Peak District Local Access Forum

On: Wednesday 12 June 2024

At: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Welcome & Apologies	**Mike Rhodes**
2	Minutes from the last meeting - 21 February 2024	**Mike Rhodes**
3	Matters Arising from last meeting not covered by agenda	**Louise Hawson**
4	Election of Chair & Vice Chair	**Mike Rhodes**
5	Active Travel - Presentation	**Tim Nicholson**
6	Derbyshire Rights of Way management and repairs including report on sub-group meeting	**Gill Millward, Rob Greatorex**
7	Derbyshire CC RoWIP Update	**Gill Millward**
8	Access For All	**Sue Smith**
9	Access Restrictions Consultations	**Sue Smith**
10	Annual Report	**Mike Rhodes**
11	Member Reports	
12	Any Other Business	**Charlotte Gilbert**
13	Date and venue of next meeting -16th October 2024	

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 in the Board Room at Aldern House, Bakewell

Forum Members Present:

Louise Hawson (Chair)
Craig Best
Martin Bennett
Joe Dalton
Nick Doran
Richard Entwistle
Charlotte Gilbert
Clare Griffin
Alastair Harvey
Cllr Ian Huddlestone
Jez Kenyon
Charlotte Leech
Geoff Nickolds
Paul Richardson
Ben Seal
John Towe

Officers present:

Mike Rhodes, Andy Farmer, Sue Smith (PDNPA)
Gill Millward (DCC)
Karen Hathaway (minutes)

Observer:
Phil Mulligan (Chief Executive PDNPA)

Minutes:

Item ID	1
Item Title	**Welcome and Apologies**
Summary	Apologies were received from Dave Savage, Austin Knott and Cllr Susan Hobson. PDNPA Chief Executive Phil Mulligan was observing the meeting.

Item ID	2
Item Title	**Minutes of the meeting on 1st November 2023**
Summary	The minutes of the last meeting held on the 1st November 2023 were approved as a correct record.
Item ID	3

Item Title	**Matters Arising from last meeting not covered by agenda**
Summary	The Rambler's presentation has been published on the website, so that it can be viewed there rather than circulating round the LAF members. Martin was thanked for his presentation as Footpaths Secretary at the November meeting. Andy Famer's presentation on the National Park Authority's approach to Rights of Way and the contribution from Suzanne Fletcher was appreciated. **Action:** The LAF need to be kept up to date on the progress with the forming of Recreation Hubs.

Item ID	4
Item Title	**Theme - Landowners' perspectives on the benefits and challenges of public access**
Summary	Three members of the Local Access Forum presented their landowner perspectives on public access. 1. Charlotte Leech, Deputy Estates Manager for Chatsworth Settlement Trustees, is primarily involved in the management of the property portfolio of the Estate, gave a presentation on the benefits and challenges of public access. The core estate is made up of Chatsworth House, the gardens and estate villages. Further to that there are sites such as Thor's cave, parts of the Manifold Valley, Park Hill and Monsal Dale, plus the Scarcliffe and Staveley estates to the East. This also includes 42 miles of Rights of Way and concessionary routes, including moorland, woodland and riverbanks. There are approximately a million visitors to Chatsworth each year, with a long history of public access. For the last 2 years the team has been developing a whole core estate plan for the next 20 years. This will measure environmental, economic and cultural impacts, and how the estate plan will contribute to the special qualities of the National Park. Managing the Estate is complex – including developing projects, removing barriers to access, route improvement, as well as maintaining relationships with remote managers, tenants and partners. There are conflicting interests of user groups and sensitive areas to protect from visitors. Maintenance costs are high and there has been a huge increase in visitor numbers with associated problems of parking, littering and conflict during, and continuing after, Covid. Health and safety considerations are a big part of managing the estate. Improving and maintaining access is seen as an opportunity to support the hospitality and retail industry and welcome a range of visitors. New partnerships have been formed to support the management of sites and visitors, such as with the National Park Authority, National Trust, Emergency Services and local communities. They are also looking at Citizen sites where the public can report back on species and any issues, as well as providing more and better facilities to a wider audience.

Ben Seal pointed out that although there is a lot to be applauded from the work outlined in Charlotte's presentation for cyclists, horse riders and walkers regarding access to the countryside, water isn't generally accessible and is preserved for those wanting to fish, which then puts barriers in place for those who want to swim, paddle and canoe. What are the challenges to Chatsworth in enabling this access?

Charlotte stated that in relation to Chatsworth, where a river runs through the estate, this is complex to resolve and needs to be explored with landowners along the full stretch of the river.

Nick Doran asked if concessionary routes for walkers and cyclists are publicised. Charlotte responded that these weren't yet advertised as they are still being developed in line with some of the other work on the estate, such as in forestry areas.

Martin wanted to check whether there will be cycle storage at Chatsworth as part of the plan to extend the cycle route from Rowsley into Chatsworth, and whether the route will carry on into Baslow. Were there any plans to look at cycle hire in Rowsley. Charlotte advised that they hadn't progressed that far with the planned cycle route.

2. Charlotte Gilbert continued the theme of benefits and challenges of public access from the perspective of a farmer and land manager.

Charlotte explained the set up of her farm, where there are lots of public access opportunities. Farming is a business producing food, but farms need to diversify into farm stays, B&B's, livery services and campsites as well, in order to be viable. Charlotte is generally positive about all the opportunities to engage with the public – it's a chance to educate, be socially interactive, to share a passion, to help the business and to facilitate health and physical benefits.

There are challenges such as anti-social behaviour, livestock on public access areas, wild camping, dogs not being kept under control, impact on wildlife, litter and maintaining signage. There are measures that can help reduce some of the problems, such as ensuring that paths are well sign posted, and that stiles and gates are easy to use, as well as being non-confrontational when approaching members of the public who may have gone off the pathway or blocked a gate with their vehicle.

Charlotte detailed some of her own experience and pointed out that where people want to visit and enjoy rural areas, they will want to park their cars, walk their dogs, camp overnight and have BBQs. Charlotte emphasised that most people want to do the right thing, it's just a few that cause problems. Those problems are significant, and sheep worrying and dog attacks are not uncommon. Better publicity of the Countryside Code would be useful and having the right signage in the right place is helpful.

Jez Kenyon felt that the wider population has a lack of knowledge of the Countryside Code. People won't follow rules if they don't know why they are there, so there needs to be a better public understanding of the issues.

Nick said there was a particular problem with dog owners and people accessing the countryside in a responsible way, and queried how that situation could be improved. Charlotte Gilbert, as a long-standing dog owner herself, said that there should be a good reason for dogs to be off lead. Her dogs are working dogs, but are on the lead at all other times.

Charlotte Leech mentioned that designated walking areas can be established for people to exercise their dogs. Louise said that there is a big issue with contract dog owners that she's heard from elsewhere.

There were general comments and observations from LAF members about signage that is left in place longer than is necessary and queried who puts up way markers. People were possibly more respectful and had a better understanding of the countryside previously, and what is the role of volunteers in educating people on access to the countryside.

Ben welcomed the discussion and felt it was good not to be adversarial. The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) wanted to reduce the liability of landowners for incidents on their land and wondered if the cost was preventing promotion of access. Charlotte Leech said that for a large organisation it's absorbed as a management cost, but might have more impact on smaller scale landowners.

Charlotte Gilbert advised that it depends on the type of Right of Way accessed on your land, but much of the liability lies with the local authority. As a farmer the insurance liability costs were fairly low.

Joe Dalton said there was a conflict between people and nature. People wanting to access the countryside 24 hours a day meant that nature doesn't get time away from that pressure. There were various issues associated with straying livestock causing a bio security risk, damage to moorland from wildfires, along with camping and litter. Louise added that although nature protection prevails in the National Park, the Authority still wanted to encourage people to visit, which is a challenge.

Alastair Harvey, in his role with Yorkshire Water, mentioned that they have an obligation to enable access to their sites. Inappropriate behaviour was particularly bad during Covid, but things had slightly improved recently. More onus has been put on landowners to resolve these issues that were previously enforced by the relevant authorities, who are themselves now limited because of resourcing issues. Off-roading by motorbikes was an increasing problem. Most people have a good, enjoyable visit and left no trace of their activity. He agreed with an earlier point about contract dog walkers causing problems. Better understanding by the general public was important and educating and informing people had been attempted with varying levels of success.

Louise suggested there are different solutions for different areas, with varying levels of resources available.

3. Craig Best, who works for the National Trust (NT) gave a presentation from the NT perspective on public access to their sites.

Craig agreed that dogs are a problem and the NT is looking at setting aside dog run areas.

The National Trust operates as a business that gets its income from visitors, members, car parks and tenant farmers. Visitors are a valuable part of the running of the NT. Some sites don't need promoting. Dovedale is a very busy site and Mam Tor has half a million visitors every year. It's estimated there are easily over a million visitors to National Trust sites in the Peak District. Better monitoring of those numbers could lead to more resources being put into those sites, but it's not easy to count visitor numbers to wider countryside areas.

Litter isn't something the NT can influence too much, but having a presence, engaging with people and clear signage helps.

Dovedale attracts a diverse audience that is not typical of NT visitors. People are travelling up to a couple of hours to get there. It can't be staffed fully until late in the day – there may be scope for adding facilities there, such as designated BBQ areas. A pragmatic approach is needed.

At Mam Tor, where there is a hill fort, there is erosion. As there are high visitor numbers, there is a need to invest to protect the site. A bid has gone in for Heritage Lottery funding to support that work.

Ben Seal was glad to hear that the NT is being open minded on measures such as BBQ areas, which acknowledged that people are using the countryside differently – they want to swim, canoe and BBQ.

Craig stated that the river at Dovedale is part of a large national nature reserve, but the people impact is small.

Charlotte Gilbert recognised that the money is important. The National Trust has funds to support visitors. Chatsworth is supporting both visitors and farming. Funding for access should be adequately reflected in any payment schemes. Individual farmers need support. Craig responded that the NT works closely with tenants and supports them to tap into funding, and to develop whole farm plans. Income purely from farming is small, whereas payments from environmental outcomes and diversification, including woodlands, can be worthwhile.

Clare Griffin left the meeting at 12pm.

	Martin Bennett queried why people are still buying bottles of water when reusable containers are widely available. It could be that there is limited opportunity to refill them and people need support to do the right thing. Louise felt that when looking at what landowners are rewarded for, access is the poor cousin. Money is needed to trial things and encourage innovative thinking.

Item ID	5
Item Title	Update on the FiPL Scheme
Summary	Rebekah Newman, Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Lead Engagement Officer, gave a presentation to update Forum members on the FiPL scheme. The scheme runs across all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. The delivery grant funding is from DEFRA and the bids are assessed against a set of 30 outcomes based on four themes of Climate, Nature, People and Place. The scheme is due to end in March 2025, so monies need to be spent by then, and as far as possible, capital works are to be completed by the end of December 2024. Rebekah ran through the structure of the team and how the funds have been allocated. The scheme is monitoring intensive. Further resource has been given through PDNPA by way of staff time. Most access projects have come in under £10k, with just 7 over that amount. Clare Griffin said that this was a great project, especially to keep in budget with the governance required and the standard of work achieved. She asked if the FiPL team goes out to every scheme. Rebekah advised that they will aim to go out to every project to assess that all criteria are met to secure the funding for each scheme and will also gather photo and documented evidence of the work. Craig Best felt that there should be communication to celebrate the work achieved. Rebekah responded that there are press releases. Some of the projects may have access implications. Some thought is needed on the publicity of the work carried out under the scheme, but it is good to celebrate the bigger projects. Craig asked if there will be funding continued for further schemes once the FiPL scheme is ended. Rebekah advised that FiPL had been part of a transition phase to set up schemes and ways to access further funding through Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMS) in the future. There shouldn't be the same need for the localised FiPL funding, although funding at a local level is valuable. There will be ongoing funding which will be distributed through national schemes. Martin Bennett queried the new permissive footpaths and bridleways with regard to timing and promotion. Rebekah advised that although landowners may choose to remove this access, hopefully many of them will continue.

	Although they aren't mapped, there will be publicity through signage, website information and local meetings. Charlotte Leech noted that only one large access project had been undertaken by a private farmer and wondered if this is because there are additional costs to supporting a piece of work which can't be fully covered by the FiPL grant. Larger landowners such as Chatsworth and the National Trust can more easily cover those extra costs. Archaeological advice may be needed, planning permission may be required for some work, and the National Park Authority can support an applicant through the process, but can't fund the planning application itself. Louise suggested that the success of the FiPL scheme so far was because of good relationships with local farmers. Rebekah mentioned that although there may be funding through ELMS and other national schemes, it was uncertain if PDNPA would be able to continue its support in the same way. However, there is a trial that PDNPA is part of to act as a local convenor for national schemes funded by DEFRA.

Item ID	6
Item Title	**Formal review of CRoW Access Restrictions**
Summary	It is 20 years since the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act, when long term directions were applied for to balance landowner needs and access requirements. There is a statutory responsibility for the National Park Authority as the Relevant Authority to review these long-term directions. Consultation has started, with a deadline of 5 April 2024, relating to the rifle ranges at Deer Hill and Diggle and at West Nab. . Any views or comments made by LAF members will be considered with the landowners/applicants as part of the consultation process. John Towe queried if there is a requirement for red flags to be flown when shooting is taking place. Sue advised that there is a requirement. However due to the topography of the site, red flags aren't always visible across the full fall of shot area Martin Bennett asked in relation to Deer Hill, if it is okay to use footpaths around the site, why restrict the access when people can shoot over footpaths. Sue responded that shooting stops if people are on a right of way, but on access land, sight lines are not as clear. Jez Kenyon questioned whether the site needs this level of restriction as the incidence of shooters and walkers being in the area at the same time is rare. Sue responded that shooting can be ad hoc. The fall of shot area is based on a plan which doesn't have regard to topography. This is a requirement for insurance purposes where misfires are part of the risk assessment. . The PDNPA can enquire about the risk assessment process, but public safety is paramount. Access around the site and guided walks could still take place.

	Action: **Details of long term directions to be circulated to collect comments from LAF members.** Sue briefly went on to highlight this year's thank you certificate for the Access Fund, which is coming up to its tenth year. There will be a lunchtime event after the LAF meeting with Cultural Heritage volunteers speaking to Forum members about digital imaging work at Thor's Cave regarding changing patterns of access and which links into the access work taking place through FiPL.

Item ID	7
Item Title	**Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) Update**
Summary	Gill Millward presented the Derbyshire RoWIP update. Highlights included: Aim 1: Existing Rights of Way Network As road repair has been a priority in recent months, progress on rights of way repairs has been limited. Louise mentioned the Sub-Group meeting between the LAF and Derbyshire County Council in 2023 where priority routes were discussed. There will be a further meeting in May 2024 for Forum members who want to join the discussion, ahead of the next full LAF meeting in June. Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement Work is still ongoing and a further meeting with the Joint LAF Sub-Group will be arranged to continue the conversation about how the processing of applications for Unrecorded Ways can be made easier and how they might be prioritised in the light of an increasing backlog. Aim 3: An Improved Network Pennine Bridleway National Trail – the County Council is actively progressing the alternatives to avoid Dinting Viaduct, as well as the section between New Road and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield. White Peak Loop – DCC will speak to the FiPL team as they are preparing to submit a planning application for Woo Dale, near Buxton. Buxton Walk and Ride Network – improvements to a section of the network across Temple Fields are due to start. This will help provide a more direct route to local primary and secondary schools. Active Travel Masterplans – this is a new area of work being developed using recent Active Travel England Capability and Ambition funding. Plans are being prepared initially for the three market towns of Belper, Glossop and Ilkeston. They will typically include a range of measures to make active travel safer, more convenient and more appealing to a wider range of people.

	Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Derbyshire – this will involve engagement with the public and interested stakeholder organisations, including the PDNPA and Local Access Forums. Aim 4: Improve promotion, understanding and use of the network Walk Derbyshire - In response to feedback, there are several changes to the website to make it easier to navigate and provide the information that everyone needs to get out walking more. Aim 5: Greater Community Involvement The work of volunteers on DCC countryside sites, paths and trails continues to be supported under a service level agreement with Groundwork Five Counties. Martin stated that the LNRS deadline is tight for producing a strategy. Derbyshire will be divided up into characteristic landscape areas. Also the Green Towns Initiative in Buxton to pilot the introduction of 20mph speed limits was a backward step as speed limits are not effective. With regard to roadside signposting it was felt that the LAF should send a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member to support this work continuing and commending DCC for being able to undertake the work with such limited resources. Gill advised that the letter could go to both Councillor Cupit and Councillor Renwick to show the appreciation of the work being done in this area. **Action:** **Louise asked Martin to draft a letter as discussed.** Nick Doran thanked DCC for looking at the routes for the Pennine Bridleway and the positive survey north of the railway, as well as a good outcome for an active travel route from Glossop onto New Road, Tintwistle.

Item ID	8
Item Title	**Members' Reports**
Summary	a) Ughill Farm Site Meeting Martin Bennett updated the Forum on a new venture where Sheffield City Council and Rotherham Wildlife Trust have bought Ughill Farm. The focus of the work will be as a working farm rather than as a reserve, where they are hoping to demonstrate nature and climate friendly working practices. This is a new type of venture for the Wildlife Trust. The farm was initially bought by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and then secured by the Wildlife Trust through donations. They are aiming to improve Access Land on the farm and are considering improving access points. The Peak District LAF made a site visit to the farm alongside Sheffield LAF. Louise pointed out that Richard Entwistle is now also part of the Sheffield LAF membership. b) Packhorse Routes

	Charlotte Gilbert advised that a bid had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), but due to an error in the process of making their submission, the bid hadn't been successful. The British Horse Society is now working back with HLF to support them to submit a successful bid. Charlotte will keep the LAF members updated. c) <u>Moscar Cross Road</u> Louise updated the LAF members on the responses to the Sheffield City Council consultation regarding the Moscar Cross Road Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The responses to the consultation on Swan and Limer Rakes have been sent to Staffordshire County Council. Forum members were happy with both those responses **which were formally ratified by the Local Access Forum at the meeting.** Point to note from Louise, as updated by Mike Rhodes, that there has been approval for the seasonal TRO at Moscar Cross Road. This relates to 4x4s, but not motorbikes. However, activity will be monitored and if needed, the TRO may be further extended.

Item ID	9
Item Title	**Any Other Business - Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**
Summary	The Chair and Vice-Chair roles are up for renewal in March 2024. The appointments will be decided at the June LAF meeting. Louise offered to continue as Chair for that meeting to handover ready for the autumn and encouraged anyone interested in taking on the role to put themselves forward.

Item ID	10
Item Title	**Date and venue of next meetings**
Summary	The next dates for the Local Access Forum meetings are 12 June 2024 and 16 October 2024 at Aldern House, Bakewell.

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 12th June 2024

Item: 5

Title: Active Travel England Funding for the development of a National Park Walking and Cycling Plan

Authors: Tim Nicholson, Transport Policy Planner (Planning) and Sue Smith, Access & Rights of Way Officer (Rangers) – Peak District National Park Authority

Purpose of Report: To inform the Forum about the project to produce a Peak District National Park Walking and Cycling Plan and to seek the Forum's assistance in its development; specifically, the establishment of a Peak District Local Access Forum sub-group to provide input and feedback.

1. Background

1.1 The Peak District National Park is a complex location, particularly from a transport perspective, with 7 constituent and two close neighbouring highway authorities; plus, National Highways. All of these organisations have a responsibility for the provision of routes for active travel within and linking to the National Park.

1.2 The Peak District National Park and partners secured funding from the Department for Transport in 2013 and 2015 as part of the Linking Communities: Grants to support Cycling in National Parks fund. The resulting Pedal Peak II Project focussed on routes connecting the National Park with its surrounding urban catchment.

1.3 Building on the success of the Pedal Peak II Project, the National Park Authority and its partners developed a Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy. Adopted in 2015, the Strategy included a range of future schemes across the whole of the National Park and offering further connections beyond the Park's boundary.

1.4 In 2017, the Department for Transport published its Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. This Strategy set out the approach for Local Walking and Cycling Plans (LCWIPS). Whilst they were intended to be partnership plans, the onus was on their development according to highway authority, Local economic partnership or metropolitan boundaries. With funding being linked to the production of LCWIPS, the Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy became effectively redundant.

1.5 The formation of Active Travel England has offered a funding mechanism for the delivery of walking and cycling schemes. The availability of an LCWIP or equivalent strategy has led to the prioritisation of funding to those authority's best placed to meet the aims of Active Travel England. To date this has not included National Park Authorities, and it has been noted that the overall focus has been on delivery in urban areas at the expense of rural communities.

1.6 In order to address this shortfall, National Parks England has been involved in discussions with the Department for Transport and Active Travel England about the opportunity to take forward walking, wheeling and cycling routes within National Parks. The funding announced by Active Travel England for the 10 English National Park &

Broads Authorities in March 2024 will allow the development of National Park specific LCWIPS or equivalent plans.

1.7 Each National Park / Broads Authority has been given £100,000 to prepare an LCWIP or equivalent Plan, with a deadline of the end of March 2025. The production of a traditional LCWIP would take too long; particularly within the Peak District context. For this reason, we are planning on producing a high-level Infrastructure Plan. We will use our resulting Plan to then look to develop more detailed proposals.

2. Our Focus

2.1 We are splitting the work into 4 complementary strands: -

- Data and evidence collection,
- Facilitation and consultation,
- Scheme development, including auditing possible routes,
- Developing a National Park Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (NPCWIP).

2.2 One key piece of work will involve the bringing together of lead officers from our constituent and neighbouring highway authorities to learn about their LCWIPS and proposed schemes. We want to add value, so this will enable us to look for gaps in the network that can deliver benefit to our residents and visitors.

2.3 We also want to work with a range of stakeholders with an interest in delivering better walking, cycling, horse riding and wheeling access to, from and within the National Park. This is where the Peak District Local Access Forum can help.

3. Our ask of the Peak District Local Access Forum

We would like to establish a Local Access Forum sub-group to help with the development of the National Park Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (NPCWIP). This group will provide guidance and feedback on the emerging NPCWIP and the work being undertaken to support its development. This group would also include additional stakeholder representation beyond the existing members of the Peak District Local Access Forum, for the purposes of this project only.

Recommendation

i) That the Peak District Local Access Forum establish a sub-group to assist the development of the National Park Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, with provision for the sub-group to include representation of bodies not currently forming part of the Local Access Forum.

ii) That Authority officers determine in consultation with the Local Access Forum additional sub-group membership.

Notes from the Peak District Local Access Forum Sub-Group Meeting with Derbyshire County Council Rights of Way – held over MS Teams on Monday 20 May 2024

Present: PDLAF (Louise Hawson, Martin Bennett, Charlotte Gilbert, Nick Doran and Paul Richardson); PDNPA (Mike Rhodes and Sue Smith) and DCC (Rob Greatorex, Steve Hollinworth and Gill Millward)

The aim of the meeting was to:-

1) Look at the programme of public rights of way repairs proposed for 2024/25.
2) Provide LAF input on any issues, challenges or specific concerns.
3) Provide feedback on the work completed in previous years.
4) Look at how the LAF can help DCC improve its communication with users and stakeholders around repairs and maintenance of public rights of way.
5) Any Other Business.

1) 2024/25 Programme

DCC shared the list of rights of way schemes which has been approved for funding from the Highways Capital Programme in 2024/25.

The list is available on the County Council's website here: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/transport-roads/roads-traffic/road-maintenance/road-improvements/2024-to-2025-highways-capital-programme-delivery-plan.pdf

It includes a number of routes which the Peak District LAF has been following with particular interest, such as Derby Lane at Monyash and Chapel Gate on Rushup Edge. There is also funding for further roadside signposting, as well as emergency schemes ie small scale works which typically include repairs to steps, potholes and damage caused by wash-out. This will, for example, be used to fund further work on Long Causeway. PR asked if this and any other routes could be named on the published list for emergency schemes, so people were aware of any forthcoming work. RG said that this may not always be possible as these repairs were fairly minor and often carried out at short notice so paths could be made safe and did not usually involve any public consultation.

The need for works teams to prioritise repairs on Derbyshire's roads has resulted in a backlog of rights of way schemes which received funding in previous years but have yet to be delivered on the ground. The list referred to above is currently open to review while discussions take place about which new schemes will remain on it and which outstanding schemes will be carried forward from previous years to come up with a realistic programme of work for delivery in 2024/25. **ACTION: RG will let both LAFs know once the list has been finalised.**

The Sub-Group discussed several other routes on the list, including Hartington Upper Quarter Footpath 133 over Shining Tor, Outseats Footpath 38 (Baulk Lane) and Holmesfield Bridleway 60 (Moss Road). MR mentioned that there was sensitive habitat in the vicinity of Moss Road and advised DCC to speak to the landowner.

RG said that it was unlikely that DCC will return to Chapel Gate this year, but there were some other routes which did need to be finished eg the stone pitching on Edale Bridleway 19 (Jacob's Ladder section of the Pennine Way) which was due to start in Autumn 2024.

2) <u>Provide LAF input on any issues, challenges or specific concerns</u>

Whilst there were no other immediate comments on the 2024/25 programme, several members of the Sub-Group would like to have a closer look at the list of schemes and provide DCC with comments on any issues, challenges or specific concerns and where a joint site visit might be appropriate. **ACTION: Comments to be forwarded as soon as possible.**

As far as previously funded schemes were concerned, it was agreed that once there was more certainty about the timing of the repairs for Little Longstone Footpath 12, it would be useful to arrange a site visit with LAF members, DCC and PDNPA officers. This was probably one of the busiest paths in Derbyshire which is used to access the Monsal Trail from the car park at Monsal Head. Apart from the problem with steep, slippery and uneven steps, there were also definitive mapping issues – the path is not on its legal line and possibly has bridleway rights. It was also suggested that the deferred scheme for Bridleway 32 at Hope Cross could be worth a site visit to explore the options for this deeply rutted and very stony track. NB from the notes of the previous Sub-Group meeting on 18 May 2023, another scheme where a site visit might be useful is for Youlgrave BW10, Coalpit Lane. **ACTION: Site visits to be arranged in due course.**

3) <u>Provide feedback on the work completed in 2022/23 and 2023/24</u>

- Ballidon BOAT 11 - MB mentioned that the surface was very soft and vehicles were starting to have an impact.
- Roadside signposting - MB reported that the blades had disappeared off several new signposts and wondered if anything could be done to make the bolts more tamperproof and/or the theft warning stickers put up. MB confirmed that the signs in questions had all been reported and **RG said that DCC would look into this**.
- Bamford Clough – DCC still needed to finalise a report on the public consultation which had taken place quite a while ago and would be available for further scrutiny. CG said that the route was unusable, especially for horse riders and it would be nice to have it back eventually. RG mentioned that the barriers at either end keep getting taken down and asked if LAF members

could help reinforce the message that the route remains closed on safety grounds.

- Rowland Restricted Byway 6 (Wigley Lane) – it was reported that there is illegal use taking place, mainly by motorcyclists, including during the night. Local residents had set up an Action Group. RG said that the RoW team had not been made aware of the latest issues but that they needed to be reported to the Police. It was very difficult to try and prevent use by motorcycles and signs had been frequently removed in the past. MB suggested that most people weren't aware of who can use a Restricted Byway and **RG agreed to review signage to see if it could be improved/ made clearer**.
- Chapel Gate – although DCC is unlikely to carry out any further work on this route in 2024/25, CG reported that a lot of the finer binding material has been washed out leaving larger, loose stones which are not easy for horses to negotiate. It was vital to provide effective drainage and build in resilience to help prevent catastrophic water damage.
- Hollowford Road and Pin Dale, Castleton – again there has been wash out on both these routes. A pipe was put in on Hollowford Road to convey water to a pond further downhill, but it is difficult to drain the route effectively as it is a hollow way and therefore acts as a conduit. In these situations, it is often only possible to be reactive and return to top-up the surface. It was agreed that these issues were only going to get worse as we experience periods of more prolonged and intense rainfall. **LH suggested that flood alleviation and drainage methods to deal effectively with water run-off would be a good topic for the LAF to explore at a future meeting.**
- Long Causeway – this route has been affected by repeated wash-out and needs a landscape-wide solution, working in partnership with adjacent landowners on identifying areas where water can be stored. Because some of the older drainage channels associated with Long Causeway are now blocked and have become valuable wildlife habitats, Natural England (NE) is reluctant to give consent for these to be cleared out, so water is continuing to seep onto the track. NE is being helpful in trying to find a solution – there needs to be a balance between conservation and having a good track for people to use. Capturing water in some attenuation ponds before it reaches the route could be effective. PDNPA will return to site after the bird nesting season to carry out surveys and design a scheme for further drainage work before seeking consent from NE.
- DCC Policy on Use of Tarmac - it was the LAF's view that in rural situations it was inappropriate to tarmac routes which as a result became more road-like and could attract large numbers of vehicles. Whilst BOATs can be legally used by vehicles, they are principally routes for walkers, cyclists and equestrians. RG said that DCC does try to minimise the use of tarmac. The following were cited by CG as examples where tarmac had/was being used:-

- Bamford Clough (BOAT 17) had been provided with a very smooth tarmac surface on a steep hillside. It was accepted that it was not the right choice of material and lessons had been learnt from this. DCC is trying to address the situation and make this a useable route.
- Back Lane, Two Dales (Darley Dale BOAT 58 and 66) had been surfaced with tarmac with a central section left in an aggregate material for horse riders to use. This had unfortunately been washed out forcing riders onto the steep, slippery tarmac. RG reported that once the water issue is resolved, the central strip will be reinstated.
- A steep section of Old Road (including Buxton BOAT 28) between Buxton and Whaley Bridge was out of repair. As part of the Safer Roads Fund Programme this had been identified as an alternative route for cyclists to avoid the A5004 (Long Hill) where accident statistics were fairly high. Following consultation with users, including LAF members, work is currently underway on site to tarmac this section and provide a central grass strip for horse riders.

- Shallcross Incline, Whaley Bridge has been surfaced with a porous paving material (Flexipave) which has been very well received by users, especially horse riders and is also comfortable for walkers. The Incline has an average gradient of 1 in 10 and previous semi-bound surfaces had been constantly eroded or completely washed out. Pricewise it works out slightly more expensive than tarmac. LAF members asked about its use on a floodplain and what would happen if it was inundated with water, would it wash away in this situation? DCC had very limited experience of this product so far with Shallcross being one of the first schemes where it had been used. It was being considered for other schemes, such as the Little Eaton Greenway and the PDNPA was exploring its use from the accessibility perspective. It has been used for longer by other authorities, including Sheffield City (Sam Beaton), on bridleways in Stockport and Barnsley, as well as sections of the Trans Pennine Trail. GM agreed that more research was needed into the use of different surfacing materials. As with any surface/drainage infrastructure it was essential to undertake preventative maintenance in order to protect the asset going forward. There was also a question about the carbon footprint of Flexipave and GM explained that it was a mixture of virgin stone and recycled car tyres. The question of whether recycled material could be used to replace the stone had been raised with the company which produces it. In terms of on-going maintenance, the need to keep the surface clear of leaf litter and fine material like silt which could potentially reduce its porosity was mentioned.
- This prompted a discussion about the role that volunteers can play in the on-going maintenance of routes eg in helping to keep drains clear, cutting back vegetation and brushing up leaves or other detritus which has accumulated on the surface. There had been various schemes over the years to recruit Parish Path Wardens or for different organisations/ voluntary groups to adopt paths

and carry out extra, preventative maintenance. Whilst some of these still continue in a fashion eg through PDNPA/ Peak Park Conservation Volunteers and in theory are a great idea, in practice they require considerable staffing resources to supervise and can be a lot of effort for not a lot of reward. GM mentioned the Service Level Agreement which DCC has with Groundwork to supervise/ facilitate volunteers working on paths and trails across the County. Both Rights of Way and the Countryside Service would like to do more to support volunteers, but existing staff are at full capacity. MB felt that authorities shouldn't reply on volunteers for routine maintenance, but they should be more involved in providing added value/ enhancements eg replacing stiles with gates to improve accessibility.

5) Communication with Users and Stakeholders

MB reported that from his experience, Derbyshire's PRoW network is in a very good condition compared to a lot of other areas in England and Wales. In terms of how the LAF can help with the two-way flow of information about Rights of Way repairs which are being planned by DCC, members can help pass on messages about routes which are going to be closed while the work is taking place through their networking contacts. Horse riding groups were already forwarding the information which DCC puts out through facebook and its twitter account. **RG will also talk to the Comms team about publicity for more of the schemes which are coming up**. A continuous dialogue with the LAF is really helpful in terms of providing input on the detail of the schemes themselves, drawing on the extensive pool of knowledge and appreciation of the needs of different user groups, as well as from the landowner's perspective. As far as getting information out to more people is concerned, a lot of the information is already there on the website eg for temporary closures with notices placed on site about a month in advance. MB praised the increasing amount of information that is available on the Derbyshire Mapping Portal, including signposts that are due to be installed and those routes affected by permanent Traffic Regulation Orders. RG mentioned that it was also intended to indicate those paths where it is planned to cut back vegetation by DCC and Parish/ Town Councils. It might also be possible to find some way of indicating which paths are affected by temporary closures.

6) Any Other Business

It had been agreed that DCC Rights of Way repairs would be an item on the agenda for the next LAF meeting. This would be discussed further at the agenda setting meeting on 21 May so RG could have the heads up about what to include in his presentation. RG indicated that he should be available to attend the main LAF meeting on 12 June, but also mentioned that he was moving to a different role within the Authority. As Senior Project Engineer for Highway Inspections, he would no longer be managing the Rights of Way team on a day-to-day basis.

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 12 June 2024

Item: 7

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

Author: Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer, Sustainable Travel Team, Derbyshire County Council

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, drainage and roadside signposting:** The list of rights of way schemes which have been approved for funding from the Highways Capital Programme in 2024/25 is available on the County Council's website here: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/transport-roads/roads-traffic/road-maintenance/road-improvements/2024-to-2025-highways-capital-programme-delivery-plan.pdf
  It also includes £120k to replace missing or damaged roadside signposts across the county, as well as £115k for emergency schemes to promote safe use of the network ie small scale works which typically include step repairs, filling voids and potholes. As Forum members are aware, the need for works teams to prioritise repairs on Derbyshire's roads has resulted in a backlog of rights of way schemes which are already funded, but have yet to be delivered on the ground. The list referred to above is currently open to review while discussions take place about which new schemes will remain on it and which outstanding schemes will be carried forward from previous years to come up with a realistic programme of work for delivery in 2024/25. The revised list will be shared once it has been finalised. An update on repairs to routes which the LAF is particularly interested in, such as Chapel Gate, Hope Brinks, Pennine Way, Long Causeway and Derby Lane at Monyash will be provided at the meeting.

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- In terms of dealing with the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications, details of progress made between 1 March and 24 May 2024 are set out in the table below. Further information about each of these applications, including decisions made by DCC and the

Planning Inspectorate (PINS) can be found through the on-line register which is available on the County Council's website.

Legal Order Stage	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024 (Up to 24th of the month)
New DMMO applications received (9)	**04795** = Add FP at South Church Street, Bakewell. **04800** = Upgrade FPs to Restricted Byway between Monks Road, Charlesworth and Goddard Lane, New Mills.	**04804** = Extend Sudbury FP3 to adopted highway at Northfield Farm. **04805** = BW claim between Derwent BWs 5 and 9, near Ladybower Reservoir. **04806** = Upgrade FPs in Findern to bridleway between Hillside and Findern Lane.	**04807** = Upgrade Tansley FP16 to bridleway along Coach Road between A615 and Church Street. The following claims do not yet appear on the register of applications: **04808; 04809; 04810**
Informal consultation started (3)	**04396** = Add FP from Lady Lea Road to Horsley FP12.	**04718** = Add FP from Matlock FP44 to Riber Road. **03089** = Add BOAT along Mill Lane between Derby Road at Hunloke, Wingerworth and entrance to Grange Farm, Hasland.	0
Decision made by DCC (1)	0	0	**04624** = Modify location of Whaley Bridge FP86 between Shallcross Road and Elnor Lane.
Orders made (0)	0	0	0
Cases passed to PINS (1)	0	0	**04274** = Upgrade Hartington Upper Quarter FP102 to bridleway from A5004 Long Hill to Bunsal Cob.
Decisions received from PINS (3)	0	**02878** = Upgrade FPs leading to Stoke Ford, in Eyam and Eyam Woodlands to Restricted Byways. **Order not confirmed by the Secretary of State**	**04266** = Add FP from St Helens Lane to Breamfield Lane, Wirksworth. **04136** = Add BW in Eaton & Alsop and Newton Grange parishes between Dam Lane and Tissington Trail/ A515.
Orders confirmed (2)	0	0	**Both Orders (04266** & **04136) confirmed by Secretary of State**

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes across Derbyshire with research records now created for 399 paths and 217 DMMO applications submitted to the County Council to date. The Joint LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group will continue to look at how the processing of these applications could be made easier and how they might be prioritised in light of an increasing backlog. A further meeting of the Sub-Group will be held as soon as practicable.

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):** On the Derbyshire section of the Pennine Bridleway, general maintenance continues predominantly concentrating on essential drainage work and vegetation clearance with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at Lantern Pike and Elle Bank near Hayfield. The replacement of non-slip surfaces is being progressed for several road crossings, including the A6 at Blackwell in the Peak, the A515 at Pomeroy and the A5012 (Via Gellia road) near Pikehall, with funding which has been secured from the County Council's Highways Capital Programme. On the development side, investigative work is continuing for two missing sections around Glossop, looking at a possible alternative route into Gamesley which avoids the Dinting Viaduct and exploring a suitable crossing point of the River Etherow for the section between New Road at Tintwistle and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield. The Pennine National Trails Partnership manager and staff from Natural England have recently visited these sites with DCC officers to gain a better insight into the work required to complete the route. Confirmation of grant bids submitted to the Pennine National Trails Partnership for funding to support on-going maintenance and further development work on the Pennine Bridleway in 2024/25 is expected shortly.
- **White Peak Loop:** 62km or 71% of the White Peak Loop (WPL) is currently complete. The missing gaps are from the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike into and through Buxton to Harpur Hill; from High Peak Junction near Cromford to Matlock Railway Station and from Old Station Close in Rowsley to Coombs Road just outside Bakewell.

Derbyshire County Council has made a

Traffic Regulation Order for The Crescent in Buxton which will allow two-way cycling. This is a step towards achieving the 'Buxton Boulevard' active travel scheme as part of the WPL through the town. Preliminary design and further surveys for the missing section of the route from the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike through Buxton to the Parks Inn at Harpur Hill will be undertaken over the next few months. On the existing section of the WPL between Matlock and Rowsley, wide self-closing gates have been installed on either side of the Peak Rail heritage railway crossing near the Arc Leisure Centre to replace the previous chicane arrangement. This work has been undertaken to improve the accessibility of the route as well as safety for users. See before and after photographs below.

More information about the WPL can be found here: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/white-peak-loop/white-peak-loop.aspx

- **Derwent Valley Cycleway:** The feasibility study commissioned by the County Council is now complete and discussions are underway to agree the next steps. The study divides the 68km route between Shardlow to the south-east of Derby and Hathersage in the Derbyshire Dales into five different sections. It identifies the preferred route options and high-level cost estimates for construction, along with an assessment to help prioritise route sections for future delivery.
- **A5004 Safer Roads Fund Project:** Resurfacing of Old Road, including part of Buxton BOAT 28, which runs between the A5004 (Long Hill) and Elnor Lane in Whaley Bridge should be completed by the end of June. The scheme is being funded from the Safer Roads Fund to provide vulnerable users with an alternative route away from the main A road.
- **Chesterfield Active Travel Route:** This 7.8km east-west route across Chesterfield is a £1.68m scheme being funded under Tranche 2 of the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund. Work at the western end of the route to provide a superhighway style arrangement in the form of a

segregated cycleway on the A619 Baslow Road/ Chatsworth Road is now complete. The County Council has produced a video which gives an overview of the segregated cycleway and how to use it safely: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g61jNyxLVgE

- **Active Travel Masterplans:** An on-line consultation is currently underway until 24 June 2024 to collect people's views on the Active Travel Masterplans being drawn up for the market towns of Glossop, Belper and Ilkeston. Drop-in sessions were also held in each of the three locations during May as part of the consultation.

The results will provide an idea of the public's current level of interest and appetite for active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling). They will also help inform how the next step in planning could proceed to achieve the associated benefits of reduced traffic congestion and emissions, improved air quality, along with physical and mental health improvements, as well as benefits to local businesses.

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

- **Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Derbyshire:** More information about the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be found here: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/conservation/local-nature-recovery/local-nature-recovery.aspx
  Anyone who is interested is encouraged to register to receive updates on the preparation of the strategy and find out how to support or get involved in its development.
- **Move More/ Nature Connection Map:** An interactive map has been developed to promote emotional health and wellbeing across Derby and Derbyshire to help connect people with local outdoor activity groups and opportunities to stay active and connect with nature which includes parks, trails, places of beauty, outdoor gyms, community gardens and more. The link to the webpage which was launched in May to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week is here: https://bit.ly/Movemorenature along with a link to the map itself: https://bit.ly/MHPAMap

- **Walk Derbyshire:** Details of walking events can be found on the Walk Derbyshire website and include the National Forest Walking Festival, the Erewash 85 mile walking challenge, walks on the Eastern Moors, litter picks, Beat the Streets and fund raising events: https://walkderbyshire.org.uk/everyday-walking/events/

Aim 5: Greater community involvement 337 days in 2023/24

- **Volunteer contribution:** As part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties, 337 volunteer days were delivered in 2023/24, estimated to be worth just over £67k. Dedicated groups of volunteers have worked on rights of way in South Derbyshire, Bolsover and the High Peak, as well as on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, Archaeological Way, Clowne Greenway, Little Eaton Branch Line and the White Peak Loop carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements. Action days with the Friends of Little Eaton Canal also delivered some very valuable habitat work and conservation tasks. Funding and approvals have been secured to continue the SLA in 2024/25.

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

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 12 June 2024

Item: 8

Title: Access for All

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report
The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Access for All programme.

Background
In November 2022, the Peak District National Park received £131k of capital funding for 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.'

A report on the Year 1 outcomes was provided to the Forum in June 2023. No funding was received in Year 2 of the programme. In April 2024, ongoing work was reported to the Programmes and Resources committee. Funding for Year 3, amounting to £155.8k, is proposed to be provided shortly.

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 encompasses accessible places and routes, mobility equipment, and signage and information.

Some of the items identified for Year 3 include:

More Miles
- Extending the Miles without Stiles route at the Goyt
- Improved surfacing and handrails at the Monsal Trail/Coombs Road link
- Resurfacing and widening the High Peak Trail at Hurdlow
- Miles without Stiles route videos

More Places
- A Changing Place at Parsley Hay
- Seating at Millers Dale
- Resting places and signage along the High Peak/Tissington Trails

More Mobility
- New trikes for cycle hire.

Recommendation

1. **That the report is noted.**

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 4 June 2024

Item: 9

Title: Review of Long-term Directions Restricting Access

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report
The purpose of the report is to notify the Forum on the consultations for the review of open access land exclusions.

Background
The report to the Forum in February 2024, identified the review process and the sites subject to review. Three sites are presently being reviewed. Public consultations took place February to April 2024. The Forum provided a response which is attached in Appendix 1.

Further views are sought in relation to a proposed variation at West Nab, Bradfield.

Deer Hill, Meltham
The rifle range is outside the National Park; its fall of shot extends into the National Park. The direction is being reviewed in conjunction with Natural England as the Relevant Authority for the part of the site outside the National Park.

The Club has confirmed that the directions are required for the purposes for which they were originally applied for and there have been no changes to the fall of shot zone.

It is proposed that the existing directions are varied as follows:

- Extend the end dates to provide a further 6 years

Diggle Rifle Range
The site is a rifle range with associated safety zones.

The Club has confirmed that that the directions are required for the purposes for which they were originally applied for and there have been no further revisions to the fall of shot zones.

It is proposed that the existing direction is varied as follows:

- Extend the end date to provide a further 6 years

West Nab, Bradfield
The land is used for clay pigeon shooting and gun testing.

The owner has confirmed that the direction is required for the purposes for which it was originally applied for, but that there is scope to vary the line of the linear access route and for the availability of wider access at times when no flags are flying/no shooting is taking place.

Subject to further consultation, it is proposed that the existing direction is varied as follows:

- Extend the end date to provide a further 6 years
- The linear access to follow the main track through the site
- The linear access to be available at all times
- Exclusion conditional on red flags flying.

The consultation is provided in Appendix 2.

Recommendation

1. **That the LAF confirms its consultation response attached in Appendix 1.**
2. **That the LAF considers whether they wish to make a response to the consultation in Appendix 2.**

Appendix 1

Peak District Local Access Forum
c/o Peak District National Park Authority Aldern House
Bakewell DE45 1AE

Sue Smith
Access and Rights of Way Officer
Peak District National Park Authority Aldern House
Bakewell DE45 1AE
by email: sue.smith@peakdistrict.gov.uk

2 April 2024

Dear Sue

REVIEW OF DIRECTIONS RESTRICTING ACCESS AT

- DEER HILL REFERENCE 2014037129
- DIGGLE REFERENCE 2014037141
- WEST NAB REFERENCE 2014037142

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF), in response to the above Reviews, as set out in your consultation documents dated February 2024

The Peak District Local Access Forum is the statutory body advising the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council on recreation and access matters within the LAF area. Forum members are drawn from a wide range of access interests including walking, climbing, cycling, horse riding, recreational motor vehicles, farming, land management, conservation, climate change and local business.

The proposals in the consultation were discussed at our meeting on 21 February 2024, and subsequently by email with all LAF Members. Members did not raise any objections to the Directions, and as such PDLAF agrees that the extent and nature of the restrictions are still appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Louise Hawson
Chair, Peak District Local Access Forum

Copies by email to:
Peak District National Park Authority: Mike Rhodes
Derbyshire County Council: Gill Millward
Members of the Peak District LAF

Appendix 2

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

REVIEW OF STATUTORY DIRECTION

SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION
Prepared by the Peak District National Park Authority
June 2024

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 Reference
West Nab	**2014037142**

The Peak District National Park Authority has begun a review of the above long-term direction. A consultation was held 21 February 2024 to 5 April 2024. Feedback was received from the Local Access Forum.

After consideration, it is proposed to: realign the linear access to follow the track through the site; and to improve the signage and flags so that access may extend beyond this route when it's clear that no shooting is taking place. The effect of this proposal will be to revoke and replace the existing direction and extend the end date.

A further round of consultation is required to be undertaken due to the decision to vary and the long-term nature of the direction.

Background

The National Park Authority made a direction in 2004 to restrict CROW access to a waymarked linear route along the southern boundary of the land under section 24 and 25(1)(b) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, in order to prevent danger to the public and to allow the land to continue to be managed without undue cost or burden upon the landowner. The linear route continues beyond the boundary in a westerly direction to meet up with adjoining access land. The direction is conditional on this linear access route being available at all times. The line of the route was identified to avoid the clay pigeon shooting and gun testing taking place elsewhere on the site.

Why is a statutory restriction necessary?

Criteria Set 19 from the Relevant Authority Guidance covers shooting at man-made targets. The most relevant extracts under this Criteria 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 (sometimes called a safety zone) may extend beyond the target from some distance, depending on the weapon and ammunition in use. People using pistols, rifles, bows or similar weapons must therefore choose a position that provides clear views against a safe backdrop before taking a shot. Shoot organisers must ensure that no-one enters the safety zone while shooting is taking place.
  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.

It is considered a restriction is still necessary on grounds of land management and public safety. The nature of use can be variable and at short notice. However, the proposed realigned access provides a safe and convenient route which is easily visible to those engaged in shooting and which does not result in undue interruption to such use. Signposting and waymarking is required for this important link route and includes the erection of red flags at each end of the site when shooting is taking place. At such times, access will be confined to the linear route.

What is lowest level of restriction required?

The use of discretionary days or an outline restriction which requires prior notification are not considered appropriate because of the ad hoc use of the site for shooting. A restriction which is conditional on a linear access route being available 365 days a year and which provides for additional access when no red flags are flying/shooting is taking place is considered to be the least restrictive option.

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING DIRECTION:

Land Parcel Name	Details of restriction on original direction	Proposed details for new direction	Reason for proposed direction
West Nab	**Restricted to a way-marked linear route at all times until 31/12/2024**	**Restricted to a way-marked linear route when red flags are flying until 31/12/2030.**	**Land Management/ Public Safety**

Following the initial consultation, the National Park Authority considers that the restriction should remain in place for a further period until 31 December 2030. However, it is proposed to vary the current direction by realigning the linear access and providing for additional access at such times when no red flags are flying.

3. SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE REVIEW:

Reference:	Comments to:
West Nab – 2014037142	sue.smith@peakdistrict.gov.uk

If you wish to comment on the review of this direction then please do so by **21 June 2024**.

A map accompanies this notice.

Using and sharing your consultation responses
Any comments you make, and any information you send in support of them, will help us to determine the application and / or determine if the restriction is still necessary in relation to the review or reassessment of a current direction.

We may wish to pass such comments 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 the relevant access authority(s).

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on the Government's consultation website. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not the names, addresses or other contact details of individual respondents.

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.

Annex 1

In accordance with statutory guidance, the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has a duty to:

- review directions of a long-term character no later than their fifth anniversary; and
- revoke or vary directions where necessary.

Under CROW section 27(3) the relevant authority must review, at least every five years, any direction it has given that restricts access indefinitely; for part of every year; for part of each of six or more consecutive calendar years; or for a specified period of more than five years.

During the review the relevant authority must, having regard to the interest of the public in having access to the land, consider whether the restriction is still necessary for its original purpose; and if so, whether the extent and nature of the restriction is still appropriate for the original purpose.

Before reviewing a long-term direction the relevant authority must consult:

- the local access forum
- the applicant or his successor in title, where reasonably practicable – for directions under section 24 or 25 made on application; or
- the relevant advisory body – for a direction made under section 26.

The authority must also publish a notice on a website (and send a copy to statutory consultees) that must explain that the authority proposes to review the direction in question; where documents relating to the review may be inspected and copies obtained; and that representations in writing with regard to the review may be made by any person to the authority by the date specified in the notice.

Once consultation is complete the relevant authority should have regard to any representations it receives before making a decision. If following the consultation, the relevant authority decides to:

- leave the original direction unchanged, the relevant authority should record the date that the decision was made and should schedule a subsequent review where necessary.
- vary a direction, the relevant authority must give a new direction under the same section that was used to give the original direction. If the new direction is long-term, it must be reviewed within five years of the date it is given;
- revoke a direction, the relevant authority must give a new direction under the same section to revoke it. There is no requirement to review the new direction;

Before varying or revoking a direction the relevant authority must: consult the original applicant or his successor in title, where reasonably practicable, for directions given under section 24 or 25 on an application; or consult the relevant advisory body, for directions given under section 26; and in either case, follow the consultation procedures set out in the relevant authority Guidance but only if it proposes to give a new direction that would restrict access indefinitely or for more than six months continuously.

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Local Access Forum Annual Report 2023

Introduction

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 below 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

LAF Membership 2023

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

Meetings of the Forum

The following meetings covered the following themes:

- 15 March 2023 – nature recovery and access
- 14 June 2023 – access for all
- 1 November 2023 – rights of way.

Other issues discussed:

- Sustainable Travel
- Environmental Land Management Schemes
- Access to Water
- Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan updates
- Green Lanes

Consultations

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

Meetings and themes for 2024

21 February – visitor management
12 June - sustainable transport
16 October – health and wellbeing

Financial Statement 2023

Administrative support		£83
Members' travel and expenses		£74
Meeting refreshments		£396.50
TOTAL		**£553.50**

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