

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 18 May 2021

Report Back from Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

Advisory Group Meetings

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

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

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

Access on Foot Advisory Group

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

Access for All Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access for all Advisory Group was on 6 November 2020. 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 26 June 2019. The next meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory has yet to be confirmed.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Cave and Crag Advisory Group was 18 March 2021. The minutes of the meeting can be seen in **Appendix 1**. The next meeting of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory has yet to be confirmed.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group was 22 November 2019. The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Air Sports Advisory Group

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

Water Sports Advisory Group

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

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
May 2021

Appendix 1

Unapproved minutes of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group 18 March 2021, 10.00am, Lifesize meeting room

Jon Beavan (JB) - Chair	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF)
Rob Dyer (RD)	British Mountaineering Council (BMC)
Dave Musgrove (DM)	British Mountaineering Council (BMC)
Tim Allen (TA)	Access Officer CNCC
Andrew Hinde (AH)	Natural England (NE)
Ian Court (IC)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)
Rachel Briggs (RB)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)
Rebecca Greenfield (RG)	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies:

Heather Hodgson (HH), Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Covid 19 update

Both TA and DM said they had not experienced any Covid related issues during the Covid lockdown. TA did, however, express concern that caving had seen a dent in overall activity and that people would need to be encouraged back into the sport. This raised the broader issue of outdoor education and the lack of higher outdoor education clubs visiting the YDNP. RD said that the BMC were working on a road map to recovery.

4. and 5. Bird breeding/bird nesting restrictions

IC said that there was no bird breeding data for Peregrines and Ravens from last year due to lockdown.

This year restrictions will be as normal at the usual sites. There has, however, been a report of Ravens nesting at Langcliffe Quarry which will need to be checked. Also, IC needs to check if the Peregrines have returned to Langcliffe or if they are at Giggleswick (most likely).

House Martin signs have been put up at Kilnsey and Malham.

6. CROW Act and Caving

TA gave an update on caving and its inclusion in the CROW Act.

As part of the long running campaign for caving to be included as a permitted activity under the CROW Act, attempts have been made to include it under the Welsh Access Reform Group. However, Welsh Government decided not to include it as an activity due to the fact that it isn't included under Crow. This decision has led to the British Cavers Association taking it to appeal to the high court. This decision was approved and now cavers are awaiting a date in court

7. Climbing

- There is potential to extend wall climbing at Langcliffe Quarry. Craven District Council (as owners of the land), initially, appear to be positive. IC said that YDNPA could work round the bird restrictions to fit in with the activity. He did add that he would be concerned about early climbing and the disturbance to nesting birds. He added that he would monitor the site this year and if there are no birds nesting he would inform the BMC.

Members of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group wished to support the BMC in their pursuit to add further sections of wall climbing at Langcliffe Quarry (whilst avoiding the early part of the season). RB to send an email of support from the group.

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- Foredale Quarry – The situation has not changed at Foredale Quarry.

6. Caving

- High Birkwith – a change in ownership at High Birkwith in 2018 has meant that access to caving has been lost. No approach has been made as yet but contact will be made after lockdown.

7. Any Other Business

The BMC are currently working on good practice guidance for their members.