

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Annual Report 2010 / 11



What is the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum?

It is an independent advisory body, established by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) in 2002, under sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Forum has the following primary purpose:

“To be a statutory advisory body providing guidance and advice to public bodies on the improvement of public access within the Yorkshire Dales National park and contributing to opportunities for open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.”

In providing advice, the Forum will have regard to:

- The needs of land management.
- The conservation of the natural beauty of the area including its flora, fauna, and geological and physical features.
- The management and maintenance of recreational access whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture, the interests of landowners and managers and countryside management projects within the Yorkshire Dales.

Who are the Forum?

The Forum is made up of 17 members. They represent:

- Users of rights of way and access land.
- Owners and occupiers of land affected by public access.
- Those with other interests relevant to the area.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Members 2010 to 2011

Name

Area of representation

Michael Bartholomew - Chair *
Phil Woodyer - Vice Chair

Recreation
Other interests, outdoor learning and access for all

David Bartlett
Jon Beavan
Andrew Colley
David Gibson
Colin Ginger †

Recreation
Other interests, outdoor recreation
YDNPA member
Recreation
Other interests, natural history, geology and walking.

Neil Heseltine
Guy Keating *

Land management
Other interests, landscape conservation and climbing

Michael Kenyon
Robert Mayo *

Recreation
Other interests, heritage and landscape conservation

Ken Miller
Stuart Monk
Jerry Pearlman
Malcolm Petyt
David Seaman †
Sara Spillett †

Recreation
Recreation
Recreation
YDNPA member
Recreation
Other interests, fell rescue, paragliding and hang gliding

Mike Stephenson
Alistair Thompson
Pat Whelan

Recreation
Other interests, volunteering
Land management



*Thanks and farewell goes to Michael Bartholomew, Guy Keating and Robert Mayo for their contributions up to January 2011.

†Welcome to the Forum's three new members, Colin Ginger, David Seaman and Sara Spillett, who were appointed for a three year term from 1 January 2011.

What has the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum achieved during 2010 to 2011



Three formal meetings have been held during this period in different areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. In addition, eight meetings of the advisory groups have been held during this period. Much of the Forum's work has been achieved through these meetings.

- At the request of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority carried out a survey of the landowners and managers within the National Park. The Forum were keen to develop a better understanding of the concerns of land managers with regard to improvements to public access such as the replacement of stiles with gates, or upgrading a footpath to a bridleway.
- The Yorkshire Dales Access Forum has had a role in the signing of 'other routes with public access'. At the advice of the Forum, signage has now been placed on such routes within the National Park.
- Members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum had an interesting site visit to the Howgills with Lancashire County Council looking at the use of all-terrain electric wheelchairs.



The Forum has received some very informative presentations including:

- Andy Ryland on the North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
- Jon Beavan on dogs and access.
- Adrian Shepherd on fencing on common land.
- Robert White on the management of Victoria Cave near Settle.

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Consultations



Particular consultations of note include:

- North Yorkshire Local Transport Plans (LTP3)
The Forum responded to the North Yorkshire County Council on issues to be considered in LTP3, and constructive comments were made.
- Proposed Fencing on Ingleborough Common
The Forum was consulted on the proposal to erect fencing to help maintain and improve habitat and species diversity. Members raised concerns about ensuring the fencing be temporary and also that access points be provided along the fenced area.



How can you be part of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum?

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum meetings are open to the public. You can find out the dates and venues of the meetings from the website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

More details about the Forum or about vacancies on the Forum (filled annually between October and December) are available from www.yorkshiredales.org.uk or from the Forum Secretary on 01969 652363 or email accessforum@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Chairman's Postscript

March 2011

During 2010 much was achieved through work carried out by the sub-committees of the Local Access Forum. The Access for All group shared their enthusiasm for all-terrain wheelchairs with other members of the Forum on a challenging route in the Howgills, and the Green Lanes Advisory Group has been so successful that it has reduced its number of meetings to one a year.

The Local Access Forum meetings have had presentations on topical issues such as 'dogs and access' and 'fencing on open access land'. Lively discussions have resulted in advice on consultations and signage relating to these issues.

There has been liaison with Cumbria Countryside Access and the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Access Forum, and Natural England have now confirmed their support for the Regional Access Forum for the forthcoming financial year.

The Local Access Forum has also recently been asked to comment on the priorities for access issues in a budget consultation for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, taking into account the cutbacks for the next financial year. This was a useful exercise, and we will do our best to offer advice and support for the Authority to continue the high standard of work of improving and maintaining access within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Finally thanks to Michael Bartholomew our last chair who left the Forum after eight years of sterling work.

Phil Woodyer
Chairman

