

Yorkshire Dales Review

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Yorkshire Dales
Society



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Whinash – A Victory for Conservation

News that the Secretary of State has turned down plans to erect 27 giant turbines, each 115 metres (around 377 feet) high, on Whinash Ridge above Borrowdale and Bretherdale, between the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks, will come as immense relief for anyone who loves our northern hills. The site is within the area proposed to become part of the Lake District National Park in the report **Cumbria's Forgotten Landscapes**, jointly published by the Friends of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales Society,

Naturally there have been the predicted knee-jerk reactions from some of the more fanatical wind farm campaigners, including organisations whose views the Yorkshire Dales Society would normally respect, who see every such case in naïve black-and white. But their spokesmen constantly fail to discriminate between appropriately sited wind farms, which might even enhance Britain's many millions acres of damaged and degraded urban landscapes, including many coastal ports and estuaries, or along the featureless agri-industrial landscapes of much of windy eastern England, and development which causes massive visual impact on our finest landscapes such as National Parks.

The Yorkshire Dales Society does not oppose wind farms as such. But too often support for wind power is merely hypocritical, if high profile, tokenism. It is both simplistic and irresponsible to support the degradation and urbanisation of some of our grandest and wildest landscapes merely to allow our profligate energy consumption to carry on as usual. How many vocal pro-wind farm activists drive many thousands of miles along motorways in their cars or are constantly taking cheap air flights for weekend breaks to Prague or Budapest? The growth in domestic and short-haul flights alone is rapidly wiping out the carbon savings of all our wind farms. True conservation strategies are about insulating our homes, driving smaller engined cars or using public transport, flying only when necessary, walking and cycling more, consuming locally produced foods, indeed changing our lifestyles in perhaps radical ways.

The Society believes that wind power should and must

play a vital role, along with other renewable energy sources such as wave technology, hydropower, solar energy, biofuels, as well as a range of truly effective energy conservation measures, in meeting Britain's future energy needs, but not at the price of seriously compromising our National Parks. The proposed Whinash turbines would have been intrusively visible from many parts of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, including much of the Howgill Fells, and it would have been completely outrageous to have sacrificed such a nationally important, semi-wilderness landscape heritage for what is only a partial and limited solution to Britain's energy problems.

The reasons for the Secretary of State's decision, after a searching public Inquiry, are therefore extremely encouraging:

"The Whinash site is an important and integral part of a far-reaching landscape which is highly sensitive to change and that the adverse environmental impacts of the Development would conflict with the aims of Planning Policy Statement 22 which is, in part, to minimise the impacts of wind generation and to achieve environmental safeguards". He also agreed with the Inquiry Inspector's conclusion that *"the environmental harm to this particular landscape outweighs the benefits of securing renewable energy at the Whinash site".*

We would totally support this view. So we congratulate the Government on its forward looking decision, which has implications for similar development within and close to our finest landscapes. But congratulations are also due to the two National Park Authorities, Council for National Parks, other local authorities and the many voluntary organisations including the Friends of Bretherdale of which the Yorkshire Dales Society was a part, who have worked so well together to lead such a vigorous and well-researched campaign to object to these proposals. It is a true victory for conservation.

Colin Speakman

How the National Park is Changing

In 2002 the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority published its first State of the Park report, a document which aimed to monitor the changes which had occurred within the National Park. In February 2006 the second State of the Park report was published. Like its predecessor, the Report monitors and reports economic, social and environmental changes over the last four years as a result of many external factors, including Government and other agency policies, as well as the implementation of the National Park Authority's own five year Management Plan.

It is an impressively detailed document, looking at such issues as population, employment, access, rights of way, nature conservation and public awareness. This is based on a wide variety of surveys and data, brought together in a readable and comprehensive way.

Though there are no major surprises some interesting facts emerge. On the positive side is a huge increase in the amount of land managed through agri-environment and conservation agreements. There is also an improvement in the number of conservation sites reported to be in a "favourable condition".

Barn near Rouleth, Swaledale



Population living within the National Park is broadly static, with a welcome slight increase in the number of younger people living in the area. Traffic levels have remained fairly level, with a decrease in the summer peak, but increases in off-peak travel by both local residents and visitors. Interesting is a significant increase in the number of people using the National Park/Nidderdale AONB Dalesbus Sunday leisure network, which shows an increase of over 20% in usage

between 2000-2003, proving that policies to get people out of their cars and onto public transport and to encourage non car owners to visit the Dales are working.

The number of day visits to the Dales is broadly static at 8.3 million day visits, with, in 2004, around 81% of visitors suggesting they go for a walk during their visit, which emphasises the importance of the improvements noted in the high percentage of rights of way opened and signed, and the 62% of the Park now open for public access. An encouraging 5% also go cycling.

Unemployment levels are exceptionally low but income in the Dales is lower than the national average, widening the gap even further between rich and poor. Around 11% of Dales' residents do not have a car in their household. Perhaps the most worrying fact is linked to housing provision, with a massive 77% hike in the cost of homes between 2001 and 2004. Houses on average now cost 22% more than in the rest of North Yorkshire, which itself is generally an expensive county. This increases the danger of the National Park becoming a haven for only the most affluent members of society,

with increasing difficulty for people, such as teachers, nurses or people in agriculture or the service sector on average salaries and wages being able to live in the area. This in turn underlines the need for imaginative social housing and transport policies including ensuring that service sector workers have adequate

transport to "reverse commute" from peripheral market towns.

The findings of the State of the Park 2005 report will form an important starting point for the new 2006 -11 Park Management Plan now in preparation. The Report is available from National Park Office or via the National Park's web site on www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Re-thinking Ingleborough

For 150 years the archaeological remains on the summit of Ingleborough have been interpreted as an Iron Age 'hillfort', complete with 'rampart' and 'hut circles'. New work suggests it is something entirely different – a hilltop sanctuary probably in use during the 2nd millennium B.C., with possible earlier origins. The research outlined below was presented as part of an MA in Field Archaeology at the University of York in 2003. In January of this year Yvonne Luke presented a fascinating lecture on the subject at the Victoria Hall, Settle for the YDS at a well-filled hall.

Ingleborough is one of the most famous hills in the Pennines, a beloved favourite of many walkers and the most frequently climbed of the Three Peaks. Its distinctive flat-topped profile can be seen for miles to the south and west, and it commands sweeping views down to the Irish Sea. What is less well known is that

Fig. 1 – Ingleborough, North Yorkshire (SD742746) from the north-east.



the summit is host to one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in the North of England – and one of the highest in the country at 723m above sea-level (over 2300 feet).

Since the middle of the 19th century Ingleborough has been described as an Iron Age 'hillfort'. John Phillips, founder member of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and a geologist by profession, included it in his famous book *The Rivers, Mountains and Sea-Coast of Yorkshire* published in the 1850s. Today it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and classified under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as a 'large univallate

hillfort' belonging to the Iron Age, with 'ramparts' and 'hut circles'.

However, new research suggests that it may actually be much older than we think – by 1000 years or more – and that its function was not defensive or domestic, but it was created and used for ceremonial activities. Unable to go out to examine archaeology in the field during the period of Foot and Mouth, I spent much time looking at aerial photographs of sites in the Dales. In Tony Waltham's guidebook *Yorkshire Dales National Park* (1987) I found a wonderful aerial view of the summit in snow melt conditions, a version of which is printed here.

Shallow snow can be particularly helpful in highlighting what archaeologists call 'sub-surface anomalies' – silted or backfilled pits and ditches which may be all that remain of structures which vanished long ago.

Examining the summit in detail, I noticed what appeared to be a faint circular feature in the north-west corner (top left, Fig.2). There were also subtle signs of a path or trackway, linking the feature to the edge of the summit. This was totally unexpected and, having checked the original photographs in the superb aerial photograph collection at the Archaeology office of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, provided much food for thought. The shape of the structure, whatever it was, brought to mind periods earlier than the Iron Age and functions other than defensive, and it opened my mind to the possibility that there was more to Ingleborough than met the eye.



Fig. 2 – Ingleborough in snow. The enclosure can be seen quite clearly running round the perimeter of the summit, and most of the ring structures are visible. © Robert White/Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority ANY 220/05

The second breakthrough came shortly afterwards when, prompted once again by an illustration in a book, it dawned on me that the so-called 'hut circles' may in fact be *ring cairns*. Ring cairns are not a particularly well known or glamorous type of archaeology, although they are found in most upland areas of Britain. They can look remarkably like the remains of hut circles and have only been seriously researched by archaeologists since the 1970s. Defined by circular stone banks and occasionally embellished with orthostats or larger stones, on excavation they have been associated with ritual and sometimes funerary deposits – charcoal, quartz pebbles and cremated remains. They generally date to the 2nd Millennium B.C., occasionally later. The size and shape of the round structures on Ingleborough are very similar to many ring cairns found elsewhere in the Dales which are frequently of modest size (c.10m diameter) and almost without exception found high up on hills. Their presence on Ingleborough suggests the summit was developed as an important ceremonial centre during the 2nd Millennium BC.

The physical remains of the 'rampart' also fail to fit in with the idea of an Iron Age hillfort. It contains many gaps and breaks – far too many for the enclosure to function as a protective barrier. The gaps have been

traditionally ascribed to destruction and decay, but this is at odds with the field evidence, which on the contrary suggests they are planned and original. A further problem is that the nature of the enclosure varies considerably in different parts of the summit, and appears to have been deliberately constructed in markedly diverse ways in different places. Along large parts of the north-west circuit it hardly exists,

whereas the north-east corner is dominated by a crescendo of complex wall building and orthostats. Taken together, all the evidence suggests that Ingleborough had never been a 'hillfort', but was a focus for ceremonies and rituals during the 2nd Millennium B.C.

This new interpretation of Ingleborough fits in with the

Fig. 3 – One ring structure (in background) and one 'half' ring structure (foreground) on Ingleborough. The 'trig' point is on the horizon.



growing number of early prehistoric hilltop enclosures now being recognised elsewhere in northern England. Carrock Fell near Penrith being another example. If its prime function during certain periods of prehistory was as a major arena for ceremonial and ritual acts,

Fig. 4 – The magnificent and unusual stone built part of the enclosure in the north-east corner, now much ruined. Pen-y-ghent is in the distance.



Ingleborough is challenging us to find better methods and more sensitive frameworks for identifying and understanding the history of such places. Its archaeological remains appear to be a most sophisticated and elaborate expression of belief systems which patently encompassed and were seamlessly integrated

with major landforms and topographic features. As such I suggest we should start to see it as a *hilltop sanctuary*, deliberately sited on the summit of a distinctive, majestic – and probably sacred – hill.

Yvonne Luke

SPECIAL PLEA – WALKERS’ CAIRNS CAN CAUSE DAMAGE

This part of the enclosure, where the path from Clapham and Gaping Gill crests the summit, has been denuded of stone to build a walkers’ cairn, just off the photo to the right.

are actually formed out of infinitely older structures, and every stone moved is a bit of ancient history lost.

It is good news that Ingleborough has legal protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, though this has not preserved it either from the wear and tear caused by the passage of too many hiking boots, nor from other forms of damage. Stones are frequently removed from the remaining archaeological structures to make modern walkers’ cairns or shelters. Many visitors are probably unaware of its archaeological importance, but the acceleration in destruction and decay is particularly to be regretted as it comes at a time when we are just beginning to realise how little we understand the place. It is time to make a special plea to all walkers and hikers who are interested in the history of the Pennines to relinquish the habits of creating new cairns – a surprising number



The Limestone Country Project – European Award Winner

The Limestone Country Project is a five year project based in the limestone areas of the Yorkshire Dales. The Project has a £1.27 million budget, of which £550K is from the European Union LIFE (Nature) fund; money specifically allocated by the EU to support the management of internationally important wildlife sites. It is a partnership project, jointly project managed by English Nature and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, with a number of other partners including the National Trust, the Grazing Animals Project, National Beef Association and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. The Project has now been running for just under 4 years.

The limestone areas of the Yorkshire Dales are of national and international importance for biodiversity. These areas are associated with the distribution of Carboniferous limestone and the majority of the area is concentrated in the uplands around Ingleborough and Malham. The soils overlying this rock are usually very thin and of low fertility and, in combination with consistent grazing, result in a rich diversity of lime-loving grasses and wildflowers for which the “limestone country” of the Dales is famous. The limestone grasslands are dominated by blue moor grass with colourful species such as bloody crane’s-bill, rockrose, small scabious and wild thyme.

This is also an important area for limestone pavements with 50 % of the UK’s pavements within the Yorkshire Dales. Limestone Pavement is a unique and declining resource of international conservation importance.

The Yorkshire Dales landscape and habitats have been influenced to a large degree through a long history of pastoral farming. However, agricultural census returns over last 40 years show a general decline in mixed farming – for a variety of reasons, both economic and cultural. Research carried out during the development of the Limestone Country Project bid showed clearly that much of the higher limestone land was now being grazed exclusively by sheep. Despite having had a long history of summer cattle grazing, the land is now seen as not being of good enough forage quality, and cattle grazing viewed as too labour intensive or uneconomic. Where cattle are still present these tend to be the larger commercial continental breeds and these are rarely left on the land for any significant time period.

There is now a wide amount of experience regarding the role that traditional cattle breeds may have in helping maintain important wildlife sites and a number of wildlife sites are being managed by traditional breeds to enhance their biodiversity. Native upland cattle breeds have been recognised for their ability to graze unimproved upland grasslands and convert low quality forage much more effectively. They are also less selective graziers and thus

encourage greater diversity within grassland swards. The Limestone Country Project aims to restore habitats within the Ingleborough Complex and Craven Limestone Complex Special Areas for Conservation by encouraging a return to mixed farming using hardy upland cattle breeds. We are aiming to introduce native upland cattle onto a minimum of 1,500 ha of limestone habitats in the project area, and are currently working with 17 farming enterprises. Farmers joining the Project are able to select from a range of native cattle breeds, including Galloway, Shorthorn, Blue Grey, Luing, Highland and Welsh Black. Blue Greys would have been a very common sight amongst suckler herds in the Dales only 40 years ago and we envisage that they will play a very important role in the future of the Project.

Recently, in the summer of 2003, as part of the Project, English Nature purchased a herd of Blue Grey cattle. The 19 yearling heifers and 7 two-year old heifers have grazed across 180 hectares of upland rough grazing from June right through to January when they were removed and overwintered on more lowland pastures in Cumbria. These Blue Grey cattle were brought onto the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve to tackle the blue moorgrass which was the dominant grass on the higher land, in order to increase species diversity amongst the grassland swards. Blue moorgrass is typically avoided by sheep and continental cattle which preferentially graze the fescue swards. Since May 2004 these cattle have been back grazing on the slopes of Ingleborough and although as yet we have no hard scientific evidence, the initial visible results are promising. We are, however monitoring both the performance, economic viability and grazing impact of the cattle, including using radio collars which will locate the herd and allow us to gain information on their grazing and behavioural patterns. The results from this research will start to become available in 2006.

In September 2005, The Limestone Country Team were invited across to Apeldoorn in the Netherlands to take part in the ‘European Nature Conference 2005’. This conference brought together representatives from nature reserves, wildlife organisations and National Parks across the European Union in a four day conference of workshops, field visits and presentations.

During an award ceremony, first prize in the Eurosite Awards 2005 was awarded in recognition of the work being carried out by the Limestone Country Project. The Award sponsor Eurosite constitutes the largest network of organisations devoted to nature conservation management across Europe, including 80 member organisations across 21 countries.

The award was made in recognition of the work carried



Robert Phillip of Hellifield with some of his Highland cattle. Photo courtesy of the Craven Herald

out on the internationally important wildlife sites of the Limestone Country. These sites, which are part of the Natura 2000 network of sites protected and managed under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives, include the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve. The judges highlighted the project liaison with the farming community, project literature and nature reserve interpretative material as being of the highest quality. In addition the education work of the associated 'Learning in Limestone Country Project' was given very high praise.

This summer, The Limestone Country Project will be hosting its own Eurosite workshop, which will bring together nature conservation practitioners from across Europe to discuss the issues threatening limestone (karst) ecosystems.

The main aim of the workshop is to bring those working in karst landscapes together to share information and experience, and learn about how to achieve sustainable management of karst ecosystems. We will explore what can be done to maintain or re-establish appropriate grazing management and how to make the management of these landscapes financially sustainable, for example through marketing of products from Natura 2000 areas.

Finally, in order for the Project to have long term benefits and remain a viable option for the farmers involved, it is vital that a sustainable market for this fantastic beef is created.

In 2005 and continuing this year, local food and drink

network Feast were engaged by the agreement holders to help with marketing and publicity. They have been working closely with 16 farmers, introducing the beef to a variety of markets, and already it can be found at some of the finest restaurants and best butchers in the region.

Grassington butcher Colin Robinson was the first to sell the beef and works with three farmers in the scheme, stocking Blue Grey and Galloway beef. Robert Phillip of Hellifield Highlanders runs a box scheme using his Highland beef, whilst Janet Whittaker of Whaitber Farm, sells Blue Grey and Galloway beef on Lancaster Farmers' Market.

Richard Palmer, General Manager of the Devonshire Fell Hotel in Burnsall was particularly keen to get Luing beef on his menu as the breed is kept by the Dean family of Threshfield, who are regular customers.

A new website, with updates on the latest breeds for sale and where to buy or eat, is planned for the future. In the meantime visit www.feastnet.net or call Feast on 01756 748 627 for a list of retailers and chefs.

If anyone is interested in any further information on the Limestone Country Project, contact - Paul Evans (English Nature -01969 623447), Louise Williams - (Limestone Country Project -01756 752748) or Tim Thom (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority -01756 752748). www.limestone-country.org.uk

Cash Crisis to Hit the National Park Authority

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority faces a significant cut-back in expenditure in 2006/7 with Government funding for the Authority's work being fixed at "standstill" in real not actual terms, representing a financial cutback of around 3% at a time of rising costs and increasing responsibility

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) supplies the majority of the cash to the nine National Parks in England and it has frozen the £4.9m grant that the YDNPA received in 2005/06 at the same level for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

As a result, some work undertaken by the Authority will be hit this year – and it will face crunch decisions the year after, according to YDNPA Chairman Carl Lis.

"To date, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been in a healthy state financially with no real problems – but all that is about to change," he said.

"This is an extremely disappointing settlement from our point of view, particularly in light of the fact that National Parks are expected to deliver far more of the Government's agenda, whether it is something like the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, affordable housing, social inclusion or modernising rural delivery. The freeze will mean our work will suffer.

"On top of the projects and services for which we are responsible, we are committed to nationally-negotiated pay scales, including annual increments that we will also have to fund.

"Inflation will cost the authority between 4 per cent and 5 per cent (£0.2m) – money we will have to find through savings because Defra has given us no extra to fund it.

"This means a number of budgets for different projects will be frozen or reduced in order to achieve these savings.

"We rank our work in order of priority and money is allocated accordingly. As a result, high priority areas such as biodiversity, farm conservation, rights of way and green lanes will be largely unaffected but a number of lower ranking projects which we would like to deliver – like education, public transport, traffic management and cycling – will stand still.

"In addition there will be a reduction of £107,000 in work to continue the Countryside and Rights of Way Act which, even though it is a high priority, does not warrant the amount of money which was set aside for it.

"But, despite these cuts, we will come through the year relatively unscathed because we have a financial cushion of cash in reserve to absorb the effects of a frozen budget.

"The real crunch will come in 2007/8 and beyond when that cushion will have been spent and we will have to look at the future direction of the Authority and its ability to do the work it was created to do."

DalesBus Wins Major European Award

Over the last few years there has been excellent co-operation between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council, West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (Metro) and the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group through what is known as the TARGET programme, part funded by the EU, to market sustainable travel from the conurbations of West Yorkshire to the Yorkshire Dales.

In January came the news that the Dales TARGET project – "Yorkshire Dales and Cities Integrated Rural Transport and Visitor Management" – had won a major environmental award, made by the Austrian Government as part of their current Presidency of the EU, for being the best project promoting Ecologically Sound travel in Europe, out of a total of 80 entries from 15 countries.

This reflects the brilliant, imaginative marketing of the

DalesBus network, including leaflets, logos, brochures, web sites, guided walks, and the DalesBus discount scheme, which has resulted in remarkable growth of usage of the network, including many users without access to a car, but others prepared to leave a car behind to make use of the integrated bus network as a greener way of enjoying the Dales. Users enjoy the advantage of being able to access many superb linear walking and cycle routes (using the Bike Bus) through and across the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB.

Crazy as it seems, only a week or so after the Award, Dales Bus had to fight for its life with warnings of severe cuts of the North Yorkshire Bus network owing to rising costs, but thanks to hard work by NYCC and YDNPA officers and some powerful lobbying by YDS and YDPTUG, for 2006 at least the award winning network is

Andy Ryland receiving his Major European Award in Vienna.



and walks programme, available at Park and travel centres throughout the region. Or for latest news and timetables, log on to www.traveldales.org.uk or www.dalesbus.org sites for full and latest information.

New for 2006 are "Ilkley DalesBus" and "Skipton DalesBus" tickets. These allow a day return by train from West Yorkshire to Ilkley or Skipton, then unlimited travel on the Wharfedale area buses, as far north as Buckden. The tickets cost just £3.00 on top of the Cheap Day Return fare to either station.

safe. But there is still debate about fare levels which if too high could deter many customers, especially those on low incomes, including many young people and senior citizens, for whom Dalesbus is their only way of reaching and enjoying the National Park. Bus users also make an important contribution to the local economy in terms of visitor spend in Dales villages.

Sadly, a 75% cut in the already meagre contribution of £20,000 by the National Park Authority to public transport to a token £5,000 in 2006 and zero in 2007 does not help the situation, and claims by the Authority that transport is "not their responsibility" could be applied equally well to many other key Park activities shared with partner organisations. Such attitudes are going to face a stringent re-examination in the new National Park Management Plan which needs to re-consider all so-called "priorities" in the light of what are the wider, long term environmental, social and economic objectives of the National Park. What use are all the expensive footpath and conservation projects, access areas and visitor centres if the young and less affluent, the very people who might receive most benefit from such facilities (and who also actually help pay for them with their taxes) are denied access through lack of affordable, sustainable transport? Claims that "it's not our job gov," are going to ring very hollow indeed in such circumstances. Time for a little of that generally absent "joined-up thinking" perhaps?

In the meantime look out for the 2006 Dales Bus leaflet

Perfect for YDS walks.

The new tickets have been masterminded by Northern Rail and North Yorkshire County Council, with assistance from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and are one of the first initiatives to come out of the Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Travel Partnership.

The tickets are available to either Ilkley or Skipton Rail Stations from Leeds, Bradford Forster Square and all stations on the Airedale and Wharfedale lines. An added bonus is that the tickets are available anytime. (Cheap Day Return tickets are usually only available after 9.30am on Mondays to Fridays, although there's no time restriction at weekends.) The tickets are valid on Pride of the Dales bus services 72 and 72R between Skipton, Grassington and Hebden, and service 74 between Ilkley, Grassington and Buckden, on Keighley & District service 67A between Skipton and Grassington and on Reliance Motor Services/ Arriva Yorkshire services 800 and 805 between Ilkley, Grassington and Buckden. One slight limitation is that the Skipton and Ilkley versions of the ticket aren't interchangeable, so you need to return home from the same station. Example Fares:

- Ilkley DalesBus Ticket from Bradford: £5.30
- Ilkley DalesBus Ticket from Leeds: £6.00
- Skipton DalesBus Ticket from Leeds: £9.35

Note that the DalesBus tickets can only be combined with Cheap Day Return fares, not any other type of ticket. A half-price child version of the ticket is available, but the tickets cannot be combined with concessionary fares for MetroPermit holders.

Feast

In October 2004, Sally Scantlebury and Rebecca Roberts met on the steering group of Skipton Local Produce Festival. Sally was involved in the event through her work on the catering side of Skipton Auction Mart, Rebecca was there in her role as Business Liaison Officer for Settle and District Chamber of Trade.

In spite of its success, North Yorkshire County Council, the lead 'body' on the 2004 event, was not able to repeat the event in 2005 where visitors learned about a range of produce available from the Yorkshire Dales, whilst producers, farmers and growers had discovered a whole new way of selling their products direct to the public.

Sally Scantlebury and Rebecca Roberts took over the organisation of the 2005 festival, and **Feast** was born. It is a membership based organisation; electing not to accept funding so as not to limit the type or location of the producer they wish to work with. Their membership of over 100 is made up of farmers, growers and food producers, retailers, chefs and ultimately consumers. It offers practical, hands on, common sense solutions to producers who wish to market their products direct, either to the general public through box schemes or farmers' markets or to the trade through restaurants, butchers' shops or food retailers.

Now virtually in its third year, and re-named Autumn Feast, it has been joined in the calendar by the addition of Spring Feast, with the two founders keen to promote seasonal produce. During the summer months Feast has had a presence at local shows, and this year they will also be at the Great Yorkshire Show too, to showcase their members' produce.

There is now a brand new website for the County www.northyorkshirelocalfood.co.uk featuring primary producers from North Yorkshire and it is a superb point of reference when sourcing fresh local produce and where to buy it.

A new book (see leaflet) commissioned by David Joy, former editor of the Dalesman Magazine and written by Sally and Rebecca, entitled *Deliciously Dales* features farmers, growers and producers linked to outlets which support local producers, and all bound together by easy to follow trail maps; a most useful aid for anyone wishing to support their local food producers.

For further details about Feast see the website www.feastnet.net or call the office 01756 748 627 for a leaflet.

Limestone Country Beef Marketing

Feast was introduced to the limestone Country Beef project, on a cold January day in 2005 as Sally Scantlebury and Rebecca Roberts attended a meeting at Grassington Town Hall, where 15 surly farmers sat round a table bemused at how they could possibly learn anything from two 'girls' with pink handbags!

Two meetings later after they had tried everything, changed the meeting venues to a local pub, put on food, and bought the farmers a drink, all to no avail; the turnaround finally came when the girls got in their cars and went to meet each member, individually, on their home turf. They had meetings on bales of wool during shearing time, trudged over hills and sat on fences – received one cup of coffee in 15 meetings but, at the end of the initial phase they had a group of 15 farmers, treating each other as old friends and communicating honestly with each other at regular monthly meetings.

Sally and Rebecca realised from an early stage that there was something special about this particular beef; the market was ready to receive a niche product, with superb flavour and texture, at a reasonable price and with complete traceability throughout the process.

When planning their marketing strategy they decided to aim high, and felt if they targeted top restaurants, others might follow suit. They found that selling beef was a bit like the fashion industry, the finest designers set the tone for a season and the high street multiples followed on later in the season.

This strategy has proved to be very successful; Limestone Country Beef appeared on the menu at a number of Dales' eateries. The beef has gained recognition from top regional and even national chefs.

Colin Robinson, the butcher in Grassington has been a wonderful supporter of the beef from day one; he now sells a full spectrum of cuts and a good variety of breeds from his high street shop. In September 2005 the beef was the subject of a tasting event held at York Festival of food. The Slow Food group for Yorkshire carried out taste tests of several breeds within the scheme; the winner that day was Welsh Black, available from Richard Paul of Arncliffe and, on occasions, from Drake and Macefield in both Skipton and Settle.

Sally and Rebecca hope that one day all beef will be bought and sold by the breed. As they point out, you wouldn't consider buying a bottle of wine without knowing at least which vineyard it was from, yet the majority of consumers cheerfully select the Sunday Roast, which often costs far more than a bottle of wine, without knowing which farm the animal was reared on and multiple retailers do not promote beef by the breed.

They are looking forward to hearing the results of nutritional tests being undertaken by the University of Bristol, which they hope will prove that this beef not only tastes amazing but, because of its important, natural habitat it is also better for you than many of the imports available on the supermarket shelves.

For further details of where to buy the beef, either in 5 or 10kg boxes, through a butchers shop or in a restaurant, contact Feast on 01756 748 627.

READ ABOUT US ON THE WEB

The Yorkshire Dales Society web site is now available to give members up to the minute news and information about events taking place in and around the Dales, with links to other web sites and sources of information. Find out the latest by logging on to www.yds.org.uk

Book Reviews

NEW FREEDOM TO ROAM WALKING GUIDES

Guide 6 WHARFEDAILE AND NIDDERDALE (Andrew Bibby); Guide 7 WENSLEYDALE AND SWALEDALE (Andrew Bibby); Guide 8 THE THREE PEAKS AND THE HOWGILL FELS (Sheila Bowker), all published by Frances Lincoln @ £8.99.

The news that 62% of the unenclosed uplands of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and around 34% of the Nidderdale AONB are now open to the public has provided walkers in the Dales with a huge new choice of places to legally walk and enjoy these magnificent protected landscapes.

How appropriate and timely therefore that three new walking guides covering the whole of the Dales, which include the new access areas, are now published in association with the Ramblers Association. The **Wharfedale and Nidderdale** and **Wensleydale and Swaledale** guides are written by series editor (and YDS Member) Andrew Bibby, the third, **The Three Peaks and the Howgill Fels** by Sheila Bowker. The series is dedicated to the memory of that greater campaigner for access, the late Benny Rothman and each guide includes an extract from Ewan MacColl's memorable anthem, *The Manchester Rambler*. All are circular walks, varying from a gentle 5 to a massive 17 miles, each graded in order of



difficulty reflecting gradient and terrain, with an appropriate "Boot" symbol, from a relatively easy Two Boot stroll to a demanding Five Boot hike. Both offer clear parking and good public transport information.

Text blends accurate walk description with excellent interpretation of natural and historic features, and a especially delightful and innovative feature is a series of



illustrated essays between the walking sections – themes such as the Cloudberry, Juniper, Gaping Gill, Red Squirrels, Hand Knitters, Nidderdale, Porridge and Postage stamps (Kettlewell YH), The Kaber Uprising, Black Cocks and Grey Hens are all handled entertainingly, as well as dealing with some wider environmental issues such as Green Lanes and the Battle for the Buses – Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group please take a bow. There is valuable information giving clear advice about using public access land responsibly (and routes which are not rights of way can be closed at times, including periods of high fire risk),

Illustrations - Left: *Burnsall from Burnsall Fell*. Photo by John Morrison, from Freedom to Roam Guide No. 6, Wharfedale and Nidderdale. Above: *In the heart of the Dales*. Photo by John Morrison, from Freedom to Roam Guide No. 7, Wensleydale and Swaledale. Right: *Wash Dab in Crummock Dale*. Photo by John Morrison, from Freedom to Roam Guide No. 8, The Three Peaks and the Howgill Fels.

and general information and advice about walking in often wild and physically demanding open country, where dramatic changes of weather can be experienced, requiring proper clothing, footwear, emergency food and other sensible precautions.

Each walk is illustrated by generous extracts from appropriate OS Explorer maps, which means in theory you can plan your walk just with the book, and not have to also carry maps. Interestingly too, routes are not shown on the maps when crossing open country – the inference being that when you work your way from the map across country where you can wander at will, this doesn't always imply a single specific route.

All three guides are essential reading for anyone who loves and walks in the Dales, and all three are illustrated by superb photographs from John Morrison, one of the top photographers of the Dales, supported by some equally fine shots from the authors and other photographers. For this reviewer however this raises what I think is the dilemma of all Dales guidebook writers. The format used is a handy 17x 11cms, making a very compact book which makes it perfect to fit into a rucksack or even anorak pocket when out on the fells. This means, inevitably, that some of John's magnificent, evocative photographs are squeezed down to micro-format or have not just a staple but the tight angle of



binding through the middle, making them impossible to fully enjoy. As they are such handsome, very informative guides, even though the covers are weather protected, I'm not sure if I'd want to risk my own valued copies outdoors on a typical wild, wet and windy day on the fells, even if squeezed into a map case for protection. You might prefer to read the guides the night before and rely on your memory and a better protected Explorer map on the day. But then that's your choice.

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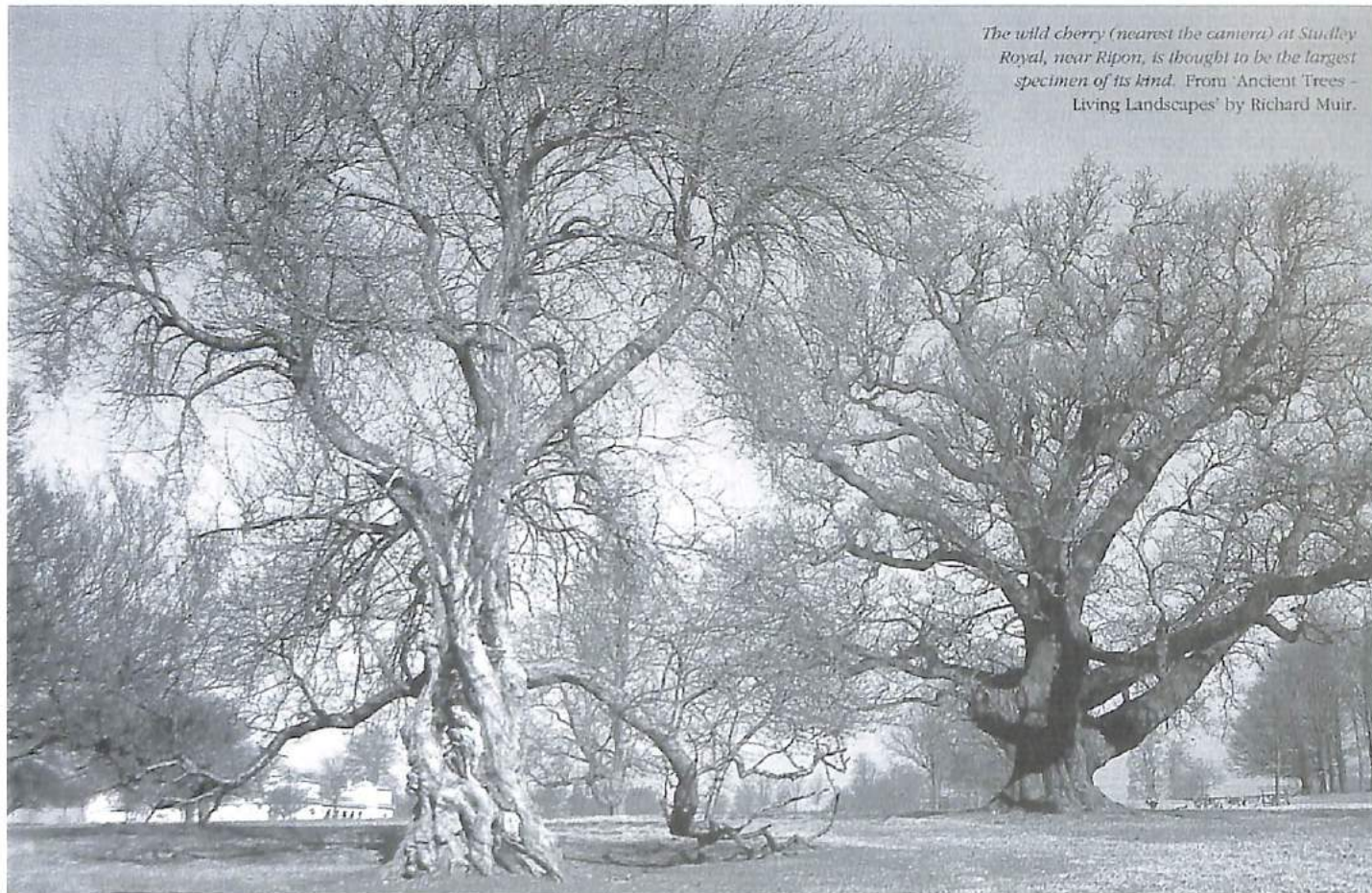
TREES - SILENT HISTORIANS OF OUR LANDSCAPE

ANCIENT TREES, LIVING LANDSCAPES – RICHARD MUIR, Tempus Press, Stroud, Gloucestershire, £25 (ISBN 0-7524-3443-8).

Most Yorkshire Dales Society members will be familiar with the work of Dr Richard Muir, one of Britain's leading landscape historians. As well as being a major authority on the history of the Yorkshire Dales, especially of his native Nidderdale, Richard is a highly respected Honorary Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

In *Ancient Trees, Living Landscapes* Richard once again takes his remarkable range of analytical techniques to the examination of how trees which we too often see just as aesthetic features of our landscapes, are in many cases living fossils of earlier landscapes and very often reminders of the people that planted them, whether originally grown as long lost hedgerows, now a line of huge, gnarled individual trees, or old, neglected coppices once vital for fuel and timber production. One interesting aspect is how many modern place names such as Dene, Hollin, Hurst, Holt, Grove, Ridding, Shaw, Stock, or Thwaite were originally used to describe woodland features. Old names for trees survive in modern maps and even lane or street names. There are the ancient landmark and boundary trees, great oaks, thorns or yews, some still surviving as living hulks after many centuries, linked to myth and legend, and fine parkland trees, especially those in former or existing deer parks such as the deer park at Castle Bolton, Wensleydale, "a great palace masquerading as a castle".

Whilst this is a national study, much of Richard's fieldwork examples are of places within or close to the Dales, such as the ancient field boundaries and parkland around Ripley, in Nidderdale, and at Studley Royal and Mackershaw Woods. There is also some rich social history of the people of the forest – keepers, foresters, verderers, hurdlemakers, wheelwrights, and woodland industries such as furniture making. Fascinating is a chapter of the psychological aspects of woodland – *Woodlands of the Mind* – which are still very much part of our modern culture, in spite of centuries of urbanisation not quite totally separating us from our long-forgotten rural roots where the "wildwood" had such an important role. Superb photographs and illustrations, most by Richard himself, including field survey work – or what he calls "landscape detection" –



The wild cherry (nearest the camera) at Studley Royal, near Ripon, is thought to be the largest specimen of its kind. From 'Ancient Trees - Living Landscapes' by Richard Muir.

make this an important contribution to our understanding of what trees in a landscape can tell us about our remoter history as well as our more recent past.

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PERSONAL MEMOIR OF LIFE IN A DALES COTTAGE

OUR SMALL DALE WORLD: A Celebration by DAVID MORGAN REES, published by Westwood Press, available via the YDS office, at £10, including p.&p. or £8 at a YDS event.

For over 30 years, while he was still working in industry and later in retirement, a small cottage in the village of Marske, Swaledale, held much of the focus of David Morgan Rees' world. David, author, photographer and former Yorkshire Dales Society Vice-chairman, bought



the cottage in 1973. In this very personal account David conveys a valedictory farewell, through luminous and lyrical text, fine photographs and drawings, describing many aspects of the Dales through the seasons, and the joy and delight that living in Marske for over 30 years



meant to him. This limited edition could soon be a collector's item – so good news that a small number of copies are available to Yorkshire Dales Society members and very generously, **all profits from sales go to the Society.** Address: The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD. Cheques for £10 per copy inclusive of postage and packing should be made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society.

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THE GREEN NETWORK OF THE DALES: 20 Magnificent Linear Walks through the Yorkshire Dales by COLIN SPEAKMAN (see leaflet). To be reviewed in a future issue.

Spring Events 2006



Do take the opportunity of the Yorkshire Dales Society AGM on May 13th to spend a weekend in the Dales in spring. Travel up on Friday April 12th, stay overnight and join the guided town trail in Settle in the morning of Saturday 13th before going on to the Victoria Hall in time (2pm) for the start of the AGM proceedings when a specially designed YDS cake will be ceremoniously cut. Follow this with attendance at the Special Silver Jubilee Dinner in the evening at the Falcon Manor Hotel, Settle and a full day's walk on Sunday 14th. But even if we can't meet you that weekend, there's lots more YDS events to enjoy this Spring.

SUNDAY APRIL 23RD A VISIT TO YORE MILL, AYSGARTH FALLS. Yore Mill at Aysgarth Falls, dating back to 1784, is perhaps the best preserved early industrial complex in the Yorkshire Dales. **Anne and David Kiely**, owners of the mill, invite YDS members to join them on a special visit to the mill to learn about future plans including the reactivated water turbines to deliver green energy. Meet at Yore Mills (by entrance steps) at 11.30am. Park Aysgarth Falls car park (10 minutes walk from the Mill), packed lunch or buy lunch at Falls Café then short afternoon walk through Freeholders and St Joseph Wood towards Carperby – back for 4pm. Dalesbus 805 d. Leeds 0815, Ilkley 0910, Grassington 1000 to Aysgarth Falls Corner a. 11.00 (times to be confirmed- please check with Traveline 01870 608 2 608 or www.dalesbus.org.uk).

SATURDAY MAY 13TH SETTLE TOWN TRAIL Meet at the Market Cross in the town square, Settle at 11pm for a guided Town Trail, lasting about 1 1/2 hours. Contact Ron or Vanessa Stone for further details tel: 01729 840451. There are plenty of cafes and pubs in Settle, but do allow sufficient time to be served for a prompt 2pm AGM start. **Note special emergency timetable with bus rail services to Settle likely this weekend – ring 08457 484950 or www.traveldales.org.uk for information.**

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY AGM SATURDAY MAY 13TH AT VICTORIA HALL, SETTLE, AT 2PM. The AGM will be followed by the ceremonial cutting of a specially designed YDS cake with tea and cake for all members. At about 3.20 pm David Sharrod, Director of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust will talk on "Making Things Happen: The Role of the Voluntary Bodies in the Yorkshire Dales."

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY SILVER JUBILEE DINNER, MAY 13TH, 7.00pm for 7.30pm (see separate leaflet)

SUNDAY MAY 14TH WILDFLOWERS AMONG THE LIMESTONE A full day's walk - along the Ribble to Stainforth, then climbing through the limestone scars of Upper Ribblesdale to enjoy the new access areas and wildflowers of Wharfe and Oxenber Woods. 9 miles - but with some steep sections. Start and return Settle.

Bring packed lunch. Meet Settle Market Place 1030am. Train: Leeds d 0840, Shipley 0853, Keighley 0906, Skipton 0930 alight Giggleswick 0955 for 2km (1 1/4 mile) walk to Settle – allow 30 mins. (NB Settle-Carlisle line expected to be closed May 13th – check local information). Leader Rhona Thornton (0113 275 1359).

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH OLD COTE RIDGE for a more challenging walk over a new access area. Take bus 74 from Ilkley 0935, Skipton Rail Station (train link) 1000, Bus Station 1005, Grassington at 1030 to reach Kettlewell at 1049. **Note New Ilkley or Skipton Train +Dalesbus ticket valid.** Meet at Kettlewell bus stop for 11am. Packed lunch. This 7 mile walk is graded moderate to severe and will take a steady 5 hours. There is a climb of 1250ft, a rough path with some steep sections and a similar descent, which is less steep. Walking sticks are useful for the steeper sections. Return bus from Kettlewell 17.10. Leader Norman Wordsworth tel: 01756 792431 or email: wordswortheastby@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY JULY 12th ARTENGILL AND BLEA MOOR WALK (PLEASE NOTE MID-WEEK DATE.) A walk to form part of the Settle-Carlisle 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the reopening of daily train services to local stations in July 1986 – Colin Speakman (tel: 01943 607868), will lead the classic 9 mile walk between Dent and Ribbleshead Stations along Galloway Gate, down Artengill, then the dramatic climb over Blea Moor to Ribbleshead following the line of Blea Moor tunnel. A moderate walk, but with two extended steep sections. Train 0849 from Leeds, 0902 Shipley, 0912 from Keighley, 0925 from Skipton 0950 from Settle for Dent (a. 1016). Book Dent Day Return – bring packed lunch. Please check times – any alteration will also be shown on the YDS and Travel Dales web sites.

Cautley Spout from the Rautbey Valley. Photo by John Morrison, from Freedom to Roam Guide No. 8, The Three Peaks and the Howgill Fells.





Front Cover picture: Blue-grey Brielst calf enjoys limestone pastures of the higher Dales – part of the Limestone Country Project (see page 7). *Photo by Robert Goodison.*

Back Cover picture: Cowslips at Winskill, Upper Ribblesdale. *Photo by Colin Speakman.*

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www.yds.org.uk

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Single Retired £9, Retired Couple £12, Student/Unwaged £6

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