Unapproved Minutes of Meeting of
Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
Held on Monday 8 January 2007
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present: Geoff Wilson (GW), Jon Beavan (JB), Bill Foster (BF), Michael Bartholomew (MB), David Gibson (DG), Ben Heyes (BH), Pat Whelan (PWh), Jerry Pearlman (JP), Adrian Pickles (AP), Richard Johnson (RJ), Deborah Millward (DM), Harold Brown (HB), Paul Tibbatts (PT), Judy Rogers (JR), Ken Miller (KM), Peter Bradfield (PB)

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB) – LAF Secretary, Kathryn Beardmore (KB), Jon Avison (JA) Jonah Tosney (JT), Iain Mann (IM), Nigel Metcalfe (NM), Matt Neale (MN)

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

RB started the meeting by explaining the process of election of a Chair. RB explained that GW had agreed to stand for a further year as Chair and then asked for further nominations. No further nominations were received.

GW to Chair the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for a further year.

GW then asked for nominations for Vice Chair. JB had agreed to stand as Vice Chair for a further year.

DG nominated MB. This was seconded by KM.

PWh nominated JB. This was seconded by BF.

GW asked MB to make his statement in support of his nomination. JB was then asked to make his statement in support of his nomination.

Voting slips were then circulated and counted by RB, JA and KB. The result was JB eight, MB eight.

Members of the Forum were then given the opportunity to ask the nominated candidates questions to support their statements. JR asked what each of the candidates would bring to the forum? This was answered firstly by MB and then by JB.

Voting slips were then circulated again and counted by RB, JA and KB. The result was JB eight, MB eight.

It was decided to leave the election for Vice Chair until the May meeting.

Election of Vice Chair to be the first item on the agenda for 22 May 2007.

2. Welcome

GW welcomed Malcolm Petyt (MP) and Wilf Fenten (WF) to the meeting. As Chair and Vice Chair of the Access Committee they were invited to sit at the table.

GW welcomed PB, PT, JT and KM to their first official meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. MB was also welcomed back as his appointment to the Forum had been renewed for a further three year term.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Anne Lawrence (AL) and Phil Woodyer (PW)

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

PWh asked if anything had been received from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) with regards to the North Yorkshire Green Lanes Working Group. DG explained that a further paper would be going to the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum in a few months. It was believed that that NYCC were not yet in a position to bring anything to this Forum.

The Craven District Council Active Recreation Focus Group has not yet met but is due to meet in March.

4. Public Question Time

There were no public questions presented to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

GW presented a written report featuring matters that he had dealt with since the last meeting:

- New Forum members.
- Access Committee Liaison.

- North Yorkshire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Cumbria County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Pennine Bridleway – Mechanically Propelled Vehicles Scoping Plan.
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Green Lanes Advisory Group.
- Relevant Authority Guidance – Natural England Consultation Document.

GW asked for members views on the suggestion to write a letter of concern to the relevant Government Minister with regards to uncertainty of funding for the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. DG supported the proposal and PWh seconded this and it was agreed.

GW to write a letter to the relevant Government Minister expressing concern about the uncertainty of funding for completion of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

JP requested that website references within papers to the Forum be supported by paper copies being supplied to members that asked for them.

KM asked if a paper on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Green Lanes Advisory Group could be presented to the next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. KB said that any papers from the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group would be made available to members of the Forum, though it was noted that these were not public papers. KB said that members of the Forum on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Green Lanes Advisory Group may want to report back to the Forum on the working of the group.

KM asked if the list of the ten prioritised routes could be added as an appendix to the minutes (see appendix 1).

RB to make the papers from the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group available to those members requesting them.

GW then added a further item to his report:

Review of Forum Members on Working Groups and Other Bodies

GW listed the working groups that Forum members are currently involved with and asked for members to fill any gaps on those groups where spaces had become available.

The list of members on working groups and other bodies, agreed at the meeting, is listed at appendix 2.

6. Cumbria Access

KB gave a brief introduction to the paper and asked members:

1. For their view of the overall proposals.
2. Whether they are happy with the suggested arrangements for the partnership.

AP asked for clarification of who Capita are. KB explained that they are the both the contractor and the provider of rights of way for Cumbria.

MP expressed a concern that the list of outcomes of the partnership, listed on page four of the report, were not in a suitable order with economic growth listed before the creation of a better environment.

MB asked what the partnership would achieve that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is not currently doing. GW was unsure if things would change in terms of delivery of the service.

It was noted that only the Cumbria Local Access Forum was represented on the operational steering group. JB thought it unrealistic to expect the Cumbria Local Access Forum to be able to convey the thoughts of all three of the local access forums in Cumbria.

RJ asked whether the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum had been asked to comment on the partnership by Cumbria or by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. KB said that the letter received from CCC was seeking the views of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, but in formulating its view, the Authority was seeking the advice of the YDAF.

RJ felt that it would be a waste of resources to get involved in the partnership when the management of rights of way in Cumbria lies with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. AH explained that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have delegated powers for the management of the rights of way and that not to have a seat on the partnership could be a problem, as decisions could be made that the Authority would have to implement without the Authority being part of the decision making. JP agreed with AH.

MB asked that Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority policies should take supremacy over anything derived from the Cumbria partnership. The example given was the MPV working group. KB explained that the working groups would ensure that links were made, and best practice shared between the different Authorities.

GW summed up the discussion in three points:

1. More information needs to be provided on how the partnership and working groups will be resourced.
2. More general information on the partnership needs to be provided.
3. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority needs to ensure they have a place on the partnership.

8. Secretary's Report

GW presented a report, written by RB, of items for Members consideration and information: :

- Access Committee dates and venues.
- Access for All Working Group.
- Local Access Forum Regional Newsletter.

9. Update on Members Activities

There were no reports from members.

10. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum will be held on the 22 May at Yoredale, Bainbridge. The meeting will commence at 6pm.

GW asked for suggestions from members for themes for future meetings. PWh suggested carriage driving.

Any further suggestions for themes for future meetings to be passed on to GW or RB

The meeting closed at 4.10pm

NB. The main part of the meeting took the format of a workshop looking at open access and in particular how the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum can advise the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority on continuing to promote and enhance opportunities for the public to enjoy their new rights (see Appendix 3).

Appendix 1

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Green Lanes Advisory Group
Ten Identified Sensitive Routes to be Prioritised

Arncliffe Cote
Dean Moor
Ling Gill
Gorbeck Road
Harber Scar Lane
Stockdale Lane
Foxup Road
Cam High Road
West Cam Road
The Highway

Appendix 2

Agreed Forum Membership on Working Groups – January 2007

Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan Working Group
Geoff Wilson
Jon Beavan

North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan Steering Group
Michael Bartholomew
Geoff Wilson

Craven District Council Active Recreation Working Group
Bill Foster
Jon Beavan

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Green Lanes Advisory Group
Jon Beavan
Michael Bartholomew
Ben Heyes
Geoff Wilson

Access for All Sub Group
Judy Rogers
Michael Bartholomew
Pat Whelan
Phil Woodyer
Ken Miller
Ben Heyes
Geoff Wilson

Exclusions and Restrictions Sub Group
Jon Beavan
Adrian Pickles
Ben Heyes
Paul Tibbatts
David Gibson
Geoff Wilson

Appendix 3

The overall objective of the workshop was to look at how should the National Park Authority as Access Authority continue to enhance and improve means of open access physically on the ground?

SESSION ONE

1. Should the National Park Authority continue to improve and enhance open access opportunities?

- Yes but …….
- Not many people using open access
- People not using info already available
- Need to shift emphasis – use scoping, experience, to further enhance and improve opportunities.
- Careful assessment in relation to a perceived need from users/landowners/park/LAF.

Conclusion

Yes but… commitment and resources from the Authority should be at an appropriate level to the demands from any of the individual interests. This is a long term opportunity which should continue to develop over generations.

2. What additional practical on the ground measures should be introduced?

- Links/Access points
- New RoW to enhance access
- Promotion of transport links
- Stiles/signs/gates

Conclusion

Should seek to enhance and improve opportunities through a range of options including those listed but with an emphasis towards information and education.

3. Who else can feed into the process of identifying opportunities and how?

- Anyone via letter/website

Conclusion

Everyone…. But we should also seek to improve our own website where suggests, comments could be posted.

4. What else can be done to improve access on open access land?

- Some way of finding out about … 28 day restrictions
- Access information in more villages/car parks
- Work with key local people
- Big education

Conclusion

Information, Information, Information was the general theme of improving people's opportunities to experience open access

5. Are there issues regarding activities on access land (such as climbing, caving, geocaching) that need addressing within the plan

- (Closed seasons – previous agreements ….how do these go forward?)
- Falling down/off things
- Caneoing – Access to water

Conclusion

Generally Yes the LAF and the Authority should continue to monitor and examine opportunities and take advantage of trends and developments within the countryside as a whole. A good example being Geocaching.

SESSION 2

How should the NPA, as Access Authority, continue to promote opportunities for the enjoyment of open access?

6. Should the National Park Authority continue to seek to raise the profile of open access?

	(	Yes (with qualifications – should be slow, gradual)
Group A	(	Need for public info. On how dogs should be used.
	(	Guided walks are a good thing.
Group B	(	Yes, but be aware that open access areas are likely to be
	(	demanding on users to be able to access easily.
Group C		Yes but a couple of sceptics.

Conclusion

The overall general feeling was yes but this should be incremental and at an appropriate level in relation to resource input as a return on gain from the public experiencing the special qualities of the park through open access.

7.Walks have been developed on access land. Could there be other uses for these open access walk opportunities?

A	1. Navigation training might be considered.
B	2. Is navigation training by non NPA staff allowed?
C	3. The guided walks programme is a good idea.

Conclusion

There was a strong feeling that navigation training may improve user levels and was generally a good thing anyway. The Authority should consider providing opportunities for navigation training and for people to experience open access in a safe environment and remove the unknown quality thus increasing confidence and understanding through opportunities for navigation training and accompanied walks.

8. How else should the NPA continue to raise the profile of open access?

1. Outreach?
2. Reach groups who already lead walks – multiplier effect.

Conclusion
General feeling is there are always further opportunities but getting access to information, peoples understanding and general education messages out there should be the current priority.

9. What other audiences could open access opportunities be promoted to?

1. School groups via field centres.
2. Get at writers of walks for local papers.
3. Accommodation providers

Conclusion
The outcome was very similar to the previous answer

10. How could others be used to promote open access? Limited time not answered

11. **How could the NPA go ahead and do this?** Limited time not answered

SESSION 3

How can the NPA continue to improve information to the public in relation to regulations and restrictions?

12. What are the main messages in relation to restrictions?

- Information/communication
- Timing at time
- Mindset to check <u>always</u>
- How long before people do this
- QUICK RESPONSE ALL NPA SITES
- Map, compass, clothing, find if route useable
- NPA site (info) not computer links to restrictions
- Info points public transport
- More at non NPA car parks
- <u>No</u> restriction notices
- Automatic leaflets given out at equipment shops – why restrictions, how to find out about restrictions.
- Should 28 days restrictions be compulsory
- Signed with map
- Nature – no problems
- Fire – notices/local radio? Peat relevant, burning points, local knowledge

Conclusion
This created probably one of the hottest topics to consider. Although overall restrictions are very few across the park discretionary restrictions in relation to dogs(all year), nesting birds(May/Jun) and Fire(as activated) pose an interesting problem for land managers, the Access Authority and the public. Every opportunity should be taken as listed above to manage these on the ground however again it should be in relation to the level of use. The

messages in relation to the three main areas dogs, birds and fire are key messages in their own right anyway for the NPA.

13. How can negative messages be made positive?

- Explanation – problem length of notice
- 5 Big birds – good leaflet because it explains and gives information.
- Understanding What Goes on in the Countryside
- Dripping Information onto user

Conclusion

There was a general feeling that visitors understanding of the countryside could be improved and there should be an ongoing drip effect in relation to Open Access messages. As the Authority's 2nd purpose of promoting understanding is key to the delivery of messages open access messages should go easily alongside.

14. What else could be done to provide information on regulations and restrictions?

15. What should the role of the NPA be in relation to fire risk?

- Fire Profiles for open access areas
- Not Our Responsibility
- Leave to NPA
- Leaflet What to Do?
- NP volunteers as fire watchers
- Rangers as liaison not fire fighter
- LAF offer our moral support and knowledge

Conclusion

Fires pose a major threat to the conservation and recreational value of areas of the park not mentioning the possible economic impacts. The NPA already has a role through the designation of Open Access land in relation to the management of fire restrictions. It would therefore seem appropriate the NPA should have some role/input in overall management and planning of dealing with fires. This should be left to the NPA to decide on level of involvement but the LAF can offer advice and support if required.

16. Could the LAF be involved with Moorland Profiles?

- No

Conclusion

As above not specifically as the LAF but could offer assistance through knowledge or individuals on the LAF

17. What other organisation could be of assistance?

- RAF
- Flying clubs
- MOD
- Fell Rescue Teams

Conclusion
Suggestions of others who could be involved along with those already identified, Major Estates, Moorland Association, Country Land Owners and Business Association, NFU, National Trust, Natural England etc

18. Other points raised

- Dogs – keep restating
- 28day/6week dogs restriction to be signed.
- Open access websites more user friendly
- Put information on NPA website
- Not just link to open access
- Code mostly OK
- Litter a problem from roads.

Conclusion
The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Best Value Performance Plan 07/08 has a target to:

32 c) produce a comprehensive Open Access Management and Development Plan

The comments from the workshop will feed into the plan which is due to be completed by October 2007. any further comments or thoughts can be forwarded to Alan Hulme at YDNPA, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, N.Yorks. BD23 4DT, email alan.hulme@yorkshiredales.org.uk or direct line 01756 751647

Item No. 6

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

Chairman's report

Membership

I was sorry to read the resignation of Anne Lawrence for the forum, due to pressure of work with BTCV which was resulting in a series of date clashes with forum meetings. Rachel has written a letter of thanks to Anne.

Meetings with Chairs of Adjacent Access Forums.

On the 18 January and 19 April I attended meetings with the chair of the Lake District and Cumbria Local Access Forums. These are useful meetings that have focused primarily on the Cumbria Rights of way Improvement Plan and the embryo Cumbria Countryside Access partnership initiative. Consultation which ended in January highlighted areas where further thought needs to be given to the mechanism, structure and membership of the partnership. For this reason the process of establishing the partnership has been 'postponed' whilst further discussions are held with some of the key partners. It is hoped that the first meeting of the partnership's operational steering group will now take place in June 2007.

Access Committee Liaison

I wasn't able to attend the Access Committee meeting on 19 April, however I receive a full set of agenda papers.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place at Grassington on 26 July. Rachel has sent out a message reminding us all that Access Committee meetings are meetings in public and that consequently we are welcome to attend. Additionally Rachel's message of 4 April informed us that the Access Committee training sessions are now open to Access Forum Members. Training usually takes place following Access Committee meetings, and on 26 July there will be training on the Definitive Map. A regular and significant item on the Access Committee agenda is the Quarterly report of the Definitive Map Team. The processes of creating, diverting, extinguishing and adding routes on the Definitive Map is to many people a black art, and I'm sure that Access Forum members will find this training session very useful.

LAF Publicity Sheet

Shortly after the January meeting of the Forum I was drawn into prolonged communication with a member of the forum concerning an aspect of the content of the LAF Publicity sheet that had recently been published. Despite enquiring a number of times what was the issue, it was never made clear to me other than it related to one of the pictures in the document. Eventually I terminated the correspondence when the member made a personal accusation against me which I advised should be pursued via the agenda of the forum where every other member could hear his concerns.

Annual Report 2006 – 2007

Regulation 13 of the Local Access Forums (England) regulations 2007 requires every forum to produce an annual report on the discharge of its functions. In early April first draft of the this forum's 2007 – 07 report was, as usual, drafted by the forum secretary Rachel and passed to Jon Beavan (acting vice chairman) and myself for comment. The final draft is before us today.

North Yorkshire CC's Rights of way Improvement Plan

I have had no reason to be involved in any aspect of the development of this plan since the last meeting of the forum. This plan is now out for public consultation and features on today's agenda.

Cumbria CC's Rights of way Improvement Plan

Cumbria's RoWIP is now almost complete, and due for publication in June or July I think. However, this too has been the focus of a letter jointly from the chairs of the three LAFs that operate in Cumbria. The letter reiterated concerns that have been expressed about the base-line research that informed the Cumbria RoWIP, and lack of recognition of those concerns in the draft plan.

I also joined with the chairs of the Lake District and Cumbria LAFs to send a letter to the Minister for Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs concerning the funding of actions resulting from Rights of way Improvement Plans. The letter is copied at appendix 1 and replies are copied at appendices 2 and 3. The 16 April letter addressed to all Local Access Forums is especially useful and may serve as extra guidance to those authorities which are still in the process of producing RoWIPs.

Pennine Bridleway

At the last meeting of the Forum members were made aware of uncertainty of funding and further work on the Pennine Bridleway flowing creation of Natural England and funding difficulties within Defra. It was agreed that when the time was judged right I should send a letter to the Minister for Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs asking him to resolve the uncertainty. Since the last meeting a senior Defra civil servant has visited the Yorkshire Dales and the matter was discussed directly. Natural England has now been allocated its budget for 2007/08 and I am please to be able to say that Pennine Bridleway implementation work identified for the Dales in 2007/08 will be funded.

The Power for National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders – section 72 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

This is the only consultation document that we have been asked to comment on since the last meeting. DEFRA was inviting views on detailed proposals to enable National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders to regulate traffic on Public Rights of Way and roads with a predominantly unsealed surface. The proposals are put forward primarily to help control excessive and inappropriate use of mechanically propelled vehicles away from the ordinary road network within National Parks. Thank you to those members who assisted in creating this forum's response which had to be submitted by 20 April 2007, and which is an agenda item today.

GW 06.05.2007

Item No. 7

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

Draft Annual Report

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- Seek the forums views on the draft annual report.

Background

The Local Access Forum Guidance states that every forum is required to produce an annual report on the discharge of its functions. The report may:

- review how effective the forum was in meeting its own criteria for measuring success or effectiveness and completing its forward work programme;
- identify the forum members and the interests they represent;
- give information on the meetings held and the main issues discussed;
- give information on any training events held;
- summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies;
- identify issues which posed a particular challenge to the forum;
- address other issues relevant to the work of the forum.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Annual Report 2006/7

The Annual Report 2006/7 covers the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007. This follows the financial year of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Once Members comments have been included, the report will be printed and circulated to the following:

- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Members.
- Local libraries.
- Local Tourist Information Centres.
- National Park Centres.
- National Parks.
- Official Observers (as identified in the Annual Report).

The report will also be presented, by the Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, to the Access Committee.

Rachel Briggs
April 2007

Item No. 10

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

Liaison with Users and the Establishment of Advisory Groups

The purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to bring to members' attention the current arrangements for liaising with representatives of recreational organisations and user groups, and to seek the Forums involvement with the setting up of further access and recreation advisory groups, similar to the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.

Background

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) has always liaised with user groups, either on a 'need' basis or in a more formalised way through liaison meetings. These meetings are often seen as a useful way of raising specific issues of mutual interest, agreeing action and checking progress. They often revolve around discussion of rights of way or specific issues. However many of the current arrangements are 'ad hoc' and do not involve members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

The following is a list of groups that currently exist (see annex) and who they involve:

- Mountaineering liaison group (British Mountaineering Council, Natural England)
- Bridleways working group – not met for sometime (BHS, Malham trekking centre)
- Access for all (YDAF members only)
- Footpaths and open access advisory group (with RA groups, recently established)
- Green lanes advisory group (recently established – see below)
- Dales Way Association

Some of the current groups have little or no link and no mechanism for reporting back to the Forum eg the annual meeting with the British Mountaineering Council, when bird nesting restrictions are discussed. It is important, that the YDAF is involved in these discussions if it is to fulfil its role in providing 'over-arching advise', and also to prevent duplication.

What is being proposed?

The DEFRA Guidance to Local Access Forums defines the statutory function of local access forums as being to:

- Advise as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed.

However, the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum is asked to give advice on strategic issues rather than getting into the finer details eg a particular obstruction on a footpath. When the forum decided to move from four meetings a year, to three, it was with the express wish from members that they would be able to get involved in specific areas of work through 'sub-groups'. To this end the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory group provides a useful model for setting up other advisory groups with the YDAF.

Attendance at this group is through invitation, and involves forum members and representatives of other interests/users (not represented by the forum members), in order to provide a 'balance' representation, and an effective network for communication with interested parties. The group is serviced by officers of the Authority who can also contribute to the group. The group is made up of:

- 4 YDAF members
- 4 co-opted members (representing other interests)
- 1 officer representative from North Yorkshire County Council
- 1 officer representative from Cumbria County Council
- 1 officer representative from English Nature
- 1 YDNPA member 'champion' representative

What are we asking the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum at this stage?

It is proposed that the Green Lanes Advisory Group model is used to establish the following advisory groups, (see annex for further information):

- Access on foot eg open access, footpaths
- Access by horse and bicycle eg bridleways, restricted byways
- Access for airsports eg paragliding, power-kiting
- Access for watersports eg canoeing, sailing
- Access for rocksports eg caving, climbing

It is very important that if the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum is to fulfil its overseeing, strategic role that it has a presence on these advisory groups. Members on the groups also need a way to pick up issues for discussion, and a mechanism for reporting back to the full forum meeting.

It is envisaged that most of the groups will meet fairly infrequently (perhaps 1-2 times a year at most). Meetings will be held in either the Grassington or Bainbridge offices, during working hours, and will be co-ordinated by the Access Development Officer who will be responsible for arranging meetings/agendas and ensuring the appropriate YDNPA Officers attend. Ideally, each group will be attended by 2 members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. These members will then be responsible for reporting back to the full forum meetings.

It is suggested that the access for all group (a sub-group of the forum) remains with its current forum membership, but that this group is extended to include representatives of other organisations (see annex 2). The Dales Way Association annual liaison meeting will remain unchanged, as an annual meeting with the Dales Way Association.

The remit of the groups

To help forum members think about the remits of the groups, and what they may 'do' it is helpful to remember that the driver for establishing these groups is 'liaison' between the Authority and users, and engagement with the YDAF.

The groups will involve liaison and the organisation/user groups, and advice in relation to specific management issues. As such the remit of the groups will be to:

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

It is expected that the terms of reference of each group will be agreed at their first meeting but these will be based upon those of the YDAF and a common theme of liaison and advice. The groups will be able to decide their own chair, though to provide a link back to the Forum; it would be helpful if this were a Forum member wherever possible.

Action for the Forum

The forum is asked to agree that:

1. The Forum acts as the main conduit for establishing the advisory groups, and providing advice on the access and recreation issues listed in Annex 2.

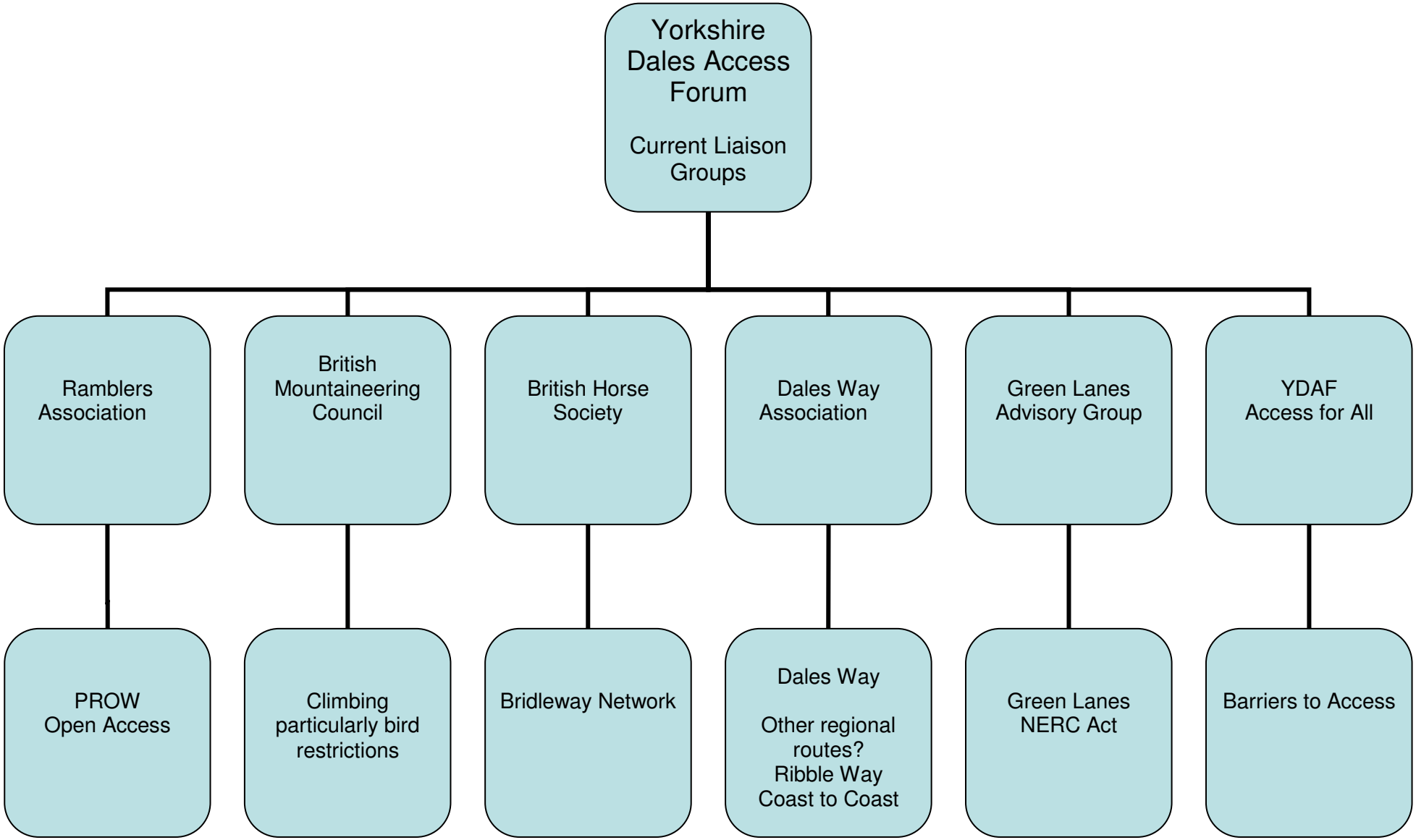
2. Two members represent the Forum on the following advisory groups:
- Access on foot eg open access, footpaths
- Access by horse and bicycle eg bridleways, restricted byways
- Access for airsports eg paragliding, power-kiting
- Access for watersports eg canoeing, sailing
- Access for rocksports eg caving, climbing

3. A mechanism for picking up issues and ideas for discussion at the advisory group meetings (beyond the usual user group representation) is established. One possibility could perhaps be an access and recreation web forum, run by the Forum, where individuals could leave there comments and suggestions, and/or attendance by forum members at relevant meetings and events.

4. A member of the Forum leads/chairs each advisory group.

Kathryn Beardmore
30 April 2007

Annex 1


Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Current Liaison Groups
Ramblers Association
British Mountaineering Council
British Horse Society
Dales Way Association
Green Lanes Advisory Group
YDAF Access for All
PROW Open Access
Climbing particularly bird restrictions
Bridleway Network
Dales Way
Other regional routes?
Ribble Way
Coast to Coast
Green Lanes NERC Act
Barriers to Access

Annex 2

Suggested membership of the advisory groups

Access on foot eg open access, footpaths (Footpaths Advisory group)

- User groups invited to attend

Ramblers' association with representatives of the following branches:

  - Craven
  - Richmondshire
  - Lancaster/Cumbria

- Possible YDNPA representatives depending on agenda items

Area rangers
Area definitive map officers
Pennine Way Ranger (for Pennine Way only)
Access Technician (for CRoW exclusions and restrictions)

- Secretariat

YDNPA Access development officer

- How often the group will meet

Twice a year

Access by horse and bicycle eg bridleways, restricted byways (Bridleways Advisory group)

- User groups invited to attend

British Horse Society (Dales Area)
British Driving Association
International mountain bike association (IMBA)

- Possible YDNPA representatives depending on agenda items

Area rangers
Area definitive map officers
Pennine Bridleway Team

- Other organisations invited to attend

Natural England (Pennine Bridleway Team)
Malham trekking centre

- Secretariat

YDNPA Access development officer

- How often the group will meet

Twice a year

Access for airsports eg paragliding, power-kiting (Airpsorts Advisory group)

- User groups invited to attend

Local paragliding clubs

- Possible YDNPA representatives depending on agenda items

Area rangers
Access Officer (projects)

- Other organisations invited to attend

NFU/CLA

- Secretariat

YDNPA Access development officer

- How often the group will meet

The groups will convene if issues arise eg local paragliding clubs were invited to the CRoW user group workshop

Access for watersports eg canoeing, sailing (Watersports Advisory group)

- User groups invited to attend

British Canoe Union (Dales access officer)
Grimwith reservoir sailing club
Local fishing clubs

- Other organisations invited to attend

County and business landowner association
Environment agency

- Possible YDNPA representatives depending on agenda items

Area rangers
Access Officer (projects)

- Secretariat

Environment agency
YDNPA Access Development Officer

- How often the group will meet

The groups will convene if issues arise eg the Environment agency, has in the past, convened a meeting to look at access to the river Lune.

Access for rocksports eg caving, climbing (Rocksports Advisory group)

- User groups invited to attend

British Mountaineering Council (local access officer)
Local caving clubs

- Other organisations invited to attend

Natural England

- Possible YDNPA representatives depending on agenda items

Area rangers
Access Officer (projects)

- Secretariat

YDNPA Access development officer

- How often the group will meet

The groups will meet, annual (October) to discuss bird restrictions on climbing crags, and will be convened at other times if issues arise.

<u>Access for All</u>

- User groups invited to attend

Disability action in Richmondshire (DAIR)
Skipton and Craven Action for Disability (SCAD)
Outdoor centre with special needs groups (eg Bendrigg, Low Mill)

- Other organisations invited to attend

Natural England

- Possible YDNPA representatives depending on agenda items

Area rangers
Access development officer
YDNPA archaeologist

- Secretariat

YDNPA Access and recreation admin support

- How often the group will meet

The groups will convene as issues arise eg the access for all rights of way audit.

Item No. 11

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

Crow Act Applications for Restrictions, Exclusions & Dedications Report

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of applications for Restrictions, Exclusions and Dedications under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) dealt with by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as the Relevant Authority.

Background

The Authority is the 'relevant authority' responsible for administering the CRoW Act local restrictions. Under the Act (s 21 to 33), access to CRoW open access land can be restricted for reasons of land management, wildlife and heritage conservation, and public safety. However, such restrictions may only be used "to the extent necessary". This is interpreted to mean the least restrictive option. In other words, local visitor management solutions should always be sought before statutory restrictions are considered. Where visitor management on its own is likely to be insufficient, or would place an unreasonable burden or cost on the land manager, the CROW Act and the associated Regulations [The Access to the Countryside (Exclusions and Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2003] provide procedures to formally exclude or restrict access at the local level. The Countryside Agency has also issued statutory guidance under the CRoW Act (s33), available on the website www.openaccess.gov.uk (referred to as the RAG).

Casework to-date by application in the YDNP Jan 07 to 30 April 2007

	Total No of Cases
Cases received awaiting determination:	0
Cases determined:	0

Use of Exclusions and Restrictions

During the period 28th May 05 to 30th April 2007 the National Park Authority as Relevant Authority received 21 applications for restrictions or exclusions, 2 of which were withdrawn. The 19 which have been determined, along with discretionary restrictions applications, has resulted in the following restrictions and exclusions within the Yorkshire Dales:

Area of National Park Open Access Land with Restrictions
May 28th 2005 to 30th April 2007

	Ha	% Of Open Access In NP or of OA land
Yorkshire Dales National Park	176,200	
Open Access	109,500	62% of NP area
Section 15 land. Land under previous access agreement prior to 'Open Access'.	4,561	4% of OA land
5 year Discretionary Dog Restriction	41,890	38% of OA land
28 day discretionary public exclusion (Jan 06 Sept 06)	27,520	25% of OA land
Outline direction for the Exclusion of dogs during calving (Not activated)	90	0.1% of OA land
Restriction dogs on leads (grouse moors)	1,490,	1.5% of OA land
Permanent public exclusion	11	0.01%of OA land

An update on any Fire or Discretionary restrictions will be given at the meeting

Alan Hulme
April 2007

Background papers:
none

Item No. 12

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

New Local Access Forum Guidance and Regulations

Purpose of the report

Following public consultation, the new Local Access Forum regulations and guidelines have now been produced by DEFRA. This paper summarises the changes and outlines any implications they may have.

Background

The new Local Access Forum Regulations and Guidance notes were issued on 19 March 2007(copies of both will be made available at the meeting). The new regulations and guidance replace those from 2002.

Changes to the Regulations

Parts 1 and 2 generally re-enact the previous provisions.

Part 3 introduces new powers for appointing authorities to adapt the organisational structure and geographical coverage of forums. This is intended to assist authorities who wish to make changes to better suit changing local needs.

Part 4 places a new duty on appointing authorities to supply Natural England with information on their forum(s) such as copy of Annual Report, secretary details, changes to areas covered by forums. This is something the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has previously supplied to the Countryside Agency (now Natural England).

Part 4 also increases the list of bodies to whom the forum has a statutory function to provide advice. The list now includes Secretary of State conservation boards, Sport England and parish and town councils.

Changes to the Guidance

The purpose of the guidance is to assist forums in carrying out their duties. It also contains advice and information for forum secretaries, the appointing authorities and other bodies which may be recipients of advice from a forum.

The guidance provides more comprehensive information than the previous guidance on issues such as sub-groups, training and how to provide advice. There is a new section within the guidance on measuring the effectiveness of the forum. On the basis of this guidance, a set of criteria to measure the effectiveness needs to be agreed upon. This is something members need to consider further.

Conclusion

The YDAF has 'terms of reference' and a set of 'standard procedures' that guide the operation of the Forum, these were produced using the 2002 Guidance and Regulations, and the latest versions were agreed by the Forum in January 2006. These have been reviewed in the light of the new Guidance and Regulations, and no changes need to be made at the present time.

Action for Members

Members are asked to:

- familiarise themselves with the new regulations and guidance notes.
- agree a set of criteria to measure the effectiveness of the Forum

Rachel Briggs
April 2007

Item No. 13

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

Green Lanes Update – For Information

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

A meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group took place on the 1 March 2007. Michael Bartholomew, Ben Heyes, Jon Beavan and Geoff Wilson all represent the YDAF on this group. The notes of the meeting are in Annex 1.

DEFRA Consultation on the power for National Park Authorities to make Traffic regulation Orders

The closing date for the above consultation was 20 April 2007. Members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum were made aware of the document and sent hard copies where requested. The Chairman, with the assistance of some YDAF members, put together a response on behalf of the YDAF (see Annex 2).

The response submitted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (which drew on the YDAF response particularly in relation to question 5), can be seen in Annex 3.

Rachel Briggs
May 2007

Annex 1

Yorkshire Dales Green Lane Advisory Group Meeting
1 March 2007

The Victoria Centre, Settle

Notes of Meeting

Present:

Malcolm Petyt (Chair)
Ben Heyes
Kathryn Beardmore
Mark Allum
David Gibson
Jon Beavan,
Michael Bartholomew
Geoff Wilson
Stuart Monk
Neil Heseltine

Apologies:

Jon Avison
Simon Lovell (Natural England)
Douglas Huzzard
Mark Dale
Mark Sandamas

Agenda Items

1.
Welcome & Introductions

Ben Hayes was welcomed to his first meeting.
Following the introduction of Natural England and subsequent re-organisation, Dave Slater is no longer working on access issues. Simon Lovell will be the new NE point of contact for this group.

MA to make copies of all documentation to date available for SL

2. Notes of previous meeting and action points

- **Green Lanes Framework**

The Framework document dated November 2006 is the most up-to-date version. The document is still to be finalised, and will be published when the following information can be included:

- NYCC have asked that the framework includes an equality statement; exact wording will be agreed with NYCC.
- The appendix which deals with the checklist for implementing a traffic regulation order will be revised when the Regulations applying to National Park Authorities are published (this appendix is currently based on the existing Regulations; these will be adapted for National Parks).

- **Database of all the list of streets in the North Yorkshire part of the National Park**

It was noted that there was very little difference between the database of unsealed roads maintainable at public expense supplied at the last meeting by NYCC and YDNPA records. The main difference is that the database is focussed on unsealed routes. The 'UCR layer' previously used by the YDNPA included many minor tarmac roads. No differences have been identified which effect the 'sensitive' routes under consideration.

- **Subject to agreement by the respective County Council, all ten routes should have a vehicle logger put on them asap.**

Loggers are now in place on the first ten 'sensitive' routes.

- **Code of conduct leaflet**

See agenda item 3.

- **Pennine Bridleway: assessment of the landscape and visual impacts of construction and ongoing recreational use, January 2007.**

KB explained that the report from Julie Martin Associates had been included with the papers for the meeting because it provided useful background information regarding assessment of natural beauty, landscape, and visual impact.

It was noted that the desktop sensitivity assessment did not include an assessment of landscape or visual impact, and that whilst the National Park is first and foremost a cultural landscape designation, the YDNPA does not have a landscape architect on its staff team to advise it on this area of work, and so an external consultant had been used to provide advice.

The main focus of the report was the impact on the landscape character and visual amenity of the National Park of engineering works undertaken as part of the implementation of the Pennine Bridleway, together with recreational use of the route. The issue here is that both had an impact.

KB drew the Advisory Group's attention to Section 1 of the report which defines concepts relevant to national park designation, and terms such as 'natural beauty'. The report also gives guidance on assessing landscape and visual character and this has been adapted and used in the detailed route assessments.

GW raised two points that had not been addressed in the interim report:

1. The principle that the development of the Pennine Bridleway, on sections where higher rights than bridleway apply, should not prejudice use by motor vehicles.
2. That the report makes reference to 'signs of damage by recreational motor vehicles despite works having been carried out'. GW said this was inevitable as he believed the work had only been to bridleway standard, and so could not withstand use by motor vehicles.

KB explained that the standard of construction of each part of the PBW had been determined by a combination of the route's status and use. So where the route was being used by agricultural and/or recreational vehicles, it was constructed to withstand that use. GW disputed this statement, and said he had read the contrary.

KB said that she would make the PBW specifications and design standards available, outside of the meeting, to GW.

3. Rights and responsibilities – code of conduct leaflet

MA explained the discussions that had taken place with NYCC, Nidderdale, North York Moors etc. The outcome was to initially aim the leaflet at advice for motorcyclists for the Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale area. This could then be used as a template for other areas in North Yorkshire.

The draft leaflet was discussed and it was agreed to produce a second draft taking into account the following points:

- The present Section 6 is considered to be too long
- The work of the police in prosecuting illegal use to be included
- To make sure that the advice provided is focussed and includes positive messages
- Advice against night time use to be included
- To be as clear as possible on what routes can be ridden but, since information will become out of date, to provide website links
- That branding is made appealing to the target audience and is not 'National Park' style
- Any suggestions for re-wording from the group, to be emailed by end of March

MA will redraft and send out a revised version by email for comments and agreement

4. Route assessment report - Arncliffe Cote

The findings of the report show:

- Natural England and YDNPA staff have identified vulnerable ecological features on and close to the route, which could be adversely affected by an increase in motor vehicle use
- YDNPA staff have identified archaeological features that could be vulnerable to increased use by motor vehicles.
- Current levels of use by agricultural and recreational motor vehicles is extremely low. 4x4 use along the length of the route is unlikely because of the presence of narrow gateways.
- Condition surveys show the surface condition of the route to be static. It appears that the surface can withstand the current use by recreational and agricultural users.
- There is evidence of use of the route by walkers, cyclists and motorbikes throughout its length. Some agricultural use is evident at both ends. There is some

localised damage evident in softer areas and hollows, but no significant damage is currently present.

The report states that a successful BOAT application is likely to lead to increased use. SM believes this is doubtful, particularly in the light of the reduction in motorcycle activity overall, and reduced sales, following the introduction of the NERC Act. GW suggested the route could be used without damage by trail bikes. Discussion then focused on tranquillity and the special qualities of the area, perception of 'level of damage' and thresholds – but no conclusions were drawn. It was noted that monitoring of use and possible damage would be especially important if the current BOAT application were successful.

MA drew everyone's attention to the Defra guidance that a TRO could be used pre-emptively, whilst the outcome of a DMMO application was being determined. MB felt the route should have a permanent traffic regulation order placed pre-emptively, to safeguard the special qualities of the area, but other members of the group were not comfortable with acting pre-emptively given the extremely low levels of use.

The general consensus (with one dissension MB) was

- **That everyone wanted to see the route remain as it is and damage should not be allowed to occur on this route, and that given the nature of the route's surface it was noted that this could easily occur through insensitive use. (However, it was recognised that damage meant different things to different people)**
- **That the route needs careful, ongoing, monitoring in relation to damage, and use by motor vehicles.**
- **That if any damage becomes evident, then an emergency traffic regulation order be placed on the route immediately to prevent any further damage occurring.**

5. Route assessment report - The High Way

The findings of the report show:

- No significant ecological issues
- No significant archaeological issues
- Sunday levels of vehicle use are relatively high on The High Way (averaging 5.7 motor vehicles/day) of which around 5.2 are motorbikes. A high proportion of traffic using the route overall (86%) is motorbikes.
- The High Way is a BOAT (which includes two legally accepted narrow gates, which restrict 4x4 use) and so an increase in motor vehicle use is not anticipated. An increase in other recreational users could be expected when the Pennine Bridleway is fully open, and if the Cotter Riggs section is repaired.
- There is major damage to the route over a distance of 1.7km at the Cotter Riggs end of the route. There is deep rutting along long sections. This damage is attributable to motorbikes and water erosion resulting from the ruts. This section is probably impassable to horse riders and a danger to all other recreational users.

The High Way continues into Cumbria (outside the National Park) and DG reports that recreational motor vehicle use is not presenting management issues on this section.

The general consensus (with one dissension MB) was:

- **That the route is badly damaged and in need of repair to an appropriate standard.**
- **That a permanent full-time traffic regulation order be placed on the route from the junction with Shaw Paddock to the southern end of the route (Hell Gill to Cotter Road).**
- **That this traffic regulation order should be reviewed after 5 years or when repairs to BOAT standard are complete, whichever is sooner.**

MB believes a review is not necessary because there would be an impact on the tranquillity of the area and potential conflict between user groups, even if the damage has been repaired to BOAT standard.

KB stated that it would be desirable to conduct some immediate initial repairs to eliminate the danger to other users, whilst seeking funding to repair the route to BOAT standard.

SM made the suggestion of if/when the route was repaired there could be 'controlled' use in one direction.

6. Route assessment report - Harber Scar Lane

The principle findings of the report are:

- There are no significant ecological or archaeological issues on the route
- Sunday levels of motor vehicle use on Harber Scar Lane average 3.6 (shown incorrectly as 5.0 in the report) vehicles/day, of which around 2.4 are motorbikes. Monday to Friday use is an average of 1.3 motor vehicles/day of which 0.4 is motorcycles. Overall motorcycles comprise approximately 40% of all motor vehicle use.
- There is evidence of use by walkers, cyclists, recreational and agricultural motor vehicles. Minor rutting is evident, and one area of loose surface with running water is present. No serious damage.
- No deterioration in surface condition is evident over the last three years, the route appears to have a durable surface.
- Sections of Harber Scar Lane are part of the Ribble Way and the Pennine Way. Landscape experiences that walkers, cyclists and riders seek may be significantly affected by the presence of recreational motor vehicles. Noise is likely to carry a considerable distance because of the topography of the route.

JB believes that there is an issue with potential danger on the lower section of the route, where the route is most constrained.

SM feels that the current levels of motor vehicle use are low, especially Monday to Saturday.

The general consensus (with one dissension MB) was:

- **Some repair work is needed to the section below Sell Gill Holes**
- **That a traffic regulation order be placed to restrict use of motor vehicles on Sundays. It was felt that this is the busiest day for all users and so the risk of**

conflict would be minimised and the impact on the tranquillity of the area reduced if vehicle users were excluded from using the route on Sundays.
- **There needs to be regular monitoring to ensure recreational motor vehicle use is not displaced to other days of the week.**

MB believed that a full-time permanent traffic regulation order should be placed to safeguard the special qualities of the area.

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7. Route assessment report - Stockdale Lane

The principle findings of the report:
- Natural England and YDNPA staff are concerned that increased use of motor vehicles could be a threat to vulnerable metalliferous plant communities
- YDNPA staff have identified archaeological features that might be vulnerable to increased motor vehicle use
- Sunday levels of vehicle use are moderate on Stockdale Lane averaging 4.3 vehicles/day, of which around 4 are motorbikes. Overall, 79% of vehicles using Stockdale Lane are motorbikes. Monday to Friday use is an average of 0.7 motor vehicles/day with 0.4 of these being motor cycles.
- When motorbikes can be seen or heard on Stockdale Lane, the intrinsic landscape character will be greatly diminished or lost. The capacity of Stockdale Lane to accommodate motor cycle use is particularly low because of the narrow, winding, relatively wild and isolated character of the track and the intimate, confined nature of the valley.
- There are some areas of localised damage. It is not possible to say at this stage whether the surface condition of the route is deteriorating over time
- The route has become increasingly popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders since the Settle Loop (Pennine Bridleway) was opened.

The general consensus (with one dissension MB) was:
- **This is an important route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and therefore the impact of recreational motor vehicles would be felt by a significant number of people;**
- **That a traffic regulation order be placed to restrict motor vehicle use on Saturdays and Sundays;**
- **That a review of this order be carried out after 5 years;**
- **There needs to be regular monitoring to ensure recreational motor vehicle use is not displaced to other days of the week.**

MB believed that a full-time permanent traffic regulation order should be placed.

8. Route assessment report - West Cam Road

The main findings of the report are:
- There are no significant ecological or archaeological issues on the route
- Sunday levels of motor vehicle use are high on West Cam road average 12.5 vehicles/day, of which around 6.5 are motorbikes. Overall, 35% of motor vehicles

using West Cam road are motorbikes; 4x4 use is significant, compared to other routes
- Use of the route by motor vehicles is not expected to increase significantly. Use by other users might increase if damaged sections are repaired.
- Areas with minor ruts caused by motor vehicles are found on the upper section of the route, with occasional areas of more significant damage. The damage is seen as largely a visual issue, as it appears to be down to bedrock, so is unlikely to get worse. If it is not used, it is likely to recover.
- Very significant damage caused by water erosion is found around High Houses plantation.
- There is an area of significant damage by motor vehicles to the side of the track in the area below the plantation.
- West Cam road is part of the Pennine Way along its upper section, and offers good landscape experiences along its length. Vehicle noise from the route could carry as far as Snaizeholme.

The general consensus was:
- **That discussions should take place with NYCC to see whether repair works can be carried out, and fencing and signage put near the plantation.**
- **That it is currently unclear whether route surface damage in the upper section is agricultural or recreational in nature.**
- **That a logger should be placed on the upper section of the route, to help determine whether use is recreational or agricultural, and a revised report be brought back to the group for further consideration.**

The group were minded to advise putting in place a restriction, but would defer giving advice, pending determination of the extent of agricultural, use before making a final recommendation.

Additional Generic Points arising from the above discussion were:

The effect of motorbikes on tranquillity,
discussion on:
- How sounds travel depends on the topography
- Good to go places where there isn't noise of motorbikes, but even where motorbikes do use routes, tranquillity is available most of the time.
- It is speed which increases noise and intimidation

Voluntary restraint:
This could not be instigated as a management option, ahead of a successful BOAT application, because until an application was 'successful' the motor vehicle rights were only 'possible' but 'unproven'. YDNPA could not condone activity, which could be later shown to be illegal.

Use of Bridleways
This was seen is an enforcement issue, not a TRO issue, where the police should be called – so it was not discussed further.

Use of Unclassified County roads

The extent of public rights on these routes is unknown – their status is known to be 'at least a footpath'.

Air Pollution
Air pollution from motorbikes was not discussed – other than to note that the composition of the grass sward along Mastiles was believed to be influenced by nitrates from vehicle exhaust fumes.

Timescale for Implementation
No timescale was set for commencement of TRO powers. It was anticipated that the YDNPA would receive these October 2007 at the earliest. It would take approximately 125 days to make a TRO – on the basis of the current regulations.

The issue of the DMMO applications is separate from the advisory group's consideration of use and management, though clearly they are related. It is hoped that the applications will be 'determined' before the NPA gets the TRO powers – if not, the group may want to re-consider its advice.

9. Selection of routes 11 to 15

It was agreed that the next five routes to be studied should be:

- Deadman's Hill
- Hanlith to Weets Top
- Long Lane – Helwith Bridge
- Stake Road
- Turbary Road

It is anticipated that reports on these routes will be brought to a meeting in August/September.

Action: MA to ensure loggers are placed on routes which do not have one

THE YORKSHIRE DALES GREEN LANES ADVISORY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Purpose of the Advisory Group

1. The purpose of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group is:

   To be an Advisory Group to provide guidance and advice to the Authority and others, on the management of individual unsealed routes (green lanes) with possible or proven public mechanically propelled vehicular rights within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Terms of Reference

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

   (i) Consider the results of the 'vulnerability mapping' exercise and the 'sensitivity' of individual unsealed routes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park based on the special qualities of the area.

   (ii) Agree which unsealed routes are priorities for the preparation of a more detailed route assessment.

   (iii) Consider detailed route assessments and provide advice on the management measures that should be applied to individual routes. In giving this advice, the consensus of the group should be sought.

   (iv) Advise on the production of a 'code of conduct' for recreational motor vehicular users, to cover such issues as rights and responsibilities.

   (v) Promote closer liaison and understanding between the various interests, user bodies, and organisations which have an interest in the management of individual unsealed routes in the National Park.

   The advice of the group will go forward to the Authority's Access Committee for consideration.

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

   (i) The needs of land management;
   (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, the interests of landowners and managers 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.

[NB sections 3 and 4 above are taken directly from the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum terms of reference, as the advisory group is closely allied to the Forum].

Membership

5. The membership of the Group is as follows:

- 4 Yorkshire Dales Access Forum members
- 4 co-opted members (other interests)
- 1 officer representative from North Yorkshire County Council
- 1 officer representative from Cumbria County Council
- 1 officer representative from Natural England
- 1 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Recreation Management Member Champion - (chair)

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

What the Group is NOT being asked to do

6. It is important that the Group remains focused on the management of individual routes and does not become involved with other 'green lanes' issues e.g. needs and preferences of individual user groups which is addressed by the rights of way improvement plans, or individual applications for changing the status of a route to BOAT (byway open to all traffic) which is governed by formal legal procedures.

7. More general 'green lanes' issues are likely to be taken forward through county wide 'green lanes' management groups set up by the County Councils.

Annex 2

Consultation on the Power for National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders.

Section 72 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Consultation issued 25 January 2007 – Consultation closes 20 April 2007.

Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum response to DEFRA consultation questions.

This document constitutes formal advice from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Access Forum.
DEFRA is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

QUESTION	**RESPONSE**
1 Do you agree that NPAs should follow broadly similar procedures to those currently followed by LAs in making TROs?	Yes, broadly similar procedures should be followed, but they should be simplified where possible in recognition of the restricted types of road and orders that NPAs will be permitted to make. The public needs to remain confident that all interests are taken into account when seeking or opposing an order and that no one is prejudiced by the procedure. We expect a professional and objective approach by NPA officers.
	Matter for Guidance Notes: The process should remain largely the same in principal regarding stages, requirements and procedures to be adopted. These should be detailed in the guidance.
2 Do you agree that providing a single new set of regulations targeted at NPAs is the correct way to implement the new powers?	Yes. This will allow the existing regulations to be simplified because some of the elements of the existing process are not relevant to 'recreational routes'
	Matter for Guidance Notes: Any NPA standard set of regulations should be predicated on 'good practice', such as is emerging in the Yorkshire Dales and already exists in the Lake District National Park. This is reflected in recent guidance issued via *Making the Best of Byways*. There is some concern that National Park Boundaries can be rather arbitrary lines on a map. NPA's should be encouraged to work with neighbouring Authorities to effectively manage the right of way recreational resource and where possible provide for expressed desire, taking into account the special landscape of a national park.
3 Are there any other surface materials that you consider should be added to the list of prescribed materials?	No

4 Do you agree with the inclusion of the organisations listed in Table 1? Are there any other organisations that you feel should also be included?	We do not agree that the table is wide enough in scope to satisfy the requirements for satisfying public need for confidence in the process. Landowners and other persons or services needing access to routes subject to traffic regulation should be recognised in the regulations. Regulations should require each NPA to maintain a list of local interest organisations that wish to be notified of proposed TROs. Any organisation with an appropriate connection with the national park could be asked to be placed on the list. The cost implications are minimal and entry on the list is self selecting and non-discriminating.
	Matter for Guidance Notes: Table 1 is fine so far as it largely lists existing statutory consultees, but not in respect of the requirement to consult 'such other organisations (if any) representing persons likely to be affected by any provision in the order as the NPA thinks it appropriate to consult'. There is a current provision in the present TRO processes similar to this which does not work. For whatever reasons local highway authority TROs regularly get notified to 'selected parties' only.

5 Is a requirement to give notice of the proposal in a newspaper appropriate or could it be replaced by a requirement to publish such a notice on the website of the NPA? *(page 10)*	If the register of interested parties suggested at Q 4 is adopted then the need to advertise in newspapers is diminished. However, for the time being at least notices in newspapers probably remain necessary, despite the cost. The move to web-site advertising is possibly inevitable, but it must be in ways that are friendly to users. There are currently many examples of NPA (and other Authority and government dept.) web-sites that remain largely impenetrable to all but the most diligent searchers. Consideration should be given to all TRO notices being registered and notified centrally, on the lines of CROWA exclusions and restrictions.

6 Do you agree that there should be a requirement to place a notice on site publicising an intention to make a Permanent, Experimental or Temporary TRO? *(page 10)*	Yes.

7 Are there other topics or areas that you believe should be covered in Guidance to National Park Authorities? *(page 10)*	We understand the reasons for giving Authorities the option of putting opposed orders to the Secretary of State, however, we suggest that there should be a robust mechanism whereby the NPA must seek to resolve objections in an open way amongst all interests, and for the SoS / Planning Inspectorate to be brought in to deal with unresolvable objections. It is appreciated that the secretary of state has to approve all diversions from standard signage. If new regulations are introduced, can they not authorise the secretary of state to authorise a standardised system of signs suitable for use in NPs? If new regulations are approved will this approval given on behalf of DfT or defra? We accept that flexibility in the application of barriers and bollards will facilitate the used of smaller non-standard signage. There is a concern that NPAs may be pressured into employing TROs as a first strike rather than when other efforts to manage use have failed. There is some concern that the signage that refers to 'access only' is not explicit enough to those who may think that access for motorised recreation is not excluded, especially if use by other vehicles for agricultural or property access is observed. There will be a need to cross reference Guidance on these regulations to the guidance for enforcing law relating the use of MPVs on rights of way. The onus on applying TROs (rather than making them) remains with the police. See other Guidance Note related comments tabulated with each question. **NB: We expect that draft Guidance Notes will be issued for consultation.**

8 Are there any other considerations which you think it is important for the Secretary of State to take into account in	It is clear that the YDNPA is anxious for the TRO making authority to be introduced to them as soon as possible. The YDAF supports that. The YDNPA is preparing for it.

deciding how or when to introduce the new powers? *(page 11)*	**Matters for Guidance Notes:** NPAs will need to consult widely before making TROs. The YDNPA has established a partnership advisory procedure for identifying which routes, if any, should be subject to TRO. This procedure, and others, should be considered as good practice models when the SoS is deciding how and when to introduce the new powers.

9 Do you agree that the RIA accurately describes the possible impacts and likely costs and benefits of the proposals contained in this consultation paper?	Broadly yes, subject to further comments below:

Annex D

Para 2.7 We fully support the need for action on routes, which are vulnerable to MPV use and that action by NPAs, where required, may be speedier that when dealt with by local highway authorities. However, we think that it would be useful for guidance to acknowledge to the effective use management that has been effected by some NPAs without resort to TROs, and the successful collaboration that has taken place between some highway authorities and NPAs prior to this proposed revised regulatory regime. In some circumstance such collaboration may continue to be necessary.

Para 3.1 – 3.4 A recognition of the special qualities and needs of national parks is fully supported, however there appears to be some conflict between the reference to 'small number' in para 2.6 and the reference to 'many cases' in 3.1. Which is it?

Para 4.1 Option 1 – it is agreed that this is not an option.

Para 4.2 It is essential that the regulations are made as practical as possible for the specific anticipated use in the National Parks. The results, if they are not, are set out in the risks to option 2.

Para 4.3 The advantages of simplification are clearly set out. We are doubtful about not advertising in a local newspaper as this is usually the best way of informing local people who, whilst not being involved in the groups specified, might well be interested in the proposal but would not bother to check a web site. However, parish councils are consultees.

Risks to Option 3: We do not see the risks to option 3 as being very high. Unless they are already timetabled, it is unlikely the Dft will be revising the regulations at the same time: any subsequent amendment can take into account the existing NP regulations. If the regulations were amended, it might usefully allow for new standards of less obtrusive signage in the Parks to be approved. More of a worry would be if it were decided that the DfT were to prepare the regulations because of their

expertise in the area. They would not have the same sense of urgency to complete them as, it is hoped, defra has.

Para 4.6 We welcome the consultation on the drafting of the regulations but hope that they will be issued soon.

Para 5.3 Benefits of Option 1:This is no longer a viable option and would nullify s72 of NERC.

Para 5.4. Benefits of Option 2: The only reason for using this option is that amending the regulations may be quicker than rewriting them, but as set out previously, the complexity of the present regulations is likely to cause errors and mistakes in their implementation. By contrast, there is also the possibility that in rewriting or amending, some issues that the existing regulations anticipate may remain hidden to the amending or rewriting authors.

Para 5.5 Benefits of Option 3: Although it is accepted that these benefits cannot be immediately quantified, the presumedl benefits are clearly set out. There are also advantages in having the work done by an authority that is local to the site rather than by a distant county council.

***Costs** - We are not competent to comment on the costs of making orders, but observe that the costs of government time approving non-standardised signs are included. [If, as suggested in para 4.9, standardised signs were agreed, this could be done much more quickly, although they would still have to be approved on behalf of the secretary of state.*

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Access Forum welcomes this opportunity to comment on these proposals and will welcome giving further advice should the department think it is necessary. Further, it will be apparent from the above response that this forum expects that there will be further consultation on the content of guidance notes.

Geoff Wilson
Chairman, Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

Annex 3

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Response to the Government consultation on '
the power for national park authorities to make traffic regulation orders'

This response has been put together following comments from Authority Members and has been agreed by the Authority's Access Committee on 19 April 2007.

1. Do you agree that NPAs should follow broadly similar procedures to those currently followed by LAs in making TROs? (page 8)

Yes, the existing process should be followed to ensure consistency of approach.

2. Do you agree that providing a single new set of regulations targeted at NPAs is the correct way to implement the new powers? (page 8)

Yes, the removal of sections of the existing regulations that will not apply to National Park Authorities will provide more clarity in the implementation of the new powers.

We ask Defra to also consider extending these Regs to all unsealed routes across the country, as we are aware that where a route runs across a National Park boundary, there could be slightly different procedures inside and outside the National Park. For example the LAF inside the National Park will be consulted on that part in the National Park, but the neighbouring LAF won't be consulted for that part outside the National Park.

3. Are there any other surface materials that you consider should be added to the list of prescribed materials? (page 8)

No, this list is comprehensive and provide a useful division of routes between the Local Highways Authority and National Park Authority interest.

4. Do you agree with the inclusion of the organisations listed in Table 1? Are there any other organisations that you feel should also be included? (page 9)

We agree with the list of organisations in Table 1 and the instances in which they should be notified of a TRO. We note that there are no landowning bodies represented and ask that the CLA, NFU and Moorland Association be added to the list and ask that consideration be given to consulting with those with an interest in the land over which the

route passes eg landowners, farmers, and commoners. English Heritage should also be added to cover those routes with scheduled ancient monuments.

We note that the Green Lanes Alliance is also not included in this list, but also have an interest in this matter. We are unsure how active this group is outside of the Pennines and Lake District so do not know if it should be considered as a 'generic' 'statutory' consultee, as it could be included in 'such other organisations' An alternative could be to include the Green Lanes Protection Group?

5. Is a requirement to give notice of the proposal in a newspaper appropriate or could it be replaced by a requirement to publish such a notice on the website of the NPA? (page 10)

Notice of the proposal should be publicised on the relevant National Park Authority's website and this should be outlined as a requirement in the Regulations. We recognise that not everyone has internet access, and suggest there is scope to have a mini advert (subject to legal requirements) in a newspaper to direct people to a website where full details are given. We believe this, combined with on-site notices, is sufficient.

We draw Defra's attention to precedents elsewhere, for example using web-based consultation, only, for applications for restrictions and exclusion under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Whilst we recognise that local people, who do not have access to the internet, may have problems accessing the information and responding, we believe that the on-site signing of the proposal, together with a small advert, will publicise it most effectively to these stakeholders.

If the requirement of the regulations was to give detailed notice in a local newspaper, this could prove difficult for the following reasons:

- Routes for a TRO could be long and pass through more than one newspaper area;
- Full newspaper advertisements are costly and to put an advertisement in all newspapers that cover the National Park would incur significant extra costs.
- The National Park has a wider catchment than its immediate area, and possible users of the route may not live in the catchment of the local newspaper(s) used to advertise the possible TRO.

By way of background information, one of our assessment reports, for one individual green lane, can be in excess of 40 pages – we intend making this information available to consultees through our website, but to make it available in paper form would involve a lot of trees!

6. Do you agree that there should be a requirement to place a notice on site publicising an intention to make a Permanent, Experimental or Temporary TRO? (page 10)

Yes, this is extremely important for notifying regular users and local community of the intention.

7. Are there other topics or areas that you believe should be covered in Guidance to National Park Authorities? (page 10)

Yes, the guidance should explain, as far as possible, what some of the reasons for making a TRO eg 'amenity' and 'natural beauty' mean in a national park context – and this should relate to the reasons for designation of a National Park. To this end we ask that the following information be included in the guidance:

National Park Authorities are charged with managing the Park in accordance with National Park purposes as set out in Section 5(1) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park, and
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities by the public.

It follows that giving National Park Authorities powers to make TROs on unsealed routes, is the Government recognising the importance of these power to National Parks in pursuing its two statutory functions. As such, reasons for making TROs, eg for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs, (s1(1)(f) RTRA84); or the purpose of conserving or enhancing the natural beauty of the area, or of affording better opportunities for the public to enjoy the amenities of the area, or recreation or the study of nature in the area. (s22(2) RTRA84), where amenity means the benefits afforded to people by a particular area in terms of what is seen and experienced – should be seen as conserving the experience of the landscape and its special qualities in a National Park.

It is for each National Park to define its special qualities, but there are however, some generic 'criteria' those of 'natural beauty', 'extensive tract of land', 'markedly superior recreation experience' which are found in all National Parks, and it is these elements that make it worthy of designation as a National Park in the first place. To help understanding these terms are defined below: (The principal sources here are the relevant Acts, and an unpublished report to the Countryside Agency[1] that gives the most up-to-date summary and interpretation of National Park criteria and tests following the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006).

> **Natural beauty -** A statutory term derived from Section 5(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended and as informed by Sections 59 and 99 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006), and one of the two principal criteria for designating National Parks, the other being opportunities for open-air recreation (see below). A National Park landscape must have outstanding natural beauty ie be of national or international importance. The term **'special qualities'** is also used in legislation as a shorthand term for the reasons why a landscape has outstanding natural beauty.
>
> **Tests for natural beauty -** Factors that are used to help evaluate natural beauty (and to identify areas for inclusion within a National Park). The tests generally applied are**:**
> - **Landscape quality** ie condition, that is the intactness of the landscape, the condition of its features, its state of repair, and the absence of man-made or incongruous elements;

[1] Alison Farmer Associates and Julie Martin Associates, *Recommended Draft Boundary for an Extension to the Lake District National Park*, report to the Countryside Agency, August 2006.

- **Scenic quality** ie appeal to the visual senses, for example due to important views, visual interest and variety, contrasting landscape patterns, and dramatic topography or scale;
- **Relative wildness** ie the presence of wild (or relatively wild) character in the landscape due to remoteness, lack of human influence, or evidence of the passing of time and a return to nature;
- **Tranquillity** ie freedom from disturbance and presence in the landscape of factors such as openness, perceived naturalness, rivers, peace and quiet;
- **Natural heritage features** ie habitats, wildlife and features of geological or geomorphological interest that may contribute strongly to the naturalness of a landscape;
- **Cultural heritage features** ie archaeological, historical and architectural characteristics or features that may contribute to the perceived beauty of the landscape;
- **Associations** ie connections with particular people, artists, writers, or events in history that may contribute to perceptions of beauty in a landscape or facilitate understanding and enjoyment.

Not all tests need to be met everywhere, provided there is a strong weight of evidence, overall, to show that a tract of country is of outstanding natural beauty.

Opportunities for open-air recreation - A term derived from Section 5(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended and informed by Sections 59 and 99 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006). The wording of Section 5(1) of the Act on National Park purposes suggests a strong link between opportunities for open-air recreation and understanding and enjoyment of a National Park's special qualities by the public. The term **'markedly superior recreational experience'** has been used by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) to indicate that the recreational experience and opportunity afforded by a National Park should be of national importance.

Recreation tests - Factors used to help evaluate opportunities for open-air recreation within land judged to meet the natural beauty criterion. The reference in legislation to understanding and enjoyment of special qualities suggests a focus on quiet outdoor countryside recreation, associated with the wide open spaces, wildness and tranquillity to be found within the National Parks. Tests applied may include:

- **Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places and special experiences** ie opportunities to enjoy scenic quality, wildness, tranquillity etc;
- **Presence of a wide range of natural or cultural heritage features,** landmarks and designations that cumulatively enrich the landscape experience;
- **Range of outdoor recreational experiences that reflect the qualities of the area** and do not detract from the enjoyment of the area by others ie quiet outdoor recreation.
- **Scope for management of recreation** to enhance recreational opportunities or protect the conservation interest of the Park.

Again, not all the criteria are met for every area, but there will be a strong weight of evidence overall.

signage

The existing signing requirements of Traffic Regulation Orders are wholly inappropriate in a protected landscape area such as a National Park. At present the Secretary of State can authorise non-standard signs but, as stated in the consultation paper, this will be another process for the National Park Authority to go through each time it proposes a TRO. New regulations should include more suitable signing standards that are universally recognisable but will not detract from the 'wildness' of National Parks by creating an urban visual intrusion. We ask that Defra approach the DoT to discuss this matter further, as the normal tarmac road network will not be covered by these Regulations the signing standards should not need to reflect the standards required on tarmac routes.

8. Are there any other considerations which you think it is important for the Secretary of State to take into account in deciding how or when to introduce the new powers? (page 11)

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority asks that the traffic regulation order powers be introduced without delay, and the implications for National Park Authorities, in terms of financial and staffing resource costs, of the new powers should be considered.

9. Do you agree that the RIA accurately describes the possible impacts and likely costs and benefits of the proposals contained in this consultation paper? (page 11)

We think the time taken to 'make' the order, once the decision has been taken only, is about right if everything that had to be done under the Regulations were undertaken in succession. This is also assuming it is non-controversial (as a lot of time can be taken up responding to queries from Green Lanes Alliance and Trail Riders Fellowship).

TASK	TIME (hours)
prepare and issuing consultations	5
consideration of comments	15
prepare notices / adverts of intention to make order	5
consideration of objections / representations	15
site visit to put up notices	3
make order	7
prepare notices / adverts of order	5
arranging signage, barriers & other works	15
miscellaneous	5
TOTAL	**75**

Based on our calculation, making 1 uncontroversial, Permanent Traffic Regulation Order would take one fte 75 hours, spread over approximately 135 days.

However, this does not allow for all the preparation and collection of information which would be undertaken before any decisions were made, this in itself is likely to be the most time consuming part of the process. We estimate that the cost of making a TRO from the evidence gathering stage, to the actual order being in place, is likely to be £5k to £10k.

Item No. 14

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 22 May 2007

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
26 July 2007	Grassington Town Hall	10.00
25 October 2007	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.

Website

Two new sections have been added to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website.

The 'Getting Active' section contains information on recreation activities in the National Park from walking and horse riding to air and water sports, whilst the 'Countryside for Everyone' provides information for visitors with limited mobility. Please see the press release (Annex 1) for further information.

The new sections can be found in the 'Enjoying' section on the YDNPA website at http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/index/enjoying.htm .

Training

The Local Access Forum Guidance recognises a need for training, for forum members, to develop their skills and improve their technical ability. To this end I would welcome Members' thoughts on the following questions:

- Are there any current training requirements of forum members?
- Do any forum members feel they would be able to offer a training session on their particular interest?

Access for All Sub Group

The Access for All sub group is meeting on the 11 May 2007. There will be a verbal report as part of the meeting.

Rachel Briggs
April 2007

Annex 1

News Release

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Get active in the Yorkshire Dales

Grassington, April 3, 2007.

There is now even more information available to help people get physical and enjoy the wonderful Yorkshire Dales.

A new section has been added to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) website called Getting Active that aims to help people enjoy themselves even more in the beautiful countryside.

The section caters from everyone from the sedate walker to the super-fit rock climber and contains a wealth of advice about how to get involved with recreational activities in the National Park.

For walkers, there is information on everything from short strolls close to village centres to hikes on one of the long-distance footpaths through the area.

For the less experienced, there are some walks on good paths without any awkward stiles to negotiate and – for those worried about getting lost – there are links on the website to the extensive range of guided walks – many of them organised by the YDNPA – that are run throughout the year.

Then there is a mine of information on cycling and horse riding as well as adrenalin-pumping sports like caving, climbing, paragliding and fell running.

Mark Allum, the Authority's Access Project Officer, said: "With summer coming, there really is no excuse not to get active in the Dales.

"There is something for everyone – all in the fresh air in some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK. What more could you ask for?"

The new section can be found in the 'Enjoying' section on the YDNPA website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

//**ends**//

Yorkshire Dales access forum

DRAFT
Annual Report

2006/07

For further information please contact:

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1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Introduction

It has been a demanding and busy year for this small team of volunteers who give their time and experience freely. The time of every member is precious and limited and it is important that we ensure that members' workload is manageable, that their time and experience is utilised to maximum effect, and that objectives are efficiently and effectively achieved. Being volunteers 'staffing' a statutory body isn't always easy. As chairman I have appreciated the manner in which members have remained focused and have applied their various skills and knowledge.

The matters that have come before the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum this year reflects in some measure the activity of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority during the year. It has been a busy one as detailed in the section of this report that lists the various matters that have featured on the agendas of meetings. The National Park Authority turned to the forum for strategic and policy advice on many matters relating to managing and improving public rights of way and on public access issues generally. Amongst them are the Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan, the Recreation Charter, and the Access and Recreation Section of the National Park Management Plan. They are all big issues for the National Park Authority, people who live and work in the area, for visitors and for the economy of the place. To keep ourselves up to date and trained, we have received presentations on proposals for the prioritising and integration of definitive map anomalies and applications, the creation of a framework for the management of green lane use in the National Park, especially by motor vehicles, and we visited Cotterdale to hear at first-hand about Open Access issues that affect game management. The forum has also given regular advice to North Yorkshire County Council and Cumbria County Council on each county authority's emerging Rights of Way Improvement Plan that will be published during 2007 and to Craven District Council on its Active Recreation Strategy.

One area of disappointment is the lack of apparent interest shown in the work of the forum by the general public. All forum meetings are open to the public and by arrangement members of the public may ask questions and, where appropriate, the chairman will invite public participation. However the opportunity to do this is rare because we rarely see many members of the public at meetings, which are well advertised in local papers and on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's website. The National Park Authority makes the forum members feel needed and does a great job at making sense of what can sometimes be challenging views and advice, but the Park's community less so.

Geoff Wilson
March 2007

2 THE YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

2.1 The Role of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

It is the function of Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, in respect to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, to **advise** -

(a) Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (as the appointing authority), and the local highway authority for any part of the area,
(b) any bodies exercising functions under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) Part 1 in relation to land in that area,
(c) such other bodies as may be prescribed.

as to **the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed,** (CRoW Act s94(4)).

In consequence of the above the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum may comment on any aspect of the management of local access undertaken.

For example:

- advise the National Park Authority on any long term restrictions or exclusions on access land in its area;
- advise the National Park Authority on how public access to land in its area should be managed so as to reduce the impact of access on agriculture, conservation or land management, or to reduce the risk to public safety;
- advise on the means by which information to the public on access land, including restrictions and opportunities should be provided;
- make representations to the Planning Inspectorate during the course of any appeal brought by a person with a legal interest in the land; and

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum may be requested to provide advice on:

- strategies or plans incorporating recreation and access which set rights of way and open access in a broad context, integrating provision for access, all forms of open air recreation to land and water, and transport, tourism, health and public information for example the Integrated Access Strategy for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy;
- the extent to which fair provision is made for all current and potential users, and reflects the needs of local people and businesses; and the co-ordinated use of resources to provide and manage integrated recreation and access, and the dissemination of information to interested groups and the wider public.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum is a statutory consultee on the Rights of Way Improvement Plans being produced by Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils.

3. WHO ARE THE FORUM?

3.1 Members and representation

The Forum has been constituted so that:

- It is a balanced group, which avoids being dominated by single interests.
- It is representative of all interests, including; recreation use, land management, nature conservation, tourism, business, transport and access for all.

Many members have secondary interests as well as the primary interest for which they were appointed.

The Members of the Forum during part or all of the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007 were:

NAME	AREA OF INTEREST	INTEREST DETAIL
Michael Bartholomew[2]	Users	Walking, road cycling and landscape conservation.
David Gibson	Users	Walking, local archaeology, Access for All and woodland management.
Ken Miller[1]	Users	Horse riding, walking and cycling.
Mark Sandamas[3]	Users	Outdoor Recreation (especially cycling), health and safety and health.
Pat Whelan	Users	British Driving Society, farming and rights of way.
Geoff Wilson	Users	Motorcycling, walking, physical geography and recreation management in sensitive areas.
Peter Bradfield[1]	Owners and Occupiers	Farming and recreation.
Bill Foster	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, nature and heritage conservation
Graeme Hall[5]	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, walking and conservation.
Ben Heyes	Owners and Occupiers	Land management, in particular management of moorland.
Richard Johnson	Owners and Occupiers	Land management, in particular management of moorland.
Richard Spensley[3]	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, archaeology, game keeping and nature conservation.
Paul Tibbatts[1]	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, walking and nature conservation.
Jon Beavan	Other Interests	Caving, walking, climbing, mountain biking, conservation, photography and local business.
Veronica Boulton[3]	Other Interests	Tourism, public transport, walking, access for people with disabilities and conservation.
John Goss (Co-opted member)[4]	Other Interests	Access for people with disabilities, air rifle shooting and 4x4 driving.
Anne Lawrence	Other Interests	Volunteering, walking and climbing.
Adrian Pickles	Other Interests	Education and outdoor recreation.
Judy Rogers[1]	Other Interests	Social inclusion.
Philip Woodyer	Other Interests	Outdoor learning, mountaineering, climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, Caving and access for people with disabilities.
Harold Brown	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).
Deborah Millward	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).
Jerry Pearlman	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).

At the end of December 2007, five members of the Forum completed their 3 year term of office and an appointment procedure took place to recruit new members. (1) New members were appointed for a three year term of office from 1 January 2007. (2) Re-applied to be on the Forum at the end of term and were successfully reappointed for a further three years from1 January 2007. (3) Members resigned from the forum following the end of their 3 year term. (4) Co-opted member came to the end of their 3 year term, December 2006. (5) Resigned from the forum before the end of their 3 year term.

3.2 Observers and advisers to the Forum

The Forum invites observers with relevant expertise to observe and participate, where necessary, in meetings. The following representatives are invited to meetings of the Forum:

Abi Mansley	Countryside Access Development Officer Cumbria County Council
Iain Burgess	Access and Rights of Way manager, North Yorkshire County Council
Angela Flowers	Rights of Way Improvement Plan Officer, North Yorkshire County Council
Gill Dixon	Chief Executive, Craven District Council
Jill Bell	Assistant Tourism Officer, Richmondshire District Council
David Slater	Conservation Officer, Access, Natural England
Roy Hymas	Lead for Access and Recreation, Natural England
Ann Trevithick	Principal Recreation Officer, Environment Agency
Heather Kennedy	Senior Environmental Development Officer, Sport England
Jon Avison	Head of Park Management, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Kathryn Beardmore	Access and Recreation Manager Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Alan Hulme	Ranger Services Manager, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

3.3 Secretariat

The National Park Authority provides the secretariat to the Forum:

The main point of contact for enquiries relating to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum is Rachel Briggs, Access Development Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

4. WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THIS LAST YEAR (1 APRIL 2006 – 31 MARCH 2007)?

4.1 Chairman of the Forum.

Geoff Wilson was Chairman of the Forum and Jon Beavan Vice-Chairman for the period of this report.

The Forum appointed Geoff Wilson as Chairman at its meeting on 21 March 2006 and he was reappointed 8 January 2007 for a further year. No Vice Chairman was elected at this meeting.

4.2 Formal meetings of the Forum

Three formal meetings have been held during this period in different areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The dates and venues of these were:

- 18 July 2006 at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.
- 17 October 2007 at West Burton Village Hall.
- 8 January 2007 at Yoredale, Bainbridge

The agenda items have included:

- Definitive Map – prioritising anomalies.
- Cycle Tourism.
- Green Lanes Framework.
- Craven on the Move and Active Recreation Strategy.
- National Park Management Plan.
- Geocaching.
- Cumbria Countryside Partnership
- DEFRA Consultation relating to the Draft Diversity Action Plan – Outdoors for All?
- Countryside Agency Consultation relating to the use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on the Pennine Bridleway.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
  - For North Yorkshire.
  - For Cumbria.
- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
  - Work Programme
- CROW Act Part 1
  - Closures and restrictions
  - Fire Restrictions.

Minutes, agendas and advance information are available for inspection from the Secretariat. Minutes and the agenda of the most recent meeting are available on the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

4.3 Training and Development

On the 18 July 2006, Richard Johnson hosted a site visit to Cotterdale. This allowed members to look at land management issues relating to open access under the CROW Act on an upland partridge and pheasant shoot, and how this relates to the Restriction and Exclusions system available to land owners and administered by Relevant Authorities.

As the main part of the meeting on the 8 January 2007, a workshop was held to consider the continued development of Open Access opportunities in the Yorkshire Dales.

4.4 Sub-committee Activities of the Forum

Several Members of the Forum have attended meetings as formal representatives of the Forum. These meetings have included work on the Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.

The Forum responded to the consultation issued by DEFRA: Consultation Relating to the Draft Diversity Action Plan – Outdoors for All?

The Forum responded to the consultation issued by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England): The Use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on the Pennine Bridleway.

The responses to these consultations can be obtained from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

4.5 Formal Consultation

The Forum has been formally consulted on the following strategy documents:

- Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007

Members' expenses:	
Travel Allowance	1405.05
Miscellaneous	19.90
Total	**1424.95**
Meetings	
Advertising	1353.53
Venue Hire	72.00
Catering	758.05
Printing of papers	315.00
Stationary	17.92
Total	**2516.50**
Recruitment	
Advertising	1037.54
Venue Hire	45.00
Catering	5.24
Total	**1087.78**
Annual Report	
Printing	726.00
Promotional material	491.00
Total	**1217.00**
Total Expenditure	**6246.23**
Staff Time[1] (days)	**157**

[1] **this covers time for work directly generated by the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and not that work that officers would normally carry out with or without a Local Access Forum.**

APPENDIX 1 MEMBERS – WHO'S ON THE YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM? 1 APRIL 2007 – 31 MARCH 2008

MICHAEL BARTHOLOMEW

From: Otley **Appointment Ends:** January 2010

Background

Michael Bartholomew is a retired university lecturer. He is a member of the Cyclists Touring Club, the Ramblers Association and the Yorkshire Dales Society. He is chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance - an organisation that campaigns for an end to recreational vehicular use of green lanes in the Park. His interests include road cycling, walking and landscape conservation.

Area of Representation

Walking, road cycling and landscape conservation

JON BEAVAN

From: Austwick **Appointment Ends:** January 2009

Background

Jon Beavan is the proprietor and manager of the Dalesbridge Centre in Austwick. He is a member of the Settle Chamber of Trade, the Settle-Carlisle Business Liaison Group, Yorkshire Tourist Board, British Cave Research Association and the Association of Caving Instructors. Jon is also a Duty Controller of the Cave Rescue Organisation. His interests include caving, walking, climbing, mountain biking, conservation and photography.

Area of Representation:

Outdoor recreation (especially caving and climbing), local business and sustainable tourism.

PETER BRADFIELD

From: Conistone with Kilnsey **Appointment Ends:** January 2010

Background

Peter Bradfield has retired. He comes from a farming background and after a short spell in agricultural research he worked for over 30 years in the animal feed industry. He retains a keen interest in agriculture, particularly extensive production. In addition he has a strong interest in sport, walking, bird watching, gardening and travel.

Area of Representation

Farming and Recreation

HAROLD BROWN

From: Grinton **Appointment Ends:** January 2009

Background

Harold Brown has farmed at Grinton since 1951. He has been the Chairman of Grinton Parish Council since 1975. He is also a member of the National Farmers' Union, the Country Landowners' Association, the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, the Dales Advisory Group and English Nature.

Area of Representation

YDNPA (Secretary of State) appointee

BILL FOSTER

From: Kettlewell **Appointment Ends:** January 2008

Background

Bill Foster is a retired farmer having lived and farmed at Kilnsey and Kettlewell all of his life. He is the owner of the Skirfare Bridge Dales Barn. Bill also has an interest in nature and heritage conservation.

Area of Representation

Dales Farming

DAVID GIBSON

From: Burton in Lonsdale **Appointment Ends:** January 2008

Background

David Gibson has been a member of the Ramblers Association for over 20 years. David is the chair of the West Riding Ramblers Association Access Committee, Access Officer for Craven Group and Footpath Officer for Craven outside the Dales NP. David also has an interest in local archaeology, Access for All and woodland management.

Area of Representation

Walking

BEN HEYES

From: Bolton Abbey **Appointment Ends:** January 2009

Background

Ben Heyes is a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and administers the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees Yorkshire Estate focussed at Bolton Abbey. He has experience of combining moorland management with access for the public and is the Secretary of the River Wharfe Anglers Association.

Area of Representation

Land management, in particular management of moorland.

RICHARD JOHNSON

From: Carperby **Appointment Ends:** January 2008

Background

Richard Johnson has been a qualified Solicitor for 36 years and practices in Hawes. He also owns and manages Stags Fell grouse moor, which is part of Abbotside Common where he is Chairman and Secretary of the Conservators. His main interests lie in restoration and conservation of heather moorland.

Area of Representation

Land Management

KEN MILLER

From: Middleham **Appointment Ends:** January 2010

Background

Ken Miller was brought up and worked for many years in the equine world. He had his own smallholding and stables before becoming a Civil Servant for the Ministry of Defence. Whilst retaining his equine interests, he is also a keen cyclist and walker. Ken has worked on bridleway and footpath issues in a voluntary capacity for over 25 years.
He is especially interested in access for people with disabilities; particularly into the more challenging areas of our countryside.

Area of Representation

Horse riding, walking and cycling

DEBORAH MILLWARD

From: Thornton Rust **Appointment Ends:** January 2009

Background

Deborah Millward is an independent plant ecologist with particular interest in grasslands. She undertakes field research work for several universities and has been involved in a succession of agri-environment schemes. Appointed to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in 1999 she was re-appointed for a third term in 2005. She sits on both local and national conservation bodies and helps manage nature reserves in Wensleydale. Apart from conservation her interests includes walking, geology and current affairs.

Area of Representation

YDNPA (Secretary of State) appointee

ADRIAN PICKLES

From: Settle **Appointment Ends:** January 2008

Background

Since 2000, Adrian Pickles has been Head of Centre at the Field Studies Council, Malham Tarn Centre. He works closely with the National Trust, English Nature and in the local community and also teaches students of all ages about their natural and human heritage. Adrian is an active member of Settle Harriers, Airienteers Orienteering Club and the Institute for Outdoor Learning.

Area of Representation

Field studies and education.

JUDY ROGERS

From: Malham **Appointment Ends:** January 2010

Background

Judy is a Community Worker with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and works on the Learning in limestone Country Project. Judy is very interested in and works with ethnic minorities, disabled groups and urban youth.

Area of Interest

Inclusion of under represented groups into the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

PAUL TIBBATTS

From: Wharfe, Austwick **Appointment Ends:** January 2010

Background

Paul Tibbatts is recently retired having spent circa 35 years in the brewing industry as a Logistics Manager. Paul is currently going through an application process to become a Justice of the Peace. If successful he will sit at Bingley/Keighly District.
Paul runs his own smallholding including an SSSI at Wharfe. Passionate about conservation & shooting he is a keen walker and encourages people to visit the area. Paul is also a member of the North Yorkshire County Council Local Access Forum.

Area of interest

Landowner, walking and conservation

PAT WHELAN

From: Richmond **Appointment Ends:** January 2009

Background

Pat Whelan is a retired farmer and has been a member of the British Driving Society for 20 years. Pat also has worked as a Rights of Way Officer for Yorkshire and the North East and has been a Member of various rights of way committees.

Area of Representation

British Driving Society (equine)

GEOFF WILSON - CHAIR

From: Lazonby, Cumbria **Appointment Ends:** January 2008

Background

Geoff Wilson practised as an electrical engineer and was CEO of the governing body for UK motorcycle sport. He now works part time on practical upland footpath management and is doing post graduate studies at Lancaster University. A past Chairman of the Motoring Organisations Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) Geoff is also a member of the Lake District National Park Authority's Trail Management Advisory Group, and a Member of the Lake District Local Access Forum. He is a parish councillor, Chairman of the Cumbria Rights of Way Liaison Group and a member of the Countryside Agency's Discovering Lost Ways Advisory Group. His interests include motorcycling, walking, physical geography and recreation management in sensitive areas.

Area of Representation

Outdoor recreation (including trail-riding and recreational 4x4-driving).

PHILIP WOODYER

From: Preston-under-Scar **Appointment Ends:** January 2008

Background

Philip Woodyer is the Head of Centre at Low Mill Outdoor Centre. He is a parish councillor and a member of the Institute for Outdoor Learning. Philip is also a member of the National Caving Association and attends the Northern Panel of the Local Cave Leaders Training and Assessment Scheme. His interests include caving, outdoor learning, mountaineering, climbing, kayaking, mountain-biking and access for people with disabilities.

Area of Representation

Outdoor education and recreation (especially caving and climbing).

APPENDIX 2 ATTENDANCE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORUM AT OFFICIAL FORUM MEETINGS HELD IN PUBLIC BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2006 AND 31 MARCH 2007

	18 July 2006	17 October 2006	8 January 2007
Michael Bartholomew	✔	✔	✔
Jon Beavan	✔	✔	✔
Veronica Boulton	✔	✔	-
Peter Bradfield	-	-	✔
Harold Brown	✔	✘	✔
Bill Foster	✔	✔	✔
David Gibson	✔	✔	✔
John Goss	✔	✔	-
Graeme Hall	✘	✘	-
Ben Heyes	✔	✔	✔
Richard Johnson	✔	✘	✔
Anne Lawrence	✘	✔	✘
Deborah Millward	✔	✘	✔
Ken Miller	-	-	✔
Jerry Pearlman	✘	✔	✔
Adrian Pickles	✘	✘	✔
Judy Rogers	-	-	✔
Mark Sandamas	✘	✘	-
Richard Spensley	✘	✔	-
Paul Tibbatts	-	-	✔
Pat Whelan	✔	✔	✔
Geoff Wilson	✔	✔	✔
Phil Woodyer	✔	✔	✘

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF MEMBERS EXPENSES PAID BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2006 AND 31 MARCH 2007

MEMBER	TRAVEL (£)	SUBSISTENCE (£)	MISCELLANEOUS (£)
Michael Bartholomew	189.64	-	-
Jon Beavan	-	-	-
Veronica Boulton+	119.80		19.90
Peter Bradfield*	-	-	-
Harold Brown	17.46	-	-
Bill Foster	-	-	-
David Gibson	145.02	-	-
John Goss+	159.08	-	-
Graeme Hall+	-	-	-
Ben Heyes	-	-	-
Richard Johnson	19.40	-	-
Anne Lawrence	-	-	-
Ken Miller*	14.55	-	-
Deborah Millward	15.52	-	-
Jerry Pearlman	145.50	-	-
Adrian Pickles	-	-	-
Judy Rogers+	-	-	-
Mark Sandamas*	11.64	-	-
Richard Spensley+	-	-	-
Paul Tibbatts*	-	-	-
Pat Whelan	-	-	-
Geoff Wilson	567.44	-	-
Phil Woodyer	-	-	-
TOTAL	**1405.05**		**19.90**

Note 1: Members marked * took up appointment on 1 January 2007.
Members marked + resigned during this period.

Note 2: Subsistence covers any meals or overnight accommodation.
Miscellaneous covers out of pocket expenses. This includes travel by public transport.