



**Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
To be held on Tuesday 2 October 2018
1.15pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge**

Meeting to commence at 1.15pm

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Approval of minutes, and matters arising (not on the agenda)
4. Public Question time – three minutes per speaker (those wishing to speak should make themselves known to the Secretary at the start of the meeting or in advance of the meeting)
5. Future Forum Meetings
 - Agenda Items
 - Dates
6. Report back from Advisory Groups
7. Use of drones – Andy Kay, YDNPA Web and Social Media Officer
8. Canyoning and gill scrambling in the Yorkshire Dales National Park
9. Officer's Report (items for note and consideration by Forum Members)
10. Update on members' activities (brief reports of activities relating to the Forum)



Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
Tuesday 05 June 2018
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Peter Charlesworth (PC) (in the Chair), Barbara Gravenor (BG), Heather Hodgson (HH), Ken Humphris (KH), Alex Law (AL), Debbie North (DN), Malcolm Petyt (MP), John Richardson (JR), and Jonathan Smith (JS).

YDNPA Officers present: Mark Allum (MA), Kathryn Beardmore (KB), Alan Hulme (AH), Julie Payne (JP)

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. Welcome

PC paid tribute to Jerry Pearlman, a long-standing member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, who died in March.

PC welcomed new member Barbara Gravenor to her first meeting.

PC informed members that Mark Allum would shortly be leaving the Authority and thanked him for all his work on access issues. Mark's replacement at the Authority, Rebecca Greenfield, was introduced to members.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Cotton, Neil Heseltine and Stuart Monk.

3. Approval of Minutes

<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>
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Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Question Time

There were no public questions.

6. Future Forum Meetings

Meetings of the YDAF for 2018 will be:

Tuesday 2 October 2018, 1.15pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge

Suggested agenda items for future meetings of the YDAF

Agenda Item	First suggested?	Suggested by whom?	Agenda
Drones	7 February 2017		
Shooting and shooting syndicates	7 February 2017	Jon Beavan	To be taken forward as a site visit
Countryside Code	20 June 2017	Neil Heseltine	
*Gorge scrambling in the Yorkshire Dales	5 June 2018	Jon Beavan	

*This item to go on the agenda for the next meeting of the LAF in October 2018.

7. Report back from Advisory Groups

Access on Foot Advisory Group

The group met on 10 March 2018. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Access for All Advisory Group

The Group last met on 16 February 2017. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed. DN said how wonderful it is to now have a Trampler based at Ingleborough Cave – making it the only accessible cave in England for wheelchair users. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The group last met on 9 May 2018. AL brought members up to date with issues discussed; Pennine Bridleway linking in to other trails and box drains. MP had used the Swale Trail and was very impressed with it; a great achievement for the Park. HH uses it daily as part of her commute and stressed its use for this purpose as well as for leisure. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The group last met on 23 May 2018. JB confirmed all was in order. Council for Northern Caving Clubs are working with a Ingleborough Estate to deliver permits using an electronic on-line system. This may form a model that other estates wish to use. The Langcliffe Estate now has a system of cave access not requiring permits to be obtained. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The group last met on 8 February 2018. MP reported the general feeling that the Green Lanes Framework is a success. There is concern about Ravenstonedale Moor which has a voluntary restraint agreement in place. The wording on the signs

had been changed following the advice of the GLAG. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

8. Annual Rights of Way Maintenance Report

AH presented his report and answered general points raised by members. AH explained about the Mend our Mountains campaign for Bruntscar on Whernside and that the work is planned for this summer. AH will think about wording of signs along this section if the work isn't done as this is subject to raising sufficient funding through the campaign. KH asked a question about unused rights of way; KB explained it is a very complex legal process to 'remove' a right of way from the Definitive Map. MP wondered about signing paths that can't be used because of physical obstructions, at appropriate points to warn people in advance of trying to travel along them; AH explained that we would need to evaluate each on an individual basis and decide; this was difficult from a highways legal/management perspective, because routes should be open and available for use.

Members of the YDAF also acknowledged the value of volunteers in assisting in maintaining the rights of way network, the wealth of work conducted by field staff throughout the Park and the effort in raising external funding by the Ranger Service for works. YDAF Members welcomed the report subject to comments from the Authority at its meeting in June 2018.

9. Rights of Way Maintenance Plan 2019-24

AH presented his report. YDAF Members welcomed the report subject to comments from the Authority at its meeting in September 2018.

10. Large Scale Events Monitoring Report

MA presented his report, requested by members at an earlier meeting.

11. Disabled Access at Kirkby Stephen Railway Station

DN presented her report on the accessibility issues at Kirkby Stephen railway station and others on the Settle-Carlisle line. The problem is not confined to this line. DN had met with Rory Stewart MP and representatives from Northern Rail and a short-term solution has been proposed to improve the access, ie. Northern Rail have agreed to produce a plan to improve the ramped access to the north bound platform, although there will be a need to engage with Cumbria Highways for the section beyond their property.

12. Officer's Report

MA presented the Officer's report.

13. Update on Members' activities/other items

DN is now a Dales Volunteer; with a specific remit to look at access issues and help with auditing of rights of way for wheelchair users.

JS wondered whether there has been an increase in cows with calves and bullocks on public rights of way in recent years, AL didn't think so.

JS also wondered whether it would be useful to have Countryside Code signs in NP car parks.

MP asked about the reorganisation of Access Rangers in the western part of the Park – KB explained the staffing structure there now and that one extra Access Ranger has just been appointed in the Cumbria area.

KH described how bad the traffic situation at Devils Bridge in Kirkby Lonsdale was over the recent Bank Holiday weekend, compounded by the travellers arriving earlier than usual. AH would feed this back to the travellers group.

JB had attended a conference on access and liability and was reassured that the procedures followed by the NP are good.

Michael Gove's comments about increasing the number of National Parks and the forthcoming review (which would also include AONBs), were raised.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 2 October 2018

Report Back from Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

Advisory Group Meetings

At the May 2007 meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, a paper was presented on the establishment of advisory groups to look at individual recreational activities. The remit of these groups is to:

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

The following arrangements have been made for the meetings of the groups:

Access on Foot Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group was 10 March 2018. The next meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Access for All Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access for all Advisory Group was on 24 July 2018. The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 1**. The next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group will be on 10 January 2019.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group was on 9 May 2018. The next meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Cave and Crag Advisory Group was on 23 May 2018. The next meeting of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group was 8 February 2018. The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Air Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Air Sports Advisory Group will convene when a matter arises.

Water Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Water Sports Advisory Group will convene when a matter arises.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
September 2018

Appendix 1

**Unapproved Minutes of the
Access for All Advisory Group meeting
Held on Thursday 24 July 2018
Yoredale, Bainbridge**

Present:

Bob Emmerson (BE) Chair
Andrew North (AN)
Debbie North (DN)

J Smith (JS)
Roy Emmerson (RE)
Tony Buller (TB)
Rachel Briggs (RB)

Dales Volunteer
Access the Dales
Access the Dales/Yorkshire Dales
Access Forum
Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

National Trust
Yorkshire Dales National Park
Authority

Apologies:

Heather Thomas-Smith (HT)
Nicola Brown (NB)
David Shaftoe (DS)
Geoff Pardoe (GP)
Mike Stephenson (MS)
Phil Woodyer (PW)

Open Country
Bendrigg Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

Round the Table Introductions were carried out.

2. Promotion

DN asked that the group look at the YDNPA website and how information is promoted. She added that the Peak District NPA had a great website and that the YDNPA should follow suit. RB said she would look at the information. DN also asked about a website she had seen called 'Accessible Yorkshire'. Others from the group were not aware of the site.

RB to look at promotional material on the website and how the YDNPA can use it.
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A comment was made about the Miles Without Stiles booklet and the colours used to denote accessible to some, many and all. The colour contrasts are not strong enough and should be considered if and when there is a reprint.

3. Projects

Members of the group suggested looking at the route from Askrigg to Castle Bolton (mixture of UUR and bridleway) as a potential accessible route/family friendly cycle route. RB said the route had been used by Experience Community in their Mountain Trikes but that it would be good to have a revisit.

TB said that the National Trust were doing some work on the Dales Way from Buckden to Hubberholme to get the route off the road. RB suggested working on this and looking at the whole of the section from Kettlewell to Buckden.

RB and TB to discuss potential improvements to the Dales Way.
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4. Updates

Access the Dales – DN. Gained the title ‘Countryside Hero’ earlier this year at the Dalesman Awards. She has also become a Dales Volunteer for the YDNPA. As part of her role she will be auditing all the miles without stiles routes for RB. She is also doing more work for the Outdoor Guide and has done some filming in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors NPA’s. This has included a stay at the Cottage in the Dales in Newbiggin in Bishopdale which is a fully adapted holiday cottage. DN added that accommodation providers need more information to give out to visitors on what is accessible in the area and wondered if this is something this group could work on. RB said she would put something together for the next meeting.

Visitor information to be on the agenda for the next meeting.
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DN has also done more filming for the television and was recently featured on ‘The Dales and Lakes’ programme.

National Trust – TB. The Trammer at Malham Tarn is getting used very frequently now and the National Trust is considering extending the hire period to include weekends. They are also thinking of purchasing a second Trammer. DN asked that they consider other all terrain wheelchairs when looking into this. DN said it would be useful if there was a link on the YDNPA website to all the places you can hire wheelchairs. RB said she would look into this when revisiting the website.

RE – Work with Independus has dropped off but RE and NB are still doing lots of work. They have become part of the North Yorkshire Disability Forum where providers and users get together to share ideas. RE suggested RB attend.

BE – As a Dales Volunteer, RE has been working with groups of visitors to the Yorkshire Dales NP. One of these groups is a group with learning difficulties from Northallerton and they come to Aysgarth once a month.

5. AOB

Members asked for another meeting in 6 months time.

The next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group will be held on Thursday 10 January 2019 at Yoredale, Bainbridge

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum –2 October 2018

Canyoning and Gill Scrambling in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on canyoning and gill scrambling in the Yorkshire Dales National Park as requested by the YDAF, and discuss any known access opportunities or challenges these recreational activities might present.

Canyoning v gill scrambling

Canyoning is a technical mountaineering activity involving descent of a waterfall by abseiling, sliding, and jumping. It requires the use of specific equipment including ropes and harnesses. In most cases canyoning will involve the use of bolts drilled into rocks, although at least one local activity provider is trialling removable bolts.

Gill Scrambling is exactly as its name suggests scrambling up of down a watercourse which may or may not have waterfalls. It is a less intense form of canyoning, no ropes are used, and it does not necessarily involve jumps or slides into water.

There may be some blurring between the two activities in the commercial offers of some providers. Nationally, the Lake District and Snowdonia are best known for gill scrambling.

Where is it happening in the Yorkshire Dales National Park?

The special qualities of the National Park lend themselves to relatively short sections of both canyoning and gill scrambling activities. Waterfalls, streams, and ravines all offer outstanding opportunity for outdoor recreation and adventure, as well as the opportunity to take in the natural beauty of the scenery.

The main location for canyoning in the National Park at the moment is **Cautley Spout** which has a challenging unbroken drop of 180m. Commercial providers *How Stean Gorge Outdoor Centre*, *Cave and Canyoning* and *Mountain Rat Adventures* all offer group activities at this location. *How Stean Gorge* also offers Heli-canyoning, where participants are transported from Leeds-Bradford Airport to the top of Cautley Spout. At over £2000 for a one way trip this is unlikely to appeal to a mass market.

Upper Beazley Ingleton Waterfalls is also used as a location for canyoning [and gill scrambling]. There is no public access to these waterfalls other than the paid trail so any activity taking place there *should* have sought the permission of the Ingleton Scenery Company. Experiences here are provided by Lost Earth Adventures and Mountain Rat Adventures.

Ghill scrambling takes place at a variety of locations including **Hell Gill** (Mallerstang), **Whitfield Ghyll** in Askrigg, **Ingleton Waterfalls**, **Screes of Black Force**, **Carling Gill**, **Hobdale Beck**, and **Hebblethwaite Hall Gill**. Most of these locations are on open access land, and/or have a long history of gill scrambling. Technically, any public rights granted to individuals under open access legislation do not extend to use for commercial purposes.

Issues

The Ranger teams are not aware of any current issues around canyoning but gill scrambling has presented a couple of challenges:

- (1) At the Screes of Black Force the Ranger team have worked with Natural England and British Mountaineering Council in order to put in place a voluntary restriction on use of the area during nesting season of Peregrine and Raven. Rangers have put in place notices when required, and restrictions have been respected.
- (2) There have been some challenges at Barbondale where the estate has had concerns that organised groups of gill scramblers have been interfering with the shoot. There are a variety of users (e.g. schools, commercial outfits, outdoor education groups etc). It appears that Ingleborough Hall are the only user who have ever sought to engage with the landowner to get any permission for this activity, and the Estate has recently entered a private agreement with them about the timing of their visits to ensure that the two activities can happily co-exist.

What the YDAF are being asked to do

If undertaken responsibly then recreational activities such as canyoning and gill scrambling offer outstanding opportunities for people to experience the beauty and challenge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The YDAF views are sought.

Rebecca Greenfield
Head of Access and Engagement

21 September 2018

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 2 October 2018

Officer's Report

Purpose of the Report

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

Authority Meetings

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

Authority Meeting Dates and Venues for 2018/19:

Date	Venue	Time
18 December 2018	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
26 March 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
25 June 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
24 September 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
17 December 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00

Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2019

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Dates and Venues for 2019

Date	Venue	Time
5 February 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.15
4 June 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.15
15 October 2019	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.15

Appointment of Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Members

The Local Access Forum (England) Regulations state:

"A member of a local access forum shall be appointed for not less than one and not more than three years."

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) decided that the initial period of appointment of individual members be staged, so that approximately one third of the Forum membership is renewed annually. Since that decision, it has been determined that appointments should be made for a period of three years to ensure that experience and understanding of Forum matters are retained within the Forum over time.

On 31 December 2018, four of the current members will have completed their full term of office and will no longer serve on the Forum

It is appropriate to remind Forum Members that the YDNPA may re-appoint a person who ceases to be a member of the Forum following the completion of their term of office. However, it is expected that any such Forum Member would be required to make an application according to the appointment procedure. The appointment process is as follows:

Key action/events	Dates
Advertise vacancies in local press and YDNPA website	October 2018
Closing date for written applications	16 November 2018
Interviews/workshops to be held	27 November 2018

The suggested programme above assumes that new appointees will officially start their Forum duties from 1 January 2019.

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Local Access Forum

The last meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Local Access Forum was held on 26 March 2018. The minutes are attached in **Appendix 1**.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
September 2018

MEETING TITLE: YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGIONAL ACCESS FORUM**LOCATION:** OGDEN WATER, HALIFAX**MINUTES****Date:** 22nd March 2018 **Start time:** 10.30 **Finish Time:** 15.00

The meeting was chaired by DM as the Calderdale Chair was unable to attend. CC thanked DM for stepping in.

Members received the sad news that Jerry Pearlman who until recently was Chair of the forum had died. During his lifetime Jerry made a fantastic mark on access and his passing is a very sad loss. A minutes silence was observed to remember him. PA said that the biggest tribute to Jerry would be to carry on fighting to improve access.

1. Introductions/Apologies**Attendees:**

Didy Metcalf (DM)	Y & H RAF Vice Chair and Secretary	Bradford LAF
Pam Allen (PA)	Chair	Bradford LAF
Roma Haigh (RH)	Chair	North Yorkshire CC LAF
Jane Sarah (JS)	Chair	Rotherham LAF
Graham Ramsden (GR)		Calderdale LAF
Julie Swift (JSw)	Secretary	Calderdale LAF
Jim Buckley (JB)	Chair	Wakefield LAF
Catriona Cook (CC)	Chair	North York Moors LAF
Tony Hunt (TH)	Chair	Barnsley LAF
Mike Willison (MW)	Chair	Leeds LAF
Andy Mackintosh	Senior Specialist Access and Engagement	Natural England

Apologies:

Daniel Marsh	Secretary	N Lincs LAF
Richard Alderson	Chair	N Lincs LAF
Frances Ross	Vice Chair	N Lincs LAF
Alistair Thompson	Chair	YDNP LAF
John Richardson	Vice Chair	YDNP and NYMNP LAF
David Jeffels	County Councillor	NYCC LAF
Katrina Chandler	Secretary	Sheffield LAF
Terence Howard	Chair	Sheffield LAF
Sarah Whiteley	Chair	Calderdale LAF
Hazel Armstrong	Chair	East Riding and Humber LAF

As AM had been delayed, Agenda items 4 & 5 were taken in reverse order.

2. Minutes of last meeting

CC proposed that the group accept the minutes of the last meeting. This was seconded by PA.

3. Matters Arising

Rail Crossings

DM had contacted the Institute of Public Right of Way (IPROW) who confirmed they are not involved in drafting the protocol. Network Rail and ADEPT are responsible for this but have not supplied any further information despite repeated requests.

National Trails

In response to DM's letter enquiring about the future of ROWIP funding, Michael Gove's office replied stating that money will still need to be applied for through LTPs and other sources. Attached was a 110 page document outlining proposals for future funding for National Trails and the Coastal Path. The report favoured handing their management to charitable organisations and attracting business sponsorship.

Bus Access to Yorkshire Dales

As it had been announced that morning that there could be a rethink about how Defra is structured, which included support for rural bus services, it was agreed to await further developments.

Training

In abeyance: the general feeling was that it was a matter for LAFS.

Lobbying MP's

As new policy is currently being developed, the group felt it important that LAF's lobby their MP's regarding their concerns, eg lack of funding for access and Natural England's inability to support the Regional and Local Access Forums.

Restoring the Record

A copy of 'Restoring the Record' has been sent to all LAF's by Natural England. BHS will deliver a training session covering the historical research that is needed to ensure routes aren't lost after 2026 cut-off date for the Definitive Map. 30 people need to be available to attend. PA said that it would be helpful if there was a central register of what routes have been researched already to avoid duplication.

HS2

JB Wakefield LAF has submitted comments and is awaiting the sub-committee response.

CC had raised the wording of the HS2'Engineering Principle with the British Horse Society (BHS).

"Public rights of way that allow use by equestrians shall not run closely parallel to HS2 unless a risk assessment has been conducted demonstrating that it is unlikely that horses will become startled"

The BHS has taken the matter up and there will be a meeting at end April to progress.

4. Future of Regional Access Forum

Virtual Meetings: DM said that John Richardson had emailed to say he was against the idea, while other were open minded but would need more information about how it would work. The group felt that occasional face to face meetings are needed – if important issues arise between meetings there could be an e-mail exchange of information to enable decisions to be made outside of meetings. We agreed to continue to hold 2 meetings a year

Rotating Chair/Venues:

It was agreed that LAF Chairs would continue to chair our meetings on a rotating basis. JB said he is happy to chair next meeting.

Location: the general feeling was that Leeds and Wakefield are the best locations for meetings due to good public transport links. MW said he would contact Leeds CC to see if they would offer a room once a year for the Regional Access Forum to meet in. JB offered to contact Wakefield to see if they would be willing to do the same.

How do we make RAF and LAF's relevant?

DM said that she had noted that minutes from other regions indicate that they are more actively engaged with consultations (for example LTPs), and asked for suggestions from members.

MW said there are numerous things happening in our region that we should be commenting on eg Transport for the North Strategy, HS2, HS3 and the Coastal Path. Cyclists seem to be under-represented within our group and Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans should be part of our remit.

CC thought we should concentrate our energies on multi-user routes.

Can we improve the way LAFs work?

SW Calderdale LAF Chair had expressed considerable frustration at the poor uptake on membership and apparent lack of achievements of LAFs. She had asked if we could explore other possible ways of working that would get things done, such as LAFs reforming into charities or friends groups to assist in raising funds.

The Group considered “Access Norfolk”, where LAF members, a Council representative and an expert from the University of Norfolk to act as the trustees of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This has enabled them to identify opportunities, raise money for projects and enhance the profile of access in Norfolk,

Shropshire LAF has adopted a different approach with “Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board” which is promoting a membership scheme; the charge for this helps to maintain ROW. <https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/the-countryside-access-team/shropshires-great-outdoors-strategy-board/>

AM confirmed that the CROW Act does not prevent LAF's re-organising themselves to form a Board. Members were not confident that LAF's are ready for the extra commitment and would need support. But these are options that LAFs can consider.

5. Natural England update

AM said the House of Lords Select Committee Report on the NERC Act 2006 had been published that morning. Natural England are expecting there to be changes in the near future.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldnerc/99/99.pdf>

Rob Leek hasn't been replaced so there is skeleton support for Local Access Forums (mainly Huddle). Access work has been reduced. There has been a meeting with Defra re LAF engagement and Defra agreed that improvements need to be made and Natural England is looking to get someone in post (if budgets allow).

Change in emphasis on the cards with Rural Payments. Access is listed as one of the 'public goods' in today's report. There will be a move away from permissive access. AM feels that there are opportunities to move forward especially links with health agenda. Everything is dominated by Brexit thought. The Deregulation Bill still bubbling away – nothing likely to happen before end of 2018.

The Budget for National Trails has been confirmed as same as last year.

National Conference – AM asked our opinion on the possibility of NE holding a National Conference this year. Members felt strongly that there should at least be a question and answer session and more opportunity (than last year) for attendees to exchange views and experiences.

6. Consultations

a. Defra – The future for food, farming and the environment

The Group considered the Defra Consultation “The Future of Farming” Section 5, “Public Money for public goods”. 12 “public goods” have been identified in this section and access is one of them.

DM was disappointed that these important public benefits had to compete with one another.

CC stressed that ‘access’ needs to mean ‘statutory access’ not ‘permissive’. She would like to see some of this access as footpaths behind hedgerows to keep users of access away from busy main roads. She asked AM how many footpaths that were created under Countryside Stewardship are still in use now the funding has ended. AM replied the number still in use is unknown.

JB commented that consultation is on line now and is a very lengthy process and ranking system is odd. Regional Access Forum needs to respond. Deadline is end April.

Resolved: DM will respond on behalf of the Forum.

b. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: Applying a new approach to English Agricultural Policy. For information only. Suggestion made to invite someone from YWT to next meeting to give a presentation.

7. Rail issues

Transpennine route

MW flagged up concerns about further closures of crossings around Leeds. The LAF is campaigning to ensure crossings are replaced with a tunnel or a bridge. DM agreed to ask for protocol from Network Rail (again). DM to circulate letter to RAF members and suggests letter be forwarded to local MP’s by LAF’s.

HS2

JB said Wakefield LAF had a meeting with HS2 Engagement Manager. HS2 asked for suggested alternatives to crossings. Ideas were submitted by Wakefield LAF and HS2 has requested a second meeting. They are awaiting

the outcome. He stressed that LAF's need to keep dialogue going and pick up local issues re HS2.

PA suggested that every forum affected work up their proposals and then pass them to RAF to submit to HS2 to give strength to the document. DM thought it best if individual LAF's to submit their own proposals as the RAF hasn't been involved in putting the information together. Either way, the deadline to work on this is before the next meeting.

It was agreed that overarching principles need to be agreed by the RAF to provide statement to support individual LAF submissions. Routes to be improved wherever possible.

8. ROWIPS

The Forum considered how useful ROWIPS have been. It was agreed that they were a useful concept but it was difficult to judge how much has actually been achieved as a result. AM confirmed that NE has not collected the data.

North Yorks ROWIP is out of date

Barnsley – Rewrite has started and they are taking a totally different approach than last time.

East Yorks has been updated.

Calderdale – 'light touch' update planned.

7. Reports

a. From constituent LAF's

Bradford

PA said that the LAF is still struggling to attract members and Councillors to attend meetings. She doesn't feel the LAF achieves much, partly because it is not consulted enough. However, a Definitive Map officer has now been appointed

North Yorkshire

RH said there has been a huge budget cut. The LAF has a reasonable working partnership with the Council and there have been small triumphs. Planning applications are receiving funding through fracking in Ryedale and the LAF is keen to promote connectivity of ROW. The membership is adequate (3 vacancies) and meetings are held 4 times per year. There is an active lobby of 4 X 4 vehicles and motor bikes.

Rotherham

JS reported that they have a good Rights of Way team with a 15K budget. The LAF is small and they would like to expand. Unfortunately councillors do not attend.

Calderdale

GR said 1 Member attends when he can. The Rights of Way team now consists of just 2 people plus some enforcement support. It was a huge disappointment to find out that ROWIP review was only light touch, as group felt it a missed opportunity to make a difference.

Wakefield

JB reported that the Rights of Way department is now part of Highways. There is good support from staff but the LAF are not sure how much notice is taken of its advice.

North York Moors

The Definitive Map work has now been handed back to NYCC. Responsibility for the UCRs has been given to the ROW department which she thinks is a strategic mistake. The LAF was given 1 day to look at documents relating to potash mine: they are trying to get bridleway across the site. Quite a few members have resigned recently but new members have been recruited. John Robinson has taken over as Chair.

Barnsley

TH said the LAF holds 6 meetings a year. It is consulted on Definitive Map updates. The Forum comprises: 2 landowners a disabled 2 horse riders, 1 disabled representative, 1 rambler, 1 mountaineer and a cyclist. There is good news, a section of path has been upgraded as part of Tour de Yorkshire.

Leeds

MW said that there are now 5.5 Rights of Way staff and the Definitive Map officer is on maternity leave. There have been budgets cuts and it was suggested that there should be a reduction in LAF meetings, which was resisted. They hold 4 meetings and one site visit a year. The membership down to 8 and the attendance of elected members is good. Flood damage repair works have been carried out including the Transpennine Trail. There is potential for the creation of new paths as result of catchment approach to

flooding (Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2). Community Infrastructure Levy being explored as funding stream. The LAF is also looking at cycling and cycling/walking improvement plans.

- b. Update on minutes from other regions.

DM reported that All regions are struggling with support from Natural England and feel weakened by Natural England's approach.

Durham RAF shared minutes.

10. Possible items for next agenda

- i. Transport for North strategy
- ii. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- iii. Sheffield City Transport strategy (includes Transpennine Trail)
- iv. HS2/3
- v. Coastal path
- vi. Horse provision/multi user paths/removing status of paths to allow open use.
- vii. How do we resolve issues caused by mountain bikes?
- viii. Cycling and walking improvement plans.
- ix. Northern Forest
- x. Local Nature Partnership
- xi. Public transport in National Parks
- xii. Flood alleviation
- xiii. Contact with MP's

1. A.O.B. Date and location of next meeting

Members all thanked CC for her attendance and valuable contributions to RAF meetings (this is her last meeting).

DM thanked Calderdale for hosting this meeting and in particular JS for taking our minutes.

Still to be confirmed - Wednesday 26th September 2018 Venue: Wakefield.

Meeting closed 15.00.