

# Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** 16 June 2022

**Item:** 7

**Title:** Access Update

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## **Purpose of the Report**

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

## **Review of Directions**

The National Park Authority has continued the direction at Silence Mine to exclude the public on safety grounds until 30 April 2023. The consultation outcome is attached in Appendix 1.

A site meeting was held in May 2022 with Derbyshire County Council officers to assess the ongoing instability and discuss the reinstatement. We are expecting to receive applications setting out the details of the works imminently.

## **Accessible Peak District**

The Annual Report is available at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessforall](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessforall). An update on our work for Accessibility Hubs and Miles without Stiles will be provided to the September Forum meeting.

## **Access Fund**

The Peak District National Park's [Access Fund](#) provides the opportunity for donations to enable improvements to access in the National Park. This includes:

- new and upgraded access points on access land
- restoring paths on access land
- implementing new areas of access land
- new permissive paths to improve links to existing access
- enhancing the accessibility of paths
- signposts and signage
- mapping and leaflets.

In 2021, donations were received from the Peak District Foundation from their 70kfor70 fundraising, a number of membership organisations, in connection with film-making, from handbook sales, and from individuals ranging from £4 to £5000. There was one donation from an event.

Donations were also made by the LAF to commemorate former Chairs, Edwina and John. Fittingly, these have been put towards accessibility improvements at Conksbury.

Works during 2021 focused on Anniversary Gates, with 24 new gates provided. Surfacing improvements also took place, with further accessibility improvements planned during 2022.

## **Farming in Protected Landscapes**

In the first year of funding, 72 projects have been supported involving 65 farmers and land managers, the National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, and the Farming Life Centre. Out of these, a number of schemes supported access. Funding is available for new permissive access until March 2024.

New access is being delivered at Minninglow Pit, Sough Top at Taddington, linking the Wardlow and Haydale Roads, near Hard Rake at Sheldon, and at Eldon Quarry. Access improvements have also included resurfacing, such as at Coldside, Derwent. Recently approved schemes, include at Bradwell Moor and for access enhancement at Thor's Cave.

Further information:

- New routes at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/peakpaths](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/peakpaths)
- [Case studies](#)
- [List of projects](#)

## **Recommendation**

- 1. That the report is noted.**



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**CONSULTATION OUTCOME REPORT**  
**COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) ACT 2000**  
**PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM DIRECTION RESTRICTING ACCESS**  
**APRIL 2022**

<b>Land Parcel Name:</b>	<b>Direction Ref.</b>
<b>Silence &amp; Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow</b>	<b>2018088745</b>

1) Introduction

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has completed its consultation on the proposal for a long-term direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The consultation was held between 18 March and 14 April 2022.

The following consultation comments were received:

**Peak District Local Access Forum** – support the extension.

**Derbyshire Dales Ramblers** – no objection to the proposed direction. Closure for another year of both the two RoWs and the Access Land is acceptable due to ongoing safety concerns and understanding of there being considerable land slip across the site.

**Great Hucklow Parish Council** - can see no basis on which it can be safely opened in its current state and agree with the decision to keep this closed.

**Foolow Parish Meeting** - fully support the continued closure of the area given the ongoing instability of the land (two recent falls have been reported). Look forward to the area being opened up once again but only when it is safe to do so.

**A landowner** – report that a large number of walkers are confused about the closure of the restricted byway which runs along the lower edge of the closed area of land.

2) Outcome

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

The PDNPA, as Mineral Planning Authority, has commissioned geotechnical investigations into the instability at this site and is 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 the extension of up to one year would be an appropriate period of time for identification and rectification of the instability.

This direction shall cease to have effect on 30 April 2023 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. In the event of the instability being more extensive or requiring more extensive remediation, the direction shall be further reviewed.

### 3) Summary of Restriction

<b>Land Parcel Name:</b>	<b>Dates of Restriction</b>	<b>Reason for Exclusion</b>
<b>Silence &amp; Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow</b>	<b>30 April 2023</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>

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