

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 6 June 2019

Item: 4

Title: Access Update

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on issues related to access in the Peak District.

PDNPA Land Disposals

At the Access Sub-group meeting in April 2019, LAF Members were updated on the National Park Authority's process for disposal of its minor properties. Those properties where continued enjoyment by the public is important include:

- High Rake Mine, Little Hucklow
- Green Lane Pits, Middleton-by-Youlgreave
- Taddington Dale, Taddington
- Land in front of Magpie Mine, Sheldon

The Access Sub-group at the meeting sought assurances that access would be protected without any ambiguity as part of any disposal that might take place with a recommendation for dedication as Access Land to provide this clarity. A letter setting out these views and requesting update and involvement was sent subsequently to the Authority and is attached in Appendix 1.

Under the process, proposals for safeguarding access have been identified to include concessionary access in addition to dedication to complement existing public rights of way and Access Land. Any sites subject to disposal will incorporate covenants relating to public enjoyment and the promotion of access and for the maintenance of this. It is accepted that there will be ongoing involvement in terms of monitoring.

It is also proposed that there be a review of the process alongside the review of the Asset Management Plan due to take place later this year.

Access Wish-List

The Forum has an access wish-list which forms a reference point for contact with landowners. This wish list for access improvements has a focus on access to and within Access Land and for link routes. Some of the items are long-held aspirations.

There is the potential for the wish-list to be expanded to include accessibility improvements, seeking higher rights on existing paths, and for works on paths on Access Land. The wish list is a standing item at Access Sub-group meetings.

Where agreement can be obtained for the access, the Access Fund can help facilitate the improvements. Proposals for access, especially those where the landowner is supportive, will therefore support the Access Fund and future donations to it.

Archives

Over the last few years the Authority has been ensuring that important historic material regarding the early days of the National Park movement and the development of the

National Park family is preserved for the nation. It has done this by making it available to a number of external records offices.

The summary document in Appendix 2 describes each archive together with the type of information that the archive holds. Please note that not all the information is available to view online.

Moorland Tracks

At the March 2018 Forum meeting, Members endorsed the letter to the National Park Authority in connection with moorland tracks and which is attached in Appendix 1.

As an update, enforcement action at the track on the Bradfield Moors has been upheld. An appeal has been made against the enforcement notice at Midhope Moor.

The guidance on tracks is available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/advice/do-i-need-permission (scroll to the foot of the page).

Recommendation

- 1. That the report be noted.**

Appendix 1



Peak District Local Access Forum (LAF)
C/o Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Adrian Barraclough
Director of Commercial Development and Engagement
Peak District National Park Authority

22nd April, 2019
sent by email

Dear Adrian

Property Disposals by the National Park Authority - Safeguarding and Enhancing Public Access

I am writing following a meeting of the Local Access Forum's (LAF's) Access Sub Group on Thursday 18th April which Bob Berzins chaired and kindly briefed me about after we had exchanged information beforehand. The topic I am writing about is property disposals by the Authority to whom we are a statutory advisor on the improvement of public access for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

I had received emails expressing concern about the planned High Rake disposal from the Hucklow Parish Council and Henry Folkard (who was a longstanding LAF member living locally), about the lack of dedication for access with tenders apparently being sought. Sue Smith kindly updated members and I was asked to write urgently on their behalf to request information and assurances at this site and in other disposals, especially where there is existing use and demand for access throughout sites. In addition to High Rake, Green Lane Pits (a site restored many years ago by the NPA near the very popular High Peak Trail), was identified and I guess there will be others. At High Rake, there has been freely available de facto access to the site for many years. Without open access there would not formally be access to the extensive archaeological legacy so carefully restored by Peak District Mines Historical Society which we believe continues to draw regular visits by interested members of the public. We have been advised by Henry Folkard that High Rake was gifted to the National Park for the enjoyment of the general public so he suggests it should surely be dedicated for open access under the CROW Act ahead of disposal.

We welcomed previous dedication for access by the Authority of many of its woodlands in 2005 to safeguard valued opportunities. It was fitting the NPA used powers it had lobbied for as a leading advocate of the access legislation.

We would like to see such opportunities being realised by the authority ahead of future property disposals please. Access needs to be protected without ambiguity - dedication provides that clarity so that the amount of public access can continue or be enhanced. Dedication of open access is clearly best before tenders are accepted. That is so much easier and less time consuming than having to seek future agreement to dedication by new owners after sales arising for seeking tenders.

Can dedication be completed or required for High Rake and Green Lane Pits at this stage, and can we be advised in advance of planned future disposals so the LAF can comment and advise please?

Given Parish concerns in the case of High Rake, can I also ask if Parish Councils are, or will in future be, advised of proposed disposals given community use and interest?

Would it be possible to forward a list of future disposals being considered? We can then act quickly to let the NPA have our thoughts. The NPA website indicates that "We protect, manage, promote and improve access in the National Park by working closely with the National Park Rangers, Highway Authorities, landowners, communities and recreational user groups." The NPA does a great job in this respect, particularly through the Access and Recreation Service. We know and appreciate that officers views on the means and the timings for achieving this have been fed through by Sue Smith to the officers managing the disposal process.

The purpose of the letter is to support their work and ask pertinent questions about the best way forward now and in future. I have not involved Mike Rhodes or Sue in this letter, but am copying them, Emma and Chris in after liaison with Bob. I think this will be a good topic for update please at our June 13th LAF if you agree.

I look forward to your response to these points and views on the suggestions..

Yours sincerely

John
John Thompson
Peak District Local Access Forum

Copies To Officers within the Peak District NPA - Emma Stone, Chris Manby, Bill Robinson, Mike Rhodes and Sue Smith, and Gill Millward, Derbyshire County Council

Copies to LAF colleagues at 18th April Sub Group - Bob Berzins and Charlotte Gilbert as Vice Chairs, Sue Weatherley and Terry Howard.

Appendix 2

Guidance on searching external archives:

ALDL – Legal Deposit Libraries

Tel: 0131 334 2833

Email: publisher.enquiries@legaldeposit.org.uk

The Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries (ALDL) requests and receives copies of publications for distribution to five major libraries. It is maintained by five legal deposit libraries and ensures that they receive legal deposit copies of British and Irish publications.

The five libraries involved in the operation of the Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries are:

- Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford
- Cambridge University Library
- National Library of Scotland
- Library of Trinity College, Dublin
- National Library of Wales

These five libraries have the right to request materials from publishers in terms of legal deposit legislation.

The [British Library](http://www.bl.uk) (0330 333 1144, customer-service@bl.uk) is also a legal deposit library, but has an automatic right to receive legal deposit materials.

Publications deposited with the legal deposit libraries:

- Are available to the libraries' registered users
- Are preserved for the benefit of future generations
- Become part of the national heritage

Publishers are obliged to send one copy of each of their publications to the British Library, free of charge, within one month of the date of publication. The other five libraries have the right to request the deposit of publications, free of charge, within a year of the date of publication. In practice many publishers deposit their publications with all six libraries without waiting for a claim to be made.

The information available is wide and varied and will cover publications that have not come directly from the National Park, such as external reports on environmental issues and walking guides. The earliest available information is dated around 1955.

City of London Metropolitan archive

Tel: 020 7332 1144

Email: ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Holds NP archive material as part of its Association of County Councils catalogue. The files were created by the National Park Committee of the Association of County Councils (ACC). The ACC was merged with the Local Government Association in 1997 and its archive was offered to the City of London by the LGA as a gift in 1998. They already hold files relating to the ACC's National Park Committee dating to 1977. We 'gifted' loose committee papers dated from 1977-1993 to the archive following a streamlining of the A-files in 2015. Some of the general correspondence between National Parks and the Association was also included.

Derbyshire Records Office

Tel: 01629 538347

Email: record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk

Maintains archive material for the county of Derbyshire, of particular interest to the National Park:

- Files of correspondence, reports and other working papers re Peak Park Planning Board 1952-1974, files re senior appointments 1968, 1974 (ref: **D5270**)

- Collection of photographic material relating to the Peak District National Park, including slides, negatives, and prints (ref: **D7428/UL**)
- Archives of the Friends of the Peak District - Includes Minutes 1938-1995; General correspondence 1930s-1978, 1986-1996; National Parks papers 1944-1990; Membership and representation papers 1944-1976; Longshaw Estate papers 1955-1973; Peak Park proposed extension papers 1965-1982; Stone Committee papers 1924-1976; Derbyshire Water papers 1924-1976; National Trust and CPRE papers 1937-1984; correspondence folders and papers relating to various campaigns (ref:**D6860**)
- DCC Planning - County Development Plan & Peak District National Park Development Plan papers (ref:**D1534/UL**)
- Reports and surveys 1960s-1980s (ref: **D6387**)
- Peak District tourist map from the 1920s/30s (ref: **D2918**)
- Public inquiry into applications by Trent River Authority at the Palace Hotel Buxton 1971 (ref: **D4721/UL**)
- Number of items about the mass trespass and earlier trespasses.

Use the reference numbers in bold when searching the catalogue, or combinations of search words such as 'Peak District National Park Authority'. Those references with /UL are currently unlisted and no additional information is available on the online catalogue at the present time. However, it is still theoretically possible to consult material in these collections, although it may take staff at the records office a little longer to locate specific records.

Sheffield City Archives

Tel: 0114 203 9398

Email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk

Very similar to Derbyshire Records Office. Of interest:

- Peak District National Park information notes on Access to Open Country 1974
- Peak District: Peak Park Development Plan (1st Review) 1969
- The Peak District National Park proposed draft National Park Plan 1977
- The Peak District National Park proposed draft National Park Plan additional survey report 1977
- Peak Park Structure Plan 1976-1977, 1975-1984, 1973-1975, 1975-1982, 1982-1986

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Tel: (0)1244 972574

Email: recordoffice@cheshireservices.gov.uk

Very similar to Derbyshire Records Office. Of interest:

- Trespassers will be prosecuted. Views of the forbidden moorlands of the Peak District 1934.
- Building in the Peak 1964
- The Peak District – A Landscape Through Time (1997) by our very own John Barnatt and Ken Smith
- The Peak District: A National Park 1945 (the case for a national park post-war)

Manchester Archives and Local History

Tel: 0161 234 1979 (Manchester Central Library)

Email: <mailto:archiveslocalstudies@manchester.gov.uk>

Again, very similar to Derbyshire Records Office. Of interest:

- Peak Park Ranger audio archive 2011 – interview with Ken Drabble
- Pennine Wallabies audio archive 1983 – interview with Clive Price
- Various audio recordings on grouse shooting and moorland fires in the 1980s

JISC Archives Hub
Email: help@jisc.ac.uk

The Archives Hub provides descriptions of thousands of the UK's archive collections. Representing over 300 institutions across the country, the Archives Hub is an effective way to discover unique and often little-known primary sources across all disciplines. Information of relevance to the National Park:

- Sheffield and Peak District Branch of the CPRE Collection (1920-1960)
- National Park Plans (1975-1979)
- Mass Trespass – press cuttings (1932-1976)
- Reports and notes relating to National Park Policies Review Committee (1973-1975)

Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) at University of Reading
Tel: 0118 378 8660
Email: merl@reading.ac.uk

Search across the collections of the University Library, special collections and the museum. MERL have taken in all of the archive and library of the **Council for National Parks**. Some of it is listed, some of it is not. Of interest:

- Report of the National Parks Committee (England and Wales) presented by the Minister of T&C Planning to Parliament, July 1945 (collection copy is dated 1947)
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside (prepared by Ministry of T&C Planning) dated 1950.
- 50 Years of National Parks issued by the Council for National Parks dated 1986
- The National Parks of England and Wales: "Not ours, but ours to look after", by Brian Redhead, President of the Council for National Parks dated 1988.
- National Parks Today: the newspaper of the National Parks of England and Wales, Autumn 1985 – Spring 1995.
- Promotional leaflets issued by the Council for National Parks dated 1980-1989

National Archives at Kew
Tel: 0208 876 3444
Contact: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact-us/>

The National Archives is the UK Government's official archive. Its main duties are to preserve Government records and to set standards in information management and re-use. Their **Discovery** database holds more than 32 million descriptions of records held by the National Archives and more than 2,500 archives across the country. Over 9 million records are available for download. Of interest:

- Peak District National Park Designation Order 1950
- Peak District National Park: Designation Order 1950: inspector's report 1950-1951
- Confirmation of designation order dated 01/01/1950 – 31/12/1950
- Peak District National Park: designation and development plan 1950-1955
- Peak District National Park Joint Planning Board 1951-1968
- Peak District, 26 photographic slides depicting views of the NP 1985
- Voluntary Joint Committee for Peak District National Park dated 1938-1952
- Peak District National Park Authority, records including consultation docs relating to core strategy, minutes and associated papers dated 1935-2011
- Bye-laws relation to Access Land dated 1954-1970
- Suggestions for alteration of park boundary dated 1956-1971
- Proposed tree preservation orders, areas of woodland, Chatsworth Settlement dated 1954-1959

They also hold a lot of info from Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

National Parks England (formerly National Parks UK)

Tel: 0203 096 7979

Email: enquiries@nationalparksengland.org.uk

Following streamlining of the A-files in 2015 we handed over ANP data to National Parks England. The list of what was transferred can be found [here](#). They have a section on their website for **Publications and Documents**, but other than what they have published there is limited search capability, so you may have to contact them.

PDNPA Internal Archive

We hold some historic material, including structure plan documents in the former Xerox room located opposite the IT office. This is dwindling as more material is deposited with local archives offices.

We hold an index of our A-file system (legacy working files) in an Access database. There are plans to incorporate a searchable index in our document management system, however, if you would like more information, or would like to know whether we have retained a particular A-file then please get in touch with Michele Sarginson on 6278 or email: michele.sarginson@peakdistrict.gov.uk.

Appendix 3



Peak District Local Access Forum
c/o Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Date 15th March 2018

To John Scott, Director of Planning and Conservation PDNPA

Construction of Moorland Tracks

Dear John

I am writing on behalf of the Peak District Local Access Forum to express concern, particularly from the recreation community about the construction of a number of surfaced tracks in the north east Peak District.

The tracks in question are the following:

1. Midhope Mickleden Beck plastic matting constructed January 2015
2. Cartledge (Strines area) stone aggregate constructed July 2014
3. Moscar House Farm to Derwent Edge stone aggregate constructed summer 2017
4. High Neb shooting butts (Stanage Edge) mixed stone constructed summer 2017

The LAF does not feel it is necessary to comment on any particular planning application but it is the overall cumulative effect of these developments which is of concern.

We recognise the importance of Upland Management and accept that this will involve vehicle use. There are examples where considerable work has been undertaken without noticeable or permanent vehicle damage for example on some moorland restoration work. And unfortunately there are examples to the contrary so it seems that the impact of vehicles and the tracks to accommodate these is very much down to the skills of management and workforce.

The state of the uplands in our National Park is fundamental to the special qualities. Many people seek out moorland areas to enjoy quiet recreation in a landscape that has an unspoilt wilderness feel. A new surfaced road is a permanent construction which changes the landscape and the character of these wild areas. There is a startling visual impact for example the Cartledge track is visible from 2 miles away on Mortimer Road and despite attempts to soften the appearance with seeding, the impact is undiminished. There is an impact underfoot for example discovering shredded and disintegrating turquoise plastic at Mickleden Beck. The character and feel of a moorland journey is broken by imported yellow stone and drainage pipes at Stanage High Neb.

Much of the construction of these tracks can only be described as heavy duty engineering, for example stone aggregate of one metre depth at Cartledge. Such constructions will not assimilate into the landscape or lessen over time.

The character of this corner of the National Park, designated for its landscape, has been changed apparently without consent or consideration of the National Park Authority.

The LAF commented on and supported the Moorland Tracks Planning Guidance published in January 2017. I hoped that this would see the end of non-consented or the proliferation of track construction but unfortunately the developments at Moscar occurred a few months later.

The LAF urges you to give full consideration to all track construction in these wilder areas and where appropriate enforce rectification and restoration of the areas affected, for the benefit of the wider landscape of the National Park.

Yours sincerely

Bob Berzins

LAF Vice Chair
(Chair Access sub group)