	Total 120m
	Maintain Previously Engineered Routes
Craven Way (Whernside), Ingleton Parish	480m (100m flagged footpath and surfacing)
	Total 480m

North Yorkshire County Council	**Bridges**
Major Bridges various	30 bridges surveyed
Swinden Bridge (Culvert)	Major works to culvert

Pennine Way

North Yorkshire County Council	**Maintain Previously Engineered Routes**
Pen Y Ghent summit	354m flagged footpath
	266m surface improvements and drainage
	Total 600m

Pennine Bridleway

North Yorkshire County Council	**New Engineering Works**
Gorbeck, Langcliffe (Settle Loop)	1644m new aggregate surfacing & drainage
	Total 1644m

9. Looking Ahead

31. From April 2014 the Authority's Rights of Way budget, and those of many other organisations that operate in the National Park, will again be reduced, as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. The Authority wants to continue to provide key services to a high standard and recognises Public Rights of Way as one of its six priority programmes.

32. This report shows that three of the Authority's main rights of way targets have not been achieved this year. However, this needs to be considered in context. The network still remains at a very good standard at 90% 'Ease of Use' and we continue to be successful in securing external funding.

33. Given the current progress against objectives action has been taken recently to re-distribute staff resources, within the Ranger Service, towards rights of way maintenance. Following a light touch review the eighth position of Access Ranger, due to be this March 2014, was re-instated on a full time permanent basis. Instead, the number of Area Rangers has been reduced from eight to seven over the last year. This will allow the Authority to continue to focus on frontline services and maintain a high standard of rights of way network with the aim of keeping 90% 'Ease of Use' levels at 90% in the future.

Further Information

Further information regarding the report is available from:

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

Item No. 11

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 20th May 2014

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 on 25th March 2014. The draft minutes of this meeting are in **appendix 1.** 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 18 December 2013. The next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group will be on 15th July 2014.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group was on 20 March 2014, the unapproved minutes of this meeting are attached in Appendix 2, The next meeting will be in September 2014.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Cave and Crag Advisory Group was on 27 November 2013. The next meeting has yet to be confirmed.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group yet to be confirmed (July/August 2014).

Air Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Air Sports Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Water Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Water Sports Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Mohammed Dhalech
Access Development Officer
May 2014

Appendix 1

Meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group
Held on Tuesday 25 March 2014
2.00pm, Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

Present:

Alistair Thompson (AT) (Chair)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Brian Jones (BJ)	Ramblers Association
John Sparshatt	LDWA
P Knowles (PK)	Ramblers Association
Malcolm Petyt (MP)	Ramblers Association
Heather Thomas-Smith (HTS)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Joy Greenwood (JG)	Ramblers Association

YDNPA Officers present:

Alan Hulme (AH)	Head of Ranger Service
Sheila Roberts (SR)	Rights of Way Officer
Mohammed Dhalech (MD)	Access Development Officer

Apologies:

David Gibson (DG)	Ramblers Association / Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Andrew Colley	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Neil Heseltine	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
George Bateman	Ramblers Association
Matt Neale	Area Ranger (Upper Wensleydale)
Phil Richards	Area Ranger (Lower Wharfedale)

1. Welcome and apologies

AT Chair for the meeting in the absence of DG, Introductions were made round the room and apologies noted as above.

2. Approval of notes of the last meeting

Page 2 3rd Bullet point – It's the Whitber diversion

Page 3 point 6 3rd para "approx. 40%", not 50%

Page 3 point 6 last point – definitive map now moved to County Councils

Minutes of the meeting on 2 December were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

- **Lickber Lane** – planning and enforcement - AH circulated some photos of before and after. AH updated that the last time this went to committee was June 2013 – NYCC Highways wrote to us saying that they no longer object to

the works (undertaken by the landowner) and therefore they are permitted development. Highways have held a meeting with the land owner but little has changed on site – we were seeking the restoration of the sunken lane and NYCC have a duty under the Environment Act to have regard to National Park purposes. Members chased up progress at the March planning committee and David Butterworth wrote to the CEO at NYCC raising concerns on 19 March and we await their response.

It was noted that there is no mention of archaeologist and the historic nature of this route. The group expressed dissatisfaction at the way this matter has been dealt with.

The group wished to highlight this issue to the YDAF and consider taking appropriate action and to feed this into the Bridleways and Restricted byways AG.

- **Woodland Creation and Fencing of Commons Documents -** The Chair advised the group the papers circulated were the final version agreed by the YDAF in January.

The two papers were agreed by the Advisory Group

- **Long Preston Route West End to Riddings** - SR had undertaken some background research and provided documents to HTS, dating back to the 50/60's.

Parish Council is small at the moment and unlikely to change until after the elections in May. Way forward would be to gather evidence from users, two options available: 1) obtain land owners agreement or 2) establish 20 years unhindered use.

The landowners/ farmers, will want to know what is in it for them, question was posed as to what the YDNPA can do/offer anything e.g. compensation payments etc. AH expressed that with current budget constraints we would need to look at this very carefully but in the past we have sometimes looked at potential payments.

4. National Trails

AH updates the group on the national trails programmes, who have launched a new website http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ . Natural England have named the new trails programme "The New Deal" and the YDNPA are the lead authority for both the Pennine Way and Bridleway, and will be managed by a partnership with all the main stakeholders and further wider partnerships to manage the routes, with a view to local level delivery, each trail currently has an officer assigned to it and this will continue for the immediate future, medium / long term future still unsure.

AH is keen see how LAF can be involved and represented on the wider trails partnership.

The YDNPA will provide grants to local authorities to manage the maintenance of the Trails, and the YDNPA will benefit from management costs as lead authority.

It is hoped the partnership approach will add value and attract match funding. The new approach provides a holistic view of the trails and across boundaries of the different authorities.

AH advised the group that DB was keen for the YDNPA to be a lead authority, and provides an opportunity for the Park to work across the whole trail and with different authorities.

As lead authority this includes a formal agreement and KPI's that the partnership will be required to deliver on.

5. Planning applications

None affecting PRoW

6. Proposed Works 2014/15

Corporate plan was approved this morning at the Authority meeting.

Some key targets include:

- 90 % of routes easy to use
- Dales integrated transport
- Increase the length of the Burnsall access for all route

Positive feedback from users over 90 % satisfied with Whitber, Redmoss and Black Dubb route

AH informed the group that the rangers service will be having a RoW workshop with the Rangers. This will look at how we maintain the network, prioritising works, quality standards and cost effectiveness.

Some important questions need to be addressed such as doing regular maintenance or wait till it falls apart, cheap or quality and longevity of work. It's about efficient and effective ways of working by the ranger service in the current financial climate.

HTS asked about minimum widths of paths, AH stated that this depends on the what is recorded on the Definitive statement (if there is one) also on the context and environment of the individual path. There are however suggested widths for new paths depending on whether Bridleway or Footpath.

We are developing a 3 Peaks – sponsor ship deal with Rohan which will initially involve the kitting out of the 3 peaks Ranger with Rohan clothing. Currently financial income generated through the 3 peaks goes towards covering the additional role of the 3 Peaks Ranger (part time).

7. Member round up

PK – issues on path near Leyburn, the local authority outside the park is not being very cooperative.

HD - Peoples bus company possible liquidation, potential impact on access to the park and unsure of the future.

MP - After a wet winter positive to see big improvements on Whernside circuit, which is being well managed.

Guldrey fold, obstruction on the path – AH informed the AG that the Area Ranger is working on this and looking at diversion options.

Bruntscar – improvements on going.

8. Any other business

Motor vehicles - ongoing work with police and having some success in issuing fixed penalty notices.

9. Date of next meeting

TBC

Appendix 2

Minutes of Meeting of
Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group
Held on Wednesday 19 March 2014
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present:

Alex Law (AL) - Chair	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Jane Baker (JB)	Arklemoor Riding Centre
Tracey Lambert (TL)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Mohammed Dhalech (MD)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Apologies:

Neil Heseltine (NH)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Sue Midgley (SM)	British Horse Society
Stuart Price (SP)	Dales Mountain Biking
Cat Kilner (CK)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

1. **Welcome and apologies**
   Apologies noted above

2. **Approval of the minutes**

   The minutes of the meeting on 12 September 2013, were approved as a correct record

3. **Group make-up**

   The group continues to have an under representation from mountain bikers and carriage drivers. Also the number of horse riding representatives has recently reduced. New members would also be welcome to represent the South of the park.

   MD to formally invite KM to join Advisory group for a horse riding and carriage driving perspective..

   It was suggested that it might be worth identifying biking centres and horse riding centres and invite representation from them..
   Some suggestions included:
   - Eden Valley Riding Centre (Allison Roper)
   - Gill Edge Riding Centre (Joyce Thorpe)
   - Kinsley Trekking Centre
   - Swaledale Outdoor centre (Paul Brooks)
   - Carriage driving societies (David Calvert)

   MD to check with Cathy Bradley for any off road cycling clubs in the south of the park.

MD to identify list of horse riding centres and off road mountain biking and seek representation to the AG

4. **Project Update 2013/14**

MB has been working in the Fremington Edge area.

MD to get updates from Rangers

5. **Planned projects 2014/15**

Ask Rangers of any Bridleways and Byways works

MD to get in update from Rangers

6. **Posters regarding cyclists/horses**
Follow up with SM, key message poster from BHS

AL asked do we know how many horse riders are using the Pennine bridleway, TL suggest that Peter Lambert be invited to the next meeting to talk about the Pennine Bridleway and information he has on users.

MD to invite Peter Lambert to next meeting

7. **Horse Riding Routes**

Northern rides routes booklet was tabled and noted.
Ride Yorkshire report was tabled and noted.

8. **Tour de France – Update**

North Yorkshire CC are the official event organisers in terms of traffic, crowd management, marshalling etc. Some points to note:

- Roads along the route will be closed for at least 8 hours, this will also impact on feeder routes.
- There will be marshalled crossing points
- Parking will be limited and restricted on the route.
- Local farms etc. are setting up campsite and car parking
- Emergency routes
- Estimated over 400,000 visitors on the day
- The Park will have the trophy from 19 to 25 May

9. **Any other business**

LSTF – TL updated the group on the Parks submission, which is focused on access and transport and this may support and build on previous work. It was suggested that it might be worth looking at horse friendly accommodation, and listing stabling for horses in the park e.g. on the Pennine Bridleway.

TL and MD to follow up listing of horse friendly accommodation and liaise with PL

10. Date of the next meeting

September 2014 TBC

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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London SW1P 3JR

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April 2014

Local Access Forum Chairs

From Dan Rogerson MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Water, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resource Management

I would like to thank you for your work and achievements during the period of April 2012 to March 2013 in providing a local level body of expertise on public access and outdoor recreation issues.

The national annual report, compiled by Natural England, highlights the considerable range of achievements across the country by LAFs, and includes advice on coastal trails, managing dogs, working to ensure safer access, the protection of wildlife, and improvements for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The report showcases an increased level of achievements since the previous report, and I particularly welcome the examples of partnership working across the sectors. I look to you to continue your involvement with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs), Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

I also welcome the increase in your number reporting an initiation or contribution towards the engagement of volunteers to undertake path maintenance and improvement work; and the number of references to LAFs being directly involved in the delivery of an improved network, whether by contributing advice to a Paths for Communities project or practical initiatives to waymark routes or remove stiles.

I encourage you and your members to continue your work advising local highway authorities on the revision of their Rights of Way Improvement Plans. I am particularly keen that you ensure that revised ROWIPs cover access to woodland, as well as other land types, and consider how to provide improved provision for horse-riders.

I look forward to the continued achievements of LAFs in the future.

DAN ROGERSON MP

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Item No. 12

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 20th May 2014

Secretary's Report

Purpose of the Report

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

Authority Meetings

Any member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum can attend Authority Meetings as a member of the public. Please contact Mohammed Dhalech 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 2014:

Date	Venue	Time
24 June 2014	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
23 September 2014	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
16 December 2014	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30

Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2014

YDAF Meetings Date during 2014:

Tuesday 20 May 2014, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 30 September 2014, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

Proposed dates of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2015

Tuesday 27 January 2015 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 19 May 2015 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 29 September 2015 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

YDAF Recruitment (Proposed timetable)

YDAF reappointment/recruitment process for 2015 will be as follows:

- Press release and mailings 1st September onwards
- Closing Date noon Friday 7th November
- Interviews Tuesday 2nd December (TBC)

Meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Access Forum

The meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Access Forum was held on Friday **21 March 2014**, at the Natural England Offices in Leeds**.**

National Conference for Local Access Forums
The National Conference for Local Access Forums was held on **Friday 7 March 2014 in Durham**.

Huddle
A number of YDAF members are on Huddle, where practice is shared and a range of discussions are initiated. If any YDAF member wishes to join and if the YDAF would like to have a short training session on Huddle at the next meeting.

Milles without Stiles
We are working in partnership with Leeds Met University, to develop a mobile phone app for MwS routes. I am also working on making available the MwS routes on the YDNPA website.

YDNPA TdF Spectator Hubs
Produced a short information sheet outlining access at the three spectator hubs in the National Park (attached Appendix 1).

Bus There - Bike Back
A leaflet has been produced with information on six routes of varying degrees of suitability, where the Little White Bus will drop cyclists off at the starting point and people can then cycle back.

Malham Tarn – Tramper launch
A number of YDAF / NPA and Advisory group members attended the launch of the Tramper at NT Malham Tarn, the Tramper was funded through the SDF fund.

Regional Coordination
The YDNPA have submitted a quote to continue undertaking the Regional Coordinator role, still awaiting outcome.

Access Newsletter (DEFRA)
The April 2014 DEFRA Access Newsletter is attached with the papers.

Letter from the Minister
Letter from the Minister Dan Rogerson MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to LAF Chairs is attached.

Mohammed Dhalech
Access Development Officer
May 2014

Appendix 1 - National Park Spectator Hubs and Access - Tour de France

Car Parking will be available on a first come first serve basis and there is no guarantee that we can safeguard these spaces 24 hours a day. Get to your chosen viewpoint early (at least by the Saturday morning) as there will be thousands all trying to do the same, an estimated 400,000 visitors are expected in the National Park on Saturday. Once the spaces are gone, they're gone.

NPC	Car Parking	Facilities	Viewing Area	Notes
Hawes Dales Countryside Museum, Station Yard, Burtersett Road, Hawes. DL8 3NT Tel: 01969 666210 Fax: 01969 666239 E: Hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk	Seven designated disabled parking bays chargeable in line with the rest of the car park.	Access to the rest of the site is generally good, including DCM and NPC. RADAR toilets / baby changing facilities available on-site.	Big screen will be on the community field (grass) Access may be limited.	Most of the footway in Hawes, alongside the race route is accessible.
Aysgarth Aysgarth, Leyburn, DL8 3TH Tel: 01969 662910 Fax: 01969 662919 E: aysgarth@yorkshiredales.org.uk	Four designated disabled parking bays chargeable in line with the rest of the car park.	Access to the rest of the site is generally good, including NPC and a Café is available onsite. RADAR toilets / baby changing facilities available on-site.	Access from the disabled parking bays will be on a tarmac surface to the big screen viewing area in the lower car park. Designated area for wheelchairs and people with limited mobility.	Unsure what the Wensleydale Railway are providing at Aysgarth Station. Only access between the two sites is via the road, under the railway bridge and up the entrance ramp to the car park.
Grassington Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton, BD23 5LB Tel: 01756 751690 Fax: 01756 751693 E:grassington@yorkshiredales.org.uk	Four designated disabled parking bays chargeable in line with the rest of the car park. A further 6 temporary bays will be available.	Access to the rest of the site is generally good, including NPC. RADAR toilets / baby changing facilities available on-site.	Access to the big screen will be along the car park overspill track and within the big screen enclosure an area will be provided for wheelchairs and people with limited mobility.	

This information is subject to change

More information on Tour de France in the Dales can be found at http://www.cyclethedales.org.uk/tour-de-france-in-the-dales

Other information

From The Grand Départ 2014 website FAQ (14 April 2014)

I have a disability / mobility issue. Where can I go to watch?

Whilst anyone can go and watch the Tour from the side of the road, there will in many cases be long walks of 3-4 miles in between the nearest car parking and some of the terrain may not be suitable for people with disabilities / mobility issues. A better option might be to head towards one of our Grand Départ Spectator Hubs, particularly those in more central locations with good transport links and access. Local authorities are firming up their own arrangements for disabled access and viewing, and details of this and the Spectator Hubs will be published on the website in April.

North Yorkshire County Council

Harrogate Borough Council – are looking at a dedicated disabled viewing area and car parking, as close to the finish line as possible, details have yet to be finalised.

Craven DC are exploring a disabled viewing area in Skipton, no details as yet.

6 May 2014
Access Development Officer
accessforum@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 61 April 2014

Access open on coastal stretches in Cumbria and Durham, Hartlepool and Sunderland

The new right of coastal access was opened on a stretch of the coast between Allonby and Whitehaven, Cumbia and between North Gare and South Bents (Durham, Hartlepool and Sunderland) on Friday 11 April 2014. Two Orders were made to bring the rights into force:

- Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (Cumbria) Order 2014 No. 851 is available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/851
- Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (Durham, Hartlepool and Sunderland) Order 2014 No. 846 is available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/846

Norfolk coastal access report approved

The Secretary of State has approved Natural England's coastal access proposals for a stretch of the English coast between Sea Palling and Weybourne, Norfolk. A copy of the statutory notice made under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 is at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-access-section-52-notice-for-sea-palling-to-weybourne

Progress on the Deregulation Bill

The rights of way reform package in the Deregulation Bill has now completed its Committee Stage in the House of Commons. The Bill now moves on to Report Stage Third Reading before going on to the House of Lords.

Information on the Bill and the amendments made to it during its passage through the House of Commons is available on the Parliament website at: http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/deregulation.html

Local Access Forum Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Natural England has published its national Local Access Forum annual report (April 2012 - March 2013) complied from the annual reports which it has received from the 85 local access forums ("forums") in England. The annual report (and last year's report) is available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5396568156930048?category=211280

Natural England has commented:

> "In comparing this report with last year's first annual report the quantity and breadth of activities has increased with a number of forums reporting that they had initiated or contributed to the engagement of volunteers to undertake path maintenance and improvement work. The report makes a number of references to forums being directly involved in the delivery of an improved network - whether that be by contributing advice to a Paths for Communities scheme or practical initiatives to waymark routes or remove stiles. The report includes several references to forums working with Local Nature Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health Boards. All of these achievements are within the context of leaner times which suggests that forums are delivering good value to local authorities by finding new ways to deliver better access such as through volunteer workforces and by applying for external funds"
>
> The report also notes that many forums have raised issues about feeling poorly supported by their local authorities who have less money to fund both the running of forums as well as smaller budgets to manage and improve access.
>
> Defra Minister Dan Rogerson has responded to the report by writing to the forums thanking them for all their many achievements and looking forward to their continued achievements in the future.
>
> There is more information on local access forums on Natural England's website at: http://www.naturalengland.gov.uk/ourwork/access/laf/

If you have any queries about any of the above, please email us at: coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk