



Peak District Local Access Forum

On: Wednesday 15 March 2023

At: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Welcome and Apologies	Mike Rhodes
2	Minutes of the meeting 1st December 2022	Louise Hawson
3	Matters Arising from last meeting	
4	Themed Topic - Nature Recovery and Access	Craig Best, Dave Savage
5	Access Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access for All - Consultation on an extension to the direction at Silence Mine 	Sue Smith
6	Derbyshire CC RoWIP Update	Gill Millward
7	Members' Reports	ALL
8	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Annual Report 	Mike Rhodes
9	Date and venue of next meeting Wednesdays 14 th June, 13 th September, 6 th December 2023	Mike Rhodes

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Peak District Local Access Forum

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1 December 2022
at Aldern House, Board room.**

Members Present:

Charlotte Gilbert (Acting Chair)
Craig Best
Martin Bennett
Richard Entwistle
Clare Griffin
Paul Richardson
Jo Holliday
Nick Doran

Cllr Susan Hobson
Councillor Andrew McCloy
Austin Knott
Dave Savage
Geoff Nickolds
John Towe
Ben Seal
Alistair Harvey

Others Present:

Mike Rhodes, (PDNPA) (Secretary)
Gill Millward, (DCC)
Sarah Wilks (PDNPA)

Sue Smith, (PDNPA)
Richard Pett (PDNPA)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Louise Hawson, Jez Kenyon, Joe Dalton and Charlotte Leech. In Louise Hawson's absence, Charlotte Gilbert was standing in as Chair of the meeting.

The Access and Rights of Way Manager welcomed Nick Doran (SPEED) and Dave Savage (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) who had recently joined the Peak District Local Access Forum, and asked them to say a few words by way of introduction.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, 15/09/2022

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

The Chair reported that there had been no update to the Natural England Access Team with regard to appointing an advisor to work with Local Access Forums across the country.

A Peak District Transport Symposium is now planned for 1st February 2023.

4. CYCLE ACCESS TO THE PEAK DISTRICT

Simon Geller, Sustrans Volunteer Co-Ordinator Sheffield, was invited to the meeting to give a presentation regarding cycling access into the Peak District.

Simon reported that there were three main issues currently concerning Sustrans:

- 1) The lack of a safe route between Hathersage and Grindleford. Currently cyclists have to use a dangerous stretch of main road. The National Trust (NT) had opened

- up some tracks between Hathersage Booths and Padley and Sustrans were keen to get this section open for cyclists and other non-vehicular users. Craig Brown from the NT confirmed that he would be happy to talk about further access through NT land.
- 2) The National Cycle Network (NCN) route from London to Keswick gets stuck around Sheffield. There are currently no Sustran signed cycle routes through the Hope Valley, which is one of the busiest areas for bikes. An alternative proposal being considered would be to put up some temporary signage explaining that the NCN stopped here and suggest getting the train through the Hope Valley. Simon confirmed that Sustrans had been working with Northern Rail to look at how they could recondition carriages to get more cycles onto the trains as more people are using the trains for leisure now rather than for commuting. Andrew McCloy suggested that it would be worth Sustrans speaking to the Hope Valley Climate Action Group. There was a general consensus that there were lots of good ideas out there about increasing rail use but that plans needed to be harmonised to make real progress and to avoid duplication.
 - 3) Chatsworth – ought to be a major opening for cyclists in the Peak District but is currently a barrier. Sustrans are very keen to open up more routes through Chatsworth and wondered if anyone on the Forum had any contacts at Chatsworth they could tap into. Councillor Susan Hobson confirmed that she was the elected local councillor for the area covering Chatsworth and would be happy to assist so suggested that Simon Geller emailed her.

Gill Millward reported that the County Council had an approved prioritisation list for developing the strategic Key Cycle Network (KCN) for Derbyshire, which included the White Peak Loop, Pennine Way Bridleway and the Derwent Valley Cycle Way. It was crucial to be able to secure funding from various sources and to work in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations to deliver the KCN.

A map showing the location of the completed and proposed KCN routes was included in Gill's RoWIP update. These routes could be viewed in more detail on the Derbyshire Mapping Portal, along with the Local Cycle Network:
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire-mapping-portal/derbyshire-mapping-portal.aspx>

Charlotte Gilbert thanked the contributors from Sustrans and commented that all of the issues they raised fitted in well with efforts to get more people into the Park in a sustainable way. She reminded everyone that when discussing barriers to access, all vulnerable road users must be considered, not just cyclists.

5. ACCESS TO WATER PRESENTATION

Ben Seal, Head of Access & Environment at British Canoeing gave a presentation to the LAF on Access to Water.

Ben explained that there had been a huge surge in participation in paddlesports since the Covid lockdowns had lifted. There were now 7.5m people regularly paddling each year in the UK and whilst this was a growing area, they often felt overlooked. Of the 70,671km of inland waterways, only 6.4% of them have any statutory right of navigation. Within the Peak District National Park, there are currently no waterways where paddle sport enthusiasts can participate in their sport.

The barriers to wider access to waterways range from opposition from landowners, liability concerns and potential for pollution and environmental harm. However, the benefits of access to blue space to mind and wellbeing were huge. Ben campaigns for "fair, shared and sustainable open access to water" and shared with the LAF a promotional video put together by British Canoeing which sets out the newly established Paddlers Code.

Several members of the LAF thanked Ben Seal for sharing such an impassioned presentation and an inspiring video. Charlotte Gilbert, as Acting Chair of the LAF, reminded Ben that as a statutory advisory body, the LAF would not be able to support or recommend anything that falls outside current legislation. She did however assure Ben that the LAF would certainly bear in mind access to open water in future discussions.

Andrew McCloy spoke from an authority perspective as Chair of the PDNPA. He confirmed that the Authority was committed to opening up opportunities for access to water but stressed that it had very limited power to compel landowners to allow access or capacity to broker deals. Unfortunately, the only way to effect permanent change was via legislation. Ben Seal stated that it would be good to have the support of the Authority in their lobbying efforts. Andrew suggested that he set up a meeting with Phil Mulligan, the Authority's new CEO, who had previously worked at the Canals and Rivers Trust.

Ben concluded by saying that whilst political will was fickle, there did currently appear to be some appetite for change which needed capitalising upon. Building trust with landowners would be key whilst also continuing to educate paddlesports members so that any damage to the environment was minimised. It was hoped that the launch of the Paddlers Code would help to improve awareness and challenge perceptions of water sports users.

Environment Land Management Schemes (ELMS) Update

Charlotte Gilbert, Acting Chair, asked Ben to give a brief update on ELMS to the LAF Members. Ben reported that he had met DEFRA ministers this year to try and ensure that public access was embedded within ELMS as landowners can get paid for supporting public access to the countryside, but following the meeting DEFRA has confirmed that they would be supporting activities with a particular emphasis on access to farm visits, so Ben was concerned that ELMS had been watered down to just educational visits.

6. ACCESS UPDATE

Sue Smith, PDNPA's Access and Rights of Way Officer presented her report which was to provide an update on issues related to access in the Peak District.

Sue reported that the donations to the Access Fund had so far helped to provide access improvements that included new and upgraded access points, restored paths on access land, implement new areas of access, enhanced the accessibility of paths and helped to provide signage, mapping and leaflets.

In 2022 donations were received via the Peak District Foundation which included repeat donations from Sheffield CHA walking group, Peak Sky Race and John Thompson. Income was also received from sales of the Miles without Stiles handbooks and Sue reported that Yorkshire Water had agreed to sponsor a reprint of the Miles without Stiles handbooks as the first run of 1500 had almost sold out.

Sue reported that work on the review of the CRoW mapping had begun and was hoped that it would be implemented from 2024/25.

The LAF thanked Sue for her report and presentation which showed the diversity of the routes and facilities that there were available in the Peak District, and asked how long the section of the Tissington Trail between Mapleton and Alsop-en-le-Dale would be closed due to tree felling works that were taking place. Mike Rhodes informed the LAF that the Trail would be closed for approx. 2 months, but not closed at weekends, school holidays or during the nesting season. Details of the closure were available on the PDNPA Website.

7. DERBYSHIRE CC ROWIP UPDATE

Gill Millward the Countryside Access Improvement Officer from Derbyshire County Council presented her report which was to update on the progress towards the delivery of the Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

As far as the existing Rights of Way network is concerned, work is continuing to deliver a package of maintenance schemes across the county which includes roadside signposting, surfacing and drainage. Rob Greatorex who now heads up DCC's Rights of Way team is happy to come and talk to a future LAF meeting about the work which is being carried out.

A joint DDLAF/Peak District LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub Group meeting took place at the end of November to discuss the issues relating to the Definitive Map Modification Orders, including the prioritisation of the 237 applications that were in at the moment.

In terms of providing an improved network, around 400km of the 770km of Derbyshire's Key Cycle Network were complete and open for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, wherever possible. Gill's report provided details of the routes which were currently being developed or improved, including the Peak Forest Tramway between Buxworth and Chinley, as well as missing sections of the White Peak Loop through Haddon Estate and Buxton. Investigation work for the missing sections of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail around Glossop is continuing with site visits taking place with the British Horse Society and local horse riding representatives. It was pointed out that there are currently around 768 horses in this area with large livery yards and equestrian centres so it would be good to get horses off the roads as they can be very busy as it was within the commuter belt from Manchester.

Forum members were also made aware of the 12 week public consultation which was due to get underway for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which has been prepared for the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) area. Gill would circulate the link to the consultation once it became live.

Gill was thanked for her report.

8. MEMBERS' REPORTS

a) National Park Management Plan

Cllr McCloy informed the LAF that the National Park Management Plan was to be brought before the Authority Members at the Authority Meeting on the 2nd December to be formally adopted, and would then become live as of spring next year.

b) Car Parking Charges

Mike Rhodes asked that Members send their responses to him, so a coordinated response could be sent from LAF.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah Wilks, Head of Engagement at the PDNPA, attended the meeting and gave an update on the changes that will take place in relation to the restructure of her team from the 1st January 2023. The Access and Rights of Way Team would be joining the Area Rangers and Engagement which will be headed up by Andy Farmer as Engagement Manager. Mike Rhodes would be reducing his working hours from the end of February, but would continue as Secretary to the LAF, which was why the Forum meetings would be moving to

Wednesdays. Other staff members were being slotted into posts, which would hopefully be sorted out by Christmas.

Paul Richardson expressed his thanks to Craig Best and the National Trust Team for making Longshaw available to use for an event recently.

Craig informed the LAF that the National Trust's Plan to tackle the Climate and Nature Crisis was now available to download online and that he would be sending links to webinars that will be happening in the New Year if anyone was interested.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Mike Rhodes explained that due to planned changes in his work pattern in the New Year, it would be necessary to change the day of future Local Access Forum meetings to Wednesdays.

The dates for the LAF meetings in 2023 were therefore agreed as follows:

15th March
14th June
13th September
6th December

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 15 March 2023

Item: 5

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.

Defra Access Funding

The Authority's work on access infrastructure helps to underpin inclusivity and engagement so that everyone can experience its special qualities, including those with limited mobility. This is achieved through the removal of barriers such as stiles, narrow gates, and steps. It includes widening, regrading, and improved surfacing. It's supported by accessible places and routes, mobility equipment, signage and information, and people.

In November 2022, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty received capital funding from Defra for the removal of barriers to access. The Peak District NPA's allocation was £131,164.81. A further amount is anticipated for 2024/25.

Defra's Access for All funding covers infrastructure improvements to make Protected Landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds, to make them what Glover called, 'places for everyone.'

The funding is being used to build, inform, and support through:

- Places - developing facilities at key locations and improve online information
- Miles – creating and enhancing Miles without Stiles routes
- Mobility – increasing the number of people participating.

This initial 4-month period of expenditure involves:

- Resting places, interpretation, videos, and guides
- Surfacing, widening, and gates, including the Authority's trails
- New trampers and inclusive cycles.

It will also lead to more [Miles without Stiles](#) routes.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report is noted.**

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 15 March 2023

Item: 5

Title: Consultation on Direction on Access Land

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to notify the Local Access Forum on the consultation for extending the long-term direction for an open access land exclusion at Silence and Old Grove Mines. The report asks the Forum to consider any response they may wish to make.

Background

In accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, the National Park Authority is consulting on a proposal for a long-term direction to restrict access rights.

The National Park Authority, as the Relevant Authority, is required to consider whether a restriction is necessary and whether the extent and nature is appropriate and is seeking feedback from the Local Access Forum and other consultees as part of this process.

Silence and Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow

In February 2018, the Authority made a direction on public safety grounds restricting access to open access land at Silence and Old Grove Mines save for the path leading to the building remains, whilst further investigations and works are carried out.

In June 2018, this was extended following consultation, until 30 April 2019 or such earlier time when the issues have been satisfactorily resolved. In August 2018, following evidence of further instability, the Authority made a direction to remove public access to the building remains to protect the public pending a further public consultation. In November 2018, evidence of further subsidence resulted in an extension and variation of the direction to continue to restrict all public access to the site and to include areas of access land to the north and east of the site. This was reported to the LAF's meeting in December, at which the LAF confirmed their support to restrict public access to the access land and public rights of way in that area.

In April 2019 and April 2020, this was extended by further 12-month periods to allow for an independent geotechnical assessment to assess the future stability of the site and the remediation as a result of that. In April 2021 and April 2022, this was extended by further 12-month periods to allow for consideration of the advice received in the report and for remediation of the land.

The National Park Authority, as Mineral Planning Authority, is assessing the appropriate remediation of the land. It is proposed to extend the duration of the direction to 30 April 2025, or such earlier time when this has been satisfactorily resolved. The consultation is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendation

- 1. That the LAF consider their response to the consultation at Silence and Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow.**

Appendix 1

Tel: 01629 816200
E-mail: customer.service@peakdistrict-npa.gov.uk
Web: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk
Minicom: 01629 816319
Aldern House . Baslow Road . Bakewell . Derbyshire . DE45
1AE



SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) Act 2000

PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM DIRECTION RESTRICTING ACCESS

MARCH 2023

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Access Authority: Peak District National Park Authority
Relevant Authority: Peak District National Park Authority
Local Access Forum: Peak District Local Access Forum

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

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) as Relevant Authority is proposing to extend the duration of the above direction until 30 April 2025 or until the completion of remediation in connection with geotechnical investigations, to the satisfaction of the PDNPA as the Mineral Planning Authority, whichever is the sooner.

As the restriction of public access on this land is proposed to last for longer than six months continuously, public consultation is required to inform the proposal.

2. SUMMARY OF EXISTING & PROPOSED DIRECTION

Land Parcel Name:	Dates of Restriction	Reason for Exclusion
Silence & Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow	Existing Direction – 30 April 2023 Proposed Direction – 30 April 2025	Public Safety

The National Park Authority made a direction under section 25(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 in February 2018 and extended most recently in April 2022, to restrict public access at Silence and Old Grove Mines on the grounds of public safety relating to the instability of the land. The direction expires on or before 30 April 2023.

The land comprises the former lead mine workings known as Silence and Old Grove Mines; an area used as a paddock, and the hillside to the east of the former lead mine workings and south of the Bretton Edge road. The land is remote, steeply sloping and undulating, with areas of rough grassland, woodland and scrub. A short surfaced path leads from the road entrance to the building remains and interpretation panels at the former lead mining site. Otherwise, access is relatively informal with some areas showing more use than others and the land being used to connect with nearby closed public rights of way and the road.

The PDNPA, as Mineral Planning Authority, have commissioned geotechnical investigations into the instability at this site and are considering the conclusions and recommendations of the report received. This includes the approval and implementation of reinstatement works. Pending this, it is necessary to protect the safety of the public by extending the temporary closure of the land.

Having regard to the continuing evidence of instability, potential contributory factors, and the nature and character of the land, PDNPA is satisfied that a restriction of CRoW access to the extent identified is necessary on public safety grounds. It is considered that a further extension of up to two years would be an appropriate period of time for the identification and rectification of instability and for the monitoring of this.

This direction shall cease to have effect on 30 April 2025 or, if earlier, the date on which PDNPA as Mineral Planning Authority approves completion of the necessary remediation, having regard to the outcome of the geotechnical investigations undertaken by the PDNPA as the Mineral Planning Authority and an associated monitoring period. In the event of the instability being more extensive or requiring more extensive remediation or monitoring, the direction shall be further reviewed.

3. SUBMITTING COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED DIRECTION

Reference:	Comments to:
Silence & Old Grove Mines – 2018088745	sue.smith@peakdistrict.gov.uk

If you wish to comment on this direction then please do so before **14 April 2023**. A map accompanies this notice and is attached and can be seen on the [Consultation Pages](#).

Using and sharing your consultation responses

We may wish to pass any comments you make or information to others in connection with our duties and powers under the open access legislation. This may mean for example passing information, including your name and contact details, to the Secretary of State or their appointees, the Planning Inspectorate or to Natural England.

We do not plan to publish individual comments in full, but we may publish extracts from them when we report on our consultation(s).

There may also be circumstances in which we will be required to disclose your response to third parties, either as part of the statutory process for consideration of representations and objections about our decision, or in order to comply with our wider obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please explain clearly why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. However, we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

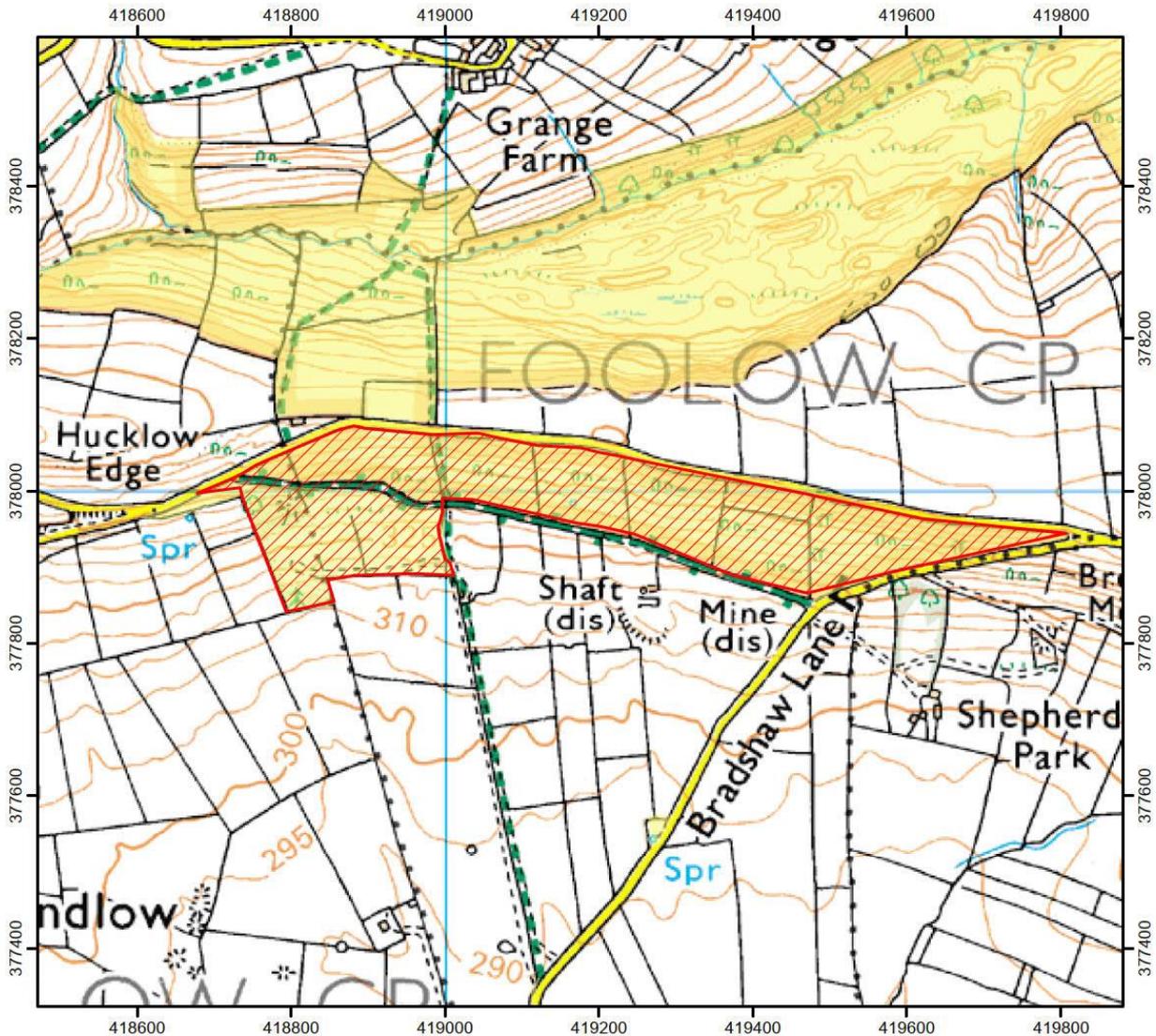


NO OPEN ACCESS

In the interests of public safety, the open access land shown hatched on the map below is temporarily closed.

Date: Until 30 April 2023

Case Number: 2018088745



0 200 400 Metres

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 Restricted Open Access Land

 Open Access Land



For more information call the Open Access Contact Centre on 0300 060 2091 or visit our website at www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 15 March 2023

Item: 6

Title: Derbyshire’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) - Update

Author: Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer, DCC

Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Aim 1: Existing Rights of Way Network

- Surface condition and drainage:** Work is continuing to complete the package of rights of way schemes funded through the County Council’s Highways Capital Programme. Progress for 2022/23 includes the completion of 12 major surfacing and drainage projects, with a further 9 schemes designed and issued to our contractors. Works of a more minor nature, although equally important to help make routes available and more accessible, have also been completed on 38 paths across the county. This has involved surfacing/ patching, some drainage, vegetation clearance, boardwalk and step repairs, with similar schemes having been issued for a further 33 routes. Further progress with regard to the schemes which the Peak District LAF Sub-Group has been consulted on and is following with particular interest is set out in the table below:

Route	
Works completed	
<p>Taddington Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) No. 70 Sough Lane.</p> <p>Completed May 2022</p>	

Great Hucklow BOAT 18	Completed May 2022
Foolow BOAT 20, Nether Bretton	Completed May 2022
Hartington Town Quarter Bridleway (BW) 42	Completed August 2022
Baslow Road and Bakewell Footpath (FP) 20 Completed November 2022	
Bonsall BOAT 64 and 71 Blakelow and Blakemere Lanes Completed November 2022	

Calver FP 13
Stoney Middleton to Bramley
Lane/ Coombs Dale

Completed November 2022



Calver BW 30 and Bramley Lane
No works undertaken on BW30
as completed by others. Still
need to topsoil and seed
Bramley Lane, so appearance
will hopefully be more like BW30
with the grass central strip.

Completed December 2022



Eyam FP 28 & BOAT 34 and
Grindleford Restricted Byway
(RB) 32, Riley Lane

Completed November 2022



<p>Great Longstone BOAT 52 Blakedon Hollow Lagoon</p> <p>Completed December 2022</p>	
<p>Stoney Middleton BW 17 Moisty Lane to Black Harry Lane</p>	<p>Completed January 2023</p>
<p>Hope FP33</p> <p>Completed February 2023</p>	
<p>Works in progress</p>	
<p>Castleton FP 21 and Hollowford Road (BW 22)</p>	<p>Works currently on-going. Continuation of stone flags on FP 21 with an aggregate path on flatter gradients. Re-using turf to restrict path width.</p> <p>Hollowford Road is only means of access and had to install a filter drain under the path collecting land drains and springs.</p> <p>Expect to complete mid-March</p>

Works issued to contractor	
Castleton FP 20	Tor House to Hollins Cross
Charlesworth FP 52	Path linking to the Trans Pennine Trail
Eyam BOAT 25	Sir William Hill Road to Edge Road
Edale BW 19 and FP 1	Jacob's Ladder
Green Lane Middleton	High Peak Trail to Green Lane
Edensor BOAT 13	Off Handley Lane
Beeley BOAT 13	
To be funded in 2023/24	
Castleton BW 40	Dirtlow Rake
Hayfield BW 47 – Phase 1	Kinder Reservoir
Hope BW 32 & BW 5	Low Barn and Brinks Road to Hope Cross
Macclesfield Old Road	Bridge Car Park to Buxton
Peak Forest BW 55	Eldon Quarry
Birchover BOAT 23	Clough Lane
2023/24 Funding Bid Phase 1	
Tintwistle BW42 - Pennine Way	Torside Reservoir
Hayfield BW47 – Phase 2	below Kinder Reservoir
Ballidon BOAT 11	Minninglow Lane
2023/24 Funding Bid Phase 2	
Chapel en le Frith BOAT 144	Rushup Edge (Chapel Gate)
Monyash BOAT 29	Derby Lane

- Roadside signposting: Signposting work has been undertaken at 896 locations across the network in 2022/23, with another 155 to complete by the end of March 2023. Funding is available next year to deal with missing or damaged signposts at 400 locations in Phase 1 and the potential for work to be completed at an additional 200 locations.

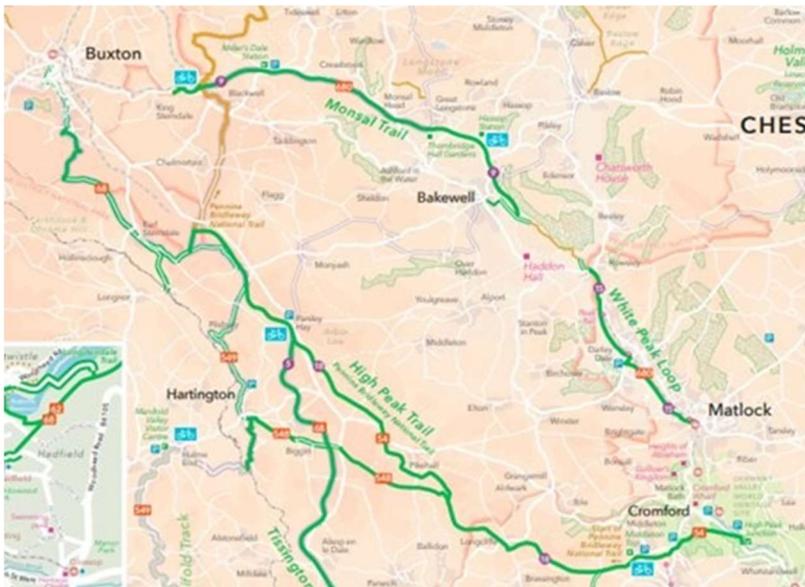
Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- The number of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications which the County Council receives continues to increase. A further eleven claims have been added to the online register since the beginning of December 2022, with the majority of more recent applications now being based on historic, documentary evidence: <https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/results.asp> As of the 1 March 2023, the Authority is dealing with 320 applications at various stages in the process, of which 272 are currently undetermined.

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Meetings of the Joint LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group were held in November and January to gather information and listen to people’s views about the issues surrounding the prioritisation of DMMOs. This should enable the LAFs to be in a position to provide further support and advice in accordance with their role and statutory function.

Aim 3: An improved network

- **White Peak Loop:** 62km or 71% of the White Peak Loop (WPL) is



currently complete. The missing gaps are from the Monsal Trail at Blackwell Mill into and through Buxton; from High Peak Junction near Cromford to Matlock Railway Station and from Rowsley to Coombs Road in Bakewell.

- We are progressing a feasible design for a multi-user link from the western end of the Monsal Trail to the new A6 Hogshaw roundabout in Buxton. A preferred route has been identified through Wye Dale and Woo Dale. We are undertaking pre-planning discussions with the Peak District National Park Authority and other important stakeholders, before consulting more widely. We are proposing to carry out further site investigation work and structural design to fully cost the scheme and secure permissions over the next 12 months.
- We are continuing to carry out preparatory work to support the implementation of the White Peak Loop onwards from Fairfield Common through Buxton to Harpur Hill, which also meets local needs as part of a Buxton Walk and Ride Network. Following a successful online stakeholder input workshop on 28 January, feedback was reviewed and routes refined. We are now assessing these options section-by-section to select the final preferred route(s). This includes carrying out heritage and ecology assessments, C2 utility search enquiries and route audits
- Route appraisal and feasibility work is also underway for the other missing sections and we are currently seeking funding for further route development to complete the Loop.
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** On-going maintenance continues, primarily with drainage work and general repairs being undertaken.

Groundwork volunteers have been busy replacing gate posts, gates and clearing drains near Hayfield, as well as replacing sections of fencing and litter picking near Glossop. Investigation work for the missing sections of the route around Glossop is ongoing. Site visits have taken place with DCC Highways Design to look at improving the A626 Glossop Road railway bridge and with DCC Estates to investigate another route running along the northern flank of the railway line through Network Rail land amongst others. Both routes are possible alternatives to the Pennine Bridleway running under the Dinting Viaduct.

- **Peak Forest Tramway Trail:** All landowners have been informed of the resurfacing work which is due to get underway just after Easter on the section of trail between Buxworth and Chinley. We also have consent from Historic England as part of the tramway lies within the Scheduled Monument of Buxworth Basin. There will be a temporary closure of the route in force while the work is taking place.
- **Shallcross Incline, Whaley Bridge:** Work to refurbish the surface and improve drainage on the Shallcross Incline in Whaley Bridge is due to start towards the end of March 2023 and should be complete in time for the school holidays in July. Due to the fairly steep nature of the route, this will be top dressed with a porous paving material to assist with drainage and provide a suitable surface for all users which include pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Again, it will be necessary to close the route while construction is underway.
- **Tissington Trail:** The works which began in November 2022 to address ash dieback on the Tissington Trail should be complete by March 2023. This has involved felling all ash trees within falling distance of the trail between Mapleton Lane to Alsop en le Dale Station. Although it is recognised that this will have a major visual impact, it will also open up many views to the surrounding landscape.
- **Chesterfield Active Travel Route:** Construction work is now underway on the east-west walking and cycling route across Chesterfield, starting with improvements to the surface of the Hipper Valley Trail which runs through Somersall Park from Somersall Lane, past Walton Dam to the A632 (Walton Road). Work on this section of the 8km route will take around 12 weeks to complete, during which time the park will remain open to the public. Crow Lane, at the eastern end of the route was permanently closed to vehicles on 17 February 2023 to provide a dedicated walking and cycling route to the Chesterfield Royal Hospital. The £1.68m scheme is being funded under Tranche 2 of the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund.
- **Safer Roads Fund Projects:** Following the public consultation which took place back in January for the A5004 (Long Hill) between Buxton and Whaley Bridge, a four week consultation is now underway until 26 March 2023 for the A5012 (Via Gellia) between Cromford and Newhaven. New proposals have been developed to improve road safety along the 9-mile stretch of the A5012. This is also an opportunity to

seek comments and views from stakeholders and local communities with regard to improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

- **Greener Towns 20mph zones:** A consultation is also underway until 13 April 2023, seeking people's views on our Green Towns initiative. This would mean 20mph speed limits in two Derbyshire towns, Buxton and Long Eaton. This lower speed limit could improve health and encourage healthier and more sustainable modes of transport. A lower safer speed, with fewer accelerations and decelerations would improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and could encourage more people to walk or cycle for shorter journeys:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/greener-towns-20mph-zones.aspx>

Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network

- **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** The online public engagement for the shared LCWIP which has been prepared jointly by Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council for the D2N2 area closed on Wednesday 8 March 2023. Further information about the feedback which has been received will be provided in due course.



- **Walk Derbyshire:** Recordings of the various stakeholder engagement events which have taken place around the County can be found in the News and Stories section of the Walk Derbyshire website:

<https://walkderbyshire.org.uk/get-walking/>

The Districts/ Boroughs which have been chosen for the four Active Neighbourhood pilot areas are Bolsover, Chesterfield,

Erewash and North East Derbyshire. They will each have the opportunity to access £100k of funding. Guidance on the sort of proposals which will best qualify for this funding has now been produced and a working group will be reviewing the proposals as they are received.

- **Derbyshire Woodland Festival:** This year's Festival is due to take place at Elvaston Castle Country Park near Derby on the weekend of the 16 and 17 September 2023. Further details can be found in our Countryside Destinations and Events brochure here:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/whats-new-this-season/countryside-events-programme.aspx>

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** So far this year, volunteers working on our countryside sites, paths and trails have contributed just over 1,270 days, which is a 50% increase on the same time last year. The newly formed Darley Dale Community Volunteer group (DDCV) met for its second task



White Peak Loop.

day recently to cut back vegetation to reinstate the original width on a section of the White Peak Loop multi-user trail alongside Peak

Rail's heritage railway, as well as picking up two large sacks of litter from this short section alone. These half day volunteer events are managed and supervised by Groundwork Greater Nottingham on behalf of the County Council. A contract funded by the County Council is also underway to carry out more extensive vegetation clearance and siding out of the trail on the Matlock to Rowsley section of the



Recommendation: That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

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Local Access Forum Annual Report 2022

Introduction

Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report! This was our first full year of face-to-face meetings since the COVID restrictions were lifted. It was great to both welcome new Members and work with familiar faces once again. I took over as Chair in March 2022, stepping into the very large shoes of John Thompson, who is much missed and whose work with the LAF leaves a lasting legacy.

This year we have focused on a number of strategic topics, with the aim of better understanding the big issues facing the National Park as they relate to access. Sustainable transport has been a key theme at several of our recent meetings, and we have benefitted from input from DCC's sustainable travel team, PDNPA's transport planner, and local activists from Sustrans and Hope Valley Climate Action.

We learnt a huge amount from our session on engaging with young people, with thought-provoking presentations from PDNPA's Generation Green project, and a placement student from Lockerbrook Centre. This year we plan to focus on improving our engagement with diverse audiences, looking at improvements in our own work as well as advising others. We encourage anyone who would like to get involved with this work – by joining the LAF or by talking to us about the issues and challenges – to get in touch.

Improving access to the countryside, including access to water and extending the right to roam, remain hot topics. We have been pleased to see many new projects funded to make access improvements at individual farm level via the FIPL scheme. This year we will look at nature recovery and 'rewilding', and how they sit alongside better, responsible access for all. We will keep a watching brief on the development of new agricultural subsidy schemes, as they will be vital in supporting and rewarding farmers and landowners in the National Park to make access improvements in future.

Finally, we have welcomed the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with DCC's Rights of Way team, establishing a mechanism for them to consult with the LAF on planned repair work within the National Park. We hope this will mean that different user groups can make recommendations and share concerns on key routes, leading to better solutions.

The role of the LAF is to advise PDNPA, DCC and other statutory bodies on the improvement of public access for open-air recreation and enjoyment. All these bodies are operating with static or reducing budgets, in the face of increasing costs, and the twin challenges of changing climate and recreational use patterns. Our focus will be to advise on prioritisation, identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership, and advocate for better central funding.

Thanks as always to Mike, Gill and the team at PDNPA and DCC who support us to do our work, and help ensure our advice is heard by the people who can benefit from it. It's a genuine pleasure to work with you all.

Team Photo

Purpose of the Forum

The Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF) is a statutory body, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). It covers the National Park and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills and Glossop.

The Forum advises on the improvement of public access for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment and in so doing takes into account the needs of land management and conserving the natural beauty of the area.

Membership of the Forum

Membership of the Forum is reviewed regularly to ensure a reasonable balance between the number of members from land-owning, recreation and local interests. Details of the current membership are included at the end of this report and at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf.

Contact Details

Details of the Forum are available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf.

All Forum meetings are open to the public and, by prior arrangement, members of the public may ask to speak at the meetings. Meetings are at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lafmeetings and are available on audio webcast.

Mike Rhodes, Forum Secretary and Access and Rights of Way Manager, Peak District National Park Authority
mike.rhodes@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer, Derbyshire County Council
gill.millward@derbyshire.gov.uk

Meetings of the Forum in 2022

Formal meetings of the Local Access Forum took place at Aldern House, Bakewell, on the following Thursdays:

17th March, 6th June, 15th September, 1st December

Issues discussed at the formal meetings included:

Sustainable Travel

In March, Richard Lovell, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Travel, Derbyshire County Council attended the meeting to provide clarification on the role of the Team and the work they covered with regard to Travel Planning, Walking and Cycling, Low emission vehicle infrastructure and Low Carbon Mobility

In June, Tim Nicholson, Transport Policy Planner attended the Forum and gave a presentation to Members on the Sustainable Transport Initiatives in the National Park.

In December, Simon Geller, Sustrans Volunteer Co-Ordinator Sheffield, was invited to the meeting to give a presentation regarding cycling access into the Peak District.

Simon reported that there were three main issues currently concerning Sustrans:

- 1) The lack of a safe route between Hathersage and Grindleford.
- 2) The National Cycle Network (NCN) route from London to Keswick gets stuck around Sheffield. There are currently no Sustrans signed cycle routes through the Hope Valley, which is one of the busiest areas for bikes.
- 3) Access through Chatsworth

Gill Millward reported that the County Council had an approved prioritisation list for developing the strategic Key Cycle Network (KCN) for Derbyshire, which included routes such as the White Peak Loop, Pennine Bridleway National Trail and the Derwent Valley Cycle Way.

Packhorse Trails

Charlotte Gilbert presented information on the history and current status of the Pack Horse Routes and highlighted the importance of maintaining the surfaces of the routes with appropriate materials

Engaging with Young People

A presentation was given by Luisa Knust who was volunteering at the Lockerbrook Farm Outdoor Centre as part of her time with the European Solidarity Corps which has volunteers between the ages of 18 & 30 and aims to create a more inclusive society.

Generation Green

Sarah Wilks (Head of Engagement, PDNPA) introduced a presentation regarding the Generation Green project which had been running across all English National Parks with the PDNPA taking a leading role. The focus of the project had been on encouraging school visits, working with teachers and youth leaders to build their confidence in the outdoors, and encouraging others to look at how to engage young people and hear younger voices in decision making.

Access to Water

Ben Seal, Head of Access & Environment at British Canoeing gave a presentation to the LAF on Access to Water.

Access Update

During 2021, the Forum was updated on progress with Derbyshire County Council's proposed works on the Pennine Way at Edale and the Forum's wish list for access works under the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme.

Green Lanes

In March, Members of the Forum received the Authority's annual action plans on Green Lanes.

Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan

[Gill to add text].

Accessible Peak District

The Accessible Peak District Annual Report was circulated to all Members and is available to view at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessforall.

Anniversary Gates

Sue also reported that so far 36 Anniversary Gates have been installed, funded by donations to the Access Fund.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) and ELMS

Overall, 72 projects had been supported in the first year of the FiPL funding, and that a number of those projects supported access, in particular the projects at Thors Cave and Castleton.

Other key matters discussed:

- Landscapes Review - discussion on Government response and response from LAF to consultation
- Issues on Staffordshire Rights of Way

Formal Consultations

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Consultation on long term direction at Silence Mine
- Changes to NPA car park charges byelaws
- NPA Engagement Service restructure and Business Review

External Liaison

The LAF has been represented by its members at:

- Several site meetings to discuss DCC's maintenance schedule particularly with regard to green lanes
- Meeting with Barry Lewis, Chair of DCC

PHOTO

Forward Plan 2022/23

1. **Following our meeting in June 2022, we agreed six LAF Workstreams for 2022-23. Three were about the topics we discuss, and three were about the way we run our meetings and engage people in our discussions. We will report our progress on these at our meeting in June 2023. Ensure we are contributing effectively to statutory and other consultations**

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Long-Term Directions to exclude or restrict access to access land for six months or more

- Byelaws in respect of Access Land
- DCC ongoing consultation on planned repair work
- Local Plan & Local Development Framework
- National Park Management Plan
- Trails Management Plan
- Property Disposals of Access Land or land that could be dedicated for open access
- Other PDNPA and DCC consultations relevant to access land or PROW network

2. **Address strategic access topics - especially those where we can most influence policy decisions**

- Sustainable Transport
- Engaging with Young People & underrepresented groups
- Biodiversity & nature recovery
- Access for all
- Promoting responsible behaviour
- Access to Water
- Future of National Parks & Glover Report
- Inclusion of access provision in new agriculture policy and subsidies framework
- Bridleway resurfacing and extending the bridleway network to benefit all legitimate users.

3. **Take a proactive approach to Access and Rights of Way improvement**

- Support DCC to engage better with LAF and with user groups on Definitive Map issues and ROW repairs
- Bridleway resurfacing and extending bridleway network esp for MTBs
- Green Lanes strategy and maintenance
- Access for All: Miles Without Stiles
- Extending the network through Creation Orders and new permissive paths: linking existing RoWs that end on dangerous roads; improved signage and waymarking; support to landowners to maintain; extending ROWs where there are gaps in the network
- Infrastructure for active travel e.g. furniture on the HPT; proposal for Spine cycle route
- Open Access Land: access points and signage; Anniversary Gates; opportunities to dedicate new areas
- Continue to lobby for the completion of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail in the Glossop area

How we work:

4. **Ensure meetings run smoothly, and members are informed & can contribute to discussions**

- Make sure meetings are on topics that members want to talk about. Get feedback from members on agenda and format, identify opportunities to improve
- Give as much notice as we can of what will be discussed, including time to read papers.
- Focus on quarterly meetings and form subgroups ad hoc to go deeper into issues or consultations that we can't do justice to in the meetings.

- Look at how we engage between meetings & consider different ways that people could contribute to discussions and consultations using email, online meetings, site visits etc.

5. Increase membership & get input from more diverse range of voices

- Continue to explore ways to engage with underrepresented groups and interest groups, including: young people; black and minority ethnic groups; people with disabilities; heritage interests; transport groups; biodiversity interests
- Look at different options for the way people could be involved: joining full or sub group meetings as experts, 'job share', providing written feedback or input
- Consider different formats and timings for meetings.

6. Build our links with other LAFs, access organisations and statutory bodies

- Surrounding LAFs: DADLAF, Sheffield LAF and other National Park LAFs
- Natural England

PHOTO

Scheduled Meetings in 2023:

Wednesday 15 March, Aldern House, Bakewell
 Wednesday 14 June, Aldern House, Bakewell
 Wednesday 13 September, Aldern House, Bakewell
 Wednesday 6 December, Aldern House, Bakewell

Financial Statement 2022

Administrative support		£350
Members' travel and expenses		£140
Meeting refreshments		£272
Annual report production		£285
TOTAL		£1,047

The Peak District National Park Authority administers and provides secretariat for the Forum with officer input and financial support from Derbyshire County Council

Member Details and Attendance 2022

Member	Background and Interests	17/03/22	16/06/22	15/09/22	01/12/22
Louise Hawson (Chair)	Climbing, running	✓	✓	✓	X
Charlotte Gilbert (co-vice-chair)	Land manager, horse rider	✓	X	✓	✓
Martin Bennett (co-vice Chair)	Ramblers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Craig Best	Land manager (National Trust)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joe Dalton	Farmer, landowner	X	X	X	X
Nick Doran	Equestrian, outdoor activities				✓
Richard Entwistle	Motor vehicle users	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clare Griffin	Trail-bike rider, fell runner	X	✓	X	✓
Alastair Harvey	Landowner	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr Susan Hobson	Derbyshire County Council appointee	X	X	X	✓
Jo Holliday	Outdoor centre Manager	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Ian Huddleston	PDNPA appointee	X	X		
Jez Kenyon	Ramblers	✓	X	✓	X
Austin Knott	Hill walking, the BMC		✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Leech	Land agent	✓	✓	✓	X
Cllr Andrew McCloy	PDNPA appointee			✓	✓
Geoff Nickolds	Recreation and land management	X	✓	X	✓
Paul Richardson	Mountain-biking	✓	✓	X	✓
Dave Savage	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust				✓
Ben Seal	Access to Water	✓	✓	X	✓
John Towe	Volunteer Ranger, Access for All	✓	✓	✓	✓

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