



## Agenda

**Meeting:** North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

**Members:** Will Scarlett (Chair), Patricia Coulson (Vice-Chair), Stephen Clark, Rachel Connolly, Mark Cunliffe-Lister, Naomi Guthrie, Roma Haigh, Samantha Perks, Martin Reynolds, Belinda Ryan, John Toogood, Robert Heseltine and David Jeffels.

**Date:** Wednesday, 25th September, 2024

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** Project Room B, Ground Floor, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting. Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer whose contact details are below if you would like to find out more.

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### Business

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 May 2024** (Pages 5 - 14)

3. **Declarations of Interest**

All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.

4. **Public Participation**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Dawn Drury of Democratic Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Friday 20 September 2024, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are

not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);

- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

- 5. Secretary's Update Report** (Pages 15 - 18)  
Purpose: To update LAF members on developments since the last meeting.
- 6. LAF Sub-Group and Individual Updates** (Pages 19 - 22)  
Purpose: An opportunity for LAF members to update the Forum on LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.
- 7. NY Local Access Forum - Draft Revised Terms of Reference** (Pages 23 - 32)  
To consider, agree and adopt the revised Terms of Reference put forward by the LAF Terms of Reference Sub-Group. (Document shown with track changes for ease of reading)
- 8. Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Yorkshire and York** (Pages 33 - 34)  
A presentation to provide members with an overview of the background, context and objectives of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Yorkshire and York.
- 9. Coast to Coast Path National Trail**  
The Senior Officer, People, Landscapes, Access and Nature to attend, to provide a verbal update to Members.  
  
Members to consider and appoint a replacement representative for future stakeholder group meetings following the resignation of David Lepper.
- 10. Yorkshire Water Woodland Management Plan** (Pages 35 - 40)  
Members are asked to consider and agree a response to Fountains Forestry UK Ltd.
- 11. Update on the re-structure of the Planning Teams following Local Government Review**  
To receive a verbal update on the re-structure of the Planning department.
- 12. Any Other Items**  
Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances
- 13. Forward Plan** (Pages 41 - 42)  
To note the current Forward Plan and consider any additions or amendments.

#### **Contact Details**

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Dawn Drury Tel: 01757 292065 or e-mail:

[dawn.drury@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.drury@northyorks.gov.uk)

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Barry Khan  
Assistance Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
Northallerton

17 September 2024

## North Yorkshire Council

### North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the public meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024 commencing at 10.00 am.

Roma Haigh in the Chair, plus Rachel Connolly, Patricia Coulson, Roma Haigh, David Lepper, Samantha Perks, Robert Heseltine and David Jeffels.

Officers present: Ian Kelly (Head of Countryside Access Services), Paul Thompson (Assistant Director Transport) (attended remotely), Andy Brown (Principal PROW Officer), Beth Brown (Principal Definitive Map Officer), Daniel Harry (Head of Democratic Services) (as an observer, to minute number 7); and Dawn Drury (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Attendees: Christopher Dunn

Apologies: Will Scarlett, Jeremy Dunford, Naomi Guthrie and Belinda Ryan.

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#### Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

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#### 1 Election of Chair

**Resolved** – All members voted in favour of Will Scarlett being elected as Chair of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum.

#### 2 Election of Vice Chair

**Resolved** – All members voted in favour of Patricia Coulson being elected as Vice-Chair of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously that Roma Haigh be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

(Roma Haigh in the Chair)

The Chair thanked the outgoing Secretary, Melanie Carr, on behalf of all the Committee for her contribution and hard work for the forum and welcomed Dawn Drury as the new Secretary.

#### 3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Will Scarlett, Belinda Ryan, Jeremy Dunford and Naomi Guthrie.

#### 4 Declarations of Interest

Samantha Perks declared an interest in the Morris Grange application.

## 5 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2024

**Resolved** - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 6 Public Participation

There was one public question from Mr Christopher Dunn, as follows:

*'I am Christopher Dunn citizen only, and failed applicant to this forum. I am also a much-qualified Draughtsman expert in Plan creation AND Revision.*

*"Since 2018 following extensive: visits; correspondence; meetings; research; at/with numerous NYC officers/office, also at/with county records at Wakefield; also, ref complaint 101010475003 re PROW 1565/12; also, C Dunn total PROW Killinghall survey Nov. 2022, I suggest NYC system of PROW Definitive Mapping and record are inadequate and inaccurate.*

*Following my Nov 22 PROW Killinghall survey, CAMS ref 68284 & 58448 (Finger post deficiencies) were issued, but now discharged by your Ms B Brown 01 05 24.*

*This dischargement by pure accident ONLY highlighted NYC 's 'scheme' of randomly adding paths/suffixes to paths in any or even all parishes, claiming that 'it aided officials and public with PROW identification and/or problems'. This ridiculous system is totally at odds with NYC' s so-called in-house NYC legal Definitive mapping AND PROW Definitive statements, these seemingly ex1952 up to date legal PROW documents are at total odds with your 'adding' system,why?*

*NYC's by appointment only PROW legal Definitive mapping offerings, displays only an apparent COPY of a 1952 Wakefield records office ORIGINAL PROW Definitive map, (and 1952 Definitive statements?) this offering at Wakefield or North Allerton, shows NO title NOR issue date NOR change column, so if you wish to check the legality of any or every North Yorks PROW, these offerings as of 2024 are totally useless, why? "*

In response, Ian Kelly thanked Mr Dunn for his public statement and explained to Mr Dunn and Members that the Council had recently dealt with a complaint from Mr Dunn regarding path numbering on the online Digital Working Copy Definitive Map. As Mr Dunn had already been made aware, Mr Kelly was not able to comment on complaints that were in the process of being responded to, or which had previously been responded to.

Mr Kelly did however inform Mr Dunn that the number of paths in Killinghall had not changed since the original Definitive Map was produced, but it should be noted that the original map did include some paths with branches (one path number with three end points), therefore, to aid identification of each part some of the branches had been renumbered.

Furthermore, the Public Right of Way network had not been modified in any way due to the renumbering, as the modification of Public Rights of Way can only be made through a formal legal process, the details of which were publicly available.

Mr Kelly thanked Mr Dunn for his public statement and apologised if he was not happy with the approach taken by the Council but stated that his concerns had been duly noted. Mr Dunn had been advised by letter that if he was not satisfied with the Stage 1 complaint response then he could request that this be escalated to Stage 2 of the Council's Complaints process, details of which had been provided.

Mr Dunn then asked a supplementary question in relation to the Definitive Map, to which Mr Kelly responded that the Digital Working Copy Definitive Map was available online and reiterated that no modifications to the path numbering had been made.

Beth Brown confirmed that the Definitive Map and Statement had not been amended, however, as some paths had two separate branches with the same number, officers had allocated different numbers to the Digital Working Copy Definitive Map, to make it easier for NYC officers and the public to identify the path number when reporting issues.

The Chair thanked Mr Dunn for his contribution to the meeting.

## **7 Countryside Access Service Annual Report 2023-2024.**

Ian Kelly introduced Andy Brown and Beth Brown, the officers responsible for managing the Access Maintenance and Definitive Map Teams respectively, to the Forum and went on to present the Countryside Access Service (CAS) Annual Report for 2023-24.

Members heard that 2023-24 had been a challenging year for CAS with some key members of the team either absent or leaving the Council, causing a consequential impact on capacity and workload. However, despite this, the service had had some excellent achievements over the twelve-month period to include: -

- Secured temporary funding to bolster existing base budgets on maintenance and improvement projects.
- The ongoing creation of a new national trail on the Coast to Coast long-distance walk, to be opened in 2025.
- Secured capital funding on an ongoing basis for Public Rights of Way (PROW) bridge asset management and urban path maintenance.
- The appointment of a dedicated bridge engineer, which comes with an additional £200k of capital funding.
- Processing high volumes of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) and Public Path Orders (PPO).
- Effectively utilising volunteers and Path Keeper Groups to manage the network.

In response to a query regarding the work of the volunteers on unclassified roads, it was confirmed that the volunteers were very active, with the Trail Riders Federation being instrumental in assisting with cyclical / routine maintenance such as the clearing of draining ditches and gulleys

Councillor Robert Heseltine praised Mr Kelly for an excellent report and asked that the Forum's best wishes be passed on to Penny Noake on her retirement, and that she be thanked for all her excellent work. Councillor Heseltine then went on to raise concerns and query the impact on the service should the responsibility for maintaining the PROW network in the North York Moors National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park be changed to fall under NYC's remit. Mr Kelly confirmed that would be a challenge to the service.

Paul Thompson informed Members that discussions were being held between NYC and the two National Parks regarding the delegation agreements, and that officers would keep Members updated with any new developments.

Discussion took place regarding the PROW bridge assets and the appointment of the dedicated bridge engineer, Paul Tweed. Members noted that NYC had over 2000 PROW bridge assets ranging from small bridges to substantial, complex structures. Mr Kelly explained that the bridge engineer would work closely with colleagues in CAS to deliver a work programme for bridge inspections, repairs and replacement.

Members requested a report on the Council's PROW bridge assets and the attendance of Paul Tweed at a future meeting.

David Lepper stated that he had found the Coast to Coast maps within the report very helpful and enquired if there had been any updates since the last meeting. Mr Kelly

informed Members that although officers from Natural England had been unable to attend the Forum meeting today, they had provided the following update: -

- The government has provided resources to upgrade the current Coast to Coast Path to a National Trail (NT). Bringing the route up to NT standards is being progressed by Natural England and is due to be completed by the end of 2025.
- A safe and accessible crossing is required where the route meets and crosses the A19 at Ingleby Arncliffe to allow the entire route to be classified as a NT. This work is separate to completing the physical route and requires development of a business case for ministerial approval and identification of funding.
- Defra have been undertaking work to refine the long list of possible options identified in 2022, including holding a workshop with North Yorkshire Council and North York Moors. Further technical assessment on shortlisted options will now be commissioned, after which stakeholders will be able to provide views and a business case will be developed.
- A further update would be available at the next Coast to Coast P NT Board (C2CP NT) meeting in July 2024.

Mr Kelly advised that Natural England had offered to provide a one-to-one update with the representative from the North Yorkshire LAF to the C2CP NT External Stakeholder Group, in advance of each of the future NYLAF meetings; this would enable the representative to feedback to the Forum the most current information from those meetings. It was noted that David Lepper was the NYLAF representative on the C2CP NT External Stakeholder Group, and that the next meeting was planned for August 2024.

It was brought to the Members attention that in terms of the Natural England business case for the accessible crossing required on the A19 at Ingleby Arncliffe, all stakeholders would be consulted as part of the process, and therefore it may be prudent to have a Position Statement for the NYLAF in readiness for inclusion.

Members discussed the proposed diversion on the A19 and where the funding would come from for the proposed work. It was confirmed that the red route on the map within the report was only a temporary alignment, and that the work would be funded as a whole by Natural England.

A query was raised in relation to the approach ramp provision for replacement footbridges in terms of the delays to some projects and accessibility from the road for disabled users. At this point the Chair reminded Members that the purpose of the NYLAF was to provide advice at a strategic level. Mr Brown explained that to comply with the Equalities Act legislation the starting point for any PROW installation was that it must be as accessible as practicably possible.

Further queries were raised regarding the costs for a new overbridge at Collier Lane and how the cost compared with the bridge at the A66, and maintenance needs and improvements on Centenary Way, Foss Walk and Ripon Rowel. It was confirmed that the agreement for Centenary Way had been set up with a previous Authority, therefore the route would be maintained. However, NYC was not responsible for the Foss Walk and Ripon Rowel and there were no dedicated resources or funding available to undertake additional work, but if a pattern of demand was shown then officers would endeavour to maintain the area, as part of NYC's statutory duty prioritised against other workload.

Discussion took place regarding the recruitment of volunteers and whether Parish Councils could play a part. The Vice Chair commented that she had never seen simple signs or advertisements, while out walking, which encouraged people to volunteer or that signposted people where to apply should they be interested. The Chair stated that she had noticed



small, laminated signs in another area which appealed for volunteers to maintain the walk. Members heard that NYC employed a dedicated volunteer co-ordinator who involved Parish Council's to recruit volunteers along with the use of the internet for online campaigns and word of mouth. The Path Keeper groups also played a part, as did North Yorkshire Councillors, who each received a Members Locality Budget of £10k annually, to allow them to respond to local needs by recommending funding to support specific activities; the service had had some very good successes through utilisation of Members Locality budgets to undertake improvements on the PROW network that otherwise would not have been affordable with existing service budgets.

Councillor Jeffels queried, as Health and Wellbeing was a high-profile subject at present, had the service seen an increase in the amount of people rambling the countryside. It was confirmed that Strava Metro data which recorded walking, running and cycling activity by their users, had indicated that footfall had increased during the Covid pandemic, but that these numbers had now started to gradually reduce, following trends observed across the country. NYC also had counters on the more strategic routes which showed that the number of users was very good in towns and on the promoted National Trails, and once the Coast to Coast NT opened in 2025, this would attract a lot of publicity and hopefully increase usage of the PROW network.

The Chair thanked Ian, Beth and Andy for their excellent report.

**Resolved** – That:

- i. Members noted the report;
- ii. Attendance of the new bridge engineer at the January 2025 meeting;
- iii. David Lepper, as representative for the North Yorkshire LAF on the C2CP NT External Stakeholder Group, to attend one-to-one update sessions with officers from Natural England;
- iv. Members to compile a NYLAF Position Statement for the consultation on the A19;
- v. The Coast to Coast update be added to the Forward Plan for the September 2024 meeting;
- vi. Members requested that Mr Kelly provide larger versions of the Coast to Coast maps contained within the report.

## **8 Secretary's Update Report**

Considered –

The report of the Secretary, which updated on developments since the last meeting.

Rachel Connolly suggested that in terms of the evolving North Yorkshire Council's Local Plan that a request be made, via the Secretary, to the Assistant Director for Planning that it would be beneficial for the Forum Members, as consultees, to be kept involved as the Local Plan progresses.

**Resolved** – That

- i. The update be noted;
- ii. The Secretary make a request to the Assistant Director for Planning that the LAF are kept involved and appraised of any future developments within NYC's Local Plan.

## **9 Liaison and LAF Sub-group and Individual Updates**

Considered –

The report of the Secretary giving LAF members the opportunity to update the Forum on Council liaison and other LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.

In addition to the information provided within the report, Rachel Connolly provided an update on the A1 upgrade. Members heard that National Highways (NH) were not sympathetic to non-motorised users, with few of the provisions promised at Public Inquiry achieved.

One safety issue had been corrected at Tunstall Bridge, the signs which had originally been installed in the wrong place had been moved, however there were still issues outstanding, but it had been confirmed that there would be no further mitigation measures taken.

Andy Brown highlighted that CAS had engaged with local landowners, with the support of NH, to request some improvements to the principal bridleway network on land alongside the A1, but none of the landowners approached would agree to the creation of new bridleways on their land. Therefore, without the evidence for a Creation Order, this was not something that CAS could progress further, unless NH were to purchase additional land.

The Chair requested that the minutes reflect the Forums concerns and dissatisfaction with the behaviour and actions of National Highways, who it was felt did not take their responsibilities seriously. This was reflected by few of the provisions which had been promised by National Highways at the Public Inquiry, actually achieved for the A1 upgrade. It was also felt that North Yorkshire County Council had not provided robust support at the time.

In terms of Bedale by-pass, Mr Kelly advised Members that CAS had thoroughly investigated the matter with landowners but had now exhausted all avenues of enquiry and had not been able to secure a Creation Agreement. In response to a question by Rachel Connolly regarding the possibility of obtaining a Creation Order, Mr Kelly explained that he would be feeding the information back to colleagues in the Highways Team, and that he would keep Members apprised of the situation.

Members discussed the planning sub-group update report, and in particular the need for standardisation across the 7 area offices following the local government review. Rachel Connolly informed Members that the standardisation was an ongoing process; each area has the same software, but that it was used differently at each area office. It was noted that the planning sub-group had put together a "blueprint" report based on the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's method of Local Plan organisation and their treatment of access which had been sent to the Assistant Director for Planning. The Chair requested that this report be re-sent. Finally, the Secretary was asked to amend the wording in appendix 2 of the report, second paragraph, to read "7 area offices", and then forward the document to the Assistant Director of Planning for information and comment.

**Resolved - That**

- i. The additional information provided at the meeting be noted, alongside the written updates provided in the report;
- ii. The Forum's dissatisfaction with the failings of National Highways in regard to the A1 upgrade be put on public record;
- iii. Members to be kept informed regarding the need of a Creation Order for the Bedale by-pass;
- iv. The Secretary amended the wording in appendix 2 of the report, second paragraph, to read "7 area offices", and then forward appendix 2 and the "blueprint" report to the Assistant Director of Planning for information and comment.



## 10 NY Local Access Forum - Draft Revised Terms of Reference

Samantha Perks presented the draft revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the NYLAF.

It was noted that at the last meeting of the Forum, the TOR sub-group had agreed to review the TOR, this work had since been completed with the amended document and recommendations circulated to all members for comment; this now formed part of the agenda pack.

Members considered the recommendations, and requested that the following amendments be made at:-

- 1.1, the three references to “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty” be amended to read National Landscapes, and again at Annex A;
- 3.3, the word “physiological” be replaced with the word, physiographical;
- 4.1, Recruitment of new members to be added to the list;
- 5.5 remove altogether;
- 5.6, the words “where possible” to be added to the end of the sentence - A reasonable balance of members representing different interests should be maintained -----;
- 7.7, in the sentence - In the event of an equality of votes the Chair may exercise a second or casting vote - the word “equality” to be removed and replaced with equal number;
- Annex A, the Police be added;
- Annex B, first bullet point, the words “and practical” be added after appropriate.

Members then discussed the process for approving the communications sent out by the Secretary on the NYLAF’s behalf and the wording at 12.1. The wording for the TOR was agreed by the Members, and the Chair requested that the Secretary record a list of communications sent for inclusion within the Secretary’s report for future meeting agenda packs

Councillor Hesletine queried if there was a requirement for the NYC Legal department to comment on the amended TOR, the Secretary confirmed that the matter had been referred to the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny, who had confirmed that NYLAF had the authority to set their own TOR.

In response to a query at 6.1 where it stated that Members of the Appointing Authority would not be eligible for the positions of Chair or Vice Chair of the LAF, it was explained that this rule was contained within the guidance for LAF’s, set by the Secretary of State.

**Resolved** – That:

- vii. Members noted the report;
- viii. The Secretary would record a list of the communications sent, to be included in the Secretary’s report;
- ix. The amendments listed above be made to the draft TOR;
- x. The Terms of Reference item be added to the Forward Plan for the September 2024 meeting.

## 11 Yorkshire, Humber and North Lincolnshire Regional Access Forum - Minutes from 13 September 2023

Considered:-

Members queried if the minutes from the 13 September 2023 were from the last meeting of the RAF, as they were of the opinion that Will Scarlet had attended a RAF meeting on 6

March 2024. The Secretary confirmed that a meeting of the RAF had taken place on the 6 March 2024, and the minutes from that meeting had been circulated to Members outside of the agenda pack, as the minutes of the meeting had still been in draft form, and therefore, not accessible to the public, at the present time.

It was noted that on page 57 of the agenda pack it stated that the LAF would not be able to object to some aspects of an Improvement Scheme, Rachel Connolly highlighted that a LAF were not able to raise an objection, the LAF can only strongly recommend and advise.

**Resolved – That:-**

- i. Members note the report;
- ii. The Secretary re-circulate the minutes of the RAF meeting from the 6 March 2024.

## **12 Forward Plan**

Considered –

Members considered the Forward Plan provided at Appendix 1 to the report, and in particular the proposed items of business for the next meeting of the Forum in September 2024.

Mr Kelly suggested that one Member act as the representative for the NYLAF and attend the meetings of the RAF, to enable them to feedback the information from the meetings. The Chair stated that this would be a decision for Will Scarlet, however, while a decision was taken the Vice Chair agreed to attend the meetings.

In relation to the Local Transport Plan, Mr Kelly informed Members that colleagues in the Highways Team had expressed an interest in engaging with the NYLAF. It was explained that things had been held in abeyance due to the Mayoral Election in May 2024, however, by September 2024 the team would be in a position to provide an update.

**Resolved – That**

- i. Patricia Coulson would attend RAF meetings as the NYLAF representative until further notice;
- ii. Alongside the items of business already listed, the following items would be added to the Forward Plan:-

### **25 September 2024**

- Coast to Coast as a standing item;
- Attendance of the Assistant Director of Planning to provide an update following LGR and the re-structure of the Planning Teams;
- Natural England – Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM's) (Provisional, depending on the information contained in the RAF minutes of the 6 March 2024);
- NYLAF Terms of Reference;
- Regional Access Forum;
- Recruitment;
- Local Transport Plan.

### **29 January 2025**

- Attendance of the new dedicated bridge engineer, Paul Tweed.

## **13 Any Other Items**

There were no other items.

The meeting concluded at 12.16 pm.

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## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

25 September 2024

### Secretary's Update Report

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members of the Local Access Forum on developments since the last meeting of NYLAF.

#### 2.0 North Yorkshire Local Access Forum Recruitment

- 2.1 On the 22 July 2024 a recruitment campaign was initiated for the NYLAF to fill the two vacant positions that existed on the Forum at that moment; during the process, the number of vacancies then increased to four due to the resignations of David Lepper and Jeremy Dunsford.
- 2.2 The recruitment advert was circulated to all the Parish Council Clerks within the North Yorkshire area, the internal organisations contacts list, the North Yorkshire Council website and various local newspapers. The recruitment advertisement was displayed from Monday 22 July with a closing date for applications of Friday, 23 August 2024.
- 2.3 The NYLAF received 15 applications in total, all of a high calibre, from which eight candidates were selected to attend for an interview.
- 2.4 Following a competitive interview process four new Forum Members were appointed to the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum, they are Stephen Clark, Mark Cunliffe-Lister, Martin Reynolds and John Toogood.
- 2.5 During the process the NYLAF received the following statements from one of the candidates:
  1. A large number of the population is getting older and are often told to walk by doctors. Many stiles are difficult for people to manage, either being ladder stiles, very narrow stiles or protruding stone steps.
  2. Dog walkers find it impossible to navigate these stiles also.
  3. Most footpaths aren't wheelchair, mobility scooter or mobility aid friendly.
  4. Bridleways aren't just extra footpaths - I've had horse riding friends complaining the gates are impossible to open from horseback.
  5. Bridleways access should be wide enough to accommodate recumbent bikes, trikes and cyclists towing kiddy chariots.
  6. There is an almost non-existent provision of cycle paths in the county - NYC Access should look at and learn from County Durham, Derbyshire, Cornwall, Devon and the Lake District.
- 2.6 At the request of the Chair, the statements have been included within the agenda pack for Members to discuss and formulate a response.

#### 3.0 Local Transport Plan

- 3.1 A short update has been provided by the Team Leader of the Transport Planning Team leading on the Local Transport Plan, as follows:

The statutory duty for publishing a Local Transport Plan sits with the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. The writing of the document will be collaborative between North Yorkshire Council, City of York Council and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and when this commences, we will be able to plan when and how we will engage with residents and stakeholder groups.

#### **4.0 Discretionary Restriction Notices**

- 4.1 There has been seven notifications received of discretionary '28 day' restrictions under Section 22 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and four notices of discretionary dog restrictions, since the last Forum meeting.

#### **5.0 Formal Responses**

- 5.1 As agreed at the last meeting of the NYLAF in May 2024, a record of all correspondence approving the communications sent out by the Secretary on the NYLAF's behalf can be seen at appendix A to the report.

#### **6.0 Report Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Local Access Forum is recommended to note the report.  
6.2 To discuss a response to the statements made at item 2.5.

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall, NORTHALLERTON

Report Author: Dawn Drury, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum



## APPENDIX A

### Correspondence sent on behalf of the NYLAF for the period April to September 2024

<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Planning Application</b>	<b>Subject</b>	
29/04/24	Nick Howard - Planning	19/00473/FULL	Re-consultation on an application for a Motorway Service Area east of Junction 52, A1(M)	RC
08/05/24	Andrea Muscroft – Planning	ZA24/25878/FUL	Erection of five dwellings on land to the east of Green Meadow Close, Laundry Lane, Ingleton	PC
20/05/24	Jonathan Smith – Richmond Planning	20/00007/FUL	Revised application for a 36 bed care home at Morris Grange, DL10 6NX	RC
13/06/24	Kate Broadbank – Harrogate Planning	ZC24/01402/EIAMAJ	Erection of 402no dwellings & associated works at Highfield Farm, Knaresborough	JD
17/06/24	Fiona Hunter – Richmond Planning	ZD24/00310/EIASCR	Solar Farm north and east of Brompton on Swale	RC
09/07/24	Ros Parker - Planning Services, Craven	ZA24/25988/FULMAJ	Erection of 17 dwellings on land north of Laundry Lane, Ingleton	PC
11/07/24	Jillian Rann – Harrogate Planning	ZC24/01987/SCREEN	Opinion sought for screening requirements for a proposed solar farm north of Woodgate Lane, Weeton	RC
23/07/24	Jonathan Smith – Richmondshire Planning	ZD24/00324/OUT	Erection of up to 9 dwellings at	PC

## APPENDIX A

			Hackforth Road, Patrick Brompton	
25/07/24	Planning enquiries - Richmond	ZD24/00368/s106	Removal of condition 34 regarding recreation facilities contribution Hipswell Croft, Catterick Garrison, DL9 4AG - 67 houses	RC
13/08/24	Howard Mountain Secretary NP Steering Group		Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Neighbourhood Plan	RC
28/08/24	Howard Mountain Secretary NP Steering Group		Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Neighbourhood Plan – additional information to above response.	RC
05/09/24	Liam Timmins - Planning enquiries - Richmond	ZD24/00421/FULL	Detached farm-worker's cottage, Friar Ings, Barden, Leyburn	RC

## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

25 September 2024

### Updates from Sub-Groups & Individual Members

#### Report of the Secretary

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 An opportunity for LAF members to update the Forum on their LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The LAF operates an agreed list of nominated representatives willing to act as the first point of liaison with the old District/Borough Council planning teams. Individual LAF members are also nominated from time to time to take a lead on specific projects that the LAF has an interest in or in representing the LAF on other partnership bodies. Both are represented in the table below:

Name	Representation
Will Scarlett	Craven District
Rachel Connelly	Hambleton District Richmondshire District A1 A66
Roma Haigh	Ryedale District A19
NYC - Councillor David Jeffels	Scarborough District Regional Access Forum
Naomi Guthrie	Selby District
Vacant	Protected Landscapes
Vacant	2026 Harrogate District

#### 3.0 Liaison Updates

- 3.1 This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Forum to be updated on any such activity since the previous meeting.
- 3.2 There has been one written update provided by an individual Forum member, which can be seen at Appendix 1. Other Members are asked to provide verbal updates at this meeting.

3.2 The Forum are also asked to consider allocating some of the areas shown as vacant in the table above, to individual Forum members.

#### **4.0 Sub-Group Updates**

4.1 It was agreed that the Planning sub-group would continue its work to help inform the service review.

4.2 The sub-group set up to review the LAF Terms of Reference have produced a document with recommendations, and these can be seen at agenda item 7.

#### **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 That the Forum:

- i) Considers and notes the written and verbal updates provided at the meeting and agrees any further actions required

BARRY KHAN  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

Report Author: Dawn Drury, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

**Update provided by Rachel Connolly on Sec 94(4) bodies**

**A66** The new government has until mid-October to decide if the dualling and upgrade will go ahead. If it doesn't, those new links for bridleways across this barrier road will have been lost.

**A19** National Highways will eventually close all gaps in this road, but are dragging their heels about making any new grade-separated crossing points, such as the one needed for the **Coast to Coast** route. An alternative route had been devised for the time being, but it is rumoured has met with legal challenges

**A1** Grass cutting still not meeting agreed requirements. Non-motorised users (NMUs) have been very let down by both National Highways and NYC

**Planning** Rachel leads on this and at the moment gets weekly lists to check from Richmond, Craven and Harrogate. Hambleton used to flag up sites but has been out of contact for a while and we have no regular communication with Scarborough, Selby or Ryedale at the moment.

**Bedale By-pass** The forum has been told that NYC highways are now dealing with this but procrastination over the formalisation of a safe parallel NMU route continues.

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## Terms of Reference for the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

The Local Access Forum for the county of North Yorkshire shall be known as the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum (herein referred to as 'NYLAF').

Local Access Forums (LAFs) are advisory bodies established under sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). LAFs are established by local highway authorities. North Yorkshire Council is the Appointing Authority for the NYLAF (herein referred to as 'the Appointing Authority').

In 2007 Defra published the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 (herein referred to as 'the Regulations'). These came into force on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 with additional Guidance from the Secretary of State and form the basis of the Terms of Reference of the Local Access Forum for North Yorkshire.

### 1. Geographical Coverage

- 1.1 NYLAF covers the county of North Yorkshire, including the Howardian Hills **National Landscapes**, the Nidderdale ~~Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty~~ **National Landscapes** and a small section of the Forest of Bowland ~~Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty~~ **National Landscapes**
- 1.2 It excludes the area of the administrative unitary authority of the City of York, the North York Moors National Park & the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

### 2. Role

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the Forum is to provide advice to a range of organisations specified in the CROW Act 2000 and in supplementary regulations and guidance. Specifically to:

'advise its appointing authority and other specified bodies (listed in Annex A) as to the improvement of public access to land<sup>1</sup> in the area, for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed.

- 2.2 ~~Where there is no demonstrable connection to land access, NYLAF should not proceed on a matter.~~
- 2.3 In carrying out its functions, a local access forum shall have regard to:
  - a) the needs of land management,
  - b) the desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area for which it is established, including the flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features of the area, and
  - c) guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State. (94 (6)).

- 2.4 NYLAF shall:

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<sup>1</sup> 'Land' includes land covered by water

- a) Set its own priorities depending on local issues, as well as providing a local input to consultation and draft policy documents.
- b) Provide advice to the Appointing Authority and other authorities on the improvement of public access to land, **including promotion of**, within the County for the purpose of travel, open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area or any other lawful purpose.
- c) Respond to consultations by Government Departments and Agencies on Access land registered common land and other open country.
- d) Advise the Appointing Authority on the management of the Rights of Way network through the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the County.
- e) Comment on the Appointing Authority's and ~~other relevant local authorities'~~ **[specific which authorities]** access strategies with a view to developing additional opportunities for ~~people to enjoy access to the environment.~~ **open air recreation and public access to land.**
- f) Seek representation on and offer advice to other bodies working to similar aims.
- g) Advise Natural England on the operation of open access restrictions, management and mapping.
- ~~h) Advise on the promotion of opportunities for the appropriate use and enjoyment of the countryside and how to promote. See 2ii.~~
- i) Advise on the opportunities afforded to NYLAF through engagement with Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); and other matters relating to the provision of access and opportunities for the enjoyment of the natural environment.
- ~~j) Seek opportunities to engage with managers of land to advise them of the opportunities available to promote and manage the provision of access including green spaces.~~

### **3 Responsibilities**

- 3.4 In carrying out its function, NYLAF will have regard to biodiversity, wildlife management, the flora, fauna and geological and ~~physiological~~ **physiographical** features of the area and the needs and interests of landowners, land managers, user groups and the public at large.
- 3.5 NYLAF will respect local circumstances as well as environmental, social, economic and educational interests.
- 3.6 NYLAF will take into account statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State whilst operating within the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and regulations made thereafter.

### **4 Funding**

- 4.1 The Appointing Authority is responsible for the costs of running NYLAF. This includes paying for:
  - a) The provision of a secretary for NYLAF

- b) Members expenses – travel, subsistence, and childcare
- c) The publication of NYLAF's annual report
- d) Recruitment of new members

## 5 Membership of NYLAF

- 5.4 NYLAF shall consist of a maximum of 13 members.
- 5.5 Based on a membership of 13, the maximum number of members of NYLAF who may also be members of a district or borough council or the Appointing Authority is two.
- 5.6 The process for the appointment of members should be fair and transparent, following the Appointing Authority's policies on social inclusion and diversity.
- 5.7 Members will be appointed for a period up to three years - there is no limit to the number of times a member can be appointed.
- ~~5.8 In order to maintain some continuity of experience, recruitment will take place by thirds on an annual basis.~~
- 5.9 Individual members will represent a field of interest rather than a particular organisation of which they might also be a member. A reasonable balance of members representing different interests should be maintained where possible. These will be representative of:
- a) Users of rights of way and open access land
  - b) Owners and occupiers of land which may have a public right of way
  - c) Any other interests especially relevant to the authority's area, such as tourism, nature and heritage conservation, coastal issues, health, public transport or community safety
- 5.10 A member may resign by notice in writing.
- 5.11 The Appointing Authority may terminate the appointment of a member if:
- a) Without consent they fail to attend meetings for a year; or
  - b) Fail to declare an interest they have in a matter to be considered by NYLAF; or
  - c) If the Appointing Authority is satisfied that they have become a member of a local authority in the area covered by NYLAF and as a result paragraph 5.2 has not been complied with.

## 6 Chair & Vice Chair

- 6.4 The Chair and Vice Chair will be drawn from NYLAF members. They will be elected by two ballots. Whenever possible the Chair and Vice Chair should represent different categories of interest. Members of the Appointing Authority will not be eligible for either position.
- ~~6.5~~ The appointment to these posts will be renewed on an annual basis. [insert when] In the event that either post become vacant during the period of appointment. NYLAF

may decide that both posts should be filled afresh. ~~The total period during which a member may be Chair or Vice Chair will not exceed the period of their appointment as a member.~~

~~6.6 For the purposes of the election of officers NYLAFs year is deemed to be the calendar year and elections will be held at the first meeting each year. [covered by 6.2]~~

6.7 Where neither the Chair nor Vice Chair are able to attend a meeting, NYLAF may choose to elect a Chair for the duration of **member to Chair** that meeting only.

## **7 Meeting of the Forum**

7.4 Meetings are to be held at least three times a year.

7.5 The meetings shall be deemed to be quorate ~~when~~ **with** half the ~~then~~ **existing** membership or nine members are present, whichever is the smaller number, **but not less than five.**

7.6 Members who have a personal interest, whether direct or indirect, in a matter to be discussed by NYLAF should disclose that interest at the meeting. A personal interest is defined as one which might affect a member's wellbeing, financial position or business, or that of a relative or friend, to a greater extent than that of other inhabitants of the area. Personal interests will be recorded in the Minutes but will not necessarily prohibit that member from taking part in the discussion of that item.

7.7 Copies of the agenda for each meeting and any reports will be made available for inspection by the public at County Hall and on the Appointing Authority's website at least five clear working days before the meeting or as soon as possible if a meeting is convened at short notice.

7.8 The papers and minutes of each meeting will be made available for inspection by the public at County Hall and on the Appointing Authority's website for a period of two years after the meeting.

7.9 The Chair may, with the permission of NYLAF, vary the order of business to that set out on the agenda **and include an item of Any Other Business if required.**

7.10 Voting shall be by show of hands and all decisions shall be decided by a majority of the Members present. In the event of an **equality equal number** of votes the Chair may exercise a second or casting vote.

## **8 Public Access to Meetings**

8.4 The meetings will be open to the public but people may be excluded if necessary to prevent disorderly conduct or misbehaviour.

8.5 Members of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must inform the Appointing Authority at least one working day before the meeting is held. **Maximum 3 minutes speaking.**

8.6 Observers may at the discretion of the Chair, attend and take part in the discussion but cannot vote or take part in decision-making.

## 9 Secretary

9.4 The Appointing Authority will nominate an officer to act as the interface with NYLAF and advise NYLAF and fulfil the responsibilities of a secretary.

9.5 The Secretary will, in conjunction with the Chair, be responsible for the overall administration of NYLAF, including organising the meetings, drafting the minutes, producing publishing the draft annual report, and liaising with neighbouring Forums and the Appointing Authority.

## 10 Annual Report

10.4 NYLAF shall produce an annual report on its work which the Appointing Authority will publish and make available online.

## 11 Sub-groups and Working Groups

11.4 NYLAF may approve the creation of sub-groups and working groups (herein referred to as sub-groups) to assist with the work of NYLAF. Sub-groups will be created and disbanded when appropriate for a specific piece of work, as agreed by NYLAF. A sub-group may appoint a Chair only for the purposes of representing the sub-group at NYLAF meetings and administration.

~~11.5 The work of any sub-group will be to act in an advisory capacity to NYLAF. Its scope and work programme will be set by NYLAF.~~

11.6 NYLAF as an official body supersedes all work of the sub-groups.

11.7 Sub-groups meetings will be held informally without the need for a published agenda or minutes. A sub-group may produce a report of their meetings to NYLAF and all work undertaken by a sub-group must be approved at the NYLAF.

11.8 The administration and logistics of sub-groups will be arranged by the sub-group itself.

## 12 Communication

12.4 All communications received and sent by NYLAF must be noted and/or approved ~~at a meeting of~~ by NYLAF members. Correspondence having ~~then~~ been agreed, should be sent by the ~~Chair or~~ Secretary on behalf of NYLAF. ~~The Secretary will record a list of communications sent (email/letter) and will include such list in the Secretary's report.~~

12.5 The timing of requests for advice or consultations may not always correspond with NYLAF's meeting cycle. Liaison with the Appointing Authority in preparing the forward work programme and setting meeting dates should minimise this. NYLAF may also anticipate the need for advice and plan ahead by developing (and keeping under review) a generic 'position statement' setting out advice on broad principles

or key issues which can be used, when appropriate, for responding when advice is required between NYLAF meeting – see advice and principles at Annex B.

12.6 The Chair may discuss the handling of issues with other NYLAF members by telephone, email, social media etc. Depending on the importance of the issues raised the Chair may decide that:

- a) The issue should be added to the agenda of the next NYLAF meeting;
- b) Previous advice or a pre-agreed position statement provides adequate or interim advice.
- c) A formal response has to be provided before the next formal meeting.

12.7 In the event that communication as described on paragraph ~~11.2~~ 11.1 is required, the Chair must seek general approval from other NYLAF members before sending any communication and must take into account all interests of NYLAF as outlined in paragraph 5.6. Any communication sent in this manner must still be noted at a meeting of NYLAF.

12.8 Chairs of sub-groups may write to third parties on routine matters e.g. seeking information, booking venues, inviting guests, but must not offer the views of NYLAF.

13. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually  
Next to be reviewed May 2025

version number to be added to document.





### **Specified Bodies to which the CROW Act 2000 & Supplementary Regulations and Guidance Refer**

- The Appointing Authority(ies) (a Highway Authority or National Park Authority)
- Any County, Unitary, District or Borough Council within the area of the Forum
- The Secretary of State i.e. any Government department with a Secretary of State e.g. Defra and MoD, as well as 'executive agencies' such as the Planning Inspectorate and Highways England
- Natural England
- The Forestry Commission
- English Heritage
- Sports England (the English Sports Council)
- ~~Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)~~ National Landscapes Conservation Boards
- Parish & Town Councils
- Police

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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Local Access Forums perform a statutory function and all section 94(4) bodies are required under section 94(5) of the CROW Act 2000 to 'have regard in carrying out their functions to any relevant advice given to them' by a Forum. Reflecting the directives given to forums, the North Yorkshire LAF has drawn up a set of principles which now underpin their work and advice.

- Any new access should be at the highest rights appropriate **and practical** for non-motorised users.
- All rights of way should be maintained to the standard required and, where needed, upgraded physically and legally to a higher standard
- The Forum will work to see rights of way developed to redress the fragmentation of the network, connect communities and improve links to places of demand
- The Forum will work to develop more access opportunities to include the widest possible range of users, especially families, children, minority groups and the less able
- The Forum seeks the establishment of an annual budget to fund the fulfilling of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)
- Whilst the creation of all access is welcome, the Forum stresses that permissive (temporary) access does not equate with the public benefit of definitive (permanent) access
- The Forum wishes to raise awareness of how different users can enjoy responsible sharing of routes where appropriate, whilst supporting challenges to illegal use
- The Forum recognises the establishment and challenges of new initiatives such as coastal access, access to water, access to woodland and the dedication of land for public access

The above may be summarised simply as:

**The Forum seeks to maximise every opportunity for improved access, providing safer journeys for the widest range of users practicable.**

The Forum welcomes consultation from all section 94(4) bodies or others who feel they might benefit from discussion with them. For further information please contact the chair through the Secretary to the Forum – Dawn Drury, at North Yorkshire Council either by telephone on 01757 292065 or by email at:

[dawn.drury@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.drury@northyorks.gov.uk)

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# NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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## Advice to District Councils as Sec.94 (4) bodies

Whilst each District will have different priorities within its Local Plan, the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum, in accordance with its statutory remit under sec. 94(5) of the CROW Act 2000, recommends the following points, which it hopes will be reflected by every District Council:

- The Forum advises that Good Practice in planning matters will incorporate connections for non-motorised users to local services and the rights of way network whenever possible. Such routes should be multi-user, if practicable, to encourage sustainable travel.
- That new sites provide informal as well as formal green space.
- That Local Plans reflect the objectives of NYCC's Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Local Transport Plan.
- That Councils identify popular rights of way so they can put measures in places to enhance them and ensure their sustainability.
- That Councils seek opportunities to remedy missing links in a fragmented network to encourage healthy and sustainable travel.
- Councils should take advantage of Community Infrastructure Levy, Sec.106 arrangements, minerals tax and wind farm contribution to invest in initiatives and improvements for access.
- That Councils recognise the value of strong partnership with NYCC's rights of way department to promote the benefits accruing from a useful network of public paths.

These can be loosely summarised in the advice 'that all planning applications, should be considered from the Access point of view, to ensure opportunities for access are included'. Once missed, it is unlikely they can be added at a future date.

In addition, as Local Access Forums are directed to be inclusive in approach, which avoids discrimination and provides Best Value in access provision, we strongly advise that all new paths should be for the widest range of users, as in this way it encourages sustainable travel and supports safer and healthier journeys for as many as practicable.

The Forum welcomes engagement. Contact can either be made through your named LAF member or through the LAF Secretary – Dawn Drury, at North Yorkshire Council either by telephone on 01757 292065 or by email at: [dawn.drury@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.drury@northyorks.gov.uk)

## The North Yorkshire Council

### Local Access Forum

25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Update on the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Yorkshire and York

### Report of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy project team

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of the background, context and objectives of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Yorkshire and York, provide an update on current progress with the preparation of the strategy, and provide an overview of work undertaken to date.

#### 2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies established by clauses 104 to 108 of the Environment Act 2021.
- 2.2 They are designed as tools to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help nature. Each Strategy will, for the area that it covers:
- agree priorities for nature's recovery,
  - map the most valuable existing areas for nature,
  - map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.
- 2.3 There are 48 strategy areas which cover the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has appointed 'responsible authorities' to lead the preparation of the strategy for each area.
- 2.4 North Yorkshire Council is appointed as the responsible authority for the development of the LNRS for North Yorkshire and York (North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council administrative area).
- 2.5 There are four supporting authorities to the development of the strategy, these are:
- Natural England
  - City of York Council
  - North York Moors National Park Authority
  - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

#### 3.0 Staffing and Budget

- 3.1 The North Yorkshire Council project team for the development of the LNRS comprises:
- Tim Johns (LNRS Lead, Senior Policy Officer)

- Tris Terry (LNRS Project Manager)
- Hugh Clear Hill (Principal Environmental Policy Officer)
- Matt Millington (Local Nature Partnership Development Officer)

3.2 The LNRS is a Defra-funded project with an allocated budget for the preparation phase of the project.

3.3 The approach to the delivery of the LNRS is yet to be devised and funding for this element of the work is also still to be confirmed.

**APPENDICES:** None

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** web link [Local Nature Recovery Strategy | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Author: Tris Terry, LNRS Project Manager



## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

25 September 2024

### Yorkshire Water Woodland Management Plan

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The NYLAF, as a statutory body have been contacted by Fountains Forestry UK Ltd, on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services Ltd, regarding a new Woodland Management Plan for the region which outlines woodland management activities, including felling and restocking proposals, for the next 10 years. Fountains Forestry Ltd have invited interested parties to provide feedback on the proposals by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Fountains Forestry Ltd have been appointed as service providers for Woodland and Tree Management for Yorkshire Water Services Limited. Within the process to develop a new woodland management plan there is a requirement to contact statutory bodies, neighbours, and local interests, to establish any likely sensitivities, constraints or opportunities that could influence the future design, development, and management of the woodland.
- 2.2 Yorkshire Water woodland estate was originally planted around the reservoirs to protect the catchment and water quality. The woodland encompasses valuable habitat, enhances biodiversity, and provides the backdrop for thousands of visitors to enjoy access. The woodland estate is certified as sustainably managed under the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation scheme.
- 2.3 The long-term vision is to manage the woodland to safeguard the sustainability of the woodland, protecting the catchment and water quality, enhancing biodiversity and resilience, and provide opportunities for recreation. This also preserves cultural heritage, sustains, and enhances local and national biodiversity, develops, and enhances the landscape, and provides opportunities for amenity and recreation.
- 2.4 A link to the felling operations plan and restocking plans was provided, along with a feedback form. Rachel Connolly has started to formulate a response on behalf of the Forum at appendix 1, along with a list of the sites identified in the North Yorkshire area at appendix 2.

#### 3.0 Report Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Forum consider and agree the response to Fountains Forestry UK Ltd.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall, NORTHALLERTON

Report Author: Dawn Drury, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

**Fountains Forestry Ltd Consultation****(service providers for Yorkshire Water Woodland Management)**

**Q1** Which Woodland Management Plan is local to you?

**A** Our area covers all of North Yorkshire excluding the national parks i.e. all sites in the Northern band except sites 23,24,25 which are in West Yorkshire but also site 28 in the Midlands band

**Q2** Who are you representing with your feedback?

**A** The North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

**Q3** To what extent do you agree with our proposals?

**A** The Forum recognises that in principle woodland needs to be managed and that it is an evolving process, but there is little detail on which to comment further.

**Q4** Which aspects of the Woodland Management Plan do you like?

**A**

**Q5** Which aspects of the Woodland Management Plan do you dislike?

**A** The inevitable disturbance and dispersal of wildlife within the woodlands, and the potential impact on public rights of way within or adjacent to a site .

**Q6** If you are able to add any further detail that you think may have a bearing on the overall plans for the woodlands, please provide details below:

**A** Evolving from the CRoW Act 2000, local access forums were created and directed by the Secretary of State to advise sec 94(4) bodies such as local and county councils, Forestry Commission, Defra, Natural England, etc.on matters of public access such as right to roam, public rights of way and common land amongst other things. In this respect we ask that the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum be consulted in advance of any felling and planting plans on each occasion. This is to ensure that the best possible outcome can be ensured which balances the needs of your timber operations and the

entitlement of the public to use and enjoy the public rights of way network, bearing in mind that in law this public right overrides any convenience for commercial or private enterprise. We would refer you to the Highway Act 1980 sec. 130. However, it is the opinion of the Forum that in most cases sensible precautions and on-site awareness can avoid the need for Traffic Regulation Orders which should be regarded as the very last resort as many timber operations will be short term or sporadic. The forum is always willing to engage in constructive discussion in seeking workable solutions.

## Fountains Forestry Long Term Forest Plan, sites 1-25 Northern Zone

**site 1 Cod Beck** north of Osmotherley UCR runs alongside and joins up bridleway at Scarth Nick FP cuts through eastern part of plantation

**site 2 Leighton Reservoir** UCR along northern edge and sw to Roundhill house

**site 3 Scar House Plantation** No apparent rows

**site 4 Bagwith** west of Kirby Malzeard fp from Kirk Bridge runs through the plantation and the Drift Road (b/w) runs along the eastern edge

**site 5 Carlesmoor** further west from Kirkby Malzeard b/w runs along the north edge of this plantation

**site 6 Dallowgill** west of Carlesmoor various tracks ? rows?

**site 7 Lumley Moor Reservoir** west of Grantley fp skirts woodland

**site 8 Gouthwaite Reservoir** Nidderdale Way (b/w) along northern water edge and UCR along southern edge. connecting track along dam row?

**site 9 Grimwith Reservoir** no rights of way affected (check needed)

**site 11 Thucross Reservoir** fp along the n.w tongue towards Hoodstorth Lane

**site 12 Blubberhouses** fps run north west from Blubberhouses through the upper part of plantation and short fp towards Thucross Res.along Washburn River

**site 13 Fewston Reservoir** south of Blubberhouses multiple fps and Bansky Dike road run through the north plantation and on the south there is fp through the plantation

**site 14 Beecroft** fp runs through woodland

**site 15 Wydra** no rights of way affected

**site 16 Swinsty Reservoir** south of Fewston multiple fps running through plantation

**site 17 Haverah Park** fp through the north woodland

**site 18 High Boar Hole** nw of Beckwithshaw site is south of Harrogate NMU link

**site 19 Redhouse Ings** south of Beningbrough b/w and fp through woodland

**site 21 Timble Ings** no rows

**site 22 Elslack Reservoir** south west of Skipton several fps through plantation

**site 23 Arthrington; site 24 Eccup; site 25 Graincliffe** not our remit **west Yorkshire**

**site 28 Brayton Barff (in the Midlands zone)** west of Drayton south of fp

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## NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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### Forward Plan 2024/25

Date of Meeting	
<b>Standing items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes</li> <li>• Matters Arising</li> <li>• Public Questions and Statements</li> <li>• Secretary's Update Report</li> <li>• District Council Liaison Updates</li> <li>• Coast to Coast Update</li> <li>• Forward Plan</li> </ul>
<b>22 May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chair</li> <li>• Election of Vice Chair</li> <li>• Update on the re-structure of the Planning Teams following LGR</li> <li>• Natural England – Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM's) Update – deferred from meeting held on 24 January 2024</li> <li>• Sustrans Update</li> <li>• NYC Countryside Access Service (CAS) Annual Report</li> </ul>
<b>25 September 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Tim Johns)</li> <li>• Network Rail Update</li> <li>• Local Transport Plan</li> <li>• Update on the re-structure of the Planning Teams following LGR - deferred from meeting held on 22 May 2024</li> <li>• Natural England – Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM's) Update – deferred from meeting held on 22 May 2024</li> <li>• NYLAF Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Regional Access Forum</li> </ul>
<b>29 January 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance of the new dedicated bridge engineer Paul Tweed</li> </ul>
<b>Suggested Future Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights of Way Improvement Plan</li> <li>• In-depth discussion on Reinstatement</li> <li>• Draft NYCC Active Travel Strategy</li> </ul>

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