

Farming in Protected Landscapes

The Defra-funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme began in July 2021 and will run until March 2025. It supports farming and land management projects in England's Protected Landscapes that make improvements for nature, climate, people and place. The FiPL programme approach blends national and local priorities. Contributions to nature recovery and climate resilient businesses, heritage conservation and better access for people to enjoy our protected landscapes all feature in programme delivery.

People Outcomes

- There are more opportunities for people to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape
- There are more opportunities for more diverse audiences to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape
- There is greater public engagement in land management, for example through volunteering

The programme is now in its third year. The data below relates to programme delivery in the Peak District up to March 2023.

Total number of projects: 205 with 90 delivering people focussed outcomes

New permissive paths: 10 (5040m)

Upgraded routes: 8

8 projects delivering educational access (16 visits with expectation of many more in 2023/24)

17 projects making the landscape more inclusive for visitors

18 projects involving volunteers (312 in total)

Peak Permissive Paths

The new access routes enhance access by improving connectivity in the rights of way network and to and within CRow access land. They take people to places to explore and enjoy. Places where they will want to go.

Clear route-finding is important to give people the confidence to visit and for the landowner in providing for safe and managed access. On-site information includes site plans, directional signposts with distances, and waymarkers. Website information provides details and directions, mapping, and what to look out for. Each route has its own webpage allowing for customisation, links, and analytics. Routes are at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/peakpaths.

Funding provides for capital works and for an annual payment for management and maintenance of access. To ensure accessibility, funding is provided for gate installation only.

Example Projects

At **Five Wells Farm** a new permissive path takes people through the historic lead mining landscape, crossing a flower-rich hillside, hay meadows and rocky outcrops. It complements an existing permissive path allowing access to a scheduled cairn. Over 20 volunteers were involved in recording and restoring a regionally rare limekiln.

At **Higher Plainsteads Farm** a grant for repairs to a barn means it can host more and better educational visits and craft courses, including visits from community and special needs groups.

Surfacing on the bridlepath above **Ladybower** has enhanced access for families on cycles and for trampers and mountain trikes. The routes to **Thor's cave** in the Manifold Valley and from Glossop to **Bleaklow** in the Dark Peak have also been restored.

The new permissive path at **Minninglow Grange** takes walkers through a previous industrial site now reclaimed by nature and supporting a wealth of habitats and species including ponds and great crested newts, scrub rich in birdlife and species rich grassland. This path complements an existing well established permissive path allowing visitors to access the scheduled barrow on Minninglow Hill, a very significant archaeological site and an amazing viewpoint.



Permissive paths shown as a red line