

## North York Moors National Park

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

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 4 March 2008.

### PRESENT:

Mr J Cavana, Mr P Cody, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, Mr D Hanson, Mr B James, Mrs J King, Cllr M Knaggs, Lady E Kirk, Dr D Leyshon, Mrs M Mitchell, Mrs N Taylor,

**Apologies:** Cllr B Briggs, Mr P Hay, Mr M Wedgewood, Mr G Dawson.

---

**COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK**

---



---

**DEREK HANSON IN THE CHAIR**

---

01/08 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2007, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

02/08 **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) The Lake District Permit System for Motorised Users – following a request made at the previous meeting information was provided on the Lake District National Park Authority's (LDNPA) permit scheme.

Forum Members raised the following points in discussion:

- There were differences in the landscape of the LDNP which included high passes with metalled and rocky roads whereas in this NP some lowland routes were more susceptible to damage from motorised use.
- The Authority should attempt to engage legitimate users to help educate other motor sport participants. The Trail Riders Federation (TRF) had previously provided volunteers to help repair and maintain routes.
- Unauthorised use of routes should be monitored and action taken quickly.
- Concern was expressed about the resource implications for this NPA if it were to introduce a similar permit system.

Officers explained that in order to introduce a permit system new staff would have to be employed or resources diverted from other areas of work. It was acknowledged that the problems in this NP were not as severe as those in the LDNP or the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP), however, recent proactive work by the YDNP had closed some routes and there was concern that displacement from the YDNP could increase illegal motorised use in this Park.

- b) National Access Forum (NAF) – a response was sent to the West Yorkshire Pennine LAF setting out the points raised at the last meeting and indicating that this Forum did not support a National Forum. A meeting of Natural England and interested parties had been held and a National Access Forum had been established. Copies of the minutes of the meeting were circulated to Forum Members.
- c) Consultation on Restriction – the Chairman welcomed Mr Cody from the Forestry Commission (FC) to the Forum and hoped his presence would be of particular help on issues regarding forestry land.

A copy of the response submitted in relation to the proposed direction was included in the meeting papers. The Access Officer reported that the direction had been granted for 2 years and that no access routes would be kept open on the block of land. The FC representative explained that in many cases the routes across this land were already blocked by windblown trees which were in the process of being cleared. He explained that the main reason for the restriction was on health and safety grounds and the length of the restriction was due to the soil type which made working at the site over winter particularly difficult. He advised that access routes around the site would remain open.

Questions were asked about the impact of the restriction on the activities of Langdale Quest and the FC representative explained that this restriction would not affect Langdale Quest. Concerns were raised about motor sport activities on FC land and the FC representative advised that a breach of the licence conditions could result in suspension for 7 days for a first breach and for 28 days if found to be in breach a second time. The Director of Recreation and Park Management reported that the NPA and the FC worked together closely on the issue of motor sport activities on forestry land.

- d) Rights of Way Improvement Plan for NYCC – CD copies of the Improvement Plan were circulated to all Forum Members.

## 03/08 **DISCOVERING LOST WAYS**

### CONSIDERED:

The paper from Natural England (NE) regarding the findings of the Discovering Lost Ways Project.

Mrs Cook reported that NE were now asking Local Authorities, volunteers and user groups to take on the task of researching the local history of routes. She suggested that this Authority should establish a project to research the status of routes and ensure they were included on the definitive map. She also proposed that the Forum should recommend this as a priority for the forthcoming Business Plan.

The Recreation and Access Officer advised that officers were aware of ways in the Park which had the wrong status or were not on the definitive map. Consultants and resources were available to research approx. 20 routes next financial year. Previous orders had been successful and had been helped by the co-operation of the landowners involved. He explained that officers have already added digital layers to the definitive map where they knew or suspected routes and ways existed.

The County Council representative reported that the issue had been discussed at the NYCC LAF where concerns had been raised over resource implications given that there was still a large area of land to cover in North Yorkshire even with the assistance of the two NPAs.

It was suggested that local farmers and Parish Councils could become involved in researching but there was some concern from farmers about making these routes available to the public particularly in the light of damage that had been caused to other routes by motorised use.

All Forum Members agreed that it was important that money was made available to ensure that archive documents were available to volunteers and interested parties as in some cases the historic documents had not been made available for research.

**Action: That a letter should be sent to NE on behalf of the Forum requesting that further resources were necessary to make archive documents accessible in order to assist volunteers and the public with research into lost ways; the letter should be copied to the NAF and NYCC LAF.**

04/08 **POCKLEY MOOR UPDATE**

CONSIDERED:

The Director of Recreation and Park Management gave a short Power Point presentation; this appears in the Minute Book.

He explained that a temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was now in place and that the permanent order had been advertised. A barrier which had been installed at one end of the route to prevent vehicular access was a temporary measure and would be replaced by one suitable for use by horses and carts when the route had been repaired.

The Director thanked the Forum Members for their support on this issue.

05/08 **PROPOSED NEW ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC ON DOGS ON ROW AND OPEN ACCESS LAND**

CONSIDERED:

The report of Access Officer.

Since the last meeting a full consultation had been received from the Moorland Association, and the code had been presented to the Primary Land Users Group. Officers now believed they had a good foundation for provision of advice to the public.

Forum Members raised concern that comments regarding arable land had not been included in the message. A number of Members expressed the importance of arable land and particularly grass crops which were used for grazing, silage and hay. The Access Officer explained that the Authority had tried to produce a generic message regarding dogs which could be easily understood by everyone and that messages regarding specific habitats could be included in proposed detailed leaflets for dog owners.

**Action: That officers would take Member comments regarding arable and grassland into consideration and try to work these into the advice code in the best way possible.**

06/08 **ACCESS MANAGEMENT GRANT SCHEME**

CONSIDERED:

The letter regarding the Access Management Grant Scheme from The Ramblers' Association.

Forum Members were advised that the scheme was not available to NPAs and Members noted the letter for information.

07/08 **WAYMARK PUBLICATION**

CONSIDERED:

The provision of the Waymark publication to LAF Members.

**Action: Forum Members approved a copy of the Waymark publication to be supplied to all LAF Members.**

08/08 **UPDATE ON THE RECREATION AND ACCESS STRATEGY**

CONSIDERED:

The Director of Recreation and Park Management gave a verbal update on the progress of the Strategy.

The Director reported that the Consultants had recently given a presentation to the Working Group which included Authority Members, officers, LAF Members, Natural England officers, Landowners, representatives from the Disability Advisory Group and academia. The Consultants had outlined the background, research and data on existing resources and were working up a vision and a list of future key outcomes. A draft of the Strategy was expected at the end of April.

**Action: A detailed discussion on the Strategy should be considered at the June meeting.**

09/08 **REPORT BACK FROM THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

CONSIDERED:

The Authority Member reported that recent Authority meetings had included discussions on the budget and the forthcoming revision of the Business Plan.

A Member highlighted the need to make provision in the Business Plan for delivery of the Discovering Lost Ways Project.

10/08 **GREEN LANES WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

CONSIDERED:

The minutes of the Green Lanes Working Group – now known as the Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads Liaison Group.

The notes of the January meeting were included in the agenda papers and the Recreation and Access Officer reported that a subsequent meeting had been held in February and he updated Members on this meeting.

The YDNPA had advised that they had been carrying out an assessment of routes with motor vehicle rights. The first stage of the process was a broad look at all routes and an assessment of their vulnerability, including archaeology, ecology and tranquillity. There were approx 100 routes in total and each was given a red, amber or green rating. Further resources would be directed to the 28 routes identified in the red category however this had significant staff and resource implications. Highways had suggested they would like this NPA to carry out a similar exercise.

Mrs Cook reported that she had spoken to the Highways representatives on behalf of the BHS and their concerns about routes which were not marked. As a result of this she had been asked to compare the maps and highlight any discrepancies. Given the scale of the area involved she would appreciate assistance from other Forum Members where they had knowledge about specific areas and routes.

**Action: Forum Members were encouraged to contact Mrs Cook if they were able to help.**

11/08 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Recreation and Access Strategy – to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Report on the progress of waymarking moorland paths and provision of stiles to access fenced open access land.
- Moorsbus – including the process for deciding routes and monitoring passenger numbers.
- Ways to improve access for disadvantaged people and other members of the community living outside the National Park Boundary – a paper was circulated for information. **Action: copies of the paper would be forwarded to LAF Members who were not present.**