



## GEARING UP FOR LE TOUR YORKSHIRE



Cycling out of Hawes (Welcome to Yorkshire)

### It's coming!

As most people are probably aware, the world's largest annual sporting event heads to the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 2014.

While it might seem a bit unusual for the Tour de France to come to Yorkshire, it is actually quite normal for it to dip into neighbouring countries and it has been to Britain a number of times before.

The Grand Départ will take place in Yorkshire on the weekend of 5 and 6 July 2014, with a third stage in the UK on 7 July between Cambridge and London.

Stage one has the riders setting off from Leeds, entering the National Park north of Skipton, travelling up the Wharfedale valley over Kidstones into Bishopdale, entering Wensleydale then travelling westwards to Hawes before turning north over Buttertubs into Swaledale. It then heads east along the Swaledale valley before turning south through Leyburn and on to Harrogate via Masham and Ripon.

The second stage dips into the National Park as the riders come along the A59 from Harrogate to Bolton Abbey.

Bringing the Tour de France to Yorkshire is

a fantastic achievement and great credit goes to the team at Welcome to Yorkshire for all the hard work they put into the bid.

Now comes the task of ensuring that we all put on a world class event and make the most of this fantastic opportunity to really promote the Yorkshire Dales.

This will be a chance to see the world's top riders competing in the stunning National Park landscape, passing many iconic locations along the way, with the whole event captured for a world-wide TV audience.

An average of 470,000 people spectate by the roadside on a stage of the Tour de France, with this concentrated at the start and finish towns and villages along the way and on the big climbs. There is an opportunity for communities to organise events to make the most of this, but you need to remember that the roads used for the route will be closed to motor vehicles throughout the day.

It is still early days in organising both the actual event and the promotion around it, and at the moment there are probably more questions than answers.

We will be offering help and support to local communities so please contact your Area Ranger if you have any questions at this stage.

## Support for local tourism businesses

There are many ways that the National Park Authority can help tourism businesses: as an information resource to plunder; through workshops and events; and in providing funding for sustainable initiatives. Here are a few tools you could make use of:

Any business that wants to work with us to develop tourism in the Yorkshire Dales is welcome to join the **Dales Tourism Business Network**. This is operated on a voluntary basis by a private sector organisation, The Tourism Network Ltd, on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There is no charge to join and no formal structure, just a programme of meetings and opportunities to share ideas, dipping in and out as you wish. Members also have access to a range of marketing resources including a free image library - visit [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dtbn](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dtbn) to find out more.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park logo provides a strong identity for this beautiful area and is a nationally-recognised brand. We've developed **five new National Park logos**, eye-catching designs based on the familiar ram's head and which are free to use to locate your business, event or product as being in or of the National Park. Find out more at [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/logo](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/logo)

The National Park Authority makes a pot of money available every year for individuals, businesses, local authorities and community groups to fund sustainable new business ideas and projects which will further National Park purposes. The **Sustainable Development Fund** is managed by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on behalf of the Authority. For more information contact Gillian Muir on 01524 251002 or [gillian.muir@ydmtd.org.uk](mailto:gillian.muir@ydmtd.org.uk) or visit [www.ydmtd.org](http://www.ydmtd.org)

The **Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website** - [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk) - contains a huge amount of visitor information, including what to see and do, walks and cycle rides, and features on the nature



Our toolkit for businesses includes a free image library and the opportunity to use our new National Park locator logos (examples of both pictured)

and history of the National Park.

You'll also find all our information on sustainable tourism for businesses on the website at [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism). If you need inspiration as to how you might improve your business, or you're just interested in what others have achieved, have a look at our **Brilliant Businesses** - all have sustainability as a common theme.

If you are interested in **going green** and enhancing the eco-credentials of your business, we can offer advice as well as paying for an expert visit.

Our free annual newspaper **The Visitor** is a must-have for any tourism business wanting to ensure their customers enjoy the very best experience and are left with great memories that make them return. Contact your nearest National Park Centre to arrange free delivery.

The Visitor contains a comprehensive Yorkshire Dales-wide event listing, and a new **online searchable events calendar** has also been launched on our website.

Our **National Park Centres** and knowledgeable Information Advisors are a great source of advice and help for residents and visitors alike, as well as offering a range of useful leaflets.

Please contact the Sustainable Tourism team to talk about the ways we can help you - call 0300 456 0030 or email [kathryn.storey@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:kathryn.storey@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or [meghann.hull@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:meghann.hull@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

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# Trails in the Dales



Out on patrol: joint operations between North Yorkshire Police and National Park Authority rangers

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a lovely place to come and relax, whatever form you choose.

Some people prefer a quiet walk, while others like to test their off-road driving skills on motorbikes or in 4x4 vehicles.

The responsible drivers stick to the 'green lanes' designated as being suitable for motorised vehicles - routes that can handle the environmental impact.

Unfortunately, some care less about the environment, wildlife and other people out enjoying the area and think they are above the law.

Upper Wensleydale Area Ranger Matt Neale said: "The majority of trail riders and 4x4 users help us to protect this fragile landscape by obeying the signs.

"But there are always a few who think they can go where they want and they can cause terrible damage, churning up paths and destroying sensitive habitats."

"Rangers and police officers carry out regular joint patrols where we stop and talk with off-road users - educating them about the impact of their activity, advising on where they can go, and checking over

the legality of their vehicles.

"The law is quite clear - it is illegal to drive a car or ride a motorbike on any public footpath or bridleway. This includes byways that may be closed by Traffic Regulation Orders, common land and private land where the express permission of the landowner has not been obtained.

"The information can be found on our website and from organisations like Trailwise."

Sergeant Stuart Grainger, of the Leyburn and Dales Area Policing Team, said: "Dealing with illegal and irresponsible off-roading and trail riding in the Yorkshire Dales National Park is a key priority for North Yorkshire Police.

"This activity is a source of great concern for residents and visitors alike, due to the damage caused to the environment, noise pollution and conflict with other users.

"Working alongside rangers, as well as other Police teams from Pateley Bridge, Grassington, Settle and Ingleton and Special Constables from Richmond and Leyburn, we are determined to protect the natural beauty and tranquility of the Dales.

"If people drive 4x4s and trail bikes illegally, we will not hesitate to take action. This can range from issuing fixed penalty notices to confiscating vehicles and even prosecution. During this winter we have already used all three of these options - and we will continue to do so where necessary.

"Any illegal activity or anti-social behaviour in the National Park can be reported to North Yorkshire Police on

101. Times, locations, registration numbers and grid references can help us quickly locate offenders."

# A real experience

It's not every student who can spend a school day getting a taste of what it's like to work outdoors in the fantastic setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

But for more than 30 years, 14 and 15 years olds from secondary schools in and around the area have been lucky enough to take up work experience placements with the Authority doing just that.

They have done everything from resurfacing footpaths and survey work with rangers to joining the Farm Conservation Team and our National Park Centre staff.

Teacher Louise Baker from Upper Wharfedale School in Threshfield said: "We're delighted that the Authority takes a couple of our students each year.

"Although the Government no longer makes work placements compulsory, we feel you cannot put a price on what they learn from being out of the classroom and gaining first-hand work experience."

And two of her students - Nash Hepburne and Lachlan Irvine-Hand, who spent a week with the Authority last summer - agree.

Nash, 16, said: "When I chose the National Park I expected to go on some

walks and maybe do the odd job.

"On the first day I went up Buckden Pike with a ranger to clear paths. The next day Lachlan and I laid hardcore on a bridleway and cut back trees so that horse riders could pass safely.

"The third day we replaced the electronic 'loggers' that count every vehicle and type that passes on Mastiles Lane in Malhamdale - we had to walk six miles there and back.

"We also went to a rangers meeting and looked around the Dales Countryside Museum and even got free cake. I didn't expect everyone to be so nice, so apart from the rain almost every day, the week was good and I didn't want to leave!"

Lachlan, 15 (pictured below), said: "Josie and the team made sure we had an entertaining week with lots of jobs to do. We worked very hard but it turned out to be worthwhile and a great experience, one which I will never forget, and I can't thank them enough for a brilliant time."

Head of Ranger Services Alan Hulme said: "As a significant employer in the area we feel it's important to offer placements to young people in our local communities.

"We take an average of 10 pupils each year. We just don't have the resources to increase that number, although it would be great if we could."

"They get the opportunity to experience working life in an environment that is focussed on conserving and enhancing this very fragile and beautiful place.

"And for us it's a chance to plant the seed that could grow into a potential member of staff in future."



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## Boundary review

The proposed boundary extensions to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks took another step on 29 January with the Government's announcement of a public inquiry.

The inquiry will hear representations - including objections from six local authorities - on the variation orders which were issued by Natural England in November 2012 to extend the two National Parks.

Over 3,000 responses were received to the proposals. It is a statutory requirement that a public inquiry is held if at

least one local authority with land in a proposed extension raises an objection to a relevant variation order.

A Planning Inspector has been appointed to conduct the inquiry, which is expected to open in early June and last approximately four weeks.

The inspector will make recommendations to the Secretary of State as to whether he believes the proposed extensions meet the designation criteria as set out in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

The Secretary of State will then take a decision as to whether the case for designation has been made and will either confirm the variation orders (with or without modifications) or reject them.

### Skipton & Craven Action for Disability Seeing Caring & Doing

In a largely rural area such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park, many people struggle with transport problems. If you also have a disability, you will know how much more difficult it is. SCAD Transport was set up to provide an efficient, safe and reasonably priced transport system for people in areas who have a disability and are unable to use public transport. Our minibuses (equipped with wheelchair lifts) collect from door to door. Members use us to travel to visit friends and family, do their shopping, attend college, doctors and hospital appointments etc., or just to get out for the day.

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## A warm welcome to the spring edition of 'Dales'

Spring is always a favourite time of the year; a time when hopes and aspirations for the future are rarely higher. This is more the case than ever simply because of the dreadful year we had in 2012 - economically and weather-wise.

There's not much that any of us can do about the weather, but the efforts of so many individuals and organisations to find ways to help National Park communities and businesses prosper and develop have been hugely impressive.

The coming year presents some real opportunities to properly exploit the wonderful natural advantages of this National Park to ensure a sustainable future for us all.

The arrival of the Tour de France in July 2014 will show off the beauty of the Dales to a global audience. But

there is much that we can do to now to help local businesses to benefit from the interest already being generated. Then, there are smaller initiatives such as the work being done by the Dales Tourism Business Network, and the opportunity to use the famous National Park logo to promote local businesses, products and events.

We should also start to see some real progress in overcoming some of the Dales' natural disadvantages. We will be working closely with the range of bodies involved in the roll-out of high-speed broadband and mobile phone coverage - something that our businesses and communities desperately need.

The year ahead promises much, because the drive and ingenuity of Dales' communities knows no bounds. And who knows, if we get the weather, the sky's the limit.



**David Butterworth**  
Chief Executive

**Carl Lis**  
Chairman

## Digital Dales: a broadband project with community spirit

**By Stefan Kosciuszko, Director, Fibre Garden**

Our Victorian forbears had the vision to build the Settle-Carlisle Railway, dramatically transforming communications to and from the Dales. The extraordinary effort and investment left a legacy that we still benefit from today.

Now, that nineteenth century infrastructure may deliver an equally important twenty first century communications necessity - a future-proofed fibre to the home (FTTH) superfast broadband network, using backhaul from fibre optic cables that run the length of the line.

The Fibre Garden project company - run by volunteer directors resident in Garsdale and Dentdale - has been working over the last two years with Defra, Broadband UK (BDUK), Cumbria County Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and with the help of Westmorland and Lonsdale MP Tim Farron, for plans to deliver a 60km network connecting the two dales and over 500 homes and businesses.

It will be constructed with a community organisational and digging effort, and the community spirit of our farmers to permit the cable to cross their land. It is fully costed to a high technical standard and will enable broadband speeds of between 30 and 100Mbps.

Significant milestones to date are our formal recognition as one of the four Cumbria Rural Broadband Pilot schemes, becoming the first Rural Broadband Pilot nationally to receive a £157,500 Defra grant, and having the importance of this endeavour recognised by the National Park Authority with an award of £14,900 from their Sustainable Development Fund. This grant will be critical in helping us with the legal and other preparatory work essential to progress the scheme to fruition.

Fibre Garden Chairman Andrew Fleck commented that this project will mean an end to digital poverty in our Dales.

"The community spirit demonstrated by all to date has been truly magnificent and we look forward to connecting with, and helping build the experience of, other nearby communities in the future," he said.

What do we mean by superfast broadband? We mean a supply that everyone who wants can have, that is at full power at the flick of a switch, that provides full participation in the economy and leisure activities of the future and where educational opportunity, health provision improvements and social advantage is available to all.

None of this is available now to most, nor will it be under current Cumbria County Council broadband rollout plans. Our Dales are in the last 7% assured a minimum speed of 2Mbps - unsatisfactory at present and totally irrelevant in the future, notwithstanding any technological advances, or usage, currently unforeseen.

This visionary project has challenges still to come, but with the help of our communities it is an attainable and realistic goal and an investment in our future that is second to none.



From left to right, Stefan Kosciuszko, Andrew Fleck, Tony Roberts and Anne Fleck of the Fibre Garden team.

To find out more, please contact Stefan on [stefan@praetoria.asia](mailto:stefan@praetoria.asia) or visit [fibregarden.blogspot.co.uk](http://fibregarden.blogspot.co.uk). A community share offer is soon to be announced. Or you can email the National Park Authority on [info@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

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# Volunteering in the National Park

There are many generous people who give freely of their time to volunteer in the National Park, looking after its landscape, people and places. Just a few of them are highlighted here.

## To the rescue

Not everyone is prepared to abandon their Christmas turkey to don waterproofs and tramp across the countryside in the dark to rescue a stranger.

But Steve Clough and Jill Armstrong, along with the rest of the 45-strong volunteer Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team regularly drop everything to take part in heroic missions.

Over the last six years, the couple have been involved in more than 50 search and rescues. These can range from saving injured people in dangerous situations to helping residents in remote houses inaccessible by normal ambulances.

The volunteers, who range in age from 18 to 65, dedicate a minimum of five hours a week to intensive medical and equipment training - all unpaid. Why do they do it?



"People are so relieved and glad to see us," explains Jill, a community development worker who moved to Gunnerside from London nine years ago. "It's very satisfying."

Jill is Fundraising Officer for the team, which relies solely on charitable donations and grants. This is no mean feat, considering it costs £30,000 to run for a year, excluding the cost of the medically-kitted out Land Rovers.

In addition to his day job as head of marketing and communications at a major city council, Steve, is Rescue Controller, taking first calls from North Yorkshire Police, sending call-outs to the team, deciding what equipment needs to be brought, and liaising with other emergency services.

"One of the characteristics of a mountain rescue volunteer is the ability to take two deep breaths and keep calm in a crisis," says Steve, "For a service reliant on charity and volunteering, the level of professionalism here is extraordinary."

Three rescue teams cover the Dales, above and below ground - the other two being the Cave Rescue Organisation and Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association. To volunteer you must be fit, prepared to go out in all weathers, and have good navigation skills.

Visit their websites to find out more.

## Good Will Planting

Climbing half way up a mountain to plant trees in freezing temperatures might not be every youngster's idea of fun in the school holidays.

But the Young Rangers, all aged 11 to 13, made light weather of their moorland mission above Selside.

They were taking part in a new National Park Authority project to get young people involved in the countryside and its protection.

"It's important to me," said 12-year-old James Chapman, "If I have kids, I want them to live in a nice place where there are plenty of plants and trees."

Tom Riley, 13, said: "The worst thing is the cold, but if you are doing something worthwhile - like if it's going to help wildlife and increase the population of owls - it's fine."

Working alongside members of Natural England, the Young Rangers planted nearly 200 saplings across half an acre of South House Moor.

Rosie Mellin, 13, said: "I think it's boring to spend your day inside. My grandmother lives on a farm and I love being outside. The best bit is digging the holes because it makes a funny squelchy noise."

The task formed part of a wider scheme to restore some of the Dales

moorland to its original wooded landscape. Almost 20,000 trees have been planted since 2000.

All the Young Rangers were using their time to clock up volunteering hours for their John Muir awards. And 13-year-old Isobel Clements was working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

She said: "Humans are decreasing the amount of trees so we need to increase them by planting more, one for every one that's taken."

The Authority's Outreach Officer, Catherine Kemp, explained that the February half-term tree planting was the start of an action-packed calendar for the Young Rangers.

"We aim to meet at least once a month to do a different activity, from building bird-boxes to mending drystone walls," she said.

"The kids have been so keen and committed - and this group wouldn't run without the support of dedicated adult volunteers from Settle".



## Full steam ahead

Ruth Evans claims that hosting a visit to the Settle-Carlisle railway from HRH Prince Charles was her finest moment - but in 32 years of voluntary work for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, she has many more to be proud of.

This Dales Volunteer, originally from London, has done just about everything, including drystone walling, riverbank repair, barn surveying, butterfly spotting, bridleway creation and hundreds of guided walks.

"I loved the conservation work," recalls Ruth, who was one of few women in the eighties working on this detail. "It could be quite daunting, but I never used my female status to say 'I can't do that'."

"You really felt as though you were looking after the environment - caring for it and putting things back as they should be."

Ruth, who came up north after marrying a Yorkshireman, co-ordinates an army of 150 volunteers for the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line. She's a 20-year-long member of this self-funded organisation, which campaigns to keep open the world famous railway and organises guided walks around it.

Her latest challenge is to survey about a thousand features along the 72-mile route. Some will be considered for conservation - for example, a dilapidated plate layer's hut near the Ribbleshead viaduct is to be consolidated and enhanced with an interpretation panel for visitors.

"Network Rail and Northern Rail support the work we do," says Ruth, "and the National Park Authority values the fact that many visitors come to the area by public transport and this all helps to keep the line open."

Ruth, who spends four days a week on volunteering duties, says nothing much fazes her - except, perhaps, the time when a dog stole her sandwiches while she was conducting surveys up on Pen-y-ghent!



## Dales Volunteer wins top award

A volunteer who developed such a passion for his work that he is about to embark on a degree in environmental conservation won a national competition last year.

David Preston headed up the individual category in the UK National Park Volunteer Awards, run by the UK Association of National Park Authorities.

The 39-year-old from Askrigg began as a Dales Volunteer with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in 2009 and has put in an average of 91 days a year - way above the 15 days the Authority asks volunteers to give.

David began by helping Access Rangers with jobs like drystone walling, hedge laying, gate hanging and repairing footpaths and bridges.

He went on to train in habitat management (coppicing and tree planting) and is working towards obtaining a

licence to handle hazel dormice so he can help protect this endangered species.

He has created an image library of tasks carried out by the north east team, as well as recording flora and fauna.

David also volunteers for a local mental health charity.

David is one of 240 Dales Volunteers working for the Authority - people who freely gave 4,200 days of their spare time in 2012 to provide vital help in the conservation and protection of the National Park and its special qualities.





## When the going gets tough ...

When Roy Emmerson was struck down with a brain tumour followed by a stroke aged 24, his life changed dramatically. With the left hand side of his body paralysed, he had to abandon his PhD in Maths and rethink his dreams.

It has been a tough journey but now, in his forties, Roy is still pursuing one of the passions he has always had: his love of the outdoors.

Not only does Roy, who can walk with a stick, go sailing and rambling with his partner Nicola, in a wheelchair, but he gives much of his time over to helping others with disabilities to enjoy outdoor pursuits too.

"When I was able-bodied, I was a mountain biker and windsurfer, so it's really important to me. There's nothing better than getting out in the country for boosting self esteem and for making you feel alive," he says.



Roy has been a great asset to the National Park Authority's Access for All project.

The aim is to make more of the 2,000km of footpath routes good for use by disabled people - for example, by replacing stiles with gates, and strengthening surfaces. After recent work to create a circuit around Grimwith Reservoir, 12km are now accessible to wheelchair users and 127km to those able to walk with a stick.

Roy, who lives near Bedale, regularly attends the Authority's advisory group meetings. His current focus is on getting funding for a number of Trampers - all-terrain electric wheelchairs - to help more disabled people enjoy the Dales.

He hopes his campaign will gather momentum through his website, [www.brainfadetv.co.uk](http://www.brainfadetv.co.uk) - a forum for people with disabilities to share experiences and which features videos of outdoor activities as well as a blog.

## We're going on a barn hunt

Scattered across the National Park are thousands of stone barns that form a vital part of this farming landscape.

In 2010, the Authority embarked on a project to record these historic buildings - many of which are more than two centuries old.

Tony Harrison is just one fantastic volunteer helping us to complete this huge survey, which will not only help us to understand them better, but also to identify the most appropriate strategy for conserving them.

A retired scientist and businessman, Tony spends on average half a day each week walking between five and eight miles up and down dale recording details of any barn that he comes across. He takes an eight-point grid reference and several photographs, paying attention to features such as windows, doorframes and, where safe, interiors too.

The 71-year-old estimates he's recorded 940 traditional barns across the Hawes, High Abbotside, Bainbridge and

## Happier and healthier

For those who know and love the Dales it may be a surprise to hear there are many people living in the region's cities who have never seen them.

Shakila Hanif is doing a fantastic job to change this in her hometown of Bradford. Over the last five years, she has introduced scores of families to the wonders of their neighbouring countryside, through bus and train trips with guided walks.

"I take groups of up to 15 to places like Malham, Settle and Skipton," she says. "In August I took some ladies to Burnsall. The river and open fields reminded them of their old homes in Pakistan. They said 'Wow!' and absolutely loved it."

The aim is to encourage them to return with their families.

"Some don't have the confidence to just get up and go on their own - even reading a bus timetable can be difficult. But we've seen quite a few go back with their husbands and kids for a day out - it's much cheaper than a theme park!"

Shakila, who works as a development officer at not-for-profit organisation Healthy Living Centre in Bradford, began walking herself after she was advised the country air could help her asthma.

Now she is a dedicated Rambler, has conquered the Three Peaks with her two children, and feels much healthier for it.

As a Governor of Bolling Park Primary

School, Shakila (pictured fourth from left) also organises trips for parents and pupils.

"Last year we teamed up with the school in Kirkby Malham and planted trees as part of an 'Eco Warrior' project. They got so much enjoyment from it, they bring their parents back to see the trees and want to do it again."

Shakila, 44, was originally given a day's training in areas such as first aid and risk assessment under the nationwide Walking for Health project.

"It's about your well-being, particularly when you live in inner-city Bradford," she adds. "The clean air, the scenery, wildlife - everything around you - just makes you feel happier and healthier."



Upper Muker parishes.

"The amount of work farmers and builders put into these barns is wonderful, it's no wonder so many are still standing 250 years on.

"About half I see now are still used to shelter sheep in bad weather. Around a quarter are ruined, though, and the rest are in need of some repair."

Tony, often accompanied on his walks by his wife, says the volunteering work is both a challenge and fun: "It's not always easy to take photographs of roofs when they're under three foot of snow!"

"I have always been an outdoor person," he concludes, "and I'm much happier stuck on top of a hillside than in a town.

"Hopefully I'm contributing something to society, too."

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

National park authorities have two purposes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the parks by the public.

In carrying out these purposes, national park authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.

To fulfill these purposes, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority offers services that provide help and advice on a wide range of issues, including environmental conservation and enhancement, planning, historic buildings and sites, tourist information and footpath and bridleway management.

If you would like more information please:

**write to, or call in at, our offices...**

Open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm,  
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

- Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EL
- Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB

**telephone...**

0300 456 0030

**email...**

[info@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

**or visit...**

[www.yorkshiredales.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk)

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority aims to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in environmental and conservation policy and practice, and in the quality of the services we deliver and in the quality of the landscape - we welcome your comments and suggestions about our work.



# PLANNING MATTERS

## Affordable housing

*Do you live in a cold, draughty house? Do you spend a large part of your income on heating?*

*Do you live miles away from your family who travel to care for you, or do you travel to care for them? Would it help to live closer to your job or to find a house that would enable you to more easily take up an employment opportunity?*

*Are you struggling to pay your rent or mortgage?*

### Help may be available.

The National Park Authority and the three district councils in the area understand how hard it is to find suitable accommodation in North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

We know that you might not like to accept help but we would like to draw your attention to the opportunities there may be to enable you to move to an affordable home with more efficient heating.

The Authority works with South Lakeland, Richmondshire and Craven District Councils, local housing associations such as Broadacres, Yorkshire Housing and Two Castles, and parish councils to identify local housing need and develop suitable sites for a range of housing solutions. This includes

housing for rent and shared ownership. Property is developed to meet local needs, with one, two and three bed homes.

In North Yorkshire, affordable housing is advertised through Home Choice which acts as a virtual estate agent, although in some areas local estate agents are used too. You can apply online at **www.northyorkshirehomechoice.org.uk** - no money is involved, you just say that you are interested in a home in a particular area.

New homes are advertised from Thursday morning to midnight the next Tuesday. In order to allocate homes to households a shortlist is drawn up and interviews are requested to verify your housing need and that you would meet the local connection criteria.

With new build schemes, a community consultation event is usually held prior to ads being placed. In Richmondshire, homes are currently being considered for development in Hunton, Middleham and West Witton.

Within the National Park, other sites have also been allocated for a mixture of affordable and local market housing in fourteen towns and villages, some of which it is hoped will be built over the next five years.

If you would like information about affordable housing, please contact:

Richmondshire: Amanda Madden (Rural Housing Enabler) on 01748 828755 or 01609 767048 or [amanda.madden@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.madden@hambleton.gov.uk)

Craven: Jenny Wood on 01756 7064333 or [jwood@cravenc.gov.uk](mailto:jwood@cravenc.gov.uk)

South Lakeland: 01539 717333

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority: Peter Stockton on 01969 652334 or [peter.stockton@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:peter.stockton@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

## Local Plan

**By Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development**

Last autumn we asked you what you thought were going to be the most important planning issues for the National Park over the next 15 years.

We published a list on our website and discussed them at five drop-in sessions in December, receiving written responses from a number of individuals and organisations.

This consultation was part of our creation of a new Yorkshire Dales Local Plan - the document that will guide development decisions and planning applications in the National Park between 2015 and 2030.

It will be prepared in line with the national planning policy framework adopted by the Government last March.

The document is likely to be more proactive and supportive than the current Plan, providing flexibility for local interpretation of beneficial development, while still protecting the area's special qualities.

The main issues brought to our attention included support for the allocation of new opportunity sites for business uses, more residential barn conversions and live/ work development, and appropriate

housing and care for an aging population.

Improved broadband and mobile telephony were key, alongside consideration of an end date for aggregate quarrying and support for new visitor accommodation.

A clear policy on the reinstatement of the Wensleydale Railway, a review of parking, and better linkage between planning policy and public transport were also highlighted.



Barn conversion into gamekeeper's house, Hawkswick

Whilst we consider the issues we are also addressing some of the gaps in our evidence, particularly surrounding the economy, visitor accommodation, flood risk assessment and the need for additional recreational space in the National Park.

The next stage will be to investigate policy options and then work up an early draft Local Plan to consult on a more substantive list of issues and a preferred policy option for each.



New business and community uses: a convenience store and health centre now occupy the former Sedburgh auction mart site.

## Going underground

**By Tom Harland, Planning Policy Officer**

There are many things of beauty in the National Park, but I think it's fair to say that overhead power lines aren't one of them.

Fortunately, Ofgem, the regulator of the electricity industry, recognises this and ensures that an allowance is made available to secure undergrounding of wires in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

As part of a £1.8m five-year scheme, the Authority has been working with network operators to identify some of the highest priority schemes and explore the feasibility of undergrounding to produce significant visual improvements.

The first round of funding has helped secure the undergrounding of lines from Dent Station to Cowgill, from Grimwith to Stump Cross, and in Kingsdale.



during the first phase of a £300,000 project with Electricity North West on the Malham Moor Estate. Work was put on hold so archaeological students from Bradford University could investigate further. The Malham scheme will see 23 electricity poles removed and overhead powerlines replaced with 2.2km of underground cable.

It takes a long time to plan an undergrounding scheme. This is because it's hard to find a line that doesn't create

Further schemes over the next couple of years include lines in Upper Wharfedale (Deepdale to Beckermonds) and Ribblesdale (Swarth Moor, pictured left).

And dozens of prehistoric flints hidden for thousands of years were unearthed

some challenges, whether due to cost (the higher the line voltage, the higher the cost), technical and logistical reasons (crossing watercourses, surface rock), wildlife, archaeology, or disruption to local communities.

This means we need to start planning the next set of schemes as soon as possible. Ofgem has just announced that funding will be available for schemes to take place between 2015 and 2023, so we'd like to hear your suggestions for lines that should be targeted.

We can't make any promises as it is common for any combination of the above challenges to undermine scheme feasibility. However, once we've some ideas, we'll sit down with the electricity companies and see which can be taken forward.

Contact Tom on 01969 652378 or [thomas.harland@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:thomas.harland@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

**Find out more about the work of the Authority at [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk)**



# Helping farmers to improve water quality

By Jane le Cocq, Farm Conservation Advisor

Defra's Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative aims to reduce the amount of pollution in rivers and other aquatic habitats caused by farming operations in 74 catchments around the country.

The Semerwater and Upper Lune Catchment Partnership has now been up and running since 2011 and is being delivered by the Authority's Farm Conservation Team alongside the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.

It covers two catchments of 360 square kilometres and 350 farms, which were designated due to failing bathing water quality in Morecambe Bay and the sedimentation of Lake Semerwater in Raydale - a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Pollution from agricultural practices may be one cause, so we've offered help to address this. Over 100 farmers in the affected areas have been assisted with advice, training and funding over the last two years.

A CSF Capital Grant Scheme was introduced in 2012 to provide financial help to improve farm infrastructure. This included new roofs for muck and slurry storage and to cover silage clamps and livestock gathering areas, new concrete yards and drainage, rainwater collection goods, sheep dip improvements, new tracks and watercourse fencing.

In all, 17 farmers received grants of around £9,000 each and the scheme is being run again this year.

Our training courses have been popular - 17 farmers received national qualifications in sheep dip practice and pesticide spraying - and a trip to the Scottish Agricultural College dairy farm in Dumfries was thought very educational.

Last year two demonstration farms were set up - dairy farm Semerdale Hall near Bainbridge and upland beef and sheep farm Braida Garth in Kingsdale. These were to look at problems of soil compaction and best practice in grassland management. We'll continue work on the trial plots this year, especially as the exceptionally wet seasons have caused major problems with soil damage.



Farmers looking at willow spiling, Semerdale Hall

Future events will cover sheep dipping and disease prevention, and issues surrounding phosphate levels in cattle feed. Plus a new device has been purchased which measures the nitrogen levels in cattle slurry - our team are really looking forward to using that this summer!



Grassland and soils workshop for farmers at Braida Garth, Kingsdale

For more information please contact our Farm and Countryside Service on [facs@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:facs@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or 0300 456 0030 or visit [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farmingadvice](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farmingadvice)

## New Management Plan on its way

Work on a new Management Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park is now in its final stages.

The five-year plan sets out the work we, and a lot of different organisations, will do over the coming years to help look after it.

The document is being prepared by a partnership of local organisations, including environmental bodies, local authorities and representatives of local businesses, and will be launched in early summer.

This draws together a year long process involving two public consultations which have provided a wide range of feedback from residents and visitors alike on what they think is important for the future of this special area.

The objectives in the plan are structured around an ambitious vision that focuses on ensuring the National Park continues to thrive and be treasured for its stunning scenery, heritage and wildlife.

## The ups and downs of hill farming

Hill farmers Tom Metcalfe and his son Philip have worked hard to conserve the countryside around their Swaledale home.

The 260 hectares they farm at Usha Gap, near Muker, cover some of the most stunning landscape in the Dales. They also have grazing rights for the sheep on the moor tops at Muker and Ivelet, both of which are in Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The family has been farming in Swaledale for generations, raising flocks of pure Swaledale sheep. Philip's grandfather moved to Usha Gap in the 1930s and the family now also has a herd of Limousin Cross sucklers for beef, along with a campsite and a holiday home.

Thanks to the father-and-son team, miles of drystone walls have been repaired, a good cluster of barns are still standing that would otherwise be roofless shells, and some vital meadows are in tip top condition.

The incentive to do that little bit more came in the form of the Government's Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Scheme - a package of agri-environment projects now celebrating its 25th birthday.

The Pennine Dales ESA was one of the first to be introduced in 1987 and Tom signed up as soon as he could.

The aim of the scheme was to offer incentives to farmers to adopt agricultural practices that would safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value.

Philip, 40, said the decision to join was easy.

"Hill farms are the worst pieces of land in terms of quality," he said.

"We were farming traditionally and it was a case of either going into the ESA or intensive farming to compete with other people.

"We didn't want to intensify because it would

have meant spraying the fields and using lots of nitrogen, which would have wiped out the hay meadows almost overnight. And once the land has been fertilised heavily and re-seeded you can't go back.

"Most people keep their boundary walls up and the internal ones fall into disrepair because it's uneconomic to look after them. And it's the same with the little barns - we have about 30 but we only use six or seven of them.

"The ESA grants have paid for the walls and the barns to be repaired so they are in good condition and remain part of the landscape. That in turn encourages tourists to come in - the top end of Swaledale is unique and it has been preserved like this."

He and Tom, who is 70, are now going into the Higher Level Stewardship of the new Environmental Stewardship scheme and will be starting work fencing off some gills to allow plant life to regenerate.

"The knock-on effect of having the ESA money is that it helps the local economy - farmers are big spenders if they have the money and they buy locally and employ local people to do the work," Philip said.

He is hoping his sons Ben, 12, and 10-year-old James will follow in the family's footsteps.

"The young one's keen enough although the older boy isn't yet but you never know - times can change."



Tom and Philip Metcalfe on their Swaledale farm



## Playing its part in the National Park

As part of its long term commitment to working for people and the environment in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Lafarge Tarmac is delighted to support the Dales Residents' Newspaper.

We also donate quarried materials to local projects, sponsor local events and contribute financially towards improving local amenities.

Quarry Traffic Hotline:

**01729 860411**

Staffed by Lafarge Tarmac from 9am - 5pm weekdays, on behalf of all local quarry operators. If you wish to comment about a particular vehicle please try to note the time, location, registration number and haulier name.



# The Great Yorkshire Biscuit Bake Off

**By Jane Sammells, Museum Project Officer**

A hundred-year-old ginger biscuit recipe, as made by Granny Preston at her Askrigg farmhouse, has been causing a stir with Hawes Primary School pupils.

Listed in the Dales Countryside Museum's recipe book - now in its second edition and filled with delicious local dishes, old and new - the biscuit recipe has been adapted by the children to reflect a sculpture on the Museum's outdoor trail.

Most of the 7 to 11-year-olds had worked with poet and writer Char March on the creation of the sculpture trail and already seen their words become part of something physical on it.

They chose to replicate a piece called the 'Wensleydale vessel' (pictured) in their baking, which the maker Anna Whitehouse described as embodying the limestone pavement and drystone wall landscape.

The children thought that their biscuits would also represent some of the trail's hidden inkwells, each of them different but similar - like their biscuits!

Further discovery sessions - all part of the Museum's project 'Yorkshire Dales Food: A Celebration!' - will see them looking at how oats would have been used when first brought to the Dales by the Vikings and making traditional Yorkshire Dales Oatcakes.

The children are also interviewing their relatives to gather food memories and favourite recipes to turn into digital stories and recipe books. Much of this material will be incorporated into the Museum's displays and trail via QR codes - a 'barcode' readable by smartphones and linking to more detailed information.



The Dales Countryside Museum - open daily between 10am and 5pm - is owned and managed by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Its collection was started in the 1940s and is the most comprehensive in the country relating to Dales heritage. Visit [www.dalescountrysideuseum.org.uk](http://www.dalescountrysideuseum.org.uk) to find out more.

## KEEP IN THE HEAT!

Insulation is the best way to keep heat from escaping, creating a more comfortable environment and saves money on fuel bills. Yorkshire Energy Partnership has funding to help with insulation for Village Halls, schools and homes in the National Park. For any building, all surveys are free and under no obligation.

## WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR MY VILLAGE HALL?

We can offer funding of 75% of the net cost, up to £1,000 per community building. We have already helped 45 Village Halls and Churches in North Yorkshire, including Bolton-cum-Redmire Village Hall. Why not follow their example and get the loft insulation topped up?

## WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR MY LOCAL SCHOOL?

Yorkshire Energy Partnership is working with North Yorkshire County Council on their school insulation scheme. Funding is available to help National Park school buildings get insulated - 50% off up to £750. Hopefully this should make a free survey feel all the more worthwhile.

## WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR MY HOME?

We can help with cavity wall insulation, including stone cavities, and loft insulation. We can also offer funding for solid wall insulation. Whichever type of insulation is best for you, we can offer 50% off up to £500 per home.

Call Rosie on **01904 545 033** or email [rosie.hughes@energypartnership.org.uk](mailto:rosie.hughes@energypartnership.org.uk) to find out more or to request a free survey.



# Grinton goes batty for wildlife

**By Susan Allison, Grinton Conservation Group**

It all started with a large community of resident bats in St Andrew's Church in Grinton, which were considered a bit of a nuisance.

But the Reverend Caroline Hewlett had a different view - how about celebrating their presence?

The bat bug bit. Caroline embarked on a Christian Rural and Environmental Studies project and it was confirmed that there were roosts of Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown long-eared bats in the church. Caroline's report is available as part of a 'batty' display, which includes interpretation boards put together with help from National Park Authority staff and a grant from its Sustainable Development Fund.



Following on from a bleak and miserable summer, the problem of the long uncut grasses and access to graves - and some particularly cutting remarks about the lack of cutting in the visitor book! - sprang us once more into trying to turn a problem into a positive.

All agreed some energy needed to be put into the outside of the building, too, as it provided a resource for the community. But the proactive congregation realised that they had their hands full looking after the inside activities and fabric of this Grade I listed building.

So the Authority's Wildlife Conservation Officer Mark Hewitt helped us form a plan

Mark was able to offer his assistance as part of the Parish Wildlife Project, which aims to link keen volunteers with local conservation projects. A scythe was produced from the boot of his car. The demonstration patch of grass was quickly dispatched with a promise - subsequently achieved - to come and 'do the lot' one Saturday morning.

Over 30 people attended a scything demo day in November 2012. They also expressed their views via postcard on a pin board as to what they thought should be happening in the churchyard. The response was amazing.

Capitalising on this enthusiasm, a monthly café-style catch-up now takes place so that work can be discussed, species mapped, projects with local schools embarked upon, and grass cutting regimes decided.

Those involved in this parish conservation project said that they felt immediately welcomed as part of the community effort required - maybe it's the coffee and scones!



Visit the parish website [www.swaledalearkengarthdaleparish.org.uk](http://www.swaledalearkengarthdaleparish.org.uk)

Parish Wildlife Projects can come in all shapes and sizes - contact Mark on 01756 751624 or email [mark.hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:mark.hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk) to discuss yours and find out more about how we can help.

# A greener deal for householders

People living in poorly-insulated homes in Clapham and Austwick are being given a helping hand to stay warm.

The villages have been picked as a pilot for a new initiative launched by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, with 50 households to receive free home energy assessments.

Called the Green Deal, the scheme is a new way to pay for eco-friendly home improvements like insulation, double glazing or installing renewable technologies.

It allows householders to pay for the measures over time through their electricity bill - and the repayments will be no more than a typical home should save in energy costs.

Working in partnership with the National Park Authority, accredited 'Green Deal' Assessors from the Yorkshire Energy Partnership will carry out the assessments - normally costing a minimum of £99 - to identify what work could be carried out to make the home more energy efficient.

If the householder wants to consider going ahead, free help is on offer to



Fifty homes in Clapham (pictured) and Austwick are being offered free energy assessments

obtain funding via the Green Deal.

The pilot project aims to provide a model for green deal delivery in rural areas focusing on sparse rural communities and considering solutions for improving energy efficiency in traditionally constructed, hard-to-treat buildings.

Anyone wanting more information, or who is a home owner or tenant

living in either village and wishes to be considered for this free offer, can phone the Yorkshire Energy Partnership on 01904 545020 or visit [www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures](http://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures)



## Go on, be a Rotter!

- Volunteer in your local community
- Encourage composting and waste reduction
- Lead stalls, events, talks and social activities
- Receive full training

Local training starts soon, book now!  
E: [nyrotters@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:nyrotters@northyorks.gov.uk)  
T: 01609 797 212  
[www.letstalklessrubbish.com](http://www.letstalklessrubbish.com)


