

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 19 February 2025

Item: 8

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.

Defra Access Funding

In Year 3 of Defra's Access for All programme, the Authority has been delivering on more miles, more places, and more mobility. A report outlining items of expenditure was provided to the Forum in June 2024.

The £155.8k funding has been matched by £26.2k grant funding via the Foundation towards the new Changing Place at Parsley Hay. This is enabling improvements at North Lees campsite and for fast charging e-bikes to accompany the shorter hire periods for adapted cycles and trampers.

The surfacing works at the [Goyt Miles without Stiles](#) has near doubled the length of this accessible route. This has been enhanced by funding from the Foundation for maintenance along the existing 1 km section. At Fernilee Reservoir, new gates are being installed for a new Miles without Stiles route and access by cyclists and horse riders.

The improvements previously reported for the Monsal Trail/Coombs Road link are being considered by the Authority's Property Team as part of wider access improvements to link with Derbyshire County Council's interim White Peak Loop.

Monitoring

The biennial Ease of Use survey of 5% of the rights of way network is taking place using an app specially designed for this purpose. This allows for in-field recording of the condition and accessibility of rights of way. Accompanying apps record the details of any fails for action/reporting and for the type of structures, whether that be gates, stiles, steps, bridges, boardwalks etc.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.