

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum Annual Report 2009/10





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 18 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 2009 to 2010

Name	Area of representation
Michael Bartholomew - Chair	Recreation
Phil Woodyer – Vice Chair	Outdoor learning, Access for All and other interests
David Bartlett	Recreation
Jon Beavan	Outdoor recreation and other interests,
Peter Bradfield*	Land management
Stephen Butcher	YDNPA Member
Andrew Colley	YDNPA Member
David Gibson	Recreation
Neil Heseltine†	Land management
Guy Keating	Landscape conservation, climbing and other interests
Michael Kenyon	Recreation
Robert Mayo	Heritage, landscape conservation and other interests
Ken Miller	Recreation
Stuart Monk†	Recreation
Jerry Pearlman	Recreation
Malcolm Petyt	YDNPA Member
Mike Stephenson†	Recreation
Alistair Thompson	Volunteering and other interests
Paul Tibbatts*	Land management
Pat Whelan	Land management

*Thanks and farewell to Peter Bradfield and Paul Tibbatts for their contributions up to January 2010.

†Welcome to the Forum's three new members, Mike Stephenson, Stuart Monk and Neil Heseltine, who were appointed for a three year term from 1 January 2010.

What has the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum achieved during 2009 to 2010?

Three formal meetings have been held during this period in different areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

In addition to the full meetings, seven advisory groups have been established to advise on the management of specific issues:

- Access on Foot Advisory Group
- Access to Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group
- Access for All Advisory Group
- Water Sports Advisory Group
- Air Sports Advisory Group
- Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group
- Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

Eight meetings of these advisory groups have been held during this period and much of the Forum's work has been achieved through their activities.

- The Forum has had a role in the drafting of the revised document Special Qualities, Special Experiences, which brings together the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's policies and principles for access, recreation, diversity, visitor management and sustainable tourism in the National Park.
- The Access for All Advisory Group has spent some time looking at the provision of routes for all-terrain, electric wheelchairs. This has included a two day visit by the Disabled Ramblers in July 2009.
- The Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group has been involved with the review of climbing at Craven Lime Works.
- The Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group arranged a meeting with neighbouring authorities to look at the management of cross-boundary routes.

The Forum has received some very informative presentations including:

- Jon Beavan on access and technology.
- Steve Hastie on the Three Peaks Project.
- Doug Huzzard on unclassified unsurfaced roads.
- Andrew McNicoll on the Cumbria Local Transport Plan.

Consultations of note this year

- **Cumbria and North Yorkshire Local Transport Plans (LTP3)**
The Forum responded to both County Councils on issues to be considered in LTP3, and constructive comments were made.
- **The National Byway**
Members were consulted on the Pennine Spur section of the National Byway. They were in agreement that the route should be endorsed, and added that they would also support any surfacing and safety measures to assist cyclists using it.
- **CRoW Act 2000 Review and Reassessment of Restrictions and Exclusions**
The Forum was consulted, as a statutory consultee, on the review of the long term restrictions and exclusions. A recommendation for each case was passed on to the YDNAP.
- **Boundary Review of the Northern and Western Yorkshire Dales National Park**
The Forum was consulted on the proposed boundary review of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. All members supported the extension subject to an increase in resources and an increase in the membership of the YDNAP.
- **Proposed Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with the National Park Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England) Regulations 2007**
The Forum was consulted, as a statutory consultee, on the management of recreational motor vehicles on Gorbeck Road. Members recommended, by a majority vote, that the YDNAP should consider a permanent Traffic Regulation Order on the route.
- **Proposed Fencing on Wherside Common**
The Forum was consulted on the proposal to erect fencing to help maintain and improve habitat and species diversity. Members raised concerns, wishing to ensure that the fencing was temporary and also that access points be provided along the fenced area.



Chairman's Postscript

2009 has been a straightforward year for the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. As this report shows, much of our work is now carried out in working groups, set up to tackle the various access issues that are our staple concerns.

Our relationships with regional and national federations of Local Access Forums have been frustrated by difficulties with the supply of the necessary administrative support for regional and national meetings. By now, Local Access Forums up and down the country should be routinely sharing good practice and making coordinated regional and national recommendations to government agencies – recommendations that should systematically be attended to by those agencies. Maybe 2010 will see improvements.

On a personal note, I would like to record my thanks to the Vice Chair, Phil Woodyer, and to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority officer who administers the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, Rachel Briggs, both of whom kept the show on the road during my lengthy absence at the end of 2009.

Michael Bartholomew
Chairman

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, from the Forum Secretary Rachel Briggs on 01969 652363 or by emailing accessforum@yorkshiredales.org.uk



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

