

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 11 June 2025

Item: 5

Title: Access for All

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Access for All programme.

Background

Defra's Access for All programme provides capital funding for the removal of barriers to access 'to make Protected Landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds, to make them what Glover called, "places for everyone"'.

To date, £287k of funding has been provided. A report on the Year 1 delivery was provided to the Forum in June 2023. No funding was received in Year 2 of the programme.

Year 3 Delivery

In Year 3 of the programme, the funding of £155.8k has been used to:

- Create and enhance Miles without Stiles routes
- Develop facilities at key locations and improve information
- Increase the number of people participating.

The funding was also used to raise further funding of £26.2k via the Peak District Foundation towards the provision of a Changing Place at Parsley Hay. This has allowed for additional accessibility projects to be delivered.

The expenditure in Year 3 is set out in Appendices 1 and 2 and includes:

- Surfacing and widening routes and gate installation
- A changing place, campsite facilities, resting places, and tactile interpretation panels
- Trikes and fast charging e-bikes

Year 4 Delivery

The programme has been extended by a further year. In Year 4, £255.9k of funding is to be provided. Some of the items identified for Year 4 include:

More Miles

- New Miles without Stiles routes
- Films and sensory and audio trails

More Places

- Resting places, signage, and links to the Trails
- Accessible Bakewell

More Mobility

- Equipment for mobile cycle hire.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report is noted.**

Appendix 1 - Access for All Funding 2024/25

What is involved?

Defra's Access for All Programme provides funding to the Peak District National Park to make it more accessible for people of all ages, abilities and needs, to help bring the benefits of spending time in nature to everyone.

In 2024/25, capital funding of £155k for infrastructure improvements was provided. The funding is for assets created or acquired, and not maintenance.

Why is it important?

The funding provides the financial support to allow focus on the development of accessibility hubs and accessible routes. This provides the places, facilities, equipment, and information needed to build confidence in accessing the special qualities and amazing experiences of the Peak District National Park.

Who is involved in delivery?

The project lead is the Access and Rights of Way Officer. The project team involves Properties, Trails, CMPT, Cycle-hire, and Communications. It includes inputs from Design, IT, and Rangers.

What's been delivered in 2024/25?

- A Changing Place at Parsley Hay
- Accessible camping facilities at North Lees
- Shelters at Hurdlow and Hartington
- Path surfacing at the Goyt and Hurdlow
- Tactile orientation panels on the Trails
- More resting places across our properties
- Fast charging e-bikes and trikes

How has the funding been supported?

The Peak District Foundation's funding of £26.2k for the Changing Place enabled the equivalent amount to be allocated to additional access improvements. The Foundation's funding of £7.7k for the maintenance of the pre-existing Goyt Miles without Stiles route complemented the capital works delivered under this programme. The Foundation's £3.5k to improve the access from the Parsley Hay Miles without Stiles route into Ruby Wood linked with the picnic site improvements provided by the Access for All funding.

What's next

Defra have indicated the availability of further funding in 2025/26 of £255.9k.

The active travel work is developing a plan for a high-level network of routes for walking, wheeling, cycling, and horse-riding in the National Park linking with future improvements for accessibility and access to nature.

More Miles

Extension of the Goyt Miles without Stiles route – Cost £20k.



More Places

Changing Place at Parsley Hay – Cost £55.5k, plus £26.2k Peak District Foundation funding.



More Mobility

Tactile orientation panels linked to new equipment – Cost £18.4k, excluding installation.



Appendix 2 - Completed Projects – Year 3

More Miles

Item	Details	Comments
Millers Dale	Surfacing path on platform & seating	Link from Goods Shed and Changing Place avoiding car park. Also seating area. Supports Accessibility Hub development.
Goyt	Vegetation removal, resurfacing & gate	Extended MwS route. Also identified as proposed active travel network. Maintenance on existing route funded by the Peak District Foundation.
Hurdlow	Widening & resurfacing High Peak Trail	Improvements along a multi-use trail. Part funding. Also supports development of White Peak Loop and active travel.
Fernilee	Replacing kissing gates.	Gates with increased width for all users. Proposed Miles without Stiles route and permissive bridleway. Also identified as proposed active travel network.
Mapping of routes	For new Miles without Stiles routes	In-house mapping for extended Miles without Stiles route at the Goyt. Published in the Welcome Guide.

More Places

Item	Details	Comments
Parsley Hay Changing Place	Design and construction of Changing Place	Bespoke design to complement the heritage of the former rail trails. Part funded by the Peak District Foundation.
Tissington and High Peak Trail panels	Tactile interpretation panels	Signage which welcomes all users and shows location, facilities, and distances between car parks and cycle hire locations. Also supports active travel.
Hurdlow weighbridge	Surfaced access ramp from the Trail	Ramp installation to former weighbridge shelter near to Parsley Hay. Accessible by tramper.
Hartington shelter	Re-roofing, access ramp, rail, and seating	Upgraded resting place/shelter at mid-point between Parsley Hay and Hartington Station.
Trails benches	8 benches	Additional seating.
Ruby Wood	Surfacing to picnic area	Extends the MwS route into the picnic area. Accompanied by Peak District Foundation funding to level the access from the Trail.

North Lees Campsite	Hoist, washing-up facilities, automatic door opener, ramp to camping pod, benches.	Improvements and provision of facilities to complement a stay in the accessible camping pod.
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More Mobility

Item	Details	Comments
Inclusive cycles	2 items	At Parsley Hay
E-bikes	11 fast-charging	To allow for repeat and short hires for accompanying the trampers and inclusive cycles.
Wheelchair bike battery	1 item	Second battery to allow for repeat hires.