

**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ACCESS COMMITTEE**

10 August 2006

PENNINE BRIDLEWAY - ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6

Purpose of this Report

To provide Members with a progress report on the project management and overall implementation of the Pennine Bridleway through the Yorkshire Dales National Park during the financial year 2005/06 and to seek Members agreement to proceed with the outstanding legal orders required to implement the Pennine Bridleway through Creation Orders.

Strategic Planning Framework

The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and it's approved strategic planning framework:

National Park Management Plan

- AR 11 Manage the network of public rights of way to meet agreed standards
- AR 1 Support access by people with different abilities
- EE 2 Influence visitors to use local services

Best Value Performance Plan 05-06

- Implement 50% of Pennine Bridleway National Trail
- Launch the opening of the Settle Loop

Background

The Pennine Bridleway is a new National Trail in the north of England, it is designed specifically for horse riders, off-road cyclists and walkers to enjoy. The route of the Pennine Bridleway (PBW) was approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment in January 1995. It will eventually run from the High Peak Trail in Derbyshire to Byrness, Northumberland, a distance of 560km (350 miles) and is due to be fully opened in 2008. The Trail is opening in stages – 120 miles of the route from Derbyshire to the Mary Towneley Loop (MTL) is now open. On completion it will be a continuous linear trail along legally defined public rights of way and some minor roads.

The National Trail enters the Yorkshire Dales National Park at Long Preston and weaves through the Dales via Settle, Malham Moor, Feizor, Austwick, Selside, Newby Head and exits the Park at the Cumbria County Boundary above Garsdale, a total length of approximately 52 miles. The route runs through some of the most outstanding scenery and wildlife habitats in the Yorkshire Dales National Park including the Ingleborough Complex Special Area for Conservation and Ingleborough National Nature Reserve.

Implementation 2005/6

Capital Projects 2005/6

Work continues to bring rights of way along the route, in the Yorkshire Dales, up to National Trail Standard in line with the detailed project management report that has been circulated to Access

Committee Members and the Steering Group - July 2005. During the period 2005/6 capital works undertaken have been as follows:

Route	Status	Location	Works	TRO	Length
Ling Gill Track	Footpath & RT Road	Horton in Ribblesdale	Surfacing and drainage works	No	1.7km
Monkeybecks Grains	Bridleway	Dent	Surfacing, drainage and Gateway improvement	Yes	3.2km
Banks Lane	UCR	Settle	Surfacing & Major Drainage	No	650m
Lambert Lane	Bridleway	Settle	Surfacing	No	1.0km
Goat Scar Lane	UCR	Stainforth	Surfacing & Major Drainage	Yes	1.0km
Hale Lane	Bridleway	Feizor to Austwick	Surfacing & Major Drainage	No	2.6km

As a result, implementation of the Pennine Bridleway continues to meet the targets set in the Best Value Performance Plan, the **Annex** shows progress against the project plan.

Settle Loop

The Settle Loop was opened in August 2005 and is the first section of the Pennine Bridleway to be opened in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This has been a huge success and is now well used by horse riders, mountain bikers and walkers. Settle TIC report that the Settle Loop leaflet is the most requested by locals and visitors to the area. Several new businesses, linked to cycle tourism, have set up in the area whilst a number of others have diversified into cycle tourism.

Local Variation to the Approved Route

Member will recall that the annual report 04/05 outlined the need for variations to the SoS approved route. The Secretary of State has now approved the Little Stainforth variation. Other variation reports currently being considered by the Countryside Agency are for the Selside Alternative Route, Stainforth Alternative Route & Garsdale Alternative Route.

Monitoring & Survey

A report has been produced, and sent to the PBW Steering group detailing the survey and monitoring results in relation to the numbers of users on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, for the period 2003 to middle of June 2006. This is part of the on-going monitoring of the route. Future monitoring reports will include a baseline perception survey, and cycle counters, so that the Authority and Countryside Agency has baseline data on the number of users before the Yorkshire Dales section of the Pennine Bridleway is officially opened and promoted.

Legal Orders

Capita are providing regular reports on the progress of path orders and agreement has been reached on most of the route. However, during the past year, Capita have continued negotiations with a number of landowners, but have not entered into formal creation agreements despite ongoing negotiations over the past three years. Therefore it has reached an impasse, and no further progress has been made on these cases. Whilst these negotiations have been positive, they have broken down when it comes to the amount of compensation to be paid. It was noted in the annual report 2004/05, when reporting on Creation Agreements, that Creation Orders were seen as a last resort. It is on this basis, and to enable work on the implementation of the Pennine

Bridleway National Trail to continue, that authority is sought from the Access Committee to pursue Creation Orders on the following sections of the route.

Location	Length of Route
Far Moor, Selside (Selside Alternative Route)	140m
Garsdale Station (Garsdale Alternative Route)	500m
Yorehouse, Garsdale	1860m
Stainforth (Stainforth Alternative Route)	360m

These sections represent only 3.7% of the overall PBW route in the Yorkshire Dales.

It should be noted that the same amount of compensation is payable to the landowner regardless of whether the route is created by a creation agreement or creation order. Without these agreements in place future capital work on the Pennine Bridleway will come to a halt in 2007, and the target date for completion of 2009 will not be met.

Funding and Resources 2005/6

Member will recall that the 2004/05 annual report identified the resources needed to complete the Pennine Bridleway and indicated that it was not possible to complete the Pennine Bridleway by 2007, the target date at that time. A revised target completion date of 2009 was agreed and to further assist completion of the works the Countryside Agency has agreed to a two year post (Pennine Bridleway Technician) to work alongside the Project Officer in order to ensure that the new target date is met (See revised project management time table **Annex**, a more detailed project management breakdown can be supplied on request).

The Pennine Bridleway is 100% grant aided by the Countryside Agency and the following capital works have been funded 2005/6:

Ling Gill Track	- £18,550
Austwick BW's	- £22,890
Goat Scar Lane	- £64,150
Langcliffe Enclosure	- £15,365
Monkey becks	- £95,235
Banks Lane	- £12,450
Highway Signs(settle loop)	- £5000
Finger Posts(settle loop)	- £2750
Lambert Lane	- £3600

In addition the Project Officer and Technician posts are also 100% grant aided, but implementation does require input from other Authority officers.

Looking Ahead 2006/7

The following Projects are being undertaken this year in accordance with the project plan:

Route Name	Legal Status	Location	Works	TRO	Length
Newby Head	Upgrade FP to BW	Horton in Ribblesdale	Subsoil,surfacing and drainage works	no	2.6km
Grove Head	New Creation	Hawes	Subsoil, surfacing, drainage and gateway improvement	no	1.0km
BW no.56, Dent	Bridleway	Newby Head	Subsoil, surfacing & major drainage	no	1.4km
Long Lane	Bridleway	Clapham/	Minor surfacing and	no	4.5km

Route Name	Legal Status	Location	Works	TRO	Length
Thwaite Lane	Bridleway	Horton Austwick,	drainage		
Mitchell Lane Edge Lane	UCR	Long Preston to Settle	Surfacing and drainage	no	5.4km
Bark House	BW/UCR	Austwick & Stainforth	Surfacing and drainage	no	3.4km
Stainforth Car Park & picnic area	YDNPA Owned	Stainforth	Improvement works to existing car park and picnic area	no	no

The Countryside Agency are not making any grant offers, at the present time, and are providing advice to Defra to inform Defra's decision on their grant in aid. Until a decision is received from Defra the Countryside Agency is unable to enter into any further financial commitments. This does not affect the implementation of the PBW in the Dales 2006/07, because a grant offer for all capital work during 2006/07 has already been agreed.

Conclusion

Overall the work on the Pennine Bridleway has gone well with the Best Value Performance Plan 2005/6 targets of 50% of the route implemented, and the opening of the Settle Loop, having been met. During this period, £240,000 has been spent on capital improvement work to bring the rights of way network, along the route, up to a recognised National Trail standard.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) the progress on implementing the Pennine Bridleway is noted and
- (b) authority is given for the use of Creation Orders, on those sections of the route where Creation Agreements have not been agreed to date, as detailed within the body of the report.

GARETH EVANS
PENNINE BRIDLEWAY PROJECT OFFICER

Background documents:

Pennine Bridleway Annual Report 2004/05 to Access Committee 2004/05

25 July 2006

Capital Projects - Implementation and Target Completion Dates

Since 2005, timescale for completion of works has been revised to take account of 2009 as the new target completion date for Pennine Bridleway in the Yorkshire Dales

Location	Works proposed	Provisional Timescale (2005-06)	Revised Timescale (2006-09)
New Creation Long Preston (750m)	Surfacing & Drainage	Summer 2007	2008
FP Sour Dale Lane (650m)	Surfacing & Drainage	Summer 2007	2008
A65 Highway Crossing	Pegasus Crossing	Summer 2007	2008
Edge Lane (2.4km)	Surfacing & Drainage	Summer 2006	Autumn 2006
Mitchell Lane (3.0km)	Surfacing & Drainage	Summer 2006	Autumn 2006
Lambert Lane (860m)	Surfacing	Aug-05	completed
Banks Lane, Settle (550m)	Surfacing & Drainage	Aug-05	completed
Lower Windskill	New Gate	Autumn-05	completed
Goat Scar Lane (1.0km)	Surface repairs, Landscaping & major drainage 2 gates	Autumn-05	completed
Stainforth Alternative route (385m)	Surfacing, fencing, mounting blocks 2 gates	Summer 06	2007
BW21, Little Stainforth Alternative (685m)	Major drainage & surfacing works 3 gates	Autumn-06	Start date August 06
BW2B, Little Stainforth Alternative (46m)	minor surfacing & drainage	Autumn-06	Start date August 06
BW2A, Little Stainforth Alternative (690m)	major surfacing & drainage 2 gates	Autumn-06	Start date August 06
Road IN77R Feizor Nick 1.0km	Minor surfacing & drainage 1 gate	Autumn-06	Start date August 06
BW5 Hale Lane 700m	major surfacing & drainage - tree surgery work	Autumn-05	completed
BW 27 Austwick 400m	major surfacing & drainage - tree surgery work	Autumn-05	completed
BW26 Austwick (1.5km)	major surfacing & drainage - tree surgery work	Autumn-05	completed

Location	Works proposed	Provisional Timescale (2005-06)	Revised Timescale (2006-09)
BW13a/b Thwaite Lane, Austwick (1.8km)	Surfacing & Drainage work	Spring-06	Autumn 06
BW9 Long Lane, Clapham (2.7km)	Surfacing & Drainage work 2 gate	Spring-06	Autumn 06
BW3 Clapham Old Road	1 gate	Spring-06	Autumn 06
BW1 Austwick Clapham Old Road	1 gate	Spring-06	Autumn 06
BW15 Clapham Old Road	4 gate	Spring-06	Autumn 06
B6479 Selside Crossing	signage & crossing point	Ongoing	2007
New Creation Far moor Common 2.5km	Major construction of subsoil, grass gravel track	Summer/Autumn 06	2007
River Ribble	45m single span bridleway bridge	Summer-06	2007
FP 10 Ling gill Track (3.0km)	Surfacing & Drainage work 3 gate	Summer-05	completed
FP1 Ling Gill to Cold Keld Gate via Cam highroad (5km)	Major Surface & Drainage work 4 gate	Summer-06	2007 Minor repairs until Cam Forestry extraction route has been resolved Work started
New Creation Cold Keld gate to Gavel Gap	100m Subsoil & grass gravel track 2 gate	Autumn-06	Work started
FP52 Ingleton Ribbleway (2.6km)	Subsoil & grass gravel track 1gate	Autumn-06	Work started
BW56 Ingleton 1.4km	Subsoil & grass gravel track 3 gate	Autumn-06	Work started
Swineley cown 1.4km	Subsoil & grass gravel track	Autumn-06	2007
BW57 Monkeybecks Grains (3.2km)	Surface repairs, Landscaping & major drainage 5 gates	Sep-05	completed
Dandry Mire creation (1.3)	Subsoil & grass gravel track 4 gates	Summer-06	2007
A684 Road Crossing		Ongoing	2007
FP16 Yore House Farm	Bridge Structural Survey & repairs1 gate	Winter-06 Spring-07	2008
The highway Link (1.0km)	Surfacing & drainage, waymarking 2 gates	Spring 07	2008

Total length still requiring works - 28.1km