

# **Yorkshire Dales Access Forum**

## **Principles for Woodland Creation Applications On Open Access Land**

These principles will be used to inform our responses to applications for woodland creation on open access land.

The LAF would normally expect:

- There will be an access assessment with any application.
- That the relevant standards be adhered to (e.g. British Standard 5709 on stiles and gates).
- Local user groups will be consulted before the application is made.
- There will be no loss of access with gates etc being provided at intervals suitable to the terrain.
- Wherever possible, local materials should be used for fences and gates etc.
- All fencing should be non barbed wire, unless necessary for stock control.
- Access should be retained at all times except when closure is required for forestry work. Any closure should be advertised at all entrances to the woodland, with maps, if only certain parts are closed.
- To be informed of who will be legally responsible for the removal of any fences and the date they will be removed, this will be reviewed every ten year.

We will, in general, not object to applications for the creation of native woodlands in situations where they are deemed to be appropriate. This would normally include:

1. On CROW Access land that is not common land, where the land has a recreational management agreement or is dedicated as Access Land after the planting has been completed.
2. Where a public right of way (PROW) goes into or borders, the woodland, unhampered access is to be facilitated and maintained (e.g. a on a bridleway sufficient clearance for horse riders and cyclists) with appropriate Highway Authority permission for additional or altered furniture. In all cases gates are preferred to stiles.
3. Where the woodland parcels cross PROWs or other tracks, desire lines, other routes (e.g. the route of a fell race), and the impact on vistas is considered and they should be retained where possible.
4. Where there are tracks on the ground, other amenities or points of interest, access should be retained or an alternative provided (e.g. to a viewpoint or rock scramble).