



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

1 March 2022

Steve Hollinworth
Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3AG

Dear Steve

Pennine Way Repairs

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed repairs on the Pennine Way in Edale.

The Peak District Local Access Forum is a statutory body of volunteer members, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It covers the National Park area and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills, Hayfield and Glossop. Our role is to advise both the authorities on the improvement of public access and opportunities for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area.

The Access Sub-group visited on 10 February 2022 to consider the condition of the footpath and bridleway and the extent and nature of the proposed works. We were accompanied by Mike Rhodes and Martyn Sharp, and who manage the Peak District section of the Pennine Way.

This section of the Pennine Way is at the beginning of the long-distance national trail and provides access into the surrounding uplands. In addition, its proximity to a rail route, and with car parking, and visitor facilities, makes it an extremely attractive and popular destination for all users to experience the sense of wildness and remoteness.

We consider that sensitive repairs to the route will improve access for the majority of users, help to reduce erosion, and on the lower section increase accessibility for those with mobility limitations.

Comments are as follows:

- Pennine Way long-distance route and also key route for horse riders and mountain bikers
- Route divides on the slope after the bridge into a footpath section and bridleway
- Designations include SSSI, SAC and SPA on the sections above the bridge
- Repairs and signage to be sympathetic to the surroundings
- Repairs required in 5 main areas with priority to be given to the upper sections

- Addressing the drainage issues and undertaking work at the appropriate time will help to reduce wash-out
- A combination of cross-drains, providing for a cross-fall, and attention to path edges will be required on the lower section
- In some locations, (particularly the bridleway 'loop') stone picking in place of importation of materials will suffice
- Naturally excavated gritstone to be used; 20mm to dust on the lower track section
- Clearer, simpler, and relocated signage is required at the bridge and stone cairn
- Stone pitching required on the bridleway loop, above the cairn and a short section at the top of the existing pitching on the footpath
- Deflector bunds and fencing/walling also required to accompany the path re-surfacing to allow eroded areas to recover

Please keep us informed on progress with the repairs. We would be pleased to receive a detailed scheme of working on which to provide further comments.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Gilbert
Vice Chair