

## North York Moors National Park

c/o Local Access Forum Secretary,  
North York Moors National Park  
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YORK  
YO62 5BP

### LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT

December 2006 to November 2007

#### Introduction

The North York Moors National Park Local Access Forum was established by the National Park Authority in September 2002. The purpose of the Forum is to advise the National Park Authority about improvement of public access to land in the National Park for open-air recreation and enjoyment.

In carrying out its functions, the Local Access Forum must take into account the needs of land management, the desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the National Park including the flora, fauna and geological features of the area, as well as any guidance given by the Secretary of State.



#### Area covered by the Local Access Forum

The Forum covers the whole of the North York Moors National Park.

#### Membership

The Forum is comprised of seventeen Members:

Six represent users of local rights of way

Six represent owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way exist

Five represent "other interests" such as heritage, tourism, health, local businesses, education, transport and local communities

Of the seventeen Members one is nominated by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, one by North Yorkshire County Council and one by the North York Moors National Park Authority.

There have been the following changes to the Membership over the past year: Lady Kirk, David Leyshon and George Winn-Darley were reappointed for a further three years. Barry Atkinson, Graham Jeffery and William Woods left the Forum.

The current Members of the Forum as at 23 November 2007 are:

User Representatives: Catriona Cook\*, Peter Hay, Elizabeth Kirk, David Leyshon and Matthew Wedgwood (1 vacancy\*)

Landowner Representatives; John Cavana, Paul Cody, Catherine Cussons, Brian James, Michael Knaggs\* and George Winn-Darley (Chairman).

"Other Interest" representatives: George Dawson, Derek Hanson (Deputy-Chairman), Jan King, Muriel Mitchell and Norma Taylor.

(\*Authority or Council Appointees)

Biographical information about the Members is on the National Park website [www.moors.uk.net](http://www.moors.uk.net)

Members of the Forum are unpaid, although they are able to claim travel, subsistence and carers allowances.

### **Summary of the Year**

It has been a busy and productive year for the Forum. They have informed the production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for both North Yorkshire and Redcar and Cleveland and supported the National Park Authority in its approach to protecting Pockley Moor. Several consultation documents have been responded to, including Coastal Access and the implementation of the provisions in NERC Act which conferred the power on National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders. They have also provided advice on the issue of dogs and applications for exclusions from open access.



### **Meetings**

Meetings of the Forum were held on the following dates: 5 December 2006, 6 March 2007, 5 June 2007, 26 July 2007 and 11 September 2007. Meetings are open to the public and agendas are available on the National Park's website approximately five days before the meeting. A brief report of discussions at each meeting is given below, the Minutes for each meeting and accompanying agendas may be obtained from the Local Access Forum Secretary (see contact details).

## Meeting held on 5 December 2006

### Advice Given:

- Members considered the text of a National Park "Advice Note on Rights of Way and Land Manager's Responsibilities". They proposed some amendments to the text when the note was revised.
- Forum Members considered a report about Section 15 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) which aims to preserve pre-CROW access rights. They were also updated on the position regarding extending the right of access under CROW to the coast. The report also dealt with access rights for dogs on access land.
  - a) The Forum recommended that landowners who were likely to be affected by Section 15 of the CROW Act be notified by the National Park Authority.
  - b) The Forum recommended that the leaflet on dogs, published by the National Park Authority, should be circulated to moorland keepers.
- Dual Status Ways - Members were supportive of the approach being taken by the National Park on dual status routes, as long as there was a proactive approach to clarify the status of the routes.
- Pockley Moor - an update was given on the problems there had been with the Traffic Regulation Order, it had lapsed and vehicular use had started again. The Forum was supportive of action being taken to prevent further damage on this route.

### Consultations responded to:

- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Members considered the pre-draft version of this Plan for North Yorkshire. Their comments on the Plan were submitted to NYCC for consideration prior to the consultation document being produced.

### Other Items:

- Members reappointed George Winn-Darley as Chairman and Derek Hanson as Deputy Chairman.

## Meeting held on 6 March 2007

### Advice Given:

- Moorland Ways - a paper written by David Leyshon (Forum Member) was considered; it covered the difficulties of walking on open moorland and waymarking and definition of routes. The Forum recommended that the NPA consider the use of temporary posts to mark definitive ways across open moorland, with posts being removed when an obvious clear path appeared.
- The Forum advised the National Park Authority to take a pragmatic approach when dealing with applications for exclusion of dogs on access land. The case approved, in line with the presumption of having the least restrictive access, was for a grouse moor owner to require dogs to be on leads, rather than be completely excluded

### **Consultations Responded to:**

- Consultation on the Implementation of Section 72 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) - Power given to National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders. The Forum agreed a response to DEFRA and the National Park Authority on implementation procedures.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan Working Group - six Forum Members were delegated responsibility for considering the NYCC consultation document in detail and producing a draft response to be agreed at the next meeting.

### **Other Items:**

- The Authority's decision on car park charging was considered by the Forum.
- Annual Review and Action Plan for Public Rights of Way - an update was given. Forum Members were invited to accompany Officers conducting the public rights of way survey.
- Local Access Forum Amendment Regulations and Guidance - a summary of the amendments was considered and the revised guidance notes were circulated to Members.
- Cyclists using footpaths in Osmotherley - Forum Members put forward suggestions for dealing with this problem.

### **Meeting held on 5 June 2007**

#### **Advice Given:**

- Moorland Ways waymarking - following the LAF's proposal at the March meeting, the National Park Authority were considering appropriate locations where waymarking would be beneficial.
- Access Terminating on Fenced "A" class roads - a Forum Member raised the issue of gaining access to open access land. Officers had identified sixteen locations where either rights of way ended on A roads and open access land was not readily accessible because of fencing. These would be reviewed in due course and appropriate furniture or signposting would be installed to increase accessibility.



### **Consultations Responded to:**

- Consultations on Proposed Long Term Restrictions - the Forum was consulted on two directions:
  - a) Barkers Crags, Live Moor and Snotterdale - restriction of CROW access for land management reasons - dogs must be kept on leads all year round.
  - b) Raisdale Moor - restriction of CROW access for land management reasons - dogs must be kept on leads all year round.Forum Members suggested that, since these locations were popular with climbers, the British Mountaineering Council should be approached with a view to educating climbers about these restrictions.
- NYCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan - the Forum's Working Group had submitted comments on the draft and these had been taken on board. The Forum made further comments on the document and these were forwarded to NYCC.
- Redcar and Cleveland Rights of Way Improvement Plan - a sub-group was agreed to discuss the draft Plan and a draft response was subsequently circulated to all LAF Members for agreement and was forwarded to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.
- Consultation on the right to apply for rights of way diversion orders - a letter was sent to DEFRA expressing concern at the costly and onerous nature of the proposals; however, it was noted that this was not an issue which would affect the area served by the National Park Authority.

### **Other Items:**

- Dual Status Ways - Officers reported that an explanation of Dual Status Ways and a table of routes was now available on the National Park's Website.
- Forestry Access Restrictions and Track Reinstatement after Extraction - A Forum Member raised this issue. The Forestry Commission were invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the Forum's concerns.
- Pockley Moor Green Lane - a further update was given on the damage which had taken place since the Traffic Regulation Order had expired. A letter was sent to the Chairman of NYCC raising the Forum's concerns.

### **Meeting held 26 July 2007**

#### **Consultations Responded to:**

- Coastal Access - a response was agreed to DEFRA's consultation on Coastal Access.



## Meeting held 11 September 2007

### Advice Given:

- North Yorkshire County Council Green Lanes Working Group - following a report back from the LAF's representative a letter was sent to NYCC expressing concern about the suggested removal of routes and anomalies due to maintenance and cost implications. The Forum considered that these routes were very important to users and provided good links to the rest of the network.

### Consultations Responded to:

- Response to DEFRA's consultation on Coastal Access - a further amendment to the LAF's submission was agreed.
- Natural England Consultation on Activation and Expiry of Fire Prevention Restrictions - the Forum agreed a response.

### Other Items:

- Pockley Moor Green Lane Update - Officers reported that a consultation exercise was underway in order to impose a permanent Traffic Regulation Order on this route. It was expected that the route would become a restricted byway.
- Use of Forestry Commission Land - two representatives of the Forestry Commission attended the meeting to answer Forum Members' questions, particularly in relation to the Commission's operation of closure and restrictions of access land.
- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan - the Forum noted that as an advisory body they were unable to assist with practical implementation of the Plan.

## Tour 11 September 2007

Forum Members were given a tour of the newly redeveloped Moors National Park Centre in Danby;



Further information is available from the Local Access Forum Secretary, c/o North York Moors National Park, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YORK, YO62 5BP [general@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk](mailto:general@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk) or on the National Park's website [www.moors.uk.net](http://www.moors.uk.net) under the "Authority Services", "Rights of Way and Access", "Local Access Forum" Menus.