

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 22 September 2016

Item: 8

Title: Access Update

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Purpose of the Report

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

Access Fund

The Peak District National Park's [Access Fund](#) provides the opportunity for donations to enable improvements to access in the National Park. This includes:

- new and upgraded access points on access land
- repairing paths on access land
- works associated with the dedication of new areas of access land and public rights of way
- new concession paths to improve links to existing access land
- replacement of stiles with gates on public rights of way
- upgrading and enhancements to path accessibility
- signage and leaflets.

The Fund was set up in September 2014. The first annual report was presented to the September 2015 meeting of the Forum.

During the last 12 months, we have had support and donations generated from:

- organisations - Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorlands, South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire area of the Ramblers, Derbyshire Area Ramblers, Sheffield CHA Rambling Club
- individuals – donations ranging from £20 to £1000.
- book sales - Clarion Ramblers
- talks - Long Distance Walkers Association
- events - Dark & White, Mini Mountain Marathon, OMM, Dark Peak Fell Runners, Peak Skyrace
- sponsored event in support of the Access Fund - Peak Horse Power
- access for Wild Side walks in support of the Access Fund – Thornbridge

Access improvements during 2015/16 have included:

- signage and gates for a new concession bridleway at Brushfield
- replacement access points at Shaw Moor, Chinley, Outseats and Baslow
- new access points at Blakedon Hollow, Rod Moor, Saddleworth and Peat Pits
- retention of historic signage at Curbar
- works to enable the continued use of a former agri-environment scheme path at Minninglow

Contributions this year have totalled £6000. There are a number of projects outstanding which may yet be included in this year's annual report and more to be reported in future years. The Authority working in conjunction with the Local Access Forum and its representative organisations with the support of Highway Authorities,

land owners, communities and other partners will continue to seek to identify further opportunities and to make available funding as appropriate.

Wish-List Mapping

Members of the Access sub-group have been mapping the Forum's wish list for access improvements which it is intended will form a dataset for reference and contact with landowners. There is the potential for this list to incorporate suggestions from residents and user groups via consideration at the access sub-group meetings. This will be updated over time.

Miles Without Stiles

Yorkshire Water has offered to sponsor the Authority for work on Miles without Stiles which is the National Parks brand for accessible routes. The donation would cover:

- accessibility training for the identification and assessment of the suitability of visitor infrastructure and routes
- the production of a Miles Without Stiles handbook and web information.

The offer follows on from the launch of National Park Partnerships and a [press release](#) seeking a national funder for Miles without Stiles.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That the LAF nominate a member(s) to work on Miles without Stiles**