

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – May 2021

Public Rights of Way Annual Report 2020/21

Purpose of the report

1. To receive comments from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF) on the Rights of Way Annual Report for the period April 2020 to March 2021, prior to submission to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in June 2021.

Background

2. The annual report (**Appendix 1**) identifies progress made on public rights of way maintenance against our targets in the Corporate Plan and highlights achievements. For the period April 2020 to March 2021 this work was undertaken through delegation agreements with Cumbria County Council (CCC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). As part of these delegation agreements the Authority is required to submit a report to the county councils each year.
3. The Authority has taken on responsibility for rights of way maintenance functions, under delegation, because a well-managed rights of way network is important for delivery of the National Park Authority's statutory purposes. Many people use the rights of way network to enjoy the special qualities of the area. A network that can be used with confidence is beneficial to visitors, land managers and residents alike. Over the past year the pandemic has highlighted the importance of the National Park, and its network of Public Rights of Way to the nation as a whole.
4. For obvious reasons, early in the year all but emergency works on Public Rights of Way were stopped for 10 weeks. Works resumed in May 2020, with the easing of the first lockdown and has continued throughout the rest of the year, adapting to the changes in restrictions as required.

Ease of Use Target

5. The Authority's current objective for Rights of Way maintenance is based on the National Park Management Plan objective B1 which states:

Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2023

6. 'Ease of use' in this context is based on a nationally established performance indicator for rights of way and is defined as:
 - I. signposted or waymarked where the right of way leaves the metalled road and to the extent necessary to allow users to follow the path;

- II. free from unlawful obstructions and other interference, (including overhanging vegetation);
- III. surface and lawful barriers (e.g. stiles, gates) in good repair and to a standard necessary to enable the public to use the way without undue inconvenience.

In simple terms, a member of the public should be able to follow a route easily and not encounter anything that detracts from the enjoyment of the route whether on foot, horse, bicycle or using a mobility scooter.

7. The current 'ease of use' figure for the National Park is 88%. This meets the proposed target of 88% set in the Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan for 2020 (adopted by the Authority in September 2018), and is in line with our ambition to have the whole National Park at 90% ease of use by 2023.
8. This year's result is pleasing - suggesting we are on course to reach our 'target' in the National Park Management Plan. However, there is a note of caution the 'ease of use' indicator measures a 5% random sample of rights of way across the network, as such figures fluctuate year on year. Results over several years are required to average out any sampling variation and determine the figure which is a true reflection of the network. For example, last year's result was 90%, but we were already aware this year's figure was likely to be lower due to the continued effects of the flood damage experienced in 2019, and the first lockdown in 2020, which only saw emergency works taking place on the network. This year's figure of 88% may reflect a 2% drop from the previous year or maybe a fluctuation due to the sampling or both.

Pennine National Trails Partnership

9. The Authority continues to perform 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:
 - Accepting the grant offer from Natural England and claim and receive payments;
 - Having an oversight of delivery and reporting to Natural England about how our financial support has been used by the Partnership and what has been achieved;
 - Ensuring that partners have the opportunity to participate in the management and development of the maintenance of the trails.
10. During the past year that the Authority has performed this role, the partnership has worked well and has:
 - Distributed 29 grants to 12 different partners;
 - Total expenditure across the trails of £564,640;
 - Grant funding from NE of £348,342 (higher than last year as an additional £16,000 towards the replacement of a large bridleway bridge in Oldham was secured);
 - £216,298 secured in match funding through partner contributions, event donations, official beer sales, and wooden fingerblade (signs) sales;
 - England's Great Walking Trails project produced 3 additional single-centre itineraries for the Pennine Way, largely aimed at the 2021 staycation market;
 - Both trails are being promoted through the Welcome to Yorkshire "Walkshire" campaign alongside the other National Trails in Yorkshire;

- A new promotional Pennine Bridleway film has been created, which will be launched later in the year to coincide with wider marketing of the Pennine Bridleway;
- Data from people counters along the routes provided information about the use of the trails during the Covid pandemic;
- A 'National Trails Alliance Development Manager' has been appointed by the National Trails family – Jo Atkey started in post on 6th April 2021.

11. Discussions with Natural England (NE) have continued in relation to the National Park Management Plan objective B2 and the Coast to Coast route, which is:

Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes, identify opportunities for new multi-user routes, and campaign for the Coast-to-Coast path to become a National Trail by 2024.

12. NE building on the recent Treasury statement reference to funding for the Coast to Coast, have included a proposal to develop a feasibility study and development of a proposal for the Secretary of State during 2021/22. However, NE is still awaiting confirmation of funding.

Volunteers

13. Volunteers have continued to assist with practical rights of way works, but the number of days this year has been significantly reduced on the previous year. In 2019/20 volunteers completed 1,600 practical days and despite the restrictions in place, have still managed to complete 424 days on practical works during 2020/21. However, the surveying of the public rights of way network has continued undiminished with 510 volunteer days in 2019/20 and 475 days completed this year. This work included:

- Conducting both 'ease of use surveys and Parish Path surveys for the entire network of the National Park;
- A visual inspection and report on each bridge in the National Park;
- Inputting all survey information into Authority's IT database.

Funding

14. The rights of way programme has continued to tap into external income streams to resource this area of work. During 2020/21 the Authority was successful in bringing in £223k of external funding and individual contributions and contribution in kind from various sources of £21k.

Lancashire delegation

15. Discussions continued through 2020/21 with Lancashire County Council (LCC) with a Corporate Plan action from 2019/20 to determine whether LCC would provide the Authority with a scheme of delegation for rights of way in the Lancashire part of the National Park, similar to those with NYCC and CCC. LCC had agreed to do this but the final Delegation Agreement has been delayed due to Coronavirus, as such, LCC have continued to maintain their network during 2020/21. However, the delegation

agreement was finally signed and sealed in March 2021 to start from 1st April 2021. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is now the delegated Authority for the maintenance of Public Rights of Way over the whole of the National Park.

Conclusion

16. The 2020/21 'ease of use' figure of 88% has met expectations; however, there is a note of caution because this figure is measured from a 5% random sample of rights of way across the network. Sampling means figures fluctuate year on year.
17. Rights of way maintenance and volunteering continue to make an important contribution to the work of the Authority. The Authority helps 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 have an enjoyable experience of the area. Businesses benefit because access to the area's special qualities, through the rights of way network, underpins the visitor economy. This is especially important this year, because of the increase in stay vacations and the lengthening of the visitor season.
18. The importance placed on rights of way maintenance and access is often cited as one of the advantages of being in a National Park, this has become even more important in recent times for individual's health and well-being. We are already seeing the benefits of managing the network as a whole, with an increase in rights of way 'ease of use' across the National Park and with the addition of the LCC routes it means we now maintain the entire network. We strive to ensure the Yorkshire Dales National Park has one of the best maintained rights of way networks in the country as befits the priority given to it by Members of the Authority. This work is undertaken on behalf of the County Councils who retain the statutory responsibility.

What the YDAF are being asked to do?

19. YDAF members are asked to comment on the Rights of Way Annual report and **Appendix 1** before their consideration by the National Park Authority at their meeting on 30 June 2020.

Alan Hulme
Head of Park Management

30 April 2021

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

**Public Rights of Way
Delegated Highway Authority**

Annual Report 2020/21

April 2021

Introduction

1. For the period of this report, April 2020 to March 2021, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) had delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for maintenance of 2,608 km of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic, and restricted byways) within the National Park area. The current Delegation Agreements are with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Cumbria County Council (CCC) for maintenance of 1898 km and 710 km respectively. There are a further 15 km of public rights of way in the Lancashire area of the National Park, which Lancashire County Council (LCC) continued to maintain in 2020/21. A similar Delegation Agreement with LCC, as those with NYCC and CCC, was agreed in March 2021. In total there are 2,623 km of public rights of way in the National Park, which from 1 April 2021 the Authority is responsible for their maintenance.
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.

About this Report

4. This report identifies the key achievements for the year 2020/21. It considers the Authority's corporate actions, targets and progress relating to the following areas:
 - General maintenance
 - River crossings
 - Major projects
 - Path Orders and Definitive Map
 - Pennine National Trails Partnership Management
 - Unclassified Unsurfaced Roads (North Yorkshire)
 - Flood damage
 - COVID19 Coronavirus

Key Achievements 2020/21

Public Rights of Way Maintenance

5. During 2020/21 the following maintenance work was undertaken:

- 1,084 improvements to rights of way infrastructure: stiles, gates and signposts;
- 61 river crossings and 2 sets of stepping stones maintained or replaced;
- 2.7 km of engineered paths maintained;

6. A total of **£243,329** of external funding and in kind contributions were secured for rights of way projects in the National Park. The breakdown is as follows:

Value	Description
£ 64,443	National Trails Partnership Manager and Lead Role;
£ 23,603	Pennine Way Ranger;
£ 1,158	Pennine Way, maintenance;
£ 6,350	Pennine Way, Harddraw Flagging;
£ 862	Pennine Way, Malham Flagging;
£ 30,384	Pennine Bridleway Officer;
£ 2,102	Pennine Bridleway, maintenance;
£ 21,240	Three Peaks Project (Friends Scheme, merchandise and donations);
£ 4,560	Donations for various works Southern Dales;
£ 16,645	Donations for various works Northern Dales;
£ 3,755	Path Orders;
£ 39,516	Works to Unsurfaced Unclassified Country Roads, (NYCC);
<u>£ 7,911</u>	Stories in Stone, Ingleborough walkers shelter and topography project
£222,529	

Contribution in kind

£20,000	Hanson Ltd 600t of stone
<u>£ 800</u>	NYCC Starbotton Flood Damage Underwater Bridge Report
£20,800	

£243,329 Total

Pennine Way

7. Total funding secured for the Pennine Way, for 2020/21, was £31,973:

- £23,603 for Pennine Way Ranger post;
- £ 1,158 for general maintenance works to stiles, gates and river crossings;
- £ 6,350 for flagging of Harddraw footpath from Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery donation;
- £ 862 for additional flagging, Miresfield, Malham.

Pennine Bridleway

8. Total funding secured for the Pennine Bridleway, for 2020/21, was £32,486:
- £30,384 for Pennine Bridleway Officer;
 - £ 2,102 for general maintenance works for stiles, gates and river crossings.

Pennine National Trails Partnership

9. During 2020/21, the Authority was the Lead Partner for the Pennine National Trails partnership and will continue performing the role for the foreseeable future.

10. 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.

11. Over the last year, between April 2020 to March 2021, the partnership has met on 2 occasions by video conference, and the Authority through the partnership has:

- Distributed 29 grants to 12 different partners;
- Total expenditure across the trails of £564,640;
- Grant funding from NE of £348,342 (higher than last year due to securing an additional £16,000 towards the replacement of a large bridleway bridge in Oldham);
- £216,298 secured in match funding through partner contributions, event donations, official beer sales, and fingerblade (wooden sign) sales;
- England's Great Walking Trails project produced 3 additional single-centre itineraries for the Pennine Way, largely aimed at the 2021 staycation market;
- Both trails are being promoted through the Welcome to Yorkshire "Walkshire" campaign alongside the other National Trails in Yorkshire;
- A new promotional Pennine Bridleway film has been created which will be launched later in the year to coincide with wider marketing of the Pennine Bridleway;
- Data from people counters along the routes have been very valuable in monitoring the use of the trails during the Covid pandemic;
- A 'National Trails Alliance Development Manager' has been appointed by the National Trails family – Jo Atkey started in post on 6th April 2021.

12. The Authority received £50,756 (100%) grant for the Partnership Manager post and £13,867 income for hosting of the Partnership Manager and its role as Lead Partner.

13. In 2020 the Partnership continued to work on the England's Great Walking Trails Project through the Discover England Funding which specifically promotes the Pennine Way and holiday package options. In addition, work has continued with Welcome to Yorkshire on the 'Walkshire' campaign to promote both national trails, as well as producing a video to specifically promote the Pennine Bridleway.

Three Peaks

14. During 2020/21 implementation of the 3 Peaks Project has continued, including carrying out of Phase 2 of the Ingleborough Access Project with the completion of a 172m of stone pitching at High Lot approaching the summit of Ingleborough from the Chapel le Dale and 172m of flagging on the Sulber Nick footpath.
15. Due to Coronavirus the Three Peaks income reduced, but still managed to raise £21,240 towards the cost of the Three Peaks Ranger (post furloughed for 6 weeks). The numbers of Friends (386) and Corporate Members (115) have remained constant during the year.

Path Orders and Definitive Map

16. During 2020/21 progress has continued on Public Path Orders. The following Orders were completed by the Authority:

Public Path Orders:

North Yorkshire	Order Process
Green Gates, Long Preston, Diversion Highways Act	Confirmed
Craven Lime Works, Langcliffe, Diversion Highways Act	Confirmed
Slei Gill, Arkengarthdale, Diversion Highways Act	Confirmed

Temporary and Emergency Closure Orders

North Yorkshire/Cumbria	Order Process
11 Emergency Closures	Completed
11 Temporary Closure for 6 months	Completed
13 Further extensions on current Temporary Closure	On-going

Resources

17. In 2020/21 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 Authority's rights of way maintenance budget was £261k.

18. In addition, there were a further 2.8 FTE externally funded posts. These were:

Pennine Way Ranger (1.0 FTE)

The Authority received 63% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Way Ranger.

Pennine Bridleway Project Officer (1.0 FTE)

The Authority received 63% funding for their maintenance role.

Three Peaks Ranger (0.8 FTE)

The Three Peaks Ranger post was funded through income and donations generated by the project during 2020/21 with £21,240 collected through the Friends and Corporate Members, merchandise, event donations and furlough payment.

19. The Authority is also supported by the Dales Volunteers and other volunteers. In total 424 days of practical work, and 475 days of surveying, were undertaken on the rights

of way network by volunteers, this year. This equates to approximately 4 full time staff equivalents; this is a decrease on the previous year of 10 full time equivalents. However, this is a fantastic achievement considering the Coronavirus restrictions in place for much of the year. The surveying of all the PRoW in the National Park is a significant achievement, and means we are in an excellent place to know exactly what work is required for the coming year.

Corporate Plan 2020/21

20. The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan, 2020/21, 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 2020/21:

Performance Indicators	16/17 Actual	17/18 Actual	18/19 Actual	19/20 Actual	20/21 Target	20/21 Actual
% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road (old National Park area only)	(96.2%)	(95%)	(97%)	(97%)	98%	98%
% of rights of way that are easy to use but may not follow the definitive line (old National Park area only)	(88%)	(85%)	(90%)	(90%)	88%	88%

21. Specific Corporate Plan actions for 2020/21 were:

Action	NYCC In the park	CCC In the park	Total	Achieved
Repair 2.6 km of previously engineered routes, including significant works on Mastiles Lane, Bordley and Hardraw flagged path, High Abbotside.	2.6km		2.7km	Yes
Replace a bridge at Underley Grange, Casterton and carry out repairs to 3 other bridges and erect a new bridge at Haw Gill, Thoraby	4	1	5	Yes
Undertake the first phase of erosion repair to the Simons Seat path by flagging 300m.	300m		300m	Yes
Maintain existing roadside signs so that the number of places where a right of way is signposted from a metalled road remains at 98%.			98%	Yes
Repair stiles and gates identified in parish path surveys so that 93% remain in satisfactory condition.			94%	Yes
In conjunction with Natural England, implement the second phase of the Ingleborough Access Project.				Yes
With funding support from North Yorkshire County Council, implement a programme of flood recovery work to footpaths and bridges in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale.				Yes

Performance Indicators by area

22. 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, and for the whole National Park area unless stated).

Performance Indicator	Target	NYCC In the park	CCC In the park	LCC 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%	91%	84%	78%	88%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	98%	98%	98%	86%	98%
% of infrastructure - stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	93%	95%	90%	69%	94%
Performance Indicator	Target	NYCC In the park	CCC In the park	LCC In the park	YDNPA
% of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability	209km				215km

Ease of Use results

23. The Authority's 2020/21 objective for Rights of Way maintenance is based on the new National Park Management Plan 2019/24. The objective for 2020/21 was 88%:

Target Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2023.

24. In 2013, the English National Park Authorities Joint Improvement Group (JIG) 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.

25. Each year's survey selects, randomly, a number of paths making up 5% of the overall network. In total, approximately 132km were surveyed (88km NYCC, 42km CCC and 2km LCC) in the National Park in 2020. 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.

2020 Ease of Use Results	NYCC In the Park	CCC In the Park	LCC In the park	YDNPA
% Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' but may not follow the exact definitive line in the National Park	91%	84%	78%	88%

Signing

Target. Maintain at 97% the proportion of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road in 2020/21.

26. The Authority's 2020/21 objective for 'signing' is based on the whole of the national park and the 5 Year Maintenance Plan 2019/24 and Corporate Action Plan targets. The calculations below give a true picture of the situation across the National Park.

27. The Access Recording System indicates that there were 2,064 places in the National Park requiring a signpost at the roadside. There were (98%) actually in situ with 38 (2%) missing. During 2020/21, 172 directional signs were replaced or repaired where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (footpath/bridleway), distance and destination. In addition, 144 signposts have been replaced or repaired indicating direction, distance or status along public rights of way in the National Park.

28. Signposts from a Metalled Road based on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Recording System:

	Total	Present	Missing	% in situ
YDNPA	2311	2,273	38	98%
NYCC	1474	1464	10	99%
CCC	808	784	24	97%
LCC	29	25	4	86%

General Maintenance

29. The following section provides a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out, during 2020/21, in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the rights of way network.

Infrastructure

Type	Total improved 2020/21
Ladder Stile	9
Timber Step Stile	56
Stone Step Stile	74
Stone Squeeze Stile	164
Fieldgate > 5ft	220
Handgate < 5ft	117
Kissing Gate	18
Boardwalk	5
Signpost (directional on route)	126
Waymarker post	87
Information Sign	15
Roadside Signpost Present	139
Steps	18
Culvert	36
Total	1084

River Crossings (includes bridges and stepping stones)

TYPE	Cumbria CC	NYCC	YDNPA	
	repair/replaced/ erected	repair/replaced/ erected	Total improved	Total in Park
Bridges	11	50	61	977
Stepping Stones	0	2	2	33
Total	11	52	63	

Miles without Stiles (access for those with limited ability)

30. 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.
31. We will also continue to measure the two 'access for all' indicators against very strict criteria as laid out by Natural England. This is 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 (1st indicator) rather than more challenging routes capable of being used by wheelchair users with strong pusher (2nd indicator).
32. Over the year we have continued to make progress by increasing the length of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability to 215km, an increase of 11km on the previous year. We have continued to reduce physical barriers along rights of way by removing stiles and replacing with gates. There has also been some initial work to identify and test, practically, routes by less abled visitors in the new area of the National Park and we hope to add these this coming year.

Major Projects

33. Under the Delegation Schemes the Authority has responsibility for the 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	
Grassington Bridge to Lower Grass Wood	60m flagging
TOTAL	60m
North Yorkshire County Council	
Maintain Previously Engineered Routes	
Mastilles Lane Bridleway, Bordley	200m surfacing
Dales Way Footpath, Appletreewick	50m surfacing and riverside revetment
Permissive path, Kettlewell	150m surfacing
Whitber, 3 Peaks Footpath	100m surfacing
Ingleborough High Lot, Ingleborough Pitching	172m stone pitching

Ingleborough Access Project: Sulber flagging	174m flagging
Park Field, Footpath Reeth & Healaugh	100m surfacing
Harkerside Bridleway, Swale Trail, Reeth	360m surfacing
Hardraw Footpath, High Abbotside	115m flagging
Stake Road BOAT, Bainbridge	500m surfacing
Cam High Road BOAT, Hawes	500m surfacing
Simon's Seat, Bolton Abbey	320m flagging
TOTAL	2,741
Cumbria County Council	New Engineering Works
Underley Business Centre footpath accessibility upgrade	470m surfacing
TOTAL	470m

Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads

34. In the National Park there is a significant network of unsurfaced unclassified roads (UUR) these routes often provide connections into and within the existing network of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). This network consists of over 120km of routes that are available to a wide range of users. However, these are not recorded on the Definitive Map and are therefore not part of the delegation agreements with NYCC or CCC. They are however, recorded on the 'list of streets' which the county councils have responsibility for maintaining.
35. Over the years, the Authority has worked in an ad-hoc manner (mainly with NYCC) on a number of these routes because of their significance. Last year a more formal working relationship was established with the appointment of a UUR Officer at NYCC. This has led to the Authority being given a third year of funding for works to help maintain these routes, this year and expected to continue in future years for routes across the county. During 2020/21 the following projects, funded by NYCC, have taken place in the National Park at a total cost of **£39,516**.

Work Programme 2020 – 21

UUR Code	UUR Name	Location	Description or work
U2286/9/70	How Gill Lane	Park Top, Eastby	resurfacing and drainage works
U2279/2/80 U2279/2/60	Black Hill Road	Appletreewick	resurfacing works
U1899/9/30	Windy Pike	Hanlith	resurfacing works
U808/9/40	Mastiles Lane	Malham Moor	resurfacing and drainage works
U808/9/60	Mastilles Lane	Kilnsey	resurfacing works
U431/1/50	Skell Gate	Reeth	resurfacing and drainage works
U447/1/70	Castle Bolton	Beldon Beck Bridge	bridge beams replaced
U7028/9/90	West Cam Road	Ten End	resurfacing and drainage works
U2710/1/40	Widdale Foot	Ling Beck	resurfacing and drainage works
U255/9/70	Dubbing Garth Lane	Multiple sites	resurfacing and drainage works

U254/9/30	Low Lane	Multiple sites	resurfacing and drainage works
U232/1/60	Stake Road	Multiple sites	resurfacing and drainage works
U228/1/40	Roman Road - Cam High Road	Four Lane ends	resurfacing and drainage works
U1052/9/70	Morpeth Gate	West Witton Steeps	resurfacing and drainage works

Flood Damage

36. On the 30 July 2019 a significant cloud burst occurred resulting in 113mm (4.45 inches) falling in just 3 hours in the north east corner of the park. This caused significant damage around Arkengarthdale, Reeth and Grinton. The following is a full list of the works identified since the initial flood event and progress made to date.

PARISH	NAME	LENGTH	DESCRIPTON	Progress
Arkengarthdale	Arkle Beck, Langthwaite	14m	Footbridge.	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Slei Gill lower	10m	Footpath	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Green Bank/Wood House Bridge	12m	Footbridge	NYCC
Arkengarthdale	Low Faggergill, Whaw	14m	Footbridge	NYCC
Arkengarthdale	Shepherd's Lodge bridge.	10m	Footbridge	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Slei Gill upper	30m	Landslip	Diversion
Arkengarthdale	Riverside path	130 m	Riverside Damage	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Scar House Footbridge,	3.6m	Footbridge	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Langthwaite to Fremington BW	750m	Surface Damage	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Eskeleth		Stone Stiles Damaged	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Faggergill	3m	Culvert Damage	Completed
Arkengarthdale	East Arkengarthdale Estate	15m	Culvert Damage	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Danby Lead Level	40m	Landslip	Completed
Arkengarthdale	Scarhouse Wood	20m	Landslip	Completed
Ellerton Abbey	Juniper Gill		Footbridge	Completed
Grinton	Cogden Hall bridge, Lawrence Allison	9m	Stone Arch Bridge	Completed
Grinton	footpath below the Vicarage	80m	Riverside Damage	Completed
Grinton	Grinton Smelt Mill, Grinton Estate	100m+	Surface Damage	Completed
Grinton	Grinton Gill Footbridge,	3.2m	Footbridge	Completed
Grinton	Cogden Gill	30m	Debri	Completed
Grinton	Cogden Gill	5m	Sink hole	Completed
Grinton	Cogden GillFeb	30m	Landslip	Completed
Grinton	Low Lane, Swale Trail	300m	Surface Damage	Completed
Grinton	Grinton Beck	50m	Riverside Damage	Completed
Grinton	Below John Moss's Chair	5m	Dangerous Crossing	Completed
Grinton	Above John Moss's Chair	5m	Dangerous Crossing	Completed
Grinton Estate	Grinton Estate		Various Works	Completed
Malham	Gordale	400m	Surface Damage	Completed
Marske	Ellers	5m	Footbridge	Completed

Melbecks	Birk Park, Barney Beck	100m	Riverside Damage	Diversion
Reeth	Cringley Bottom	4.5 m	Footbridge	Completed
Reeth	Langthwaite to Fremington Bridleway	100m	Landslides	Completed
Reeth	Fremington Edge to Cuckoo Hill	100m+	Landslides	Completed
Reeth	Storthwaite Hall Upper Bridge	10m	Footbridge	Completed
Reeth	Castle Farm House bridge	18m	Footbridge	Completed
Reeth	Barney Beck Stepping Stones	12m	Stepping Stones	Completed
Reeth	Town Foot to Reeth Bridge	275m	Surface Damage	Completed
Reeth	Fremington Egde - Hurst Route	12m	Surface Damage	Completed
Reeth	Park Field path	650m	Debris	Completed
Reeth	West Rawcroft Bridge	15m	Debris	Completed
Reeth	Storthwaite Hall Lower Bridge	7.5m	Footbridge	Completed

37. This was followed by a further isolated event in Feb 2020 when Storm Ciara brought rainfall ranging between 40 and 80 millimetres (1.5 inches to 3 inches) in 24 hours across much of northern England. (The highest levels were recorded in Cumbria with 179.8 millimetres (7 inches) of rain over the course of the day). This again caused isolated flooding mainly in the Horton in Ribblesdale area with the 22m footbridge across the River Ribble at Studfold being washed away. The following is a full list of the works identified since this flood event and progress:

PARISH	NAME	LENGTH	DESCRIPTON	PPROGRESS
Grinton	Harkerside to Stubbins	1.3km	Surface Damage	2021/22
Grinton	Foreman's Leap	3m	Footbridge	Completed
Grinton	Swale Trail - Low Lane	2.4 km	Surface Damage	Completed
Grinton	Dubbin Garth Lane	2.5 km	Surface Damage	Completed
Melbecks	Low Row	8m	Flood Bank/Wall	2021/22
Arkengarthdale	Langthwaite BW	100 m	Surface Damage	2021/22*
Reeth	Storthwaite Lower Bridge	7.5m		2021/22*
Reeth	Storthwaite Ford	7m +	Ford Repair	Completed
Reeth	Park Field path	500m	Surface Damage	Completed
Grinton	Grinton Gill Footbridge	4.5m	Abutment Damage	2021/22*
Carlton Highdale	Hindlethwaite Hall Footbridge	12.2m	Footbridge	Completed
Carlton Highdale	Hindlethwaite Hall Bridge	50m	Revetment Damage	Completed
East Witton	Cover Bridge Riverside	50m	Surface Damage	2021/22*
Horton in Ribb	Studfold Bridge	24m	Footbridge	NYCC 20/21

*Projects identified for 2021/22 may require additional sources of funding

Conclusion

38. Rights of way maintenance continues to be a 'priority programme' and an area 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.

39. This past year, although difficult, we have still been able to secure external funding. A total of £243,329 of external funding and in-kind contributions has been secured from a

number of different sources to support 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 rights of way surveying in the National Park continuing to be carried out by volunteers.

Looking ahead to 2021/22

40. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority now manages the entire network of 2,623km of rights of way in the National Park with the signing of the delegation agreement with Lancashire County Council.

41. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan for 2019-24 established an objective for Public Rights of Way to:

B1 Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2023.

42. It should be noted that the target for Public Rights of Way in the National Park is 'that 90% are easy to use by 2023'. The ease of use figures for 2020 was 88%. Despite the difficulties faced this year we remain on-course to reach the target of 90% for the National Park.

43. This year's result is pleasing. However, there is a note of caution the 'ease of use' indicator measures a 5% random sample of rights of way across the network and figures can fluctuate. In addition, although we have made significant progress in dealing especially with the flood damage of 2019 we are still catching up on some of this work.

Further Information

Further information regarding the report is available from:

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