

Summer 2024 : Issue 167

# Yorkshire **DALES** review



## Making Connections



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Friends of the  
**DALES**  
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Front Cover: Waterfall at Keld.  
Photo courtesy of Prue Harrison

Views expressed in the *Yorkshire Dales Review* are not necessarily those of Friends of the Dales.

For comments on this issue, enquiries about contributing an article, photographs or illustrations, or to suggest future topics, please contact Prue Harrison, volunteer Editor: prue.harrison@friendsofthedales.org.uk

For further information about the charity's campaigns, policies and future plans, please contact Ann Shadrake, Executive Director: ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Friends of the Dales  
Canal Wharf  
Eshton Road  
Gargrave  
North Yorkshire  
BD23 3PN

Office: 01756 749400



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www.dalesandbowland.com

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8-9

Hand in Hand, Ribble Rivers Trust

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Long-Distance Link



# Money Talks

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## **It's time for a paradigm shift that challenges the vested interest of big business in prioritising scenic beauty over wildlife writes Chair Bruce McLeod.**

For 75 years the connection between the best of the UK's landscapes and the rights and good of the public has been played out in our national parks. I say played out since the parks are ever-changing as are regulation, policy, visitor numbers and funding. But there is another meaning to 'played out', as in diminished or exhausted. Let's take wildlife and how we view our national parks, for instance.

The precipitous decline in wildlife can be understood, I think, as a consequence of a fundamental disconnect: the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 lauds 'natural beauty' while simultaneously demanding the 'maintenance of nature reserves'. It's been clear for some time that the former, a more profitable state of affairs and underwritten by farming, has trumped the latter. Further, and more bluntly, aesthetic pleasure, health benefits and leisure derived from iconic landscapes can pretty much all be had without wildlife. The Dales are beautiful while simultaneously fairly arid in complex habitats and biodiversity. The green and pleasant land is a bit of Potemkin landscape despite the efforts and achievements of the national park authority (which obviously can't control its defunding nor a planetary climate and species crisis).

The disconnect to which I refer has much to do with mainstream narratives: the stories that dominate can, as with beauty's relation to wildlife, obscure what is really going on. And, of course, swooning over scenery is but a way of seeing; however, it does contribute to a greenwashing of economic imperatives and players. It blurs the realities of a countryside engineered by corporate and government-mandated farming practices, enormous estates dedicated to driven grouse shooting and the forestry industry, not to mention industrial heritage.

If we are to get better at conserving – a more appropriate term is perhaps *salvaging* – our protected landscapes, we need to prioritise economics rather than aesthetics or we shall never fully grapple with the continuing decline. In other words, and to take a couple of examples, plastic tree guards will always pollute our landscape as long as profitability is the name of the game. They are cheap and the plastics industry, a subset of the fossil fuel industry, calls the shots. Profitability

also explains why the UK didn't switch to renewable technologies in 2015 when they were no longer more expensive than gas, coal, oil and nuclear power. By the logic of the marketplace, the laws of supply and demand etc, subsidies could have been removed and renewables should have taken over. The profitability of fossil fuels and their political power torpedoed any transition.

## **Fighting Back**

Recently I came across a powerful summing up of the situation that prevents meaningful change. David Boyd, who served as UN special rapporteur on human rights and the environment from 2018 to April 2024, said the following:

'I started out six years ago talking about the right to a healthy environment having the capacity to bring about systemic and transformative changes. But this powerful human right is up against an even more powerful force in the global economy, a system that is absolutely based on the exploitation of people and nature... Powerful interconnected business and political elites – the diesel mafia – are still becoming wealthy from the existing system. Dislodging this requires a huge grassroots movement using tools like human rights and public protest and every other tool in the arsenal of change-makers.'

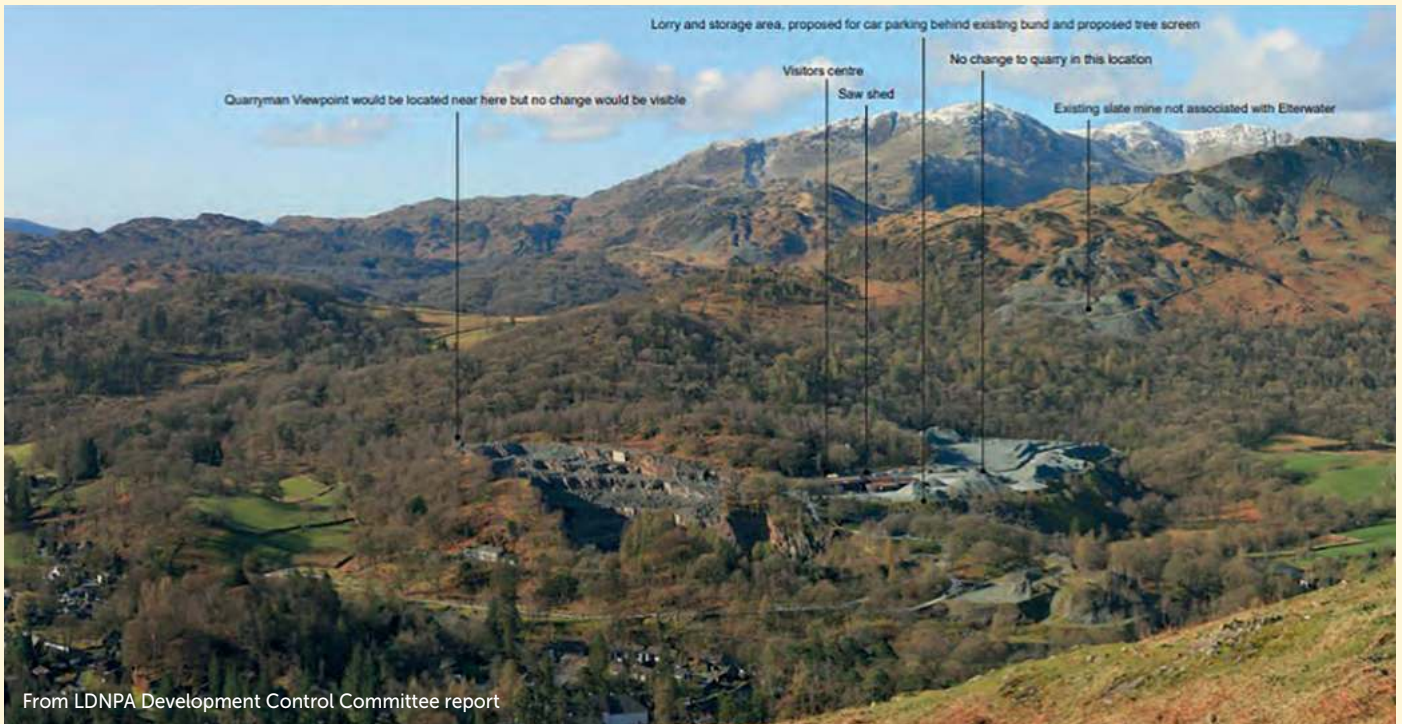
We have rebranded our campaigns as a set of objectives for a more healthy, fully alive environment, a *Living Dales* in every respect, specifically to make connections and to think in terms of system and scale. We also believe that there are no irreconcilable differences between a vibrant economy and recovering nature (indeed, without the latter we are, as Boyd puts it, simply 're-shuffling deckchairs on the Titanic'). Take tourism for instance: it can thrive with a greater emphasis on wildlife – the popularity of viewing raptors is a case in point – and interest in nature-friendly farming as well as its more traditional focus on selling scenery and leisure. However, what is profitable — and this includes the private money offered to help national parks fulfil their objectives — is more than likely to run counter to sustained nature recovery in the interest of the public and wildlife.

**Bruce McLeod, Chair**

*Vice President Mark Corner looks at how a partnership approach including farmers and landowners can help us to make the connection between sustainability and nature recovery on page 6.*



## It Couldn't Happen Here... Could It?



The Lake District National Park Authority has approved controversial plans for a major attraction that will see tourists using zip wires to explore historic Elterwater Quarry in the Langdale Valley.

Visitors will be attached to safety harnesses on a fixed-line route so they can access viewing points and features of interest in a large cavern where the area's characteristic blue-green stone was once mined.

In a planning application approved in May quarry owners Burlington Slate describe the 'heritage-based adventure' as 'a unique immersive experience within an underground mine that dates back to the middle of the 19th century'. It is expected to attract up to 50,000 visitors a year.

Friends of the Lake District were among more than 200 objectors to the scheme, which received just seven letters of support. An earlier proposal by Burlington Slate was refused planning permission due to the likely impact of increased numbers of cars accessing the site but the revised application included proposals to reduce traffic including a shuttle bus service from the national park centre in Kendal.

As part of our Living Communities campaign a small volunteer team reviews planning applications that are likely to have a significant impact on the landscape and lives of people who live and work in the Dales. We look at the tricky issue of siting telecommunications masts on page 14.

## Save the Date! AGM 2024

We are delighted to give advance notice of this year's AGM, which will be held on Saturday, 28 September at Addingham Memorial Hall. We will be offering a short business meeting with a chance to ask questions afterwards, a complimentary light lunch (donations welcome) and an afternoon walk with opportunities to see some of Addingham Environment Group's projects. Details are currently being confirmed and we are endeavouring to ensure the day is accessible by public transport. We hope this will be a good opportunity to meet kindred spirits in a lovely village setting and find out more about our work, which you support as a member.

You will receive information by post during August with full details of the AGM and how to register your attendance or give apologies and cast your vote by proxy.

## Learning to Love Weeds

Skipton Town Council has adopted a pesticide-free policy to promote biodiversity by minimising the use of all harmful chemicals on land that it manages including recreation grounds and allotments.

Because weeds provide pollinators with valuable habitats and resources, they will be removed manually and only from sites where it is necessary for aesthetic reasons and accessibility such as cemeteries and burial grounds. Exceptions will be made for the invasive non-native species giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed to ensure the health and safety of the public. These will be eradicated using a targeted stem injection method.





## Ride2stride

Our first outdoor event of 2024 reunited us with ride2stride, the popular Settle to Carlisle walking and music festival. Our walk, led by former trustee Tony Smith and current trustee Ken Humphris, took participants along the Ribble Way from Long Preston railway station to Settle station. We were also most grateful to our walk volunteers, who helped ensure our usual levels of safety and support – and to the weather for the first truly warm day of the year. If you are interested in becoming a walk or event volunteer, please email [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Ride2stride walking group. Photos courtesy of Victoria Benn

## Do you Know Curlew?

By answering just eight questions you could have tested your knowledge in our recent online curlew quiz. Designed by Creative Campaigner Josh Burge, the quiz aimed to engage people in our awareness-raising event at Malham (see page 12), raise awareness of some key curlew facts and connect people to our charity. After receiving more than 100 entries, we couldn't have been happier with the results, which also translated into nearly 50 e-newsletter sign ups.

If you would like to receive our free monthly e-newsletter, sign up via the button on our website home page, [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk) You can unsubscribe at any time.



## Come and Get Involved

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our charity. From our trustees to our magazine editorial team and the budding citizen scientists who support our campaigns – we have always relied heavily on our volunteer support.

We are keen to hear from anyone who'd like to help with campaigns and events or with an interest in becoming a committee member or trustee. We particularly welcome interest from people with planning, financial, governance, marketing and fundraising skills or knowledge of the Dales.

To find out more please contact Victoria Benn at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk) in the first instance.

## Donations in Memory of Loved Ones

We have been most grateful to have been named as beneficiary at a number of funeral services recently. These unexpected and most generous donations will really benefit our charity, so we would like to take the opportunity to raise all members' awareness that this donation route is available for those wishing to support a sustainable future for the Yorkshire Dales. To find out more please email [penny.lowe@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:penny.lowe@friendsofthedales.org.uk)

**G20 public funding of fossil fuel companies hit a record high with \$1.4 tn in subsidies in 2022.**

*(International Institute for Sustainable Development)*

**21 million people in England don't have green or blue spaces within 15 minutes' walk from home.**

*(Ramblers)*

# Nature: Amazing and Everywhere...

The link between sustainable land management practices and biodiversity is critical to the Yorkshire Dales writes Vice President Mark Corner.

Hay meadows in Malhamdale



Red squirrel

Connecting with nature is the basis for my most memorable and uplifting experiences when out in the Dales. Seeing the first salmon of the season leaping up Stainforth Force, wandering through Muker's hay meadows or Wharfe Wood's bluebells, observing the red squirrels at Snaizeholme or the stooping peregrines at Malham Cove, hearing the call of the curlew or indeed the wren currently nesting by our back door: these all bring happiness.

And, of course, nature is our life support system, providing us with our air, water and food and underpinning our economy and society. We are blessed that the Yorkshire Dales National Park, together with the North Pennines National Landscape, contain the most coherent and connected ecological network left in England. A quarter of the national park is designated as nationally or internationally important for wildlife and is home to almost 400 nationally important species.

It seems obvious that nature needs to be cherished and protected but the sad reality is that it is in decline. The UK has the twelfth worst ecological intactness rating out of 240 countries and nearly one in six species in Great Britain are now threatened with extinction. As someone said, nature is amazing and it's everywhere...until it's not. Biodiversity in the national park is in somewhat better health than in many other parts of the country but is also in decline. Only 19% of priority habitats outside of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are in good condition (a fall from 22% in 2016). Inside SSSIs the number is little better at 29%. There has also been a reduction in the number of priority species that have stable or increasing populations, down from 81% in 2016 to 76%.

A particular blight is the continuing illegal persecution of birds of prey.

As a protected landscape, the Dales could, and should, be an exemplar of how thriving nature and profitable land management can go hand in hand. Although we have some excellent examples of this happening today, there is so much more that we could be doing for wildlife, by enabling a better functioning network of habitats and improving populations of key species, whilst supporting farmers to deliver this.

In April the Campaign for National Parks published a health check that highlighted the importance of nature recovery. This stressed the challenges that national parks face in terms of a lack of data (on species and habitat conditions), powers and resources to make the systemic change needed. It also noted that surveys show that the public want far more priority to be given to nature in national parks.

There is now an opportunity to re-assess nature recovery and the linked climate crisis in the preparation of the 2025 National Park Management Plan. This is the most important document for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It is a five-year work programme, produced and monitored by a partnership of local organisations including

# ...Until it's Not

farming, landowning and tourism business interests. A partnership approach is critical, given that over 95% of the land in the national park is in private ownership and agencies such as Natural England and the Forestry Commission regulate and deliver many elements of the plan.

In January YDNPA launched a consultation in which members of the public were asked to rank their top six priorities for organisations working in the national park. Over 1,000 individuals and 27 organisations, including Friends of the Dales, completed an online survey.

Of 18 potential priorities, 'help nature to recover by creating, restoring and connecting important habitats' was ranked first by all groups of respondents. Protecting rare and threatened species came second, with improving river water quality third. This is, I think, very heartening and will ensure that nature recovery is at the forefront of delivery plans that will be detailed in the final management plan scheduled for publication in March 2025.

A very important input to the management plan will be the nature recovery plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, published in December 2023. This adopts the principle of creating and sustaining more, bigger, better

and more joined-up wildlife habitats and has the ambition that by 2040 the national park will be **home to the finest variety of wildlife in England**. It has been prepared by the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, on which Friends of the Dales is represented, and endorsed and published by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The main approaches identified in the plan are associated with grazing management, scrub and woodland creation and management, peat restoration and meadow creation and enhancement. It also outlines a proposed means of managing species conservation. A key issue will be the pace and scale of the move to lower-input farming systems, which has already started and is the single most effective means of delivering the changes needed. Successful delivery of the plan depends upon supportive and aligned government and other funding, particularly the Environmental Land Management Schemes. And it depends upon creating conditions where farmers and landowners can see benefits from adapting practices and testing new approaches, particularly regarding grazing and moorland management.

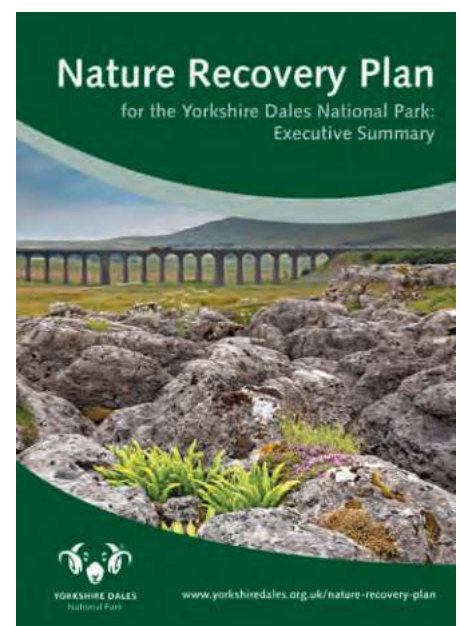
Although the delivery of nature recovery will depend heavily upon government policy we can all contribute by taking actions such

as leaving space for nature in our gardens, installing swift boxes and supporting organisations involved in championing nature such as Friends of the Dales.

**Mark Corner, Vice President**

[www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2024/01/Nature-Recovery-Plan-for-the-Yorkshire-Dales-National-Park.pdf](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2024/01/Nature-Recovery-Plan-for-the-Yorkshire-Dales-National-Park.pdf)

Photos courtesy of Mark Corner





# Hand in Hand

Healthy watercourses depend on biodiverse, productive agricultural land while helping to sustain profitable farm businesses writes Ribble Rivers Trust Chief Executive Jack Spees.

Long Preston floodplain restoration in flood. Photos courtesy of Ribble Rivers Trust

Creating healthier rivers through practical action is the core purpose of Ribble Rivers Trust, but often people don't understand the connection between our work and the land. Rivers and land are intrinsically linked – all the water in our rivers has flowed over and/or through land.

So understanding and tackling the root causes of problems we want to address in order to improve rivers invariably involves land. Farming is often blamed for many of the ills of our rivers and streams. At Ribble Rivers Trust we prefer to see it as holding the solution to many of our water quality and habitat needs.

Our rivers, streams and biodiversity as a whole need a mosaic of habitats, and many of these will be farmed habitats. If these are farmed well from a business perspective, they will be good for water quality. For example, fields with good soil structure and the right nutrient levels will ensure that the water percolating off them is good, whilst minimising nutrient costs to farmers and ensuring maximum growth of the 'crops'.

There are sites where we would prefer habitat that isn't of the farmed variety, but generally these places are likely to be the least productive or can be integrated effectively into the farming system. An example would be hedges, crossing flow paths to slow the flow (ensuring sediment and nutrient is deposited in fields rather than streams) whilst providing habitat and enabling more effective stock management and grazing regimes.

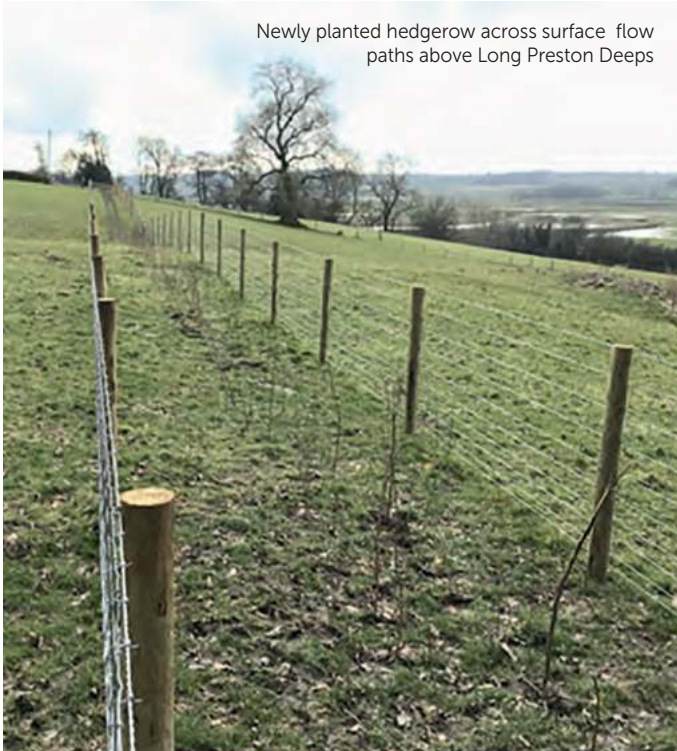
## Avoiding Extremes

Getting our water quality and habitat needs right can also help us to achieve the right water quantity. Although there is a focus on 'slowing the flow' with regard to flood risk, we are also experiencing the other extremes of droughts and very, very low flows in our rivers. Most of the actions that help to address flooding also help to address drought issues. Slowing the flow can also ensure a gradual and more continuous release of water to our streams.

So what are the kinds of actions we are talking about? Well, funnily enough, they involve farmers and farming again, as they are almost identical to what we need for better water quality. For example, improving soil structure gives us one of the largest water storage locations possible – soil.

The other actions include peat moorland restoration and creating ponds and wetlands to hold and slowly release water, leaky dams (to do the same) within river channels and woodlands to roughen the surface of the land and increase water infiltration into soils. This also helps to improve the habitat quality of our rivers, for example by providing shade to keep water cool as well as trailing branches and roots from the trees. We also seek to reconnect rivers and their flood plains, ensuring that water can spread out naturally and return to the river slowly, rather than rush off in a large peak downstream. All of these actions can be carefully integrated into farming systems to ensure they are complimentary, or at least supporting farm business sustainability.

Newly planted hedgerow across surface flow paths above Long Preston Deeps



One of our more nuanced activities is the re-meandering of historically straightened rivers and streams. This lengthens their paths, increasing the time it takes for flood peaks to travel downstream and creating additional habitat. Often farmers feel that this involves loss of land but straightened rivers that are not in their natural locations can cause excessive erosion and deposition of gravels on valuable farmland.

The importance of agriculture to improving the health of our rivers and streams cannot be understated. To this end, at Ribble Rivers Trust we employ four farm advisors, who are the sons and daughters of farming families and currently farming themselves, so they think and speak farming. This makes them uniquely able to provide the support and advice needed by fellow farmers on what can be done to help

## Woods Without Waste

Ribble Rivers Trust is experimenting with planting trees at a greater density to offset potential losses rather than using plastic guards. The charity takes this approach where there is less risk of saplings being eaten by herbivores like rabbits and deer and fills any gaps to maintain a healthy woodland ecosystem.

It has also received a donation of Tree Hugger tubes made of a natural resin that biodegrades slowly, only lasting as long as protection is needed. Redundant guards are reused if possible or recycled.

With support from Natural England and private donors, Ribble Rivers Trust has set up tree nurseries. Volunteers collect a small number of native seeds from ancient woodlands around the catchment, thereby reducing the need to buy saplings that are often wrapped in plastic. The nurseries use recycled materials like old pallets for raised beds and second-hand plant pots where possible.

their businesses and the water environment, with a particular focus on the whole of the Yorkshire Ribble.

You might rightly wonder how we focus our work, particularly as there is so much to do. Through monitoring, including citizen science combined with innovative and ground-breaking geographical information systems, we can model and map the locations where our actions can have the greatest benefits to the environment and people by identifying where they are most needed and where they can do the most good.

**Jack Spees, Chief Executive, Ribble Rivers Trust**

*Find out more about Ribble Rivers Trust and how you can be involved at [www.ribbontrust.org.uk](http://www.ribbontrust.org.uk)*



Collecting water samples as part of a RiverBlitz near Wigglesworth

# Coming Together for a Common Cause

The long days of summer are the perfect opportunity to roll our sleeves up and join a growing number of like-minded people who give up their time to help create a more sustainable and biodiverse future for the Dales.

The national park authority offers a wide range of volunteering roles – from footpath maintenance to public right of way surveys and helping museum visitors with their family history research. But there is also a network of community groups throughout the Dales working to tackle climate change, promote a circular economy, create wildlife habitats and bring neighbours together.

Membership & Events Officer Victoria Benn has tracked down some of the not-for-profit organisations that are on the lookout for helpers with a wide range of skills - see below for contact details. We advertise one-off volunteering opportunities in our monthly e-newsletter – sign up at [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk) if you haven't already.



**Malham Environmental Group (MEG)**  
[www.malhamdale.com](http://www.malhamdale.com)  
 email: [malhamdalevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:malhamdalevolunteers@gmail.com)



**Action on Climate Emergency Settle & Area**  
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 email: [acesettleandarea@gmail.com](mailto:acesettleandarea@gmail.com)



**SWEF**  
 Swaledale & Wensleydale Environmental Farmers  
[www.swef.org.uk](http://www.swef.org.uk)



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**Sustainable Swaledale**  
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 email: [margaret@muddhouse.uk](mailto:margaret@muddhouse.uk)



**Sedbergh Environmental Network**  
[facebook.com/groups/SedberghEnvironmentalNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SedberghEnvironmentalNetwork)



**Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership**  
[www.richmondshireclimateaction.org](http://www.richmondshireclimateaction.org)  
 email: [admin@richmondshireclimateaction.org](mailto:admin@richmondshireclimateaction.org)



**Embsay & Eastby Environmental Action Group**  
 Email: [elizabeth.roodhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.roodhouse@btinternet.com)

**Holme Grown Eastby CIC**  
[www.holmegrowneastby.org.uk](http://www.holmegrowneastby.org.uk)





## Environmental Groups in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

### Organisations outside of the national park

**Addingham Environment Group**  
[www.addinghamenvironmentgroup.org.uk](http://www.addinghamenvironmentgroup.org.uk)  
email: [r.battarbee@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.battarbee@ucl.ac.uk)

**Incredible Edible**  
[www.incredibleedible.org.uk](http://www.incredibleedible.org.uk)

### Rivers Trusts

**Aire River Trust**  
[www.airerivertrust.org.uk](http://www.airerivertrust.org.uk)

**Ribble River Trust**  
[www.ribbletrust.org.uk](http://www.ribbletrust.org.uk)

**Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust**  
[www.ydrt.org.uk](http://www.ydrt.org.uk)

# Curlew Connectivity

## Children's non-fiction author and Friends of the Dales volunteer Katie Daynes shares her experience of helping out at the Curlew Awareness Day in Malham in April.

It takes many wires to weave a curlew. Some are structural, others are more visible, and then there are the fiddly pieces that tie it all together.

By the time our curlew creations were arranged in a prominent position in Malham, beside the popular path to Janet's Foss, they were so much more than the sum of their parts. Quirky posters designed by the Friends of the Dales Creative Campaigners and fixed on bamboo sticks beside the installation provided an excellent hook. Who wouldn't be interested in a job advert for early-career curlew chicks, or an appeal for curlews to unite?

But getting passers-by to support the curlew cause didn't always come easily.

'Why don't they just nest in a tree?' was a reasonable question from one young lad. 'Or at least further from the path,' added his mate. Luckily, Ian Court (Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) was there to answer, and thankfully they seemed to lap up his explanations.

Farmer Neil Heseltine pulling up on his quad bike, with a newborn lamb and its mum in the trailer, was a stroke of genius. (It was only a slight detour from the field he was returning them to.) Children couldn't resist stopping to look at the ever-so-sweet lamb, whilst getting a bonus lesson about curlews along the way.

Many walkers simply marched on by, with their own agendas for the day. I managed to stop one small group – a couple with their teenage daughter – and enjoyed seeing their reluctance turn into genuine interest. After I'd shared my passion for protecting curlews, the dad remarked on how he empathised with what we were doing. 'We're Jehovah's

Witnesses,' he explained, 'and we're used to people not wanting to listen.' I hadn't seen that one coming, and I've had curious thoughts about the parallels since.

The rain came and went along with a diverse range of visitors. Our installation site afforded us a good view of the cars arriving, so we witnessed how quickly the official car park fills up, and the dire need for the overflow field parking (not so easy when it's sodden). I got talking to trustee Jonathan Riley about the Friends of the Dales campaign for better public transport links. It reminded me of a balmy day last summer when I decided to take the bargain £2 bus journey to Malham then walk back home to Skipton. On the bus I met two backpackers, one from America and one from Switzerland. They'd both flown into London the day before and were making a beeline for Malham – the much-anticipated highlight of their separately planned trips. Maybe they knew about the curlews, or the

Group shot with sculptures. From left, Anne Shadrake, author Katie Daynes, Victoria Benn, trustee Mohammed Dhalech, YDNPA's Ian Court and Creative Campaigners Josh Burge, Jonathan Cunningham and Ruth Garrett. Photo courtesy of Saima Bibi





peregrine falcon nest. Or perhaps they were Harry Potter fans.

I digress, but only slightly. People around the world love the Dales landscape for its majesty and wildlife. It goes without saying that we should want to protect it. As the visitors dwindled, we packed up our curlew installation, and reflected on the successes of the day. We'd engaged all manner of people; we'd made useful connections with each other; and we'd had the privilege of a whole day connecting with the beautiful place that the nesting curlews call home. What's more, the posters and models had proved a compelling resource that can be borrowed and reused by local environmental groups at all kinds of future events (please contact [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk) if you're interested).

It takes many wires to weave a curlew, and it will take action from all of us to protect them.

**Katie Daynes**



Young visitors learning about curlew.

Photos courtesy of Katie Daynes

## Why Care About the Curlew?

The curlew holds a similar place in our affections to the much-loved puffin. Its return to its springtime breeding grounds is eagerly awaited by people who might struggle to identify, let alone empathise with, other waders or seabirds. And this matters because the curlew and the puffin are both bellwether species, their welfare dependent upon surviving a complex web of environmental pressures and indicative of the health of the ecosystems they inhabit.

The UK is home to one quarter of the total world population of Eurasian curlew yet numbers have almost halved over the last 25 years and they are at real risk of extinction. An estimated 10,000 more chicks must survive each year just to maintain the population. The Dales are now one of the last bastions of this iconic bird but, even here, the curlew is vulnerable to the effects of climate breakdown, habitat loss, changing agricultural practices including pesticide use and regular cutting for silage, predation and recreational disturbance.

Find out more, including ways you can help, at [www.curlewaction.org](http://www.curlewaction.org) and remember to stay on paths and keep your dog on a lead during the breeding season (March-July) to minimise disturbance to this treasured, but incredibly vulnerable, upland icon.



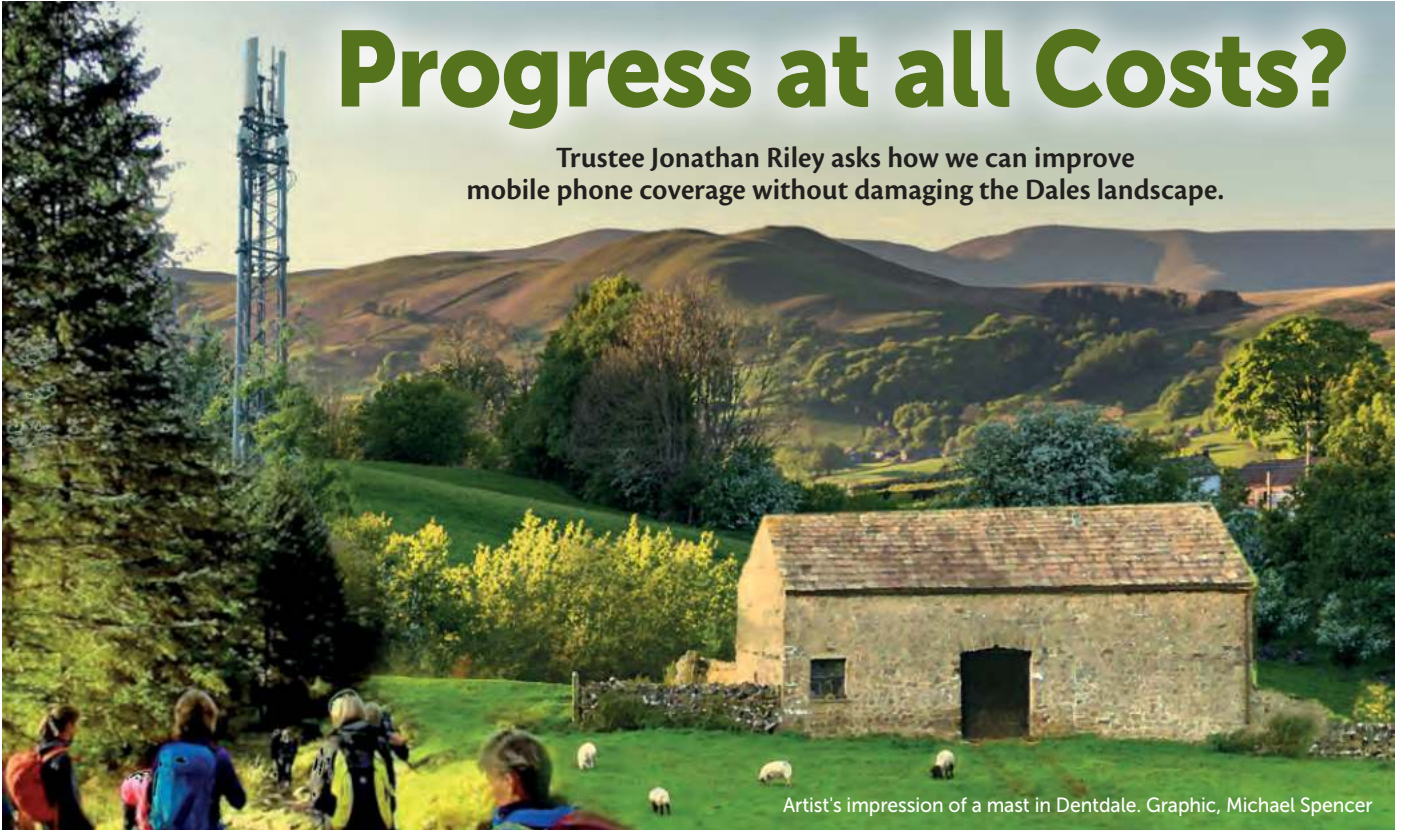
Curlew eggs created by Creative Campaigner Jonny Cunningham. Photo courtesy of Ruth Kittiwake



Families learning about curlew.

# Progress at all Costs?

Trustee Jonathan Riley asks how we can improve mobile phone coverage without damaging the Dales landscape.



Artist's impression of a mast in Dentdale. Graphic, Michael Spencer

These days we all want and expect the best connectivity wherever we are, including in rural spots. Why then is there controversy surrounding the latest rollout of the government-sponsored Shared Rural Network (SRN) scheme, which has suddenly resulted in a large number of planning applications for siting telecommunication masts in the most tranquil and scenic parts of the Dales?

The SRN programme is nearing its end and hence there is a rush to get the final applications through the planning system. The remaining areas deemed to need better connectivity are much harder to deal with because they are more remote – this increases the likelihood that such installations will cause considerable harm to the special landscapes of the Dales that are so valued by visitors and residents alike.

Part of the challenge is that the SRN, being a collaboration between the mobile network operators, is aiming to achieve over 95% 4G coverage by 2025 and each mast forms part of a network. However, that is not how it's being rolled out and each application is developed unilaterally and must be assessed individually.

We all want to see good connections in the Dales for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors, and with ever-increasing numbers of visitors there are even more pressures on emergency services

that are difficult to contact without good connectivity. People working remotely have cited the much greater safety that connectivity provides in the event of needing to summon help.

Many locations in the Yorkshire Dales now benefit from the B4RN super-fast broadband programme and this removes the need for more infrastructure such as masts. However, these recent proposals are more problematic and the preparation of the applications is much poorer than the earlier ones with multiple shortfalls including:

- little or sometimes no reference to the area with no or poor mobile network coverage and no demonstration of how the proposed mast is intended to fill the gaps
- no community engagement – in some applications the community has objected on the basis that it already has good coverage through superfast broadband
- conflicting or incorrect information – this is an issue because applications cannot be properly assessed as to whether they meet need and fit with planning policy
- no or limited consideration of alternative sites, without assessing whether the requirement can be met elsewhere with less visual impact or damage to the countryside and habitats

- landscape and visual impact assessments often focusing only on the immediate surroundings and not adequately assessing the special qualities of the national park

## Hard to Miss

In 2023 and 2024 we have seen 12 planning applications to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for masts that are up to 30m in height and in very prominent locations such as Ribbleshead, Cam Houses, Barbon Fell, above Kettlewell and Kidstones. Of these 12, one has been allowed but only after appeal, and five are still in the process but five have been withdrawn. We felt that one of the applications at Coal Road above Dentdale met the requirements really well. It demonstrated all the attributes of a good application and went above the requirements to propose a peat restoration programme after installation.

There is real concern about the impacts of these large built structures, which can be highly visible for miles and from all directions, and located in areas where an absence of built forms makes them very intrusive. There are often associated impacts such as the construction of long tracks across hillsides, the noise and fuelling of the generators and damage to habitats notably peatlands. In these recent applications it is clear that,

with such low populations, only a handful of properties might gain improved connectivity.

More contentious have been recent references to these masts being there to provide connectivity for recreational visitors. This was cited by the Planning Inspectorate in its recent decision to overturn an objection by the national park for a mast proposed at Higgs Hill, Barbon Fell, which is extremely remote and experiences very few visitors. The inspector surprisingly stated the benefit to recreational users as the reason to overturn the decision. Friends of the Dales, along with other groups, have complained about the decision because it completely failed to follow policy. The argument that better connectivity will make it safer for walkers especially if they get lost or need help has merits but reliance on mobile phones is no substitute for being adequately prepared and knowledgeable about walking in the more remote hills.

Simply providing improved connectivity for recreational visitors at the expense of the landscape also goes against the Sandford principle. This states that if there is a conflict between the two purposes of national park designation, conserving the special qualities of the landscape must take precedence over access.

We will work with the national park authority and other groups, including the applicants themselves if so minded, to ensure that the right number of masts in the right places is achieved.

We will challenge the applicants to show:

- that the sites chosen are as unobtrusive as possible
- clear evidence that all the potential impacts of new masts are addressed including access and power supplies
- the basis of benefits to be gained
- that there is a real need and cross-over with existing masts installed by other operators
- that the mast and any supporting infrastructure are removed when no longer needed

It is difficult for all of us who value the protected landscape and nature of the Dales to find a balance between the desire for better connectivity and ensuring that such needs do not have permanent negative impacts. We want to see mobile connectivity improved - but not at all costs.

Jonathan Riley, trustee

# Problem is Blowing in the Wind

**It was one of those magical moments. As I paused to open a gate just below the national park boundary, a hare dashed onto the bridleway in front of me and squatted on its haunches just five feet away, seemingly rooted to the spot. Then it hopped slowly forwards, nearly brushing my feet before nonchalantly lolloping up the path behind me. A few yards later a deer broke cover and raced down the track before leaping a wall into a neighbouring field. Curlew and lapwing wheeled overhead.**

But then I came face to face with an image of Barbie. That icon of rampant consumerism stared back at me from a large, deflated pink balloon lying on the path ahead. Barbie had obviously blown in from elsewhere, but she highlighted the fact that litter knows no boundaries.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been criticised for not installing waste bins at its visitor centres and car parks but it has taken this policy because people were emptying the entire contents of their vehicles into them – not just the rubbish that they had accumulated that day – with refuse overflowing into the surrounding areas. Trash was attracting more trash.

The National Farmers' Union is among those organisations calling for the government to ban sky lanterns, which are considered an environmental crime in some other countries due to the harm they cause wildlife, habitats and the countryside.

Like disposable barbecues, they are a fire hazard and they can also cause death by asphyxiation when ingested by farm animals or pets.

But it isn't a one-way street. Litter from inside the Yorkshire Dales National Park also has devastating effects on ecosystems farther afield. We campaign to raise awareness of the impact of all single-use plastics but one of the reasons we have particularly focused on tree guards is that they often blow over or wash downstream, spreading pollution. When they break down into microplastics, these toxic chemicals end up in the soil, streams and rivers, eventually reaching the oceans and affecting marine life as well as entering the human food chain.

Much as I disliked Barbie, I decided to take her home with me. I knew from experience that dog walkers would have filled all the litter bins en route with yet more single-use plastic.

Lynn Leadbeater, volunteer

*Most councils in England and Wales have introduced a voluntary ban on sky lanterns on their land. Sign the petition to extend this nationally at:*

[www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/campaigning-for-you-ban-sky-lanterns](http://www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/campaigning-for-you-ban-sky-lanterns)

*Find out how you can help to reduce the use of single-use plastics at:*

[www.sustainablewaledale.org/recycling](http://www.sustainablewaledale.org/recycling) and [facebook.com/groups/plasticfreeskipton](https://www.facebook.com/groups/plasticfreeskipton)

Tree guards in a river. Photo courtesy of Kyle Blue





# Long-Distance Link



The Coast to Coast Path passing Blakethwaite smelt mill, Gunnerside Gill. Photo courtesy of Sue Arnott

**For centuries our footpath network has helped to hold what could otherwise have been isolated Dales communities together. Senior Rights of Way Officer Sue Arnott explains how the Coast to Coast Path will forge connections with people from further afield.**

National Trails are long-distance walks through some of the very best landscapes the country has to offer, some of which can also be ridden by mountain bike or on a horse. They are special routes designated by government, managed collectively by Natural England and its partner authorities, and maintained to a higher standard. Whilst this sets them apart from other routes in some ways, they are nonetheless an integral part of the local rights of way network.

Not only do National Trails provide a fantastic recreational opportunity for the public, but they also bring local economic benefits through tourism as well as opportunities for improving the environment and for involving local communities in caring for them.

There are 17 National Trails across England and Wales, created over the last 60 years to provide access to our most treasured countryside and coast. Here in the Yorkshire

Dales, we're already proud to host two of these routes: the Pennine Way, the first long-distance path designated in 1965, and the more recent Pennine Bridleway, added 30 years later. And now, following the recent designation of the Coast to Coast Path, we can boast three, equalling the North York Moors, the only other national park that claims as many.

What greater compliment can there be to the quality of both our landscape and our rights of way network?

It is now over 50 years since the prolific writer of walking guidebooks, Alfred Wainwright, published *A Coast to Coast Walk*, inviting people to follow in his footsteps from St Bees on the west coast of Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Yorkshire coast in the east. This 197-mile-long route travels through three national parks: the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors, yet over parts of its length the trail does not follow recorded public rights of way.

## **Making It Legal**

Following submission of a report by Natural England in 2022, the Secretary of State approved proposals to designate Wainwright's route as the Coast to Coast Path National Trail. Consequently, to achieve



Assessing the designated route at Lownathwaite Mea, Gunnerside Gill. Left to right: Suzannah Barningham, area ranger Michael Briggs and Angela Hobson. Photo courtesy of Sue Arnott

the standards required of a National Trail, the sections that don't coincide with definitive rights of way are being reviewed to ensure the public has legal access to the designated route in perpetuity. In essence this means that where the trail does not follow any underlying public right of way, legal orders and agreements are being pursued to underpin its long-term sustainability.

Expectations for the standard of path maintenance are higher too. Sections of the route that have suffered from wear and tear through heavy use in the past – and where maintenance at the public expense has not been forthcoming because of the path's uncertain status – can now be repaired and, where possible, future-proofed. With funding currently being offered by Natural England to make this happen by the end of 2025, the pressure is on to get both the paperwork and the works on the ground underway.

And so far, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Coast to Coast team is on track with three creation agreements and three diversion orders already being processed, more in the pipeline and a major project to provide a sustainable walking surface, over 1.2 miles long, at White Mossy Hill also in hand. Thankfully, no major route changes are likely to be necessary within the Dales so

the National Trail will follow Wainwright's footsteps quite closely but with a lower-level alternative route through upper Swaledale.

This feels like a very personal journey for me too. I worked for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority from 1978 to 1992 in access and recreation, doing some of the early work on developing seasonal routes to best manage the damage to upland peat deposits near Nine Standards Rigg. I later worked as



Coast to Coast team members Suzannah Barningham, Angela Hobson and Sue Arnott on a typical site visit following the national trail over Melbecks Moor. Photo courtesy of Michael Briggs

Rights of Way Officer for the Lake District National Park Authority from 1997 to 2001 before joining the Planning Inspectorate. Coming back to my roots to be part of this Coast to Coast project now gives me the ideal opportunity to help finish what I started and connect some of the country's most incredible landscapes through this iconic new National Trail.

**Sue Arnott, Coast to Coast Path Senior Rights of Way Officer**



New signposts for the trail are being manufactured at the YDNPA Grassington Depot by Paul Bishop and Adam Waters. Photo courtesy of Angela Hobson

# Renewing Old Friendships



Access the Dales guided walk at Richmond. Photos courtesy of Andy North

**When Debbie North found herself confined to a wheelchair, she feared that she would no longer be able to venture out into the hills she loved. Now the charity she founded is helping others with limited mobility to return to their favourite landscapes.**



TerrainHopper at Wood End farm

Fell walking has always been my passion. For my late husband Andy and me, escaping to the Yorkshire Dales was our sanctuary, a way to unwind from the chaos of the working week. The solitude on top of those hills was pure exhilaration. However, when I became a wheelchair user, I feared my connection with the mountains was lost forever.

Determined to reclaim my love for the outdoors, I delved into researching all-terrain wheelchairs. After much exploration, I discovered the TerrainHopper; a 4x4 marvel capable of traversing rough terrain, mud and snow. With this newfound mobility aid, I eagerly returned to the hills, conquering peaks like Rogan's Seat, High Seat and Great Knoutberry Hill and discovering which of the Dales 30 were possible (Slowly but surely, I am making progress on these. Although I may be taking an alternative route, I have climbed

Whernside and Great Shunner Fell, and with help from my friends, have also reached the summits of Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent.)

Yet I realised these specialised wheelchairs come with a hefty price tag. Thus, when we founded Access the Dales, our mission was clear: to make inaccessible places accessible to individuals with limited mobility. Recognising that one size does not fit all, we curated a diverse fleet of all-terrain wheelchairs. From throttle-controlled scooters to lever-controlled models and joystick-operated TerrainHoppers, we cater for individual needs.

Supported by companies like TGA Mobility, TerrainHopper and DaVinci Mobility, our charity has flourished. However, our success hinges on the dedication of volunteers who help us execute our vision. Witnessing the transformative impact of our efforts

is truly humbling. Testimonials pour in, each narrating poignant tales of newfound freedom and adventure.

I'll never forget the tearful embrace of a father who exclaimed, 'I never imagined I'd walk the fells with my son again. But thanks to you, my dream has come true.' Such moments reaffirm the profound significance of our work.

Access the Dales is not just about mobility aids: it's about fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment. It's about breaking down barriers and expanding horizons. Every trail we make accessible, every summit we conquer together, signifies a victory for inclusivity and equality.

As we continue to grow, our commitment remains unwavering. We strive to amplify our impact, reaching more individuals yearning to reconnect with nature. Our website, [www.access-the-dales.com](http://www.access-the-dales.com), serves as a gateway for those seeking adventure without limitations.

Debbie North, Access the Dales founder



Climbing to the summit of Ingleborough. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Smith



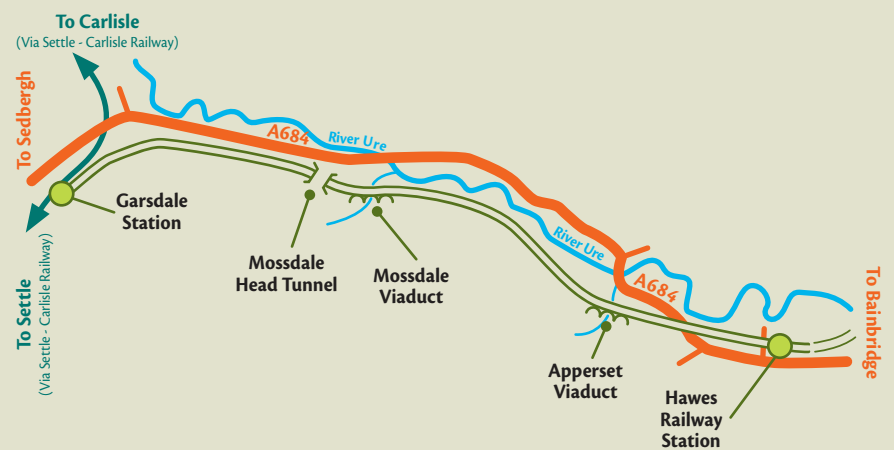
We are holding our first walk in collaboration with Access the Dales and Where2Walk, which supports people to explore the outdoors, on Wednesday 31 July. See page 23 for more information.

# New Trail on Track

Work has started to create a family-friendly, off-road route along a six-mile stretch of disused railway line between Hawes and Garsdale Station.

It is hoped that by the end of March 2025 the first public right of way creation agreements will have been signed for the new bridlepath, and funding bids and detailed plans for installing the necessary infrastructure will be drawn up. Land agents working for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have already discussed compensation and practical issues with most of the landowners along the proposed route.

Almost 80% of 2,300 responses to a survey carried out in March 2022 backed the wheelchair-accessible route. It is hoped that the project will provide economic benefits as well as promoting active travel and providing a safe environment for families and children to exercise and access nature.



A young girl rides a bike on the disused railway between Hawes and Garsdale, along which it is hoped a public right of way is to be created. Photo courtesy of YDNPA





Ash dieback in Littondale. Photo courtesy of Tony Smith

# A Song for our Ash Trees

I recently visited Sheffield to catch indie-folk band Stornoway on tour. Formidable saxophone electrified The Leadmill and unplugged renditions enchanted my evening. It is Stornoway's storytelling confidence that carries its voice across to the Yorkshire Dales. Since the band's first major release in 2010, songwriter Brian Briggs has rejoiced with birdwatchers and empowered the shy; now he is consoling our ash trees.

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) has been the third most common tree in Britain<sup>1</sup> after oak and birch, and the predominant tree within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, for millennia. It grows well on our limestone, and solitary specimens are a characterful part of many fields. The arrival of the airborne fungal disease known as ash dieback has been devastating; since 2012, it has spread to all parts of the Yorkshire Dales and 75-95% of UK ash trees are expected to die from the disease before 2040-2050.

As Stornoway's song *Excelsior* begins, a shivery, bright drone evokes a cool and cloudless dawn. Briggs broaches ash dieback beautifully, if secretively, keeping his references to the tree ('fingers') and fungus ('threads') open and figurative. The chorus is interesting: 'You're more than silence lost.' What could this mean? Mass-illness of ash trees has necessitated their felling with chainsaws, where weak limbs pose a public safety risk. What do you miss or grieve about our disappearing ash trees?

The second verse lifts into floral arpeggios and tender vocals. The song is in the key of D-flat; dropping to the third-scale degree (F) grants an enticing, mystical quality to the glade of a fallen ash 'with ramsons in full bloom'. *Excelsior* is a last love letter to the tree, nudging us to express our gratitude in good time. What can we do to help the trees of the Yorkshire Dales thrive?

Conservationists are re-planting other native trees to keep our ecosystems functioning in the face of ash dieback<sup>2</sup> whilst scientists are developing ways to breed disease-resistant ash trees<sup>3</sup>. Having listened to *Excelsior*, when I next pass by an ash tree, I will feel enriched with understanding and consoled.

**Creative Campaigner** Josh Burge

<sup>1</sup> Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) - British Trees - Woodland Trust

<sup>2</sup> [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/trees-and-woodlands/tree-health-and-diseases/ash-dieback/ash-dieback-position-statement](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/trees-and-woodlands/tree-health-and-diseases/ash-dieback/ash-dieback-position-statement)

<sup>3</sup> [www.kew.org/read-and-watch/fighting-ash-dieback](http://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/fighting-ash-dieback)

**Spotify:** <https://open.spotify.com/track/5hLSEP9zqDoRMvQn5CzFMI?si=6b78527f43974eb1>



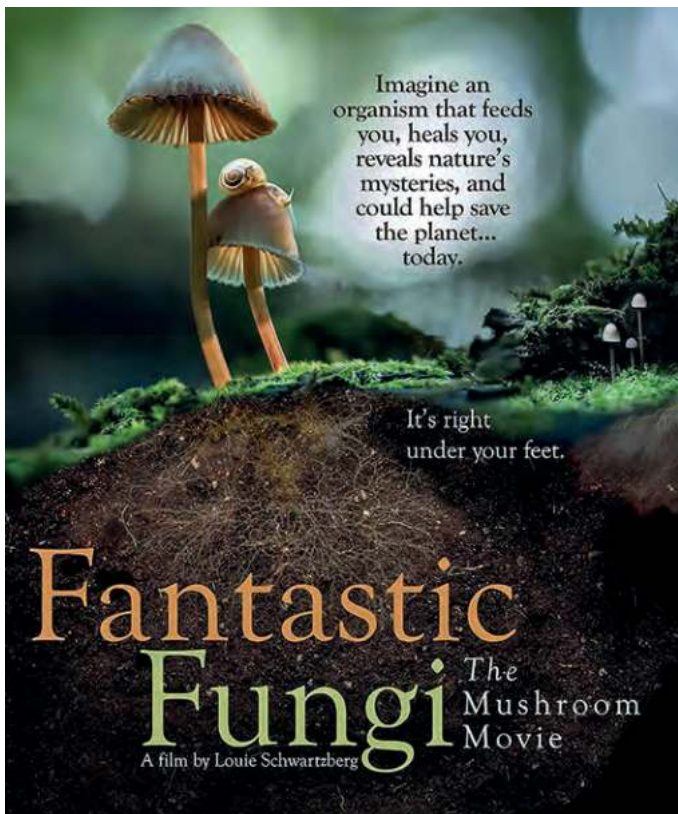
# Living Dales Update

**We are the leading voice campaigning for a sustainable future for the Yorkshire Dales.**

You can now keep up to date with all our Living Dales campaigns through this new, regular update page.

Campaign	Campaign Description	What We're Doing
Living Woods	<p>We're campaigning for alternative ways of planting trees without single-use plastic. We support efforts to use biodegradable guards and raise public awareness of the importance of removing guards when they are no longer needed.</p> <p>We also actively support planning applications to increase the amount of native woodland, taking account of siting and design.</p>	<p>We continue to raise awareness through engagement, publicity and lobbying.</p> <p>We secured the active support of Campaign for National Parks and ten other national park societies for our campaign in 2022.</p> <p>We are in talks with woodland management organisations and other stakeholders to try to influence an industry-wide ban on the use of plastic in tree planting.</p> <p>Our community supporter Foggy Outline is currently working on a short film about tree guards.</p>
Living Verges	<p>Through influencing regional and local authorities to adopt nature-positive verge management, we aim to make rural verges and greens in the Dales more biodiverse.</p> <p>A nature-positive way of managing verges and other grassland areas will help regenerate them into flower-rich, biodiverse havens for insects and birds.</p>	<p>Over the last three years we have been engaging with councils, highway authorities and parish councils to influence nature-positive verge management.</p> <p>In 2024 North Yorkshire Council launched a scheme enabling parish councils and village environment groups to sign up to manage their own verges with biodiversity in mind. We actively encourage local parishes/groups to enter into new Local Working Agreements with the council so that roadside verges are cut at more appropriate times. Email <a href="mailto:HAM@northyorks.gov.uk">HAM@northyorks.gov.uk</a> to enquire about this.</p>
Living Access	<p><b>Sustainable Transport</b></p> <p>We set up our subsidiary Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company in 2007 and continue to raise funds so that it can procure and manage the weekend DalesBus network of buses into and around the Dales.</p> <p>We support the national park authority in its vision for sustainable transport by campaigning to make the case to North Yorkshire Council and the neighbouring transport authorities for improvements to public transport and increased funding. We are also campaigning for the prioritisation of public transport within the new Local Transport Plan – vital for not only serving lower income households and younger people, but also for reducing the number of vehicles travelling into the Dales and therefore total annual emissions</p>	<p>We're working closely with North Yorkshire Council to fund DalesBus and promoting all bus and train services into and around the national park including integration and connectivity.</p> <p>We support and advise Dales residents' groups with public transport concerns and identify other opportunities to improve public transport through our response to policy and planning applications.</p> <p>We campaign through the press and online about the needs of residents and visitors for a more comprehensive public transport service in the Dales, especially at key times and regular intervals. In May the <i>Yorkshire Post</i> ran a double-page special report celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It included an article on our Living Access campaign, with further coverage in the editorial comment column.</p>
Living Waters	<p>We're campaigning for improvements to the health of Dales waters by supporting the work of charities like Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, which runs projects to monitor water quality, clean up rivers and create riparian buffer zones to improve biodiversity and enhance natural flood management.</p> <p>We also support Yorkshire Peat Partnership to restore peatlands through nature recovery and rewetting.</p>	<p>We hosted the very successful <i>From Peat to Paddling</i> awareness-raising conference in 2022.</p> <p>Over the last two years we have supported Yorkshire Peat Partnership to recruit Eyes on the Bog volunteers, who regularly monitor peatland health at a range of locations across the Dales.</p>
Living Communities	<p>Our aim is not only to help conserve and enhance the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Dales, but also to promote the sustainable social and economic wellbeing of its local communities.</p>	<p>Our small volunteer team of planning experts continues to review applications likely to have a major and significant impact on the Dales. We support those we believe are right for the Dales and object to those we don't, always ensuring we seek a good balance between the needs of Dales people and businesses. For example, we are now working with the national park authority and other organisations to ensure the right number of telecommunications masts are installed, and in suitable locations. (Find out more on page 14.)</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/planning">www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/planning</a> to review our planning comments and <a href="http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/policies">www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/policies</a> to read our policies.</p>

## Film Review



What one expects to be a creative insight into the widely unknown world of fungi (which the film is for around half its runtime) unexpectedly turns into a form of fungi publicity, preaching their medicinal powers and hallucinogenic benefits. Directed by pioneering time-lapse cinematographer Louie Schwartzberg, every aspect of the film is marvellously shot, which certainly leaves the viewer with a heightened understanding of the history, evolution and importance of fungi, albeit not in the way you might expect.

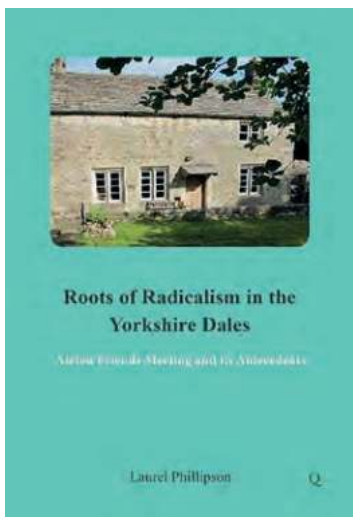
Going into this film with little prior knowledge of the wonders of fungi, it definitely gave me a grounding of useful information. *Fantastic Fungi* offers a fascinating overview of the processes of decay, birth and growth of mycelium networks. It is a lot to take in at points, with overwhelming visuals taking the viewer into the depths of the soil, and sometimes even back in time by billions of years.

The film moves into a more unexpected realm with the topic of magic mushrooms. Initially it explores how these have been used in medical trials to treat patients with depression, anxiety and Alzheimer's. However, once the documentary starts to move away from the medicinal side of magic mushrooms (psilocybin), you find yourself being lectured on the wonders of hallucinogenic drugs.

Despite the strange trajectory the film takes in its second half, *Fantastic Fungi* is an effective documentary that should hopefully help to bring the importance of fungi, and our significant connection to them, to mainstream audiences.

Bea Benn, Year 12 pupil at Skipton Girls' High School

## Book Review: Roots of Radicalism in the Yorkshire Dales



**Author:** Laurel Phillipson

**Publisher:** Quacks Books

**Price:** £12.50 plus £3 p&p

**ISBN:** 978-1-912728-80-0

What do a secretive religious group, a barn conversion\*, the quirks of Dales history and geography, one of Oliver Cromwell's right-hand men and Shakespeare's play *King Lear* have to do with one another? I shall not hold Laurel Phillipson responsible for my puzzle, although her book *Roots of Radicalism in the Yorkshire Dales* discusses the connection between most of these. What the above have in common is dissent, deception and, as regards *King Lear*, the whole basis of the state and its justice being called into question.

Phillipson's fascinating investigation focuses on what was once a nondescript barn in the village of Airton, probably built around 1610 (the year *King Lear* was written). Except the barn wasn't a barn (or a conversion\*); it was a purpose-built meeting house for a shadowy group called Seekers and designed to deceive the prying eye. Many Seekers became Quakers and by the mid-seventeenth century, under the patronage of Major General Lambert (of Calton Hall), the building was a Friends Meeting House. Not only is it 'the earliest extant Quaker meeting house, it may also be the oldest surviving...dissenter place of worship...in all of Britain'. It is worth a visit.

Deftly marshalling material to build her case, Phillipson lucidly shows why Quakerism proliferated in Craven and the Dales. She covers the deep history of religious nonconformity and independent political thought, both Catholic and Protestant, in the area as well as the impact of geographical isolation, the dissolution of the monasteries, the near absence of grand nobility, and the growth of 'the middling sort'.

Why 1610 or thereabouts? The 1590s set off decades of hardship caused by a number of factors including bad harvests, high prices and near-famine conditions as well as a growing population and demand for food. Popular unrest and a fear of social breakdown was in the air (the Gunpowder Plot was in 1605). Organising for a better world in the face of authoritarian rule and economic injustice laid the foundations of the Quakers and the Airton Meeting House.

This is a companion book to *Hidden in Plain Sight, History and Architecture of the Airton Meeting House*. Together they provide a comprehensive and compelling history of democratic radicalism in the Dales, and a timely reminder of the many people in this area who sought justice and peace.

Bruce McLeod, Chair



An accessible walk with Access the Dales

## Walk: Access the Dales by Foot or TerrainHopper

**Wednesday, 31 July**

**11:00am – 3:00pm**

We are very pleased to offer our first walk run in collaboration with Yorkshire Dales charity Access the Dales and walking company Where2Walk. Starting from a farm near Tebay (a hub where all-terrain wheelchairs can be booked for free – visit [www.access-the-dales.com/2024-events](http://www.access-the-dales.com/2024-events) to secure), participants will enjoy a leisurely paced, stile-free, four-mile route over rough, moderately challenging terrain to Powson Knott, whilst taking in views of the eastern and northern fells of the Lake District.

For those requiring assistance, the hub provides a Trampler – an all-terrain wheelchair – and a TerrainHopper, both battery-operated. Additionally, two Paratrekers, rugged manual wheelchairs, are available, necessitating strong pushers. Alternatively, bring your all-terrain mobility scooter/wheelchair for an inclusive walk event.

This walk is not accessible for regular wheelchairs. To secure your place with an all-terrain wheelchair, please book via [www.access-the-dales.com/2024-events](http://www.access-the-dales.com/2024-events)

To book your place without, email [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)

## Catch up via E-News

Sign up to our free monthly e-news and be one of the first to receive our news, new event listings and information about hands-on volunteering opportunities arranged by Friends of the Dales and other environmental charities.

Sign up at: [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk)

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



## Event: Friends 4 Friends

**Thursday, 1 August**

**5:30 – 8:30pm**

A social event for non-members. Members are welcome too – but you must bring a 'non-member' friend along. As we look to the future it is vital that we recruit more members and what better way to do this than encourage interested supporters and like-minded friends to join us in Gargrave for a sociable evening of welcome refreshments and snacks, a fun quiz and a leisurely three-mile circular walk.

**NB There is no obligation for non-members to join – this is just a chance to get to know more about us.**

To book email [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Eshton Road Lock.  
Photo courtesy of Carroll Pierce

## Save the Date! AGM

**Saturday, 28 September**

**Addingham Memorial Hall**

**Full details will be sent to all members by post in August.**

## Online Talk: An Inclusive National Park

**Wednesday, 23 October**

**5:00pm**

Trustee and Churchill Fellow Mohammed Dhalech will discuss the three challenges of organisational culture, representation and racism that must be tackled so that everyone can enjoy our national parks.

Book via [www.trybooking.com/uk/DNLM](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/DNLM)



Trustee Mohammed Dhalech

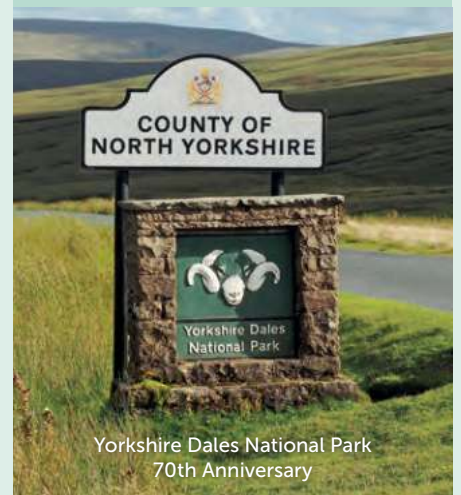
## Online Talk: The Yorkshire Dales National Park – 70 Years On

**Wednesday, 20 November**

**5:00pm**

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the national park movement and 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Mark Corner, our former Chair of Trustees and the current Member Champion for the Natural Environment for the National Park Authority, will review the achievements of the national park and consider the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead – especially in relation to nature recovery and community sustainability.

Book via [www.trybooking.com/uk/DNLO](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/DNLO)



Yorkshire Dales National Park  
70th Anniversary

## Catch up on YouTube

If you missed one of our talks first time round, you can watch them on our YouTube channel: [@friendsofthedales](https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales)

There are more than 20 films – with more being added all the time – on the wide range of environmental subjects covered in our successful digital talks programme. Find out more about everything from raptor persecution in the Yorkshire Dales to the facts about our decimated peatlands to the future of rural bus services.

If you subscribe to the channel you will immediately be notified of all new content additions.



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## Support us, support the Dales

Friends of the Dales is the leading voice campaigning for a sustainable future for the Dales.

Our charity needs your support to help us protect this amazing, inspiring but fragile place - for years to come.

### ➔ JOIN US

- More members means more clout when we campaign. Members receive this quarterly magazine and first news of our events programme.

### ➔ DONATE

- Our charity's running costs are funded entirely by your voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacy gifts.

### ➔ VOLUNTEER

- Help with our walks and other events
- Shape our charity's future: become a trustee
- Put out our leaflets on your home patch

### ➔ LEGACY

- Please consider making a gift in your will to Friends of the Dales.

### ➔ BE 'DALES-FRIENDLY'

- Try out our sociable walks and events (most are free)
- Support Dales businesses and communities
- Look for sustainable ways to visit, like [DalesBus](#)

[www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Please visit our website and follow us on social media. Full contact details and membership rates are on page 2

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LOVE...**



When you've read and enjoyed this magazine please pass it on with our regards.