Item No. 6

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 19 May 2009

The Three Peaks Project 2009 - 2012

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide members of the Forum with information about the new Three Peaks Project to be officially launched in July 2009.

Background

In 1986 the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology carried out a study of the condition of the path network in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and concluded that the region had the sad distinction of possessing the most severely eroded network in the UK.

The following year, the first Three Peaks Project was established with a staff of 13. Its remit included trialling new path-engineering and re-vegetating techniques to provide sustainable routes and to allow damaged surrounding land to recover. The mid-90s and early 2000s saw a number of externally-funded projects completed, each with one or two extra staff appointed.

However, since 2004, the management and maintenance of the Three Peaks network has reverted back to the Rangers – a team of just two officers covering the whole of the wider Ribblesdale area. With current staffing levels, the Authority is gradually falling behind with maintenance, resulting in the reduced lifespan of previous projects and a corresponding increase in the frequency of repairs.

The new Three Peaks Project

The new project aims to secure, in the long-term, the maintenance, enhancement and sustainable use of the Three Peaks area. The project, while seeking capital support through grant applications, has, as a major outcome, the aim of engaging with those that visit the Three Peaks, as well as those who live or work in the area. We would like to create a sustainable source of both practical and financial support that will help protect and enhance the area and the rights of way network into the future.

There are a variety of ideas we wish to develop to give users of the network the opportunity to support the area and the work of the Authority. These include developing better links with sponsored event organisers, developing merchandise to celebrate walking one, two or all of the peaks (whether in one go or over an extended period), a ‘Friends of the Three Peaks’, with opportunities for annual support, sponsorship and practical help, and building business and community interest in the Three Peaks.

Action for the Forum

Members are asked to note the development of the project.

Steve Hastie
Area Ranger / Project Manager Three Peaks
22 April 2009

Item No. 8

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 19 May 2009

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 4 March 2009. The draft minutes of this meeting are attached in **Annex 1.** The next meeting will be on 23 September 2009.

Access for All Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group was on 19 May 2009. The minutes of this meeting will be presented to the YDAF on 22 September 2009.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group was on 12 May 2009. The draft minutes of this meeting will be circulated at the meeting..

Air Sports Advisory Group

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

Water Sports Advisory Group

The next of the Water Sports Advisory Group will be on meeting be on 16 June 2009.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group will be on 23 October 2009.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group will be in May 2009. The minutes of this meeting will be presented to the YDAF on 22 September 2009.

Rachel Briggs
April 2009

Unapproved Minutes of Meeting of Access on Foot Advisory Group Held on Wednesday 4 March 2009 Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present:

Brian Jones (BJ)	Ramblers Association
Mike Shearing (MS)	Ramblers Association
John Brock (JB)	Ramblers Association
Ernie Robins (ER)	Ramblers Association
Keith Wadd (KW)	Ramblers Association
David Gibson (DG)	Ramblers Association
Malcolm Petyt (MP)	Ramblers Association
Howard Medlock (HM)	Ramblers Association
Mick Kenyon (MK)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

YDNPA Officers present:

Alan Hulme (AH)	Ranger Service Manager
Rachel Briggs (RB)	Access Development Officer
Steve Hastie (SH)	Area Ranger, Ribblesdale
Phil Richards (PR)	Area Ranger, Lower Wharfedale

2. Welcome and apologies

AH welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from, Peter Bradfield (PB), David Bartlett (DB), John Sparshatt (JS), Sue Emmerson (SE), Bernard Ellis (BE) and Ken Miller (KM).

1. Election of a Chair

Since no one agreed to become Chair of the group, DG volunteered to chair the meeting but asked that the election of a Chair be on the agenda for the next meeting.

BJ asked if a message of thanks could be sent to Michael Bartholomew who has decided to stand down from the group.

AH to send a message of thanks to Michael Bartholomew for his contribution to the Access on Foot Advisory Group.

3. Approval of notes of the last meeting

Matters arising from the notes

AH told members he had spoken to NYCC with regards to signage. They are currently putting together a draft signage strategy for North Yorkshire which will be discussed at a meeting of the three North Yorkshire Local Access Forums later on in March. DG said that, as a member of the North Yorkshire LAF, he had seen the strategy and confirmed that it would be for the whole of North Yorkshire. He wondered if the National Parks would adopt it. BJ thought it more sensible to look at what Natural England is doing to ensure that there is consistency. ER added that DEFRA will be carrying out a review of their signage strategy over the next few years.

KW asked if anything had been done about a route from Penhill to Hazely, as discussed at the last meeting. He added that this is a very popular route and is currently blocked which is causing damage. AH said he would speak to Nigel Metcalfe, Area Ranger for Lower Wharfedale, and let members know the outcome.

AH to speak to Nigel Metcalfe about a possible route from Penhill to Hazely.

DG asked if there was any update on the TRO's. MP said that a private paper had been taken to the National Park Authority but that he wasn't able to discuss the content.

AH informed members that there were some changes in the Ranger Service and that a new ranger area map would be circulated once everyone was in post.

RB to circulate a new ranger area map.

4. Open Access

Counter Information

AH circulated some figures to members indicating that when routes on open access are promoted then more people use them. This was proved by the installation of a people counter on a route in Upper Wharfedale. AH was asked if the ranger service is planning on promoting any more routes this year. AH said that he has asked each ranger area to look at two routes to be promoted on the website.

Infrastructure Survey

DG explained to members that a presentation had been given to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum on the open access infrastructure survey that has been carried out by the Dales Volunteers. AH added that the information will be provided as a downloadable layer on the website and will show existing gates (locked and open) and stiles.

BJ said that Harvey Maps has done a map of the Forest of Bowland area with infrastructure on it and this has been done by aerial photography. SH said that the

problem with Harvey Maps is that they can't show open access land as Ordnance Survey owns the copyright.

AH to bring more information about the open access infrastructure survey to the next meeting.

General

AH told members about a new group that is 'bagging' all the high points in the Yorkshire Dales. This has raised some issues in some areas but also shows a growing demand for open access land. BJ added that some of the high points are on private land and that this should be stressed to this group.

BJ asked if it would be possible to have a report on patterns of restrictions on open access land. AH said that an annual report is published and that this would be going to the Access Committee in the near future.

AH to provide members with a copy of the open access annual report when produced.

5. PROW General Reports

RB and PR informed members of a potential project that was currently being worked up for Grimwith Reservoir. The project would increase access round the reservoir for people with limited mobilities and would also involve some work to protect the populations of wading birds on the site. Officers are looking at potential funding streams including money from the Aggregates Levy. RB said she would let members know the outcome at a future meeting.

AH gave an update on the ease of use best value performance indicator 178. This national performance indicator (BVPI) measures the percentage PROW that are 'easy to use' and has recently been dropped by the government. However, most highways authorities are continuing with the survey. The current BVPI fails a route where it leave the definitive line. All National Park Authorities have decided to measure two slightly different figures:

- Ease of Use A – Follows the definitive line of the PROW.
- Ease of Use B – PROW is easy to use and meets the conditions of the survey. However, the route might not follow the definitive line.

BJ asked how the public can find out about permissive routes as he recently had an issue trying to find out information on a route at Holme Farm, Sedbergh. ER suggested looking at the routes that are listed on the DEFRA website that are funded through countryside stewardship (http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/). AH said he would look into this.

AH to look at how information about permissive routes is passed on to members of the public.

6. Pennine Way Update

AH informed members that a new Pennine Way Ranger had been employed. Colin Chick has been taken on to replace Peter Lambert who has now become the Pennine Bridleway Project Officer.

KW asked if there was any information available on the use of the Pennine Way as it seems it is used less than it used to be. AH thought that more people will do smaller sections as day walks and that not many people do the full long distance trail.

MK asked why there would be less people using the Pennine Way and wondered if it was because it was becoming too sanitised and less of a challenge. AH said there would be other factors, such as cost and lack of accommodation.

AH to supply information on the use of the Pennine Way.

Pennine Bridleway Update

MP gave an update on the Pennine Bridleway. Depending on definitive map modification orders, there are two sections scheduled to be opened over the next year:

- Arten Gill – Newby Head.
- Garsdale Head – the Coal Road – the Moorcock pub.

HM asked what was happening with the Selside section. MP said that they were awaiting planning permission (nb planning permission was granted at planning committee 14/4/09).

Three Peaks Project Update

SH gave an update on the Three Peaks Project.

A new Project Ranger has been appointed for the first year of the project. The project will start with a community led event in May followed by a Forum launch later in the year. SH has been contacting Three Peaks event organisers to see if they would like to contribute a proportion of their fees to the maintenance of the PROW. The take up looks positive.

BJ said that the project looks good and offered the support and assistance of the Ramblers Association if required.

7. Work Programme 2009/10

Ah circulated a copy of the infrastructure survey report as of 3/3/09. This shows an improvement in the standard of infrastructure when compared to last year.

KW asked whether the resources assigned to public rights of way is sufficient to ensure the network doesn't deteriorate. AH said that the funding was at a suitable level although you could always have more and that PRoW remained a top priority work programme for the National Park Authority. DG asked whether the £50k given to the YDNPA by NYCC

to look after the PROW would be repeated this year. AH said that this was expected and would be incorporated into the budget given for PROW works for 2009/10.

AH informed members that the draft corporate plan has been circulated to officers detailing specific projects for the coming year. This can be made available to members on request.

8. Member round up

DG – as part of the Bridleway and Restricted Byways Advisory Group, DG attended a meeting in Nidderdale to look at cross boundary issues concerning bridleways and restricted byways.

MP – will be attending the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum event on 19 March.

9. Any Other Business

AH reminded members of the group that the terms of reference state that:

The purpose of the Access on Foot 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.

AH said that, the meeting provided a forum for suggestions to improve and enhance the access opportunities from representatives of groups and interested individuals. He added that 'it is important that the group continually review it's role and to make sure it is achieving the purpose'. Currently the amount of YDNPA officer staff time servicing the group is quite high and we need to constantly review inputs in relation to outputs. AH then asked if members are finding the meetings valuable. Members all agreed that the meetings are very useful and that it is a good way to pass on valuable messages.

BJ suggested an item for a future agenda could be the rights of way improvement plan and how the actions have been incorporated into the work programme for the YDNPA.

RB to include the ROWIP as a future agenda item.

MK thought that the meeting could have a wider brief to include others who have an interest in access on foot e.g. orienteering groups. DG asked for any contacts that MK might have to be passed on the RB.

MK to pass contact details of any other users to RB.

The next meeting will be held on 17 September 2009. The meeting will start at 1.30pm with a pre meeting of the Ramblers Association at 12.30pm. The meeting will be held at the YDNPA office in Bainbridge.

Item No. 9

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 19 May 2009

Review of the Integrated Access Strategy

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
   (a) present the review process for the Integrated Access Strategy (IAS),
   (b) seek LAF members views at an early stage in this process.

Background

2. The Integrated Access Strategy, finalised in January 2005, came about through an attempt to streamline the various Authority strategic documents that were dependent on the Park's access 'resource' and opportunities for outdoor recreation. The strategy, produced in 2004/5, pulled together and replaced the following existing policy documents:

   - Traffic and Visitor Management Strategy – Adopted 1996
   - Sustainable Access Strategy - Adopted 1997
   - Access and Rights of Way Management Policy Statements - Adopted October 1999
   - An Advisory Hierarchy of Roads - Adopted 1981
   - Best Value Improvement Plan Review of the National Park Authorities Second Purpose – Adopted May 2003
   - Public transport position statement - Adopted July 2004,
   - Sustainable tourism position statement - Adopted July 2003

3. At the time there was no strategic framework explaining how these various policy documents were linked and therefore should be integrated beyond the Authority's statutory purposes and overarching aims in the National Park Management Plan. The Integrated Access Strategy, as it names suggests, tried to integrate and up-date the various elements of the Authority's access related policy within one document, and provide a strategic framework to guide future work. It also helped to provide a consistent message, from the Authority, to the county councils who were producing their rights of way improvement plans (ROWIP) and local transport plan (LTP2) at that time.

About the document

<u>A thematic plan</u>

4. The IAS is an Authority 'thematic' plan that covers seven main policy areas:
   - Managing and improving the access resource eg rights of way, open access
   - Accessibility and visitor management eg facilities and quieter and busier areas

- Sustainable transport
- Access for all
- Healthy living
- Social inclusion
- Sustainable tourism

5. In the Authority's corporate document hierarchy it provides the policy which sits under the National Park Management Plan above the corporate plan. The NPMP has SMART objectives relating to these areas of work, whilst the corporate plan has the specific business plan actions. The IAS shows the generic policy framework in which these objectives and actions are delivered. Please note that some aspects of the IAS are taken forward through other documents eg our specific detailed policies and targets related to rights of way maintenance (policy AS 1section 2 of the IAS) are in the rights of way maintenance plan that was considered by the LAF at their meeting on 21 March 2006, (http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/item_8_-_row_maintenance_plan.pdf).

6. The target audience for the Integrated Access Strategy was originally YDNPA officers, public organisations such as the county and district councils, funding bodies such as Yorkshire Forward, and interest groups such as the Ramblers Association and British Horse Society, and not individuals. That being said, the IAS has proved very useful in showing our 'position' to individuals on a wide variety of access related issues. However it still needs to be a slimline summary document rather than an encyclopaedia on all access recreation and tourism issues. This is important if it is going to be used by officers and not duplicate information held elsewhere.

Change of name

7. The concept of an Integrated Access Strategy for the Yorkshire Dales came about following the Authority's involvement in a 'countryside access strategy' for Cumbria, and a decision taken to extend this across the whole of the Park though the production of a 'Dales Integrated Access Strategy'. At this time the Countryside Agency had undertaken a review of policy at a national level, and identified the need to have an 'integrated' approach to various inter-linked access issues eg transport, social inclusion and rights of way. As such the name given to the document was an 'Integrated Access Strategy' (IAS). This name is very much a product of its time. If the document is to 'do what it says on the tin' it is suggested that the name of the 'Integrated Access Strategy' be changed to something like 'access, recreation and tourism in the Yorkshire Dales' but other ideas will be considered as part of the consultation process.

Actions and Measuring Performance over the past five years

8. The success of any strategy is measured by the actions that result from it. The aim of the integrated access strategy is to provide an overarching strategic framework which will guide the actions identified in other actions plans. The Authority has an annual Corporate Plan with actions and targets against which progress is measured, the LTP and ROWIP also include detailed actions plans with targets, so to avoid duplication the IAS does not have actions and targets but broad strategic statements. However Members of the Access Committee receive an annual report which highlights actions,

against the Integrated Access Strategy strategic statements. (To view the 2008/9 annual report see http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/access16apr09iasreview.doc). This highlights the significant progress made, over the past 5 years, by officers in External Affairs, Park Management and the Planning Depts.

The review of the Integrated Access Strategy

Consultation

9. The IAS cuts across the work of several departments and involves staff from Park Management, External Affairs, and Planning in its delivery. In recognition of this the production of the original plan, and progress, involved input from specialist officers across all departments of the Authority (but particularly Park Management and External Affairs), and consultation with a wide range of interest groups. This will also be an important part of the review process.

What do we want the IAS to do?

10. The IAS is a five year plan and is scheduled to be reviewed January 2010. The document continues to have an important role to play, and has generally stood up well. However, from informal discussions the following needs have now been identified at this stage, (but are subject to further review as part of the consultation process):

Section of IAS	What we want this section to do	How it will do this
1. Towards an integrated access strategy	Set the scene, ensure links are made between the different sections of the plan eg access resource and diversity or tourism	Re-write this section and remove some of the jargon that related to the local transport plan (LTP3).
2. Managing and improving the access resource	Provide our broad policy stance on key areas eg open access, long distance routes, green lanes.	This section has stood up well, and should only need a light touch review.
3. Accessibility and Visitor management	Support the review of the local development framework particularly the gaps in the current tourism policy, about where, and what type of tourism development is or isn't acceptable, this will also meet the Europarc Charter 'visitor management' verification recommendation.	Re-write this section, to meet this need. build on the GIS spatial assessment being used to identify quieter and busier areas of the Park.
4. Sustainable Transport	Provide our policy stance and helps us to comment on LTP3	This section has stood up well, and should only need a light touch review.
5. Access for All	Provide our policy stance on access for all	This section has stood up well, and should only need a light touch review.
6. Healthy Living	Provide our policy stance on health	Re-write this section in the light of current Government policy, and our response to this.
7. Social Inclusion	Provide our policy stance on diversity issues, as it relates to the Defra's diversity action plan 'Outdoors for All?	Re-name this section 'diversity' and re-write this section in the light of current Government policy, and our response to this.
8. Sustainable Tourism	Provide our policy stance on sustainable tourism and also meet the requirement of the Europarc sustainable tourism charter accreditation visit recommendations.	Re-write this section in the light of the Europarc accreditation and amended ENPAA sustainable tourism guidelines

IAS Review process and timescale

11. The review process is scheduled to be completed by March 2010. The suggested process is:

Date	Meeting	Process
1 April 2009	YDNPA's SMT	Agree outline of review process
16 April 2009	Access Committee	Members agree outline of review process
6 May 2009	YDNPA's PDG	Workshop where officers, across all departments, identify and suggest any changes needed.
19 May 2009	YDLAF	Local Access Forum identify and suggest any changes needed
16 July 2009	Access Committee	Consultation draft produced for Access Committee, members identify and suggest any changes needed.
End of August		Consultation draft produced
End of September	Authority	Consultation draft agreed by the Authority
Beginning of October		Consultation draft sent out to interested organisations and the public for comment
End of November		End of public consultation
December		Consultation responses assessed and draft strategy amended to take on board comments from consultees
January 2010	Access Committee	Consultation responses summarised, strategy revised and endorsed by Access Committee
March 2010	Authority	final reviewed strategy taken to Authority for agreement

12. Unfortunately this timescale means that the LAF will not be able to comment on the consultation draft though the currently scheduled meetings– unless a special LAF meeting is convened for this purpose during October/November. (Alternatively comments from the LAF could be collated by one person via email, or small sub-group of the LAF could be set up to comment on the document.

Conclusion

13. The aim of the Integrated Access Strategy is to provide an overarching strategic framework which will help guide the Authority's work in relation to many aspects of our second purpose. It will provide the policy direction for our actions in the Corporate Plan and help guide our stance in relation to the review of other plans such as the Local Transport Plan and Right of Way Improvement Plan.

14. Over the past five years significant progress has been made against the strategic aims of the Integrated Access Strategy. It has proved a very useful strategic document and a review is now timely.

Points for discussion

1. The Appendix provides a list of current policy areas under each of the chapter headings and a series of questions that the LAF are asked to consider at this stage
2. What is LAF's view on changing the name of the strategy?
3. How do the LAF wish to comment on the suggested review process outlined above?

Kathryn Beardmore
Access and Recreation Manager

Questions to be considered at the LAF workshop on 19 May 2009

1. General

- **Describe one aspect of the IAS strategy you have found useful in your role as a LAF member. (If the answer is none – try and identify how you think it could have been useful if only...and identify the if?)**

- **Identify one or two "burning questions" you hope will be answered by the revised strategy.**

The current chapter headings and policies are:

1. **Towards an Integrated Access Strategy**
   What Integrated Access Means in a National Park
   Over-arching Aims and Objectives
   Identifying the Issues

2. **Managing and Improving the Access Resource**
   The Rights of Way Network
   Long Distance Routes
   Open Access
   Access to Other Recreation Opportunities
   Recreational Vehicular Use of Unsealed Routes (Green Lanes)
   Organised Recreational Events
   Resources
   Strategy:
   - Our role as delegated highway authority on behalf of the county councils
   - How we will implement the CRoW Act
   - Safeguarding the Park from damage and conflict from inappropriate activities
   - Maintaining the diversity of the Park
   - Engaging with event organisers

3. **Accessibility and Visitor Management**
   Maintaining Diversity of Visitors' Recreational Experience
   Access Interchanges
   Resources
   Strategy
   - Collaboration on expansion on network of visitor facilities
   - Ensuring visitor facilitates are of a high quality
   - Maintaining diversity of visitor experience between honey pots and quieter areas
   - Providing education, information, and key messages to raise awareness

4. **Sustainable Transport**
   Traffic in the Yorkshire Dales National Park
   Travel Options and Information
   Advisory Road Hierarchy
   Resources
   Strategy
   - Integrated and accessible public transport
   - Support for provision of transport infrastructure
   - Support measures to reduce dependency on motor vehicles, or unnecessary movements

5. **Access for All**
   Principles of countryside access for all
   Resources
   Strategy
   - Ensure visors of all abilities have a wide and varied spread of opportunities to enjoy the Park

6. **Healthy Living**
   Health benefits and under represented groups
   Resources
   Strategy
   - Encourage safe walking and cycling routes to access services
   - Work with local health professions
   - Enhance opportunities by working with outdoor industries and existing partnerships

7. **Social Inclusion**
   Defining social inclusion, diversity and engagement
   Resources
   Strategy
   - Providing opportunities for new audiences
   - Increase awareness of what the National Park has to offer

8. **Sustainable Tourism**
   Principles of sustainable tourism
   Resources
   Strategy
   - Work as a key regional influencer
   - Encourage sustainable tourism through partnership
   - Encourage greater awareness of impact on the national park of activities

9. **Solutions and Actions**
   Partnership
   Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

10. **Conclusion**

2. Guiding principles and future strategy

- **Is the concept of guiding principles still useful? Should this continue into the revised strategy?**

- **If the answer is 'yes', what principles need to be added or changed? If they need to be changed how is this change supported by Government guidance already in place or similar eg ENPAA have recently produced a sustainable tourism policy statement.**

The strategy has 'guiding principles' followed by specific policies. A guiding principle is an important statement of belief and/or value that guides what follows. There are many examples of this approach in other strategies including the principles used in the current National Park Management Plan.

The principles in the IAS are much more specific than those in the National Park Management Plan. By way of illustration one of the guiding principles is:

Recreational Vehicular Use – Guiding Principles

- The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority believes the use of unsealed routes by recreational motor vehicles is inappropriate in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

(This statement is underpinned by the Government's response to the Edwards Report 1992, and circular 12/96), the work 'inappropriate' is qualified by the policy that follows:

AS3 Safeguard the National Park from overall or irreversible damage through inappropriate activity and minimise conflict between different users:

(a) Use existing legislation and guidance to limit inappropriate activity in the National Park, including supporting and encouraging the Police Authority in controlling illegal and anti-social use.
(b) Work with the County Councils and users to explore, identify and implement appropriate management of green lanes on a regional basis.
(c) Work with landowners, farmers, users and user groups to try and resolve any actual or potential conflict through positive visitor management.

AS4 Maintain the quality, diversity and scope of the National Park's recreational assets:

Consider each recreational activity in terms of where it should take place, in what volume and at what time. It must be recognised, though, that in many situations we have no legal means of control and so can only do so through education and encouraging users' voluntary restraint.

How successful we actually are, at implementing these policies in relation to green lanes, is measured through the corporate plan objective which is:

> identify the most appropriate measures to manage the use of motorised recreational vehicles on each sensitive 'Green Lane', and put all such measures in place by 2011 (AR2);

and performance indicator:

> % of high sensitivity green lanes with active management plans in place.

Some guiding principles have been adapted from elsewhere, where available, eg the sustainable tourism guiding principles are those agreed by both AONBs and NPAs and appeared in the Pullen Report.

3. How the strategy is split up

- **How should the strategy be broken down into meaningful 'chunks' that could then be used to identify policies?**
- **Are there any areas of work that have been missed, and should be included?**
- **Are there any areas of work covered by the plan that are no longer needed?**

The current strategy is loosely based around the access resource and the 'programmes' of work we use for prioritising and budget setting.

This was a pragmatic decision. We break our work into programmes, so using them to set the scene and explain our approach makes application of policies to our work very straightforward. However, this approach does produce some anomalies because it breaks things up into artificial 'silos'. This produces anomalies where, for example, elements of one area of work helps to achieve the goals of another area of work e.g. some aspects of 'public transport' are really essential to 'sustainable tourism'.

The strategy does not include routine day-to-day work.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

- **How should the strategy be monitored and evaluated in the future?**

The downside of the approach adopted is that the document only states the 'future strategy' and direction of travel and does not contain any SMART measures of performance, without cross referencing to the NPMP and corporate plan. As such the strategy may be seen as 'weak' if this relationship is not clearly understood, as it will not be obvious what it has achieved.

However a baseline report is produced each year that provides a survey based summary of available data eg visitor surveys, traffic figures for individual roads etc.

An annual report is produced which summarises actions in relation to each of the policy areas and this has references to other documents eg the Corporate Plan where appropriate.

Item No. 10

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 19 May 2009

Secretary's Report

Purpose of the Report

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

Access Committee Dates and Venues

Date	Venue	Time
16 July 2009	Grassington Town Hall	10.00
15 October 2009	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.00

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

CRoW Act Restrictions and Exclusions

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have not received any requests for restrictions or exclusions since the meeting in January.

Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership

The following provides a summary of the meetings of the Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership. Copies of the minutes and supporting papers can be requested from Rachel Briggs by emailing her at Rachel.Briggs@yorkshiredales.org.uk or phoning on 01969 652363.

Maintenance Task Group – 11 February 2009

The agenda consisted of the following items:

- Unclassified/unsurfaced roads – the main discussion of the meeting was around the issue of UCRs and the lack of funding for their maintenance.

Improvement Task Group – 9 March 2009

The agenda consisted of the following items:

- ROWIP 2008/09 annual action plan performance monitoring – a list of updates were provided by the various members.
- ROWIP 2009/10 annual action plan: first draft - a list of updates were provided by the various members.
- Review of countryside access signs – there was general support in principle for the idea of a Cumbria wide set of signs. A working group (including Mark Allum, Access Project Officer, for the YDNPA) will take this further.
- Short circular walks – there was an update on the short circular walks project been taken forward by the Ramblers Association
- Quiet Lanes Review.

Promotion Task group – 27 February 2009

The agenda consisted of the following items:

a) CCA Review – there was a review of the promotions task group. The outcome was a timetable of subject areas for 2009 and 2010 for the group to discuss.
b) ROWIP 2008/09
c) ROWIP 2009/10 annual action plan: first draft - a list of updates were provided by the various members.
d) CCA branding and website – the group decided not to consider a brand for the partnership at this time.
e) Long distance routes

MPV Sub Group – 5 February 2009

The agenda consisted of the following items:

1. U5074 High Ickenthwaite and U5051 High Nibthwaite – there was a report about these two UCRs.
2. Colour codes – the group thought that the colour system of red, amber and green can be slightly confusing as some people see red routes as more challenging routes. This will be looked at at the next meeting.
3. Trails management strategy – the strategy compiled by the LDNPA was considered and it was agreed that the strategy should be for the whole of Cumbria and not just the LDNP.
4. Signing – the group decided that cul-de-sac signs were a good idea.

Access for All Sub Group – 17 March 2009

The agenda consisted of the following items:

- Miles without stiles – the LDNPA asked for feedback on their new leaflet ‘Accessible Walks for All’.

Registration of Common Land website

See Annex 1, information/correspondence on the registration of common land website.

English Access Forum

See Annex 2, the minutes from the English Access Forum meeting of 1 March 2009.

Members Expenses

Since the inception of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum in 2002, members have been paid at a rate of 48.5p per mile for travelling allowance. As a reminder, the summary of rates for allowances, as in the member handbook, states:

> Members of the forum are unpaid but legislation requires the appointing authority to meet any reasonable expenses incurred by the members in connection with their attendance at meetings of the forum and any other activities relating to the discharge of the function of the forum, but only in respect of –
>
> - Travel and subsistence costs, and
> - any expenses in arranging the care of their children or dependants.

In 2002, this rate of 48.5p per mile was in line with the payment given to members and officers of the YDNPA. However, since that date, this payment has been reduced to 40p per mile, the rate suggested by the Inland Revenue. This also means that staff and YDNPA members do not have to pay Income Tax or National Insurance on their travel claims – unlike LAF members currently.

To bring LAF members' expenses into line with the Inland Revenue rate, as of 1 July 2009, members of the YDAF will be paid 40p per mile. However, in an attempt to encourage car sharing amongst members, the rate per extra passenger will be increased from 1p to 5p (this is also in line with the YDNPA). The scheme for travel allowance will become:

Members of the YDAF	40p a mile 5p per passenger

Action for the YDAF
To note the new rate of payment for travel expenses as of 1 July 2009.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Induction

At present, when new members of the YDAF begin their term, they are presented with a members handbook which contains information on Local Access Forums, the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and, in particular, the work of the Park Management department. In 2009, before the Annual General Meeting, new members were invited to attend a session hosted by the Chair and Secretary of the

YDAF as an introduction to the format of meetings and general administrative arrangements. It has since been suggested by some members, that there be a more formal induction, the idea being that members would be offered some work shadowing opportunities with Park Management staff. However, due to the time commitment this would involve, it has been suggested that an alternative would be to hold an annual meeting with officers at the beginning of the new term, outside the formality of a forum meeting, before the LAF's AGM. Attendance would be available to new and existing members and would be a chance to get to know staff, an introduction to work areas as well as reporting back on projects throughout the past year.

In addition, LAF members are invited to attend training sessions offered to the Access Committee. In the past, these training events have covered issues such as the definitive map and open access. If any member has any ideas for training sessions or site visits for the YDAF, please let Rachel Briggs know.

Action for the YDAF

- Do members agree to the suggested induction meeting for new members of the YDAF with officers?
- Are there any issues that LAF members would like covering in a separate training session or site visit available for all members to attend?

Rights of Way Annual Report

The Rights of Way Annual Report is attached as Annex 3 for information.

Rachel Briggs
April 2009

Annex 1

Dear Forum Secretary

REREGISTRATION OF COMMON LAND (WEBSITE)

I am currently involved in a non-profit, public interest project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd. The aim of the project is to promote awareness of, and to provide information on, the 're-registration' provisions of Pt 1 of the Commons Act 2006. I am writing to you now to let you know about a website that has been established as part of the project at: www.commonsreregistration.org.uk The relevance of the site to Local Access Forums, and to forum members, is explained below.

Under Pt 1 of the 2006 Act, the commons registers are to be partially re-opened. New land may be recognised (re-registered) as common land; and areas that are currently included in the register may be lost (deregistered). In either case, the amount of land that is subject to public rights of access – and protected in law as common land – may be affected.

Where, for example, land in an urban area was added to the commons register, access rights for both walkers and horse-riders would immediately be created (the land would become a s193 'urban common').

In February this year, DEFRA revised its official Guidance to the Commons Registration Authorities on the implementation of Pt 1. As a result, the groups represented on Local Access Forums are now recognised as 'stakeholders'; and the registration authorities are required to work together with LAFs to develop proposals for the registration of new land.

The updated Guidance is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/protected-areas/common-land/registration.htm

See, in particular, Chapter 5: *Getting Ready for Commencement – Working with Stakeholders*

The website at www.commonsreregistration.org.uk provides information and advice on the 're-registration' provisions of the Act; and includes links to the legislation, regulations, official guidance etc. It also includes a series of Search Sheets giving details of the areas of land in each part of the country that may be eligible for re-registration.

Yours faithfully

Steve Byrne
stbyr@hotmail.com
Mr S Byrne, 34 Elder Court, Huncoat, ACCRINGTON, Lancs, BB5 6JP

Annex 2

ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM, THIRD MEETING, 11 MARCH 2009, SHEFFIELD

EAF representatives
Alan Marlow, South East
Matthew Balfour, South East
Paul Heal, South West
Bob Harvey, South West
Andrew McCloy, East Midlands
Andrew Shirley, East Midlands
Liddy Lawrence, East of England

Duncan Graham, North West
Edgar Ernstbrunner, North West
Edgar Powell, West Midlands
Hazel Armstrong, Yorkshire & Humber
Richard Holmes, Yorkshire & Humber
Steve Scoffin, North East
Pam Brooks, North East

Natural England representatives
Andrew Wood
Duncan Mackay
Peter Ashcroft
Belinda Davies

Apologies from
Bob Smith, East of England

Sir Martin Doughty (1949 – 2009)

The meeting appreciated the many achievements that Martin Doughty had made during his life for people and the natural environment, and extended their sympathy to his family.

Regional Organisation

The progress made in appointing LAF regional co-ordinators was welcomed.

Chair's update

- The Chair reported that there was abundant evidence of effective and imaginative work by LAFs across the country.

- He had received reports of impressive activities in various regions , with for example 50 LAF members at a training day in the SE, an ambitious programme on diversity and coastal access in Yorks and Humber and inaugural meetings in the NW.

- Topics submitted by regions were reaching the national agenda – e.g. gating orders and preserving access over new roads.

- There was early and effective involvement in NE policy consultations.

- Some regions were producing excellent newsletters which celebrated success and good practice.

Gating Orders

The paper on gating orders was discussed and the following points were made:

a) The data collected might not reflect the situation in urban areas where LAFs may be not so well connected with the LAF regional networks.
b) If gating orders lead to major restrictions in access this would conflict with Natural England's urban agenda.
c) Are there sufficient checks and balances in the GO processes?
d) There are different definitions of anti-social behaviour in the two components of the legislation.
e) There are differences of substance between the legislation and the guidance.
f) The impacts on people with disabilities needs to be recognised.
g) The impacts on children and their home range was not fully recognised.

1. This is a complex area which would benefit from a systematic review.

Action:

- **A summary of the legal basis for Gating Orders and its operation be disseminated to LAFs.**
- **LAFs to be encouraged to lobby their parent highway authority to have a clear and published policy for Gating Orders.**
- **Natural England would seek talks with the Department of Transport about evaluating the effectiveness of the legislation.**
- **Natural England would explore ways of reminding Highway Authorities about their responsibilities.**

Local Area Agreements

An excellent paper was welcomed for its clarity and for the specific advice as to how LAFs can get involved. The following points were made:

h) Many LAFs are not yet aware of the significance of LAAs in funding access.
i) LAFs need to do more to engage in this new process, where there are significant, if not new, funds to be played for.
j) LAFs need to make the case that health is about accessing the natural environment as well as simply going to the gym.

Action

- **LAFs are encouraged to share within their regions and with EAF good examples of engaging with LAAs.**
- **The paper be disseminated to LAFs with a recommendation for action.**

Rights of Way and Trunk Road Improvements.

A verbal report was made on recent discussions which NE had conducted with the Highways Agency following the concerns raised by Suffolk LAF and the following points were made:

- Improvements to how rights of way and non-motorised road users are treated in the design of trunk road improvements were welcomed, including the involvement of LAFs, and the specific recognition of the Highways Agency as a 'highway authority'
- The ratings of risks and safety criteria should be apply to proposed improvements.
- Many of the same issues also apply to other busy roads where the good practice being adopted for trunk road improvements could be recommended by LAFs

Action

- **Natural England will reflect these concerns in its transport and roads policy and will ask the Highways Agency for more evidence of how its 'listening approach' leads to improvements.**
- **Natural England will consider how its local teams can have clearer advice on how to deal with local highway improvements.**
- **The recent response from the HA be shared with the Suffolk LAF, and the main points be passed to other LAFs.**

Diversity and Equality

The forum appreciated an excellent and forthright presentation on diversity and equality. where much remains to be done. The following points were made:

- Greater clarity on LAF responsibilities would be appreciated.
- Engaging with diversity groups is challenging.
- There is a need to widen understanding of diversity beyond wheel-chair users.
- Getting people to overcome their fears requires dedication and perseverance
- Small improvements can make a real difference.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans are a useful way of making progress.
- Use of the local media, e.g. local radio, by LAFs can widen interest in access and raise awareness

Action

- **The presentation will be disseminated to LAFs.**
- **The EAF working group will explore with NE in more detail how LAFs can respond to diversity issues, and will report the outcomes to LAFs.**
- **EAF members are asked to send examples of good practice in their regions to the Secretary.**

LAFs strategic influence on Highway Authorities.

The paper was discussed and the following points were made:

- The value of LAFs having statutory consultee status.
- How LAFs would benefit from knowing what progress other LAFs made and how this was best achieved.
- Ways in which LAFs can communicate with members and senior officers when facing difficulties in being heard effectively.
- In what ways LAFs facing problems could be advised and supported by their regions and EAF.
- The continuing need for better communications.
- How the LAF Handbook can be made more accessible and updated where necessary.
- How annual reports which often contain examples of good practice can be shared more easily.

Action

- **Natural England will consider what support it can provide its local teams so they can engage at the right level with highway authorities.**
- **Natural England will look at how it can promulgate the LAF Handbook more effectively, and how communication can be improved by, for example, a website or newsletter.**

Integrating Access across Natural England's business.

The paper was welcomed as a very significant step forward in emphasising the value and importance of access. The following points were made:

- Natural England are aware that higher rights (i.e. beyond walking) need to be addressed by government but there are no current specific proposals.
- To be aware that woodlands will come within the scope of agri-environment agreements.
- The new Uplands HLS will have an access component.

Access and related Policy

An update included the following points:

- The policy had been amended in the light of advice received including that from EAF
- The Access policy will be sent to the Chair of NE for sign off before the end of March and a policy position statement disseminated shortly after confirmation by the April NE Policy Steering Group.

- Two further policies will be developed during 2009, in which LAFs and EAF will be engaged: one on broadening understanding and the other on volunteering/active citizenship.

Review of Trails and Routes

The review is now complete, with around 30% of LAFs involved in consultation events or providing written responses. The recommendations will be presented to the July Board meeting of NE.

ROWIP Awards

The chair welcomed this initiative which recognises the importance of ROWIPs and the achievements of both highway authorities and LAFs and described EAF's involvement as judges in selecting Award winners. The celebration culminates in an Awards Ceremony to be held in Leicester in March where the guest of honour will be Nicholas Crane.

Stakeholder Working Group

Andrew Wood reminded EAF of the make up and remit of this group, whose core purpose is around unrecorded rights of way, as distinct from wider rights of way or access improvement issues. However its terms of reference also allows the group to look at related issues, so it can form its recommendations in a proper access context.

Action

1 Natural England will consult with the EAF chair should any wider access issues arise.

Issues submitted by regions and requiring further work

1. fencing of woodland planting on open access land
2. access for horse-riders in the Forestry Commission Estate
3. Local Transport Plans
4. the impact on rights of way from major road improvements
5. LAF communications
6. Diversity

Action

- **these items are remitted to the EAF working group.**

Peter Ashcroft

Members thanked the Secretary, Peter Ashcroft, for his efforts on their behalf in the establishment and management of the work of EAF and expressed best wishes to him in his new post.

Date of Next Meeting

This will be arranged in the next few months when dates for consultation on forthcoming policies etc become clearer.

PA/DG
14 March 09

Annex 3

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Public Rights of Way Management Delegated Highway Authority Annual Report 2008/09

DRAFT

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Delegated Highway Authority
Annual Report 2008/09
DRAFT

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for 2120 km of Public Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleways and byways open to all traffic) within the National Park. The Delegation Agreements are with North Yorkshire County Council (1876km) and Cumbria County Council (244km). During 2008 both delegation Agreements were agreed and sealed.

1.2 The Delegation Agreements cover a broad range of functions that allow for the management of public paths on the ground and for the maintenance of the Definitive Map. These can be summarised as follows:

- Signposting of public paths
- The maintenance and improvement of public paths
- The maintenance of river crossings
- Traffic Regulation and Temporary Closure Orders
- Public Path and Definitive Map Modification Orders
- Enforcement and protection of public rights
- Duty to review update and maintain the Definitive Map
- Management and development of National Trails in conjunction with Natural England

1.3 Key Achievements 08/09

Public Rights of Way

- 560 improvements to public rights of way infrastructure stiles, gates and signposts
- 42 bridges maintained or replaced
- 3.5km engineered paths maintained (not including Pennine BW works)
- 2.9km of new engineered paths created (not including Pennine BW works)

Pennine Way

- In May 2008 the Pennine Way Ranger was appointed as the Pennine Bridleway Project Officer leaving the post of Pennine Way Ranger vacant.
- The post of Pennine Way Ranger was re-appointed in November 2008 after going through an external application process.
- Pennine Way Steering Group formed with representatives from Natural England, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority including the Member Champion for Recreation Management.

Pennine Bridleway

- An additional 2.5% of total route within the Park has been created at Swineley Cowm through the Definitive map modification order process and Yorehouse through agreement.

- Planning permission granted for a new 1.54 km of route between Garsdale Station and the Moorcock Inn
- A Planning Application has been submitted for the route to continue from Selside across Far Moor Common to the Horton to High Birkwith road. This section is 2.74km and includes a 50m bridleway bridge.
- Dedication of Public Bridleway across Stainforth Car Park and Picnic Area
- Creation Order for Bridleway at Long Preston

Definitive Map

- 1 Definitive Map Modification Order has been made - BW 28 Marrick at Marrick Priory.
- 1Public Path Diversion Order has been made - FP 16 Flasby-w-Winterburn at Cowper Cote.
- 1 Public Inquiry (second Inquiry) was completed in relation to Moorhead Lane.
- 2 Public Path Creation Orders were made for the Pennine Bridleway at Farmoor Common.
- 3 Public Path Creation Agreements were completed – Pennine BW at Lunds; FP61 Muker and FP 33 Malham.
- 7 Temporary closures of Public Paths were made.
- 4 opposed Orders were submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation : FP 16 Appletreewick ; BW 56 Dent; FPs 25&28 Bainbridge; FPs 7&8 Cov-w-Agg

New Bridleway Bridge, Disher Falls, Askrigg

2.0 National Park Management Plan

2.1 The importance of the Public Rights of Way network to recreational users and local communities is recognised in the National Park Management Plan:

Access and Recreation Section

aim

‘ *There will be opportunities for access and recreation in the National Park for people of all ages and abilities and from every sector of society to enjoy the special*

qualities of the Yorkshire Dales and derive a sense of well-being from their experiences.'

Principle.

The public rights of way network and other recreational infrastructure will be managed to improve and extend opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park's special qualities, while ensuring those qualities are conserved for future generations.

Objective AR1 National Park Management Plan
Manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2010.

3.0 Corporate Plan 08/09

3.1 The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan 2008/09 sets out a programme of works and measures to assist in achieving the aims of the National Park Management Plan.

3.2 The following are specific performance indicators and actions which were identified for 2008/09 in relation to the PROW network

Performance Indicators	04/05 Actual	05/06 Actual	06/07 Actual	07/08 Actual	**Target 08/09**	**Actual 08/09**
% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road	90%	91.5%	94%	91%	**97%**	**96.8%**
% of rights of way that are easy to use	71%	86%	83%	77%	**88%**	**88.5%**

Other specific actions for 2008/09 were:

Action 08/09	**NYCC**	**CCC**	**Total**	**Achieved**
Finalise the highways delegation agreements with the County Councils	Yes	Yes	2	Yes
Works to 8 significant river crossings	8	2	10	Yes
Repair 2.75km of previously engineered routes	3.5		3.5	Yes
Carry out engineering works 2.5km of eroded	2.65	0.25	2.9	Yes
Reduce the number of places where a PRoW is not indicated where it leaves a metalled road from 75 to 55	17	6	23	Yes
Maintain and improve the rights of way infrastructure so that the % of items in 'condition 1' increases from 93% to 94%	93.5%	93.7%	93.6%	No
Remove 20 obstructions	40	11	51	Yes
Continue to implement Pennine Way Maintenance Report in conjunction with Natural England	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes

Mastiles Lane, Malham Moor before works

Mastiles Lane, during works

3.4 Performance Indicators 2008/09

Results are taken from the Yorkshire Dales Access Recording Database unless stated as being compiled from the Ease of Use 2008 Survey. The individual county figures are in relation to the networks of PRoW within each individual areas.

Performance Indicator	Target	YDNPA
% of Rights of Way that are **Easy to Use 2008**	88%	88.5%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	96%	96.8%
% of infrastructure stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	94%	93.6%
% of River Crossings in 'condition 1'	88%	87.5%
% of length of Pennine Bridleway that is open	90%	91%
% of Rights of way accessible for wheelchairs	0.4%	0.5%
% of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability	3.0%	3.1%

The individual county figures are in relation to the networks of PRoW within each individual area 1,876km NYCC and 244km CCC.

Performance Indicator	Length Surveyed	NYCC	Length Surveyed	CCC
% of Rights of Way that are **Easy to Use 2008**	99,575km	88.8%	5,391km	82%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	1876	96.8%	244	96%
% of infrastructure stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	1876	93.7%	244	93.5%
% of River Crossings in 'condition 1'	187	87.5%	244	87.5%
% of length of Pennine Bridleway that is open		95%		78%
% of Rights of way accessible for wheelchairs	1876	0.47%	244	0.03%
% of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability	1876	3.04%	244	0.06%

4.0 Resources

4.1 In 2008/9 there were 9.1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) members of staff working on PROW Maintenance and 3.6 FTE on the Definitive Map with an annual capital budget of 217.5k (13.125k income) and 21.5k (6k income) respectively. In addition there are a further 3 externally funded posts. These are:

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

Pennine Bridleway Project Officer and Pennine Way Technician
The Authority receives 100% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Bridleway Project Officer and Technician posts.

In addition the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority also support:

Community Warden
A Community Warden was also employed on a part-time basis for the parishes of Austwick and Lawkland. The scheme is partly funded by YDNPA in recognition of some of the maintenance and enhancement works agreed in advance and carried out by the warden in relation to PROW in the parishes.

Dales Volunteers
In total a further 844 days of practical works and 672 day of surveying on the PROW network have been carried out by Dales Volunteers, this equates to nearly 6.5 full time equivalents.

Dales Volunteers assist with Public Rights of Way maintenance

5.0 Ease of Use 08/09 Results

Target *88% of rights of way that are 'easy to use' in 08/09.*

5.1 The target has been achieved with an actual result from 2008 'Ease of Use' Survey of 88.5% for the National Park.

5.2 Each year's survey randomly selects a number of paths, making up 5% of the overall network (in total approx 108km surveyed in 2008). 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.

5.3 This year we continued to collect BVPI 178 'Ease of Use' on behalf of the Highway Authorities and have consulted with other English National Parks through the Joint Improvement Group about the future collection of a PRoW indicators.

5.5 Two new indicators have been agreed which will be collected by all the English National Parks from 2009 these are:

- % Percentage of rights of way that are Easy to Use that follow the exact definitive line

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

5.6 There is a slight but subtle difference between the two indicators which will give a true picture of the state of Public Rights of Way networks in the English national parks and address the anomalies that were previously occurring.

- % Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' that follow the exact definitive line

This indicator will continue to be recorded in the previous manner following the guidance BVPI 178 'Ease of Use' and will be reported on to the two Highway Authorities North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Councils.

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

5.7 This indicator will be recorded to allow those routes which previously failed because of a slight deviation from that shown on the definitive map to now pass the 'Ease of Use' test. This will occur only on the condition that; no deliberate act has been made to change the route, and that the public are not inconvenienced in any manner. The YDNPA in the past have failed these types of route whereas, others may have passed the route. This has led to inaccuracies and inconsistency in comparing Authorities final results.

2008 Ease of Use Results

Surveyed	Total	Passed	Failed	% E of U
YDNPA	105,948m	93,811m	12,137m	88.5%
NYCC	99,575m	88,420m	11,155m	88.8%
CCC	6,373m	5,391m	982m	84.6%

6.0 Signing

Target. *97% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road in 08/09.*

6.1 Target achieved. 97.8% signposted from a metalled road (source 'Ease of Use Survey' 2008). However, the Access Recording System indicates a total of 96.8% in situ, which equates to a 1% increase on last years overall findings.

6.2 In total, 23 new roadside signs have been erected since the end of March 08 and although we have reached our target of 97% according to the national 'Ease of Use Survey' we are still 0.2% below target on our recordings for the entire park.

6.3 In addition, a further 38 directional signs were replaced where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (FP/BW), distance and destination.

Signposts from a Metalled Road (Ease of Use 2008)

Cumbria	Signposting total sites surveyed 12 (12) in place	100%
North Yorkshire	Signposting total sites surveyed 80, (78) in place	97.5%

Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Recording System
Signposts from a metalled road

	Total	Present	Missing	% in situ
YDNPA	1692	1639	53	96.8%
NYCC	1442	1399	43	95.9%
CCC	250	240	10	94.7%

7.0 General Maintenance

7.1 The following is a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out during 2008/09 in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the PRoW network

7.2 It is worth noting that the total number of ladder stiles in the national park continue to be removed a further 23 ladder stiles have been replaced reducing the overall number

from 582 to 559 in 2008/09. We have also increased the number of hand gates from 907 to 939 and kissing gates from 156 to 161. These works continue to improve the accessibility of the overall network for a range of users.

TYPE	YDNPA	
	Total improved	Total in park
Ladder Stile	16	559
Timber Step Stile	44	859
Stone Step Stile	56	1170
Stone Squeeze Stile	136	1722
Fieldgate > 5ft	117	2790
Handgate < 5ft	45	939
Kissing Gate	4	161
Boardwalk	2	37
Signpost (directional on route)	45	1709
Waymarker post	23	311
Information Sign	4	268
Roadside Signpost Absent		53
Roadside Signpost Present	61	1639
Steps	2	142
Culvert	5	503
Total	560	12809

7.3 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	32	42	683
Stepping Stones	0	2	1	11
Total	10	34	43	694

Replacing Stiles with gates, Fox Up

8.0 Major Projects

8.1 Under the delegated duties the National Park Authority has responsibility for surface condition of routes. Each year projects are identified by Rangers for specific works which either improve 'Ease of Use' or enhance a route. The projects listed are those with a capital expenditure of greater than1K and in most cases are significantly more

Route	**Works Undertaken**
North Yorkshire County Council	
Craven Way Bridleway, Dent	250m sub-soil path
Dales Way, Hebden to Burnsall	250m path surfacing
Dales Way, Hartlington to Appletreewick	250m Path surfacing
High Moor, Reeth	Drainage and surfacing works
Gordale Footpath , Malham	300m re-surfacing (Access for All)
Public Bridleway, Craven Way, Whernside	400m sub-soil path and surfacing
Public Bridleway, Craven Way, Whernside	800m surfacing (Private Contractor)
Public Footpath, Bruntscar, Whernside	450m enhancement to existing surfacing
Public Footpath, Simon's Fell Breast, Ingleton	825m enhancement to existing surfacing
Public Bridleway Braidley, Coverdale	200m new surfacing and drainage works
Public Bridleway, Carleton Moor	290m new surfacing and drainage works
Public Bridleway Burtersett, Hawes	450m new surfacing and drainage works
Public Footpath, Hudswell Woods	660m new surfacing and drainage works
Dales Way, Buckden	140m flagging of path (Access for All)
Pennine Way	
Public Footpath, Malham Cove	200m extension new path at Malham Cove
Pennine Bridleway	
General Maintenance	Small projects on several sections of route
Bridges	
Swarth Gill, Garsdale	New Footbridge
Thorns Lane, Sedbergh	Repairs to Footbridge
Johnston Gill, Cotterdale Top	New 3m Footbridge

Cool Wath, Stepping Stones	Re-grading work on approaches
Reeth Swing Bridge	Delayed due to adverse weather conditions
Skebs Scugh, Swaledale	Repairs to stone arch bridge
Arkle Town Footbridge, Arkengarthdale	Significant repairs after flood damage
Disher Falls,	New Bridleway Bridge
Gammersgill Stepping Stones	Replace Stepping Stones
Howden Gill Bridge	New Footbridge
Clapdale Bridge, Clapham	Replace Footbridge
Cumbria County Council	
Occupation Road, Dent	250m creating new engineered route
Green Lanes/Unclassified County Road	
Mastiles Lane, Malham Moor	600m major enhancement & surfacing works
Moor Head Lane, Helwith Bridge	800m major enhancement & surfacing works

Surfacing Dales Way

Burtersett Bridleway Surfacing Works

9.0 Pennine Bridleway

9.1 Within the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park the vast majority of the route (92.5%) is now available. There have been no significant capital projects completed over the last 12 months. However, there has been considerable progress in gaining permissions in relation to map orders require to legally create the route.

10.0 Access For All

10.1 During 2008/9, using the standards from 'By All Reasonable Means', we continued with the audit of the public rights of way network to assess accessibility of routes, taking into account gradient, surface type, cross fall, width and barriers.

10.2 During 2008/9 further accessible routes were identified through the audit process. In addition, works were carried out on routes to improve their accessibility e.g. an extra 978m has been made available to people with limited mobilities at Freeholders Wood, Aysgarth and an extra 235m has been made available to wheelchair users at Gordale Scar. As a result, the target for percentage of the rights of way accessible for wheelchairs has been

exceeded and the target for 0.5% by 2010 has been met. As a consequence, the target has been amended to 0.55% of the rights of way to be accessible to wheelchairs by 2010

11.0 Obstructions

11.1 In total 51 obstructions have been dealt with these consist of 10 long standing obstructions which have been removed from routes in North Yorkshire and 3 in Cumbria by the Ranger Service.

12.0 Work Programme 2009/10

12.1 The Corporate Plan for 2009/10 will include the following objectives, performance indicators and action plan actions relating to rights of way management.

12.2 Public Rights of Way

No	Lead	Action 2009/10	When
RECREATION MANAGEMENT			
RIGHTS OF WAY			
37	AH	Maintain and improve the rights of way network:	
		a) reduce the number of places where a right of way is not indicated where it leaves a metalled road from 53 to 35	Mar
		b) works to nine significant river crossings (including repairs to Healaugh and Barney Beck stepping stones and repairs to Tay, Reeth Swing and Starbotton bridges)	Mar
		c) carry out engineering works to a further 2.6km of eroded routes, including significant works to Burtersett Bridleway and other bridleways in the Coverdale area	Mar
		d) repair 4km of previously engineered routes including significant works on Brackenbottom, Gaping Gill and the Dales Way	Mar
		e) maintain and improve the rights of way infrastructure so that the percentage of infrastructure in 'condition 1' remains at 95%	Mar
		f) remove 20 obstructions	Mar
38	CC	Continue to implement actions from the Pennine Way Maintenance Report	Mar

39	CC	Develop a programme of at least five events to promote use and enjoyment of the Pennine Way	Mar
40	AH	Produce a newsletter for all land managers about PRoW, Open Access and Recreational Activities	Dec
41	SH	Launch the Three Peaks Project: a) examine the options for developing a range of Three Peaks merchandise b) examine the options for developing a 'Friends' of the Three Peaks scheme c) liaise with 15 event organisers d) engage with 25 local community groups and businesses	May May Aug Mar Mar

DEFINITIVE MAP

43	JD	Keep the definitive map under continuous review and reduce the number of outstanding applications: a) resolve 40 anomalies b) process eight cases to decision c) complete 90% of unopposed Path Order Applications within nine months from date of receipt d) take one opposed Order to the Secretary of State for decision	 Mar Mar Mar Mar

PENNINE BRIDLEWAY

50	PL	Continue a programme of works to the Pennine Bridleway as follows: a) implement the route of the Pennine Bridleway on the ground over either Swineley Cowm and Garsdale or build the access track and foundations for Far Moor bridge b) establish a public bridleway route from Borrins to Dalemire Barn c) implement the five year maintenance plan for open sections of the Pennine Bridleway route and maintain engineered sections of the Pennine Bridleway in condition 1	 Oct Mar Mar

ACCESS FOR ALL

51	RBr	a) Through user groups, such as the Disabled Ramblers, 'road test' Access for All routes identified through the audit b) produce an information guide on Access for All in Swaledale a) with the help of Dales Volunteers, begin the process of extending the audit to include other public access routes available for people with limited mobility (eg green lanes and other tracks on open access land). b) improve the rights of way network to reduce barriers for those with limited mobility by 33km and wheelchair users by 3.8km e) work with the Access for All Advisory Group, to identify priority routes for improvement to submit for possible external funding.	Sep Mar Mar Mar Mar

Further information regarding the report is available from:

Alan Hulme, Ranger Services Manager
Colvend, Hebden Road
Grassington
North Yorkshire BD23 5LB

email
alan.hulme@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Direct Line
01756 751647