

## Item 4, North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Tuesday, 2 December 2025.

Present: John Birtill, Mike Conlon, Catriona Cook (Teams), Catherine Cussons, Helen Gundry, David Hugill, Steve Minns, John McCue (Teams), Gerry Orchard, Mark Pearson, Roberta Swiers, John Toogood

Apologies: Emma Ashton-Wickett

Officers in Attendance: Dominic Barry, Joel Brookfield, Ben Jackson, Ben Platt, Judith Seaton

### **Copies of all documents considered are in the minute book**

#### **14/25 Welcome and introductions**

Joel Brookfield welcomed Roberta Swiers as the new North Yorkshire Council representative.

#### **15/25 Election of chair**

**Resolved:** That John Toogood be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

#### **16/25 Election of Deputy Chair**

**Resolved:** That Gerry Orchard be elected Deputy Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

#### **17/25 Minutes**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **18/25 Matters arising**

**c/f Action: Joel Brookfield to arrange LAF input into the Volunteering Strategy at the appropriate point**

#### **19/25 Langdale/Fylingdales Moor Fire Access implications presentation**

Ben Platt gave a background and timeline update regarding the recent wildfire. The prolonged closures of the PRoW have been due to unexploded ordnance exposed due

to the fire and firebreaks. The MoD have now done surveys with metal detectors on certain areas that were exposed and areas surrounding PRow. These are now considered as safe as they were before the wildfire which represents an acceptable level of risk. It would be extremely costly and time-intensive to scan the whole area. The risk levels only increase when the surface is broken. The aim is to reopen the PRow on 4 December with appropriate warning signs to stay on paths and be aware. This is the date when the temporary Open Access closure will expire. Restoration works are still being carried out on the Coast-to-Coast route particularly boardwalks before the soft launch in March.

Joel Brookfield updated on the NY Resilience Forum cell meetings which are continuing to co-ordinate the whole response to the fire and review progress. Funding for restoration is being sourced from various streams. Significant work has been undertaken by officers since August and this will continue. This will have an impact on other access work which may be delayed.

### **20/25 Challenges for local residents from large cycling events**

Members considered the report from Steve Minns. Issues with large-scale commercial cycling events causing congestion and community concerns, though there have been more recent improvements. It was agreed that further education and engagement needed with the organisers to encourage responsible operation and cascading this down to the participants.

**Action: Steve Minns and Gerry Orchard agreed to set up an initial meeting with major/key organisers to discuss. Involve Dom Barry and Emma Ashton-Wicket as appropriate to their work capacity.**

### **21/25 Lyke Wake Walk**

Members discussed the paper submitted by Gerry Orchard. It was agreed that the small working group would continue and report back to LAF as a standing agenda item. Landowner consents are difficult but if landscape, peat and nature restoration are included then it is an incentive. Helen Gundry to contribute towards public transport discussions as the walk is a linear route.

**Action: Working group (George Winn Darley, John Toogood, Gerry Orchard) to continue and report back to LAF as a standing Agenda item.**

**Action: Catriona Cook to follow up on the DMMO for bridleway across Simon Howe running east to west**

### **22/25 Northern Gateway group**

Members considered the reports from John Birtill and Mark Pearson. The masterplan aims to position Guisborough as a gateway town, focusing on mountain biking and multi-user routes as part of a wider leisure visitor offer. Visitor hub options were discussed and the long-term goal to link the coast, moors and valley routes. The NYMNP is part of the Northern Gateway group and is keen to support the plans including links to the coast as well as access to the National Park to the south of Guisborough. The main NYMNP focus is on enhancing the active travel and leisure

access in the area via improvements to bridleways and footpaths. The area is one of the LCWIP priorities with the aim to support the 'Tees to Topping' vision of linking up the National Park to Middlesbrough via dedicated active travel routes. An initial priority path is the bridleway from Roseberry Common to Hutton and then connecting to the old railway line. This could take pressure off the paths/car park on the western side of Roseberry Topping. There is a lot of activity and funding will be applied for as and when available including through the relevant combined authority mayors. It was noted that mountain bikers tend to favour challenging rides, and to consider equestrian contribution at the planning stage. Moorsbus network already serves Newton-under-Roseberry, and so there's an opportunity to increase car-free access to Roseberry Topping, by investing in increased frequency of the Moorsbus service.

### **23/25 PRow Orders currently being worked on and list of current closures**

- All RoWs & Open Access land affected by the Langdale & Fylingdales Moors fire are still temporarily closed. Hoping to re-open soon (4 December).
- Processing a Permissive Bridleway agreement for the old railway line between Kettlethorpe and Runswick Bay. Improvement works planned for the Runswick Bay end.
- Processing a Permissive Bridleway agreement for two routes in Hotel & Hambleton Plantations near Sutton Bank. Minor works required.
- At the 'informal consultation' stage for a Diversion Order for the Coast-to-Coast NT along Cut Road, Glaisdale Rigg. Minor line anomaly to be resolved.
- Order Made for a Definitive Map Modification Order for the Coast-to-Coast NT to adopt a small section of footpath near The Gnome Woodcarver's Cottage, Littlebeck.
- Order about to be Confirmed for a second Diversion Order on Sleights Moor, as part of the Coast-to-Coast NT, adjacent to the A169 road.
- Order about to be Made for a Diversion Order on the moor above Rosedale Intake in Danby village.
- At the 'informal consultation' stage for a Diversion Order for the Coast-to-Coast NT at the Bloworth Crossing junction with the Rudland Rigg old road. Minor line anomaly to be resolved.
- Current Temporary Closure Order on Hartoft Rigg, to allow for works to be undertaken by the Moor to Restore project.
- Current Temporary Closure Order along the bridleway known as the Pipeline Track on Levisham Moor. To allow for Yorkshire Water to replace a mains water pipe.
- Forge Valley boardwalk footpath still closed near Hackness.
- Current Temporary Closure Order at Glaisdale Dale End, to allow for works to be undertaken by our Woodlands Team.

A discussion took place on North Yorkshire Council's UUR temporary TRO process to see if they could just place a ban on 4x4 use for winter. It is understood that a temporary TRO would be for all motorised users and wouldn't differentiate. John Toogood agreed that he would raise this at the NYC LAF in January and Catriona Cook to email Ian Kelly at NYC.

## **24/25 Moorsbus and Paths for Everyone update**

Helen Gundry drew Members' attention to the visitor levy consultation [Visitor levy in England - GOV.UK](#). Moorsbus are keen to encourage young people to use public transport as fewer seem to be driving. Moorsbus will run from April to September extending the service. Good cooperation anticipated from Hull and East Yorkshire though yet to be confirmed. Also Moorsbus are looking at succession planning as ageing directors and asking for volunteers and exploring funding opportunities.

## **25/25 Regional LAF**

Papers from the meeting on 1 October 2025 were sent to LAF Members by email and were noted.

## **26/25 Annual Review form submitted to Natural England**

Members noted the Annual Review form which had been urgently compiled by John Toogood and Joel Brookfield due to Alison's resignation. Members will be asked for input into the next Annual Review form.

## **27/25 Items for future meetings**

- Mark Pearson to arrange the meeting with Mountain Bike groups in Guisborough, recognising the good work a volunteer organisation is doing with local children, what they may need to support them going forward and education as a means to reduce future conflicts and report back in June.
- Forge Valley/Raincliffe Woods – Catherine Cussons to prepare report for June.
- Visitor numbers data collation – short paper/presentation by Joel Brookfield in June.
- What3words guidance – Ben Platt to do short presentation.
- Guisborough s193 common: rights for equestrians/signage & access points – Catriona Cook to prepare a paper.

## **28/25 Other business**

Joel Brookfield updated on the access audits completed on Levisham Estate as part of the Linking Levisham project (as presented to the LAF in December 2024). The audits have identified 2 suitable tramper routes, further miles without stiles, Newtondale Halt improvements, drainage improvements, inspection and maintenance schedules, looking at sustainable transport, access surveys to locals/cyclists/runners/equestrians. Proposals will be refined further for submission to Defra as part of the wider project.

Ben Jackson informed the LAF that he was leaving the Authority in February to take up a role at Leeds City Council leading on rights of way. Ben was thanked for his contribution to the LAF and Members wished him well in his new role.

Local climbing groups have been tree planting in Bransdale.

It was agreed that future meetings should be face to face with option to join via Teams.

Dates for next meetings: Tuesday, 2 June 2026 and Tuesday, 1 December 2026