# Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
# To be held on Tuesday 7 June 2016
# 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:
   - Access for All
   - Bridleways and Restricted Byways
7. Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership – Gary Smith, Director of Conservation and Community
8. Long distance routes
9. Boundary extension
   - LAF proposal
   - Staffing – draft proposals
   - HLF bid
10. Public rights of way annual report
11. Secretary's Report (Items for note and consideration by Forum Members)
12. Update on members' activities (brief reports of activities relating to the Forum)

# Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
# Held on Tuesday 26 January 2016
# Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Andrew Colley (AC), Mark Corner (MC), Nick Cotton (NC), Ken Humphris (KH), David Gibson (DG), Alex Law (AL), Stuart Monk (SM), Jerry Pearlman (JP), Malcolm Petyt (MPet), John Richardson (JR), Stephen Ross (SR), Alistair Thompson (AT).

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB) – LAF Secretary, Mark Allum (MA), Kathryn Beardmore (KB).

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

## 1. Election of Chair

KB began the meeting by explaining the process for the election of a Chair.

JR proposed AT. No further nominations were received.

**AT was elected as Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for a year.**

## 2. Election of Vice Chair

AT asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

JB nominated JR. No further nominations were received.

**JR was elected as Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for a year.**

## 3. Welcome

AT welcomed Ken Humphris (KH) and Malcolm Petyt (MPet) to the meeting, as new members of the YDAF. He also welcomed back SM and JS who had been reappointed for a further three year term.

MP and KH introduced themselves to members of the YDAF.

## 4. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong (JMA), Vickie Orton (VO), Heather Thomas-Smith (HTS), Mike Pryal (MP) and Jonathan Smith (JS).

## 5. Approval of Minutes

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

## 6. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

## 7. Future Forum Meetings

Dates of meetings

The next meeting of the YDAF will be on 7 June 2016.

Future Agenda Items

Suggested future agenda items put forward by members include:

- Local Nature Partnerships and what we can learn from other LAFs.
- Public transport

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

AT went through each of the groups listed in the report and the YDAF reviewed the representatives for each group in turn.

Access on Foot Advisory Group

MP had asked, prior to the meeting, to withdraw from the Access on Foot Advisory Group. KH expressed an interest in the group and it was agreed his input would be useful.

**MC, KH, AT, HTS to represent the YDAF on the Access on Foot Advisory Group.**

Access for All Advisory Group

AC stood down from the Access for All Advisory Group. JS had expressed an interest in the group, prior to the meeting. It was agreed that JS would be a useful addition to the Access for All Advisory Group.

**VO, JS and HTS to represent the YDAF on the Access for All Advisory Group.**

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

**Members kept the current membership of SR, AL and NC representing the YDAF on the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group.**

Air Sports and Water Sports Advisory Groups

It was agreed that all members would be informed if an issue arises for each of these advisory groups and that attendance would be agreed if a meeting were to convene.

Caves and Crags Access Advisory Group

JB said that it would be useful for another member of the YDAF to attend this meeting, preferably a landowner. MC said he had no experience of caving or climbing but that he would attend in the meantime.

**JB and MC to represent the YDAF on the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group.**

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

**Members kept the membership of SR, JB, SM and DG to represent the YDAF on the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.**

Dales Tourism Steering Group

JB wished for it to be noted that both himself and JS attend the Destination Dales Group, tourism meetings organised by the YDNPA (not to represent the YDAF).

## 9. Report back from the Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

Access on Foot Advisory Group

DG presented the minutes of the Access on Foot Advisory Group.

The following issues were discussed:

Greenfield Forest

AH said that the creation agreement for the new public rights of way at Greenfield Forest was currently with the landowner.

Guldrey Fold

MP informed members that the longstanding issue of the obstruction at Guldrey Fold was discussed and that members felt some signage was required at the beginning of the route to inform users that access wasn't possible.

Signage

MC said that there had been a useful discussion on signage within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) and that members had suggested the YDAF look at it in detail when the policy document Special Qualities, Special Experiences (SQSE) is reviewed.

KB said that the policy document will be reviewed in 2017, but added that she thought the policy was clear:

- From settlements and other development in the main Dales, waymarking will be used to the extent necessary to orientate visitors, and give them confidence, in their surroundings.

- In rural lowland areas and tributary dales, waymarking will be basic but clear to avoid 'over-management' and will be unobtrusive within the surroundings.

- In open upland areas, the use of waymarks will only be used out of legal necessity or where required as an aid to navigation, with the aim of ensuring that any signs of human activity are minimal given that typical users could be expected to carry a map and compass.

KB asked YDAF members to send any specific examples, of where additional waymarking was needed, to Alan Hulme to pass on to the Access Rangers.

JP said that under the Countryside Act 1968 (s27), it is stated that there is a duty for the highway authority to erect signposts to assist persons unfamiliar with the locality. KB was unsure if this was in the delegation agreement for the YDNPA, but said she would find out.

**KB to find out if the YDNPA has a duty to erect signposts under section 27 of the Countryside Act 1968.**.

It was agreed that signage and waymarking would be discussed as a full agenda item at a future meeting, to coincide with the redraft of Special Qualities, Special Experiences.

[NB. Following the meeting it was confirmed this section is in the delegation agreements but fundamentally it is a 'power' not a 'duty' upon the Highway Authority their only legal obligation is to sign post where a right of way leaves the metal road. Issues of waymarking will also be picked up via the Ramblers project Big Pathwatch].

**Waymarking and signage to be discussed at a future meeting of the YDAF**

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

JB presented the minutes of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group.

Threshfield Quarry

A letter had been written to the Threshfield Quarry Trust from the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) to ask for some climbing provision at the quarry site but no response had

been received to date. AC said he had attended a recent meeting of the Trust and there had been no mention of this. He suggested the BMC write again.

**RB to suggest the BMC writes again to the Threshfield Quarry Trust with regards to climbing access.**

High Lining

Someone had attended the meeting to talk about a new recreational activity – high lining – which was taking place throughout the YDNPA, particularly at Malham Cove.

AH said he had met on site with the high liners, since the meeting, and they were keen to work with officers to make sure disturbance to breeding birds was kept to a minimum.

Drones

It was agreed that the issue of use of drones in the YDNP should be brought back to the YDAF for discussion. AT suggested contacting the North York Moors NPA (NYMNPA) who may have some guidance on the use of model aircraft. RB said she would contact them to find out.

**RB to contact the NYMNPA regarding any guidance they may have on the use of model aircraft, and whether this was relevant to consideration of drones.**

Cave Access

There is some media interest at present regarding access to caves on open access land. The Lancashire LAF have discussed the issue and have decided to support the view of the British Cavers Association (BCA) that the CROW Act needs to be clarified to include access to caves systems and not just the daylight area.

AT suggested seeing if the subject is discussed at the National LAF conference in March.

Scoska Cave

An application has been submitted to Natural England to designate Scoska Cave as the first underground National Nature Reserve. JB thought it would be useful for the YDAF to write a letter of support to Natural England. Members agreed to this.

**AT to write a letter of support to Natural England for the designation of Scoska Cave as a National Nature Reserve.**

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

SM presented the minutes of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.

Lickber Lane, Coverdale

There were no further updates on the restoration of Lickber Lane.

Turbary Road

It was noted that the voluntary restraint signs at either end of the Turbary Road were missing. SM said he would replace them.

Green lanes leaflet

MA has updated the green lanes leaflet and was asked to circulate it to members.

**RB to send a PDF copy of the green lanes leaflet to all members.**

## 10. Yorkshire Dales Local Plan

Peter Stockton (PS), Head of Sustainable Development, was welcomed to the meeting. He gave a very informative presentation on the new Yorkshire Dales Local Plan, and policies in relation to recreation and tourism.

MC asked what would happen from 1 August 2016, when the YDNP takes on the extended boundary. PS explained that the YDNPA will take on the local plans for the area that have been produced by the local planning authorities. The YDNPA will then, at a future date, decide whether to produce one local plan for the whole National Park area.

JP asked for the presentation slides to be made available to members. RB said she would forward them.

**RB to send members of the YDAF the local plan presentations slides.**

## 11. Flood Update

AH gave a presentation showing the impact of the recent floods on the public rights of way network, particularly in the Cumbria area of the National Park.

Members were interested in the cost of repairing the damage and AH said they were still waiting for a final figure. AL added that there was a fund available to farmers affected by the flooding that offered payments from £500 to £20 000 (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-the-farming-recovery-fund-frf)

## 12. Long distance routes

Due to the inclement weather and timing of the meeting, it was agreed to carry this item over to the June meeting.

## 13. Boundary Extension

KB gave a very useful update on the YDNP boundary extension.

KB told members that the new national park area would come into effect from 1 August 2016. She confirmed that from that date, under the CROW Act, the YDNPA will be the appointing authority and thus the YDAF would become the LAF for that area. KB emphasised the importance of putting transitional arrangements in place. The YDNPA will consult with the neighbouring authorities and LAFs as part of this process.

The actual budget settlement had not been announced internally, before the meeting, however KB indicated to the YDAF there was an increase in resources.

A paper had been written for the Lake District LAF, on 27 January 2016, which suggested the establishment of a possible Cumbria-wide LAF. It was noted that if pursed, it would result in two LAFs covering the YDNP and would increase officer workload. The options were discussed and Members were unanimous in their agreement that there should be one LAF covering the whole of the YDNP area.

**Members agreed that there should be one Local Access Forum covering the whole area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.**

AT felt it important that the YDAF helps the YDNPA in the transition towards the new YDAF and suggested that they begin some dialogue with the neighbouring LAFs. KB thought that attending neighbouring LAFs would be a good idea to gain an understanding of the access issues within the extension areas. It was noted that NC was a member of the Cumbria LAF and this was helpful in fostering good relationships. It was also noted that applications from individuals in the extension area could be encouraged for the YDAF in December 2016 and that the YDNPA should perhaps consider co-opting Cumbria LAF members on to the YDAF in the short term.

It was suggested that members have a site visit to look at the new area. It was agreed that, whilst this was a good idea, the area was large so this could not be easily seen in one visit. Devil's Bridge was suggested as an important site visit as this will become one the YDNP's major honey pots. KB offered to give a presentation slide show of the new area to help members become more familiar with it. This would be an agenda item for the June meeting.

**Boundary area (images presentation) be on the agenda for the June meeting of the YDAF.**

KB said members should contact her if they had any further questions or issues with regards to the boundary extension.

## 14. Secretary's Report

RB presented a report of items for Members' consideration and information. These were:

- Authority Meeting Dates and Venues.
- Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum 2016

    - JP said he was unable to make the meeting in October, due to the Jewish New Year, and asked if it could be changed. RB said it was difficult to change meeting dates at this stage but would look into it.
- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum membership.
- Stories in Stone.
- Consultations.
- Local Access Forum Conference
    - It was agreed that AT would attend the LAF conference on behalf of the YDAF and that SM would go on the reserve list.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

**Item No. 6**

# Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 7 June 2016

# Report Back from Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

## Advisory Group Meetings

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

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

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

### Access on Foot Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group was on 30 November 2015. The next meeting of the Access for 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 28 April 2016. The unapproved minutes are in **Appendix 2.** The next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

### Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group was on 9 March 2016. The unapproved minutes are in **Appendix 1.** 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 29 October 2015. 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 on 16 October 2015. 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 Development Officer
May 2016

**Appendix 1**

# Minutes of Meeting of
# Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group
# Held on Wednesday 9 March 2016
# Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present:

| | |
|---|---|
| Alex Law (AL) - Chair | Yorkshire Dales Access Forum |
| Jane Baker (JB) | Arklemoor Riding Centre |
| Ken Miller (KM) | British Horse Society |
| Stuart Price (SP) | Dales Mountain Biking |
| David Calvert (DC) | Carriage driver |
| Jean Calvert (JC) | Carriage driver |
| Nick Cotton (NC) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Member |
| Mark Allum (MA) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |
| Rachel Briggs (RB) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |
| Cat Kilner (CK) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Stephen Ross.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes

MA said that the dead end route on Threshfield Moor had been looked into by the Area Ranger but that the landowner does not want an upgrade to bridleway.

There have been no further incidents with the landowner at Thirnswood in Swaledale. MA asked that if anyone hears of anything, to tell Michael Briggs, Area Ranger, so that a record can be kept.

KM said that he had used the cycle/horse poster that had been produced by the YDNPA and had a great response. The BHS and the Welsh Government are both using it and it has been shared 7,500 times on social media. KM added that it wasn't on the YDNPA cycling website. MA said that the message was there but not the poster. He added that he would discuss it with the Website Officer.

## 3. Planned projects 2015/16

RB informed members that the main bridleway project for 2016/17 was on Rylstone Moor on a 630m section. She added that suggestions from members of the group for improvements were always appreciated.

NC said he had a meeting in Kirkby Lonsdale next week with David Butterworth about PROW in the boundary extension. He suggested that members of the group consider projects for the extension area.

SP said any bridleway improvements he could think of would come under the Swale Trail (Item 4).

AL asked who specific gate issues should be sent to. MA said to send them in to RB who would pass them on to the Rangers. AL added that the main problem is when wooden gates drop and then start dragging. CK said that the Rangers are using adjustable wooden gates more now which should help with this issue.

## 4. Swale Trail

MA gave members some background into the Swale Trail. It is a planned family friendly cycle route from Reeth to Keld and is being billed as 'my first mountain bike' experience. The work is fully spec'd and funding bids have been submitted. One of the funding bids has passed the first stage with the second stage due in September. Full quotes need to be obtained prior to that date. There also needs to be a bit of legal work done for a cobbled section of the route.

There was some discussion about the line of the route. DC thought that one of the main issues would be keeping flood water at bay. MA said that bank stabilisation was factored into the bid.

At least one other large funding bid will need to be submitted for work to commence in 2017 (if successful). MA has contacted local sponsors for donations. AL suggested contacting the Gunnerside Estate for a donation. KM suggested Leyburn Quarry. MA said he would keep all members up to date on the progress of the project.

## 5. Marrick Priory

KM informed members that in 2011 a public inquiry was held with regards to the longstanding 'obstruction' at Marrick Priory. The BHS have looked in detail at the inspectors report and have decided to submit a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to NYCC. KM will let members of the group know how this goes.

## 6. Lickber Lane

KM had a meeting in 2015 with officers from NYCC, YDNPA and others with regards to the management of Lickber Lane. It was agreed at that meeting that Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) would be placed on the few remaining trees lining the route. It was also agreed that when the weather improved, there would be some improvements made on the lower end of the route using volunteers. They would also look at Sleight Lane at the other end of Lickber Lane.

## 7. Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary extension

MA gave members an update on the YDNP extension. The YDNPA are still unsure if they will become the delegated authority for PROW. From 1 August 2016, the main statutory issues, concerning this group, will be planning, the Local Access Forum and CROW land. The rest needs to be negotiated. NC added that, at a parish level, the response is quite positive. The YDNPA has a good relationship with Cumbria County Council (CCC) and the Cumbria Countryside Access Service and it's important that this relationship continues.

KM asked if more staff would be employed. MA said that this had yet to be determined.

**RB to circulate maps of the new area to members via email.**

## 8. Any other business

MA told members that there had been a recent incident on Turbary Road in Kingsdale, where two mountain bikers were challenged by the landowner and asked to leave (at the Yordas end).

NC brought to member's attention the fact that the River Lune has a short stretch where there are four bridleways crossing the river. They are not easy crossings and this may be something the group wishes to consider when the extended area comes into force.

## 9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in 2017. RB will send a date round nearer the time.

**Appendix 2**

**Unapproved Minutes of the**
**Access for All Advisory Group meeting**
**Held on Thursday 28 April 2016**
**Yoredale, Bainbridge**

Present:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mike Stephenson (MS) | |
| Phil Woodyer (PW) | |
| Bob Emmerson (BE) Chair | Dales Volunteer |
| David Shaftoe (DS) | Open Country |
| Geoff Pardoe (GP) | Bendrigg Trust |
| Andrew North (AN) | Access the Dales |
| Debbie North (DN) | Access the Dales |
| J Smith (JS) | Yorkshire Dales Access Forum |
| Rachel Briggs (RB) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |
| Nigel Metcalfe (NM) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |
| Cathy Bradley (CB) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |

Apologies:

| | |
|---|---|
| Heather Thomas-Smith (HT) | Yorkshire Dales Access Forum |
| Emmeline Butler (EB) | National Trust |
| Nicola Brown (NB) | |
| Roy Emmerson (RE) | |

Vickie Orton has unfortunately had to step down due to ill health.

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Round the Table Introductions were carried out.

## 2. Approval of minutes

RB ran through – some actions covered in this agenda.
Duke of Edinburgh group – no action needed, as they sorted their own visit out.
Videos – there are now 4 on our website, in the Miles without Stiles section.
Yorkshire Water-Embsay Reservoir – RB is looking into.
MS – new track round Grimwith Reservoir is excellent – all agreed.
GP- no progress from Ingleborough Cave and a tramper.

## 3. Membership of Group

RB- at the last meeting a discussion was held to potentially widen the parameters of the group. RB sought advice from her line manager who has decided not to widen the group as this would dilute and make the group too large. BE read out the terms of reference to remind the group. DN agreed to keep as it is. RB suggested the group can invite speakers as and when needed to talk, e.g., Catherine Kemp.

## 4. Updates

Experience Community – RB. Craig Grimes received additional funding, through the YDNPA run Sustainable Development Fund, to run residentials within the NP, he has already carried out 10 residentials which have been a success. He is currently looking at more residentials for this year. He is also looking at mountain biking for the disabled now, using hand cranked bikes. Craig is also asking for volunteer input into working with his groups.

Access the Dales – DN. Currently working alongside Rangers, RB, and JS to look at longer more challenging routes. Book launch in July – Spirit of Wainwright, which is based on C2C adventure last April. Just completed the Semer Water-Ullswater-Bassenthwaite (via Howgill Fells) challenge. Has received a lot of interest from the press and radio. There will soon be an article in Yorkshire Life magazine. Attending the Keswick Mountain Festival. Has also been invited to be the accessibility expert for Julia Bradbury's 'Outdoor Guide'.

Recent ascent up Penyghent raised £250 (on the day donations) for Cave Rescue Organisation. This is the first time a wheelchair has summited a Three Peak.

Tramper at Malham. DN – disappointing that it is only available 10am-2pm week days. Limited times and days due to the Malham Tarn Centre not manned at weekends. MS- make sure National Trust attend the next meeting to discuss this further.

| |
|---|
| RB- to contact National Trust and investigate whether Craig Grimes could use it at weekends. |

## 5. Projects 16/17

Embsay Reservoir.

Aysgarth. NM – some route improvement work being carried out.

Hudswell Woods. NM – changing gates.

RB – 157km of routes are now accessible for use in NP. Also looking at the barrier free network – in discussions at the moment. AN and DN offered to provide feedback to the Ranger Service when out and about on bridleways.

## 6. Website

RB - New interactive map showing the Miles without Stiles routes, is up and running. Website – 'How to Get Here/ Where to Stay/ Access For All page.

## 7. Access Roadshow

Looking into a mobility roadshow at Grimwith Reservoir. People would be able to try out trampers and trikes, chat to staff – a way of celebrating and showcasing what is happening in the NP. RB is looking into a weekend in September.

## 8. Boundary Extension

RB provided an overview of the new area size, what is happening in-house. There is potential for more Access for All routes to look at in the new area. BE has been carrying out rights of way surveys in the new area. MS we will become the planning authority for the new area and will adopt their individual local plans until they expire. JS – explained the potential for a new Access for All route in the Crosby Ravensworth area.

## 9. Member Round-Up

BE- Grimwith walk was a success. Helped with the Wild Wednesdays last summer, along with Outreach walks at Grassington and Education Talks at Reeth.

GP- Looking at trails around Sedbergh for wheelchairs.

DS- has a spare minibus and employing a Project Officer to set Open Country outside North Yorkshire.

## 10. AOB

RB to send date for next meeting.

**Item No. 8**

# Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 7 June 2016

# Updated policy on support and promotion long distance routes

## Introduction

There is a significant number of long distance walking routes that lie partially, or wholly, within the National Park. This number is still being added to with guide book writers devising new routes on a regular basis. The Authority is always prepared to provide advice to people devising routes to ensure that they are legal and as sustainable as possible.

The main policy we have in this area of work is laid out in Special Qualities, Special Experiences, and is:

> *Multi-day routes will be signed and promoted where the route is supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as a regional significant route.*

The criteria the Authority uses to decide which routes should be recognised and potentially waymarked were established in 2010 in consultation with Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority.

## The current situation

In 2010 there were only four recognised waymarked routes through the National Park – there are now seven. All of these, apart from the Coast to Coast walk, are also marked on OS maps.

- Pennine Way National Trail
- Pennine Bridleway National Trail
- Dales Way
- Ribble Way
- Dales High Way
- Pennine Journey
- Coast to Coast

## Updated policy on long distance routes

The policy on long distance routes has been updated to take into account the additional routes that have been waymarked, as has our current National Park Management Plan. It has also been made clear that agreeing to the waymarking of a route does not imply that the Authority will support its inclusion on OS maps. We are concerned that the inclusion of additional routes on OS maps has the potential to make the mapping ‘confused’ and could dilute the impact of a small number of high quality routes.

The updated policy is in Appendix 1.

## Lady Anne's Way

The Authority has received a request, with supporting information, from the Friends of Lady Anne's Way to waymark this route. This document is in Appendix 2.

Sections of Lady Anne's Way coincide with the Dales Way - between Barden Bridge and Burnsall and Starbotton and Buckden – and the Pennine Bridleway from Johnston Gill to The Stang.

Consideration of waymarking will need to be in consultation with North Yorkshire County Council and Cumbria County Council - this has yet to be carried out.

## Recommendation

1. That the YDAF note the updated policy on long distance routes.

2. That the YDAF considers the request from the Friends of Lady Anne's Way and provides advice on its waymarking. A decision on waymarking will be made by the Authority in consultation with the county councils.

Mark Allum
Recreation and Tourism Manager
Mau 2016

**Appendix 1**

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

# Long distance routes; recognition and promotion

## Draft Policy

## December 2015

# Long distance routes; recognition and promotion

## 1. Background

1.1 The first policy on recognising and promoting long distance routes was introduced in 2010 - this is an update to that policy.

1.2 There are a considerable number of long distance routes which are promoted in some way that lie, either wholly or partly, within the National Park. Promotion may be in the form of a guidebook describing the route, a website, and/or waymarking on the ground.

1.2 The vast majority of these long distance routes are multi-day walking routes but there are also a number of mountain biking routes. The routes vary from high profile National Trails to routes which are relatively obscure, and the positive and negative impacts that they have on the local area also vary considerably.

1.3 The National Park Authority is regularly approached for advice on route selection by guide book writers and people devising walks, and it also often asked to 'endorse a route' for example by providing support for waymarking routes 'on the ground'.

1.4 Although there is no doubt that well thought out long distance routes can provide a highly sustainable form of tourism providing high economic benefits with minimal impact, the potential number involved means the Authority needs clear criteria to determine those it 'supports'. Particularly as the level of support and endorsement given by the Authority will have resource implications.

## 2. Current policy context

2.1 The Authority's current policy context is laid out in the National Park Management Plan and Special qualities, special experiences its thematic strategy for recreation and tourism.

**National Park Management Plan**

B1 Promote the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination in the UK, renowned for its local distinctiveness.

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

**Special Qualities, Special Experiences – the Authority's recreation and tourism strategy**

***Multi-day routes***

- Multi-day routes will be signed and promoted where the route is supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as a regional significant route.

- Dedicated ranger(s) will be employed to undertake the maintenance and waymarking of National Trails and other multi day routes where Natural England (or other similar body) funds this activity.

***Waymarking (arrows and fingerposts)***

The only statutory requirement is a finger post indicating where a right of way leaves a metalled road. Any other 'waymarking' will depend on location:

- From settlements and other development in the main Dales, waymarking will be used to the extent necessary to orientate visitors, and give them confidence, in their surroundings.

- In rural lowland areas and tributary dales, waymarking will be basic but clear to avoid 'over-management' and will be unobtrusive within the surroundings.

- In open upland areas, the use of waymarks will only be used out of legal necessity or where required as an aid to navigation, with the aim of ensuring that any signs of human activity are minimal given that typical users could be expected to carry a map and compass.

2.2 Whilst this provides overall guiding principles the existing policy does not determine which routes will be supported by the Authority.

## 3. Why promote long distance routes?

3.1 Long distance routes form some of the country's best known iconic walking routes, and for many people provide a highly memorable and positive experience. They can provide a highly sustainable tourism product, with people moving under their own steam and often accessing the routes using public transport. They also provide a high visitor spend because they will be staying overnight, and often carry little with them so spending more in the local area. High quality routes, such as the National Trails, can also form spine routes from which loops are developed.

3.2 Usage of the various long distance routes can be difficult to determine accurately, but counters are in place on the Pennine Way, Dales Way and Coast to Coast walks. The number of people walking the whole of these routes, either in one go, or in stages, is estimated to be 1200 to 5000 per anum. Translating this into the amount spent in the local economy involves making assumptions around average daily spend and the length of time that walkers are within the National Park. However, even with modest assumptions that end to end walkers are spending £40 - £50 per day, and are in the National Park for 2 to 4 days, this represents an annual spend into the National Park economy of approximately £1.1m to £1.4m on these three routes.

3.3 This visitor spend has clear impact in the local economy and supports many businesses; in particular local baggage handling and holiday organisers and a large number of accommodation providers, particularly those in more remote areas.

## 4. Criteria to be used in deciding whether a route should be supported

4.1 There are a number of factors which need to be considered by the Authority when deciding whether to recognise and support a route and whether to permit promotional discs on routes. These criteria have been agreed with Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority.

| | |
|---|---|
| National Trails | The Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway are recognised and promoted as National Trails. All National Trails will be waymarked to an agreed standard. |
| Regional importance | Routes which are long enough that they are completed over several days and which attract significant numbers of visitors to the National Park will be considered favourably.<br><br>For routes which have sections in neighbouring authorities, the support of those authorities will also be a factor taken into account. |
| Permanence | Routes must be expected to last (i.e. to be actively inspected and promoted) for a minimum of 5 years. Routes which have been in existence for less than five years would only be waymarked in exceptional circumstances. |
| Length of route | Routes designed to be completed in the course of a day will not normally be waymarked as long distance walks. This would not prevent shorter routes being waymarked for other reasons such as with the Red Squirrel Trail, and short routes aimed at increasing participation etc. |
| Responsibility | There must be a specific group or organisation prepared to take responsibility for inspections and publicity material. |
| Public access | The route must be available for all members of the public to use. This could include routes with a permissive access agreement provided that sufficient longevity can be guaranteed. |
| Additional factors | The following will be considered favourably;<br>• economic benefit to the area,<br>• heritage, scenic or ecological interest,<br>• routes benefitting the local community as well as visitors<br>• routes that promote the use of public transport and green businesses |
| Publicity material | Must be;<br>• clear to read,<br>• easily available<br>• give clear advice on minimising the impact on the area, and<br>• be kept up to date.<br><br>Material that provides additional information to promote greater understanding of the area will be seen positively. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Route alignment | The route must be checked the National Park Authority for legal status and issues, and agreed in advance in the case of new routes. Where promoted routes use permissive paths, agreement from the landowner should be made available in writing and should confirm that permission is granted for a minimum of five years. |
| Road safety | Road sections and crossings, where they are not already approved, need to have been safety audited by the relevant highway authority. |

4.2 One of the aims of developing these criteria is to ensure that whilst promoting long distance walks the amount of signage and waymarking is not increased unnecessarily, and that only those routes which form an important part of the outdoor product offered by the Yorkshire Dales is recognised in this way. This means that a route which does meet the criteria may still be turned down for waymarking, if we believe that it is not a sufficiently strong product.

4.3 Where routes follow the same alignment as a National Trail they will normally only be waymarked where they join and leave. Where they follow the same alignment as other routes which are waymarked we will look to minimise any visual intrusion.

4.4 The decision to allow waymarking does not imply that the Authority will support the inclusion of a route on OS maps. The inclusion of too many routes on OS mapping would dilute the product in the Yorkshire Dales and lead to confusing mapping.

4.5 It should be noted that the Authority will continue to inform the public about long distance trails that do not meet the criteria for waymarking, because they still form an important part of what the Yorkshire Dales has to offer.

## 5. Routes currently recognised, supported and/or waymarked

Category 1: National Trails
Category 2: regionally important routes recognised by the National Park Authority which are waymarked and marked on OS maps.
Category 3: regionally important routes recognised by the National Park Authority which are waymarked.
Category 4: other routes which are not waymarked.

| Route | Responsible organisation | Distance in National Park (total distance) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Category 1: National Trails*** | | | |
| Pennine Way | Pennine National Trails Partnership | Edale to Kirk Yetholm.<br><br>51 miles (268 miles) | The first National Trail opening in 1965. Promoted through www.nationaltrail.co.uk . Several guidebooks and maps available. Marked on OS maps. |
| Pennine Bridleway | Pennine National Trails Partnership | 52 miles (200 miles from Middleton Top in Derbyshire to Kirkby Stephen) | Section through the National Park was launched in 2012. Promoted through www.nationaltrail.co.uk. Map of route from Harvey Maps. Marked on OS maps. |
| ***Category 2: regionally important, promotional discs permitted and marked on OS maps*** | | | |
| Dales Way | Dales Way Association | Ilkley to Windermere with link routes from Harrogate, Leeds and Bradford.<br><br>50 miles (84 miles) | Opened in 1980s. Several guidebooks published. Dales Way Association long established with website (www.dalesway.org.uk). Regular liaison meetings with YDNPA. YDNPA publishes a leaflet to the walk. Marked on OS maps. |
| Ribble Way | Lancashire County Council | (70 miles) | Opened in 1985. Is currently waymarked although in poor condition. Little promotion carried out, and appears to be used by only low numbers of walkers. Guidebooks are available. Marked on OS maps. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dales High Way | Friends of the Dales High Way | From Saltaire to Appleby.<br><br>55 miles (93 miles) | Map book and guidebook produced. Website www.daleshighway.co.uk. Launched in 2008. Waymarked in 2013 and included on OS maps in 2014. |
| Pennine Journey | Pennine Journey Supporters Club | Settle to Hadrian's Wall and back.<br><br>97 miles (247 miles) | www.penninejourney.org. Guide produced. Launched in 2008, waymarked in 2013 and included on OS maps in 2014. |
| ***Category 3: regionally important routes recognised and supported by the National Park Authority which are waymarked*** | | | |
| Coast to Coast | Wainwright Society | St Bees to Robins Hood Bay<br><br>22 miles (190 miles) | One of the best known routes in the UK attracting significant numbers of walkers. Devised in 1973. Annual meeting between Wainwright Society and local authorities. Numerous guidebooks and considerable website promotion including on http://www.wainwright.org.uk/coasttocoast.html Route is now fully waymarked. |
| ***Category 4: other routes which are not waymarked*** | | | |
| The Inn Way | Mark Reid | 76 miles all in NP | www.innway.co.uk and supporting book. Launched in 1997. |
| The Settle to Carlisle Way | None | 32 miles (92 miles) | Map produced by Harveys. Original work commissioned through Target Project. Route has been safety audited. Route links all the stations on the railway line. Launched 2005. |
| Lady Ann's Way | None | Skipton to Penrith linking locations associated with Lady Ann Clifford.<br>49 miles (100 miles) | Book first published 1995. Development Plan and request for waymarking received in 2015. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Herriot Way | None | Route through Wensleydale and Swaledale based on locations related to James Herriot.<br><br>49 miles all in YDNP | Book first published 1997. |
| Airedale Way | None | Leeds to Malham following the River Aire.<br><br>8 miles (50 miles) | |
| Swale Way | None | Boroughbridge to Keld<br><br>23 miles (77 miles) | Booklet produced by Richmondshire DC in 1997 |
| Yorkshire Water Way | Yorkshire Water | Kettlewell to Langsett<br><br>15 miles (104 miles) | Links reservoirs belonging to Yorkshire Water. Devised by Mark Reid. Book published in 2006. |
| Bay to bay walk | None | Barrow to Robin Hoods Bay<br><br>35 miles (191 miles) | Published in two sections – Grassington to East Coast and Grassington to West Coast. www.bay2bay.co.uk. |
| Coast to Coast mountain bike route (Woodcock) | None | 22 miles (220 miles) | The best known of variants of Wainwright's coast to coast route for mountain bikers. Guide promoted through www.mbruk.co.uk. |

5.1 The fact that a route is not supported does not indicate that it is considered un-worthwhile, or is not an asset to the area. There are many interesting and beautiful walks which are not heavily promoted and this can be part of their charm and appeal. Although YDNPA does not actively become involved in the promotion of these routes, or support their waymarking, their use could still be encouraged through being listed on our website or in publications.

## 6. Cycle routes

Where a long distance cycle route involves significant sections on the rights of way network they have been considered in with walking routes above. However, the majority of long distance cycling routes are aimed at road cyclists and form part of the National Cycle Network which is promoted by Sustrans and local authorities. They are fully safety audited and signed. The Yorkshire Dales Cycleway is a recognised regional route and is again safety audited and signed. These routes are listed below for information, but are outside the scope of this policy.

| Route | Responsible organisation | Distance in National Park (total distance) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yorkshire Dales Cycleway | YDNPA | 115 miles (130 miles) | YDNPA promotes the route through www.cyclethedales.org.uk and publishes a leaflet. A guidebook is now out of print. |
| Way of the Roses | Sustrans/county councils | Morecambe to Bridlington. Runs through YDNP between Clapham and Greenhow. 40 miles (169 miles) | Coast to coast route launched in 2010. YDNPA were closely involved with the development of the route. Promoted by Sustrans and other organisations. Map produced. www.wayoftheroses.info. |
| Pennine Cycleway (Route 68) | Sustrans/county councils | Holmfirth to Appleby section. 50 miles (124 miles) | Map available from www.sustrans.org.uk. Specific website no longer operational. |
| National Cycle Network Route 71 | Sustrans/county councils | Appleby to Northallerton section runs through the YDNP between Tan Hill and Leyburn. 20 miles in National Park | Not published as a separate challenge route. Details through www.sustrans.org.uk. |
| Walney to Wear | Sustrans/county councils | Walney Island to Sunderland. Runs through short section of YDNP around Tan Hill. 2 miles (153 miles) | Fully signed regional cycle route. Promted by Sustrans and through www.cyclingw2w.info. |

**Item No. 10**

# Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 7 June 2016

# Public Rights of Way Annual Report 2015/16

## Purpose of the report

To receive comments from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF) on the Rights of Way Annual Report for the period April 2015 to March 2016, prior to submission to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The covering proposed paper and annual report identifies progress made on public rights of way maintenance against our own targets under the delegation agreements.

## Recommendation

YDAF Members to comment on the covering paper **Appendix 1** and Rights of Way Annual report **Appendix 2** before submission to the Authority.

**Alan Hulme**
**Head of Ranger Service**

**May 2016**

**Appendix 1**
**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**Date:** **June 2016**

**Report:** **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

## Purpose of the report

1. To provide Members' with the opportunity to comment on the Rights of Way Annual Report for the period April 2015 to March 2016, prior to submission to Cumbria County Council (CCC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC).

## Recommendations

2. That Members:
   a) comment on the Rights of Way Annual report in the **Appendix** before submission to Cumbria (CCC) and North Yorkshire County Councils (NYCC).

## Strategic Planning Framework

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

   - ***Corporate Plan Objective***

   Manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that:
   a) at least 90% are 'easy to use' by members of the public even though they may not follow the definitive line.

## Background

4. The Authority has responsibility for rights of way functions, delegated from CCC and NYCC, in recognition of the fact that a well managed rights of way network is important to the delivery of the National Park Authority's statutory purposes. A network that can be used with confidence is important to visitors, land managers and residents alike. Many people use the rights of way network as a means to enjoy the special qualities of the area.

5. As part of the rights of way delegation agreements the Authority is required to submit a report to the two county councils each year. The Rights of Way Annual Report (see **Appendix**) explains what the Authority has delivered, under our delegated powers, in respect of each area.

6. The current delegation schemes with NYCC and CCC came into effect on 1 April 2013. They allow us to carry out routine maintenance of the rights of way on behalf of landowner and farmers.

7. This report has been to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (LAF) 7 June 2016 for comments - as statutory advisor to the Authority 'to the improvement of public access

to land in that area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area'. (Any comments from the LAF will be reported verbally at the Authority meeting).

8. The Rights of Way Annual Report (**Appendix)** highlights achievements and progress against the delegation agreement and our own targets and, subject to Members' comments, this will be sent to NYCC and CCC after this meeting.

9. The importance placed on rights of way maintenance is often cited as one of the real 'advantages' of being in a National Park. Whilst all National Park Authorities undertake this work, to a greater or lesser extent, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that this work is undertaken for and on behalf of the County Councils who retain the statutory responsibility.

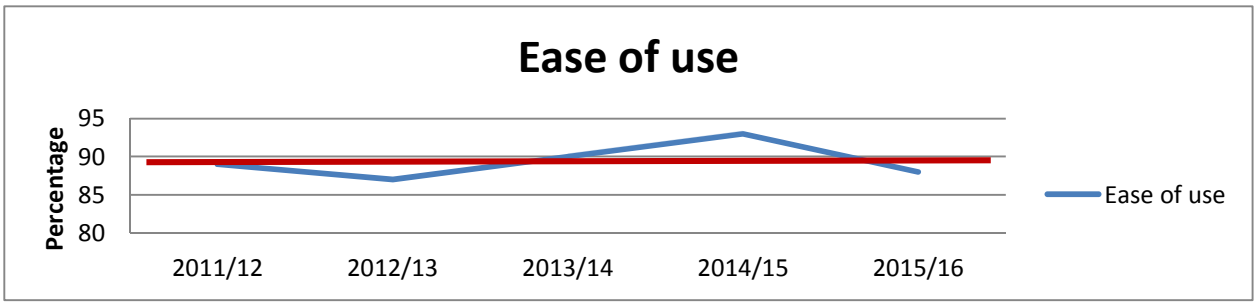
## Objectives and Actions

Corporate Plan

10. In considering this report Members may wish to note the 'ease of use' results for 2015/16. The Authority's objective for Rights of Way maintenance is:

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

    This year's 'ease of use' figure was 88%. This is down 4% from the 2014/15 'ease of use' figure. However, the figure remains in line with the National Park Management Plan objective of maintaining an average of 90% taking into account the last 5 years results.




11. Progress against each of the Authority's Corporate Plan actions for 2015/16 is outlined in the **Appendix**. Members should note that all the targets have been met.

12. However, works are still outstanding on a number of the 30 main bridges in the North Yorkshire area of the National Park, which NYCC surveyed in 2013. The surveys indicate that the majority of these bridges are in good overall condition, but they have flagged up a number requiring minor works which places them in 'condition 2'.

13. To deal with the outstanding works Members' had approved an action in 2015/16 Corporate Plan to:

    'Establish, with North Yorkshire County Council, a three year maintenance programme for 30 significant bridges in the National Park.' This has been rescheduled due to restructuring of the Countryside and Rights of Way department at NYCC. Agreement to

reschedule to 2016/17 and was approved by Members at the Finance and Resources Committee meeting 24 May 2016

## Access and Rights of Way Partnerships

Pennine National Trails Partnership

14. As mentioned in last year's annual report, the Authority has taken on the 'lead partner' role for management of the Pennine National Trails Partnership, which oversees the management of the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway. Functions of the lead partner include to:
    - Accept the grant offer from Natural England and claim and receive payments;
    - Have an oversight of delivery and report to Natural England about how our financial support has been used by the Partnership and what has been; achieved;
    - Ensure that partners have the opportunity to participate in the management and development of the maintenance of the trails.

15. During the past year we have performed this role as 'Lead Authority'. The partnership has worked well and has:
    - Met on 2 occasions between April 2015 to Mar 2016;
    - Appointed a partnership manager (commenced role in May 2015);
    - Distributed grants totalling £346,605 to12 different partner bodies;
    - Collated a total of £131,576 (28%, where Natural England expect a minimum of 25%) in match funding;
    - Prepared and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Pennine Way.

16. Since April 2015, the Authority has not only established the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as the 'lead authority' for the partnership, but also raised its profile in this area of work outside the boundaries of the National Park.

## Volunteers

17. During the last year we have implemented a light touch review of the use of volunteers in relation to both practical works, and the surveying of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. This has resulted in a number of changes to how volunteers now assist in these areas and includes:
    - Dales Volunteers conducting surveys of the entire PRoW network, annually, previously some areas were only being surveyed every two years;
    - Combining of both the PRoW surveys with the Bridge Condition (visual) surveys;
    - Dales Volunteers inputting survey information into Authority IT programmes;
    - Dales Volunteers conducting the annual 'ease of use' survey;

- Establishing Corporate Volunteering opportunities for groups.

18. For the 3 years previous to December 2014/15, we averaged around 1,520 days of volunteering activities in relation to rights of way work each year, which equated to approximately 7 full time equivalent members of staff. However, in 2015/16 we achieved 2,128 days of volunteering or approximately 10 full time equivalents. This is a similar level to 2014/15 and credit must go to both the volunteers and staff who have developed and implemented the new ways of working.

## Funding

19. Public Rights of Way continue to provide opportunities to seek new income streams to resource this area of work. During 2015/16 we were successful in bringing in additional funding from a wealth of different sources for works amounting to £236,503. In addition, we have already identified a number of opportunities for securing funding for works in 2016/17.

## Conclusion

20. Rights of way maintenance and volunteering continue to be 'priority programmes' and areas of work where the Authority makes a clear visible difference to the National Park. We help farmers and landowners maintain their stiles and gates, whilst users of the network (both visitors and residents) have certainty about where they can go, and an enjoyable experience of the area. Businesses benefit because access to the area's special qualities, through the rights of way network, underpins the local tourism economy.

21. The importance placed on rights of way maintenance is often cited as one of the real 'advantages' of being in a National Park. Whilst all National Park Authorities undertake this work, to a greater or lesser extent, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that this work is undertaken for and on behalf of the County Councils who retain the statutory responsibility.

**Alan Hulme**
**Head of Ranger Service**

27 May 2016

Background documents: None

**Appendix 2**

## Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

# Public Rights of Way
# Delegated Highway Authority

# Annual Report 2015/16

**MAY 2016**

## 1. Introduction

1. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) has delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for 2,142 km of Public Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic, and restricted byways) within the National Park. The Delegation Agreements are with North Yorkshire County Council (1,896 km) and Cumbria County Council (246 km).

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

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

3. The Authority has taken on these responsibilities because it recognises that a well-maintained rights of way network is fundamental to the achievement of its statutory purposes, particularly its second purpose - promoting the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park.

4. The delegation agreements with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Cumbria County Council (CCC) were reviewed in 2012/13 and revised schemes agreed, which came into effect in April 2013. Specifically:

    - responsibility for keeping the Definitive Map under continuous review was returned;
    - the Authority's maintenance responsibility for larger bridges in the two County Council areas was reduced; and
    - the Authority's responsibility for any significant financial burdens in relation to highways out of repair, obstructions or public rights of way through Definitive Map Modification Orders was minimised.

### Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan

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

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

## About this Report

6. This report identifies the key achievements for the year 2015/16. Then it considers, in detail, the Authority's corporate actions and targets and progress relating to the following areas of work:

    - General maintenance
    - River crossings
    - Major projects
    - Path Orders and Definitive Map
    - Pennine National Trails Partnership Management

## Key Achievements 2015/16

### Public Rights of Way Maintenance

7. During 2015/16 the following maintenance work was undertaken:

    - 1,032 improvements to public rights of way infrastructure: stiles, gates and signposts;
    - 47 river crossings maintained or replaced (43 bridges and 3 set of stepping stones and 1 ford);
    - 3.425km of engineered paths maintained (including Pennine Bridleway or Pennine Way works);
    - 747m of new engineered paths created (including works at Grimwith Reservoir).

8. A total of **£236,503** of External Funding was secured for rights of way projects as follows:

    £69,468 National Trails Partnership Manager and Lead Role;
    £54,274 Pennine Way;
    £25,780 Pennine Bridleway;
    £16,837 HF Holidays 3 Peaks;
    £2,500 British Mountaineering Council for a project on the 3 Peaks;
    £10,000 Yorkshire Water for project at Grimwith;
    £2,500 British Mountaineering Council for project at Grimwith;
    £400 individual donations;
    £832 donations from events for works in Swaledale;
    £2,253 Morrisons for utilities work in Swaledale;
    £200 donation for an event in Malhamdale;
    £28,129 Three Peaks Project from Friends Scheme, Merchandise and Donations;
    £8,330 various costs of processing Path Orders from private individuals and companies.

Pennine Way

9. Total funding secured for the Pennine Way for 2015/16 was £54,274:

- £26,330 for Pennine Way Ranger Post, including general maintenance works to stiles, gates and river crossings;
- £27,944 for works on Fountains Fell and Pen Y Ghent.

Pennine Bridleway

10. Total funding secured for the Pennine Bridleway for 2015/16 was £25,780:

- £18,018 for Pennine Bridleway Officer Post including general maintenance works to stiles, gates and river crossings;
- £7,762 Preparation works Long Preston.

Pennine National Trails Partnership

11. During 2015/16, the YDNPA performed the 'lead role' for the Pennine National Trails partnership and will continue performing the role for the foreseeable future as the 'lead authority'.

12. Functions of the Lead Partner include to:

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

13. Over the last year the partnership (lead by the YDNPA) has:

- Met on 2 occasions between April 2015 to Mar 2016;
- Appointed a partnership manager who commenced their role in May 2015;
- Distributed 27 grants totalling £346,605 to 12 different partner bodies;
- Collated a total of £131,576 (28%, where Natural England expect a minimum of 25%) in match funding;
- Prepared and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Pennine Way.

The YDNPA received £54,468 for the Partnership Manager and £15,000 in relation to acting as Lead Authority and hosting of the Partnership Manager

Three Peaks

14. During 2015/16 implementation of the 3 Peaks Project included:

- 100m of footpath repairs carried out on Bruntscar, Whernside;
- 200m of footpath surfacing on Grain Ings, Whernside
- 120m of footpath repairs carried out on Ingleborough, Allotment

15. The numbers of Friends and Corporate Members have remained constant during the year. The project brought in sufficient income to cover the cost of the Three Peaks Ranger plus funding for additional works:

- 354 members of the Friends and 107 Corporate and Charity members are currently signed up to the project.
- £28,129 was raised to fund the 3 Peaks Project Ranger
- £16,837 funding from HF Holidays for a project on Ingleborough in 2015/16

## Path Orders and Definitive Map

16. During 2015/16 progress has continued on Public Path Orders. The following Orders were completed by the YDNPA:

Public Path Orders:

| **North Yorkshire** | **Order Process** | **Date** |
|---|---|---|
| Swaletrail, Reeth | Consultation | On-going |
| **Cumbria** | | |
| Cow Gill Barn,Dent, Diversion Order | Order made | On-going |
| Burton Hill, Dent, Diversion Order | Order made | On-going |

Creation Agreements

| **North Yorkshire** | **Order Process** | **Date** |
|---|---|---|
| Permissive Agreement Gearstones | Consultation | On-going |
| Helwith Bridge Railhead Creation Agreement | Consultation | On-going |
| **Cumbria** | | |
| Pepper Pot, Sedbergh, Creation Agreement | Confirmed | 2015/16 |

Temporary and Emergency Closure Orders

| **North Yorkshire** | **Order Process** | **Date** |
|---|---|---|
| Arcow Quarry Horton 2 Closures and 2 Extensions | On-going | On-going |
| Melbecks, Swaledale, 2 Closure extensions | Completed | 2015/16 |
| Hebden Suspension Bridge for works | Completed | 2015/16 |
| Lintion Falls, Bridge for works | Completed | 2015/16 |
| **Cumbria (Flood Damage)** | | |
| Birks Mill Bridge Closure and extension | On-going | |
| Brigg Flatts, Dent | Completed | 2015/16 |
| Lochbank, Sedbergh | Completed | 2015/16 |
| Chapel Beck, Sedbergh | Completed | 2015/16 |

## Corporate Plan 2015/16

17. The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan, 2015/16, sets out a programme of works and measures to assist in achieving the aims of the National Park Management Plan. Specific performance indicators were identified for 2015/16:

| **Performance Indicators** | 11/12 Actual | 12/13 Actual | 13/14 Actual | 14/15 Actual | **15/16 Target** | **15/16 Actual** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| % of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road | 97.7% | 97.9% | 98.2% | 98.1% | **98%** | **98.2%** |
| % of rights of way that are easy to use but may not follow the definitive line | 89% | 87% | 90% | 92% | **90%** | **88%** |

18. Specific Corporate Plan actions for 2015/16 were:

| **Action** | **NYCC** In the park | **CCC** In the park | **Total** | **Achieved** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maintain at 98% the number of places where a right of way is signposted from a metalled road. | 98.4% | 97.3% | 98.2% | Yes |
| Carry out engineering works to 245m of eroded routes, including new surfacing at Baugh Wood, Appletreewick. | 187m | 60m | 247 | Yes |
| Repair 3km of previously engineered routes, including significant works on the Three Peaks route and the paths on Ingleborough allotment. | 3,425m | 0 | 3.4km | Yes |
| Lead the new Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails Partnership and administer the grant system. | | | | Yes |
| Improve 500m of footpath at Grimwith Reservoir so that it is wheelchair accessible. | 500m | | 500m | Yes |
| Implement the Authority decision on the identified route for the Pennine Bridleway at Long Preston. | | | | Yes |
| Carry out significant works to Caldbergh Bridge (listed), Hebden Suspension Bridge and Healaugh stepping stones, and maintain 10 river crossings so that 90% remain in condition 1. | 90.2% | 90.7% | 90.6% | Yes |
| Repair stiles and gates in areas highlighted through the parish path surveys to maintain the rights of way infrastructure so that 94% remain in condition 1. | 94.2% | 94.8% | 94.4% | Yes |
| Complete two public path creation agreements, which extend the rights of way network. | 1 | 1 | | Yes |

## Performance Indicators by area

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

| Performance Indicator | Target | NYCC In the park | CCC In the park | YDNPA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| % of Rights of Way that are Easy to Use by members of the public (but may not follow the definitive line) (Field Survey) | 90% | 87.6% | 88.9% | 88% |
| % of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road | 98% | 98.2% | 97.3% | 98.2% |
| % of infrastructure - stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1' | 94% | 94.2% | 94.8% | 94.4% |
| % of River Crossings in 'condition 1' ( that is in good order and will last up to three years | 90% | 90.2% | 90.7% | 90.6% |
| % of Rights of Way accessible for wheelchairs | 0.6% | | | 0.7% |
| % of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability | 7.5% | | | 157km |

## Resources

20. In 2015/16 there were 8.2 full time equivalent (FTE) members of staff working on rights of way maintenance, and 1 Rights of Way Officer undertaking Path Orders. The annual public rights of way budget was £130k. In addition, there were a further 2.5 FTE externally funded posts. These were:

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

    **Pennine Bridleway Project Officer**
    The Authority received 87.5% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Bridleway Project Officers development role (6 months) and 75% funding for their maintenance role (6 months).

    **Three Peaks Ranger (0.5)**
    The Three Peaks Ranger post has continued through 2015/16 as a part-time post. This post was funded through income and donations generated by the project during 2015/16 with £28,129 collected through the Friends and Corporate Members, Merchandise and Event Donations.

21. The Authority also supports the:

    **Dales Volunteers and other volunteers**
    In total 1,512 days of practical work and 616 days of surveying were undertaken on the rights of way network, by Volunteers, this year. This equates to approximately 10 full time staff equivalents; this is similar total number of volunteer days compared to last year's figures.

## Ease of Use results

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

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

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

23. Each year's survey randomly selects a number of paths, making up 5% of the overall network, in total approx 108km surveyed in 2015 (96 km NYCC and 12km CCC ) in the National Park. All the routes have been surveyed by a Dales Volunteers during 2015. The 'Ease of Use' figure is then calculated from the length of routes which pass the 'Ease of Use' definitions as agreed by the English National Parks Joint Improvement Group.

| **2014 Ease of Use Results** | NYCC In the Park | CCC In the Park | YDNPA |
|---|---|---|---|
| % Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' but may not follow the exact definitive line | 87.6% | 88.9% | **88%** |

## Signing

*Target.* *Maintain at 98% the proportion of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road in 2015/16.*

24. The Access Recording System indicates that there are 1,743 places in the National Park requiring a signpost at the roadside. Currently 1,712 (98.2 %) are actually in situ with 31 (1.8%) currently missing.

25. During 2015/16, 111 directional signs were replaced or repaired where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (footpath/bridleway), distance and destination.

26. In addition, 120 signposts have been replaced or repaired indicting direction, distance or status along public rights of way in the national park.

**Signposts from a Metalled Road**

Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Recording System

| | Total | Present | Missing | % in situ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YDNPA | 1743 | 1712 | 31 | 98.2% |
| NYCC | 1488 | 1464 | 24 | 98.4% |
| CCC | 255 | 248 | 7 | 97.3% |

## General Maintenance

27. The following section provides a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out, during 2015/16, in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the rights of way network. It is worth noting that ladder stiles, in the National Park, continue to be removed, a further 6 ladder stiles have been replaced, reducing the overall number from 435 to 429. The number of hand gates has also increased, by 18, from 1,146 to 1,164 in 2015/16. In addition, kissing gates in the network have also increased. These works continue to improve the accessibility of the overall network for a range of users with limited mobility.

**Infrastructure**

| **Type** | **Total improved 2015/16** | **Total in National Park** |
|---|---|---|
| Ladder Stile | 16 | 429 |
| Timber Step Stile | 60 | 766 |
| Stone Step Stile | 91 | 1220 |
| Stone Squeeze Stile | 207 | 1713 |
| Fieldgate > 5ft | 163 | 2913 |
| Handgate < 5ft | 143 | 1164 |
| Kissing Gate | 17 | 204 |
| Boardwalk | 17 | 70 |
| Signpost (directional on route) | 120 | 1797 |
| Waymarker post | 41 | 599 |
| Information Sign | 8 | 292 |
| Roadside Signpost Present | 111 | 1712 |
| Steps | 17 | 258 |
| Culvert | 21 | 834 |
| Total | 1,032 | 13,971 |

**River Crossings (includes bridges and stepping stones)**

| TYPE | Cumbria CC | NYCC | YDNPA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | repair/replaced/ erected | repair/replaced/ erected | Total improved | Total in park |
| Bridges | 6 | 40 | 46 | 709 |
| Stepping Stones | 0 | 3 | 3 | 22 |
| Fords | 1 | 1 | 2 | 92 |
| Total | 7 | 44 | 51 | 840 |

**Miles without Stiles (access for those with limited ability)**

28. Access for All is a programme where the Authority has said it will make 'limited' progress. This means reduced resourcing for the foreseeable future, and increased importance of securing additional funding through a partnership approach to achieve specific 'limited mobility' projects which are beyond routine maintenance.

29. In 2015-16, we secured £10,000 of funding from Yorkshire Water and £2,500 from the British Mountaineering Council to further increase the wheelchair accessible route at Grimwith Reservoir. The 500m of work allowed for a complete circular 'access for all' route around the reservoir of 7km in length. In addition, wherever an existing right of way is being maintained, every opportunity to replace difficult barriers with more accessible features will be considered, e.g. replacing a ladder stile with a gap or gate. The less remote a route, the more stringently this criterion will be applied.

30. We will also continue to measure the two 'access for all' indicators against very strict criteria as laid out by Natural England and based on the Countryside Agency 'Zone A' national standard which is equivalent to BT Access for All Standard 3, that is routes designed for wheelchair use (1$^{st}$ indicator) rather than more challenging routes capable of being used by wheelchair users with strong pusher (2$^{nd}$ indicator).

**31.** There are, however, possibilities to review both indicators as currently there are 618km of bridleways in the National Park which are all gated, so are potentially suitable for those visitors with limited mobility. The Accessibility Audit of all routes in the National Park helped to identify those paths with the potential to be improved to provide access to those with limited mobility, but we need to follow this up with actual ground testing of the routes in 2016/17.

**Major Projects**

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

| Route | Works Undertaken |
|---|---|
| **North Yorkshire County Council** | **New Engineering Works** |
| Grimwith Reservoir | 500m engineering works |
| Baugh Wood Appletreewick | 50m engineering works |
| Hebden Suspension Bridge approaches | 20m enginnering works |
| Kingsdale Bridge Thornton in Lonsdale | 17m stepping |
| Dales Way Appletreewick | 100m surfacing works |
| | |
| **Cumbria County Council** | **New Engineering Works** |
| River Rawthey , Pedgecroft Farm | 60m engineering works |
| | |
| | **Total 747m** |
| | |
| **North Yorkshire County Council** | **Maintain Previously Engineered Routes** |
| Threshfield Moor Bridleway | 300m aggregate re-surfacing works |
| Bruntscar, Whernside | 100m aggregate re-surfacing works |
| Buckden Pike Bridleway | 300m aggregate re-surfacing works |
| Ingleborough Allotment | 120m aggregate re-surfacing works |
| Grain Ings, Whernside | 200m aggregate re-surfacing works |
| Hudswell Wood | 300m steps |
| Healaugh, Riverbank | 75m riverbank footpath protection |
| Isle Bridge, Swaledale | 30m riverbank footpath protection |
| Janet' Foss, Malham | 500m engineering works |
| | |
| | **Total 1925m** |
| | |
| **North Yorkshire County Council** | **Maintain Previously Engineered Routes** |
| Pennine Way, Fountains Fell | 500m aggregate surfacing |
| | |
| | **Total 500m** |
| **Pennine Bridleway** | |
| **North Yorkshire County Council** | **New Engineering Works** |
| Gorbeck, Langcliffe (Settle Loop) | 500m new aggregate surfacing & drainage |
| Austwick Bridleways | 500m new aggregate surfacing & drainage |
| | |
| | **Total 1,000m** |
| | |

## Conclusion

33. Rights of way maintenance and volunteering continue to be 'priority programmes' and areas of work where the Authority makes a clear visible difference to the National Park. We help farmers and landowners maintain their stiles and gates, whilst users of the network (both visitors and residents) have certainty about where they can go, and an enjoyable experience of the area. Businesses benefit because access to the area's

special qualities, through the rights of way network, underpins the local tourism economy.

34. This year has been an excellent year in relation to external funding with **£236,503** being brought in from a number of different sources to support public rights of way work across the national park. In addition, the work with Dales Volunteers and other volunteers goes from strength to strength with all surveying of infrastructure and 'Ease of Use' now being carried out by volunteers annually.

**Further Information**

Further information regarding the report is available from:


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

**Item No. 11**

# Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 7 June 2016

# Secretary's Report

## Purpose of the Report

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

## Authority Meetings

Any member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum can attend Authority Meetings as a member of the public. Please contact Rachel Briggs for a copy of the agenda and supporting papers. Please note, it is not a requirement for members of the YDAF to attend 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 2015/16:

| Date | Venue | Time |
|---|---|---|
| 28 June 2016 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 10.30 |
| 27 September 2016 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 10.30 |
| 20 December 2016 | Yoredale, Bainbridge | 10.30 |

## Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2016

YDAF during 2016:

Tuesday 7 June 2016, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 4 October 2016, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

## Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Membership

Vickie Orton has resigned from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. On behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority we would like to Vickie for her commitment to the work of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and Advisory groups, and wish her well for the future.

## Turbary Road

A report was presented to North Yorkshire County Council on 25 May with regards to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order on the Turbary Road. The report

recommended the prohibition of motor vehicles, except for access, be implemented on the northern section of Turbary Road, Thorton-in-Lonsdale.

**Consultations**

Since the last meeting of the YDAF on 26 January 2016, members have been consulted on the following:

- Application for planning permission for the laying of Bog Mats on the moorland edge on Whernside Great Allotment, Dent - Individual comments were submitted to the planning department from two YDAF members.

- The Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and the boundary extension. This will be discussed under item 9 (see **Appendix 1**).

**Local Access Forum Conference**

The northern LAF annual conference was held on 1 March. Alistair Thompson attended on behalf of the YDAF. Papers and notes from the conference can be viewed on Huddle.

**Regional LAF meeting**

The last meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional LAF was held on 9 March 2016 in Beverley. The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 2**

**National Parks: 8 point plan for England (2016-2020)**

This 8-point plan sets out our priorities for improving National Parks in England over the period from 2016 until 2020.

It includes plans to connect more young people to the environment through National Parks, and to increase visitor numbers. The plan also includes plans to develop apprenticeships through National Park Authorities, and to protect and enhance the natural environment.

The plan can be viewed using the following link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-parks-8-point-plan-for-england-2016-to-2020

**Open Access update**

At the Open Access Annual Seminar in March 2016, Natural England gave the following updates:

- Natural England's efforts are very much on the coast path so other things are taking a back seat.

- The review of open access mapped areas in England is due by 2019. It is already clear that this will be missed. A light touch review was considered but is not considered feasible. It is with Defra to decide what to do, but an extension to the date is the most likely option.

- Drones are becoming a significant issue for many areas. NE have looked at this in regard to open access land and do not believe they are excluded, although it would depend on circumstance.

- Fencing as part of conservation schemes. Very live issue in the Peak District where they are concerned about the landscape impact as well as access problems that can result.

- Access Information Points. Raised by the North York Moors who put in 80 boards tailored to the particular sites. These are now falling apart and there is no money to replace. They are looking at smaller, generic replacements for some sites and removing others. They will be removing the bulk of them from OS mapping.

- Caving. Only additional development here was an update from Natural Resources Wales. NRW has received a Pre-action Protocol [PAP] letter in relation to rights of access to the Ogof Draenen cave system in South Wales. A PAP letter is served prior to applying for permission to apply for Judicial Review. NRW has replied to state that 'we don't accept that our position that caving is not an open air recreation for the purpose of CRoW is in any way unlawful. Also that we don't accept that to give such an opinion is open to judicial review'. No further response has been received to date.

**Mend our Mountains**

Work to improve footpaths on Ingleborough has been given a boost of more than £12,000 thanks to the BMC – the country's leading organisation for mountain-loving people.

It launched its 'Mend our Mountains' crowd-funding campaign to raise at least £100,000 for environmental projects put forward by national parks within the UK. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority project was to renovate the Swine Tail network of paths on Ingleborough, and 266 generous backers took it past its own £10,000 target – reaching £12,460 by the time the crowdfunding finished.

**Nine Standards Rigg**

In March 2016, a crowdfunding appeal was launched to raise money for flagging on Nine Standards Rigg – a heavily eroded section of the Coast to Coast path. The aim was to raise £15 000 but the project over achieved and raised £21 405.

Rachel Briggs
Access Development Officer
January 2016

## Appendix 1

Alistair Thompson
Chair – Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

18 April 2016

Dear Alistair,

**Consultation on the Local Access Forum and the extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park**

I am writing to formally consult the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum on changes to the arrangement of the local access forum in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. As you are aware the National Park will be extended to cover additional parts of Cumbria and, for the first time, part of Lancashire from 1 August 2016.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW Act) established Local Access Forums (LAFs) and makes it clear that national park authorities are the LAF 'appointing authorities' for their national park area. As such the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) must establish a LAF that covers an increased area of Cumbria and part of Lancashire. Clearly there are several options:

(1) The YDNPA establishes a joint LAF with Cumbria, and/or Lancashire and/or North Yorkshire for that part of the National Park within the Highway Authority area(s);
(2) The YDNPA establishes a LAF for the whole of the new extended National Park.

The YDNPA is looking to establish a LAF for the whole of the National Park in the interests of efficient and effective use of staff time and resources, and to ensure an integrated approach to the management of access and recreation across its area. In suggesting this approach the Authority will continue to work closely with the County Councils, as the Highway Authorities and the Yorkshire Dales LAF will be able to provide advice for the area and continue to foster close working relationships with neighbouring LAFs.

The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 and Guidance on Local Access Forums in England issued by the Secretary of State are silent on the specific matter of a National Park extension. However, they do outline the process for changing the area for which a local access forum is established and so these arrangements are being used for the transition process here.

Under section 16 of the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 an appointing authority may, by giving 21 days notice in writing, change the area for which a forum is established so that a forum exercises its functions over an additional area. Before giving notice an appointing authority must consult any appointing authority or local access forum which they consider will be affected by the change. To that end the YDNPA, as appointing authority, is now consulting Cumbria and Lancashire County Council's and Cumbria and Lancashire LAF's with a view to giving 21 days' notice in writing that it will be extending the area covered by the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF) to cover the whole of the new National Park area from 1 August 2016.

As part of this consultation it is recognised that some members of the YDAF do not have knowledge of the extension area, and transitional arrangements need to be put in place. We would very much welcome your views on these, specifically:

(a) Arranging a joint LAF meeting(s) with Cumbria and/or Lancashire LAF(s);
(b) Co-opting Cumbria and/or Lancashire LAF member(s) on to the YDAF for a specific time;
(c) Site visit(s) and or presentations to YDAF members on access and recreation issues within the extension area;
(d) Encouraging residents and interest groups within the northern part of the extension area to apply to become members of the YDAF (several members of YDAF already live within the western part of the extension area);
(e) Any other transitional arrangements you believe should be put in place.

The YDAF's views on any or all of the above are welcomed by **7 June 2016**.

Please submit your response in writing or by email to:

Rachel Briggs
Access Development Officer
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Yoredale
Bainbridge
North Yorkshire DL8 3EL

Email Rachel.briggs@yorkshiredales.org.uk

In the interim if you have any comments of questions please do not hesitate to get in contact. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

K. Beardmore

Kathryn Beardmore
Director of Park Services

Yoredale, Bainbridge,
Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL
**Tel: 0300 456 0030** or **01969 652300**
Fax: 01969 652399
Website: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk
E-mail: info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Chief Executive: David Butterworth

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

**Meeting title: Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Access Forum**

**Minutes**

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**Date** 9th March 2016 **Start time** 10.30 am **Finish time** 4.00 pm

**Location** East Riding of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Beverley

**Attendees**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Pearlman (JP) | Leeds Local Access Forum |
| Hazel Armstrong (HA) | East Riding and Hull Local Access Forum |
| Fran Ross (FR) | North Lincolnshire Local Access Forum |
| Ted Mullins (TM) | Rotherham Local Access Forum |
| Peter Cogill (PC) | Rotherham Local Access Forum |
| Philip Robinson (PR) | Natural England |
| Steve Howgill (SH) | East Riding of Yorkshire Council |
| Rachel Connolly (RH) | North Yorkshire Local Access Forum |
| Tony Hunt (TH) | Barnsley Local Access Forum |
| Mike Willison (MW) | Leeds Local Access Forum |
| Catriona Cook (CC) | North York Moors Local Access Forum |
| John Richardson (JR) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Access Forum |
| Alistair Thompson (AT) | Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Access Forum |
| Didy Metcalf (DM) | Bradford Local Access Forum |
| Jim Buckley (JB) | Wakefield Local Access Forum |

**Apologies**

| | |
|---|---|
| Andy Mackintosh | Natural England |
| Terry Howard | Sheffield Local Access Forum (letter no longer attending) |

**Action points**

| Ref no. | Action | Owner |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | **Funding** - DM to ask Bradford MDC if they are able to set up a bank account for the deposit of Y & H R LAF funds. | DM |
| **5.** | **Historical Research -** PC & CC to check availability of Sarah Bucks and Phil Wadey for training courses in our region and organise them. Also to explore how we co-ordinate the sharing of information with LAFs. | **PC & CC** |
| **7. 1** | **Withdrawal of Permissive Access –** (National Response)<br>JP to write to Rory Stewart | **JP** |
| | MW to post our support for the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAFs' paper on HUDDLE | **MW** |
| **7.2** | **Withdrawal of Permissive Access –** (Local Response)<br>AT to compile a report to be circulated to LAFs. | **AT** |
| **8.1** | **Cycling and Walking Strategy –** response | |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | RC to write to Robert Goodwill | **RC** |
| **8.2** | **Invite Ministers to a meeting at Bainbridge**<br>CC will invite Robert Goodwill<br>JR will ask colleague from the Lake District to approach Rory Stewart. | <br>**CC**<br>**JR** |
| **9.** | **Communication between LNPs and LAFs**<br>PR will raise the issue again at his next meeting with LNPs<br>We all need to raise it with our LAFs | <br>**PR**<br>**All** |
| **10.** | **Network Rail crossing closures**<br>JP to write to Mr Gisby asking for their position paper and copy to Rory Stewart. | <br>**JP** |
| **12.** | **LAF Conference Feedback**<br>PR will pass feedback to NE | <br>**PR** |
| **14** | **Future of Regional LAF - nationally**<br>JP to write to David Shaw | <br>**JP** |
| **14.2** | **Regional LAF constitution**<br>JP to try to draft a definition of our duties for next meeting. | <br>**JP** |

**1. Welcome**

| |
|---|
| Steve Howgill welcomed Y & H R LAF members to County Hall on behalf of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. PR invited him to sit in on the meeting. |

**2. Matters Arising/ Minutes of the last Meeting**

| | |
|---|---|
| Admin query | JR He had not received minutes of the last meeting. It was confirmed that minutes should be circulated through the local LAF secretariat. |
| P 5/6 | HA Should read:<br>North Lincolnshire<br>Improvements to Castlethorpe Bridge riverside paths so wheelchairs can use them.<br>Development and signage of the Ironstone Walk, Scunthorpe<br>East Riding and Hull<br>Green Lane subgroup discussed damage on green lanes subject to TROs. |
| P 6 | PC Rotherham Success on agreeing diversions after 10 years, now had objections |
| **Resolved:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting. | |

**3. Election of Chair, Deputy, Secretariat.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Chair | Jerry Pearlman |
| Vice Chair | Hazel Armstrong |
| Secretary | Didy Metcalf |
| **Resolved:** that the above people were duly elected. | |

**4. Funding Y & H R LAF**

| | |
|---|---|
| | **Offers received:** in response to letters sent by Y & H R LAF, members reported that contributions have been offered by local authorities from: |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yorkshire Dales National Park | £ 100 - AT this year not ongoing |
| | East Riding of Yorkshire Council | £ 100 - HA for 2016/17 |
| | Rotherham | £ 100 - PC |
| | Barnsley | £ 100 - TH |
| TH | Offered Barnsley as venue for the next meeting. | |
| PC & TH | Commented that their local authorities require an invoice before they can release the money. Other members agreed that as this is common practice across all local authorities, some form of invoice will need to be drawn up. | |
| JP | Said we need to clarify why we need the money. | |
| SH | The administrative cost to the local authority hosting a meeting is equivalent to £100. | |
| AT PC AT & SH | If our local authorities can offer meeting rooms and members travel expenses are met by LAs, do we need money? Do we need a room for meetings or £100? | |
| PR | Commented that these are generous offers which we should accept. | |
| JP | Perhaps we should not push this item. Leave the status quo and review it when needed. | |
| **Resolved:** AT asked that our grateful thanks to the authorities who have pledged money be minuted. | | |
| **Resolved:** DM to check if Bradford MDC is able to open an account to receive those funds. | | |

**5. Natural England update**

| | |
|---|---|
| PR | **1. National LAF Conferences** – relayed a message from AM who hoped that members had found the conferences useful. Information about them will soon be made available on HUDDLE for all to share. |
| | **2. Rights of Way reform:** Defra updates on this have been minimal; their presentation at the northern conference was disappointing and they are yet to publish advice on the basic evidential test to be applied. Dave Waterman, formerly DEFRA's the lead person on the Deregulation Act 2015 has moved to another post, resulting in the loss of his considerable expertise on rights of way. |
| JR | Had attended both conferences and reported that the presentation given in Bristol by Jonathan Tweeney had been better. |
| CC | Expressed concern about the standard of the basic evidential test to be applied: "Restoring the Record" by Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks is helpful but also misleading, as it is written from experience of a different landscape. Many of the key documents required by their points system simply do not exist in some areas of our region. If this approach were to be strictly applied as the basic evidential test by which claims are evaluated, many of our claims would be disqualified. |
| JP | Felt it was nevertheless a useful system to save time. |
| PC | Suggested we invite Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks to hold seminars for our LAFs. He hoped we could all work together to share any information we collect relating to historical records. Perhaps they could be made available electronically. |
| CC | Agreed to help PC organise the seminars and confirmed she would be happy to share information. |
| **Resolved:** Historical Research - PC & CC to check availability of Sarah Bucks and Phil Wadey for training courses in our region and organise them. Also to explore how we co-ordinate the sharing of information with LAFs. | |
| **Resolved:** We also resolved to see of any training course could be shared with others especially West Riding Ramblers and I was to put Catriona in touch with their Footpath chairman [which I did] | |
| PR | **3. LAF Annual National Report:** appreciated the good participation from LAFs |
| PR | **4. LAF News:** would be discussed later. |

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**6. Cross Compliance**

| | |
|---|---|
| **JP** | Drew our attention to the latest 2016 guidance on Cross Compliance (GAEC 7b: Public Rights of Way), setting out the rules to be observed by all farmers and landowners who receive payments under the Basic Payment Scheme, a Stewardship Scheme or a Woodland Grant Scheme. Recipients must ensure all public paths are open and accessible to the public. People have right to complain if a landowner wilfully obstructs or damages the surface of a right of way. Details of recipients under the Basic Payment Schemes can be checked with the Rural Payments Agency (Tel: 03000 200 301) and details of grant schemes can be viewed online at http://www.magic.gov.uk/ |

**7. Permissive Access**

| | |
|---|---|
| JP | **A Proposal for Future Permissive Access in Stewardship Schemes Report -** compiled by South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAFs. Member's attention was drawn to the fact that grants for creating permissive access are no longer available under the new Mid-Tier and Higher - Tier Countryside Stewardship (CS) which began on 1st January 2016. Some permissive access will remain under the old Entry and Higher Level Schemes but these will all have expired by 2020. This is certain to result in the loss of a large quantity of highly valued permissive access both nationally and within our own region. |
| RC | **1. National Response:**<br>We need to raise the potential extent of the loss nationally with the DEFRA Minister and the Minister of Recreation and Sport. |
| HA | Also point out that it is not compatible with the Health and Wellbeing initiative outlined in the former Minister, Dan Rogerson's letter. |
| PC | Suggested we copy DR's letter to the region's MPs. |
| RC | Post our support on HUDDLE |
| **Resolved**: JP will write to Rory Stewart | |
| **Resolved:** MW will post our support for the paper on HUDDLE. | |
| | **2. Local response:** |
| PR | Suggested we follow West Midlands' example by compiling a list of end of life schemes in our area which we could circulate to LAFs asking them to put pressure on landowners. |
| SH | Located the NE webpage showing the schemes that are still in operation. http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/walk-ride.aspx |
| JP | LAFs will need to write to local owners urging them to retain access and let the press know the extent and value of the potential losses. |
| AT | Thought local knowledge is essential to establish if the paths are still accessible and still needed. |
| **Resolved:** AT will compile a report to circulate to LAFs. | |

**8. Cycling and Walking Strategy**

| | |
|---|---|
| **JP** | 1. Thought the Strategy focussed on urban walking and cycling with not enough emphasis on rural paths or recreation. |
| **RC** | Commented that the Strategy is not ambitious enough and exclusive of other interests e.g. horse riding. |

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| | |
|---|---|
| **HA** | Suggested we respond to this on behalf of all vulnerable road users, giving examples of good practice like the East Yorkshire Bypass and South Yorkshire example. |
| **Resolved:** Rachel will incorporate these responses in a letter to Robert Goodwill. | |
| **JR** | 2. Put forward the idea that we should encourage the relevant Ministers to talk to one another and suggested we should invite Rory Stewart (DEFRA) and Robert Goodwill (DFT) to a meeting in Bainbridge. He noted that although this strategy clearly affects rights of way (a DEFRA responsibility) it had been written by the Ministry of Transport, which sees matters only from a transport capacity perspective. The network of public highways and rights of way should be seen as a whole, particularly the higher rights which are open to everyone. |
| **Resolved:** CC will attend her constituency surgery and invite Robert Goodwill.<br>**Resolved:** JR will ask a colleague from the Lake District to approach Rory Stewart | |

**9 Local Nature Partnerships**

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| **JR** | Circulated a list of contacts for the 8 LNPs in our region. He said NE is still exploring what needs to be done to improve communication between LNPs and LAFs. He asked members if their LAFs had had any success with liaising with LNPs. |
| **AT** | YD Upland Nature Partnership seemed more concerned about the environment than access. A wider concern was that interaction may not be happening at all. He thought it important that we all join forces to take advantage of opportunities for direct and matched funding |
| **HA** | Had attended a conference in Hull at which a representative of their LNP had spoken to the LAF. She thought that their objectives of the conservation of nature and access were conflicting. |
| **MW** | Leeds LAF had written to their LNP but had no reply |
| **TH** | South Yorkshire had had no response. |
| **DM** | Bradford LAF was uncertain about whom to approach. The Council's CROW Manager will attend the next LNP meeting and report back. |
| **CC** | Made the general point that although in conservation circles it is often believed that access and conservation conflict, we need to stress that in reality there is evidence that they do not. |
| **PR** | Meets with LEPs and LNPs where he stresses the importance of access, but they seem to be struggling to find a role for themselves. |
| **Resolved:** PR will raise the issue again with the LNPs. | |
| **Resolved:** We should all raise this again with our LAFs | |

**10. Network Rail**

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| **JP** | A letter from Dan Rogerson (former DEFRA Minister) to Robin Gisby was circulated, stressing the importance of retaining the connectivity of existing rights of way, where the closure of railway crossings was being considered for safety reasons. |
| **HA** | Reported that electrification schemes and HS2 are threatening to close many crossings. |
| **PC** | Gave an example where a closure had completely cut off a farmer's access to his land. |
| **RC** | James Perkins formerly a NYCC RoW officer is now the Route Level Crossing Manager for Network Rail North East and is willing to consult. The telephone systems were proving a good option if designed properly with gates positioned well back from rails. |
| **MW** | Reported a good dialogue in the Leeds area. Giving an example of a RoW closed but replaced by a bridge. There is reasonable agreement about exploring options. |
| **JH** | In Barnsley NR are in discussion with ROW team about 4 or 5 crossings. |
| **AT** | Commented that the letter is good but the interpretation may be changing. This could be item to discuss with the Ministers RS & RG |

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| **JP** | Noted that at the 2014 LAF northern conference the Network Rail speaker seemed receptive Although he confirmed that they do have powers to just close them. Write to advise they must consider an alternative. |
| **Resolved:** JP will write to Mr Gisby asking if there is a position paper (referred to by Dan Rogerson) and copy this to Rory Stewart. | |

**11. Other Regions**

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| JP | Noted that it was interesting how they all raise similar items. |
| HA | Commented that outsourcing services can be a problem, particularly in cross boundary matters. |

**12. LAF Conference Feedback**

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| **AT** | Reported that vociferous views were expressed but no resolutions had been made. The conferences should include objectives and resolutions. |
| **PC** | Name badges would be helpful to assist networking with members from other LAFs. |
| **CC** | Again disappointed there were so few younger people |
| **PR** | Explained the conference had been put together at short notice with little money. |
| **Resolved:** PR will pass our comments on to NE. | |

**13. Extension of Yorkshire Dales National Park.**

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| **AT** | Explained that the YDNP has been extended by 25% and now includes parts of Cumbria and Lancashire. This was approved in August 2015 and will come into force on 1st August 2016. The local authorities are working closely to make it happen. With regard to the composition of the LAF, this is an evolving situation. There are 3 options under consideration:<br>1. Joint LAF<br>2. Co-opted members<br>3. 1 LAF to cover the whole of the YDNP. |

**14. Future of the Regional LAF**

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| **JP** | **Overview of the current position re: admin -** is that Rachel Briggs and Mohammed Dhaleck our Regional Co-ordinators are no longer funded, (contracted to NE from YDNP). PR will still support us but he may be stepping down, which raises the following questions:<br>How are we going liaise with NE?<br>How will we be alerted to new legislation and guidance notes?<br>How will we pull documents together and circulate them? |
| **PR** | A colleague in NE will probably be our point of contact but will not have time to do the work that PR has done. Access and engagement is no longer a DEFRA objective. Rob Leek will be posting items on HUDDLE and will also send them out to LAF secretaries. |
| **MW** | Suggested that we can download documents from HUDDLE and we will still be able to send minutes out electronically. |
| **AT** | Asked why NE cannot help the regional LAF. |
| **HA** | Asked if NE were likely to change their position. |
| **PR** | Replied that he thought it unlikely due to lack of resources. The responsibility lies with DEFRA which has a statutory duty to support LAFs but not RLAFs. He made the point that his best use of time had been to attend the regional meetings where he could get an overview of opinion |

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| | rather that attending every LAF meeting in the region. |
| **CC** | Suggested we write making this point to the NE area manager David Shaw. |
| **Resolved:** JP will write to David Shaw. | |
| | **1. Funding Projects** |
| **PR** | Explained that LAFS cannot actually bid for funding. |
| **HA** | Suggested schemes such as "Friends of", "Awards for all" and Sustainable development funds eg wind farms. |
| **PR** | Did not think those viable on a regional basis but added that LAFs should be made aware of a package that can be downloaded from Huddle. |
| **TM** | Commented that there is a difficulty submitting bids to fund items which local authorities should finance. |
| **HA** | Suggested we ask for help from our LAF local authorities fund chasing teams. |
| **AT** | Supported this and said it was in the interests of local authorities to help us. |
| **PC** | Noted that for small projects all that is needed is an A4 sized constitution and a bank account with 2 signatories. |
| **JP** | **2. Influencing Strategies –** JP asked members to suggest agenda items for the next meeting. |
| **HA** | Asked if people could bring forward any problems they were having with the Environment Agency. |
| **RC** | Was not satisfied with Highways England (now replacing the Highways Authority) which has not complied with the Inspectors recommendations at PI on the A1 upgrade, and NMU engagement with HE has been much frustrated by their reluctance to co-operate. |
| **JP** | Suggested we need a paper on non- motorised user groups' engagement with the Highways Agency in order to understand the issues. |
| **PC** | Suggested we could write to our MPs within our own LAFs, which could be followed up with a letter from Y & H RLAF. |
| **TH** | HS2 Access for all. There should be a general presumption that multi-use crossings and diversions associated with the railway line should be provided. A paper setting out the best value of this approach could be put. |
| **PC** | Commented that for this we should liaise with other regional LAFs |
| **JP** | Pointed out that we do not have a definition of our duties defined in a constitution. |
| **Resolved:** JP will put something together for the next meeting. | |

**15. Transport and Works Act in relation to Street Gazetteer**

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| **JP** | Outlined the situation: On 1st April 2016 each Local Authority must publish a Street Gazetteer. Stepping Forward mentioned that certain rights will be saved if they are recorded on the List of Streets and Street Gazetteer but we don't know the tie up between the two and need a right of access to this information.<br>LAFs should be asked to do the following:<br>1. Find out what their Local Authority is doing about this.<br>2. Is it available to the public?<br>3. What information are they including? For example, if it includes unsurfaced UCRs, RT roads and other privately maintained roads with public access |
| **Resolved:** members should raise this at their next LAF meeting and ask what approach their local authority is taking. | |

**16. News from LAFS**

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| **RC** | NY LAF – Re-created again with a good enthusiastic organiser. |
| **TH** | Barnsley LAF – There have been no budget cuts and an apprentice post has been created. The Council is talking to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to help manage reserves. |
| **MW** | 1. Leeds LAF – Storm Eva has caused damage to 12 paths re-instatement costs are estimated at £200,000. Members wrote to their MPs about this and a reply from the Minister recommended that they write to person in charge of flood risk.<br><br>2. The rights of way section are losing 2 members of staff.<br><br>3. Slow progress with the Health Agenda. MW attended a meeting<br><br>4. Consultation has opened on the proposed Leeds Bradford Airport link roads. |
| **CC** | NYM LAF – a new bridleway bridge over the river Esk has been opened. Definitive Map work has been handed back to NYCC. |
| **AT** | YDAF – The evolving situation re: extension of the park (item 13.) There has been damage from floods, on the positive side there is funding. |
| **HA** | Legitimate green lane user groups worked closely with the LAF sub group to draw up a protocol which was signed off by the Council. This allows seasonal closure by TRO to allow for repair work and prevent damage to the surface; however some have chosen to use the lanes at night over the winter shortly after repairs had taken place and the results are horrendous.<br><br>The police have been involved and are working with the Parish Councils to address the issue.<br><br>The Beverley Southern Relief Road is open and the adjacent bridleway should be opened soon when the ground conditions improve and the final link is in place. |
| **FR** | NL LAF – Signage has been installed for the Ironstone Walk in Scunthorpe. The Forum is now looking at creating an Ironstone Trail for cycling and horse riding. |
| **TM** | Rotherham LAF - now has a new person to work on the Definitive map, who is still in training but doing a good job. |
| **JB** | Wakefield LAF – are monitoring the Wakefield Relief Road which has a lot of development associated with it. |
| **DM** | Bradford LAF – with the council we gave a presentation to our Parish Councils' Liaison Committee, to raise awareness of the cut-off date – none of them were aware of it. We suggested that they might adopt a 'parish review' approach to ensure paths are not lost. We used the example of Devon CC which is currently carrying out parish reviews. They report that it provides an efficient system for compiling claims, minimising conflict and gaining agreement with landowners. |

**17. Date of next meeting.**

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| **TH** | **Wednesday 21st September 2016.** Committee Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall**.** 10.15 am to 4.00pm. |

**AOB.**

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| **CC** | Told us she will be making another 'BBT Journey for Access' this summer from Dartmoor to the New Forest. It is intended to raise awareness of the 'cut-of date' and all funds raised with donated to the Trusts work and its Legal Fund. More details are available on their web page at http://www.bywayandbridleway.net/journey-for-access/ |
| **JP** | Hoped someone might suggest a speaker for the next meeting. |
| **TH** | Asked if there a deadline for Agenda items and suggested Jo Brand might speak. |
| **JP** | Thanked East Yorkshire and Humberside County Council for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. |

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