

# Public Document Pack

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**On: Thursday 24 September 2020**

**At: Webex - Virtual**

### Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Welcome and Apologies	<b>John Thompson/Mike Rhodes</b>
2	Minutes from the last meeting, 12 March 2020	<b>John Thompson</b>
3	Matters Arising from the Minutes	<b>John Thompson</b>
4	Issues from the circulated progress reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access Update</li><li>• Green Lanes</li><li>• Rights of Way Improvement Plan</li></ul>	Sue Smith Sue Smith Gill Millward
5	Post-lockdown Impressions - discussion	Mike Rhodes/All
6	Discussion Paper on Access Issues in relation to the Right to Roam Campaign	John Thompson/All
7	Any Other Business (notified to Mike in advance)	
8	Date and venue of next meeting	

Close: Time Not Specified

Lunch: Time Not Specified

\*Background papers available


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# Peak District Local Access Forum

**On: Thursday 12th March, 2020**  
**At: Board Room, Aldern House, Bakewell**

## Minutes

Meeting ID	2633
Committee	Peak District Local Access Forum
Date	12/03/2020
Attendees	<p><b>Forum Members Present:</b></p> <p>John Thompson (Chair)</p> <p>Martin Bennett</p> <p>Bob Berzins (Vice Chair)</p> <p>Joe Dalton</p> <p>Edwina Edwards</p> <p>Richard Entwistle</p> <p>Charlotte Gilbert (Vice Chair)</p> <p>Louise Hawson</p> <p>Councillor Ian Huddleston</p> <p>Steve Martin</p> <p>Andrew Murley</p> <p>Geoff Nickolds</p> <p>Paul Richardson</p> <p>Ben Seal</p> <p>Roly Smith</p> <p>Jon Stewart</p> <p>Ally Turner</p> <p></p> <p><b>Others Present:</b></p> <p>Karen Harrison (Minutes)</p> <p>Gill Millward (Derbyshire County Council)</p> <p>Rich Pett (PDNPA)</p> <p>Mike Rhodes (PDNPA) (Secretary)</p> <p>Sue Smith (PDNPA)</p>

Item ID	1
Item Title	<b>Welcome and Apologies and update on membership changes</b>
Summary	<p>Apologies had been received from Alastair Harvey, Jez Kenyon, Clare Griffin and Cllr Jason Atkin.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed back Ally Turner to the meeting following her recent accident and Martin Bennett as a new member to the Local Access Forum, who was then invited to say a few words by way of introduction.</p>

	The Chair also welcomed Martin Beer, Chair of the Peak Park Parishes Forum; Mollie Hunt, Research & Monitoring Officer from the Moors for the Future; John Mills, Chair of the Staffordshire and Wolverhampton Joint LAF and Alan Brentnall, Derbyshire Caving Association, as observers to the meeting.
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Item ID	2
Item Title	<b>Minutes from the last meeting, 05/12/2019</b>
Summary	The minutes of the last meeting held on the 5 December 2019 were approved as a correct record, subject to Steve Martin and Ben Seal being added to the attendance list. Thanks to Belinda Wybrow for taking the minutes.

Item ID	3
Item Title	<b>Matters Arising</b>
Summary	<p><b>a) Mend our Mountains Projects</b></p> <p>Mollie Hunt, Research and Monitoring Officer for Moors for the Future updated the LAF Members on the Mend our Mountains Projects and the path works that have been going on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>North America</b> - the works have been going on now for a couple of months and approx. 750m have been completed. There is work still to do on this path and the stretches that hadn't been repaired had suffered in the recent storms, but the plan is for the contractor to go back in November to finish it off.</li> <li>• <b>Cut Gate</b> – Nothing has happened this year, but work is planned for next season.</li> <li>• <b>Great Ridge</b> – Progress is being made with access agreements with landowners. A planning application is about to be re-submitted and there is also a bid to be submitted for additional funding of £30,000 which will hopefully be successful and work is aiming to start in September.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Mollie for her update and the excellent work being done.</p> <p><b>b) Access Updates</b></p> <p>The Chair updated members regarding the lack of diversity on the Forum, which was raised at the meeting in December. He has had talks with Mike Rhodes and Gill Millward about the possibilities and these were being followed up with the appropriate people.</p>

Item ID	4
Item Title	<b>LAF Annual Report</b>
Summary	Sue Smith circulated draft copies of the annual report to Members and asked that any comments, updates or corrections on the report be submitted to her by the 6 <sup>th</sup> April. The final report will be available at the June meeting and Sue will be ordering extra copies for the September meeting

	<p>when we will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LAF and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act. If any Member would like an electronic version of the report, then to contact Sue and she will arrange for it to be sent.</p> <p><b>AGREED: That LAF Members send comments on the draft Annual Report to Sue by the 6<sup>th</sup> April.</b></p>
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Item ID	5
Item Title	<b>Environmental Land Management Scheme - access implications and opportunities</b>
Summary	<p>Ben Seal gave a presentation to the Members regarding two new pieces of legislation that the new government is pushing through; the Agriculture Bill and the Environment Bill. The Agriculture Bill is coming up for its 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and is very close to being made law. It will be the first domestic policy we have had for 45 years and will look at how farmers, landowners and estate managers manage their land. They would be paid for providing things that benefit the public, for example access to the countryside and rights of way, which has specifically been identified so will receive some kind of subsidy within the future Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), which is replacing the Common Agricultural Policy. This is an opportunity to create a bill fit for purpose for all users.</p> <p>The Environment Bill, is part way through the consultation period, but both these pieces of legislation will significantly change the way in which we access and view the countryside, so it is important that we engage in this process.</p> <p>Two policy discussion documents were released by Defra last week, which are looking at what the new ELM Scheme will look like and how it will work. There are currently pilot schemes taking place in the White Peak area (summary of the White Peak Test has been circulated by Sue Smith) looking to encourage landowners to work in different ways regarding habitats, farming methods, biodiversity etc., but not enhancing public access. Ben will be meeting the Director of ELMS, the leading person in Defra, in 2 weeks' time. A fresh consultation is being launched soon and it was important that as many people as possible contributed to this – the more responses which are submitted the better.</p> <p>The policy document is proposing a 3 tier scheme:-</p> <p>Tier 1 - Covers all payments to farmers and landowners – improving the environment  Tier 2 - Covers payments for public rights of way, navigation and recreational infrastructure  Tier 3 - Covers larger scale landscape projects ie coastal footpaths, long distance canoe trails.</p>

	<p>Was there any way that money could be used from the ELM Scheme to look after statutory rights of way?</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ben for his comprehensive report.</p> <p><b>AGREED: That Charlotte Gilbert will take the lead on drafting something in response to the ELMS Consultation on behalf of PDLAF and liaise with other LAFs, such as Derbyshire and Staffordshire.</b></p>
Item ID	6
Item Title	<b>Derbyshire CC Rights of Way Improvement Plan Report, including Buxton Safer Walk and Ride Network</b>
Summary	<p>Gill Millward introduced the comprehensive report and highlighted areas of interest within the five RoWIP Aims.</p> <p><b>Aim 1 - Existing Public Rights of Way network</b> The path condition surveys to assess the ease of use of the network continued in 2019. Although the results fell short of the 72.5% target, they were slightly up on last year's result.</p> <p><b>Aim 2 - Definitive Map and Statement</b> The legal status of all 25 priority routes in the National Park has now been resolved, including Pin Dale near Castleton, which has recently been confirmed as a Byway Open to All Traffic following a Public Inquiry. Public Inquiries have also been arranged for later this year in relation to a Modification Order for a footpath over Calico Lane in Furness Vale, near Whaley Bridge and the upgrading of two footpaths to bridleways in the Parish of Hodthorpe and Belph near Creswell Crags in Bolsover District. The DADLAF is organising a meeting on the 14 March as a follow-up to the Unrecorded Ways event which was held on the 9 September.</p> <p><b>Aim 3 - An improved network</b> Derbyshire is in the process of preparing a bid for funding for the maintenance of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail in 2020/21. Officers have also recently met with Natural England and the Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager to discuss resources for the missing sections of the Trail around Glossop. The Pennine Bridleway leaflet has now been updated and is available to download. A report on the County's emerging Key Cycle Network was presented to Cabinet on the 16 January 2020 and approved. The focus will now be on preparing the top routes in readiness for external funding opportunities. Bids for funding from DCC's Local Transport Plan have been submitted and Gill will report on the outcome at the LAF meeting in June.</p> <p><b>Aim 4 - Promotion, understanding and use of the network</b> Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Destinations and Events Brochure for 2020 can now be viewed on its website. Gill's report also referred to the #PeakDistrictProud campaign.</p>

### **Aim 5 - Greater community involvement**

During the first nine months of 2019/20, volunteers working with or on behalf of the Countryside Service had contributed over 1,900 days estimated to be worth around £400k. Groundwork Greater Nottingham also continued to support volunteers working on the network of paths and trails across the county. Paul Richardson to submit “dig days” figures to Gill Millward so they can be included.

### **Buxton Town Team – Safer Walk & Ride Network**

A map had been previously circulated to all LAF Members. Charlotte Gilbert reported that she had got involved with the Buxton Town Team primarily as a horse rider, because they wanted to know whether horses would be able to use any of their routes in and around the town. It was decided that they could possibly use most of them, but it was down to each individual horse rider to make that judgement as to what their horse could do.

There is a lot that the LAF can do to support this initiative, even though Buxton was outside the National Park, it is still part of our area. The primary target of the link routes is to encourage car-free journeys and to get people to move in and out of the town more actively and sustainably. The next stage, now that the routes have been identified, is to clarify the mapping and get comments from Derbyshire County Council’s Highways Safety Officer. Once the plan is finalised, then new routes/ improvements can start to be delivered as funds and opportunities become available.

There was, however, concern that opportunities to provide more walking and riding routes in relation to many of the new housing developments in the area are not being fully considered at the planning application stage. Charlotte asked if a letter could be sent to Damien Greenhalgh, requesting that this be looked into and also seeking his support for the Buxton Safer Walk and Ride Network. Damien, a former Member of the National Park Authority, as well as this Forum, is now Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure at High Peak Borough Council.

### **AGREED THAT:-**

- **The report be noted and welcomed.**
- **Charlotte Gilbert to draft a letter to Damien Greenhalgh from the LAF.**
- **Paul Richardson to submit the MTB volunteer “dig day” figures to Gill Millward.**

Item ID	7
Item Title	<b>Access Updates - including a Review of Directions to Restrict Access at Hollins Hill, Silence Mine and Crowden</b>
Summary	Sue Smith tabled her report and highlighted areas of interest to note.

### **Review of Directions**

The Forum and the Access Sub Group have been dealing with the statutory reviews of long-term directions since the beginning of last year. Reviews have been completed on four of the long term directions, Hollins Hill being the most recent one.

The Forum has been considering the Silence Mine direction, following the instability linked to underground working, which resulted in the public rights of way and the access land being closed on those areas affected. The closure is due to expire at the end of April, with a further extension to be considered at the April Access Sub-Group Meeting to take forward the detail on this.

A further long term direction at the clay pigeon shoot at Crowden remains to be reviewed and will be considered at the April Access Sub-Group Meeting.

### **PDNPA Land Disposals**

The Corporate Property Asset Management Plan was reported to the National Park Authority Meeting in February 2020. A list of properties already approved for disposal and those identified as provisionally surplus properties were included in Appendix 3 to the February Committee Report. It was agreed at the December Forum meeting that the appropriate officer speaks to a future meeting of the Forum sometime after the Scrutiny Committee has reported to the main meeting of the Programmes and Resources Committee.

### **Moorland Tracks**

A letter was sent to John Scott, Director of Conservation and Planning regarding the Cartledge Track at Strines to highlight the LAF's concern that the landscape and character of the Peak Park's north east moorlands is protected following the removal of the track. No date has yet been set for the Midhope Moor Track Public Inquiry.

The Chair thanked Sue for her report.

### **AGREED THAT:**

- **The report be welcomed and noted.**
- **Consultations on the Review of Directions are referred to the Access Sub Group.**
- **An Officer from the PDNPA is invited to present to the June meeting concerning an update on property disposals.**

Item ID	8
Item Title	<b>Countryside Code Update #PeakDistrictProud (presentation)</b>
Summary	Sarah Wilks gave a quick summary of where we are up to with the #PeakDistrictProud Campaign. This work came from an action in the National Park Management Plan around encouraging enjoyment with understanding and responsible visiting. It identified the need to look again at

the messages of the Countryside Code (Respect. Protect. Enjoy) and find a better way to communicate them to visitors.

A workshop took place in July, which a number of people attended and looked at the positives and negatives of the existing Countryside Code. From the workshop, a small sub-group was set up and developed a risk matrix for the issues that there were around visitors and users of the National Park and poor behaviours, looking at the best way of communicating with them. Extra help was provided by a marketing company to develop a brief that was then sent out to users of the National Park and residents. Some excellent presentations have been received from experts in the field, especially Kathy Clarke from the National Trust and the Eastern Moors.

From this #PeakDistrictProud as a campaign was developed to re-engage people with the key messages of the Countryside Code which are still valid. New seasonal posters have been designed with new graphics, so for example, Spring posters will include messages about lambing and litter, with Summer posters including BBQ's and fires. If anyone would like some posters, Sarah can make them available.

The new signs will replace the old ones which will be taken down. They will be placed at access and right of way points, within the National Park car parks, toilets, Visitor Centres, bed & breakfasts, train stations, local businesses and cafes etc. The digital campaign was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and there are plans for a further push later in the year.

Sarah asked if there were any other images that it was felt could be used on the posters, suggesting that LAF members send them in to her, as it is good to keep changing the imagery to keep it fresh. There will be an article in the next edition of the ParkLife and the pool vehicles will also have it on the wrap when the fleet is replaced.

Edwina suggested that the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) is asked to ensure that the information is shared with all local Groups and contacts, including assessors and supervisors. Sarah confirmed that details had been sent to the DofE and kindly offered to follow this up.

Forum members thought it would be interesting to see how it all plays out in reality in changing people's behaviour and wondered how the effectiveness of the campaign can be measured. Also posters to bus companies would be useful.

The Chair thanked Sarah for her presentation and the partnership approach.

**AGREED THAT:**

- **LAF Members to submit images to Sarah Wilks for the posters, so they reflect every user of the National Park.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LAF Members to let Sarah know of any other contacts that they feel it would be useful to send the information to and spread the messages.</b></li> <li>• <b>The Chair to discuss monitoring and evaluating the campaign with the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group and how that can be taken forward.</b></li> </ul>
Item ID	9
Item Title	<b>Green Lanes update</b>
Summary	<p>Sue Smith gave a verbal update to Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the LAF and the Stanage Forum had recently visited Long Causeway to consider its potential as a Miles without Stiles route, which will be the first on a National Park Estate. The Peak Park Conservation Volunteers have been clearing out the gullies which had silted up to assist with the maintenance of the route. The barrier is also proposed to be replaced with something more aesthetically pleasing.</li> <li>• The “Stay on Tracks” campaign, was discussed at the Green Lanes Sub Group Meeting to identify routes and appropriate management to safeguard the verges.</li> <li>• Peak District Proud – will be used to get the message across on social media.</li> <li>• A voluntary restraint for 4x4 vehicles is in place at Minninglow and Gallowlow Lanes following the repairs by Derbyshire County Council.</li> <li>• Derbyshire Police have been taking a lot of action on illegal use. Sue will include more information on the website on how the public can record incidents that the Police can act on. Even if there are no registration details taken, it is still useful to log where illegal use is taking place.</li> <li>• A report on green lanes will be going to the May Programmes and Resources Committee.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Sue for her update.</p> <p><b>AGREED: That Sue Smith will circulate dates for the Access Sub Group, as well as the Terms of Reference for both Sub Groups due to recent changes in LAF Membership and also invite new "regular" Sub Group members as in the past.</b></p>
Item ID	10
Item Title	<b>National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group</b>
Summary	<p><b>a) Minutes/Climate Change</b></p> <p>Mike Rhodes had circulated the minutes of the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group meeting held on the 23 January 2020, which the Chair</p>

and Jon Stewart attended, so the LAF Members knew the context of what was discussed and considered, in particular on climate change.

The Chair reported that the PDNPA's Chief Executive, Sarah Fowler had put forward a report on climate change (copy circulated) which was supported. This encouraged her to take that work forward in future to work in partnership with others, within resources available, and this is still ongoing. There was a summit meeting at Derbyshire County Council last week which she attended.

Steve Martin informed Members that he had also attended the Derbyshire County Council event to which between 100-200 people were invited. This was largely focussed on the business community, but it was felt that the over-riding message from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Lewis, was that working in partnership with the National Park Authority and others was a key objective. It wasn't explained how this was going to work in practice, but perhaps the Forum could look at this and offer some suggestions.

Steve said he understood that the National Park Authority has established a Climate Change Working Group, which is being led by Professor Janet Haddock-Fraser. However, the Forum hadn't seen the terms of reference, nor how it would link in with the LAF, so clarity was asked for.

Derbyshire County Council has committed four million pounds to climate change, but this was mainly for the electrification of vehicles.

**AGREED: That the Chair would obtain more information regarding the Climate Change Working Group and the Terms of Reference.**

#### **b) Events**

Bob Berzins reported that the system was now up and running, providing advice and best practice. There is an online calendar which gives an idea of the number of events taking place and the spread of events throughout the National Park. There is a review planned in September to measure the success of the system, but as yet nothing has come through as a problem around an event. However, things could change substantially in light of the Coronavirus and organisers trying to arrange their events in what will be a much shorter season.

Sarah Wilks is working with Parishes through the Peak Park Parishes Forum, over their concerns regarding events that are unplanned so nobody knows about them. Very often the Parishes end up having to clear up after these events, as well as dealing with the parking issues that they bring. In terms of sustainability, organisers are being encouraged to hold their events where there are public transport routes and to promote car sharing amongst participants. If any Parish Council is aware of an event, then Sarah is happy to speak to the organiser if the Parish can provide the contact details.

Item ID	11
Item Title	<b>Members' Feedback</b>
Summary	<p><b>a) Stanage/North Lees Consultation</b></p> <p>Louise Hawson informed the LAF that the National Park Authority had commissioned an appraisal regarding the built assets on the Stanage estate last year. The appraisal was completed and a consultation, which has just closed, looked at some of the options which have come out of the appraisal for how the Authority might continue to manage the assets on the Estate.</p> <p>The Stanage Forum and a number of other stakeholders were concerned that the Authority was just looking at the buildings and not taking a holistic view of the Estate. The Stanage Forum put together a response, which was circulated to the LAF Members, and the British Mountaineering Council also provided a response. As a result of that, Bob Berzins has drafted a response from the LAF and asked members to let him have any comments as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>AGREED: That the LAF supported the letter that Bob Berzins has drafted to send to Emma Stone.</b></p> <p><b>b) PDNPA Trails Management Plan</b></p> <p>Charlotte Gilbert reported that the Plan, which is in draft form, will be published in due course. There has been quite a lot of comment on social media regarding the recent resurfacing of a stretch of the Tissington Trail which had been tarmaced, along with the installation of a barrier.</p> <p>Mike Rhodes reported that the resurfacing was replacing pre-existing tarmac, which was originally put in to resist rain water damage, so it wasn't new, and is a coarse tarmac which provides sufficient grip on the steep gradient. The barrier, which was put in for safety reasons to slow users down, has been there for well over ten years so was not new either, but will be looked at, even though there have not been any complaints about it for over 10 years.</p> <p><b>c) Monsal Trail</b></p> <p>John Thompson reported that he had sent a letter to the local MP Sarah Dines on behalf of the Local Access Forum, for which the Chief Executive and Chair of the Authority were grateful. The letter refers to the importance of keeping the Monsal Trail open as a recreational resource, which was recognised not just locally but nationally. There was no suitable alternative and it should be maintained and safeguarded as a key national asset. The trail is very well used and extremely popular. The Forum is aware that there was a petition going around to get the railway re-opened in order to take cars off the road between Matlock and Buxton. The Chair said the LAF had supported sustainable transport proposals. No response has been received as yet from Sarah Dines, but John will keep the Members updated.</p> <p><b>d) Spirit of Kinder Day</b></p> <p>Roly Smith asked if any Member would like a free copy of the ACID booklet, which was all about archaeology, then please take one, or ask Anna</p>

	Badcock. Roly circulated a leaflet to all Members regarding the Spirit of Kinder day which is taking place on the 25 April in Manchester, to celebrate the 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.
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Item ID	12
Item Title	<b>Any Other Business</b>
Summary	<p>Jon Stewart informed Members on some new initiatives that the National Trust is involved with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the 29<sup>th</sup> April they would be taking on direct responsibility for Upper Booth Campsite in Edale for at least a year.</li> <li>• In about 2 months' time the National Trust will be opening a "Changing Places" facility at Ilam Hall, which will be the first one within the National Park. Linked to that they will be constructing more accessible paths over the summer months, for example linking into the church and down to the river to make it easier to navigate.</li> <li>• They have also been looking at "sensory appreciation" and how these places are seen through the eyes of people who have particular needs. Recently took out a group of blind/partially sighted people around Ilam and received positive feedback from what they got out of their visit, as well as a LGBT over 50's group, and again received positive feedback from them.</li> <li>• Another group called "Chicks", which is a group of young people aged 8-12, who have caring responsibilities for their parents or for other people, and have never been to Ilam before. They had a great time and gave some very good feedback.</li> </ul> <p>Jon reported that these initiatives could have a wider applicability, but what the Trust would be using them for would be to re-imagine their places and how they are presented and how they appeal to people.</p>

Item ID	13
Item Title	<b>Date and venue of next meetings</b>
Summary	<p>11<sup>th</sup> June @ Aldern House  24<sup>th</sup> September – looking at alternative venue as Longshaw not available  3<sup>rd</sup> December @ Aldern House</p>

Note from Richard Entwistle at the Chair's invitation after our meeting

"Sue's reference to Voluntary Restraint (VR) was in relation to Minninglow and Gallowlow Lanes, where extensive repair work has been completed by Derbyshire CC Highways. The material they have used has grass seed in the mixture to help bind the surface and help it blend with the green surroundings.

To allow the surface to bind together and green up GLASS (the Green Lanes Association) and Peak District & Derbyshire Vehicle User Group (PDVUG) have maintained the VR for 4x4's. The TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship) does not support Voluntary Restraint.

Richard Pett advises that 4x4 use is about 85% of pre VR and of the continuing 15% most is probably the farmer accessing his fields."

**Peak District Local Access Forum****24 September 2020****Item 4****Note from John Thompson**

I thought it may help to list topics and actions since our last meeting as we said we would involve members as much as possible with email updates, consultations and actions. With Vice Chairs and involving Mike, Gill and Sue a number of things have been acted upon with consultation where time allowed.

- Cancelled the June meeting due to the Lock down - note sent to all members
- Had an informal meeting at Minninglow picnic area and we circulated notes to all LAF members.
- Response by John as Chair to a complaint about motorised use of Route in Clough Road, Birchover with emphasis on Derbyshire CC to advise on its position. Monitoring taking place
- Minutes of March meeting circulated and now on the website
- Charlotte responded to ELMS consultation to Defra for the LAF and circulated to all
- Annual Report finalised and going online thanks to Sue - copies to be circulated to LAF members, Sponsoring Authorities, MP's, Constituent LA's and neighbouring LAF's
- Meeting convened by John and Charlotte with MP's, Peak District and Derbyshire CC Senior members and officers at Millers Dale re Rail proposals (2 bids) on 12th August - notes of meeting and letters circulated in LAF, NPA etc. The LAF, PDNPA and DCC strongly support the retention of the Trail and sustainable transport initiatives. Now circulated notes of the meeting to all LAF members.
- Tree Strategy Response nationally to be completed in association with the Peak and DCC after Gill kindly drew attention to it.
- Circulation of Nature Conservation Strategic approach by English National Parks arising Landscapes Review - by Sarah Fowler as CEO at the Peak.
- Consultation by Department of Transport on revised Highway Code circulated by Gill to LAF members for responses to her by end August, and the "Stepping it Up a Gear" government publication - helpful note from Tim Nicholson.
- Response to consultation by High Peak BC and Staffordshire Moorlands DC about a review of dog controls which include access land, Trails and rights of way. Asked Mike to respond for LAF following consultation with Self, Bob and Charlotte
- National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report – 2019 – 2020 circulated for information
- Looking at a new Right to Roam campaign which includes access for canoeing on rivers, swimming and woodland access. I have drafted something for consideration at LAF on 24th September to get views in consultation with all members and more widely after that.
- Agenda meeting moved to Alport on 3 September with Vice Chairs and Officers.
- Consider what to do with a planned 24 September LAF and Celebration of 20 years of our LAF with 4 Chairs and Mike as an excellent Secretary over that time.
- Check if a Regional LAF Chairs meeting planned in Nottingham on 13th September will be cancelled - in hand with John T and Ian Else of DADLAF

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## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** 24 September 2020

**Item:** 4a

**Title:** Access Update

**Author:** Sue Smith

### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on issues related to access in the Peak District.

### **Review of Directions**

The National Park Authority has completed its 5-yearly review of the long-term directions restricting public access on CRoW land. The outcomes for the reviews determined at Silence Mine and Crowden are attached in Appendix 1 and summarised below.

Silence Mine – A direction has been made excluding the public on safety grounds until on or before 30 April 2021 pending the conclusion and submission of the geotechnical investigations and the reinstatement required as a result of that.

Crowden – A direction has been made on land management/public safety grounds excluding public access to the clay pigeon shoot until 2025 when the direction will be further reviewed.

### **PDNPA Land Disposals**

The outcome of the [Member's Micro-scrutiny](#) into the disposal procedure for minor properties was reported to the May meeting of the Programmes and Resources committee. Amendments to the tool kit for the Disposal of Assets were incorporated.

### **Environmental Land Management**

The Forum's response to the [policy discussion](#) published in February 2020 on the design of the Environmental Land Management scheme is provided in Appendix 2.

### **Miles without Stiles Funding**

Peak District Foundation has allocated £10k towards Miles without Stiles. A contribution of £8k has been received towards access works to the broken road at Mam Tor. Over £4k has been raised from sales of the Miles without Stiles handbook.

### **Anniversary Gates**

Proposals are underway to upgrade and map access points and identify link paths and destinations. The project will focus initially on a few key areas of Access Land.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the report is noted.**

## Appendix 1

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# CONSULTATION OUTCOME REPORT

## COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) Act 2000

### PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM DIRECTION RESTRICTING ACCESS

#### APRIL 2020

Land Parcel Name:	Direction Ref.
Silence & Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow	2018088745

#### 1) Introduction

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has completed its consultation on the proposal for a long-term direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The consultation was held between 7 April and 27 April 2020.

The following consultation comments were received:

The **Peak District Local Access Forum** has discussed this case and supports the proposed direction as described, for a period of up to one year.

The **Trustees of Silence Heritage Site** consider that it's disappointing that the geotechnical investigations have not come to a conclusion a year after the original commission, yet understandable that any necessary remediation takes place before the site is reopened. This report is long overdue and should tell whether or not these falls are directly, indirectly or not related to the mining activity underneath the site and will then lead on to a review of future site safety. The trustees look forward to the time when the land is once more deemed safe enough to continue our work on its improvement. The longer this goes on the more work will be required to restore the habitat and its associated flora and fauna, which causes us concern.

It would be helpful to understand when the results of the geotechnical investigation will become available. It would be beneficial to all parties for the report to be published as soon as possible in order that plans can be made for the future development of the site and the highway for the benefit of the community. At this stage as no report is available, regrettably, it seems the only reasonable option is to continue the access restriction.

**Foolow Parish Meeting** is frustrated by the lack of the promised report. This report had it been delivered on time might have allowed a decision to be made to reopen access. But as the report has not been forthcoming, nor is it likely to be for quite some time, then access cannot be permitted. In the light of the recent collapse, then the closure is both understood and justifiable.

**Great Hucklow Parish Council** consider that the response provided by SHS represents the views of the community.

#### 2) Outcome

The PDNPA is satisfied that the restriction of CRoW access to the extent identified is necessary on public safety grounds having regard to the occurrences of instability, the presence of a potential contributory factor and the nature and character of the land.

The PDNPA considers that thorough and comprehensive evaluation is required to address the instability at Silence Mine and have commissioned independent investigations and a geotechnical assessment. This report is due to be finalised imminently.

Having regard to the timescales for finalising and discussing the report, and in the light of delays resulting from Covid-19, an extension of up to one year is considered to be an appropriate period of time for identifying and rectifying the instability.

This direction shall cease to have effect on or before 30 April 2021 if the remediation has been undertaken to address the instability to the satisfaction of the PDNPA as Mineral Planning Authority. In the event of the instability being more extensive or requiring more extensive remediation, the direction shall be further reviewed.

### 3) Summary of Restriction

<b>Land Parcel Name:</b>	<b>Dates of Restriction</b>	<b>Reason for Exclusion</b>
<b>Silence &amp; Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow</b>	<b>30 April 2021</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>

Details of the restriction will appear at [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk).

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**CONSULTATION OUTCOME REPORT**  
**COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) Act 2000**  
**STATUTORY REVIEW OF EXISTING DIRECTION**  
**JUNE 2020**

Land Parcel Name:	Direction Ref.
Top Field, Crowden	2014117473

1) Introduction

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has completed its consultation on the review of the long-term direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The consultation was held between 15 May and 12 June 2020.

The following consultation comments were received:

The **Peak District Local Access Forum** has reviewed the history of this case. They consider that there doesn't appear to be any change in circumstances with continuing usage of the site for clay pigeon shooting. Therefore the LAF supports the continuation of the Direction to restrict public access as detailed to maintain public safety.

**Charlesworth Parish Council** reports that the restrictions are there for everyone's benefit. They have worked well and protected livelihoods. They have also kept people and dogs from the nature-sensitive part. Part of this was considered an SSSI twenty odd years ago. The restrictions should be left in place. Clay shooting is a normal countryside pass-time and harms no one. A study was conducted the last time this came up and the conclusion was that a restriction would be beneficial. To remove the restriction would mean that the farming family would lose part of their livelihood as the clay shoot would need to close. The nature would also be more vulnerable from visitors plus their dogs, etc. As it stands, any walkers simply avoid the sensitive part to everyone's gain and the public's access to the public footpath is unaffected.

2) Outcome

**Background**

As directed following appeal, the PDNPA made a direction to restrict CROW access under section 24 and 25(1)(b) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act in 2004, in order to prevent danger to the public from clay pigeon shooting and to allow the land to continue to be managed without undue cost or burden upon the landowner.

The Authority has met with the owner who has confirmed that the direction is required for the purposes for which it was originally applied for and that public access on a permissive basis is not acceptable because of the nature of use of the site.

**Is a statutory restriction necessary?**

Criteria Set 19 from the Relevant Authority Guidance covers shooting at man-made targets. The most relevant extracts are as follows:

- **Danger to the public:**  
Where the target is static (e.g. archery or pistol shooting), the main risk is from entering the corridor behind and in front of the target as shot is taken.  
The area of risk in clay pigeon shooting is wider because the target is moving. People are at risk from both shot and from falling clays. Participants should be able to see the whole area where there is a risk of injury from their shot and must not shoot if anyone enters that zone of risk.

Further precautions may be necessary where the topography, vegetation cover, or other obstacles may obstruct the views of shooters over the zone of risk.

Signs flags or lookouts ('stops') may be used to let visitors know when shooting is taking place and recommend safe routes through or around the affected area.

- Disruption to the sport

Participants can be distracted from shooting (whether or not the target is moving) by the need for extra vigilance in order to prevent any risk of accidental injury to visitors. Where visitor levels are high, the frequent need to stop shooting in order to allow visitors to pass may detract significantly from their enjoyment of the sport.

Signs, flags or lookouts ('stops') may be used to let visitors know when shooting is taking place and encourage considerate behaviour. These techniques are most likely to be effective where there are safe and clearly marked rights of way or other routes that people can use through or around the area affected without causing significant disruption.

- Is a statutory restriction necessary?

Restrictions may be necessary while a shoot or activity is in progress if other available techniques are inadequate to allow it to take place safely and without undue interruption. This is most likely:

To prevent danger to the public, where topography, vegetation or other obstacles obstruct the views of shooters over the area of risk;

To prevent danger to the public during paintballing and other games that depend on simulating combat conditions

To prevent disruption to any shooting sport, where visitor levels are significant.

The appeal decision in 2005 concluded that:

'A restriction of CROW access is necessary for the protection of the public whilst shooting operations are being carried out. Given the nature of the appellant's business, I consider that the restriction is justified on land management grounds also and should take the form of an exclusion'.

After considering the above information, the PDNPA is satisfied that a restriction is still necessary on grounds of land management and public safety.

### **What is lowest level of restriction required?**

The appeal decision in 2005 concluded that:

'Limiting a direction to a particular number of days per week or per year would affect the flexible character of the appellants' business and the ability to accommodate shooters without prior notice. This would result in an unreasonable burden on the management of the land.'

The use of discretionary days or an outline restriction which requires prior notification is not therefore appropriate.

The Relevant Authority Guidance suggests exclusion of people from the area of danger or potential disturbance taking account of the expected trajectory of the ammunition.

The appeal decision in 2005 concluded that:

'Whilst shooting activities are largely confined to the eastern part of the site, it is nonetheless evident that at least part of the western area is essential to accommodate the safe fall of shot and unbroken clays. Further, in terms of effective land management, it is essential that the area of exclusion has secure and readily identifiable boundaries, such as are afforded by the fence around the appeal site. Accordingly, the direction should extend over the whole appeal site.'

No formal or informal public access takes place within the site but from land adjoining the site.

The appeal decision in 2005 concluded that:

'Moreover, as there are access points to open country both to the west and east of the site, I am satisfied that any loss of CROW access on the appeal site itself will not significantly affect opportunities for access to the wider areas of moorland lying to the south.'

The least restrictive option is therefore considered to be a public exclusion and the extent and nature of the restriction is still considered to be appropriate for its original purpose having regard to the fact that access to the land to the south and the points at which access is obtained remains available.

3) Summary of Restriction

<b>Land Parcel Name:</b>	<b>Details of Restriction</b>	<b>Reason for Direction</b>
<b>Top Field, Crowden</b>	<b>Excluded at all times until 31/12/2025</b>	<b>Land Management/Public Safety</b>

## Appendix 2

 <p>The logo features a stylized landscape with a blue river winding through green hills, all enclosed within a circular frame. Below the frame, the text 'PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM' is written in a green, sans-serif font.</p>	<p>Peak District Local Access Forum c/o Peak District National Park Authority Aldern House Bakewell Baslow Road Derbyshire DE45 1AE</p>
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FAO ELM Policy Discussion  
c/o Rural Payments Agency  
A Block  
Curwen Road  
Workington  
CA14 2DD

Dear Sir or Madam

31<sup>st</sup> July 2020  
**Sent by email to**

[elmfeedback@defra.gov.uk](mailto:elmfeedback@defra.gov.uk)

### **Environmental Land Management: Policy discussion**

This response is on behalf of the Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF) a statutory body, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). It covers the National Park area and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills and Glossop. Our role is to act as a statutory advisor to both the authorities on the improvement of public access and opportunities for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. In doing this, we have due regard to the needs of land management and conservation of the natural beauty of the area. The Forum represents a wide range of different interests (recreation, conservation and land management) and user groups and takes a balanced view of issues.

As the statutory body advising on recreation and access matters within the Peak District, we are pleased to see that DEFRA sees the positive benefits of thinking about policy from first principles in the aftermath of the referendum and that the cornerstone of the new agricultural policy will be a framework of incentives to support farmers for what they deliver for the environment and other public goods.

As a Local Access Forum we are already actively engaged with promoting and creating new opportunities for access within and adjoining the Peak District National Park and we recognize the benefits to health and social wellbeing of an active engagement with the wider countryside.

The PDLAF welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

1 We do not want our response to be confidential.

2 Charlotte Gilbert, Vice-Chair

3 [brightfive@btinternet.com](mailto:brightfive@btinternet.com)

4 East Midlands

5 Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF) a statutory body, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

6 PDLAF supports the proposal for a new agricultural policy to be underpinned by payment of public money for the provision of public goods. We support the policy set out in the Government's 25 year Environmental

Plan. We welcome the potential opportunities a new agricultural policy could bring; particularly the opportunity to improve public access to the countryside.

The design principles are robust and should enable the efficient delivery of the schemes. It is important that all the design principles are reflected at the point of delivery and not compromised later.

7 PDLAF supports the strategic objective of ELMS. The ELM scheme as currently proposed does offer a means of delivering the strategic objectives, however, it is essential the objectives are the driving force and the principles are not lost when the scheme is delivered on the ground.

With increasing urbanization many people have lost their connection with the natural environment. There is much scientific evidence to support the physical and mental health benefits of a connection with the natural world. The Peak District is surrounded by many large conurbations and provides some good quality access for all. The Peak District has great natural beauty, heritage landscapes dating back to pre-history and offers support for land managers and visitors alike to engage with the environment. The PDLAF would like to see greater support for this work to fund landscape wide environmental projects, improve access provision and visitor education to reduce conflict and increase appreciation of the wider environment we all have to cherish. We all need beautiful places to recharge our minds and bodies.

8 This is beyond the scope of our members. We feel any scheme which is not bureaucratic, has clear outcomes, is well supported by advisors, is subject to review and encourages those who deliver rather than harshly penalizing those who fail will be attractive to participants.

9 We support the 3-tier system and the activities focused on in each tier are distinct but work together should participants be delivering across multiple tiers. We would not like to see participation in the higher tiers to be dependent on participation in the lower tiers as we believe the purposes of tiers 2 and 3 could be delivered, in some instances where the purpose of tier 1 is not applicable – for example a locally targeted environmental outcome could be delivered across farmland and the urban landscape.

10 PDLAF have been supportive of many landscape initiatives within the Peak District National Park and these arrangements have been well received. Such initiatives led by a public body, National Park or Council and supported by an environmental charity, Wildlife Trust, RSPB have worked well. We are also aware of Farming clusters and Forums and these groups could also provide the framework for delivering environmental outcomes across multiple land holdings.

11 New public access should be demand-driven and targeted to ensure value-for-money, fair provision and long-lasting public and economic benefit. Route or area access should be developed to deliver maximum public benefit where it is most needed. These could be identified through Rights of Way Improvement Plans, local consultation with user groups and Parish Councils. Other local priorities could be determined by working with locally elected bodies, water companies, environmental charities and landscape partnerships.

12 Farming, land management and rural communities should continue to be supported to deliver environmental, social and cultural benefits in the uplands by targeted financial support. Many upland farms are considered non-economic without existing farm subsidies. However, the PDLAF believes these communities deliver much more than farm produce. They maintain cherished landscapes and it is, therefore, important that these land managers are retained even if their holdings are small and their activities and approach change somewhat i.e. farm produce and a full range of public goods. Future environmental schemes have the potential to make an important contribution to businesses but there may be a need to give more explicit consideration to the incomes of upland land managers, recognising the risks of land abandonment and rural depopulation if these farm units are unprofitable. A system where high management conditions are required in return for a level of support that ensures these land managers can continue to serve the communities and environment whilst also producing high quality food. This requires more than income forgone. If your income is negligible, income forgone is not much of an incentive. The transition period will need to be well managed or further rural poverty will result. For farming and land management businesses to be sustainable they need: -

- to be efficient, resilient (diversified) and profitable
- grants such as Leader and Countryside Productivity should continue without a break in the offer
- these grants need further improvements e.g. integration with the proposed Environmental Land Management Scheme, simplification of the application process/requirements/evidence,

making sure that small scale grants are available as evidenced by the recent small scale productivity grant success

- more of the grants offered via a standard cost approach for regularly used items
- the grants offered to have a local level of influence in terms of which work items are appropriate for the area and therefore eligible.

Upland farmers and land managers in particular, should be encouraged and rewarded for providing and maintaining our path network. The uplands possess a quality from which many people derive psychological, physical and spiritual benefits. It is increasingly recognised that our upland landscapes have a positive effect on public health and well-being.

13 We do not have expertise in this area but we are aware of much good work done within our National Park by the water companies to improve water quality and habitat restoration through “Moors for the Future”. The water companies have improved access opportunities within their own estates. Many projects to improve access and environmental outcomes within the National Park are supported by outside bodies.

14 Advice and support are always welcome. After an initial consultation ongoing advice could be delivered by CPD, a mentoring system and peer review.

15 We do not have any expertise in this area.

16 The details of the National Pilot should test the method and delivery of the scheme. The test and trial process should cover a wide range of delivery outcomes.

17 Public access is an important public good delivering a range of benefits for health and wellbeing and for supporting the rural economy through tourism. What is meant by public access should be clearly defined and could include new and enhanced rights of way, the creation of multi-use routes, new area access, and educational access. There should be an emphasis on key linkages for a joined up and integrated access network including links to areas of open access and from urban areas to the countryside. Support for the infrastructure for these access provisions could be provided including access gates rather than stiles, restoration of historic features such as stone pitching, and surface improvements or maintenance where user pressure is great or to increase accessibility for those who are less-able. It must enable a wide variety of measures to suit local circumstances and to reflect the quality and character of access and the landscape in that area, including existing access provision, and consider both traditional and non-traditional forms of access, such as infrastructure (subject to planning requirements). The payments should reflect the risks, costs and the impact on adjacent land and business activities. Access (and of course looking after the land) is a major driver of rural economies especially where tourism and/or other types of visitor use are important. The problem is that the providers of the access and the land that people are coming for very often cannot benefit from the visitor spend because access is often, rightly, free at the point of use. However, many other businesses trade off the visitors coming, which both sustains their businesses; the wider network of businesses; and indirectly the wider local community who have more facilities and options because the economy is working. In the Peak District our uplands are extremely important visitor destinations, part of a nationally designated landscape, a National Park where the asset is the landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage but where the providers and carers of these assets cannot generally secure income from the millions of visitors. There is a clear option here to use general taxation to support the infrastructure (environmental and access) on which a huge part of the economy (tourism, visitor, rural local services) depend. If we want thriving rural areas we need to, as a society, support these core services (healthy environment/access) where the market can't or won't be able to. When we've fully explored Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) this will still be true. Many of the access benefits are too diffuse and difficult to provide a direct cost-benefiter link to make PES anywhere near a panacea. Rights of Way (RoW) were never designed to take the volumes of traffic they do today nor were they designed to meet the needs of present day leisure activity. There is demand for an increase in the provision of RoW both in terms of creation of new rights and by giving higher rights to existing rights ie the upgrading of footpaths to bridleways (where practicable and sustainable) to support a wider range of leisure activity. This could be effected by targeting payments to landowners for management of existing RoW and for the creation of new RoW; this could provide opportunities for smaller land parcels to meet the requirements of environmental stewardship agreements. New public access should be demand-driven and targeted to ensure value-for-money, fair provision and long-lasting public and economic benefit. Route or area access should be developed to deliver maximum public benefit where it is most needed. The PDLAF believes that permanent access provides the best value for public money. Permanent access gives the public clarity and certainty about where they can go and spending on

infrastructure such as gates is not wasted when the access agreement ends. Permanent access can be shown on OS maps and also benefits rural businesses and tourism. Good promotion must be an important element of any future policy and improvements to public access. Farmers need to appreciate the value to the wider economy of increased access provision and visitors need to be educated to appreciate the privilege afforded by free access to RoW and educated to care for the environment. The Peak District National Park has a proud record of facilitating access, which has been repaid by enhancing the wellbeing of the local community. Indeed the long term legacy of the celebrated events upon Kinder Scout in 1932 has been the burgeoning of a massive industry of accommodation, outdoor equipment, information, hospitality and rural enterprise, none of which existed before open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act, 2000 provided the extra driver to bring visitors to the area with the significant increase in opportunities it made possible.

Our upland landscapes are cherished for their 'wildness' and are unique to the character of England. They encompass familiar or inherited landscapes which enhance a sense of isolation, inspiration and challenge and which are conducive to the enjoyment of healthy and sustainable outdoor activities. Our uplands represent England and Wales' finest and most unique landscapes, and very best wildlife and geological sites. By the nature of their isolation opportunities for diversification are limited therefore support must be given for their role in maintaining the landscape, the historic and geological features, preserving and enhancing fragile environments and climate change mitigation.

Local partnerships working with a number of farms in an area will also encourage a more integrated access and rights of way network with the option for routes providing alternative transport opportunities, such as cycling, and for linking and supporting communities and the wider tourism economy. Access elements should be available in a targeted approach for added value with alignment to Rights of Way Improvement Plans, Cycling and Walking Investment Strategies, and other local priority programmes with which the PDLAF would be able to assist. There is only one landscape and the common challenge must surely be to affect the best returns from it for all users and interests. Landscape scale action is needed to achieve the vision set out in the 'Lawton Review' in 2010 of 'more, bigger, better, joined' up habitats. A landscape scale approach with a holistic view of public benefits will help ensure healthy populations of priority species and enable people to connect with nature. Meaningful outcomes to habitat restoration, flood mitigation and water quality for instance, will only occur if a number of farmers / landowners participate at the same time across the entire local landscape. If government wish to make valuable environmental improvements, a joined-up approach will be needed and farmers incentivised to opt into these outcomes. It is often the case that 'joined-up thinking' is also needed when considering the benefits of public access, which can often be achieved at a scale larger than the individual landholding. The bridging of a missing link may influence route choices several miles away. Many paths and tracks, whether concessionary or of right, cross landholding boundaries which are never apparent on the ground, and which the visitor will be completely unaware. For example, along the Eastern Edges in the Peak District, new concessionary ways that are hugely popular have been created through the Sheffield Moors Partnership making a variety (in length and challenge) of paths that cross adjacent estate boundaries. However, there will be instances where single land holdings can deliver equally beneficial improvements to public access and opportunities for recreation should not be explored simply when multiple farms wish to participate. It is vital that a new environmental land management system is supported by advice, best practice and be evidenced based as much as possible. Some of this could be provided by NGOs and representative bodies but Government will need to facilitate these discussions and ensure it also provides advice directly and funds more technical advice. PDLAF believes, through past experience, solutions nurtured through partnership with key stakeholders such as representative recreation user groups, enhance concepts of shared responsibility and custodianship and assist with implementation of communication and good practice through peer group pressure, and at no cost to landowners. The perception that a landscape is 'ours to care for' helps in restricting inappropriate use and antisocial behaviour.

This forms the submission on behalf of Peak District Local Access Forum.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Gilbert  
Vice Chair  
Peak District Local Access Forum

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** 24 September 2020

**Item:** 4b

**Title:** Green Lanes Update

**Author:** Sue Smith

### **Purpose of the Report**

The report provides an update on progress with looking after green lanes in the National Park.

### **Action Plans**

On 7 May 2020, Members of the Authority's Programmes and Resources Committee considered actions on green lanes, illegal use and communications for 2020/21. The committee papers also included the Green Lanes Annual Report which provides an update on actions during 2019/20 and is attached in Appendix 1

In line with the direction set out by the National Park's Management Plan and the Authority's Corporate Strategy, the wider engagement, protection and enhancement of these valued routes will be taken forward by areas of work on accessibility, protecting verges, telling the story of the trails, and promoting Peak District Proud.

### **Vehicle Logging**

The action plans identify a number of routes where vehicle logging will be taking place. Summary data is provided in Appendix 2 for the vehicle logging undertaken during 2019/20.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the report is noted.**

# Green Lanes Annual Report 2019/20



**PEAK  
DISTRICT  
NATIONAL  
PARK**

## May 2020

Green lanes are tracks across the National Park used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motor vehicles.

This is our third annual report. It reports on the work we have done in partnership with others over this last year.

### 1) Involvement

#### Peak District Local Access Forum

Our Local Access Forum (LAF), the first to be established in this country, celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. For the last 10 years it has had a sub-group looking at the issues of recreational motorised vehicles and green lanes. LAF members come from a wide range of backgrounds and interests. We are grateful for their expertise, advice and guidance provided and their collaborative consensus-based approach.



In June 2019, LAF members met officers from Sheffield City Council, Eastern Moors Partnership and Derbyshire Police on the Houndkirk Road to consider how to encourage vehicle users to Stay on Track. Damage to the track verges was looked at and it was clear that we had to change the way of thinking to value the surroundings more than the ability to drive anywhere at will. Options for signage, barriers, reinstatement and enforcement were also considered.

## Two Forums

The first joint Forum meeting between Peak District Local Access Forum and the Stanage Forum was held in March 2020 on Long Causeway at Stanage. Members discussed enhancing accessibility and considered the potential for a Miles without Stiles route. We also looked at opportunities that the route provides for people to explore the moorland habitat.

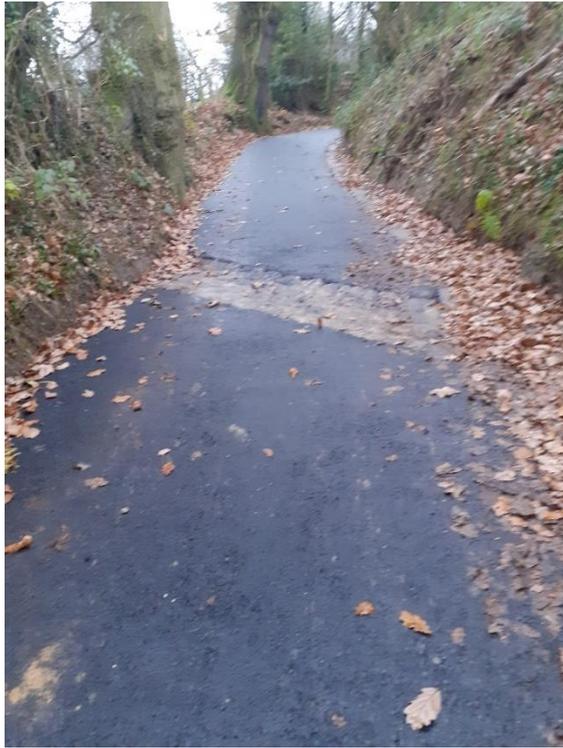
Long Causeway is also one of the Peak's District's historic packhorse paths. We will be working with Stanage Forum to look at how we share the history of this iconic route.



## 2) Improvements

### Repairs by Highway Authorities

During October to December 2019, Derbyshire County Council carried out works at Hurstclough Lane, near Bamford.



In December 2019, Derbyshire County Council completed the works at Chapel Gate, at Rushup Edge.



During October to December 2019, Derbyshire County Council resurfaced the track at Minninglow.



In September 2019, Staffordshire County Council carried out repairs to the route at Wetton Hills in the Manifold Valley.



## **Repairs by Volunteers**

Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale volunteers carried out repairs to a famous hill climb known as the Corkscrew, near Rainow.

Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV) cleared out debris from cross-drains at Long Causeway to increase their capacity for the next heavy rainfall.

PPCV also continued with their highly-skilled stone pitching at Washgate.

## **3) Monitoring & Managing**

### **Data Logging**

The Peak District National Park Authority uses electronic logging devices to monitor vehicle use. Differentiating between agricultural vehicles and larger four by four vehicles is difficult so locations are sought to try to eliminate agricultural use to ensure data is as accurate as possible in the recording of recreational use. Data is shared with the police to enable them to make evidence-led decisions on their operations.

During 2019-20 we have monitored 10 sites. This includes all TRO routes, as well as monitoring at Minninglow Lane, Hurstclough Lane and Pindale, near Castleton (below).



## Signage



We have replaced a damaged Traffic Regulation Order sign at the Washgate route, near Hollinsclough. Where signs are obscured or missing, the traffic regulation order is still in force.

## Education & Enforcement

In a sixth month period up to February 2020, Derbyshire police took the following action on illegal use on footpaths, bridleways, TRO routes and farmland in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales: 33 traffic offences, 9 letters of advice, 2 warnings and 1 verbal advice.

## 4) Restraint and Restrictions

### Voluntary Restraint

The Peak District National Park Authority is keen to see user groups taking voluntary action to address issues. In recent years, we have also been working with the Peak and Derbyshire Vehicle User Group (PDVUG) and its associated member groups.

This winter, PDVUG has again been urging recreational vehicle users to refrain from using Minninglow and Gallowlow Lane which gets waterlogged in winter. Ruts can make the lane difficult for all users and the restraint is to prevent further deterioration. This was particularly important this year to protect the repairs which had been carried out by Derbyshire County Council, allowing them time to establish.

### Traffic Regulation Orders



In October 2019, the Authority made a traffic regulation order at the route at Wetton Hills in the Manifold Valley. Details of the order made and the reasoning for these can be viewed at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/tros](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/tros). This is also set out in the summary report on the traffic regulation orders made by the Authority.

In July 2019, Derbyshire County Council made a traffic regulation order at Jacobs ladder, Stoney Middleton following consultation.

## TRO Exemptions

At Derby Lane an exemption to the traffic regulation order allows for caving access on application. During 2019/20, there have been 7 applications for exemptions. Waterfall Swallet also plays a significant contribution towards cave research and during 2019 hosted visits for academics from the UK and Europe.



At Washgate, an exemption was granted for the Bemrose motorcycle trial held in March 2019. This was the 90<sup>th</sup> time the event had been held in the Peak District, commencing in 1921 but with interruptions for World War II and foot and mouth outbreaks.

In 2019, there were 146 riders. The riders passed through the river but did not use it as a stage. They had regard to biosecurity measures, did not refuel on the route, and used marshalls. No walkers, horse riders, or cyclists were encountered; there were three public spectators.

The Reliance Cup Trial did not take place on Washgate in 2019. The Bemrose Trial did not take place in March 2020.

## 5) Reporting

Action plans on green lanes, illegal use and communications for 2019/20 to protect the special qualities of the National Park were approved by National Park Members in March 2019. The plans can be viewed at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles) and are due to be updated at the May 2020 Programmes and Resources Committee.

A summary report on the Traffic Regulation Orders made by the National Park Authority was provided in March 2019 and has recently been updated. As well as giving details about the special nature of these routes, it also updates the level of logged vehicle use and includes a section on accessibility.

## **Appendix 2**

### Vehicle Logging 2019/20

#### **Hurstclough Lane**

##### February to March 2019

4-wheeled – average of 0.1 per day (weekdays 0; weekends 0.5)

2-wheeled – average of 3 per day (weekdays 0.4; weekends 9.9)

#### **Pindale**

##### February to March 2019

4-wheeled – average of 1.1 per day (weekdays 0.2; weekends 3.4)

2-wheeled – average of 5.8 per day (weekdays 1.2; weekends 17.5)

#### **Minninglow**

##### January to February 2020

4-wheeled – average of 0.1 per day (weekdays 0; weekends 0.3) \*

2-wheeled – average of 2.1 per day (weekdays 0.9; weekends 4.9)

\* During period of voluntary restraint for 4-wheeled vehicles

**Peak District Local Access Forum****24th September 2020****Item 5: For discussion****Post-lockdown impressions**

Mike Rhodes and Andy Farmer

We thought it would be useful to have a discussion about LAF Members' impressions about recent developments in public access to the National Park since the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Below is a very brief summary of our impressions and the results of a brief 'snap shot' survey conducted by our Rangers;

**Positive**

- Large numbers of people visiting both traditional 'hotspots' and new areas, encouraged by social media.
- Large numbers visiting for the first time
- It is obvious that people value the countryside and by implication the National Parks by the numbers of visitors we have had, even if it may be because they aren't able to go anywhere else
- Increased enthusiasm for active use of our Trails and the National Park as a whole, with attractions such as the Monsal Trail busier than they have ever been.
- Our informal engagement opportunities have been very beneficial with rangers engaging with a wide spectrum of society.
- We have seen an increase in Black and Minority Ethnic families and groups across the NP

**Neutral**

- One of our findings, particularly when it was hot earlier in the year is that people wanted to access water and watersides – this is both a positive (enjoying the countryside) and a negative with disturbance and unthoughtful behaviours in certain locations
- One of the findings is that visitors want clearly signed and promoted routes from hot spots – this is both an opportunity to bolster confidence in our visitors but on the negative side this will require additional resources currently unavailable

**Negatives**

- Congestion from cars and inappropriate parking – not good for climate change, pollution or the landscape
- The behaviour of a small minority in terms of fly-camping, fires and BBQ's
- The behaviour some people leaving litter across the park
- Some of our communities have been distinctly unhappy with the number of visitors
- Some locations e.g. Stanton Moor, Upper Derwent and Kinder have been problematic with fly-camping
- Our ranger resource struggled and continues to struggle with some of the demands upon it

## Survey Summary

In brief: Most of our visitors surveyed have been to the Peak District National Park before, with most knowing about it from previous knowledge or living close to it. Most have also been to other UK national parks.

Most visitors arrive by car or van.

Most visitors are aware how to visit responsibly; however, many would happily park on the side of the road and / or verges.

To find more information about the Peak District, most visitors will do a general web search.

Many know about our visitor centres but few had heard of PeakDistrictProud (7%) or know that we have information about car parks on our website (12%). Parking is an area a number of visitors wanted information on.

Over 50% of those that commented on what information they would like, to help with their visit, said information on walking routes would be helpful. Over 25% would like information on parking. Although not specifically in the survey, the visitors I spoke to said they would like this information online.

### Summary

- Most respondents came by **car** or **van** – 90%
- Most have **parked in car parks** – 70%
- Most knew they were in the National Park – 89%
- Most had **been** to the **PDNP before** – 77%
- The most common reasons cited for coming were to **get outside**, to **take part in activity** and to **meet family / friends**, all with over 50%
- Most visitors **know about the PDNP** from previous knowledge – 70% and / or **living very close to it** – 31%
- Most visitors would look for alternative parking (including roadsides and verges) if their parking destination was full – 53%
- Most visitors would **look online**, on a web search **for more information about the Peak District** – 71%. Only 21% would specifically search on the PDNP web site
- **A total of 87% were aware of the Countryside Code and / or what it stood for**
- **Most – 65% were aware / partly aware of the recent issues** including fires and litter
- Only 7% had heard of PeakDistrictProud
- Less than half – 46% are aware that most of the PDNP is privately owned
- Most were aware that camping (79%) and BBQs (84%) are not allowed
- 66% knew they should stick to footpaths and other rights of way but only 25% had heard of Access Land
- Only 12% knew they could find out about how busy the car parks are, on our website
- 66% know about our Visitor Centres
- Most visitors brought a mobile phone with them, to help with their visit 95%. 92% brought food and drink and 57% brought a waterproof coat. After these, the most popular items were wet wipes / loo roll (44%). Only 27% brought a map / GPS / compass and 29% brought some sort of emergency kit such as a first aid kit.

- **99% will visit again** and **89% have visited other UK national parks**
- 88% of our respondents are white

Where the surveys were undertaken

<b>Location</b>	<b>Distance from parking</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Chatsworth, by the river	<5 mins	8
Errwood Hall CP and nearby	<5 mins	5 + 10 trial
Mam Nick	<5 mins	11
Standing Stone CP	<5 mins	2
Dovestones	<5mins	9
Edale, Ramblers Inn / Main CP	<5 mins	8
Bakewell	<5 mins	1
Monsal Head	<5 mins	3
Parsley Hay	<5 mins	12
Mam Tor	<20 mins	3
3 Shires Head	<20 mins	10
Dovestones	<20 mins	7
Cave Dale	<20 mins	1
Monsal Dale	<20 mins	4
Thorpe Cloud	>20 mins	13
Shutlingsloe Summit	>20 mins	3
Grindsbrook	>20 mins	2

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## Visitor Snap Survey Results – 104 Responses

**1. How did you travel here today?** 

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Bicycle	1.92%	2
2	Bus	0.00%	0
3	Car / van	90.38%	94
4	Coach / minibus	0.00%	0
5	Motorbike	0.00%	0
6	Train	1.92%	2
7	Walked	0.96%	1
8	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>	4.81%	5

**2. If you came by car or motorbike, where have you parked?** 

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	In a car park	70.10%	68
2	In a layby off the road	15.46%	15
3	On the side of the road (tarmac)	1.03%	1
4	On the verge	3.09%	3
5	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>	10.31%	10

**4. Before taking part in this survey, did you know you were in the Peak District National Park?** 

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	89.47%	85
2	No	10.53%	10

**5. Have you been here before?** 

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	76.92%	80
2	No	22.12%	23
3	Don't know	0.96%	1

**6. Why did you choose to come here today? Choose all that apply** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	We like it here and visit regularly		17.31%	18
2	For the scenery		59.62%	62
3	We heard it was a nice place to come		13.46%	14
4	It is easy to get to		17.31%	18
5	To get outside		60.58%	63
6	To meet friends / family		28.85%	30
7	To exercise / take part in an activity		53.85%	56
8	To improve my health (physical and / or mental)		7.69%	8
9	To see wildlife		10.58%	11
10	Sightseeing		12.50%	13
11	Other places are closed		0.00%	0
12	To have a meal outside		4.81%	5
13	To drink alcohol		0.00%	0
14	We were driving past and decided to stop		0.00%	0
15	To be near water		15.38%	16
16	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>		15.38%	16

**7. If it wasn't for COVID, would you still have come here today?** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		87.50%	84
2	No		10.42%	10
3	Don't know		2.08%	2

**8. How did you hear about the Peak District National Park? Choose all that apply** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Previous knowledge		70.19%	73
2	We live very local to it		30.77%	32
3	National Park website and social media		1.92%	2
4	Web search		7.69%	8
5	Maps or GPS		0.96%	1
6	Guidebook		1.92%	2
7	Social media		5.77%	6
8	Google Maps or equivalent		0.96%	1
9	Signage		0.00%	0
10	Newspaper / magazine		0.00%	0
11	TV or radio		0.00%	0
12	Friends or family		16.35%	17
13	Didn't hear about it		0.00%	0
14	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>		7.69%	8

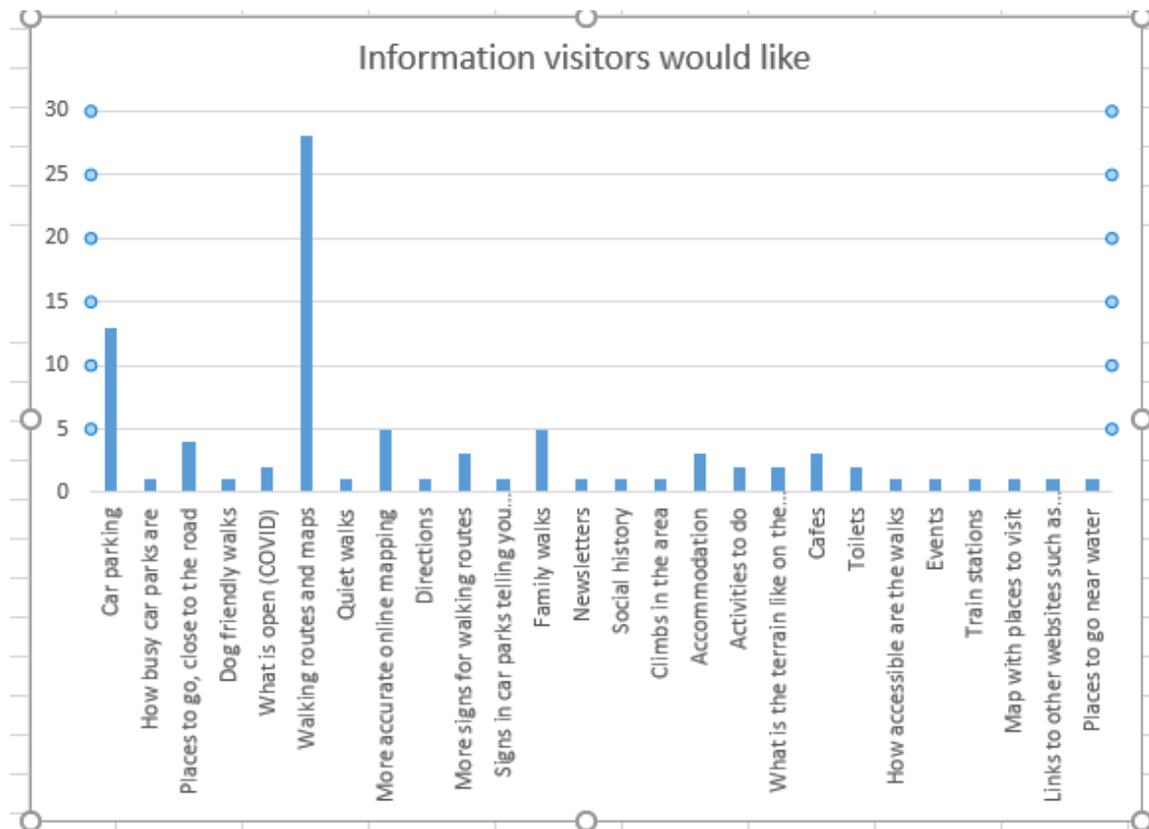
**9. If your chosen destination (car park) in the Peak District National Park was very busy on arrival, what would you do?** [Create Chart](#)

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Carry on with the original plan, finding somewhere nearby to park		53.13% 51
2	Carry on with the original plan but find an alternative car park		32.29% 31
3	Change plans, travel around the Peak District National Park and surrounding area, looking for somewhere suitable and less busy		20.83% 20
4	Go to a café or visitor attraction Peak District National Park (if open)		1.04% 1
5	Research an alternative destination in the Peak District National Park		2.08% 2
6	Research alternative destinations elsewhere		1.04% 1
7	Go home and visit somewhere local to home		0.00% 0
8	Go home and not visit anywhere		1.04% 1
9	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>		3.13% 3

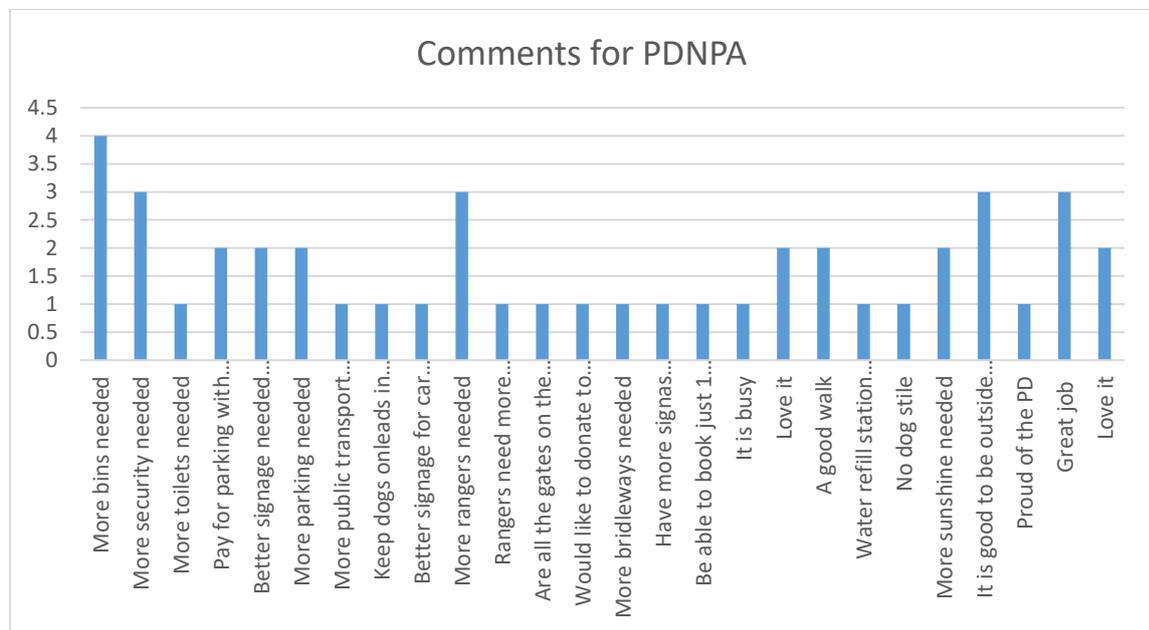
**10. Where would you look for more information about the Peak District National Park? Choose all that apply** [Create Chart](#)

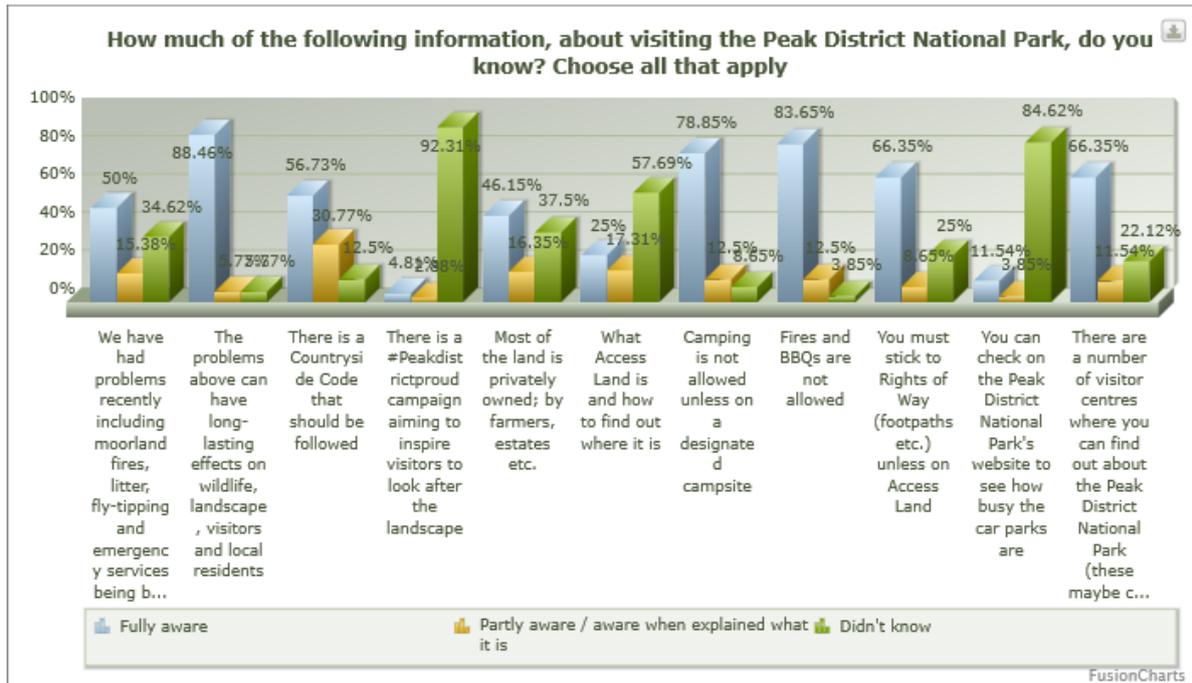
		Response Percent	Response Total
1	National park visitor centre		7.69% 8
2	Café / restaurant / local shop		1.92% 2
3	Visitor attraction such as the show caves		0.96% 1
4	National park website and social media		21.15% 22
5	Tourism website such as Visit Peak District		6.73% 7
6	Other website or internet search		71.15% 74
7	Maps or GPS		4.81% 5
8	Guidebook		3.85% 4
9	Signage		0.00% 0
10	Social media		8.65% 9
11	Google Maps or equivalent		4.81% 5
12	Newspaper / magazine		0.00% 0
13	TV or radio		0.00% 0
14	Friends or family		6.73% 7
15	I won't do any research		0.96% 1
16	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>		6.73% 7

What information would you look for, to help you with your visit?



What comments would you like to pass on to the PDNPA?





### 12. What did you bring with you today, to help with your visit? Choose all that apply

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Map / Compass / GPS	26.92%	28
2	Mobile phone	95.19%	99
3	Guide book or leaflet	9.62%	10
4	Waterproof coat	56.73%	59
5	Food / drink	92.31%	96
6	Safety kit such as First Aid kit and / or emergency shelter	28.85%	30
7	Lighter / matches (please note these must not be used in the Peak District National Park as we have a high fire risk)	18.27%	19
8	BBQ (please note these are not allowed anywhere in the Peak District National Park)	1.92%	2
9	Alcohol	9.62%	10
10	Wet wipes and / or toilet roll	44.23%	46
11	Bin bags (please take your litter home)	36.54%	38
12	None of the above	0.00%	0
13	Other (please specify): <a href="#">View</a>	1.92%	2

### 13. Do you think you will visit the Peak District National Park again?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	99.04%	103
2	No	0.96%	1
3	Don't know	0.00%	0

**14. Have you visited any of the other UK national parks?** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		89.42%	93
2	No		5.77%	6
3	Don't know		4.81%	5

**15. What is your ethnicity?** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Asian or Asian British		8.65%	9
2	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British		1.92%	2
3	Mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds		0.00%	0
4	Other ethnic group		0.00%	0
5	White		88.46%	92
6	Prefer not to say		0.96%	1

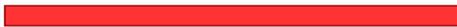
**16. Which age range are you in?** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	16 - 24		15.38%	16
2	25 - 44		54.81%	57
3	45 - 64		23.08%	24
4	65 and over		6.73%	7

**17. What is your gender?** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Female		44.23%	46
2	Male		55.77%	58
3	Other		0.00%	0
4	Prefer not to say		0.00%	0

**18. Do you have a health condition?** [Create Chart](#)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	No health condition		88.46%	92
2	Physical disability		5.77%	6
3	Anxiety/depression		1.92%	2
4	Other		3.85%	4
5	Prefer not to say		1.92%	2

**20. Where was this survey carried out?** 

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Car Park		13.46%	14
2	Within 5 minutes walk of the nearest parking		42.31%	44
3	Within 20 minutes walk of the nearest parking		21.15%	22
4	More than 20 minutes walk from the nearest parking		23.08%	24

**21. What are the weather conditions?** 

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Sunny		16.67%	14
2	Partly cloudy		50.00%	42
3	Overcast		14.29%	12
4	Wet		19.05%	16

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**Peak District Local Access Forum****24th September 2020****Item 6: For discussion****Access Issues in Relation to the Right to Roam Campaign**

John Thompson

1. **This discussion paper (points in bold italics in particular to discuss)** reviews the position on Water Recreation, Woodland, Camping and Countryside Code Topics in the area of the Peak District LAF following their recent inclusion in a new national "Right to Roam Campaign" seeking more access for all. I have also added Mountain Biking as a hot topic this summer. **Our approach on these issues is to advise and we need to do that bearing in mind our role as a LAF which is that:**

- We advise decision making organisations about making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel.
- We can set our own priorities depending on local issues, and also respond to consultations and draft policy documents. When making recommendations, LAF members need to consider land use, as well as the need to conserve flora, fauna, geological and physical features.
- We advise but can also set our own priorities, and as part of our consideration of campaigns for greater access. ***I think we need to take care on how far we go on a scale between campaigning and advising.***

2. My paper is for discussion with LAF colleagues to seek views and provoke debate with relevant policies and previous LAF presentations in **Annex A**. We need a broad spectrum of opinion if LAF is to be truly representative and understand the complicated issues. I have inserted names and a number of key points to be more comprehensive in this revised Draft. I very much appreciate the input from a number of colleagues asked for comments before revising for all LAF members to consider. ***My suggested actions are in bold italics after each section for discussion please. An Access Sub Group may be useful to look at some detailed issues.***

**Right to Roam Campaign**

3. There is a new campaign (**see extracts in Annex B**), which in its title of Right to Roam reminds us of the successful lobbying in the past leading to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. In the case of the Peak District N.P, this followed lack of agreement to extending areas of access by agreements and subsequently doubled Open Country Access. The Campaign considers it to surely be past time to extend it to certain other landscapes, such as woodlands and rivers. The Campaign - see [www.righttoroam.org.uk](http://www.righttoroam.org.uk) - "fully acknowledges that for some landowners and managers, this might seem a frightening prospect," but addresses concerns.

4. As Mike observes, the campaign(s) for improved access are in stark contrast with the demands from some landowners, Parish and District Councils, Friends Groups and some National Park residents for greater action by the NPA to prevent (and extend legislation prohibiting) camping, barbecues, swimming and mountain biking.

5. Louise says - "The campaign rightly emphasises that there cannot be rights without responsibilities, but in my view the paper, and the LAF, doesn't advise and comment on this enough. Given current concerns from landowners about trespass, litter, fires, dangerous parking and other poor behaviour, not addressing this could be the most serious threat to access as we know it. She adds - I support extending CROW & right to roam concepts to activities other than walking. I'm surprised the paper doesn't mention mountain biking (now added) , as this is a key community and one that alongside swimming and kayaking is also underserved in the Peak. Climbing is covered under CROW (or at least we don't have access issues with crags on CROW land except where the landowner has misunderstood the legislation)."

6. Alistair Harvey says - "From my own perspective, and accounting for my experiences from not just the past few months, the foundation to access, whether aquatic or terrestrial, and any new 'right to roam' proposal, must be education. Having read through the attached document and reading about the example in Norway, this is reliant on people acting responsibly and behaving themselves – a trait that Scandinavians seem to adapt to quite easily, the Great British public however not so, as demonstrated since the easing of lockdown restrictions. Alistair thinks the phrase 'right to roam' is misleading and gives the wrong impression from the outset – but again, this comes back to education and the promotion of this idea. There are many users out there already exercising this 'right' which we experience across a lot of our operational sites and causes us, as a landowner, no end of headaches. This was happening prior to Covid-19 raising it's ugly head but seems to have become more widespread as people look to flex their wings after being cooped up when lockdown was implemented. My concern with this term is that the countryside becomes a 'free for all' – which is effectively where we've been over the summer this year. Another huge consideration must be disturbance to biodiversity and wildlife ..... Safe havens and areas of reduced disturbance must still be left when considering a right to roam."

7. Bob suggests that probably the most obvious (worst) provision for access is for water recreation, both canoeing and swimming and thinks we need to be outspoken if that is to change. Edwina suggests that this topic is too important and potentially radical for the Peak District. She agrees with Bob that further discussion and views must be heard from local people including Parish Councils. Farming and landowning interests added by Louise. I would add Land Management Forum and Anglers.

**8. Guidance on our Approach to the Campaign and consultation would be welcome please. I suggest at this stage maybe the LAF should note the Campaign, consider aspects of it as below in practical terms for the Peak District, and listen to all points of view including landowners and managers, community and conservation interests and anglers. We can then work out how and when to do this consultation.**

**Issues Particularly Relevant to the Peak District**

9. With issues covered relevant to the Peak District, bearing in mind policy and background material summarised in **Annex A**, we should discuss, consider and advise the Peak and DCC after further thought and taking account of Land Management, Farming, Conservation, Sustainability and Community interests that:

**10. On Access to Open Country**, we are continuing to work with landowners, land managers and users to improve the current arrangements with help and guidance from Access officers and some funds from the Peak District NPA's Access Fund in the National Park and working with Derbyshire County Council in North West Derbyshire.

**11. *We have previously been concerned about the postponed open country mapping review. Where is this up to can we, via the Peak District NPA, send suggestions and press Natural England? Through the Access Sub Group and Access Fund, we have encouraged access improvements.***

***On specifics, the Access Sub Group has been keen to see access to the former Holling Dale Plantation , now moor, near Bradfield by the Fitzwilliam Estate (Any positive news on these issues and is there anything additional to add or act on? Will existing legislation cover something like Holling Dale if needs be? )***

**12). Water Recreation. On Access to Rivers and Reservoirs (including canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking)**, we are working closely through officers with Yorkshire Water (with Alistair Harvey as one of our members) and Geoff Nickolds with considerable experience and achievements from his time with Severn Trent Water. We also benefit now from Ben Seal (British Canoeing) who is on our LAF and Derby and Derbyshire LAF and has been very helpful and active in promoting the case through British Canoeing for access. At present there is a lack of provision for water recreation, both canoeing and swimming from background material and from presentations we received in 2019.

13. Geoff Nickolds comments that "the difficulties with agreeing navigation over lengths of river with multiple land owners have already been well rehearsed by Ben and others and I see little prospect for real change without a change in legislation as previously discussed. Access for other water sports on reservoirs may be more achievable, depending on availability of appropriate facilities and, importantly, demand. Maybe it's time to re-visit the original Brighton University research, though not sure how this could be brought about or funded."

14. Alistair Harvey says - "In terms of access to water I agree that as a Nation it is very unclear just what can and can't be done, what water you can freely use, what water you can't. The current scenario is so complicated that trying to educate anyone presently would be a nightmare, so some clarity on access to water is welcomed and long overdue. However, working for a Water Company our stance on access to our reservoirs – which at the end of the day are operational assets and not 'lakes' which people still refer to them as – is not going to change any time soon. Yorkshire Water does provide access to it's waters, but this is not on a right to roam basis, this is provided through formal agreements with clubs and organisations in a controlled manner."

15. Ben Seal observes that: "On the point around 'access by agreement'. While I know this is Government policy and that by default of the Peak District NPA, the challenges we have faced in recent weeks at Cromford just show this is not an effective way forward (regardless of how nice it may sound). The angling clubs want to impose a 'permissive agreement' to allow canoeing when they say; yet it is not their permission to grant as holders of the fishing right only in most cases.

16. Between Cromford & Whatstandwell, Severn Trent and the Railway own a fair bit of the land, plus much of it is unregistered with Land Registry. So the practicality of actually designing an agreement, that every landowner agrees to and signs - even for this 2/3 mile stretch below Cromford, is just entirely unfeasible. Added to that, who would sign the agreement? And how would it be policed? It is really important to understand this aspect if the LAF are to support it as a policy. I would however, strongly urge the group to seek a counter opinion to mine from the Angling Trust or a local club." Can I also encourage colleagues to read the British Canoeing campaign - <https://www.british.canoeing.org.uk/go.canoeing/access-and-environment> and <https://clearaccessclearwaters.org.uk>. This helpful input has been supplied by Ben.

17. On the Water Companies. Yorkshire Water aside, Seven Trent have simply said no. It is a dead end. If any progress is to be made seeking any access at all on the reservoirs – and it should - then LAF needs to take it up as an action, along with the PDNP to really drive the argument. I have hit a total block. I note the mention of Carsington, Tittesworth etc in one of the Peak District reports. It doesn't recognise how very limited the access is at these places. The combined amount of water that is available to the recreational paddler in the Peak is absolutely tiny, so we must not look at what we have and be satisfied at all."

**18. On Swimming** - is there anything to add to our previous LAF views following a presentation last September? We have not had any follow up from Robert Aspey.

19. Edwina says this topic has grown in momentum since the lockdown period and feels access to water does need to improve, especially as many local swimming pools are still closed or can only be used on a very limited basis.

20. Louise says - "I noted that during lockdown at least one outdoor swimming website took down its list of top places, because they were getting inundated and becoming damaged and in some cases dangerous (parking). This is an important consideration, and one that the swimming community in the Peak can be engaged to help address."

21. Alistair says - Swimming is not allowed in any of our water bodies but we have been experiencing real issues with unauthorised access to our waters over the course of this summer, particularly for swimming, and the wild swimmers seem to be becoming more persistent and more militant, being well organised on covert social media platforms and blatantly going against our requests, ignoring site signage warning of the dangers of swimming in reservoirs and requests that they don't do this. Again, not a new issue but the excellent weather we've had both during and post-lockdown seems to have increased the number of incidents. Fortunately, to date, we haven't had any fatalities in any of our reservoirs this year, although there has been at least one very near miss, and our liabilities

as the owner of such bodies of water, along with the after effects of having to deal with such tragic events, must be considered in any changes to access rights.

22. Geoff Nickolds suggests Wild Swimming could be more achievable but here there is always the conflict between freedom to participate and safety. This is perfectly illustrated by the number of unfortunate instances of accidental drowning each summer, which are always followed by much media coverage where the RLSS, RNLI (and sadly grieving relatives), warning about the dangers of unsupervised 'wild' swimming and advising against it. As an ex 'Victor Vole' I was also involved in such work in local schools and at events. While it can rightly be argued that individuals are responsible for their own safety the response to drowning accidents can result in criticism of the land or water body owner concerned over a lack of supervision, life saving equipment etc. And while individuals may well take responsibility for their own safety this may not be the view of their relatives or loved ones after the unfortunate event. One solution might be to legally absolve land and water owners of liability for wild swimming accidents or injuries, as I think was brought about for access under the CROW act."

**24. *Water Recreation is a big topic - but thoughts welcome and our views should be clear. I think we should reflect on the presentations Ben Seal (Canoeing) and Robert Aspey (Swimming) made to LAF and current developments referred to above in considering what LAF should be doing in consultation with the National Park Authority and Derbyshire CC as our sponsors. For example, on Canoeing, do we encourage access by agreement (as in the past for Open Country prior to legislation) with perhaps a Pilot initially? If so, is it access for a named body or group, with or without payments to riparian interests, and conceding it will not be access for all to enjoy (a point in the past which meant the NPA could not conclude as for open country agreements)? On Agreements, I agree with Ben that we should seek a counter opinion from the Angling Trust or a local club. Charlotte suggests as an example Alec Neville who is with "Friends of Lathkill Dale" and Mike has been approached via Sarah Fowler and Sue Fletcher after the Crime Commissioner met two River Wye keepers re problems shared with the Rural Crime Unit.***

**25. *Will a Code of Conduct be acceptable as shown to us previously by Ben? OR do we advise that legislation would be the only practical solution based on past experience and the current Right to Roam Campaign? On access to Reservoirs, there are good partnership arrangements and much positive action with the three Water Companies which should be encouraged and points of current concern should be drawn to their attention asking if improvements are possible. Could we explore the scope to legally absolve land and water owners of liability for wild swimming accidents or injuries? I gather a fund for Green Growth is being opened soon (Defra money dispersed through the National Lottery Heritage Fund) which may help fund new initiatives with NGO's and NPA's able to bid) - who follows up?***

**26. *On Woodland*** - we have welcomed in the past dedication of a number of Peak District NPA owned Woodlands for Access in perpetuity and have repeated our strong view that the NPA should do this with any future woodland property sales as

they have those powers as the Access Authority. Forestry Commission land has access. The question of whether other landowners can offer more on Woodland Access and if the national Tree Strategy could lead to more woodland and access (where the National Forest is a good model and exemplar) is for discussion.

27. Bob suggests that at Chatsworth, there is obvious access around the Park and close to the house, access to moorland above (Beeley Moor) and a long line of woodland with no public access separating the two, so he suggests wider more generalised access to woodland is needed even here.

28. Terry Howard points out that Sheffield City Council has a long-held principle that all its woodland estate (including all those in the Peak District) have de facto access to them. However, Terry thinks securing them for public access in an unforeseeable future is of concern. He has been told they are safe and there is no need to dedicate under section 16 of the CROW Act. He says concerns re Wildlife Trust management of some has discouraged public access. Terry adds that he believes Severn Trent has said in the past that their woodlands in the Upper Derwent have de facto access, but feels recent fencing has made them inaccessible. He observes that Private Estate woodlands seem mostly to have little or no public access.

29. Geoff Nickolds thinks "we have an emerging story which could be mentioned; the recent welcome proposals being developed by STW for a challenging mountain bike course in the forestry on the south side of Ladybower. This is in response to demand from the users and them already taking some informal initiatives on site. It also raises the issue that while access to the woodlands in Upper Derwent is formally restricted to public rights of way and concession paths, in fact little or no action is taken to prevent general access throughout the woodlands except in the event of felling and management operations and protection (usually temporary) of sensitive wildlife interests. Boundary walls and fences restrict general access from outside the woodlands, but their intention is to prevent access for sheep rather than people – in my time the woodlands had little or no natural regeneration due to 'informal sheep ranching' by the local farmers, with gaps appearing mysteriously in walls to facilitate this (allegedly). When I was in overall charge of the forestry I recommended against dedication for open access because (1) it was happening anyway and (2) the administrative burden of getting permission for temporary closures for operational or conservation reasons. Shameful I know..."

**30. *Views on Access to Woodland, including Chatsworth, Sheffield and Upper Derwent examples would be welcome. Good practice on dedication and safeguarding of public access could be encouraged to be pursued more widely.***

**31. On Wild Camping** - Louise says - "You will be aware of possible threats to wild camping as a result of proposals to criminalise trespass, which are primarily aimed at the travelling community. This is a serious threat to an activity that's generally now tolerated under an understanding that wild campers leave no trace and stay for one night only."

**32. The statement in Active in the Outdoors still seems relevant in the Peak after previous consideration with partners - "Wild Camping is not formally provided for in the Peak District. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which governs rights of access to open country, permission from the landowner/tenant must be obtained before camping." Do colleagues agree?**

33. On the Countryside Code, we have welcomed and given support (Roly Smith of our LAF on a Working Group) to the work by the NPA (Sarah Wilks) with partners to a fresh approach - "**Peak District Proud**" - as an action arising from the National Park Management Plan. In the NPMP work, a Workshop on Visitor behaviour resulted in the PeakDistrictiProud Campaign led by the Peak District NPA and National Trust which shares positive ways in which people can help care for the National Park : from taking home your litter and avoiding BBQ's to keeping your dog on a lead during periods of wildlife activity and the use of drones among a range of other actions. Natural England are aware of this Campaign as promoters of the Countryside Code and know it uses a series of montage images to build on core messages of "respect, protect and enjoy" found in the countryside code.

33. Edwina feels that "whilst the Countryside Code is simple and should be easy to follow, there is a significant gap in learning/education which sadly has been demonstrated over the last few months. She says the consequences of this have been tensions in local communities and grumblings from local residents about visitors to the National Park. Unhelpful signage has been erected which in some cases has been defaced."

34. Alistair says - "The Countryside Code is key but this is not new advice and has been around for as long as I can remember, in different guises admittedly, yet to some users of the countryside the message is simply not getting out there for some reason. We have also been dealing with a wider variety of visitors more recently as a more diverse audience discovers the Great British countryside – this is great, and must be embraced, but it brings with it it's own issues and requires an appropriate approach, including education/information."

35. Louise indicates that "last year the BMC held a conference on promoting responsible behaviours in the uplands, and this is now our major campaigning focus (see the NoMoorBBQs and Hill2Oceans litter campaigns). We had some fantastic speakers on behaviour change psychology, including on the limits of Countryside Codes, and the amazing campaign in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs to address an increase in human poo (<http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/camping/what-to-do-when-you-need-to-poo/>) . How can the LAF help PDNPA in its continued thinking on this, given how critical it is to access?"

**36. Anything else to add after Covid experiences of visitors in the Peak? Is the Peak District Proud Campaign being reviewed against objectives set?**

**37. On Mountain Biking - can we agree referring to the LAF's position, that it is supportive of the managed extension of opportunities for mountain - biking and the initiatives to promote better awareness of other users and the environment?**

## Conclusion

**38. This is a big topic at the heart of our interest and business and responses to suggested actions and our approach are important please to see if there is a need for an Access Sub Group and if there is a consensus on:**

**The Campaign - para 8**

**Access to Open Country - para 11**

**Water Recreation - paras 24 and 25**

**Woodland - para 30**

**Wild Camping - para 32**

**Countryside Code - para 36 (maybe considered under the previous item at this LAF**

**Mountain Biking - para 37**

**Other Access Issues - para 42 maybe for the Access Sub Group**

## Consultation

***39. Is there anyone we should consult before or after sharing with all LAF members by email and advising the Peak District NPA and Derbyshire CC? Following on from that do we consult more widely - e.g. Natural England, Sport England and the Environment Agency, Peak District Land Management Forum, National Park Management Advisory Group, Landowners like Chatsworth and the 3 Water Companies covering the Peak, Angling interests & Clubs and River Keepers, as well as District Councils, Parish Councils Forum and Local Residents.***

**Strategic Planning of Water Related Sport and Recreation in England and Wales  
- the Midlands (not sure of the date of this)**

A Brighton University report goes into detail for each Region and for the Midlands highlights gaps in provision which include:

- A need to upgrade facilities and resources, and ensure that all forms of water recreation activity are considered in green infrastructure planning
- There is a lack of provision for inland swimming and informal "beach" activities. Unlike many parts of England, people living in the Midlands have limited access to the coast, beaches and the sea. Yet, despite there being many suitable waters, there are few inland alternatives available where individuals and families can spend a day out involving open water swimming.
- There is insufficient provision for water related recreation in the Peak District National Park. Despite the range of waters found in the Peak District, few are currently used for anything beyond angling, birdwatching and sightseeing. There is a particular gap for unpowered touring by canoe, kayak and rowing craft; while there is also a need for waters for other activities such as competitive rowing and sailing. The National Park Authority recognises, and is investigating, this gap.

**Active Derbyshire**

I consulted Craig Homer at Active Derbyshire and he feels that increased access for water recreation in the Peak District and Derbyshire would be supported by them, but is not sure they have any specific policies to add. Their overall approach working with partners and communities is to find more ways to enable more people to be active ([www.activederbyshire.org.uk/uploads/towards-an-active-derbyshire](http://www.activederbyshire.org.uk/uploads/towards-an-active-derbyshire)).

**Extracts from Active in the Outdoors in the Peak District - the Peak District NPA**  
"Active in the Outdoors" is a Recreation Strategy and Action Plan for the Peak District National Park 2010 - 2020.

Extracts Para 2.3.2 on Cycling and Mountain Biking - "The Peak District is popular for cycling offering everything from quiet country lanes to traffic-free trails to challenging mountain biking terrain. Experienced mountain bikers enjoy the challenge of wild, remote moorland bridleways. The aim of the Strategy is to maintain existing routes, make them easier to use and create a more integrated network of routes and bridleways suitable for a range of uses."

Wider Peak District Cycling Strategy - develops this in more detail - (see [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/data/asset/pdf/0027/6168/peakdistrict-cycle-strategy-pdf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/data/asset/pdf/0027/6168/peakdistrict-cycle-strategy-pdf)).

Para 2.3.8 Water Sports states: Sailing, windsurfing and canoeing takes place on a number of reservoirs in and around the edge of the National Park, notably Carsington, Tittesworth and Rudyard. A few reservoirs within the National Park such as Torside, Errwood, Dovestone and Winscar have clubs that offer water sports. There is limited river access within the National Park but a stretch of the River Derwent at Matlock Bath provides a popular permanent slalom course and a short stretch at Bamford provides local youngsters with a chance to try canoeing.

The Peak District National Park Authority will continue to work with water companies and landowners to seek further opportunities. Any new infrastructure developments, eg sailing club, would be subject to an environmental impact assessment as part of the planning process but it is anticipated that the focus for new development is most likely to be outside the National Park.

The Action Plan called for the PDNPA to work with representative bodies and user groups to seek further water based recreation opportunities. **(Has this happened?)**

On Wild Camping in para 2.3.13 - it indicates that "Wild Camping is not formally provided for in the Peak District. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which governs rights of access to open country, permission from the landowner/tenant must be obtained before camping. Where permission is granted to camp on non registered sites, strict guidelines to safeguard the environment apply. Generally, camping is only permitted in designated campsites; bunkhouse or camping barn facilities offer a low cost option (see [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)).

### **National Park Management Plan - published in 2019**

The background topic paper on Access and Recreation proposed investigating opportunities with water companies to increase recreational access to water. The Plan itself did not say anything about this, but Special Quality 6 refers to the Peak District being an inspiring place for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet enjoyment. It refers to it being an unrivalled setting to escape the pressures of

everyday life and recharge the batteries, motivating people to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.

Area of Impact 4 (A National Park for Everyone - A Sustainable welcoming and inspiring Place for All) and Area of Impact 5 (Encouraging Enjoyment and Understanding) are relevant - para 5-1 refers to balancing opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment with enjoyment of the Peak District National Park to be at a scale and quality that respects the needs of all, and allows all to enjoy. The aim is to help people explore the Peak District National Park widely but responsibly and to spread the benefit visitors bring across the area without harming the special qualities.

**Landscapes Review Report on National Parks and AONB's - Extracts from report approved by LAF on 5th December,2019**

The Peak District Local Access Forum is a statutory independent group appointed by the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council and advises those two authorities on improvements to public access in the Peak District and North West Derbyshire for the purpose of open air recreation and enjoyment. It was the first in the country and originally met in December 2000 following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000. Its 22 volunteer members bring experience of a broad range of interests including walking, climbing, cycling, horse riding, recreational motor vehicles, farming, land management, conservation and local business.

Proposal 16: Consider expanding open access rights in national landscapes. The report states: "Though it is not a core part of our review, and any look at open access needs a much more in depth investigation, we think there is a case for looking at whether further access rights should be established, or at the very least considered or trialled in our national landscapes. The existing law and its application excludes many different user groups entirely, or favours walking on foot. We do not seek to undermine those rights; indeed we want to see walking further supported by national landscapes taking on rights of way management and the National Landscapes Service supporting National Trails."

**More could have been made in the report of the opportunities to expand access as provided for under the CROW Act, 2000 and consider other demands for interests like canoeing and swimming.**

**Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership Presentation - LAF 6th June,2019 (extract mins)**

The Forum received a presentation from Scott McKenzie, Living Rivers Officer from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership. The partnership had been established to tackle issues relating to pollution, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and community engagement and access. Scott was thanked for his presentation.

Ben Seal from British Canoeing also spoke on issues relating to water access and highlighted national campaigns which aimed to change legislation and improve access to water. Ben answered questions and points raised by LAF members and undertook to send additional information to Mike Rhodes for circulation. Ben was thanked for his presentation. The Forum discussed the issues raised and identified options for raising awareness. It was suggested that it would be useful to have representation on the Forum from canoeists or open water swimmers. Agreed the Chair would write to Sarah Fowler and other interests seeking their views and involvement in a future meeting.

**AGREED: To note and welcome the report and a copy of the Charter document be circulated to Forum Members.**

#### **Presentation on Outdoor Swimming - LAF 19th September, 2019 (extract mins)**

The Forum received a presentation from Robert Aspey of the Outdoor Swimming Society. The Society had been set up in 2013 and aimed to share knowledge and help people maintain and increase the amount of inland water accessible for outdoor recreational swimming. A lack of amenity meant unsafe areas were being used. The Society also produced guides and information and a copy of the Inland Bathing Areas guide to setting up inland bathing areas in the UK had been circulated to Forum members before the meeting. The guide included case studies of unsupervised access areas and managed areas and also gave practical advice and legal information regarding setting up areas. Robert referred to Rutland Water Bathing Beach as a successful example of a managed area. The Chair thanked Robert for his presentation.

Robert Aspey then answered questions from Forum members and issues raised were discussed. It was noted that both Severn Trent Water and Yorkshire Water currently have no swim policies for their reservoirs. Reservoirs are operational areas and can be subject to sudden fluctuating water levels and hidden dangers. Robert referred to the all party parliamentary group on swimming and stated that all Water Authorities would have been contacted to give their views. The Chair thanked Robert for his presentation.

**AGREED: To note the presentation and Inland Bathing Area guide, to share information amongs the Forum and to report back any feedback on happenings and new initiatives arising from approaches by the Outdoor Swimming Society in the area. (no feedback received as yet)**

#### **Mountain Biking**

The last time the LAF discussed specifically the topic of mountain biking was September 2019 and before then in March 2017. We have benefitted from member contributions previously from Adge Last and now Paul Richardson. The minutes of those meetings give a useful insight into our position - particularly where in 2019, we endorsed the Severn Trent approach to extend Mountain Biking route opportunities in partnership in the Upper Derwent.

The LAF is also supportive of action to improve cycling opportunities via the ROWIP, Key Cycle Network, Lost Ways, Pennine Bridleway and other initiatives, but has not commented on recent campaigns to extend access (e.g Cycling UK's campaign ([www.cyclinguk.org/offroadcampaigns](http://www.cyclinguk.org/offroadcampaigns)) or locally the Peak District MTB 22%

**In Summary, Mike suggests and I agree that the LAF position is supportive of the managed extension of opportunities for mountain - biking and the initiatives to promote better awareness of other users and the environment.**

**Extracts Regarding the Right to Roam Campaign**  
**Campaign information can be accessed on [www.righttoroam.org.uk](http://www.righttoroam.org.uk)**

**Annex B**

#### **THE CONTEXT**

Ours is a wild and a beautiful island. But the vast majority of it is unknown to us because, by law of trespass, we are banned from setting foot on it. We are excluded from hundreds of thousands of acres of open space - of woodland, meadows, rivers and their banks - simply because ancient laws of ownership fail to recognise the importance of nature to the public.

The law of England should not be excluding us from nature, but encouraging us towards it. Lockdown demonstrated the vital importance of access to nature for everyone's physical and mental health. With depression, anxiety, and obesity all on the rise, science is telling us that we need a deeper connection to nature.

In 2000, the Countryside & Rights of Way (CRoW) Act gave us a partial Right to Roam over about 8% of England. For the last two decades, we have had legal access to walk over certain landscapes (mountain, moor, commons and some downland, heath, and coastlines) without fear of trespassing.

But these sites are often remote, meaning that access to land has become a postcode lottery, available to those who live next to it, or who can afford the cost of travel and overnight stays. Everywhere else, not covered by the CRoW Act, the public are actively made to feel unwelcome in our own landscape and have been portrayed for centuries as a threat to the countryside.

But our desire to access nature should not be a crime. In recent years, science has built an irrefutable bank of evidence proving what our hearts have always known: we urgently need access to nature, its beauty, its space, its flora and its fauna, for our health, our creativity and our peace of mind. In a world of steel, glass and concrete, of stress, ecological detachment and screen-based lifestyles, the countryside is a natural health service that can heal us.

Nature should be accessible for all. Our freedom to roam should be expanded. Our rights of access should be extended to woodlands, all downland (not just fragments, as it does currently), and the Green Belt land that could give so many more people in towns and cities easy access to nature. 'Access' should also extend beyond simply a right to walk in some places. Why shouldn't we also be allowed to camp, kayak, swim, and climb amongst the beauty of the natural world?

What is the Right to Roam?

The Right to Roam is an ancient custom that allows anyone to wander in open countryside, whether the land is privately or publicly owned. In countries such as Norway, Sweden, Estonia and Scotland it has existed as a common right, a defining concept of nationhood, and has only recently been codified into law. Central to all versions of it across Europe is that: 1) there are sensible, listed exceptions and modifications to this right; and 2) this right only comes with strict responsibilities to both the ecology and community of an area.

The Right to Roam is really just a definition of private property that is different to England. There are still major landowners in Norway, Counts in Sweden, Lords in Scotland who own many hundreds of thousands of acres. Their ownership of the land, however, while it allows them to take rent, mine and make money from the land, does not include the right to exclude every other member of the public. In these countries, the Right to Roam is considered so important to the health and mental well-being of a nation, that it supercedes that peculiarly English stipulation of property: the right to exclude. Instead, every person has a right to explore these vast open spaces, to sleep there, to kayak, swim, climb, ride horses and cycle.

This right, however, is contingent on adhering to a strict set of responsibilities. These are simple, basic codes of how to behave in the countryside in such a way that you neither interrupt the function of a working, agricultural landscape, or damage the ecology of where you roam. None of these codes differ in logic from the Countryside Code of England, but they cover a larger scope, because they encompass more activities, and larger areas of land. When children grow up in these countries, experiencing nature and learning the code in practical terms, these codes become second nature, part of a wider understanding of how humans should interact with nature.

The combination of rights and responsibilities creates a relationship with the natural world that is entirely different from that of England. Nature is no longer presented like a museum piece, to be observed from afar behind a line of barbed wire. Instead

it becomes something to be deeply immersed in, a multi-sensory tangible experience whose smells, sounds, sightings can have profound effects upon the minds of their beholders. There is a long term effect too. Nature is no longer relegated to occasional visits, but instead becomes part of people's daily routine, woven into their lives. The Right to Roam ensures that the government actively encourages people to go outside. By removing any sense that being in nature is a criminal activity, and instead is promoted by the state, the Right to Roam curates a common, national consensus of an inherent connection with nature.

## **THE SOLUTION**

We need greater access rights to the land and waterways of England and Wales. The CRoW act needs to spread its wings over the land that will benefit the public the most but it also needs to include activities other than walking. What about kayaking, paddleboarding, wild swimming, wild camping?

With this extension, a renewed emphasis must be placed on the Countryside Code, the regulations that already exist that detail the responsibilities we have to the land, its workers and its owners. Action must be taken to educate the public about the responsibilities we have to the countryside: its ecology, its communities and its owners.

**We are focusing on 4 main areas:**

### **RIVERS**

There is an ongoing debate concerning access rights to England's rivers. Many countries across the world allow full or partial access to their rivers and lakes. Finland, France, Sweden, Norway, Bulgaria, Hungary and Belgium allow a general right of navigation on all rivers, with specific, seasonal arrangements made to accommodate other users such as fishermen. Australia and America, whose legal system was built on English Common law, allow free access to all rivers that can be navigated. There is a strong legal argument that public access to all rivers was enshrined by the Magna Carta. But this is heavily contested by the angling community, for whom a lucrative industry depends on the exclusive use of rivers, and so in England only 3% of rivers are open to a legal right of access.

The Environment Agency has stated conclusively that kayaking causes no harm to the environment of the river, and has even been shown to benefit the ecosystem. But still kayakers are thrown off waterways by fishing bailiffs whose agencies have rented exclusive access to the waters. Similarly, whilst swimmers in Scotland can access all inland waters (as long as they follow the outdoor access code) in England swimmers are limited to small stretches along common land, or the rare spaces where rights of way lead into the water. River banks and their courses are dominated by a single leisure group, the anglers, while other pursuits and people are banned. We must be given full right of access to all rivers and work in close harmony with the angling clubs so that the rivers can be a shared resource, not just for fishing, but for us all.

The more people that have access to blue space in England, the better they will be safe-guarded against pollution. As British Canoeing's '[Clear Waters, Clear Access](#)' campaign asks, why shouldn't visitors to our rivers be persuaded to care for them as they use them? For example, kayakers on the Derwent have been operating a scheme where they take an empty bag with them on trips, returning with rubbish they have collected along the way. With more people out on the rivers, there will be more eyes to pick up on spillages or pollution, more people to clear the rivers of litter and obstructions, so improving the ecology of our most vital resources.

## **WOODLAND**

In England, the half-million acres of woodland that are owned by the Forestry Commission are already open to public access. However, more often than not, this woodland is a monoculture crop of pine, and a world apart from the brimming life of deciduous woodland. The public are banned from the majority of the woods in England largely so as not to disturb the pheasants that are imported in crates from France, and reared in the woods to be shot in their millions.

But woodlands are perhaps the healthiest environment for the public. The Japanese practice of *Shinrin-yoku*, forest bathing, has for thousands of years been used to improve mental and physical health, and now science has shown that immersion in woodlands [can reduce stress and boost the immune system](#) for days afterwards. Most of these woodlands have benefited from public subsidies in the past, so if we are paying for their upkeep, why are we banned from experiencing their health benefits?

## **GREEN BELT**

Green Belts take up only [13% of England](#), and yet are perhaps the most important area of open space to the public, because so many of us live within easy access of them. If Green Belts were opened up to responsible public access, the [30 million people living near them](#) would have more easy access to open air, and the mental and physical health benefits that come with this.

Much of this land is agricultural, pasture and cultivated land, but that doesn't mean we can't access its open space. Why can't we follow Scotland's example, where under the [Scottish Right to Roam Act](#), people are allowed to walk the verges of fields, avoiding crops and machinery and livestock, taking care to leave the land as they found it? The verges of fields would give people access to the open air whilst keeping the farmland safe. If it works in Scotland, why not just over the border in England?

## **DOWNLAND**

Downland describes a landscape of open chalk hills - in its natural state, home to many species of wildflowers and insects, from orchids to the Adonis blue butterfly. Downland is already covered by the CRoW Act, but there's a problem. Because so much of our downland was ploughed up during and after World War Two, what we have left includes lots of small fragments. That has led to a very odd access situation. There are many open access 'islands'

of downland in the South Downs and in Dorset, where we have the Right to Roam on the remaining fragments, but we have to trespass over non-access land to get to them. This is clearly ridiculous. To help fix the situation, we're calling for an extension of the definition of downland to include semi-improved grassland, which could help connect these 'islands' to points of access.

### **THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE**

There is already a [Countryside Code](#). It is short and simple and protects the interest of the environment, local communities and landowners. It states, for example, that gates should be left as you find them, dogs should be kept under control, that visitors to the countryside should leave no trace, and take their litter home with them. Littering, dog fouling and sheep worrying are all already crimes.

The problem is not the lack of regulation, but a lack of education about the responsibilities we owe the land, its community and its owners. The UK Government has spent less than £1m on promoting the Countryside Code over the past 16 years – a tiny budget for something that requires a major publicity campaign. People are blamed for not following rules they have not been informed of. The Code should also be taught in schools. Children need to be educated about the countryside, and taught about the practical and moral responsibility we owe to the land from an early age.

We want to help this process of re-education, to ignite a wider understanding of how the countryside should be used. We are helping to promote the Code as it stands, but we also want to see visitors to the countryside go further, and persuade people to clear the litter they see, taking an active role in caring for nature. If people enter the countryside with this mindset, the public can become active custodians of the countryside, and benefit its ecology.

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## Introduction

1. This discussion paper reviews the position on Water Recreation, Woodland, Camping and Countryside Code Topics in the area of the Peak District LAF following their recent inclusion in a new national "Right to Roam Campaign" seeking more access for all. I have also added Mountain Biking as a hot topic this summer.

2. Our approach on these issues is to advise and as part of our consideration of campaigns for greater access, I think we need to take care on how far we go on a scale between campaigning and advising. We are not a lobbying Group - we are a Forum for Discussion on Access which is to advise the Peak District NPA and Derbyshire CC in our area of the National Park and North West Derbyshire.

3. My paper is for discussion with LAF colleagues to seek views and provoke debate with relevant background policies and previous LAF presentations in Annex A. I very much appreciate the input from a number of colleagues with particular knowledge and interests I asked for comments before revising for all LAF members to consider and have included key points in the report .

4. This is a big topic at the heart of our interest and business and responses to suggested actions and our approach are important please to see if there is a consensus on our approach to key points and then follow up from today.

5. My suggested actions are in bold italics in the report. I have extracted Key points and Questions in this note with questions in blue which can be dealt with on a show of hands at the online meeting, or by email responses in advance where possible to me please, including if you cannot attend. An Access Sub Group would be useful to look at some detailed issues. The Countryside Code will be discussed with Peak District Proud under item 5.

6. Recommendation - that the report on Access issues in the Peak District related to the Right to Roam Campaign be received and points from discussion at this meeting, responses to questions below and initial consultation feedback, be considered by the Access Sub Group for a report back to our 3rd December, 2020 LAF meeting with presentations included in a suitable format

**Right to Roam Campaign**

*The LAF's role is one of the few places that different views can be shared and stakeholders can understand each other and find areas of common ground. While we must always champion access, it would be to our detriment to lose the trust and support of landowners who may have legitimate concerns. We should consider further in the light of today's meeting and presentations by key people promoting and against Right to Roam through a meeting of the Access Sub Group with a report back to the full LAF in December.*

*Qn 1. I suggest at this stage the LAF should note the Campaign, consider aspects of it in practical terms for the Peak District, and listen to all points of view before we take an official stance on the subject with the benefit of appropriate consultation and presentations from promoters on behalf of Right to Roam to an Access Sub Group which would be open to any LAF member to attend and contribute to.*

**Do you agree? Yes/No?**

**Issues Particularly Relevant to the Peak District**

*Qn 2. I suggest we should review the report after today's discussion and questions, sound out the Peak District NPA and Derbyshire CC, and then some key consultees (para 44), followed by an Access Sub Group to advise the sponsoring authorities and seek their support for recommended policy issues and practical actions?*

**Do you Agree Yes/No?**

*We have previously been concerned about the postponed open country mapping review - now 2025 at the earliest (para 11 of my report)*

*Qn. 3 Should we, via the Peak District NPA and Derbyshire CC, send suggestions about the mapping review and press Natural England on this?*

**Do you Agree Yes/No?**

*Qn.4. Good practice on dedication and safeguarding of public access to woodland could be encouraged to be pursued more widely*

**Do you agree Yes/No?**

*The report refers to specific issues raised on Access like Holling Dale Plantation (para 11), and to Woodland issues re Chatsworth, Sheffield and Upper Derwent (para 30) and regarding Yarncliffe Quarry and Upperwood Quarry (paras 39 & 40)*

*Qn 5. I suggest detailed access matters on these specific Open Country Access Issues and Access to Woodland be pursued through the Access Sub Group?*

**Do you Agree Yes/No?**

*Qn.6. Can we encourage my suggested initial approach on Water Recreation (para 24 onwards) to see if there is scope for Agreements to be reached as Pilots to allow use for Canoeing and/or Swimming with appropriate Codes of Conduct and Education and suggest this might benefit from the forthcoming "Green Growth Fund" as a Project?*

*Do you Agree for Canoeing - Yes/No? for Swimming - Yes/No?  
OR is legislation the only way forward? - Do you Agree - Yes/No?*

On access to Reservoirs, there are good partnership arrangements and much positive action with the three Water Companies which should be encouraged and points of current concern should be drawn to their attention asking if improvements are possible. *There is a need to address the issue for land and water owners of liability for wild swimming accidents or injuries.*

*Qn.7. Could we look at how the British Mountaineering Council has approached this with other access issues regarding public liability (especially in quarries) through Louise Hawson setting up a meeting with Water Companies. Peak District Officers and some LAF members ?*

*Answer - Yes/No*

*On Wild Camping (para 32) is not formally provided in in the Peak District. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, permission from the landowner/tenant must be obtained before camping I gather from Louise that approaches differ in Dartmoor, the Lake District, Wales and Scotland? Fly Camping in the Peak is growing*

*Qn.8. Should the Wild Camping Policy be agreed or reviewed through the Access Sub Group?*

*Do you Agree - Yes/No?*

*Qn.9. On Mountain Biking (para 37) - can we agree referring to the LAF's position, that it is supportive of the managed extension of opportunities for mountain - biking and the initiatives to promote responsible biking in the Peak and better awareness of other users and the environment?*

*Do you Agree - Yes/No?*

The Countryside Code (maybe covered by discussion of the previous item at the LAF this morning

*Qn.10. On the Countryside Code (para 36) - Is there anything else to add after Covid experiences of visitors in the Peak? Should we ask that the Peak District Proud Campaign is reviewed in the light of experience and against objectives set?*

*Do you Agree - Yes/No?*

**Name of LAF member .....**

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