

Date: 27 June 2023

Report: JOINT WORKING WITH THE YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST (YDMT)

### **Purpose of the report**

1. To update on the joint working between YDNPA and YDMT during 2022/23

### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Members note the report in the **Annex**.

### **Strategic Planning Framework**

3. The information and recommendation contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and approved strategic planning framework:
  - **Corporate Plan objective**  
*30: Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area.*

### **Background**

4. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust ('the Trust') was set up in 1996, largely at the instigation of the Authority. It was intended to provide a vehicle for bringing funds into the National Park area that the Authority – as a local government body – was not able to access. The Chief Executive of the Trust, David Sharrod, chairs the National Park Management Plan Steering Group, and the Trust is directly involved in the delivery of several objectives in the Management Plan 2019-24.
5. A Memorandum of Understanding was adopted by the two organisations in September 2015. It requires the two organisations to review jointly the effectiveness of the programme of work carried out the previous year. This is then reported to the Trustees of the Trust and to the Members of the Authority

### **Joint working in 2022-23**

6. The 2022-23 review is attached as an **annex** to this report. It outlines the wide-ranging programme of co-operative work that took place last year, including:

- a. Launching the National Lottery-funded Heart of the Pennines Forest project to support woodland creation in the Cumbrian part of the National Park
- b. Contributing to the funding and implementation of projects to conserve and enhance the wildlife, natural beauty and cultural heritage of the National Park, through the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership, Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected, and Our Upland Commons.
- c. Supporting 7 new apprentices and 4 trainees;
- d. Running complementary programmes of activities and events to enable thousands of people from under-represented groups to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park;

## **Conclusion**

7. During 2022-23, the Authority continued to work closely with the Trust on a range of programmes and projects that are benefitting the environment, economy and communities of the National Park.

**Gary Smith**  
**Director of Conservation and Community**

## JOINT ACTION PLAN 2022/23: YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST & YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

<b>1</b>	<b>Dales Woodland Restoration</b>
	<p>Launched the NLHF-funded Heart of the Pennines Forest project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ established 3 small community tree nurseries to supply native upland species for local woodland schemes;</li> <li>○ initiated seven new woodland schemes in the Cumbrian area of the Park, for planting in 2023/24;</li> <li>○ recruited a YDMT Woodland Trainee 12-month placement.</li> </ul>
	Planted over 500 individual field trees across the Park to pre-empt the loss of ash.
	Worked with Forestry Commission, White Rose Forest, Woodland Trust and others to fund the creation of a further 97 ha of new native woodland.
	<p>Through YDMT's Together for Trees project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ created 14 ha of small woodlands and wildlife corridors;</li> <li>○ supported 2 new community groups to plant 2 ha of community woodland.</li> </ul>
	<p>As part of the Forestry Plastics Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ delivered Autumn Conference with over 100 attendees;</li> <li>○ set up two plastic tube collection points and removed a further 21,000 redundant tree guards from the landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Swaledale Barns Repair Project</b>
	Completed repair works to one further barn in Swaledale, and prepared specifications/contracts for 2 more.
<b>3</b>	<b>Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership</b>
	<p>Supported delivery of fourth year of programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ completed the project 'A Way Through (from Roman Roads to M6)';</li> <li>○ worked with tourism businesses on the 'distinctly Westmorland Dales' project.</li> <li>○ carried out walk over surveys, vegetation management, and test pitting on selected historical sites.</li> <li>○ supported 4 apprentices and a heritage trainee</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Tees-Swale: naturally connected</b>
	<p>Supported delivery of second full year of programme in Swaledale, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ restored a further 16ha of species rich grassland and improved the management of 3ha of rush</li> <li>○ created 1 pond and 8 wader scrapes</li> <li>○ worked with local farmers to create 42 ha of new native woodland;</li> <li>○ through the 'Uplands for Education' project, provided education activities for schools in Darlington, Northallerton and Bedale;</li> <li>○ through the Uplands for All project, engaged young people with the natural heritage of the area</li> <li>○ ran 8 community events to engage people with the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area;</li> <li>○ carried out enhancement works on 2 'promoted walks'.</li> </ul>

<b>5</b>	<b>Our Upland Commons</b>
	Supported delivery of second full year of programme, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ prepared the specification and let a contract to implement the Ingleborough cave archaeology project;</li> <li>○ restored 2 historical sheep pens</li> <li>○ supported 42 people from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete John Muir Awards</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Learning and Engagement</b>
	Delivered curriculum-linked educational activities to over 4,000 young people in primary and secondary education
	Ran 2 'a night under the stars' experiences for people who wouldn't normally get the opportunity to experience Dark Skies
	Through People and the DALES, ran 49 events, enabling around 600 people from disadvantaged backgrounds to experience the Park
	Through Green Futures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ offered opportunities for 465 young people from various backgrounds to connect with nature and learn new skills</li> <li>○ recruited four Rural Apprentices, and an Outreach Trainee</li> </ul>
	Ran 16 'rest and re-connect' activity days for people from under-represented groups, focused on communities in Harehills and Gipton.
	Worked with outdoor providers to offer opportunities for hill walking and fell running for almost 150 people from under-represented groups
<b>7</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>
	Provided over 7,000 volunteer days during the year, with 22% coming from under-represented groups;
	Ran 3 one-off practical conservation days to attract new people to volunteering.
	Provide opportunity for volunteer days for young people (age 11–29) through Young Rangers and Upskill-Down Dale.
<b>8</b>	<b>Other projects in development</b>
	Submitted an Expression of Interest to National Heritage Lottery Fund for the Three Counties - Lune Valley Scheme;
	Developed and submitted a joint funding application to the new National Citizens Scheme
<b>9</b>	<b>Organisation and co-operation</b>
	Carried out annual review of effectiveness of joint programme, and report the conclusions back to the Trustees and Authority Members;
	Continued arrangements for YDMT to manage donations/legacies for YDNPA, securing funding of £15,480