

## Landowners' Perspectives on the Benefits and Challenges of Public Access

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# Challenges & Opportunities

The effects of recreational activity on the landscape can have an impact .....



By introducing a clear footpath network with appropriate signage, we can also influence visitor behaviour .....



By ensuring the infrastructure can cope with visitor numbers we can lessen the impact .....



## Main influences on visitor behaviour;

- Ease of access
- Proximity to tourist facilities
- Site infrastructure aiding accessibility and use
- Popularity or public awareness of the landscape.
- The availability of information.

**The above factors all exist at our sites but require improvement.**

# Peak District Landscape Strategy

- Woodland creation
- Peatland restoration
- Healthy grassland
- Landscape recovery working with tenant farmers
- Ensuring our landscape is more resilient to climate change
- Re-naturalising rivers



# Diverse Audience Research - Dovedale

## Visitor Profile at Dovedale

- 34% of visitors coming to Dovedale identify as Asian or Asian British.
- Diverse audiences arrive in large, multi-generational groups
- 71% travelled over a 1 hour to Dovedale, with 35% travelling for over 2 hours
- Diverse audiences are less likely to visit with a dog

## Use of Space

- It's a day-trip destination for diverse audiences - visitors stayed between 2 - 6 hours.
- Dovedale is seen as a convenient meeting place geographically.

## Experience on site – what could we do better?

- Improved signage, mapping, waymarking and interpretation.
- Access was flagged as a barrier to exploring the site beyond the stepping stones.
- Improvements to facilities were suggested, such as free and better toilets.
- Most target group visitors likely to return with one visitor noting that the scenery reminded them of Pakistan.

*"Very nice location with a bit of everything. Good for all age groups."*

*"Different walk and landscape to what we have locally. It's calm, has a nice atmosphere and has great photo opportunities."*

*"Love the running water. I also travel to Carding Mill Valley – both are very natural sites. Water is very soothing and relaxing, especially the sound."*



*"Live in Derby. Been coming for years, since the children were young and now with grandchildren. Feels spiritual – affinity with nature and water, it feels peaceful."*

*"We like nature. Reminds us of Pakistan. It is peaceful. Mountains."*

*"Nature, make memories. Each time we explore a new area."*

# Outdoor Hub & Infrastructure Improvements - Dovedale

## Access for All

- Better infrastructure to support equal access for all visitors.
- Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Connecting people with heritage features and the landscape

## Outdoor Experiences -

- Equal opportunities for access to the outdoors at our free to enter outdoor sites.
- A platform to raise the profile of our conservation work and promote respectful behaviour in the landscape.

## Everyone Welcome -

- Ensure the experience on site caters for everyone.



# Infrastructure Improvements– Ilam Park

## Access for All

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## Outdoor Experiences -

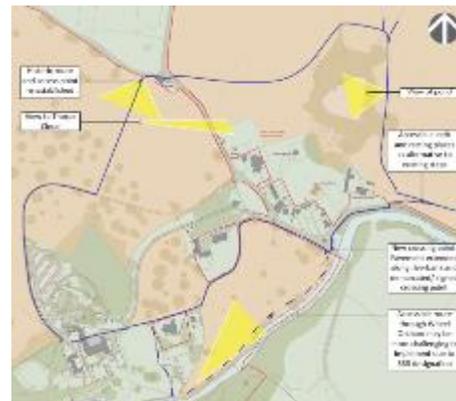
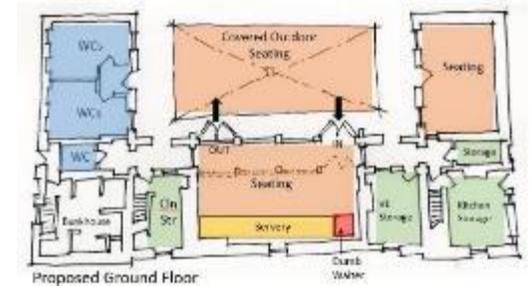
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## Possible Interventions include.

- Accessible play areas
- Easy, Medium and hard accessible way marked paths – ‘miles without stiles.
- Accessible café at lower-level reconfiguring existing layout.
- Improved accessible route from Ilam Park to Dovedale.



# Mam Tor Landscape Restoration Project

## Project Objectives

- Restore the hillforts earthworks
- Repair infrastructure
- Improve visitor access
- Enhance visitor experience
- Monitor and maintain restoration



*Erosion damage to archaeological features due to visitor volume.*



## Community engagement - Opportunities

- Public Meetings and Workshops
- Outreach Programs
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Storytelling and Oral History
- Local Media Outreach / Social Media and Website

# Our Vision

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- Create opportunities for the improvement of physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- The outdoors should be accessed by all equally by all communities.
- Existing rights of way to become more accessible and connected to facilities on site, our 'outdoor hubs'.
- Widen the scope for exploration into nature for all.
- Increase the opportunities for our diverse audiences to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape.
- Greater public engagement in land management.
- Reinforce the quality and character of the landscape.
- Create truly inclusive visitor experiences where everyone feels welcome and included.

