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Yorkshire Dales Review



- *The Sandford Principle – and Rural recovery*
- *National Parks Review*
- *Three Contrasting European National Parks*
- *Renewable Energy for Yorkshire and the Dales*

Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50



The Sandford Principle - and Rural Recovery

Not many people in the Yorkshire Dales have heard of, let alone read, the Sandford Report, otherwise known as the National Park Policy Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Sandford. This Committee's keynote report, published in 1974, recommended that National Park legislation should be changed to ensure that the enjoyment of National Parks should be "in such a manner and by such means as will leave their natural beauty unimpaired for the enjoyment of this and future generations". In particular the Committee recommended that if and whenever there was a conflict between a National Parks' primary objectives of conservation and enjoyment, then conservation should have priority.

This became known as the Sandford Principle, and has been enshrined in Government thinking and to some extent in later legislation such as the 1995 Environment Act.

Over a quarter of a century after it was written, the Sandford Report, remains every bit as relevant and important. That is why, despite the predictable howls of protest from the off-road motor sports lobby, the newly established Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance is right to point out that the irreversible damage being done by four wheeled drive vehicles and trail bikes to our precious heritage of medieval grass-covered Green Lanes and ancient packhorse ways, is totally inappropriate in a National Park. Nowhere is there a more extreme example to demonstrate the conflict between the recreational interests of a minority and the long term conservation of a priceless national asset.

But there are many other leisure-related activities and tourist development which can impact on the special environment of the National Park; even relatively benign activities such as mountain biking, hang gliding, challenge walks, leisure driving, caravanning, golf, or any visitor attraction which can attract heavy traffic. All are welcome activities in the right place and the right time, and at an appropriate scale, but not necessarily right in certain areas of a National Park.

Of course we all cherish our freedoms, but often

one person's exercise of that freedom totally destroys another person's freedom. Freedom to drive a large 4-wheeled vehicle along Mastiles Lane destroys the freedom of the walker or the naturalist seeking an escape from the noise, physical threat, stench of motor traffic that dominates their weekday lives. Macho motorcyclists who use Dales roads as a challenge to indulge in unofficial speed and danger trails, producing maximum decibels in the process, destroy the freedom of local residents and visitors to enjoy a quiet Sunday summer afternoon. Noise is one of the most perniciously intrusive of all modern pollutants. One of the worst defeats for the conservation movement in recent years was the deletion of the words "quiet enjoyment" in reference to National Parks, from the 1995 Environment Act; a concept which the Council for National Parks are working hard to restore.

Around 10% of our countryside now receives some form of protection – National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coasts. Noisy activities have the other 90% to indulge themselves in. Looking after protected landscapes is not just a question of tough planning controls, but a fundamental recognition by everyone who lives in, visits, administers or carries out a business in the National Park or AONB, that we have a responsibility which lies beyond our immediate personal interests – be it economic or linked to other activities – to those future generations. In short, we all have a duty to put Sandford into practice.

Over the next few months in the Dales we are going to hear a lot, quite rightly, about the urgent need for economic rural recovery after the catastrophe of Foot and Mouth. There will be calls for quick-fix schemes to create new jobs, especially those related to tourism and leisure activities. Not all will be appropriate in the Yorkshire Dales National Park or Nidderdale AONB. In the longer term, schemes which reflect the Sandford principle will bring far more longer lasting economic benefit to Dales communities; those that reduce the quality of our unique Dales landscape by compromising what makes it so very special, will destroy the very local economy they seek to support.

Colin Speakman

National Park Authorities and Broads Authority Review – the Response of the Yorkshire Dales Society

In its detailed response to the current DEFRA review of the work of the National Park Authorities, the Yorkshire Dales Society began by rejecting the view that there is an inherent conflict between the aspirations of local communities and national interests in National Parks. Dales people as much as visitors want to retain a quiet, unspoiled environment. This is why the Society wishes to ensure Development Control continues to receive the highest priority and remains with the National Park Authority, and that the National Park Management Plan and Local Plan should remain as quasi-statutory policy documents. The Society also believes that the words "Quiet Enjoyment" should be used to qualify fundamental National Park purposes as stated in the 1995 Environment act.

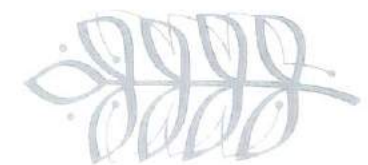
The Society suggests that as managing highways, especially unsurfaced tracks which have vehicular rights is such a fundamental part of visitor management, as are traffic management schemes, it would like to see certain Highway powers within National Parks delegated to National Park Authorities, with Authorities able to call on professional support from Highway Authorities as and when required.

The Society recognizing the fundamental role for farming in maintaining the special qualities of the cultural landscape, urges DEFRA funding packages to move away from environmentally destructive headage payment systems towards a variety of Agri-environmental schemes whereby farmers are paid for a variety of landscape and wildlife conservation schemes, and indeed for improving and managing public access to their land. The "Whole Farm" approach is strongly supported as a way of maintaining both farm incomes and wider supporting environmental objectives.

On Governance the Society recognizes that there is need for a balance between local and national

interests, but suggests that changes since the 1995 Environment Act have encouraged a serious bias towards parochial interests and attitudes which have been extremely damaging in the Dales. It therefore urges a 50:50 balance between nationally appointed and locally elected members, with the system of Ministerial national appointments being transparent and reflecting a wide range of interests, including those of people within neighbouring conurbations as well as interests within the Dales. All members of authorities, whether elected or appointed, should be asked to sign a declaration of support for National Park purposes, and to attend compulsory training/updating sessions to ensure they are fully up to speed with a range of environmental and social issues. The Countryside Agency should adopt a much higher profile, both in monitoring the performance of individual Authority members who, if they consistently try to undermine National Park purposes, should be replaced. The Agency should organise appropriate training programmes for new and serving Authority members.

Whilst the success of National Parks in raising funds from a variety of sources was noted, including the outstanding success of the Millennium Trust as a mechanism to draw in funds not accessible to the Authority to support Dales sustainability objectives, the Society feels that these schemes should not be allowed to replace the need for well funded, well resourced National Park Authorities that are able to deliver on a wide range of policy objectives.



Three Contrasting European National Parks – Conservation Policy in the European Union

Mariëlle van der Zouwen, junior research fellow at the Department of Environmental Policy Sciences at the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands is studying for her doctorate. She is looking particularly at conservation policy in three European National Parks: comparing the Yorkshire Dales National Park with Doñana in southwest Spain (a Mediterranean coastal wetland area) and Veluwe in central Netherlands (known for its lowland heath, woodland and inland sand dunes). She will be spending time in each region and has already made an initial visit to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the Director of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and members of the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management as well as various YDS members at our October event. Her project is due to be completed in November 2003.

While taking an English friend cycling in Holland, Mariëlle was keen to show him some typical Dutch scenery, and to see his reaction to a polder (flat fertile land reclaimed from the sea). An interesting discussion followed about whether the polder landscape which has its own beauty could be appreciated both as "landscape" and be seen as "beautiful" in English eyes. Perhaps even the Dutch would find it difficult to evaluate as quality landscape. This sort of issue could well be important in Mariëlle's research project where she will consider some major characteristics in conservation policies across the EU.

My research project deals with innovation in nature conservation policies in the European Union and focuses on three national parks and surrounding areas in the UK, Spain and the Netherlands. The empirical aim of the project is first of all an international comparative analysis of the diversity of nature conservation policies at EU, national and regional level, including the interaction between them. Secondly, the question to what extent the diversity of conservation policies at various levels is contributing to the further development and implementation of EU conservation policy, needs to be addressed.

I am frequently asked why I am doing research on

nature conservation in the European Union. It is crucially important to "protect" and "enhance" sustainable areas of the countryside. The wide divergence in conservation policies across the EU, and the fact that all member states have to keep to common EU conservation goals make implementation very interesting. That divergence constitutes the basis for my research project and has both a substantive and an organisational character.

To an increasing extent, nature conservation policy has to deal with differing views on the strategies of nature conservation. Up to the last decade, nature conservation at EU level mostly covered protection of species and to a lesser extent the protection of habitats. Nowadays, concepts like biodiversity and ecological networks are increasingly to the fore. The same goes for the European Union member states. Furthermore, differing views on nature can be observed between the several member states. Whereas nature in the UK seems to be an *integral* part of the countryside, Dutch policy represents a strict *separation* of nature and other functions. The same goes for Spain, but the size and amount of the few semi-natural areas which still exist in the Netherlands (frequently called "stamps") are far smaller than the areas in Spain. This goes hand in hand with another remarkable difference: the accessibility of the countryside. Most of the UK country and national parks are open to the public and people enjoy spending time there. The Spanish, on the other hand, are not familiar with this system as large parts of the countryside were inaccessible for a long time and to some extent still are. It has been suggested that this perhaps produced a society which was not so concerned about its countryside. But in fact the Doñana National Park and its surrounding area in southern Spain was the first among the EU member states to formulate and implement a strategy on sustainable development in which conservation is a priority.

Nature conservation policy has to find a middle course between the EU and its directives on the countryside on the one hand, and more local interpretation of those directives on the other hand. Central authorities have to guarantee a specific

standard and according to EU Directives, designate sites where nature has to be protected (see the Birds and Habitat Directive). At the same time, policy implementation asks for the co-operation of local, regional and national authorities and other organisations. Within most of the national parks across the EU, national park authorities therefore consist of representatives from local, regional and national authorities. In almost all EU member states, the co-operation between various levels of government in national parks dates back to the 1950s. The practical differences in national park authorities among member states is enormous. Although there is a continual struggle in the UK between ecological and economic values which for some people echoes the tension between national and local representatives in the parks, both parties have a formal and informal say in the conservation policies in the national park. The same goes for the Netherlands. The situation is quite different in Spain where local authorities are indeed members of national park bodies, but lack the power to really act to the detriment of conservation targets in the park. One of the important reasons to account for this difference is the fact that national

authorities in Spain really own the land of the national park, whereas in the UK most of the land is in possession of farmers and in the Netherlands, of communities and conservation movements.

Apart from this difference, there are a variety of parties involved in conservation policies in general among the member states. The UK has a strong tradition of trusts, societies, charities and other non-governmental bodies that concern themselves with nature and landscape conservation issues. They can disseminate knowledge, expertise and even money in order to influence the course of conservation policies in national parks. To a lesser extent, this kind of organisation has an important impact on conservation policies in Dutch national parks. Spain's tradition is not so rich; a result of the dictatorial regime which ended in the late 1970s. Nowadays Spanish conservation movements are getting more organised, but there is still a long way to go. In some areas, however, international conservation movements are supporting their Spanish partners.

Mariëlle van der Zouwen



Cycling in a Dutch National Park

Foot and Mouth – Council for National Parks Seminar on F&M and the Future of Farming in National Parks

A well-attended Seminar on Foot and Mouth and the Future of Farming held by the Council for National Parks at the Britannia Hotel, Birmingham on September 27th, drew its delegates not only from the various National Park Authorities and Societies, but from prominent countryside bodies such as the Countryside Agency, CCW, RA, YHA and CPRE.

Graham Taylor of the Northumberland National Park Authority gave the key-note address *Putting the Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak in Perspective: a Scene-Setting Review*. Farming incomes prior to F&M had already fallen to their lowest level for generations so that pressure existed for policy reform, Foot & Mouth Disease would hopefully act as a catalyst with:

- pressures on the EU and our domestic government arising from this multi-dimensional rural crisis to produce a rapidly changing policy context
- plentiful invitations to contribute to countryside policy; and
- recognition of the failure of past policies to bring about a rural renaissance.

Foot & Mouth might well have changed the current situation in farming in the following five ways:

- firstly, it has drawn attention to unsustainable practices in livestock production and the food chain which will accelerate reviews likely to change the system
- secondly, it has highlighted the relatively small and declining contribution of farming to the upland rural economy and its extreme vulnerability
- thirdly, the devastation of tourism, recreation and other rural industries as an indirect result of the disease has drawn attention to the diversity and complexity of the rural economy and its interdependence.
- fourthly, this complexity and the interdependence of the various sectors has become more apparent to government departments and agencies directly concerned
- fifthly, it has drawn into the debate about rural policy everybody from the Prime Minister, the

Chancellor, other Government Departments, the Regional Development Agencies and Government offices and Local Government at all levels.

The questions which remain are what advice can be offered on F & M policy, about the damage being done by the current policy, about objectives for a change of policy and about policy options, bearing in mind the grip that technical and scientific communities have on the debate?

At present there appears to be a consensus that a radical shift is possible and that CAP reform will lead to a greater transfer of support from commodities to environmental management and support to the Rural Economy.

As regards National Parks, a radical new vision is needed based on concepts of sustainable development and the recognition of the economic potential of our environmental, cultural and social capital. National Parks have special qualities which need to be emphasised in the following ways:

- a distinctive landscape and local identity as part of the tourism product;
- local identity as an aid to tourism promotion and the branding and marketing opportunities for all sorts of goods;
- the production of environmentally derived goods - local food and other products which are authentic, of the area and of a suitable quality;
- the management of the environment as part of the infrastructure;
- information and research about the area and how to manage it;
- the welcome and facilities for enjoyment of the area including tourist information and infrastructure;
- the value of the National Park to local and regional competitiveness in attracting footloose businesses.

Actions that should be taken include the need to ensure that National Parks are protected to resist the backlash from undesirable development pressures. There was also a need for a more

relevant F&M contingency plan with clearer less contradictory advice from Government and its agencies. There should be a need to move towards a local economy based on National Park special qualities and that farming should be based on making products available closer to source and with National Park branding. Transport campaigns should be undertaken including pressure for quiet lanes. There also should be pressure for greater simplicity, subsidiarity and integration.

Vicki Elcoate, Director of CNP, outlined the number of opportunities CNP had for high-level meetings with ministers and an input into key documents such as the DEFRA National Parks Review, a meeting with two DEFRA ministers in October 2001, a Parliamentary Reception in February 2002, Planning for the Green Paper and a number of lobbying and briefing opportunities such as the Energy Review.

CNP will work with a number of other agencies such as the ANPA, the NPAs, the National Park Societies, Council Members and the All Parliamentary Group on National Parks in support

of the objectives outlined and will target DEFRA Ministers and officials, the National Assembly for Wales and its officials, DTLR Ministers and officials, the media, wildlife and landowning organisations on re-wilding, users and user organisations on transport, local authorities as Highways Authorities, the Treasury and the No. 10 Policy Unit.

Points were amplified and discussed, and new ideas contributed in the animated discussion groups which were an essential part of the proceedings.

In the Plenary session the special qualities of the National Parks were re-emphasised. All needed to be on their guard that those qualities would not be eroded by pressure for development or out of scale premises or businesses, and inappropriate diversification and farming. Delegates were aware that many of the campaigns and initiatives were not new, but the time had come to consolidate and work together for the emergence of an "environmental and cultural economy".

Daleswatch Report (1)

NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES DECLARATION ON FARMING IN NATIONAL PARKS

At the Conference of the National Park Societies of England and Wales, in Snowdonia in November, the Societies set out their vision for the future of farming in National Parks in the following declaration.

Farming in National Parks is crucial to the delivery of:

- safe, healthy food and non-food products, produced with high standards of care for the environment and animal welfare, and targeted much more closely on market opportunities to give farming families a better return;
- a beautiful countryside, rich in biodiversity, not only for its own sake but for people's enjoyment and to help to support tourism;

- distinctive local food products as the basis for a cuisine which helps promote tourism; and
- a positive image for National Parks in the world.

Farmers and landowners also have an important role in helping conserve the cultural heritage of an area, indeed farming practices and culture in some areas equate with cultural heritage.

Marketing, particularly locally, of branded, quality food with more added value available to the producer is essential to maintaining the economy and fabric of the National Parks and to reducing "food miles".

THE DALES DIGEST

is available quarterly for £6 a year.

16 pages from the local and regional press, packed with information on the economy, transport, housing, employment and other issues of concern to anyone living, working or interested in the Yorkshire Dales.

Profile: John Cumberland

Continuing our occasional series of articles profiling a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society Council for Management.

Forestry, farming and education have all been important in John Cumberland's life. Farming proved an impossible goal for one of a Methodist minister's four sons, on a modest stipend but an early interest in forestry was triggered by John's carpenter grandfather. Later encouraged by his headmaster at Kingswood school near Bath, 15-year old John worked on the nearby estate in his spare time, felling trees with an axe bought out of very meagre wages.

Each summer John's father took his family on a three week camping holiday in the Lakes to a farm near Keswick where John enjoyed hay-making and milking, as well as walking the hills. He also explored the Lakes from his racing bike from the family home in a succession of East Lancashire towns. Two years National Service and one year as a Woodman intervened before he took his Forestry BSc at Edinburgh University. Afterwards from 1959-67 he worked as a District Forest Officer for the Forestry Commission at Betws y Coed, Llandridnod Wells and Welshpool. His first Management Plan for Lake Vyrnwy was regarded as so advanced, it is still in use well over 15 years later.

For over ten years 1967-78, John was a Director of Economic Forestry Ltd, based initially at Shrewsbury, then in Scotland at Eskdalemuir in charge of their Scottish operation which entailed planting thirteen and a half thousand acres in one year. It was here that John with the help of a wildlife expert was able to introduce conservation concepts such as fishing ponds and the chance to observe roe deer and also a successful farming operation. This was followed by three years in Buckinghamshire specialising in landscape and forestry, and dealing with projects like the hydraulic seeding of verges of motorways and the planting of mature trees in urban housing projects. By 1973 he had moved to Ilkley as Managing Director of EFG North of England, running a closely integrated programme of both forestry and farming at Catcleugh and Killington.

Then a change of emphasis and direction. John had obtained his PGCE from Leeds University in 1979 and taught physics, and evening classes for youngsters who needed additional help, for Leeds Education Authority, also taking scouts into the countryside. During 1979-84 he was also Visiting Lecturer for

Landscape and Forestry, at Leeds Polytechnic (now Leeds Metropolitan University). Some part-time consultancy work at the Bolton Abbey Estate led to the offer of a full-time Forestry post which later expanded to include tourism and gardening, and lasted for ten years till his retirement in 1994. His role on the Dales Consumer Liaison Panel for British Telecom and as a member of its Environmental Advisory Panel in London showed that over-riding concern for the environment and active and practical interest.

John established the imaginative Yellow Trail for schools at Bolton Abbey and was concerned to make at least part of the Estate, suitable for those who needed easier access. The Trail was later named the Cumberland Trail in his honour by the Estate.

In retirement John is as busy as ever. He has been with the Yorkshire Dales Society for a number of years and a Council Member for at least seven, where his considered responses at Council meetings and highly pertinent contributions, help to enhance the quality of what is a very fine team of caring and enthusiastic individuals. John's many abilities were recognised when he was appointed to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee 1996-2001, and became Chairman of its Finance Committee and also Deputy Chairman.

For John the freedom to walk the hills in the Lakes and Dales means a sense of exhilaration and the pleasure in pitting one's strength against nature. On his wish list for the Yorkshire Dales Society would be the more active participation of the younger generation, and the concern that ordinary YDS members and the general public need to be aware that

the YDS can actually influence government thinking and that individuals as well as pressure groups can make a difference. John who met his wife Christina on a forestry course, has three sons and three grandchildren. His other posts have included Chairmanship of the Yorkshire Division of the Royal Forestry Society, Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Woodland Forum Committee, and Member of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society Forestry Committee. John is also an active member of a variety of other forestry and outdoor organisations. He is an enthusiastic cyclist, walker and caravanner, a keen boat builder who enjoys sailing, and a superb photographer.

Fleur Speakman

Oatcakes and Cheese

OATCAKE BISCUITS AND WENSLEYDALE CHEESE GIVE FLAVOUR TO "PEOPLE IN A LANDSCAPE: TRACKS THROUGH THE DALES"

Three generations of Geoffrey Wright's family and two former and one current Dalesman editor - Bill Mitchell, David Joy and Terry Fletcher - were among over fifty guests invited to the opening of the retrospective exhibition of Geoffrey Wright's photographs at the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes on Tuesday November 20th. The event was initiated by the Yorkshire Dales Society as part of its twentieth anniversary celebrations in co-operation with the Museum.

It was the Dalesman magazine who first printed Geoffrey's photos and gave the aspiring photographer one guinea for a picture of some hostellers arriving at their YHA, in 1948, and who also acted later as one of Geoffrey's publishers.

"People in a Landscape: Tracks through the Dales" formed both a fitting tribute to a much-loved former YDS Council member and to the Yorkshire Dales themselves as Geoffrey's images demonstrated the special qualities of the Dales landscape, as well as pleasure in the farmers, stone cutters and rope-makers - again part of the Dales identity.

It was fitting that in the year of the Yorkshire Dales Society's Twentieth Anniversary there was a chance to look back and observe the changes in the landscape itself, such as the photo of Mastiles Lane, now much eroded, contrasting with the enduring images of the more robust clints and grykes, and to celebrate the life of someone to whom the Dales mattered so deeply. To quote Joint Secretary Colin Speakman, "Geoffrey was a passionate conservationist. He combined technical brilliance in his photography with expertise as a historian and writer." Simon Warner, a leading professional photographer, admired in his own right both for the quality of his dramatic landscapes and striking portraits, pointed to Geoffrey's unerring sureness of

touch as well as to the special qualities which made Geoffrey's images as fresh as ever. Jean Wright, Geoffrey's widow, who opened the exhibition, stressed that her husband whose original career was in education, would have been delighted to know that his photographs would also be available as an educational resource at the museum and as a substantial archive. She told of Geoffrey's decision to leave teaching in the mid-sixties and bring his family to a house near Askrigg and concentrate on his writing and photography. This brave step was of course more than vindicated as his career developed.

Jean was photographed by the Darlington and Stockton Times next to her favourite photo, the Octagon Mill at Arkengarthdale, now long

demolished. Other key photos were featured by the Yorkshire Post in an article with the headline The Dales - Captured Forever.

Appropriately the guests enjoyed various varieties of Wensleydale cheese from the nearby Creamery in Hawes with biscuits which included some traditional oatmeal selections, though the wine sadly

had to come from further afield. The Society was also delighted to welcome Iain Oag, the Director of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Adrian Pickles, the Director of Malham Tarn Field Studies Council, the Chairman of the Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum, a number of former YDS Council members and many others.

The Yorkshire Dales Society would particularly like to extend its thanks to Jean Wright for agreeing to open the Exhibition and performing her task with great charm, and to Curator Fiona Rosher and her assistant Debbie Allen of the Dales Countryside Museum for all their expert help and enthusiasm in setting up this event. Our grateful thanks go to Chris Wright, assisted by Peter Sharpe, for a great deal of hard work in helping to sift and organise the photographs and to Fleur Speakman for the smooth-running of the event and behind the scenes negotiations.

The Wright family at Hawes, November 2001



The Energy Technology Support Unit (ETSU) Seminars on Renewable Energy for Yorkshire and Humberside

Climate change and its possible impacts on protected landscapes such as the Yorkshire Dales have highlighted the need to source new, non-polluting renewable energy sources. But some of these solutions, such as windfarms, can also have a massive impact on the landscape. Fleur Speakman was asked to represent the Council for National Parks and the Yorkshire Dales Society at two key regional seminars in October and December.

Apart from wishing that some "energy" had been expended on a microphone at the ETSU Seminar at Leeds Town Hall on the 11th October 2001 where the high ceilings can defeat all but the most practised speaker, this seminar was a most useful consultation exercise and is part of the Government's strategic approach to planning for Renewable Energy (RE) to reduce electricity, with another eleven areas throughout the country having followed a similar pattern of meetings.

Briefing papers were helpful in setting out the policy background and the wider environmental context to the range of renewable energy technologies and much information was gained from some good use of Overhead Projector material.

The government is keen to have a target of 10% of Renewable Energy by 2010 and was keen to identify by consultation with a wide range of interested bodies how feasible such a target was, or how it could be improved or adjusted in some way.

It was stressed that wider economic, social and environmental benefits should accrue and that RE could be the focus for business development, could contribute positively to lessening the effect of climate change and greenhouse gas emission targets and help deliver sustainable development in the region. It was also pointed out that there was a need to reduce CO₂ by 60% in order to make a real difference to present levels of emission.

The aim of the study was to prepare an assessment of the resource potential, develop targets for renewable energy in the region and produce an action plan. Resources would be assessed as regards their technical capacity, accessibility and practicability.

A brief summary of some of the suggested options regarding RE included :

- Off shore and on-shore Wind Energy which in

all cases would need careful positioning, and potential for some off-grid sites.

- Biomass Wood sources which would take account of the existing woodland stock and examine new sources.
- Other sources of fuel from Biomass included surplus straw from agriculture, farm livestock manures and poultry litter.
- Hydro-power and landfill gas were too small-scale to have sufficient potential to make an impact.
- Waste Combustion could potentially form a substantial regional resource, principally in urban areas.
- Solar Energies were unlikely to be significant before 2010, but there were some opportunities for solar water heating such as swimming pools and for Passive Solar Design.
- Other technologies such as Tidal Wave, Geothermal energy and the deployment of fuel cells were not expected to be significant in this context and time-scale.

The benefits of Renewable Energy were seen as increasing employment opportunities, reducing fuel poverty and helping to improve the local environment such as the renovation of water amenities. It could also assist urban regeneration by giving the opportunity to use brownfill sites.

Crucially there was a need for Planning Offices, Councillors and the general public to have an understanding of the benefits and disbenefits of RE.

Oral and written comments

Points from discussion groups and written stakeholder comments which were invited by the end of October before the next stage of consultations included the fact, that high quality landscape is a great resource so that care must be taken not to damage special areas in the name of RE. The obtaining of biomass wood sources and a consistent supply would need careful consideration as visual intrusion, noise, traffic increase and possible emissions could be definite disadvantages. It was hoped that the community would always be consulted on any siting matter regarding RE and it was crucial to ensure that unsustainable developments did not damage the potential quality of life. Finally, there was a suggestion that fiscal incentives were needed from government via regional bodies to encourage both the public and

relevant organisations to see RE in a positive light.

UPDATE : SECOND STAGE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RE-ASSESSMENT AND TARGET FOR YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER OF RE

The second seminar on the crucial next stage of the consultation took place on Tuesday December 4th, again at Leeds Town Hall.

Key issues were Resources, Planning and LA21 Stakeholder Consultation.

The seminar focused on giving greater detail on various applications of RE.

An off-shore wind energy scheme in Denmark ten years ago and the first of its kind, had now been superseded with modern improvements in technology in both Scandinavia and the UK. Two turbines at Blythe Harbour were producing at least as much energy as a fair-sized wind farm. Off-shore wind farms some distance from shore, could now be smaller and less obtrusive than in the past. However, apparently even the tallest individual wind energy installation at 70 metres was popular with the local inhabitants as it had a special viewing platform.

Incineration, Pyrolysis and gasification

Further information on the conversion of biomass to fuel detailed additions to the original list of such material and now included short rotation coppice, traditional coppice and miscanthus (fast growing elephant grass). Benefits could include CO₂ reduction, UK agricultural and industrial opportunities, export potential, biodiversity and land reclamation, and cost reduction. Efficiency as regards conventional combustion and incineration was up to 19%-28%, but newer technology such as pyrolysis using heat but no oxygen where the heated wood degrades to produce gases, liquids and charcoal usually has a liquid fuel as a major output which can be used to drive a reciprocating engine or turbine to turn a generator, is more efficient rising to 25%-35%. Gasification, the final method, ranged from 30%-38% efficiency.

Photovoltaics

Photovoltaics or PV was a form of solar energy consisting of panels usually placed on the roof of a building as in an example of housing at Maidenhead. However, costs in time could be brought down, particularly by incorporating the panels as actually part of the structure. PV canopies

on filling stations for example could perhaps form a part of a nation-wide network and might prove a showcase for PV panels.

An example was given from Bedford where the local authority which tried to make planning permission for 263 dwellings for a private developer conditional that six of the dwellings should have solar panels, ran into problems. The developer after researching claimed that PV would be too expensive and withdrew.

Fuel Cells

The principal of fuel cells is similar to a battery, but uses fuels such as hydrogen and an oxidant on a continuous basis. They could be used for large scale power for a building (stationary) or possibly for transport for buses, light delivery vehicles and even cars though more development was still needed.

2010 and 2021

Delegates were presented with three detailed scenarios regarding the rate of progress towards RE in 2010 and 2021. They were required to consider a feasible strategy towards such goals and the types of RE that would best serve those interests. It was hoped that by 2021 that converting waste to energy would be redundant through the amount of reduction, re-use and re-cycling that had resulted.

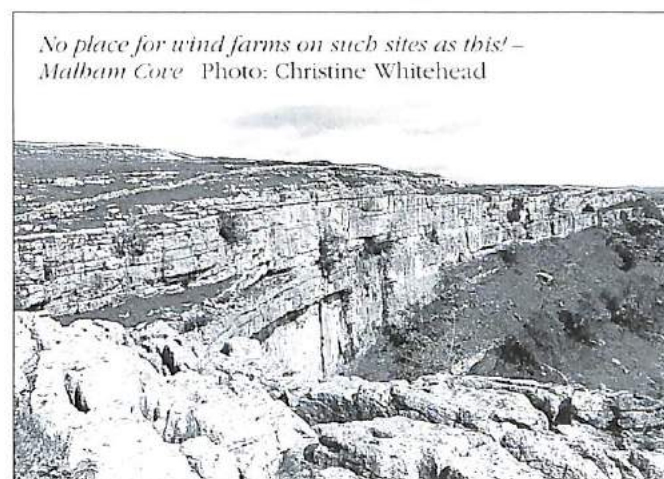
The discussion groups particularly focused on the crucial aspect of location for all schemes. It was suggested very strongly that were great

opportunities for proselytising for RE both through schools and various local organisations. But there are barriers to this ideal scenario. Technology would need to keep pace with expectations. The public perception of RE would need to be very positive and it was vital to link the community with RE so that they are crucially part of the

consultation process. There would also need to be backing from government and local authorities to promote the schemes, ideally as a series of partnerships with appropriate other organisations.

Delegates were asked once again to provide some Stakeholder feedback early in the New Year. A Draft Report and Action Plan would become available for mid January 2002 and the Report itself launched in March 2002.

Fleur Speakman



No place for wind farms on such sites as this! - Malham Cove Photo: Christine Whitehead

Flash Floods – but Hawkswick History is still maintained

As part of their four-year £9 million Dales EnviroNet project, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust tackled a round of conservation and refurbishment projects to benefit local communities. One of the categories involved river crossings and attention was drawn to the need to refurbish the Hawkswick footbridge which crosses the river Skirfare near the village of Hawkswick in Littondale, five miles from Threshfield.

The unusual 25-metre single span bridge carried a footpath, a route popular with residents and visitors alike, but the structure of the bridge was falling into disrepair and in need of a major facelift.

The project was jointly funded by the Trust and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Consultation with engineers revealed the bridge to be in the main, structurally sound, although severely in need of refurbishment. It was strongly agreed with residents of the village and the Parish Meeting that the bridge should be enhanced, rather than replaced, without detracting from its unique character.

Kate Hilditch, an area ranger with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority pointed out: "The Hawkswick footbridge is not necessarily one you would imagine to find in the Dales, yet its size and metal construction make it a unique and popular landmark."

Using traditional design and materials, work was to involve the removal of all timber decking and metal

safety panels, which were

severely corroded. The entire main

bridge superstructure was then to be grit blasted, followed by the application of a paint system with a 20-year life expectancy. The metal safety panelling was then to be replaced with timber handrails and vertical timber slats and decking was to be replaced.

The contractors, Richardson Construction Limited of Malham, embarked on the refurbishment programme in May 2000, but just as work was nearing completion in September of that year, an unprecedented flash flood caused the bridge to be washed away, 200 metres downstream.

"Even the ramparts were destroyed," recalls Kate Hilditch, "and it became apparent that the original bridge could not be rebuilt, it was beyond repair."

Despite this major setback, a promise was made to the local community that the bridge would be replaced with an exact replica and that promise was kept when the new bridge was built off site, necessitating the temporary removal of a dry stone wall by the river to allow space for a crane to lift the bridge on to the rebuilt abutments - a considerable undertaking.

The £46,000 project was successfully completed and an opening ceremony was held in January 2001, well attended by local people as well as representatives from the organisations that had enabled the work to be carried out.

The Trust's project officer, Juliet Coates, commented at the time: "The funding of this project is an excellent way of marking the Millennium in the Dales and has safeguarded the future of the bridge as well as maintaining a little of Hawkswick history."

Hilary Gray

**YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST**



Book Reviews

THE OLD HAND-KNITTERS OF THE DALES BY MARIE HARTLEY AND JOAN INGILBY, published by Smith Settle, Ilkley Road, Otley West Yorks. at £8.95 and available locally.

Although originally written 50 years ago and first published by Dalesman in 1951, this re-issue of Joan Ingilby and Marie Hartley's classic book by Smith, Settle on an important Dales cottage industry reads as freshly as ever. The particular character of the knitting industry in Swaledale, Wensleydale, Cumbria and Dent is enlivened by descriptions and reminiscences of particular personalities. At a period when wages were low, knitting enabled old and young, men, women and children who all constantly knitted as they went about their daily tasks and during the winter evenings, to acquire a vital extra source of income.

Some moving stories are told. One is of the great Garsdale mathematician John Dawson, born in 1743, who became an apothecary and surgeon as well as a teacher of mathematics and taught Seven Cambridge Senior Wranglers. While he tended his

sheep on the fells as a boy, already pondering on mathematical problems, he was allowed to spend his knitting money on the books which started his famous career. There is also a celebrated description by his great contemporary Adam Sedgwick, Woodwardian professor of Geology at Trinity College, Cambridge, in A Memorial to Cowgill Chape, of the knitting schools and "ganging a Sitting" where neighbours would gather round the fire at one house to hear tales being told or read while their knitting progressed at a furious pace and the reader didn't even miss a stitch.

A true story is told by the poet Robert Southey, contemporary with William Wordsworth, in dialect, and deals with two girls of about seven and five apprenticed to a knitting school in Dentdale many miles away from home who were so homesick, that with only sixpence in their pockets, they made their way eventually back home through the snow to Langdale rather than endure the coarse food and conditions at the school.

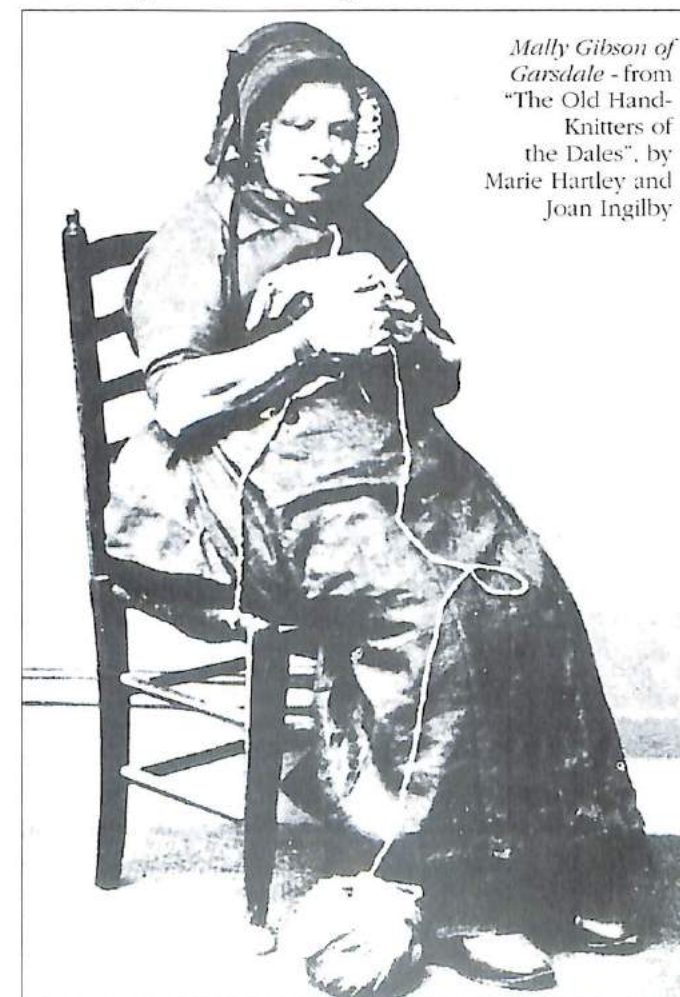
There is much additional information on how exactly the knitting was done by means of the knitting stick and some excellent illustrations as well as archive photos. Detail is also included on the various local mills and the logistics of supplying the knitters and the various finishing processes. A great deal of information can be absorbed in this thoroughly delightful book: the first of an enduring partnership between Marie Hartley and the late Joan Ingilby.

FS

LANDSCAPE DETECTIVE – DISCOVERING A COUNTRYSIDE BY RICHARD MUIR, published by Windgather Press, 31 Shrigley Road, Macclesfield, SK10 5RD, Price £16.99.

The name Richard Muir will be a familiar one to most members of the Yorkshire Dales Society. Dr Muir is one of Britain's leading landscape historians, and his writings on the Yorkshire Dales, and on Nidderdale in particular, are all classics, rich in an understanding of the ways in which our complex countryside has evolved.

Landscape Detection in the sense Muir uses the phrase, is a combination of the art of the historian with the science of the archaeologist, learning to



Mally Gibson of Garsdale - from "The Old Hand-Knitters of the Dales", by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby

read sometimes faint, sometimes glaringly obvious (to those who have a trained eye) evidence of our ancestors as they cultivated, settled or transformed the land. As he points out, how you interpret a landscape can change quite dramatically as the depth of your knowledge increases, so that what seems simple at first sight, may in fact hide something quite different, even unexpected, as you probe deeper. "like 'Cluedo' played on a vast, open air stage".

He has chosen a place very close to himself, both physically and spiritually, the Nidderdale village of Ripley, including Ripley Castle, park and estate, and uses this one parish, one small piece of space, to illustrate a vast process of time, from Romans to Victorians, with both early and late medieval periods yielding particular riches in terms of deserted hamlets, ancient hollow ways and long vanished roads, relics of medieval hedges and great trees, still standing, that date back to Norman times. Ripley is a microcosm of rural England, rich, complex and always changing. Yet there is a remarkable continuity within that countryside that firmly links people of the twentyfirst century with their long forgotten predecessors, whose living landscape they continue to inhabit.



Daleswatch Report (2)

YORKSHIRE DALES GREEN LANES CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Over sixty people – walkers, farmers, conservationists, landowners and Parish Councillors - came to Bolton Abbey Village Hall on November 28th for an illustrated lecture by Jon Avison, Head of Visitor Management of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority about the problems of green lane management and the National Park's concern to protect this important part of our heritage. Quoting from the late Dr Arthur Raistrick who described the immense beauty and historic interest of the network of green lanes in the Dales, Jon showed slides to illustrate the massive destruction, caused mainly by motor cycles and four wheeled drive vehicles, of these same tracks and drove roads in the National Park over the last ten years. Ramblers

HOW THEY LIVED IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES
BY WR MITCHELL, drawings by David Hoyle,
published by Castleberg Press at £8.99, post free in the UK. Orders to Kingfisher Productions, "Felmersham", Mills Road, Osmington Mills, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6HE.

An affectionate portrait of Dales' life and characters, generously illustrated with archive photos and line drawings. Unforgettable are such anecdotes as the country-style logic of the child who answered the clergyman's query, why if ninety-nine sheep were already in the fold, the shepherd was still anxious to find the hundredth. "Happen twas t' tup," he was told with immense seriousness.

GARGRAVE: A YORKSHIRE VILLAGE AT THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM, compiled and produced by Gargrave Civic Society for Gargrave Parish Council, priced £7.50 at local shops or by post from Alan Simpson, 35 Marton Road, Gargrave, Skipton, North Yorks. BD23 3NN, priced £8.25 (inc. p&p).

A very attractive book of photographs, complete with useful maps, has been produced by Gargrave Civic Society which gives an overview of the parish of Gargrave for the millennium with an insight into its many attractive features, including the strategic importance of the River Aire as a crossing-point for the Romans. Gargrave's name is said to be Anglo-Norse in origin and is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Gargegrave and Gheregrave.

Association Honorary Solicitor, YDS Council member and National Park Authority member Jerry Pearlman gave the audience a brief overview of the complexities of vehicular rights on ancient lanes. After some useful debate, YDS Council member Dr Colin Ginger outlined an action plan to both monitor damage and disturbance being suffered and to press for action at both local and national level.

Members of the audience were invited to join the new Green Lanes Conservation Alliance, which will be announcing a programme of work in the next few weeks. If you'd like further details, or wish to support the Alliance's work, write to Michael Bartholomew, 9 Fern Bank, Otley, LS21 1HG tel 01913 468459.

Winter Events

With Foot & mouth finally over in the Dales, we look forward to resuming our full programme of Walks and Lectures over the Winter and early Spring and welcoming you to these events. (Please note that walks will continue to take place and alternative routes will be found in the event of any unresolved access issues).

SATURDAY JANUARY 12TH 2002

WONDERFUL WHAREFEDALE, Leader Jim Burton tel 01943 602918. THE LEADER REQUESTS TO AVOID PARKING IN CONGESTED ILKLEY, USE ADDINGHAM MEMORIAL HALL CAR PARK INSTEAD. Take the 762 bus from Addingham Fleece at 0930 to Ilkley Station - or come all the way by public transport (trains to Ilkley leave Leeds at 0932, Bradford 0919.) The walk starts at Ilkley Station at 10am, and ends in Addingham. This is a moderate walk, the route goes over open moor and woodland, climbing and descending. Pub, cafe or packed lunch. Finishes 12.45pm.

LECTURE: NATURE IN THE DALES: THE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN by Tim Thom, YDNP ecologist, at Addingham Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2ND 2002

WALK 1: A TASTE OF SWALEDALE. An easy 4mile walk, packed lunch. Leader Charles Hepworth, tel: 01748 886397. Meet Richmond outside the TIC Friary Gardens at 1030 (Bus 27).

WALK 2: THE RICHMOND TOWN TRAIL. This takes an hour. Meet outside the TIC, Friary Gardens at Richmond for 11am, pub or cafe lunch.

LECTURE: WILD FLOWERS OF THE DALES by Tony Woods at Richmond Town Hall, 2.15pm.

SATURDAY MARCH 2ND 2002

WALK : THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GRASSINGTON - looking at some examples of local archaeology. Meet outside Grassington Town Hall at 10.30am. (Please allow 10 -15 minutes to get from the car park to the Town Hall). Park at YDNP car park. Bus 72, 74. Packed, pub or cafe lunch. Leader: Robert White, YDNP archaeologist and author, who will talk on Dales Archaeology in the afternoon.



LECTURE: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE DALES by Robert White in the Octagon Room at Grassington Town Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY APRIL 5TH 2002

A RETURN TO MALHAMDALE. A seven mile moderate walk along an attractive section of the Pennine Way between Gargrave and Malham. Meet Gargrave (main bus stop by loos/cross roads) at 10.30am. Park in Gargrave. Bus 804 from Wakefield (d.0810), Leeds (d.0835) Bradford Int.(d. 0905) Keighley (0935) Skipton (1000) for Gargrave. Return on 1645 bus for Gargrave etc. Bring packed lunch. Leader to be announced.

SETTLE-CARLISLE RAILWAY CALENDAR 2002

Sprinters, Steamers, freight trains - all these and many more photographed through the changing seasons on the Settle-Carlisle route, provide some dramatic and atmospheric shots. The Calendar can be ordered direct from Pete Shaw Photography, 33 Temple Rhydding Drive, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorks. BD17 5PX., price £6.99 (includes p&p) with a further special offer of two or more calendars, post free at £12.50 for two, and £6.25 for each additional calendar. Make out cheques to Pete Shaw Photography.

BADGES AND BOOKMARKS

For those small, easy to post presents, welcome at any time of the year, give one of the Yorkshire Dales Society's smart leather black badges with bird's eye primrose logo, complete with a matching leather bookmark, or there is a choice of three colours: black, maroon or bottle green (colour choice for bookmarks only). Price per item £1 post free, special rates for multiple items. Cheques to be made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society and sent to The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 1HD.

For news and events update see the Yorkshire Dales Society Website –
www.yorkshiredalesociety.org.uk



Front Cover picture: *Winter's Touch* - near Brimham Rocks, Nidderdale. Photo by John Fawcett.

Back Cover Drawing: *Kettlewell, Wharfedale* by David Hoyle – see book review “How They Lived in the Dales” by W. R. Mitchell, page 14.

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Any contributions should be sent to the Editors, The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HD. Telephone/Answerphone 01943 461938.

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Single Retired £9, Retired Couple £12.

Student/Unwaged £6.

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