

Minutes of Meeting of
Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group
Held on Wednesday 30 November 2022
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present:

Ken Miller (KM)	Horse rider
Caitlin Fox (CF)	Horse rider and Yorkshire Dales NPA
Stuart Price (SP)	Dales Bike Centre
Caroline Bradley (CB)	British Horse Society
Hannah Gardner (HG)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Alex Law (AL)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Peter Baggaley (PB)	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
Rachel Briggs (RB)	Yorkshire Dales NPA
Rebecca Greenfield (RG)	Yorkshire Dales NPA
Michael Briggs (MB)	Yorkshire Dales NPA

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Cotton (NC), Ken Humphris (KH) and Lucy Sterry (LS).

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. Coast to Coast

RB gave some background into the Coast to Coast becoming a National Trail and explained that it was due to be finished by 2025. The route is a walked route but alternative sections have also been identified for those wishing to follow the route on mountain bike/horse or in an off road wheelchair.

RB went on to say that a feasibility study was undertaken in 2008 looking at a possible multi-user route to the south of Wainwright's Coast to Coast walked route for cycling/horse-riding. A paper will be going to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum on the subject on Wednesday 7 December.

Some members were aware of the feasibility study and thought that a better route would be to follow the line of the walked route as far as possible and not go through Wensleydale. SP said that a good route was possible through Swaledale and that the infrastructure for long distance routes was already established for this area (baggage handlers). RB agreed to send members the paper going to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

RB to circulate the coast to coast bridleway route paper to members once published.

4. Gate latches

KM asked for members to consider the best latches for horse riders. Officers from the YDNPA explained the difficulty of putting in gate latches to suit everyone. Some members said they were happy to get off their horse to lead through a gate whereas the BHS say they would prefer not to have to dismount.

Members agreed that the hunter latch style of gate closing was preferred.

RB to make the ranger service aware of this advice.

5. Marrick

Marrick Priory

CB asked what the current the situation was with the long term obstruction of the bridleway at Marrick Priory. RB read a statement from Sheila Roberts (YDNPA Rights of Way Officer) saying that the YDNPA have, in the past, invested a great deal of time and resources into researching the evidence of this Bridleway thoroughly, made a Definitive Map Modification Order, and took the matter to Public Inquiry on the 1 March, 2011. This left both YDNPA and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) in a difficult position; one where it is accepted by the Inspector that the current definitive map is inaccurate but where there appears to be insufficient information available to describe the line of the correct route. (NYCC is responsible for the Definitive Map, being the legal record of public rights of way network).

YDNPA has retained delegated responsibility for maintenance of the public rights of way network on the ground, and have placed notices on the site to explain why the route is inaccessible and trust that these are still apparent.

AL said there was an issue with the signage which is confusing to users. He said he would survey the area to see how many people are currently trying to use it.

AL to report back to the group numbers of users trying use the Bridleway at Marrick Park.

RB to feed back comments on the signage to the Ranger Service

Marrick Park

CB asked if officers had any update on the footpath upgrade at Marrick Park. MB said the issue was currently in hand and further updates would be circulated shortly.

6. Bridleway/Restricted Byway Issues

Lickber Lane

KM told members of the group that the Lickber Lane issues was now resolved. The route is now open and fully useable.

7. Horse riding promotion

RG informed members that the YDNPA action plan included a target to promote horse riding in the National Park. RG and RB had met with user groups to ask what would be useful from their perspective. A film will now be produced with the Kilnsey Trekking Centre to promote safe riding opportunities from Grassington, using the YDNPA car park as a parking area. RG asked members to pass any suggestions of routes to her for promotion.

Routes suggested within the meeting were:

Clapham circular

Settle Loop

Castle Bolton

Kirkby Lonsdale to Barbon

West Burton

Swale Trail

SP said that the Swale Trail was a great route for all users and saw it as a success. However, parking has become an issue, particularly over busy periods such as bank holiday weekends. He felt this will become a bigger issue in the future and that it needed to be addressed. RG suggested exploring whether Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funding could be used to create local parking.

RG to investigate whether FiPL funding can be used to create parking for the Swale Trail

8. Any Other Business

Barbon

HG said there was a great bridleway route in Barbon that would be accessible for wheelchairs if the bridge was widened to bridleway standard. RB said she was aware of the route and that she would look into it.

RB to look at the bridge options in Barbon.

Fremington Edge

CB told members of the group that the BHS have an application in with North Yorkshire County Council on Fremington Edge to upgrade it to Bridleway. All agreed this would benefit the network.

Cross drains

KM brought the issue of cross drains in Swaledale to the attention of the group. This has been an ongoing issue whereby landowners have been installing metal motor way crash barriers along bridleways to assist with drainage. KM asked that this issue be revisited by officers of the YDNPA.

Members made various suggestion for alternative drains. An agreed drain style was the type used at Marrick Park, which is a simple stone drain.

RB agreed to arrange a meeting for KM, MB and other officers to discuss the draining issue in the near future.

RB to arrange a meeting for KM and relevant YDNPA officers to discuss the issue of cross drains.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be in six months' time. RB to circulate dates via Google Poll.