

Date: 27 June 2022

Report: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Purpose of the report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to comment on the Rights of Way Annual Report prior to submission to Westmorland and Furness (W&FC), North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and Lancashire County Council (LCC).

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Rights of Way annual report be submitted to the three councils, subject to any comments from Members.

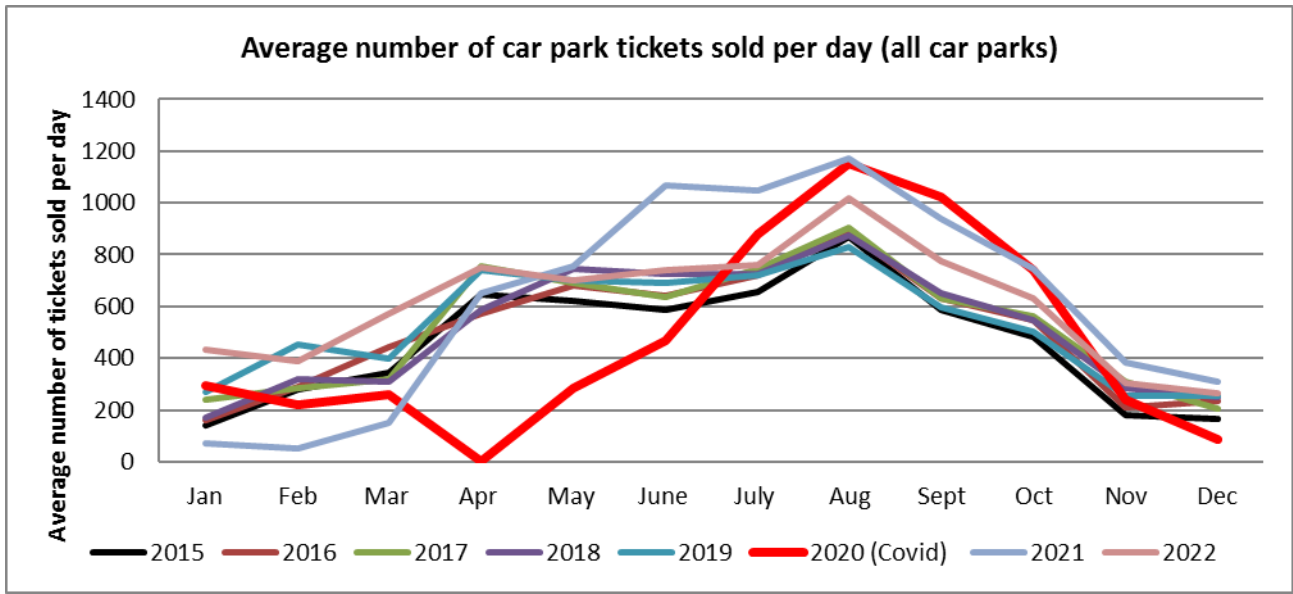
Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:
 - **Corporate Plan Objective**
7. 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

Background

4. The Rights of Way annual report for 2022/23 (**Appendix**), identifies progress made by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) on public rights of way maintenance against our Corporate Plan actions and targets. This work is undertaken through delegation agreements on behalf of the three Highway Authorities - the councils that cover the National Park. As part of the agreements, the YDNPA is required to submit a report to the councils each year.
5. The Authority has previously taken on responsibility for rights of way maintenance functions because a well-managed rights of way network is considered important for the delivery of the YDNPA's statutory purposes. A network that can be used with confidence is beneficial to visitors, land managers and residents alike. Businesses, inside and outside of the National Park benefit because access to the area's special qualities underpins the visitor economy. The park-wide visitor survey conducted in 2022, continues to show the importance of the rights of way network with approximately two out of every three visitors (61%) undertaking a walk of an hour or more during their visit.
6. Since the pandemic user numbers have remained high. A good gauge of the scale of activity across the National Park is shown by the average number of car park tickets

sold at YDNPA’s car park each day (see graph). However, the increase in use is also resulting in additional erosion and an increase in general wear and tear on infrastructure.



Ease of Use Target

7. The Authority’s current objective for Rights of Way maintenance is based on 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

8. ‘Ease of use’ in this context is based on a nationally established performance indicator for rights of way. This 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.

9. 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.

10. For 2022/23 the ‘ease of use’ figure for the National Park is 91%. This exceeds the target for 2022/23, set at 89% in the Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan. This is in line with our ambition to have the whole National Park at 90% ease of use by 2023. Last year’s result is particularly pleasing because of the levels of use on the network. There is a note of caution, as the ‘ease of use’ indicator measures a 5% random sample of rights of way across the network, as such figures will 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. This is the fourth time in the last five years the target of 90% has been reached or exceeded, but due to the random nature of sampling it still fluctuates. However, the Authority remains on-course to meet the National Park Management Plan target this year.

National Trails

11. 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. During the past year the Authority has distributed 29 grants to 11 different partners, and the partnership has overseen £570k of expenditure.
12. Last year the Defra Secretary of State announced that the Coast to Coast route will become a new National Trail. The 197-mile path stretching from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay in the North York Moors National Park passes through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This announcement means we have achieved the National Park Management Plan objective B2 in relation to the Coast to Coast route:

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.

13. Natural England have been given £5.6 million of Government funding to improve the route. They are working alongside partners to ensure the path meets the National Trail Quality Standards and is fully open and available for public use. The YDNPA is undertaking the legal and establishment work in the National Park. Enhancement works will be undertaken over three years with the upgraded path expected to open in 2025. It is intended that the new National Trail will closely follow the existing route. The Coast to Coast route has existed for many years, but has not benefited from the promotion and status of a member of the National Trail family. Natural England and partners are also looking at the 'wider benefits' of designation, including opportunities to develop link routes and circular routes; engage with local communities and businesses; improving nature connectivity; information provision; and tourism opportunities.

Volunteers

14. Volunteering opportunities - to help survey and maintain public rights of way - continued throughout the year, adapting to the changes in restrictions. In total 1256 days of practical work, and 514 days of surveying, were undertaken by volunteers during the year. This equates to approximately 8 full time equivalent staff. This is good news and we are nearly back to the pre-Covid levels of volunteering.
15. The surveying of all the 2637km rights of way in the National Park is a significant achievement, and helps the YDNPA plan the work required for the coming year. The survey work includes:
 - 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

16. We continue to seek external income to resource this work programme. During 2022/23 we were successful in bringing in £408k of external funding, with individual contributions and contributions 'in kind' from various sources. This is a significant achievement and at a similar level of income to pre-Covid.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

17. Ahead of Members receiving this annual report, it has been considered by the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (YDAF) in their role as statutory advisor to the Authority on opportunities for open-air recreation.

18. Members of the YDAF acknowledged the wealth of work conducted by field staff and volunteers throughout the National Park and the Ranger Service's efforts in raising external funding to aid works to ensure the network is maintained to a high standard.

19. YDAF Members raised concerns that in seeking external funding there might be an adverse effect on the levels of general maintenance. A recent example given was the creation of a footpath at Tebay through the Westmorland Dales. This was a National Lottery Heritage Fund Project which took a significant commitment from Rangers to deliver and took them away from day to day maintenance tasks.

20. The Head of Park Management explained that, in line with the Authority's Income Generation Strategy there is now an absolute need to seek funding that potentially offsets the cost of general maintenance. However, it is and always has been a difficult balance to get right.

Conclusion

21. The 2022 'ease of use' target of 89% has been exceeded; however, there is a note of caution because this figure is measured from a 5% random sample of rights of way across the network. The importance placed on rights of way maintenance and access is often cited as one of the advantages of being in a National Park. With the lengthening of the season and increasing importance placed on individual health and well-being, this year's visitor numbers have remained high.

22. The Coast to Coast path has been confirmed as a National Trails, and comes with financial resources for implementation and future maintenance as well as for 'wider benefit' opportunities.

23. Rights of way maintenance and volunteering continue to make an important contribution to the work of the YDNPA and specifically our second purpose. As a priority programme our aim is to ensure the National Park has one of the best maintained rights of way networks in the country. This work is undertaken on behalf of the Councils who retain the statutory responsibility.

Alan Hulme

Head of Park Management

24 April 2023

Background documents

[Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan \(approved by the Authority in September 2018\)](#)

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

**Public Rights of Way
Delegated Highway Authority**

Annual Report 2022/23

April 2023

Introduction

1. For the period of this report, April 2022 to March 2023, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) had delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for maintenance of the 2,637km of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic, and restricted byways) within the National Park area.
2. The public rights of way Delegation Agreements were for: North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) 1922km and Cumbria County Council (CCC) 710 km (from April 2023 these are known as Westmorland and Furness Council (W&FC) and North Yorkshire Council (NYC) respectively). In addition, since April 2021 delegated responsibilities also applies to the 16 km in the Lancashire County Council (LCC) area of the National Park.
3. 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.
4. 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

5. This report identifies the key achievements for the year 2022/23. 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
 - Development of the Coast to Coast as a National Trail
 - Unclassified Unsurfaced Roads (North Yorkshire)
 - Flood damage.

Key Achievements 2022/23

Public Rights of Way Maintenance

6. During 2022/23 the following maintenance work was undertaken:

- 994 improvements to rights of way infrastructure: stiles, gates and signposts;
- 53 river crossings and 3 sets of stepping stones maintained or replaced;
- 1.6km of new engineered paths constructed;

7. A total of **£407,966** 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
£ 83,732	National Trails Partnership Manager and Lead Role;
£ 27,394	Pennine Way Ranger;
£ 3,015	Pennine Way, maintenance;
£ 2,340	Pennine Way, Pen y ghent, data logger;
£ 20,116	Pennine Bridleway Officer;
£ 609	Pennine Bridleway, maintenance;
£ 5,586	Pennine Bridleway, Cattle Creep repair, Lambert Lane, Settle;
£ 8,247	Contract work for Nidderdale AONB
£ 1,500	Bridleway, Winterburn, HF Holiday Fellowship;
£ 21,807	Three Peaks Project (Friends Scheme, merchandise and donations);
£ 35,000	Three Peaks Legacy;
£ 54,820	Tees Swale, Naturally Connected, Access Enhancements
£ 11,847	Westmorland Dales, Discovering Westmorland, Access Enhancements
£ 37,844	Tebay Footpath Creation
£ 20,000	Coast to Coast Path Wider Benefits contract;
£ 16,909	Coast to Coast Path Initial implementation of route (Nov to Mar)
£ 4,553	Path Orders;
£ 37,300	Works to Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads, (NYCC);
£ 2,500	Donation, Trail Riders Fellowship;
£ 1,425	Production of signs;
£ 250	Donation, Dales Way;
£ 397	Donations various, Swaledale and Wensleydale;
£ 275	Contract work Area Ranger, Swaledale.
£397,466	Total

Contribution in kind:

£ 2,500	Stone Flags, Railway
£ 8,000	Brackenbottom Stone, Hansons

£ 407,966 **Grand Total**

Pennine Way

8. Total funding secured for the Pennine Way, for 2022/23, was £32,749:

£ 27,394	Pennine Way Ranger;
£ 3,015	Pennine Way, maintenance;
£ 2,340	Pennine Way, Pen y Ghent, data logger.

Pennine Bridleway

9. Total funding secured for the Pennine Bridleway, for 2022/23, was £26,311:

£ 20,116	Pennine Bridleway Officer;
£ 609	Pennine Bridleway, maintenance;
£ 5,586	Pennine Bridleway, Cattle Creep repair, Lambert Lane, Settle.

Pennine National Trails Partnership

10. During 2022/23, the Authority was the Lead Partner for the Pennine National Trails partnership and is expected to continue performing the role for the foreseeable future.

11. Functions of the Lead Partner include to:

- Accept the grant offer from Natural England (NE) and claim and receive payments;
- Have an oversight of delivery and report to NE 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.

12. Over the last year, between April 2022 to March 2023, the partnership has met on two occasions once by video conference and once face to face. The Authority through the partnership has:

- Received from NE an initial grant of £327,244;
- Distributed 29 grants to 11 different partners;
- Secured an additional £78,125 from NE of which £63,668 was specifically for access enhancement projects;
- Received an additional £35,000 from grants and donations, including £30,000 from the Lancashire Environment Fund and £5,000 from the British Mountaineering Council;
- Total expenditure on the Pennine National Trails in 2022-23 was £570,000.

13. The Authority received £83,732 (100%) grant for the Partnership Manager post including £16,731 income for hosting of the Partnership Manager and its role as Lead Partner.

Coast to Coast path

14. On 12 August 2022 it was announced by the Secretary of State that the Coast to Coast path stretching from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay in the North York Moors National Park passing through the Yorkshire Dales National Park would become a new National Trail.
15. Natural England are working alongside partners to improve the popular route, with £5.6 million committed to upgrade the 197-mile path. The announcement, which delivered on a Government commitment to develop the route, will also ensure long-term support for the National Trail and achieves the National Park Management Plan objective B2 and specifically in relation to the Coast to Coast route:

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.
16. The necessary legal and establishment work will be undertaken by the YDNPA to ensure that in due course the path is fully open through the Dales and available for public use, and meets the National Trail Quality Standards.
17. Natural England and partners will engage with local communities as work begins on the path. Enhancements will be undertaken over three years with the upgraded path expected to be fully open in Oct 2025. It is intended that the new National Trail will closely follow the existing route.
18. In addition to the implementation and enhancement of the route, the Authority was contracted by NE to scope the 'wider benefits' National Trail designation could bring. The Coast to Coast path has existed for many years, but has not benefited from the promotion and status of a member of the National Trail family. Natural England and partners will be implementing; opportunities to develop link routes and circular routes; engagement with local communities and businesses; improving nature connectivity; information provision; and tourism opportunities for which funding has been secured.

Three Peaks

19. During 2022/23 implementation of the 3 Peaks Project has continued, including carrying out further works at Brackenbottom, Horton in Ribblesdale by extending the pitching a further 100m and the replacement of the boardwalk at Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough.
20. The Three Peaks Project raised £28,908 towards the cost of the Three Peaks Ranger. The main streams of income are through Donations £14,557 and Merchandise £11,731, with Membership of the Friends of the Three Peaks and App Sales generating another £2,620. This year a significant legacy of £35,000 was also gifted.

Path Orders and Definitive Map

21. During 2022/23 progress has continued on Public Path Orders. The following Orders were completed by the Authority:

Public Path Orders:

North Yorkshire	Order Process
Cogden Hall, Grinton, Diversion Town and Country Planning Act	Confirmed
Melbecks, Diversion Highways Act	Confirmed
Cumbria County Council	
Broadfell, Orton Diversion Highways Act	Confirmed
Casterton Grange Diversion Highways Act	Confirmed
Tebay Footpath Creation Agreement	Completed

Temporary and Emergency Closure Orders:

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

Resources

22. In 2022/23 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 £161k.

23. In addition, there were a further 2.4 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 (0.6 FTE)

The Authority received 63% funding for their maintenance role.

Three Peaks Ranger (0.8 FTE)

The Three Peaks Ranger post, during 2022/23 collected £28,908 through the Friends and Corporate Members, merchandise and event donations to fully cover costs for the coming year 2023/24.

24. The Authority is also supported by the Dales Volunteers and other volunteers. In total 1256 days of practical work, and 545 days of surveying, were undertaken on the rights of way network by volunteers, in year. This equates to approximately 8 full time staff equivalents. This is a fantastic achievement and nearly back to pre-Covid levels of volunteering. The surveying of all the rights of way in the National Park is a significant achievement, and means the Authority is in an excellent place to know exactly what work is required for the coming year.

Corporate Plan 2021/22

25. The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan, 2022/23, sets out a programme of works and measures to assist in achieving the aims of the National Park Management Plan.

Specific performance indicators identified for 2022/23:

Performance Indicators	18/19 Actual	19/20 Actual	20/21 Actual	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	22/23 Actual
% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road	(97%)	(97%)	(98%)	(98%)	98%	99%
% of rights of way that are easy to use but may not follow the definitive line	(90%)	(90%)	(88%)	(90%)	89%	91%

26. Specific Corporate Plan actions for 2022/23 were:

Action	NYCC In the park	CCC In the park	LCC In the park	Total	Achieved
Conduct repair works across the National Park so that 89% of routes are 'easy to use'	96%	76%	No routes selected	91%	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%	99%	97%	100%	99%	Yes
Carry out engineering works to 1.5km of public rights of way, including 600m of new footpath at Tebay and 300m of access improvements at Hartlakes, Muker	900	680		1580m	Yes
Repair 250m of previously engineered routes, including the re-placement of the boardwalk at Humphrey Bottom on the 3 Peaks route.	250m			250m	Yes
Replace Ellers Bridge in Dent and repair six other bridges, including the re-decking of Ramps Holme and Linton Falls bridges and repairing the stepping stones at Slatestones, Wath					Yes
Assist NYCC in reinstating 2 bridges at Wood House Bridge and Low Faggergill, Arkengarthdale (p)					Yes
Conduct enhancement works on 2 'promoted walks', as part of Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected					Yes
Complete the replacement of two sets of stepping stones in Austwick and Horton in Ribblesdale (p)				Austwick Stepping Stones completed Horton require additional works.	No
Confirm a Permissive Path agreement at Crackpot, Swaledale and a footpath creation with the Lonsdale Estate, Tebay (p)					Yes

Performance Indicators by area

27. 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%	96%	76%	No routes selected	91%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	98%	99%	97%	100%	99%
% of infrastructure - stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	95%	95%	90%	91%	95%
% of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability	248km				248km

Ease of Use results

28. The Authority's 2022/23 objective for Rights of Way maintenance is based on the new National Park Management Plan 2019/24. The objective for 2022/23 was 89%:

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.

29. 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.

30. Each year's survey selects, randomly, a number of paths making up a minimum of 5% of the overall network. In total, approximately 149km were surveyed (111km NYCC, 38km CCC, no paths were selected for LCC) in the National Park in 2022. 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.

2022 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	96%	76%	No routes selected	91%

Signing

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

31. The Authority's 2022/23 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.

32. The Access Recording System indicates that there were 2,315 places in the National Park requiring a signpost at the roadside. There were (99%) actually insitu with 34 (1%) missing. During 2022/23, 142 directional signs were replaced or repaired where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (footpath/bridleway), distance and destination. In addition, 94 signposts have been replaced or repaired indicating direction, distance or status along public rights of way in the National Park.

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

	Total	Present	Missing	% in situ
YDNPA	2315	2,281	34	99%
NYCC	1477	1466	11	99%
CCC	810	787	23	97%
LCC	28	28	0	100%

General Maintenance

34. The following section provides a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out, during 2022/23, in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the rights of way network.

Infrastructure

Type	Total improved 2022/23
Ladder Stile	28
Timber Step Stile	52
Stone Step Stile	77
Stone Squeeze Stile	166
Fieldgate > 5ft	173
Handgate < 5ft	116
Kissing Gate	17
Boardwalk	9
Signpost (directional on route)	94
Waymarker post	71
Information Sign	12
Roadside Signpost Present	142
Steps	17
Culvert	20
Total	994

River Crossings (includes bridges and stepping stones)

TYPE	CCC	NYCC	YDNPA	
	repair/replaced/ erected	repair/replaced/ erected	Total improved	Total in Park
Bridges	8	50	58	910
Stepping Stones	0	2	2	31
Total	8	52	60	

Miles without Stiles (access for those with limited ability)

35. 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.
36. The Authority also continue to measure two 'access for all' indicators against very strict criteria as laid out by The Sensory Trust in its document 'By All Reasonable Means'. The first was originally based on the Countryside Agency 'Zone A' national standard (equivalent to BT Access for All Standard 3), that is routes designed for wheelchair users. The second was more challenging routes capable of being used by wheelchair users with a strong pusher.
37. The length of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability is 248km, an increase of 17km on the previous year. Physical barriers along rights of way continue to be reduced by removing stiles and replacing with gates.

Major Projects

38. 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	Maintain Previously Engineered Routes
Humphrey Bottom, Three Peaks, Ingleton	100m Replacement of Boardwalk
Bridleway, Winterburn	150m Surfacing
TOTAL	250m
North Yorkshire County Council	New Engineered Routes
Brackenbottom, Three Peaks, Horton	100m of stone pitching
Hartlakes, Muker	300m of surfacing
Bridleway, Dubbing Garth Lane, Low Row	500m of surfacing
Cumbria County Council	
Tebay Footpath Creation	680m surfacing, 3 bridges and 1 gate
TOTAL	1580m

Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads

39. 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.
40. 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. Three years ago more formal working relationship was established with the appointment of a UUR Officer at NYCC. This has led to the Authority receiving funding for works to help maintain these routes.
41. During 2022/23 the following projects, funded by NYCC, have taken place in the National Park at a total cost of **£37,300**:

UUR Code	UUR Name	Location	Description or work
<u>Craven</u>			
U1913/2/70	Haw Lane	Gargrave	Resurfacing 500m and drainage
U808/9/60	Mastilles Lane (East)	Kilnsey	Surfacing 200m
U2279/2/80 U2279/2/60	Black Hill/ Forest Road	Appletreewick	Surfacing 350m
U232/1/20	Gilbert Lane (Stake Road)	Buckden	Surfacing 100m
<u>Richmondshire</u>			
U255/9/70	Dubbing Garth Lane	Low Row	Surfacing 500m
U232/1/40	Stake Road	Bainbridge	Surfacing 100m
U448/1/30	Watery Lane	Carperby	Drainage
U234/9/30	Busk Lane	Bainbridge	Surfacing 100m & drainage
U429/1/70	Fremington Edge	Reeth, Frem & Heaulaugh	Surfacing 50m, drainage and signage
U255/9/70	Dubbing Garth Lane,	Low Row	Drainage

Conclusion

42. 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. 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 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.

43. Through this past year and despite its difficulties, the Authority has still been able to secure a total of £407,067 external funding and in-kind contributions 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 the rights of way in the National Park surveyed by volunteers.

Looking ahead to 2023/24

44. 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.

45. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority now manages the entire network of 2,637km of rights of way in the National Park. The ease of use figure for 2022 was 91%, which is very pleasing. This is the fourth time in the last 5 years that we have reached or exceeded 90%. It means despite the difficulties faced over the Covid period the Authority remains on-course to reach the 2023 (December) target of 90% ease of use for the National Park. 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.

46. The confirmation of the Coast to Coast path to join the family of National Trails by the Secretary of State, is welcomed and comes with financial resources for implementation and future maintenance as well as for 'wider benefit' opportunities. We look forward to implementing the route through the Yorkshire Dales over the coming 3 years.

Further Information

Further information regarding the report is available from:

Alan Hulme,
Head of Pak Management
Colvend, Hebden Road
Grassington BD23 5LB

email
alan.hulme@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Direct Line
01756 751647