



**Unapproved Minutes of Meeting of
Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
Held on Tuesday 23 October 2007
Bolton Abbey Village Hall**

Present: Geoff Wilson (GW), Jon Beavan (JB), Bill Foster (BF), Michael Bartholomew (MB), David Gibson (DG), Ben Heyes (BH), Pat Whelan (PWh), Ken Miller (KM), Peter Bradfield (PB), Adrian Pickles (AP), Judy Rogers (JR), Harold Brown (HB), Malcolm Petyt (MP)

YDNPA Officers present:

Rachel Briggs (RB) – Access Development Officer and LAF Secretary

Kathryn Beardmore (KB) – Access and Recreation Manager

Jon Avison (JA) – Head of Park Management

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. Welcome

GW welcomed the following observers to the meeting:

Natalie Thompson – YDNPA Access Technician/Access and Recreation Admin Officer

John Dwyer – YDNPA Senior Definitive Map Officer

GW welcomed HB back onto the forum and welcomed MP to his first meeting as a member of the forum representing the YDNPA. MP is the Recreation Management Member Champion for the YDNPA. JA explained that the Recreation Management Member Champion will sit permanently on the forum as a representative of the YDNPA.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Deborah Millward (DM), Richard Johnson (RJ), Paul Tibbatts (PT), Phil Woodyer (PW)

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

GW had written to both Cumbria County Council (CCC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) with regards to funding for rights of way within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Both

responses indicated that they are working in partnership with the YDNPA and that that liaison over funding was ongoing. JA thanked the chair for writing to the County Councils and added that this was helpful for the negotiations.

Funding for the Pennine Bridleway had been secured for this year (2007/08).

4. Public Question Time

There were no public questions presented to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

GW presented a written report featuring matters that he had dealt with since the last meeting. The matters discussed were as follows:

- Access Committee Liaison.
- Cumbria County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Liaison with Northern Regions Local Access Forums.
- Lake District National Park Local Access Forum.
- Recruitment of members to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

Since the meeting in May, GW had responded to two consultations on behalf of the Forum:

- Natural England consultation on the activation and expiry of fire prevention restrictions under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000.
- Defra consultation on the implementation of the right to apply for orders to extinguish or divert public rights of way.

Copies of the responses have been emailed to members. Further copies can be obtained from RB.

GW explained that six members of the YDAF had come to the end of their three year term. There has also been a resignation in the past year. There are, therefore, seven vacancies. KM asked if the YDNPA would consider appointing some members for less than three years to get back to one third being appointed annually. JA said that this would be considered.

The contents of the Chairman's Report were noted.
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6. Presentation on carriage driving

PWh gave an informative presentation on carriage driving, and in particular carriage driving in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which was well received. She explained that she, along with another local representative of the British Driving Society (BDS), were researching possible circular routes for carriage drivers. It was thought that this would help officers of the YDNPA and that eventually a joint leaflet of routes could be produced. PWh asked for the support of members for this project.

KM endorsed PWh's project and thought that this could be something the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group should look at.

MP asked whether the BDS was looking to get more routes off-road (ie 'off tarmac'). PWh said that they were looking at all routes but in particular those that would be off-tarmac.

JB asked what the parking requirements were for a horse and carriage. PWh explained that the trailer would be the equivalent to a double horse box. A picture was circulated. AP wondered if it would be worth the BDS identifying parking areas for trailers when considering routes.

JA pointed out that objective AR9 of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Integrated Access Strategy states that:

By 2008, identify and encourage designation of a network of 'quiet lanes' to enhance the enjoyment of the National Park for visitors and residents, improve safety for users and to reinforce the tranquillity and landscape character of key areas.

JA explained that this would be part of the work programme of the two county councils and that he could see a link between quiet lanes and suitable routes for carriage drivers.

JR congratulated PWh on her presentation and asked members of the forum to think about other presentations that could be taken to subsequent meetings.

RB to contact YDAF members for potential presentation topics for future meetings

Any potential routes for carriage drivers to be discussed at the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group.

7. North Yorkshire Unclassified/Unsurfaced Liaison Group

The first meeting of this group met on 23 July 2007. MB attended as a representative of the YDAF. NYCC have asked for one rep from each of the three North Yorkshire LAFs to sit on the group.

MB explained that the group's remit is to look at unsurfaced unclassified county roads (UCRs) which he explained in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are a precious resource. The group is lead by Doug Huzzard, the Assets Manager for North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC).

KB confirmed that Doug Huzzard also sits on the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group (YDGLAG) which ensures there is some cross over between the NYCC group and that convened by YDNPA. It was KB's understanding that the NYCC group was more about asset management i.e. the repair of routes, and how to priorities NYCC's limited resources.

KM requested that members be supplied with a copy of the groups terms of reference before they decide who should sit on the group. MP agreed that this would be useful.

MB thought that it must be made clear what they wish the representative from the YDAF to do.

JB thought it would be hard for an individual of the YDAF to put across all their views. His thoughts were that officers of the YDNPA should be trusted to put across the necessary view. MB thought that perhaps the appointment could be transferred to a member of the YDGLAG – perhaps the chair of the group.

It was agreed that MP, as the Chair of the YDGLAG, attend the next meeting of the North Yorkshire Unclassified/Unsurfaced Liaison Group.

RB to ask NYCC for a copy of the terms of reference for the group to be circulated to members.

8. Discovering Lost Ways

GW presented the paper on discovering lost ways and went through the questions put to local access forums by Natural England in the September 2007 DLW E-Bulletin.

Question 1

Given the current situation and procedures for recording routes on the definitive map, what needs to change to enable you to enjoy your great day out in 2020?

MP thought that the approach should be an inclusive programme. JB and KM agreed with this.

AP thought that the process should be streamlined. MP reiterated this by suggesting that the speed of delivery should to be increased.

MB thought that removing the cut off date of 2026 would alleviate all the problems. GW thought that some people would prefer the certainty of having a cut off date. BH agreed with GW that a cut off date was required.

Question 2

What role do you see the LAF having in discovering lost ways?

MB suggested that there are already many professionals working on this and that the LAF is not able to add anything. KB said that the LAF's role was in bringing together a wide range of interests and understanding.

Question 3

If this required the LAF becoming more involved in route specific discussions, how could this be handled?

BH thought that individual members might become involved with specific route discussions but that this would not be a discussion for the LAF as a whole. MB said this should be entrusted to the rangers who are mediating on rights of issues all the time.

Question 4

What relationship do you see between delivering lost ways and the RoWIP?

DG suggested that there may be some cross over of projects highlighted in the RoWIP action plan and the delivering lost ways project. In such instances, funding should be allocated accordingly.

GW and MB to summarise the issues raised and send to the delivering lost ways project at Natural England.
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See response at Appendix 1.

9. Cumbria Countryside Access

GW presented the paper on the proposals for the partnership – 'Cumbria Countryside Access'. Nominations for the positions on the various task groups were sought.

Maintenance Task Group – one representative for all three LAFs.

MP proposed DG position. DG declined the nomination due to other YDAF commitments. No further nominations were made.

Improvement Task Group – One representative from each of the three LAFs.

No nominations were made for the Improvement Task Group, despite KB drawing to the Forum's attention the fact that this group would be working on the RoWIP implementation.

Promotion Task Group – one representative for all three LAFs.

PB offered to be considered for the Promotion Task Group.

Access for All Sub Group – requirement unspecified.

KM offered to keep an on the Access for All sub group until a representative could be found.

MPV Sub Group – requirement unspecified.

No nominations were made for the MPV sub group.

DG suggested that it was a difficult time of year to ask for members to put themselves forward for membership to groups, as one third of the members were up for reappointment. GW agreed to put Cumbria Countryside Access (CCA) and membership of groups on the agenda for the annual general meeting in 2008.

GW informed members that the first meeting of the CCA Partnership Board was to take place on 21 November at Kendal. Because there was a place on this Board for each LAF chair he had sought agreement for a vice-chair to attend in his stead.

GW to inform Cumbria County of those members that had been nominated for CCA groups.

10. The Effectiveness of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

GW presented the paper prepared by RB and asked for comments.

AP didn't think that either suggestion for the measure of the effectiveness of the YDAF was relevant and that a more realistic measure should be used. JB suggested that officers from the YDNPA should be measuring the effectiveness, as the appointing authority.

PB thought that the work of the YDAF needed to be much for specific and that objectives should be set and assessed at each of the meetings.

KM suggested that the advisory groups would be a better measure of the effectiveness of the YDAF and that each group should formulate their own action plans. PB and MB agreed with this.

Officers from the YDNPA to set objectives and targets for the YDAF as a measure of their effectiveness.

11. Advisory Groups

a) Access on Foot Advisory Group

MB, as the chair of the Access on Foot Advisory Group, highlighted the main discussions of the meeting. At future meetings, the group will be working on two projects:

- How the public can report issues on public rights of way.
- A management plan for open access.

The unapproved minutes of the meeting can be seen in the Appendix 2.

b) Green Lanes Advisory Group

There were no comments on the minutes of the Green Lanes Advisory Group.

12. Powers to make Traffic regulation Orders and YDAF as statutory consultee

HB and MP declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

KB presented the report to members, stressing that Local Access Forums were statutory consultees under sections 4, 18 and 20 of the National Park Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England) Regulations 2007 which had come into force on 1 October 2007, and asked how the YDAF would like to deal with the consultation.

GW reminded members that although the forum is a statutory consultee, this does not mean that there is a statutory obligation to respond.

KM suggested that each member respond to the consultation documents through the Chair. JB agreed and wondered if the YDAF could just endorse the views made by the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.

DG asked KB if she was looking for a reasoned response. KB confirmed that she was.

MB suggested that a special meeting be held to look at the proposals. KM agreed. KB reminded members that this is the first stage of the TRO consultation, on the 'possibility' of making a TRO on specific routes, and that should any proposals proceed to a second stage, then there would be a further round of consultations considering the more detailed specifics of the Traffic Regulation Order.

MB asked for members to be made aware of the DEFRA paper:

'Guidance for National Park Authorities making Traffic Regulation Orders under section 22BB Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984'. RB to make this paper available to those members that wish to see it.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Yorkshire dales Access Forum be held on 7 December 2007 to look at the Traffic Regulation Order consultations. Subsequent consultations will be discussed at YDAF meetings.

13. Secretary's Report

RB presented a report of items for Members' consideration and information. These were:

- Appointment of Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Members.
- Access Committee Dates and Venues.
- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- CROW Act Restrictions and Exclusions.

14. Update on Members Activities

There were no reports from members.

15. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum will be held on Friday 7 December at the Village Hall, Gargrave, commencing 09.30, where the only item on the agenda will be forum response to consultation of possible Traffic Regulation Orders.

Future meetings will be as follows:

26 February 2008 - Yoredale, Bainbridge - 1.15pm

17 June 2008 – Yoredale, Bainbridge – 6.00pm

23 September 2008 – Venue tbc – 1.15pm

The meeting closed at 4.50pm.

Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum

Response to Consultation

28 October 2007

CONSULTATION ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS AND DISCOVERING LOST WAYS.

FORMAL ADVICE FROM THE YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum. Natural England is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

The Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum (YDAF) welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation, although there was regret expressed that only seven years after the enactment of the CROW Act 2000 and nearly 30% of the way to 2026, are these questions now being asked.

Q1. Given the current situation and procedures for recording routes on the definitive map, what needs to change to enable you to enjoy your great day out in 2020?

Response:

1. Given the opportunity that the DLW project provides for introducing more rights of way to the countryside the DLW project should remain a fully inclusive / non-selective project.
2. Members expressed great concern that the maximum number of claims should be secured before 2026 even if they are not able to be processed as orders by that date.
3. This forum realises that there will be a limit on the resources that may be devoted to progressing rights of way claims and definitive map modification orders at any one time, and that it will be necessary to manage work-load through a mechanism of prioritisation. However it is the view of this forum that such resources must be made available in a strategic manner.
4. There are mixed views on the matter of the 2026 definitive map cut-off date. Some members are of the opinion that the cut-off date should be extended to provide more time for the DLW project to be applied. Others felt that resources should be made available to meet the proposed 2026 date in order that certainty over the existence and status of routes may be anticipated sooner rather than later.

Considering Local Access Forums have been set up have been set up to give advice on public access:

Q 2What role do you see the LAF having in DLW?

Response:

1. Members did not feel sufficiently equipped to respond to this question but expects that information on this will emerge from one of the Pathfinder projects.

Q 3. If this required the LAF becoming more involved in route specific discussions how could this be handled?

Response:

1. Members felt that in an environment of inclusive research the role of the LAF at research stage was limited, but that there may be a role in advising on any associated prioritising of order processing. .
2. There was an appreciation of a possible benefit of local conflict resolution and arbitration in order to reduce the adversarial aspects of definitive map modification claims, however forum members did not feel that they would have the skill, time or resource to act in this capacity.
3. Some tensions between the aspirations of path users and of some land owner interests is perhaps inevitable but not necessarily unresolvable.

Q 4. What relationship do you see between DLW and the RoWIP?

Response:

1. Forum members believe that there is a link between DLW and the RoWIP in any county. However, the nature of the link remains unclear because the nature of the RoWIP in many counties, and especially its delivery, remains unclear.
2. Members feel sure that the RoWIP may provide some pointers for prioritising the pursuit of claims within the DLW programme.

GW 24.10.2007

**Unapproved Minutes of Meeting of
Access on Foot Advisory Group
Held on Wednesday 3 October 2007
Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes**

Present: Michael Bartholomew (MB), Brian Jones (BJ), John Brock (JB), Howard Medlock (HM), Ernie Robin (ER), Malcolm Petyt (MP), David Gibson (DG), Peter Bradfield (PB), Bernard Ellis (BE), Keith Wadd (KW)

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB), Iain Mann (IM), Steve Hastie (SH), Cat Kilner (CK), Paul Wilkinson (PW), Phil Richards (PR)

1. Welcome and apologies

MB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Apologies were received from Ken Miller (KM) and Mike Shearing (MS)

MB asked RB to update the map of ranger/Rambler Association representative areas and recirculate.

RB to update map of ranger/Rambler Association representative areas
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2. Approval of the notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the notes

PR noted that no works have yet been carried out at Grimwith Reservoir (as per note 3). However, Bob Baxter from Yorkshire Water has met with the agents and it looks like work will progress by the end of October.

Rights of Way Maintenance Plan

CK did a presentation to the meeting on the YDNPA Rights of Way Maintenance Plan.

BJ asked how accessible the information on the GIS database is for members of the public. It was explained that at the moment it is for internal use only but there are discussions as to how this can be displayed on the website.

BJ asked if the information held was purely that on rights of way or does it extend to open access. CK informed members of the group that works carried out by the Authority since commencement is on and that the Dales Volunteers are currently surveying and recording all crossing points on open access land. AH told members that he is writing an open access management plan and that this would be the kind of information he would be gathering.

JB wondered if it would be possible for the Ramblers Footpath Officers to have copies of the definitive map for their area. AH explained that the definitive map is currently being digitised and that once the project is complete, it would be available in various formats. In the meantime, AH agreed to find out if paper copies could be made available.

AH to find out if it is possible to give Ramblers Association Footpath Officer copies of the definitive map for their area.

3. Terms of reference

There was some discussion surrounding the name of the group. Eventually, it was decided that the meeting would be called the Access on Foot Advisory Group.

AH informed members that the Long Distance Walkers Association had expressed an interest in the meeting. Members of the group agreed that it would be useful to invite a representative from the LDWA to join the group.

RB to invite a representative from the Long Distance Walkers Association to the meetings.

Some members of the group were uncomfortable with point 6 which states:

6. The Chair of the group will be elected on an annual basis and should be a representative of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum wherever possible.

It was agreed that the Chair of the group would not have to be a representative of the YDAF and that the terms of reference be amended to reflect this.

RB to amend point 6 of the terms of reference to read: The Chair of the group will be elected on an annual basis.

MP thought that there needed to be a sentence at the beginning of the terms of reference to explain the relationship with the group, the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Member of the group agreed that this was vital.

AH and MP to work on the wording for beginning section of the terms of reference.

4. Public Rights of Way Matters – Dealing with reports

AH stressed to members of the group that the meeting is not a replacement for reporting PROW issues to the relevant area ranger. These are still appreciated and will be responded to in the usual manner.

ER thought that for members of the general public, the website is not an easy way to report issues. AH suggested that this might be something the group wish to look at.

BJ told the group that Lancashire County Council has a good way of reporting issues. MP suggested that those members of the group with computers have a look at the website <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/prow/index.asp>.

**Suggested agenda item for the next meeting:
Reporting of PROW issues by the general public.**

5. Open Access Management Plan

AH informed members of the group of the open access management plan and the timescale for writing it. It is due to be completed by the end of March.

It was agreed that it is essential that the group be involved with the document and that a special meeting would need to be held to discuss the first draft.

AH to circulate the first draft of the open access management plan when complete.
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6. Legal Issues – Guidelines for dealing with Path Order Applications

AH went through the process of how the YDNPA liaises with landowners with regards to PROW diversions, creations and deletions.

7. Access for All

There was some discussion with regards to the cross over between the Access on Foot Advisory Group and the Access for All Advisory Group (set up to look at issues surrounding access for people with limited mobility). PB suggested that the minutes of the groups be made available to everyone. RB explained that all the minutes would be on the website (www.yorkshiredales.org.uk).

8. Member Round Up

BE - BE asked officers of the YDNPA what is happening at the moment with vehicular use of PROW. AH informed members of the group of a new leaflet that has been produced called 'Trail Riding in the Yorkshire Dales' which details legal and responsible use of PROW. MB also told the group that as of 1 October 2007, National Park Authorities have had the power to place a traffic regulation order on a route in their area. MB suggested members of the group have a look at the guidance issued to National Park Authorities (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/issues/public/npguid-tro.pdf>).

BJ - BJ asked what the YDNPA policy on signing diversion was (long term signage as apposed to the temporary closure signs). AH said he would look in to this.

ER – ER asked that his name and address be included in the consultation list for path order applications.

JB – JB asked if a waymark disk could be used that would make it clear where to go when approaching a gate. AH said he would look at what options there are for this.

9. Any Other Business

The date of the next meeting will be 5 March. The meeting will start at 1.30 and will be held at the Dales Countryside Museum. The Ramblers Association representatives will meet at 12.30 for a lunch time meeting.

Agenda items to include:
Reporting issues with PROW.