

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 23 November 2021

Officer's Report

Purpose of the Report

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Access Forum (LAF) advises the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and other decision making organisations (such as the County Councils or Natural England) about making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel. As an independent body the LAF can set its own priorities depending on local issues, and also respond to consultations and draft policy documents.

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

1. Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Membership

Recruitment for members to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum will begin in the New Year to start in May 2022. Those members whose term comes to an end this year will be notified before Christmas.

Members are asked to note this process, and give thoughts on how we might attract more applicants from groups under-represented in the National Park.

2 Fencing on Common Land: Application for under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006

Appendices 1 and 2 refer to an application for fencing on common land in Arkengarthdale. To clarify, there will be no new fencing within the boundary of the National Park, just an extension of the lifespan of the fencing from the original scheme.

Members are asked to comment on the application.

3. The Pennine Bridleway

A new map of the full extent if the Pennine Bridleway has been produced by Harvey Maps. See **Appendix 3** to read the YDNPA news article.

The LAF Chair has suggested that LAF consideration of the tourism potential of the Pennine Bridleway might be appropriate for a future agenda item.

4. Coast to Coast as a National Trail.

Following its inclusion in the Conservative Party manifesto and the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, Defra have asked Natural England to prepare a report proposing the Coast to Coast as a National Trail. The Government launched the National Disabled Strategy and the work on the Coast to Coast route is mentioned as part of the strategy.

Natural England is working with the 3 National Parks (North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales, Lake District), local authorities (North Yorkshire, Cumbria) and the Wainwright Society to develop a formal proposal for designating the Coast to Coast long distance path as a National Trail.

The work to develop this proposal is taking place during the current year with a view to presenting a formal proposal to the Secretary of State in June 2022.

The YDNPA wants to see the Coast to Coast become a National Trail as such our priority is to work with Natural England to meet what is a very tight deadline. We will be undertaking an audit of the existing walked route and assessing any legal amendments and technical improvements that may be needed to bring it up to National Trail Quality Standards. We will also be scoping work required to realise the full environmental, social and economic benefits that its designation as a National Trail will bring. We are working closely with partners and have begun engaging with local stakeholders to identify opportunities, for instance for link routes which maximise accessibility to and from the Trail to local centres of population, opportunities for landscape scale improvements along the route, and to increase its economic value.

5. Visitor Survey 2021

In 2020 our visitor profile was younger and more diverse, better representing the demographic of the population as a whole. To understand whether this change continued in 2021, visitors were encouraged to complete questionnaires digitally on Survey Monkey using a QR code displayed at national park car parks at Grassington, Malham and Aysgarth as well as in Kirkby Lonsdale, or through our social media channels. In addition, staff and volunteers undertook face to face surveys at Aysgarth, Malham and Grassington.

The main findings were:

- Of all visitors surveyed, 26% were first time visitors; telling us that '*Today is my first ever visit*' or '*I have visited before but my first ever visit was in 2020 or earlier this year (2021)*'. This compares to 27% in 2020.
- Most visitors came from West Yorkshire (21%) but most first time visitors had travelled from the South East and London (37%). In 2020 most visitors (including first time visitors) travelled from West Yorkshire. However, this difference could be because in 2020 visitors were more likely to be day visitors than staying visitors.

- We asked visitors about their motivation to come to the National Park and aspects enjoyed, and if anything had spoilt their visit. Walking was the main motivation for visitors with 69% of visitors stating that was the reason for their visit. Scenery and landscape was cited by 93% of all visitors as something they had enjoyed about their visit. 48% of visitors (54% first time visitors) said being by water was one of the things they enjoyed. (NB comparison cannot be made with previous surveys because some of the surveys were 'self-completion' not face to face interviews)
- Just over a quarter (27%) of all visitors told us that they didn't use anything to plan their visit. Of those that did use information the most popular was google search (33%, rising to 43% for first time visitors) followed by the use of a map (24%). Our website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk was used by 7%, with recommendation of family and friends by 16%, and social media used by 8% (Instagram was the most popular out of Instagram, Facebook and twitter).
- 14% of all visitors interviewed were in the 25-34 age group. This is higher than in our 2017 visitor survey (11%) but lower than 2020 (22%). In our 2017 visitor survey 56% of our visitors were age 55+; whereas in 2020 this reduced to 36% but rose again in 2021 to 46%. The highest proportion of first time visitors in 2021 were in the age group 45-54 (25%).

6. Caving – Three Counties Grand Traverse

For information only, please see the article below with regards to the Three Counties 'Grand Traverse' cave system.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10034993/The-heroes-helped-rescue-trapped-Thai-boys-conquered-Britains-heart-darkness.html>

7. Authority Meetings

Any member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum can attend Authority Meetings as a member of the public. Please contact Clare Tamea 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 2021/2022:

Date	Venue	Time
14 December 2021	Tennants, Leyburn	10.00
29 March 2022	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
28 June 2022	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
20 September 2022	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
13 December 2022	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00

8. Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2022

The following are the dates for meetings during 2022:

Tuesday 10 May 2022, 1.15 pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge

Tuesday 22 November 2022, 1.15 pm to be held online

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer

November 2021

Arkengarthdale East Fencing Letter

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 38

We are applying to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for consent to construct works on Arkengarthdale Common (East) under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. The Planning Inspectorate will determine the application on behalf of Defra.

We are required to give you notice of our proposals and are sending you a copy of the attached notice in order to comply with that requirement.

Under section 38, we need Defra's consent to carry out any restricted works on land registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965 or the Commons Act 2006 (and on certain other land specified in section 38).

Restricted works are any that prevent or impede access to or over the land. They include fencing, buildings, structures, ditches, trenches, embankments and other works, where the effect of those works is to prevent or impede access. They also include, in every case, new tarmac (or similar) surfaces, such as for a new car park or access road.

Defra's decision will be based on the merits of the proposal, and will balance all the interests in the common, taking account of all views expressed. Regard must be given to the criteria set out in section 39 of the Commons Act 2006. These are:

- (a) the interests of persons having rights in relation to, or occupying, the land (and in particular persons exercising rights of common over it)
- (b) the interests of the neighbourhood
- (c) the public interest, which includes the public interest in:
 - nature conservation
 - the conservation of the landscape
 - the protection of public rights of access to any area of land, and
 - the protection of archaeological remains and features of historic interest
- (d) any other matter considered relevant.

These criteria will be viewed in the light of the overriding objective of protecting, maintaining or improving the common, and of ensuring that the overall stock of common land is not diminished. This will enable the diversity, variety, and overall extent, of common land to be safeguarded.

Any representations about the proposal should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate by the closing date specified in the notice.

Arkengarthdale East Fencing Notice

East Arkengarthdale Commons Committee is applying to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Arkengarthdale Common (East). The Planning Inspectorate will decide the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The proposed works are: Erection of a new line of fencing (1750 metres) to join with existing fence line (947 metres) to enclose an area of 75.55 ha (approx.) for the restoration of habitat. Retention of 1894.5 metres of fence line to assist with shepherding on a habitat restoration area at Shaw Farm (74.20 ha), Retention of 2779 metres for continued restoration of heathland on Eskeleth (47.25 ha), Retention of 1177 metres of existing fencing protecting native tree planting for black grouse at Shaw Gill (22.68 ha)

A copy of the application form and accompanying documents may be obtained by emailing anna@farmoorservices.co.uk. The application form and documents will be available until 26th November 2021.

Any representations should, where possible, be sent by email ON or BEFORE that date to commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Representations sent to The Planning Inspectorate cannot be treated as confidential. They will be copied to the applicant and possibly to other interested parties. To find out more about how the Planning Inspectorate uses and manages personal data, please go to the privacy notice.

East Arkengarthdale Commons Committee c/o Anna Crowther, Farmoor Services, Estate Office, Swinithwaite, Leyburn, DLB 4UH

25. 10.2021

Cyclist given first Pennine Bridleway map

Bainbridge, 15 November 2021

A man from Kendal cycling in rain on Ingleborough last week became the first person to receive a new map of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail.

Staff with maps to give away were beginning to question their promotional attempt when Phil Atherton emerged from the drizzle.

The new map is the first to show the entire route of the Pennine Bridleway from the Peak District in Derbyshire to Ravenstonedale in Cumbria.

It has been produced by Harvey Maps with support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

Phil Atherton, who was in Clapham for work and had decided to take to the hills at lunchtime, said: "I read an article about the Pennine Bridleway and had to see it. Since I was over here, I thought I'd come out to do a little bit more of it. I've never had anything given to me like this before."

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is the lead partner of the Pennine National Trails Partnership, which looks after the route on behalf of Natural England.

Member Champion for Recreation Management at the National Park Authority, Nick Cotton, said: "Thank you to Mr Atherton for being a good sport by posing for a photo and receiving a map. All of us who know the benefits of horse riding, cycling or walking can help spread the word about the Pennine Bridleway. Even in the wet, it's a great route. Sections of the trail are accessible to those with limited mobility, too."

He added: "The purpose of making a map which covers the entire Pennine Bridleway is to encourage more people to discover and enjoy the route. As a National Trail it is not yet ten years old, so many people may not have heard of it. It runs through some very high places – a horse rider described it recently as 'big skies all the way'. It may be a little early to talk of the festivities to come, but the map would make an excellent stocking filler."

Adam King, HARVEY Maps CEO, said: "It has been a pleasure working with the Pennine National Trails Partnership and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund to publish this map which will assist anyone wanting to travel this beautiful and diverse route, on foot, by bike or on horseback. The map is specially designed to enable confident navigation along the way and opens up many more opportunities for use of this multi-purpose trail. This waterproof map covers the entire Pennine Bridleway National Trail with added information on accommodation, planning, places to visit, horsebox parking and more."