

Committee: **ACCESS**  
Date: **8 April 2010**

Report: **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Purpose of the report**

1. To present the annual Rights of Way Annual Report to members which outlines progress made on public rights of way maintenance over the period April 2009 to March 2010.

### **Strategic Planning Framework**

2. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

### ***National Park Management Plan objectives***

- Manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2010.

### **Background**

3. As part of the Delegation Agreements with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Cumbria County Council (CCC) the Authority is required to produce an Annual Report on progress in relation to works conducted on rights of way within the two Authority areas by May of each year.

### **The Rights of Way annual report**

4. A draft report is shown in the **Appendix** this records the achievements of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in terms of its public rights of way functions during the year 2009/10. This will form the basis of the report to NYCC and CCC in delivering delegated functions relating to the respective Highway Authorities.
5. The proposed report is divided into our specific areas of responsibility and Members may wish to pay particular attention to section 5.0 Ease of Use Results 2009/10.

6. Two new indicators were agreed by the English National Parks, Joint Improvement Group which were collected by all the English National Parks for 2009 these two indicators combined give the new 'Ease of Use' indicator for the English National Parks. These are:
- % Percentage of rights of way that are Easy to Use that follow the exact definitive line. (This year's result is 81%).
  - % Percentage of rights of way that are Easy to Use that may not follow the exact definitive line. (This year's result is 10%).

Combining the two indicators gives an actual result from 2009 'Ease of Use' Survey of 91% for the National Park.

7. In addition Members may like to note that our corporate plan objectives for 2009/10 were:
- Carry out works to nine significant river crossings.
  - Repair 4km of previously engineered routes.
  - Carry out engineering works to a further 2.6km of eroded routes.
  - Reduce the number of places where a right of way is not indicated where it leaves a metalled road from 53 to 35.
  - Maintain and improve the rights of way infrastructure so the percentage of furniture in condition 1 increases from 94% to 95%.
  - Remove 20 obstructions.
  - Continue to implement the Pennine Way Maintenance Report in conjunction with Natural England.
  - Develop a programme of at least five events to promote use of the Pennine Way
  - Launch the Three Peaks Project to aid maintenance of the 3 Peaks routes.
8. In addition we continued to secure funding, through Natural England, for the management and development of the Pennine Bridleway and Pennine Way National Trails.

### **On going monitoring**

9. In 2006 we produced a detailed 5 year maintenance plan and set up an in-house rights of way monitoring system based on 'mapinfo' our GIS IT system. This system is proving invaluable and whilst it still has the occasional wrinkle to iron out, it gives us a very clear understanding of the scale of works necessary to fulfil our responsibilities in relation to the future management and enhancement of the PRow network.
10. We have also developed the system further to include information about works we have carried out on Green Lanes/Unclassified County Roads, which are not covered by the public rights of way delegation agreements. These have a significant impact on resources as explained in the report to this Access Committee 'Annual Report 2010 - green lanes management'.

## **Conclusion**

11. During 2009/10 we have continued to deliver significant outputs in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates, signs and footbridges, as well as maintaining and repairing over 6km of footpaths and bridleways.
12. It has been a busy, and demanding year, and the Maintenance Plan recording system is proving invaluable, and we are confident that we are on target to deliver the five year Maintenance Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

12. It is recommended that Members note the report.

**Alan Hulme**  
**Ranger Services Manager**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### **Background documents:**

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (2006) Public Rights of Way maintenance plan 2006 to 2011.

**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

**Public Rights of Way Management  
Delegated Highway Authority  
Annual Report 2009/10**

**DRAFT**



Helicopter Lift, Plover Hill, Pen Y Ghent

## 1.0 Introduction

**1.1** The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has delegated Highway Authority responsibilities for 2123 km of Public Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic and restricted byways) within the National Park. The Delegation Agreements are with North Yorkshire County Council (1879km) and Cumbria County Council (244km).

**1.2** The Delegation Agreements cover a broad range of functions that allow for the management of public paths on the ground and for the maintenance of the Definitive Map. These can be summarised as follows:

- Signposting of public paths
- The maintenance and improvement of public paths
- The maintenance of river crossings
- Traffic Regulation and Temporary Closure Orders
- Public Path and Definitive Map Modification Orders
- Enforcement and protection of public rights
- Duty to review update and maintain the Definitive Map
- Management and development of National Trails in conjunction with Natural England.

## 1.3 Key Achievements 09/10

### Public Rights of Way

- 662 improvements to public rights of way infrastructure stiles, gates and signposts;
- 118 bridges maintained or replaced;
- 4.15km engineered paths maintained (not including Pennine BW works);
- 2.465km of new engineered paths created (not including Pennine BW works),

### Pennine Way

The Pennine Way Steering Group meets twice per year with representatives from Natural England, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority including the Member Champion for Recreation Management. GoDales! Officer, Ranger Services, Ranger and Administration Support Officer.

- Total funding secured was £30,400 for:
  - 6.5k for Newfield Riverside Revetment Works, Airton
  - 9.9k for Shunner Fell, Surfacing and Drainage Works
  - 8k for Malham Cove Footpath Extension
  - 6k for replacement of Quad Bike
- Works completed on Newfield Revetment, Shunner Fell and Malham Cove extension. New Quad Bike purchased.



Pennine Way Revetment, Newfield, Airedale

### Pennine Bridleway

The Pennine Bridleway Steering Group also meets twice per year with representatives from Natural England and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. During 2009/10 the following progress was made on implementation of the route through the National Park:

- Discussions regarding a Creation Agreement to continue the Bridleway south through the centre of Long Preston. Section length is approximately 0.3 Km.
- A planning application was submitted to raise the parapet height of the Railway Bridge at Stainforth to comply with a Network Rail requirement. On completion of the work, the route across the bridge will be available.
- Planning permission for 2.74 km (3.5%), including a 50m bridleway bridge was granted for the route to continue from Selside across Far Moor Common to the Horton to High Birkwith road. All legal works were completed and construction works are due to start in summer 2010.
- The final 0.9% of the route at Swineley Cwm was completed through the Definitive Map Modification Order process.
- Planning permission for a new 1.54 km of route between Garsdale Station and the Moorcock Inn was granted and the construction works on this section are nearing completion.
- A legal agreement was completed to continue the route (1.78 km) from the Moorcock Inn to link to the Lady Anne Highway (Yorehouse section). Construction works on this section are nearing completion. Approximately 1.2 km (1.5%) of this new creation does not need any physical work on the ground.

### Three Peaks

The Three Peaks Project this year has undertaken the following work:

- 700m of resurfacing of the the Three Peaks route, Brackenbottom, Pen Y Ghent
- 1,070m resurfacing of the Gaping Gill route, Ingleborough
- Launch of the Friends of the Three Peaks
- Launch of Corporate membership of the Three Peaks Project
- Launch of the merchandise of the Three Peaks Project



## Definitive Map

Progress regarding the continuous review of the Definitive Map and public path orders has been as follows:

### Orders Made and Confirmed :

- Diversion Order FP 19 Ingleton
- Diversion Order FP 102 Hawes
- Modification Order up-grading BW 12 Horton-in-Ribblesdale to Restricted Byway and BOAT

### Orders Confirmed :

- Diversion Order FP 16 Flasby-w-Winterburn  
Confirmed by SoS - Written Reps.
- Diversion Order FPs 25 & 28 Bainbridge  
Confirmed by SoS - Public Hearing
- Diversion Order FPs 7 & 8 Coverham-w-Agglwthorpe  
Confirmed by SoS - Written Reps
- Modification Order up-grading BW 56 Dent to Restricted Byway and adding new Restricted Byway  
Confirmed by SoS - Written Reps
- 2 Public Path Creation Orders - Pennine Bridleway at Farmoor, Horton-in-Ribblesdale  
Confirmed by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

### Other Orders:

- Omnibus Legal Event Order for Craven
- 8 Temporary Closure Orders

## **2.0 National Park Management Plan**

**2.1** The importance of the Public Rights of Way network to recreational users and local communities is recognised in the National Park Management Plan:

### **Access and Recreation Section**

#### **Aim**

*‘ There will be opportunities for access and recreation in the National Park for people of all ages and abilities and from every sector of society to enjoy the special*



*qualities of the Yorkshire Dales and derive a sense of well-being from their experiences.'*

#### **Principle.**

The public rights of way network and other recreational infrastructure will be managed to improve and extend opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park's special qualities, while ensuring those qualities are conserved for future generations.

#### **Objective AR1 National Park Management Plan**

Manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2010.

### **3.0 Corporate Plan 09/10**

**3.1** The National Park Authority's Corporate Plan 2009/10 sets out a programme of works and measures to assist in achieving the aims of the National Park Management Plan.

**3.2** The following are specific performance indicators and actions which were identified for 2009/10 in relation to the PROW network

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>05/06 Actual</b>	<b>06/07 Actual</b>	<b>07/08 Actual</b>	<b>08/09 Actual</b>	<b>09/10 Target</b>	<b>Actual 09/10</b>
% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road	91.5%	94%	91%	96.8%	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>
% of rights of way that are easy to use	86%	83%	77%	88%	<b>90%</b>	<b>91%</b>

Other specific actions for 2009/10 were:

<b>Action 09/10</b>	<b>NYCC</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Works to 9 significant river crossings	10	1	9	Yes
Repair 4km of previously engineered routes	4.150km			Yes
Carry out engineering works 2.6km of eroded routes (condition 3)	2.465km			Yes
Reduce the number of places where a PROW is not indicated where it leaves a metalled road from 53 to 35	17	1	18	Yes
Maintain and improve the rights of way infrastructure so that the % of items in 'condition 1' remains at 95%	94.1%	93.8%	94%	No
Remove 20 obstructions	40	11	51	Yes
Continue to implement Pennine Way Maintenance Report in conjunction with Natural England	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes





Stone Pitching in Progress, Plover Hill, Pen Y Ghent

### 3.4 Performance Indicators 2009/10

Results are taken from the Yorkshire Dales Access Recording Database unless stated. The individual county figures are in relation to the networks of PRow within each individual areas.

Performance Indicator	Target	NYCC	CCC	YDNPA
% of Rights of Way that are Easy to Use 2009	90%	92%	89%	91%
% of Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave a road	97%	97.5%	96.4%	97.3%
% of infrastructure stiles gates and signs in 'condition 1'	95%	94.1%	93.8%	94%
% of River Crossings in 'condition 1'	89%	85%	89.9%	88.5%
% of length of Pennine Bridleway that is open				93.4%
% of Rights of way accessible for wheelchairs	0.5%			0.59%
% of rights of way that are accessible for people with limited ability	5.0%			5.0%

'condition 1' In good order and will last up to three years

### 4.0 Resources

**4.1** In 2009/10 there were 9.1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) members of staff working on PRow Maintenance and 3.6 FTE on the Definitive Map with an annual capital budget of 231.6k (63k income) and 13.25k (4.5k income) respectively. In addition there are a further 3 externally funded posts. These are:

#### Pennine Way Ranger

The Authority receives 75% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Way Ranger

## **Pennine Bridleway Project Officer and Pennine Way Technician**

The Authority receives 100% funding from Natural England for the Pennine Bridleway Project Officer and Technician posts.

In addition the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority also supports:

### **Community Warden**

A Community Warden was also employed on a part-time basis for the parishes of Austwick and Lawkland. The scheme is partly funded by YDNPA in recognition of some of the maintenance and enhancement works agreed in advance and carried out by the warden in relation to PROW in the parishes.

### **Dales Volunteers**

In total a further 474 days of practical works and 482 day of surveying on the PROW network have been carried out by Dales Volunteers to date, this equates to nearly 4.5 full time equivalents.



Dales Volunteers assist with Public Rights of Way maintenance

## **5.0 Ease of Use 09/10 Results**

*Target NPMP 90% of rights of way that are 'easy to use' in 2010.*

**5.1** The target has been achieved with an actual result from 2009 'Ease of Use' Survey of 91% for the National Park.

**5.2** Two new indicators were agreed by the English National Parks, Joint Improvement group which were collected by all the English National Parks for 2009 these two indicators combined give the new 'Ease of Use' indicator. These are:

- % Percentage of rights of way that are Easy to Use that follow the exact definitive line
- % Percentage of rights of way that are Easy to Use that may not follow the exact definitive line

**5.3** Each year's survey randomly selects a number of paths, making up 5% of the overall network (in total approx 117km surveyed in 2009). Half of the routes (approx 2.5%) are surveyed in May with the remainder surveyed in November. The 'Ease of Use' figure is

then calculated from the length of routes which pass the 'Ease of Use' definitions as agreed by the English National Parks, Joint Improvement Group.

**5.4** However, we have continued to collect BVPI 178 'Ease of Use' on behalf of the Highway Authorities, North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Council Highway Authorities these are taken from the results from the first indicator. Percentage of rights of way that are 'Easy to Use' that follow the **exact** definitive line.

**5.5** There is a slight but subtle difference between the two indicators which have given a truer picture of the state of Public Rights of Way networks in the English national parks, and address the anomalies that previously occurred in collation of data between national parks.

## 2009 Ease of Use Results

	NYCC	CCC	YDNPA
'Easy to use' and follows the Definitive Line (BVPI 178)	82%	75%	<b>81%</b>
'Easy to use' and <b>does</b> not follow Definitive Line	10%	14%	<b>10%</b>
National Parks Joint Family Indicator 'Ease of Use' YDNPA	<b>92%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>91%</b>

## 6.0 Signing

*Target. 97% of public rights of way that are signposted where they leave a metalled road in 09/10.*

**6.1** Target has not been achieved this year with a result of 96% signposted from a metalled road (source 'Ease of Use Survey' 2009). However, the Access Recording System indicates a total of 97.8% in situ, which equates to an approximate 1% increase on last years overall findings.

**6.2** In total, 18 new roadside signs have been erected since the end of March 08 and although we have not reached our target of 97% according to the national 'Ease of Use Survey' the Access Recording System for the whole park indicates a figure of 97.8% of all signs in situ.

**6.3** In addition, a further 46 directional signs were replaced where they leave metalled roads, indicating designation (FP/BW), distance and destination.

## Signposts from a Metalled Road (Ease of Use 2009)

Cumbria	Signposting total sites surveyed 26 (25) in place	96%
North Yorkshire	Signposting total sites surveyed 85, (82) in place	96%

## Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Recording System

Signposts from a metalled road

	Total	Present	Missing	% in situ
YDNPA	1692	1657	35	98%
NYCC	1442	1416	26	98%
CCC	250	241	9	96%



Roadside signpost being erected

## 7.0 General Maintenance

**7.1** The following is a brief breakdown of the main areas of works carried out during 2009/10 in relation to the maintenance of stiles, gates and signage along the PRow network.

**7.2** It is worth noting that ladder stiles in the National Park continue to be removed, a further 36 ladder stiles have been replaced, reducing the overall number from 559 to 523 in 2009/10. We have also increased the number of hand gates by 39 from 939 to 978. These works continue to improve the accessibility of the overall network for a range of users.

TYPE	YDNPA	
	Total improved	Total in park
Ladder Stile	8	523
Timber Step Stile	39	858
Stone Step Stile	69	1221
Stone Squeeze Stile	105	1683
Fieldgate > 5ft	138	2811
Handgate < 5ft	59	978
Kissing Gate	9	162
Boardwalk	2	40
Signpost (directional on route)	66	1724
Waymarker post	68	376
Information Sign	8	298
Roadside Signpost Absent	18	35
Roadside Signpost Present	64	1657
Steps	5	191
Culvert	4	540
Total	662	12809





New gate erected on Burterset Bridleway

### 7.3 River Crossings (includes bridges and stepping stones)

TYPE	Cumbria CC	NYCC	YDNPA	
	repair/replaced/ erected	repair/replaced/ erected	Total improved	Total in park
Bridges	6	112		683
Stepping Stones	0	3		11
Total	6	115		694

Both Rangers and Dales Volunteers have made a concerted effort around the park in relation to bridge and river crossing maintenance.



Healaugh Stepping Stones

## 8.0 Major Projects

**8.1** Under the delegated duties the National Park Authority has responsibility for surface condition of routes. Each year projects are identified by Rangers for specific works which either improve 'Ease of Use' or enhance a route. The projects listed are those with a capital expenditure of greater than 1K and in most cases are significantly more

Route	Works Undertaken
<b>North Yorkshire County Council</b>	
Plover Hill, Public Footpath, Pen Y Ghent	150m stone pitched steps
Kirk Gait, Public Footpath, Kirkby Malham	40m new steps
Newfield, Public Footpath	100m new path surfacing
Hebden Gill, Public Footpath	30m riverbank revetment
Lodge Lane, Public Bridleway, Settle	300m new path surfacing
Flasby Fell, Public Bridleway	1,650m drainage and re-profiling
Appletreewick, Public Footpath, Dales Way	370m new path surfacing
Burtersett, Public Bridleway	400m new path surfacing
Braidley, Public Bridleway	600m new path surfacing
Horsehouse, Public Bridleway	100m new path surfacing
Carlton Moor, Public Bridleway	300m new path surfacing
Janet's Foss, Malham	30m riverbank revetment
Dykelds, Airton	30m stoner flagging
Brackenbottom, Public Footpath, Pen Y Ghent,	700m re-surfacing of Three Peaks route
Gaping Gill, Public Footpath, Ingleborough	1,070m re-surfacing
Moor End, Public Bridleway	400m re-surfacing
Bolton Abbey, Public Footpath	200m re-surfacing
Re-surfacing of BOATs Upper Wensleydale	700m re-surfacing
<b>Pennine Way</b>	
Shunner Fell	1,000m re-laying of flags, drainage and re-profiling
Newfield, Public Footpath, Airton	15m riverbank revetment
<b>Pennine Bridleway</b>	
General Maintenance	Small projects on several sections of route
Garsdale and Yorehouse Section	2,100m currently under construction
<b>Bridges</b>	
Carleton Beck	Replaced existing footbridge
Hebden Suspension bridge	Repairs from structural survey
Crakemmor Covert, Airton	New footbridge
Reeth Bridge	Repairs to footbridge and abutments
Marrick	Replaced footbridge on Coast to Coast route
Healaugh Stepping Stones	Repairs to stepping stones
Barney Beck Stepping Stones	Repairs to stepping stones
Starbotton Footbridge	Repairs to footbridge
Clapdale Bridge, Clapham	Replaced existing footbridge
Kirk Syke, Airton	New footbridge
Holme Bridge, Gargrave	Replaced existing footbridge
<b>Cumbria County Council</b>	
Occupation Road, Dent	Enhancements to Bridleway
Public Footpath	River Rawthey riverbank revetment
Public Footpath	Beck House riverbank revetment
<b>Green Lanes/Unclassified County Road</b>	
Dubbing Garth Lane Bridleway & UCR	180m of surfacing and drainage works

## 9.0 Pennine Bridleway

**9.1** Within the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park the length of the Pennine Bridleway is 78 km. The vast majority of the route 72.9 km (93.4%) is now available to the public. On completion of the work from Garsdale to Yorehouse section a further 2.1 km (2.7%) will be suitable for use.

## 10.0 Access For All

**10.1** During 2009/10, using the standards from 'By All Reasonable Means', we continued with the audit of the public rights of way network to assess accessibility of routes, taking into account gradient, surface type, cross fall, width and barriers.

## 11.0 Obstructions

**11.1** In total 51 obstructions have been dealt with these consist of 10 long standing obstructions which have been removed from routes in North Yorkshire and 3 in Cumbria by the Ranger Service.

## 12.0 Work Programme 2008/09

**12.1** The Corporate Plan for 2008/09 will include the following objectives, performance indicators and action plan actions relating to rights of way management.

## 12.2 Proposed actions Corporate Plan 2009/10

### Public Rights Of Way

- a) maintain the number of places where a right of way is not indicated where it leaves a metalled road at 97%
- b) carry out works to twelve significant river crossings (including new bridges at Mossdale, Upper Wharfedale and Waterside, Dales Way, Cumbria) repairs to Slei Gill Footbridge, Swaledale and Tarney Force, Upper Wensleydale)
- c) carry out engineering works to a further 2.6km of eroded routes, including significant works to Horse Head Bridleway, Upper Wharfedale, Thumpton Gill Bridleway, Carlton Moor, Flasby Fell Bridleway, Dockra and Craven Way Bridleways.
- d) repair 2.8km of previously engineered routes including significant works on the Dales Way Footpath, Grassington, Bruntscar Footpath, Whernside, High Lot and Crina Bottom, Ingleborough
- e) maintain and improve the rights of way infrastructure so that the percentage of infrastructure in 'condition 1' remains at 95%
- f) remove 20 short-term obstructions

### Three Peaks

- |   |
|---|
| a) develop and deliver a programme of at least 15 events promoting the Friends of the Three Peaks scheme                                |
| b) develop and deliver a programme of at least 5 events for members of the Friends of the Three Peaks and 1 event for corporate Members |
| c) sign up a further 15 new corporate members   |



### Pennine Way

- a) implement actions from the Pennine Way Maintenance Report
- b) deliver a programme of at least five events to promote use and enjoyment of the Pennine Way
- c) develop and implement major projects on Pen y Ghent and Fountains Fell (subject to funding)

### Definitive Map

- a) keep the definitive map under continuous review and reduce the number of outstanding applications:
  - a) resolve 40 anomalies
  - b) process six cases to decision
  - c) complete 90% of unopposed Path Order Applications within nine months from date of receipt
  - d) take three opposed Order to the Secretary of State for decision

### Pennine Bridleway

Continue a programme of works to the Pennine Bridleway:

- a) implement parapet extensions to Railway bridge Stainforth section
- b) implement the route on the ground from Borrins to Dalemire Barn, Construct Far Moor Bridge
- c) implement the five year maintenance plan for open sections of the Pennine Bridleway route and maintain engineered sections in condition 1

### Access For All

- a) Through user groups, such as the Disabled Ramblers, 'road test' Access for All routes identified through the audit
- b) produce an information guide on Access for All in Ribblesdale
- c) with the help of Dales Volunteers, continue with the extension to the audit to include other public access routes available for people with limited mobility (eg green lanes and other tracks on Open Access land).
- d) improve the rights of way network to reduce barriers for those with limited mobility by 21km and wheelchair users by 1km
- e) work with the Access for All Advisory Group, to identify priority routes for improvement to submit for possible external funding

Further information regarding the report is available from:

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