

# Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** 16 October 2024

**Item:** 7

**Title:** Access Update

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## **Purpose of the Report**

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

## **Access for All**

The opening of the Millers Dale Changing Place on the Monsal Trail took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024. It is fitting that this was on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of new access rights which increased access in the National Park by one third.

Approval has been given for a Changing Place at Parsley Hay on the High Peak Trail. This is proposed to be installed by end of March 2025. The two Changing Places are of innovative design to complement their surroundings.

More information on Changing Places within and surrounding the National Park can be viewed at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/changingplaces](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/changingplaces). Details of the launch can be viewed [here](#).

## **Anniversary Gates**

On the 10th anniversary of the introduction of access land in 2014, the Authority made a commitment to increase accessibility, supported by the launch of the Access Fund for donations.

The upgrade and mapping of access points on access land and identifying link paths was driven forward by the Anniversary Gates project running between the 70<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the legislation which created National Parks.

Over this time, we have installed 70 Anniversary Gates across the National Park. Funded through donations to the Access Fund from Alpkit, from filming, from walking groups, from events, from individuals ranging from £5 to £5000, from the LAF, and from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme. Installed by Peak Park Conservation Volunteers, Rangers, the Countryside Maintenance and Projects Team, and landowners.

Monitoring of access points by Rangers and volunteers is progressing through the development of the APapp, as summarised [here](#).

## **Authority Properties**

Accessibility improvements are proposed across four of the Authority's minor properties at Green Lane Pits, Hard Rake, Taddington Dale, and Dirtlow Rake. 16 gates and 10 interpretation boards have been granted FiPL funding. The onsite information will also

be made available online, together with other measures to promote understanding and enjoyment at these sites.

Other access proposals include a replacement bridge in Wyedale to provide a link to the Trails and improvements at Warslow to replace stiles with gates and upgrade a flight of steps.

### **Recommendation**

That the report be noted.