

Annual Report

2006/07

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1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Introduction

It has been a demanding and busy year for this small team of volunteers who give their time and experience freely. The time of every member is precious and limited and it is important that we ensure that members' workload is manageable, that their time and experience is utilised to maximum effect, and that objectives are efficiently and effectively achieved. Being volunteers 'staffing' a statutory body isn't always easy. As chairman I have appreciated the manner in which members have remained focused and have applied their various skills and knowledge.

The matters that have come before the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum this year reflects in some measure the activity of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority during the year. It has been a busy one as detailed in the section of this report that lists the various matters that have featured on the agendas of meetings. The National Park Authority turned to the forum for strategic and policy advice on many matters relating to managing and improving public rights of way and on public access issues generally. Amongst them are the Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan, the Recreation Charter, and the Access and Recreation Section of the National Park Management Plan. They are all big issues for the National Park Authority, people who live and work in the area, for visitors and for the economy of the place. To keep ourselves up to date and trained, we have received presentations on proposals for the prioritising and integration of definitive map anomalies and applications, the creation of a framework for the management of green lane use in the National Park, especially by motor vehicles, and we visited Cotterdale to hear at first-hand about Open Access issues that affect game management. The forum has also given regular advice to North Yorkshire County Council and Cumbria County Council on each county authority's emerging Rights of Way Improvement Plan that will be published during 2007 and to Craven District Council on its Active Recreation Strategy.

One area of disappointment is the lack of apparent interest shown in the work of the forum by the general public. All forum meetings are open to the public and by arrangement members of the public may ask questions and, where appropriate, the chairman will invite public participation. However the opportunity to do this is rare because we rarely see many members of the public at meetings, which are well advertised in local papers and on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's website. The National Park Authority makes the forum members feel needed and does a great job at making sense of what can sometimes be challenging views and advice, but the Park's community less so.

Geoff Wilson March 2007

2 THE YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

2.1 The Role of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

It is the function of Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, in respect to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, to **advise** -

- (a) Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (as the appointing authority), and the local highway authority for any part of the area,
- (b) any bodies exercising functions under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) Part 1 in relation to land in that area,
- (c) such other bodies as may be prescribed.

as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed, (CRoW Act s94(4)).

In consequence of the above the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum may comment on any aspect of the management of local access undertaken.

For example:

- advise the National Park Authority on any long term restrictions or exclusions on access land in its area;
- advise the National Park Authority on how public access to land in its area should be managed so as to reduce the impact of access on agriculture, conservation or land management, or to reduce the risk to public safety;
- advise on the means by which information to the public on access land, including restrictions and opportunities should be provided;
- make representations to the Planning Inspectorate during the course of any appeal brought by a person with a legal interest in the land; and

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum may be requested to provide advice on:

- strategies or plans incorporating recreation and access which set rights of way and open access in a broad context, integrating provision for access, all forms of open air recreation to land and water, and transport, tourism, health and public information for example the Integrated Access Strategy for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy;
- the extent to which fair provision is made for all current and potential users, and reflects the needs of local people and businesses; and the co-ordinated use of resources to provide and manage integrated recreation and access, and the dissemination of information to interested groups and the wider public.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum is a statutory consultee on the Rights of Way Improvement Plans being produced by Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils.

3. WHO ARE THE FORUM?

3.1 Members and representation

The Forum has been constituted so that:

- It is a balanced group, which avoids being dominated by single interests.
- It is representative of all interests, including; recreation use, land management, nature conservation, tourism, business, transport and access for all.

Many members have secondary interests as well as the primary interest for which they were appointed.



The Members of the Forum during part or all of the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007 were:

NAME	AREA OF INTEREST	INTEREST DETAIL
Michael Bartholomew ²	Users	Walking, road cycling and landscape conservation.
David Gibson	Users	Walking, local archaeology, Access for All and woodland management.
Ken Miller ¹	Users	Horse riding, walking and cycling.
Mark Sandamas ³	Users	Outdoor Recreation (especially cycling), health and safety and health.
Pat Whelan	Users	British Driving Society, farming and rights of way.
Geoff Wilson	Users	Motorcycling, walking, physical geography and recreation management in sensitive areas.
Peter Bradfield ¹	Owners and Occupiers	Farming and recreation.
Bill Foster	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, nature and heritage conservation
Graeme Hall ⁵	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, walking and conservation.
Ben Heyes	Owners and Occupiers	Land management, in particular management of moorland.
Richard Johnson	Owners and Occupiers	Land management, in particular management of moorland.
Richard Spensley ³	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, archaeology, game keeping and nature conservation.
Paul Tibbatts ¹	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, walking and nature conservation.
Jon Beavan	Other Interests	Caving, walking, climbing, mountain biking, conservation, photography and local business.
Veronica Boulton ³	Other Interests	Tourism, public transport, walking, access for people with disabilities and conservation.
John Goss (Co-opted	Other Interests	Access for people with disabilities, air rifle shooting and 4x4 driving.
member) ⁴		
Anne Lawrence	Other Interests	Volunteering, walking and climbing.
Adrian Pickles	Other Interests	Education and outdoor recreation.
Judy Rogers ¹	Other Interests	Social inclusion.
Philip Woodyer	Other Interests	Outdoor learning, mountaineering, climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, Caving and access
		for people with disabilities.
Harold Brown	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).
Deborah Millward	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).
Jerry Pearlman	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).

At the end of December 2007, five members of the Forum completed their 3 year term of office and an appointment procedure took place to recruit new members. ⁽¹⁾ New members were appointed for a three year term of office from 1 January 2007. ⁽²⁾ Re-applied to be on the Forum at the end of term and were successfully reappointed for a further three years from 1 January 2007. ⁽³⁾ Members resigned from the forum following the end of their 3 year term. ⁽⁴⁾ Co-opted member came to the end of their 3 year term, December 2006. ⁽⁵⁾ Resigned from the forum before the end of their 3 year term.

3.2 Observers and advisers to the Forum

The Forum invites observers with relevant expertise to observe and participate, where necessary, in meetings. The following representatives are invited to meetings of the Forum:

Abi Mansley Countryside Access Development Officer Cumbria

County Council

lain Burgess Access and Rights of Way manager, North Yorkshire

County Council

Angela Flowers Rights of Way Improvement Plan Officer, North

Yorkshire County Council

Gill Dixon Chief Executive, Craven District Council

Jill Bell Assistant Tourism Officer, Richmondshire District

Council

David Slater Conservation Officer, Access, Natural England

Roy Hymas Lead for Access and Recreation, Natural England

Ann Trevithick Principal Recreation Officer, Environment Agency

Heather Kennedy Senior Environmental Development Officer, Sport

England

Jon Avison Head of Park Management, Yorkshire Dales National

Park Authority

Kathryn Beardmore Access and Recreation Manager Yorkshire Dales

National Park Authority

Alan Hulme Ranger Services Manager, Yorkshire Dales National

Park Authority

3.3 Secretariat

The National Park Authority provides the secretariat to the Forum:

The main point of contact for enquiries relating to the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum is Rachel Briggs, Access Development Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

4. WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THIS LAST YEAR (1 APRIL 2006 – 31 MARCH 2007)?

4.1 Chairman of the Forum.

Geoff Wilson was Chairman of the Forum and Jon Beavan Vice-Chairman for the period of this report.

The Forum appointed Geoff Wilson as Chairman at its meeting on 21 March 2006 and he was reappointed 8 January 2007 for a further year. No Vice Chairman was elected at this meeting.

4.2 Formal meetings of the Forum

Three formal meetings have been held during this period in different areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The dates and venues of these were:

- 18 July 2006 at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.
- 17 October 2007 at West Burton Village Hall.
- 8 January 2007 at Yoredale, Bainbridge

The agenda items have included:

- Definitive Map prioritising anomalies.
- Cycle Tourism.
- Green Lanes Framework.
- Craven on the Move and Active Recreation Strategy.
- National Park Management Plan.
- Geocaching.
- Cumbria Countryside Partnership
- DEFRA Consultation relating to the Draft Diversity Action Plan Outdoors for All?
- Countryside Agency Consultation relating to the use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on the Pennine Bridleway.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 - For North Yorkshire.
 - > For Cumbria.
- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
 - Work Programme
- CROW Act Part 1
 - Closures and restrictions
 - > Fire Restrictions.

Minutes, agendas and advance information are available for inspection from the Secretariat. Minutes and the agenda of the most recent meeting are available on the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

4.3 Training and Development

On the 18 July 2006, Richard Johnson hosted a site visit to Cotterdale. This allowed members to look at land management issues relating to open access under the CROW Act on an upland partridge and pheasant shoot, and how this relates to the Restriction and Exclusions system available to land owners and administered by Relevant Authorities.

As the main part of the meeting on the 8 January 2007, a workshop was held to consider the continued development of Open Access opportunities in the Yorkshire Dales.



4.4 Sub-committee Activities of the Forum

Several Members of the Forum have attended meetings as formal representatives of the Forum. These meetings have included work on the Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.

The Forum responded to the consultation issued by DEFRA: <u>Consultation Relating to the Draft Diversity Action Plan – Outdoors for All?</u>

The Forum responded to the consultation issued by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England): The Use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on the Pennine Bridleway.

The responses to these consultations can be obtained from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

4.5 Formal Consultation

The Forum has been formally consulted on the following strategy documents:

- Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007

	Mem	bers'	exp	enses
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Travel Allowance	1405.05
Miscellaneous	19.90
Total	1424.95

Meetings

2516.50
17.92
315.00
758.05
72.00
1353.53

Recruitment

Advertising	1037.54
Venue Hire	45.00
Catering	5.24
Total	1087.78

Annual Report

Printing	726.00
Promotional material	491.00
Total	1217.00

Total	Expenditure	6246.23
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Staff Time¹ (days) 157

¹ this covers time for work directly generated by the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and not that work that officers would normally carry out with or without a Local Access Forum.

APPENDIX 1 MEMBERS – WHO'S ON THE YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM? 1 APRIL 2007 – 31 MARCH 2008

MICHAEL BARTHOLOMEW

From: Otley Appointment Ends: January 2010

Background

Michael Bartholomew is a retired university lecturer. He is a member of the Cyclists Touring Club, the Ramblers Association and the Yorkshire Dales Society. He is chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance - an organisation that campaigns for an end to recreational vehicular use of green lanes in the Park. His interests include road cycling, walking and landscape conservation.

Area of Representation

Walking, road cycling and landscape conservation

JON BEAVAN

From: Austwick Appointment Ends: January 2009

Background

Jon Beavan is the proprietor and manager of the Dalesbridge Centre in Austwick. He is a member of the Settle Chamber of Trade, the Settle-Carlisle Business Liaison Group, Yorkshire Tourist Board, British Cave Research Association and the Association of Caving Instructors. Jon is also a Duty Controller of the Cave Rescue Organisation. His interests include caving, walking, climbing, mountain biking, conservation and photography.

Area of Representation:

Outdoor recreation (especially caving and climbing), local business and sustainable tourism.

PETER BRADFIELD

From: Conistone with Kilnsey Appointment Ends: January 2010

Background

Peter Bradfield has retired. He comes from a farming background and after a short spell in agricultural research he worked for over 30 years in the animal feed industry. He retains a keen interest in agriculture, particularly extensive production. In addition he has a strong interest in sport, walking, bird watching, gardening and travel.

Area of Representation

Farming and Recreation

HAROLD BROWN

From: Grinton Appointment Ends: January 2009

Background

Harold Brown has farmed at Grinton since 1951. He has been the Chairman of Grinton Parish Council since 1975. He is also a member of the National Farmers' Union, the Country Landowners' Association, the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, the Dales Advisory Group and English Nature.

Area of Representation

YDNPA (Secretary of State) appointee

BILL FOSTER

From: Kettlewell Appointment Ends: January 2008

Background

Bill Foster is a retired farmer having lived and farmed at Kilnsey and Kettlewell all of his life. He is the owner of the Skirfare Bridge Dales Barn. Bill also has an interest in nature and heritage conservation.

Area of Representation

Dales Farming

DAVID GIBSON

From: Burton in Lonsdale Appointment Ends: January 2008

Background

David Gibson has been a member of the Ramblers Association for over 20 years. David is the chair of the West Riding Ramblers Association Access Committee, Access Officer for Craven Group and Footpath Officer for Craven outside the Dales NP. David also has an interest in local archaeology, Access for All and woodland management.

Area of Representation

Walking

BEN HEYES

From: Bolton Abbey Appointment Ends: January 2009

Background

Ben Heyes is a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and administers the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees Yorkshire Estate focussed at Bolton Abbey. He has experience of combining moorland management with access for the public and is the Secretary of the River Wharfe Anglers Association.

Area of Representation

Land management, in particular management of moorland.

RICHARD JOHNSON

From: Carperby Appointment Ends: January 2008

Background

Richard Johnson has been a qualified Solicitor for 36 years and practices in Hawes. He also owns and manages Stags Fell grouse moor, which is part of Abbotside Common where he is Chairman and Secretary of the Conservators. His main interests lie in restoration and conservation of heather moorland.

Area of Representation

Land Management

KEN MILLER

From: Middleham Appointment Ends: January 2010

Background

Ken Miller was brought up and worked for many years in the equine world. He had his own smallholding and stables before becoming a Civil Servant for the Ministry of Defence. Whilst retaining his equine interests, he is also a keen cyclist and walker. Ken has worked on bridleway and footpath issues in a voluntary capacity for over 25 years. He is especially interested in access for people with disabilities; particularly into the more challenging areas of our countryside.

Area of Representation

Horse riding, walking and cycling

DEBORAH MILLWARD

From: Thornton Rust Appointment Ends: January 2009

Background

Deborah Millward is an independent plant ecologist with particular interest in grasslands. She undertakes field research work for several universities and has been involved in a succession of agri-environment schemes. Appointed to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in 1999 she was re-appointed for a third term in 2005. She sits on both local and national conservation bodies and helps manage nature reserves in Wensleydale. Apart from conservation her interests includes walking, geology and current affairs.

Area of Representation

YDNPA (Secretary of State) appointee

ADRIAN PICKLES

From: Settle Appointment Ends: January 2008

Background

Since 2000, Adrian Pickles has been Head of Centre at the Field Studies Council, Malham Tarn Centre. He works closely with the National Trust, English Nature and in the local community and also teaches students of all ages about their natural and human heritage. Adrian is an active member of Settle Harriers, Airienteers Orienteering Club and the Institute for Outdoor Learning.

Area of Representation

Field studies and education.

JUDY ROGERS

From: Malham Appointment Ends: January 2010

Background

Judy is a Community Worker with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and works on the Learning in limestone Country Project. Judy is very interested in and works with ethnic minorities, disabled groups and urban youth.

Area of Interest

Inclusion of under represented groups into the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

PAUL TIBBATTS

From: Wharfe, Austwick Appointment Ends: January 2010

Background

Paul Tibbatts is recently retired having spent circa 35 years in the brewing industry as a Logistics Manager. Paul is currently going through an application process to become a Justice of the Peace. If successful he will sit at Bingley/Keighly District. Paul runs his own smallholding including an SSSI at Wharfe. Passionate about conservation & shooting he is a keen walker and encourages people to visit the area. Paul is also a member of the North Yorkshire County Council Local Access Forum.

Area of interest

Landowner, walking and conservation

PAT WHELAN

From: Richmond Appointment Ends: January 2009

Background

Pat Whelan is a retired farmer and has been a member of the British Driving Society for 20 years. Pat also has worked as a Rights of Way Officer for Yorkshire and the North East and has been a Member of various rights of way committees.

Area of Representation

British Driving Society (equine)

GEOFF WILSON - CHAIR

From: Lazonby, Cumbria Appointment Ends: January 2008

Background

Geoff Wilson practised as an electrical engineer and was CEO of the governing body for UK motorcycle sport. He now works part time on practical upland footpath management and is doing post graduate studies at Lancaster University. A past Chairman of the Motoring Organisations Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) Geoff is also a member of the Lake District National Park Authority's Trail Management Advisory Group, and a Member of the Lake District Local Access Forum. He is a parish councillor, Chairman of the Cumbria Rights of Way Liaison Group and a member of the Countryside Agency's Discovering Lost Ways Advisory Group. His interests include motorcycling, walking, physical geography and recreation management in sensitive areas.

Area of Representation

Outdoor recreation (including trail-riding and recreational 4x4-driving).

PHILIP WOODYER

From: Preston-under-Scar Appointment Ends: January 2008

Background

Philip Woodyer is the Head of Centre at Low Mill Outdoor Centre. He is a parish councillor and a member of the Institute for Outdoor Learning. Philip is also a member of the National Caving Association and attends the Northern Panel of the Local Cave Leaders Training and Assessment Scheme. His interests include caving, outdoor learning, mountaineering, climbing, kayaking, mountain-biking and access for people with disabilities.

Area of Representation

Outdoor education and recreation (especially caving and climbing).

Please note, any member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum can be contacted via Rachel Briggs, Access Development Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge Leyburn DL8 4LU. Alternatively, you can email Accessforum@Yorkshiredales.org.uk or telephone 01969 652363.

APPENDIX 2 ATTENDANCE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORUM AT OFFICIAL FORUM MEETINGS HELD IN PUBLIC BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2006 AND 31 MARCH 2007

	18 July 2006	17 October 2006	8 January 2007
Michael Bartholomew	¥	~	>
Jon Beavan	∀	∀	>
Veronica Boulton	∀	∀	-
Peter Bradfield	-	-	>
Harold Brown	✓	×	>
Bill Foster	✓	~	>
David Gibson	✓	~	>
John Goss	∀	~	-
Graeme Hall	×	×	-
Ben Heyes	∀	~	>
Richard Johnson	∀	×	>
Anne Lawrence	×	~	×
Deborah Millward	✓	×	>
Ken Miller	-	-	>
Jerry Pearlman	×	~	>
Adrian Pickles	×	×	>
Judy Rogers	-	-	~
Mark Sandamas	×	×	-
Richard Spensley	×	~	-
Paul Tibbatts	-	-	>
Pat Whelan	∀	∀	>
Geoff Wilson	✓	Y	>
Phil Woodyer	∀	~	×

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF MEMBERS EXPENSES PAID BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2006 AND 31 MARCH 2007

MEMBER	TRAVEL (£)	SUBSISTENCE (£)	MISCELLANEOUS (£)
Michael Bartholomew	189.64	-	-
Jon Beavan	-	-	-
Veronica Boulton ⁺	119.80		19.90
Peter Bradfield*	-	-	-
Harold Brown	17.46	-	-
Bill Foster	-	-	-
David Gibson	145.02	-	-
John Goss [†]	159.08	-	-
Graeme Hall [†]	-	-	-
Ben Heyes	-	-	_
Richard Johnson	19.40	-	_
Anne Lawrence	-	-	_
Ken Miller*	14.55	-	_
Deborah Millward	15.52	-	_
Jerry Pearlman	145.50	-	_
Adrian Pickles	-	-	-
Judy Rogers [*]	-	-	-
Mark Sandamas*	11.64	-	_
Richard Spensley [†]	-	-	_
Paul Tibbatts*	-	-	_
Pat Whelan	-	-	-
Geoff Wilson	567.44	-	-
Phil Woodyer	-	-	-
TOTAL	1405.05		19.90

Note 1: Members marked * took up appointment on 1 January 2007.

Members marked + resigned during this period.

Note 2: Subsistence covers any meals or overnight accommodation.

Miscellaneous covers out of pocket expenses. This includes travel by public

transport.