

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 7 December 2022

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. 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 2022/2023:

Date	Venue	Time
13 December 2022	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
28 March 2023	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
27 June 2023	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
26 September 2023	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
12 December 2023	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00

3. Meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for 2023

The following are the dates for meetings during 2023:

Tuesday 23 May 2023, 1.15 pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 28 November 2023, 1.15 pm at Yoredale, Bainbridge

5. Private Bill to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

A private Members Bill has been submitted to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to extend the right of public access to the countryside, including to grasslands, woodlands, the green belt and waters; and for connected purposes. The next stage for this Bill (Second reading), is scheduled to take place on Friday 24 March 2023. Members will be kept informed of any progress.

6. Access to Eden: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

Eden Rivers Trust has been awarded £181,190 of development funding from the National Lottery Players to develop a project to improve both access to Eden *and* its natural heritage by breaking down the barriers for people and nature to thrive in, and beside our rivers.

The project, Access to Eden: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges will remove the barriers that prevent people from accessing the natural heritage of Eden and build the bridges needed to give them the confidence to enjoy the blue and green spaces. Having healthy, thriving natural spaces is key to this, so there are also plans to remove barriers for Eden's special wildlife, connect habitats and promote nature recovery.

Access to Eden will focus on improving participants' physical and mental health and well-being in a sustainable and fun way.

Partners in the project are:

Access the Dales, Brampton Angling Association, Carlisle City Council, Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust, Cumbria Canoeists the delivery partner of the British Canoeing Cumbria Regional Development Team, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Eden District Council, Eden Rivers Trust, Spring to Sea CIC, 4 Eden, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Penrith and Eden Refugee Network, Settle Carlisle Railway Development Company and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

As part of this project The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will undertake surveys to identify 20 promotable walking routes within the Eden Valley Project Area, 5 of which will be access to all and 1 of which will be a sensory trail.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
November 2022