

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

12TH FEBRUARY 2013

ACCESS TO OPEN ACCESS LAND

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on issues concerning the accessibility of Open Access land within the County.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Numerous areas of Open Access Land which are either poorly connected or completely isolated have been identified throughout the County as a result of survey work undertaken by The Ramblers
- 2.2 These areas are primarily within the Nidderdale AONB and the Yorkshire Wolds
- 2.3 Following the last update to the Forum investigation work has been carried out on creating links to areas of inaccessible or poorly accessible Open Access Land.

3.0 PROGRESS

- 3.1 As part of a small project further work has been undertaken on the following locations:
- 3.2 Moorland adjacent to Nidderdale Way North of Pateley Bridge
- 5 landowners around Gouthwaite Moor were contacted to seek agreement on the creation of public rights of way links to open up the area of Open Access and potentially create an off road alternative to the Nidderdale Way at that location. No landowners were willing to consider this proposal. This leaves the use of Creation Orders as the only option for progressing this which is not a feasible option.
- 3.3 Negotiations are ongoing on a further two sites in Nidderdale, likely to be concluded before the end of March, the result of which will be updated in due course.

- 3.4 Permissive Access to Whay Dale near Thixendale in the Yorkshire Wolds, originally agreed as part of the Open Access Walks booklet project with the Ramblers, has successfully been renegotiated for a further 2 years.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Planned project work will be completed within this financial year
- 4.2 Where we have been unable to reach agreement with landowners on new access routes there is currently no proposal to pursue Creation Orders
- 4.3 In light of unprecedented budget cuts facing the Authority there are no plans to continue Non Statutory work on Open Access following conclusion of the current project.

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