

# **3rd Annual Report**

2005/06

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#### 1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

#### Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to another annual report of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. It is hoped that you will find reading this account of our work both informative and interesting.

2005 saw the implementation of Open Access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Much preparation work was undertaken by the National Park Authority with the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum advising and being consulted on a wide range of matters.

Early indications are that many of the problems and pressures envisaged by some have not materialised and that, in the main, users have been responsible and understanding of the needs of those that farm, own and manage the land over which the new rights can now be exercised. That said, the Forum will continue to ensure that the National Park Authority supports landowners who encounter problems with public access as well as informing walkers and users of their access rights.

In the past year, extensive work has been undertaken on both the Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils' Rights of Way Improvement Plans, with our Forum advising on the development of both plans through meetings and workshops. This work will continue in the coming year prior to their publication. These important plans will heavily influence future rights of way development within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Yorkshire Dales Access Forum has welcomed new members during the year whilst other members have retired due to changing work commitments. Sadly, one of our members, John Sayer, died last December. He was an active and well respected member and his experienced farming and land owning perspective will be sadly missed.

The Forum remains a strong and increasingly powerful voice. The well balanced membership represents a wide range of views, with extensive experience of recreational, landowning and other relevant interests. I would like to thank the members for the considerable time, commitment and enthusiasm they have given the Forum over the last year. After three enjoyable years as Chairman I have decided to stand down as Chair, so enabling someone else to bring a new perspective and outlook to our meetings. I wish them well.

Lastly, I would once again like to thank the Officers of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who have serviced our meetings, kept us informed and ensured that our deliberations are productive.

Jon Beavan March 2006

#### 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 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 2005 – 31 March 2006 were:

NAME	AREA OF INTEREST	INTEREST DETAIL
Michael Bartholomew	Users	Walking, road cycling and landscape conservation.
Mark Sandamas	Users	Outdoor Recreation (especially cycling), health and safety and health.
Philip Woodyer	Users	Caving, Outdoor learning, mountaineering, climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and access
		for people with disabilities.
David Gibson	Users	Walking, local archaeology, Access for All and woodland management.
Geoff Wilson	Users	Motorcycling, walking, physical geography and recreation management in sensitive areas.
Pat Whelan <sup>1</sup>	Users	British Driving Society, farming and rights of way.
Graeme Hall	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, walking and conservation.
Ben Heyes <sup>2</sup>	Owners and Occupiers	Land management, in particular management of moorland.
Richard Spensley	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, archaeology, game keeping and nature conservation.
Richard Johnson	Owners and Occupiers	Land management, in particular management of moorland.
Bill Foster	Owners and Occupiers	Dales farming, nature and heritage conservation.
Jon Beavan <sup>2</sup>	Other Interests	Caving, walking, climbing, mountain biking, conservation, photography and local business.
Veronica Boulton	Other Interests	Tourism, public transport, walking, access for people with disabilities and conservation.
Gerald Light <sup>3</sup>	Other Interests	Nature conservation, bird watching and walking.
Anne Purbrick	Other Interests	Volunteering, walking and climbing.
John Goss (Co-opted	Other Interests	Access for people with disabilities, air rifle shooting and 4x4 driving.
member)		
Adrian Pickles	Other Interests	Education and outdoor recreation.
Roger Harrison-Topham <sup>3</sup>	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (North Yorkshire County Council).
Wilf Fenten <sup>3</sup>	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Parish Councils).
John Sayer <sup>4</sup>	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Craven District Council).
Jerry Pearlman <sup>5</sup>	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).
Deborah Millward <sup>5</sup>	YDNPA Member	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Secretary of State).

At the end of December 2005, five members of the Forum completed their 3 year term of office and an appointment procedure took place to recruit new members. <sup>(1)</sup>One new member was appointed for a three year term of office. <sup>(2)</sup>Two of those at the end of their term re-applied to be on the Forum and were successfully reappointed for a further three years. <sup>(3)</sup>Three members resigned from the forum following their 3 year term. <sup>(4)</sup>Sadly, Mr John Sayer passed away at the end of December. <sup>(5)</sup>Two Members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority were appointed to replace those that had resigned from the Forum.

#### 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 Integrated Access Planning Officer,

**Cumbria County Council** 

Mike Moore/Gordon Gresty Head of Environmental Services, North Yorkshire

County Council

Angela Flowers Rights of Way Improvement Plan Officer, North

Yorkshire County Council

Gill Dixon Chief Executive, Craven District Council

Harry Tabiner Chief Executive, Richmondshire District Council

**David Slater** Conservation Officer, Access, English Nature

Roy Hymas Lead for Access and Recreation, Countryside Agency

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 Mozley, Access Development Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

# 4. WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THIS LAST YEAR (1 APRIL 2005 – 31 MARCH 2006)?

#### 4.1 Chairman of the Forum.

Jon Beavan was Chairman of the Forum and Ben Heyes Vice-Chairman for the period of the report.

The Forum appointed Geoff Wilson as Chairman and Jon Beavan as Vice-Chairman at its meeting on 21 March 2006.

# 4.2 Formal meetings of the Forum

Four formal meetings have been held during this period in different areas of the national park. The dates and venues of these were:

- 28 June 2005 at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.
- 4 October 2005 at the Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton.
- 17 January 2006 at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.
- 21 March 2006 at Kettlewell Village Hall.

The agenda items have included:

- Access for All.
- Rights of way improvement plans.
- Cumbria Access Strategy.
- Rights of Way Maintenance Plan.
- Recreation Charter.
- National Park Management Plan Access and Recreation Section.
- Integrated Access Strategy and Green Lanes Policy
- DEFRA Consultation relating to the amendment of the Local Access Forum's (England) Regulations 2002.
- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
  - > Handbook
  - > Logo
  - > Action Plan
  - > Standard Procedures
  - > Terms of Reference
- CROW Act Part 1
  - Closures and restrictions
  - ➤ Launch of open access in the Yorkshire Dales 28 May 2005
  - ➢ Open access a year on.

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 Informal Meetings of the Forum

Two informal meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum were held during this period.

• 26 April 2005 at the Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton.

The purpose of the meeting and site visit was to examine an application for an Open Access restriction direction of greater than six months to restrict or exclude access under part 1 of the CROW Act. The direction was for:

- Raven Ray Pasture, Ingleton
- Quarry Wood, Ingleton
- 20 December 2005 at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.

On the 20 December, a workshop was held to examine the Yorkshire Dales Assessment Area Maps for the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Comments were made and passed on to Officers of North Yorkshire County Council.

#### 4.4 Main 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 Access Strategy, the Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority green lanes working group and various regional Local Access Forum events.

The Forum responded to the consultations issued by DEFRA, <u>Consultation Relating to the Amendment of the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002</u>. The response to this consultation 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 Countryside Access Strategy
- Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan

#### 5. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

# 1 April 2005 - 31 March 2006

Members' expenses (to include March 21 2006):			
Travel Allowance Miscellaneous Total	1493.82 143.59 <b>1637.41</b>		
Meetings Advertising Venue Hire Catering Printing of papers Total	1953.72 271.00 660.39 100.00 <b>2985.11</b>		
Recruitment Advertising Venue Hire Catering Total	1162.01 60.00 33.00 <b>1255.01</b>		
Annual Report Printing Total	1157.00 <b>1157.00</b>		
Handbook Printing Folders Design Total	130.00 42.00 663.00 <b>835.00</b>		
Logo Design Stationary Total	450.00 361.00 <b>811.00</b>		
Total Expenditure	8680.53		
Staff Time <sup>1</sup> (days)	163		

<sup>1</sup> 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 2006 – 31 MARCH 2007

#### MICHAEL BARTHOLOMEW

From: Otley Appointment Ends: January 2007

# **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 - VICE-CHAIR

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.

#### **VERONICA BOULTON**

From: Leeds Appointment Ends: January 2007

#### Background

Veronica Boulton has strong links with the Youth Hostels Association. Her interests include tourism, walking, access for people with disabilities, public transport and conservation.

#### **Area of Representation**

Tourism and public transport.

#### **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

JOHN GOSS (CO-OPTED MEMBER) Appointment Ends: January 2007

From: Boroughbridge

# **Background**

John Goss is a retired manager and shop owner. He is chairman of Harrogate and District Access Group and a member of Harrogate Borough Council's Disability Discrimination Act.1995 Committee. John also provides advice on disabilities to the Harrogate Hospital Trust and Yorkshire Water. His interests include air rifle shooting and recreational 4x4 driving.

#### **Area of Representation**

Access for people with disabilities.

#### **GRAEME HALL**

From: Conistone, Skipton Appointment Ends: January 2008

# **Background**

Graeme Hall is a hill farmer, landowner and tenant from Conistone. He is treasurer for Conistone Moor Gait-holders. Other than farming, his interests include walking, conservation and rugby.

# **Area of Representation**

Dales farming

#### **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

#### **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 interest includes walking, geology and current affairs.

# **Area of Representation**

YDNPA (Secretary of State) appointee

# **JERRY PEARLMAN**

From: Leeds Appointment Ends: January 2009

# **Background**

Jerry Pearlman is a solicitor in private practice. He specialises in various matters relating to the countryside [especially rights of way] and to National Parks. He is Deputy Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and is also the Honorary Solicitor to the Ramblers Association at national level and to the Open Spaces Society. He drafted the first two private members parliamentary bills outlining the right to roam. Jerry is also a member of the National Countryside Access Forum.

Although based in Leeds, he admits to having a second home in Wensleydale - but always makes the point that it has been his second home for over 40 years!

# **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.

#### **ANNE PURBRICK**

From: Richmond Appointment Ends: January 2008

# **Background**

Anne Purbrick has worked for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) since 2001 and is now the Project Officer for North Yorkshire, organising a wide range of practical conservation tasks. Anne is also a keen walker and climber.

#### **Area of Interest**

Volunteering

# **MARK SANDAMAS**

From: Barnoldswick Appointment Ends: January 2007

# Background

Mark Sandamas is a freelance consultant in event management, PR and health promotion. He is a member of the Cyclists Touring Club, the Fell Runners Association and the Youth Hostels Association. His interests include walking, mountain biking, tourism, health and safety, health, running, climbing and camping.

#### **Area of Representation**

Outdoor recreation (especially cycling), health & safety and health.

#### RICHARD SPENSLEY

From: Castle Bolton Appointment Ends: January 2007

# Background

Richard Spensley is a retired farmer and landowner and has played an active role in the National Sheep Association for many years. Other than farming, his interests include archaeology, game keeping, and nature conservation.

# **Area of Representation**

Dales farming

#### **PAT WHFI AN**

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 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).

# APPENDIX 2 ATTENDANCE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORUM AT OFFICIAL FORUM MEETINGS HELD IN PUBLIC BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2005 AND 31 MARCH 2006

	28 June 2005	4 October 2005	17 January 2006	21 March 2006
Michael Bartholomew	<b>V</b>	<b>Y</b>	✓	✓
Jon Beavan	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	✓	<b>~</b>
Veronica Boulton	>	<b>V</b>	✓	✓
Wilf Fenten	×	<b>V</b>	-	-
Bill Foster	X	<b>∀</b>	<b>∀</b>	₩
David Gibson	>	<b>∀</b>	<b>V</b>	✓
John Goss	>	<b>V</b>	X	<b>V</b>
Graeme Hall	<b>Y</b>	X	✓	X
Roger Harrison-Topham	×	<b>Y</b>	-	-
Ben Heyes	>	X	✓	✓
Richard Johnson	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	✓	✓
Gerald Light	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	-	-
Deborah Millward	-	-	✓	✓
Jerry Pearlman	-	-	X	✓
Adrian Pickles	<b>V</b>	-	✓	X
Anne Purbrick	<b>Y</b>	X	✓	<b>~</b>
Mark Sandamas	×	<b>Y</b>	✓	×
John Sayer	×	<b>V</b>	-	-
Richard Spensley	X	<b>∀</b>	<b>∀</b>	₩
Pat Whelan	-	-	<b>∀</b>	₩
Geoff Wilson	X	<b>∀</b>	<b>∀</b>	✓
Phil Woodyer	<b>V</b>	X	X	X

# APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF MEMBERS EXPENSES PAID BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2005 AND 31 MARCH 2006

MEMBER	TRAVEL (£)	SUBSISTENCE (£)	MISCELLANEOUS (£)
Michael Bartholomew	311.86	-	-
Jon Beavan	537.38	-	129.99
Veronica Boulton	111.07	-	13.60
Wilf Fenten <sup>+</sup>	-	-	-
Bill Foster	-	-	-
David Gibson	61.11	-	-
John Goss	91.67	-	-
Graeme Hall	-	-	-
Roger Harrison-Topham <sup>†</sup>	-	-	-
Ben Heyes	-	-	-
Richard Johnson	79.54	-	-
Gerald Light	-	-	-
Deborah Millward*	34.44	-	-
Jerry Pearlman*	-	-	-
Adrian Pickles	25.22	-	_
Anne Purbrick	17.46	-	-
Mark Sandamas	77.60	-	-
John Sayer <sup>+</sup>	-	-	-
Richard Spensley	-	-	-
Pat Whelan*	-	-	-
Geoff Wilson	146.47	-	-
Phil Woodyer	-	-	-
TOTAL	1493.82	0	143.59

Note 1: Members marked \* took up appointment on 1 January 2006. 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.