

Park Life

The Community Newsletter of the
Peak District National Park Authority

PEAK
DISTRICT
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Issue 4 July 2007



TIMBER! - P.9



School's out - P.13

Nurturing nature

farming and wildlife working together p15

FREE
Visitor
Guide
Inside

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk



Tony Hams, who comes to the end of his maximum 10 years on the National Park Authority next March, is stepping down after five years as chair. In his final 'Parklife' introduction he sums up the highlights of his time with the Park and looks at some of the on-going challenges we continue to face...

- The Authority will appoint a new chair during July. Look out in the next edition of Parklife for a profile of Tony's successor.

About Parklife...

Parklife is the free community newsletter of the Peak District National Park Authority, published in January and July each year. As well as a printed newsletter, Parklife is produced as a 'Podcast' to download to your MP3 player. The Podcast features more in depth background on some of the key stories - lookout for the Podcast symbol to see which are featured.

Parklife be viewed on-line and a full audio CD version is available. To find out more visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/parklife



Inside:

- Page 3
Steering a middle way
- Pages 4 & 5
Health check on the natural world
- Pages 6 & 7
Communities take action
- Page 8
New guide for better buildings
- Page 9
If you go buying a wood today...
- Page 10
For peat's sake
- Page 11
Quarrying: edging towards a solution?
- Pages 12 & 13
News round up
- Pages 14 & 15
Farming for the future
- Page 16
Get in touch



Looking to the future

"I know it sounds like a cliché, but it has been a tremendous honour and a privilege to have been chair and member of this Authority over the last ten years. Society and global conditions have changed enormously during this time and as an organisation we have had to adapt accordingly.

As a long term resident in the Park I was conscious from day one that I wanted to improve relationships, build stronger links with the Park's communities and parishes and involve local people in developing policies that will shape the Park's future. I hope we have succeeded – indeed over the coming months we will be consulting on our Local Development Framework (see page 12). I hope you will let us have your views.

I am pleased we have maintained a strong stance on high profile issues and threats to the Park's fabric. This includes our opposition to the A628 bypass, our on-going commitment to defend the Park from unauthorised quarrying (page 11), the launch of our Cultural Heritage strategy and our leading role in conserving the Peak District's rich diversity of habitats, plants and wildlife (pages 4 & 5).

Recently, climate change has entered the political agenda, but it has concerned us for many years. Indeed, Peak District moorlands were the first in world to experience acid rain. The Moors for the Future partnership is leading the way on moorland restoration, regenerating threatened peat bogs that lock in carbon, helping combat global warming and improving access (see page 10).

Innovation is a characteristic of the Authority's work. Initiatives such as the New Environmental Economy have boosted the economy by helping local people develop products and services that use our precious environment as an asset (visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/nee).

The Peak District has a reputation for pioneering access. It was fitting that we were in the vanguard of promoting open access legislation and I was proud to host the national launch of open access in 2004. I am also delighted that we have built stronger links with urban areas. Many people who had never visited the countryside before - including disadvantaged youngsters and people from ethnic backgrounds - are visiting in increasing numbers. The work at Losehill Hall has been important to this. I am delighted that Authority members have pledged to find a long-term future for this facility.

As I have said we are in a period of great change, not least as we seek to ensure that the very best environmental results come from the new payments to land managers and farmers. Pressure on the Park from car borne transport still needs to be addressed and demand for minerals will increase.

Soon there will be a new chair and as part of Government changes affecting all National Parks, our membership is reducing from 38 to 30. We will welcome new faces as a number of long-serving members, like me, come to the end of their term. They have been tremendous ambassadors and it has been humbling to have worked with them and shared their passion for this very special place.

Although I am sure there will be more changes in the Authority over the next year or two I am certain it will continue to improve its performance and will continue to work even harder with its partners, people from surrounding urban areas, local communities and visitors to make sure that our iconic landscape, wildlife and heritage is cherished and enjoyed by future generations."

Tony Hams,
Chair, Peak District National Park Authority



Steering a middle way

Four-wheel-drive vehicles and trail bikes on country tracks attract huge debate – from people who feel they ‘churn up the countryside’ and from users who argue their use is legitimate.

The National Park Authority is currently drafting a new strategy on the management of 4x4s and trail bikes, and it must try to bridge the divide.

Although it is not the Authority's role to 'police' or maintain the tracks, it liaises between local communities, users, the police and Highway Authorities.

The Authority is surveying the condition and use of the routes and working with the police and Highways Authorities to discourage illegal, damaging and dangerous "off-roading".

Rights of way manager Mike Rhodes said: "This is a controversial issue because motors can legally use some unsurfaced

routes. However, many locals, walkers and horse-riders are unhappy about the noise and damage and say access should be restricted to protect sensitive areas.

"Communication with all sides is essential. Once our draft strategy is published we will involve all interested parties."

New powers on way

National Parks will soon have powers to curb motors on selected routes. But to be effective, they must be policed, and the police have raised some concerns about the implications this may have. The Authority will prioritise highly-vulnerable routes and could use the forthcoming powers to restrict motors.

More information:

On the maintenance or legal status of routes, contact the Highway Authority. On illegal use of routes contact the police. Other information:

Peak District Local Access Forum:
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/access

Ramblers Association:
www.ramblers.org.uk

Trail Riders Fellowship:
www.trf.org.uk

Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA): www.laragb.org

Green Lanes Association:
www.glass-uk.org



The motorists' view:

Richard Marshall,
past chair of Trail
Riders' Fellowship:



"Motorists have enjoyed using the Peak District's network of minor unsurfaced roads for over a century.

Lack of maintenance and failure to designate these old roads has led to misunderstanding and unnecessary conflict.

"Responsible motorised users have been considering ways of sustainably managing this small but valuable network, but have been thwarted. We are therefore pleased the Park Authority is developing this new policy. We look forward to working in partnership with the Park and highway authorities to promote responsible use and develop our sustainable 'old roads' network for the benefit of all."

The ramblers' view:

John Harker,
of the Ramblers'
Association:



"The use of motorised vehicles on unsealed rights of way is incompatible with the quiet enjoyment of the countryside - how much more so in the case of countryside included in a National Park like the Peak District. This is the position of the Ramblers' Association (RA) at both local and national level.

"New legislation, campaigned for by the RA as part of the Green Lanes Protection Group coalition, will shortly give the Park Authority the power to prevent further damage and nuisance caused by such use. The National Park must act decisively in the interests of local communities and visitors".

Health-check on

Wild, warmer and bewildered...

Butterflies in December, hedgehogs in February, birds staying through the winter, hornets breeding in the Peak District for the first time...

What on earth is going on? Climate change, of course. We had the warmest, driest spring on record, unsettling a wide spectrum of Peak District species and putting precious habitats at risk from fire.

But just as a fit body is better able to fight off a fever, so a healthy eco-system can respond more robustly to challenges like global warming.

That is why the 10-year Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), is so important. This health-check on how the National Park's wildlife is adjusting is supported by conservationists, landowners and farmers working together to strengthen its resilience.

The Peak District's BAP Partnership gave a progress-report on its first five years (2001-6) in May. With targets aiming for a rich diversity of habitats and species, its findings included:

Moorland

Significant progress has been made on restoring rare blanket bog – a top climate-change priority as it stores more carbon than all the UK's woodland. This is largely thanks to the Moors for the Future project – a National Park partnership of organisations and land-owners. Heather moorland is also improving and widening thanks to re-creation work by private landowners, but limestone heath lags behind.

Woodland

Generally doing well – upland ashwoods and oak/birchwoods met targets for restoration and conservation, thanks largely to projects such as the Ravine Woodlife Project (just finished) which gave advice and funding to woodland-owners in Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and the English Woodland Grant Challenge Scheme.

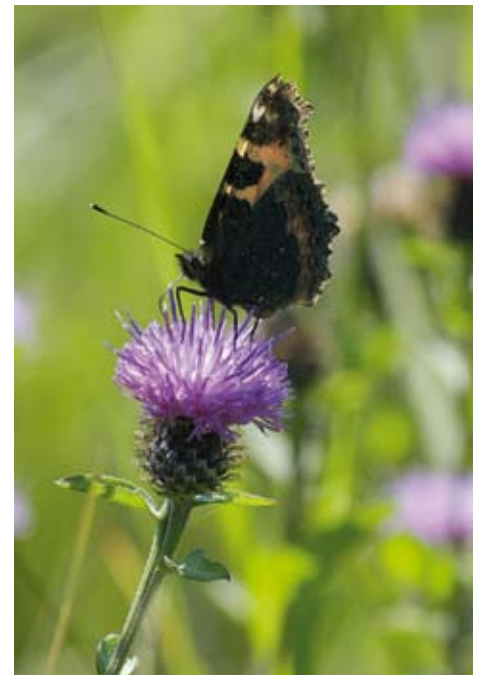
Grassland

A mixed picture – above-target on conserving/restoring rough-grazing and rush pasture, progress on limestone dales and lead rakes, but deep concern over flower-rich hay-meadows and

unimproved pasture. A stumbling-block for land-managers is financial incentive – it is hard to achieve eligibility for higher-level schemes which subsidise grassland biodiversity.



Bradford Dale



Small tortoiseshell butterfly on knapweed

Wetland

Problematic – local conservationists are working hard on riversides and ponds, but without extra impetus they are unlikely to achieve targets.

Species

Water voles' habitats and range have improved, thanks largely to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Water Vole Recovery Project (now seeking further funding). They are a top priority as the UK's fastest-declining mammal (88% lost 1990-98).

Progress is being made on halting a steep decline in lapwing, curlew and twite through the Peak Birds Project's work with farmers.

However, another priority-species, the white-clawed crayfish, was wiped out in the River Dove by a plague brought in by non-native American signal crayfish in 2005. Natural England is re-introducing them in the River Lathkill.

the natural world

Making a difference

"You can count the real wildlife gains where local people want to make a difference," says National Park ecologist Karen Shelley.

"Where a farmer wants to encourage wildlife, where a village wants to restore its pond, where householders want more birds or butterflies in their gardens – it's individuals who are the lynchpin of improvements in biodiversity."

More information:

National Park:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap

Wildlife Trusts:

www.wildlifetrusts.org

Derbyshire:

www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk

Staffordshire:

www.sbap.org.uk

Yorkshire:

www.yhbf.org



Arthur Gee and White Park bull

Case-study - Farming for wildlife

Farming sensitively for wildlife is no new fad for Arthur Gee. His family has run Ridge Farm, Longnor, for 80 years, working hand in hand with nature all the way.

Arthur rears traditional and rare-breed cattle (marketed as Dovedale Traditional Beef) using non-intensive methods largely handed down from his father and grandfather.

"We keep the grassland as it always has been," he said. "We don't use lots of fertiliser or chemical sprays. We've got 15 acres of traditional hay meadows which include wildflowers, and we trim the hedgerows only every three years to give wild birds a chance to breed."

"Blake Brook runs right through the farm, creating a wetland habitat, we've got wild ducks and herons and lapwings, and I've planted trees at field-corners to provide cover for wild birds."

Though the farm is not entirely organic, Arthur often uses homeopathic remedies on his herd of White Park, Lincoln Red, Hereford and Dexter cattle.

He joined Defra's Environmental Stewardship scheme 14 years ago, and holds the *Peak District Environmental Quality Mark (or EQM), an award recognising high-level contributions to National Park conservation. With other EQM-holders, he sends all his plastic silage wrap for recycling.

"It's always been my ethos to farm this way," he said. "Though profit-margins make it hard for farmers these days, I think it's important to carry on, to look after what we've got in the countryside. None of us want it to disappear."

Dovedale Traditional Beef is available at local farmers' markets, restaurants and B&Bs.

* Visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eqm





Communities take action

Co-operation the key to thriving communities



An internet cafe at the village pub, Great Hucklow. Set up through the 'Pub is the Hub' scheme.

Co-operation, communication, creativity – all over the Peak District these aspects are in evidence as villagers work together to improve their quality of life.

What these communities typify is a willingness to take action into their own hands. The National Park Authority can help kick-start or support their projects, supplying practical help, guidance and networking.

Case-study

Great Hucklow

– A community with spirit

Community Spirit soars as high as the gliders over Great Hucklow – it's the name of a thriving community organisation set up 20 years ago.

So, last year, when the parish council drew up a Village Plan, it built on the existing strength of Community Spirit to push its projects forward.

Together with Little Hucklow, Grindlow, Coplowdale and Windmill, villagers have:

- restored the ancient Butter Cross as a centre-point for the village
- researched the area's important lead-mining heritage, which will culminate in a book, "Lead in the Veins," and CD-archive
- made plans with Foolow for villagers to take over conservation of rare habitats and lead-mine remains at Silence Mine
- set up an internet cafe at the Queen Anne pub through the "Pub is the Hub" scheme
- launched a village website: www.hucklow.net
- set up a book club, history club, fitness classes, a walking group, gardening project and coffee mornings
- improved a rough area for a public viewpoint over Bradwell Dale.



Co-operation in action - villagers restore the Butter Cross.

Long-term, says Community Spirit chair Audrey Abdi: "We're aiming to establish a community hall. The school is thriving, but it's cramped – we need a combined school-hall and meeting-place, and an outdoor recreation area to provide fun and exercise for whole families."

It could also be a venue for the village's strong drama tradition, says parish councillor Peter Miles: "We used to have a 250-seat theatre – 5,000 people came three times a year, but it closed in 1970. We're now reviving local plays with village readings."

All in all, says former Community Spirit chair Patricia Miles, "For a small population of around 240, we have a pretty vibrant community, and the Village Plan has helped us focus our aims for the future."

Case-study

Sustainable Youlgrave

– think global, act local

Who would have thought a “grumpy old men’s” chat over a farm-gate could end up with a pace-setting community energy scheme to help save the planet?

But that’s what happened after John Youatt and his farmer-friend began talking about climate-change: “We realised governments could not be relied on to sort it out,” said John, “so we could either carry on being Victor Meldrews, or we could do something about it on our patch.”

So in 2006 they set up the Sustainable Youlgrave committee and held community meetings. Now Youlgrave and neighbouring Alport, Middleton, Harthill and Gratton are investigating the feasibility of:

- a community electricity generator using local farm slurry and crops
- hydro-power using the River Bradford, including Haddon Estate’s proposed mini-hydro scheme at Alport Mill
- small-scale wind-turbines and solar panels
- energy-savings on domestic consumption.

Grants of more than £10,000 from the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund and East Midlands Community Renewables Initiative are helping kick-start the project.

This is helping pay for localised research into generators that use methane from farm-waste, and wind-turbines. “The Germans are well ahead of us – they already have 2,500 methane digesters,” said John. “In Britain there’s only a handful.”

“It also makes sense for the Peak District economy,” said Sustainable Youlgrave secretary Andrew McCloy. “Farmers are under pressure, they need to diversify, and it would solve their slurry disposal problem.”

Everything is interconnected – they hope to use any surplus profit to help less-affluent households with energy-saving, and they are championing support for village shops, public transport, composting and recycling.

The 1,500 population already has a tradition of self-sufficiency – all tap-water is supplied from its own Youlgrave Waterworks.

More information: Andrew McCloy, 01 629 636125, or go to www.youlgrave.com



John Youatt (left) and Andrew McCloy of Sustainable Youlgrave



Graham Woods, IPD

The National Park’s Community Planning Team can help villagers to:

- highlight priorities
- draw up a Village Plan of action
- find support
- develop working partnerships with other organisations and villages

To find out more, go to www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/community

The team is financed by the National Park Authority, Staffordshire Moorlands CVS and the European Regional Development Fund.

We can also help through the:

- Sustainable Development Fund – helps community heating/recycling schemes, educational/social projects & “green” travel (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf)
- New Environmental Economy programme – helps innovative businesses that use the Peak District environment as a positive asset (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/nee)
- Historic Buildings Team – offers advice and potential funding-sources, not just for buildings but historic monuments, features, etc (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/hb)

All can be contacted at National Park HQ: 01 629 816200.

Other sources of help

Derbyshire Dales CVS
www.ddcvs.org.uk (01 629 812154)

High Peak CVS
www.highpeakcvs.org.uk
(01 663 735350)

Staffs Moorlands CVS
www.smcvs.co.uk (01 538 381356)

Action with Communities in Rural England www.acre.org.uk
(01 285 653477)

Pub is the Hub schemes
www.pubist.org.uk (01 423 568987)

Community energy schemes:
www.transitiontowns.org



New guide for better buildings

At home with the past, but fit for the future – that's the dual focus of the new Design Guide just launched for the Peak District National Park.

Aimed at anyone from developers to individual householders, this lavishly-illustrated guide gives easy-to-understand advice on best practice – whether you are planning a simple extension, work-buildings, a shop or a housing estate.

And though "design" is in its title, it covers much more than that – including:

- local building traditions and craftsmanship
- the settings of buildings
- importance of space around them
- blending contemporary with traditional
- ease of access
- consideration for the neighbourhood.

It also sets the tone for the way forward – encouraging:

- affordable housing to support communities
- energy, water and waste-efficiency
- sustainable materials
- re-using buildings
- provision for wildlife.

Planning committee chair Narendra Bajaria said: *"Nowadays we really value our heritage, we want to safeguard our best landscapes, villages and historic buildings for future generations. But at the same time we embrace the need for sustainable development and to make a positive contribution to built and natural environment including climate change."*

"This guide shows how we can learn from the past and move forward in exciting new ways."

No-one wants their planning application turned down – the Design Guide offers first principles for a better chance of success. It will be followed by a more technical guide for professionals.

To see the guide, go to **www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/designguide** or ask local libraries.

Or buy a copy (£9.99) from National Park Visitor Centres or call 01 629 81 6200.



Grand Designs - competition

A new Design Awards scheme has been launched to celebrate the very best in building and landscape design in the Peak District National Park.

The National Park Authority is on the look-out for developments that demonstrate:

- excellent design
- innovation
- sustainability.

Projects completed between April 2002 and April 2007 can be entered and they could be a new project or a restoration.

The competition is open to individuals, businesses, groups and organisations and the closing-date is September 30.

Narendra Bajaria said: *"This prestigious award is being launched to celebrate the new Peak District Design Guide. The competition will celebrate sustainable and innovative designs and an overall winner will be chosen, along with up to two highly commended awards."*

For more information and an application form, visit **www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/designguide** or contact Wendy Ruddick on 01 629 81 6328.



Approach to Chantry House and north porch of All Saints church, Bakewell demonstrates how good landscaping enhances the appearance of buildings

If you go buying a wood today...

Imagine having your own little piece of the Peak District to cherish, a private haven for wildlife, for plants and for you.

Every so often the National Park Authority sells small woods or groups of trees to people who agree to care for them with advice from its Forestry Team. The money raised enables the Authority to buy other woods in need of restoration.



Martin Raper and daughter Emma

Last year the Authority sold eight woodlands. One buyer was Martin Raper (pictured), a support services manager from Doncaster, now proud owner of a wood near Monyash.

"I've always had an interest in woodlands," he said. "I was looking for an opportunity to buy when I saw this. I'm really enjoying it, especially the wildlife: we've got a wide variety.

"I've cleared a lot of felled wood, and stacked it up to make wildlife habitats, I've done some thinning and wall repairs

and I want to introduce native woodland plants. The family help, and it's great to come out and do something different. It's a relaxation."

Property speculators are discouraged by strict terms of sale. Tree preservation orders prevent unauthorised felling, and a 10-year agreement gives the National Park Authority first option to buy back.

Buyers vary – some want a hobby or retirement project, others want to connect with nature – and there's the bonus of firewood. "It's like having a bigger allotment," said one new owner.

National Park forestry manager Steve Tompkins explains: "It's thanks to the generosity of the woodland buyers that we are able to finance a rolling programme of buying derelict woodlands and restoring them for the benefit of the National Park."



Forestry and Tree manager, Steve Tompkins

Taking a bough - 50 years of woodland care

It is now more than 50 years since the National Park Authority bought its first woodland. It owns or leases about 150, managing them sensitively for biodiversity, landscape value and wherever possible, public access. It also gives advice on care and safety of individual trees anywhere in the National Park.

Information:

National Park Tree and Forestry team:

01629 816200

Forestry Commission:

www.forestry.gov.uk or 01223 314546

Woodland Trust:

www.woodland-trust.org.uk or

01476 581135

Small Woodland Association:

www.smallwoods.org.uk or 01952 432769

Good wood guide

New woodland owners are encouraged to create a mosaic of habitats, with a canopy of mature trees and an under-storey of saplings and shrubs. Plants such as bluebells, wood anemones, celandine or sorrel attract insects, and deadwood or leaf litter feeds fungi and beetles. Birds, butterflies, badgers and other wildlife all find a home.

The National Park Forestry team advises new woodland owners on:

- felling, thinning and coppicing
- dry-stone walling
- planting
- contractors





For peat's sake

— climate-change a priority

Locking up carbon before it's too late – that's one of the urgent drives behind restoration of the National Park's moorlands as a frontline defence against climate change.

Moorland peat is the nation's largest carbon store, holding 3 billion tonnes of it – far more than the UK's woodlands (150 million tonnes).

Yet these rare, fragile areas – mostly Sites of Special Scientific Interest – have suffered centuries of damage from pollution, fires, over-grazing and man-made drainage. Exposed without vegetation, some 380,000 tonnes of carbon a year is blowing away.

Scientists estimate that restoring UK peatlands could save around 400,000 tonnes of carbon a year, equivalent to emissions from 84,000 family-sized cars.



Bulk bags of heather ready to be spread on the moor

So Moors for the Future (MFF), a partnership of conservation organisations, water companies and private landowners, is in a race against time to restore them to health. Based at the new, eco-friendly Moorland Centre in Edale, MFF has been working on 3.5 sq km of damaged moor since 2002.



- Moors for the Future, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is co-ordinated by: Peak District National Park Authority, National Trust, Natural England, United Utilities, Severn Trent Water, Sheffield City Council and moorland owners.

Two new partners have recently been welcomed. Derbyshire County Council will be contributing £40,000 over the next two years and The Environment Agency £15,000.

- Further information: www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk , 01629 816581
E-mail: moors@peakdistrict.gov.uk



Recycled mill flagstones provide footpaths across the moors

The Peak District's moorlands store 16-20 million tonnes of carbon, and in a healthy condition, they could capture 13,000 tonnes a year.

The MFF team has used helicopters to drop fertiliser, seed and equipment, and sheer hard manual labour to block gullies, seal in moisture, shore up eroding banks, and re-plant with native species.

The end-result should be that once-barren places like Bleaklow and Black Hill will not only look more inviting for millions of walkers, they will harbour more wildlife – and help save the planet.



Black Hill - this trig point was at ground level when erected in the 1940s. The 3ft plinth shows extent of erosion

Flags re-pay pollution debt

Flagstones from once-mighty cotton and woollen mills that polluted the moors for 200 years are now being recycled as footpaths for walkers.

The Peak District's moors were the first in the world to suffer acid rain, with the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century. Factories from Manchester to Sheffield belched out pollution which fell as rain on the moors in between. The soil became acid as vinegar, destroying vegetation.

Now the flags traverse the hilltops across places like Bleaklow, Mam Tor and Black Hill, saving the soil from footfall-erosion.

Some 45km of the Pennine Way, Britain's first national trail, crosses the Peak District, and Moors for the Future is restoring 19km of badly-eroded paths all round the National Park.

Log on and listen

Podcast audio-trails are now available for walkers to listen to on their MP3 players. Thirteen trails have been launched, covering sites from Marsden Moor in the north to Stanton Moor in the south, with dramatic, informative narration. For free downloads, go to www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk and click on Audio Trails.

Edging toward a solution?

Longstone Edge

Hopes of a long-term solution to quarrying problems on Longstone Edge look brighter after the National Park Authority's success at a crucial public inquiry in the Spring.

Planning Inspector David Baldock upheld the Authority's enforcement action over Backdale Quarry, and set limits on limestone operations at the site.

Though the decision does not take effect while the landowners and operators, Bleaklow Industries and MMC Mineral Processing Ltd, appeal to the High Court, it marked a significant milestone in this long-running legal wrangle.

The Authority took action because it believed that unauthorised quarry operations were doing irreparable harm to the landscape and environment of the National Park.

Authority planning committee chair Narendra Bajaria said: "This is an important step forward in the National Park Authority's efforts to stop mass unauthorised quarrying of limestone from Longstone Edge."

The 1952 planning permission allows "the winning and working of fluorspar and barytes, and the working of lead and any other minerals which are won in the course of working those minerals."

Fluorspar and barytes run in veins through limestone, requiring the disturbance of some of the limestone to get at the vein.

- For latest updates, check www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Action on Wagers Flat

Following the outcome of the Backdale public inquiry, the National Park Authority issued enforcement and stop notices against limestone quarrying at nearby Wagers Flat in May.

Wagers Flat mineral operations began in July 2006 after extraction stopped at Backdale. The site, like Backdale, is covered by a 1952 planning permission which originally covered 155 hectares of Longstone Edge.

The notices required Bleaklow Industries and MMC Mineral Processing Ltd to comply with the planning permission, which states that limestone can be worked only in the course of extracting vein minerals such as fluorspar.

Stanton Moor

Proposals for extensions and a long haul road at two gritstone quarries on Stanton Moor are likely to be considered by the Planning Committee shortly. Standcliffe Stone Co Ltd is proposing to extend Dale View Quarry while giving up its rights to re-open the dormant Lees Cross and Endcliffe quarries. Block Stone Ltd is proposing to extend nearby New Pilhough Quarry while giving up its rights to work the active Stanton Moor Quarry. It also has a separate application to build a haul route to take its lorries away from adjacent villages.

For the latest information go to: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/news

For general information on quarrying in the National Park:

<http://www.peakdistrict-nationalpark.info/place/limestone/quarrying/index.html>

<http://www.peakdistrict-nationalpark.info/time/industry/millstone.html>



Stanton Moor



Heritage, health, renewable energy - help for “green” projects

All over the National Park, projects that benefit our quality of life and the environment are blossoming thanks to the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

Grants go to community groups, businesses, education or social welfare bodies, helping major schemes get off the ground, or small projects to reach fruition. Recent beneficiaries include:

- * **Bakewell Old House Museum**
(voluntary-run) - £15,000 towards a proposed £300,000 improvement programme, including conservation heating pioneered by the National Trust
- * **Water Power Enterprises** - £15,000 towards a social enterprise hydro-power project at Torr Weir, New Mills
- * **Farm Life Centre, Taddington** - £10,000 towards a Future Farms project: support and training for farming families wanting to diversify
- * **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's “Go for Grow” project** - £10,500 to help set up school allotments to grow organic food and sell or barter it.

More details: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf or 01629 816312



Farm Life Centre, Taddington



Old ore road near Warslow

National Parks Week

This year's National Parks Week takes place between 30 July and 5 August. It's a great opportunity to take part in fun and interesting activities and find out more about the UK's National Parks.

Here are a few of the free events taking place in the Peak District. For more about activities in other National Parks around the UK, log on to www.nationalparks.gov.uk

Guided cycle ride on the Tissington Trail, suitable for all. Monday 30 July. Booking information 01629 816338

Family Fun Earth walk, 31 July. Booking information 01298 871869

Discover the archaeology of the landscape from pre-history to mills and mines. Wednesday 1 August. Booking information 01629 816338

Family Open Day and Farmers' Market, Thursday 2 August – Losehill Hall, near Castleton. Check local press for details or phone 01433 620373



Help shape the future

Local communities are urged to get involved in shaping the new policies that will have a big impact on the National Park for decades to come.

The National Park Authority is drawing up the Local Development Framework, or LDF. This collection of documents and policies will influence how land is developed for the next 20 years.

It is important for people to have their say because the LDF will affect local villages and communities - for example, the Authority is considering whether more land should be set aside to build housing for local people.

During the spring the Authority held a series of village meetings to get feedback on the early options for the new policies. There will be another opportunity to comment during the autumn when a list of 'preferred options' will be published. These will be key issues we think should form the basis of the LDF. Your views

will be important in helping us narrow these down to the most important issues.

To find out more and have your say, log on to:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/plansandpolicies



Local affordable housing, Monyash

News Round-up....

Discovery Centre unlocks secrets of the moors

Wuthering Heights or weathering climate-change – whatever your studies, the moors can be a giant classroom thanks to a new Moorland Discovery Centre.

The National Park Authority, National Trust and Moors for the Future Partnership have joined forces to establish the new centre, the first of its kind to use the moors as a study-base for students of all ages.

Located on the National Trust's Longshaw Estate between Grindleford and Sheffield, the Discovery Centre is open to everyone from primary schools to adults from all over the National Park, Sheffield and Barnsley.

Moorland Discovery officers Rachael Kerr and Helen Willett offer activities that combine learning with fresh air, exercise and enjoyment. They connect wildlife to curriculum topics, as well as hosting fun family events, such as story-telling, arts projects and games. The centre may also be hired for talks, events and courses.

The timber, eco-friendly building, near the Fox House pub, is designed to create a low impact on the landscape, weathering naturally to blend with its surroundings.

The centre was officially opened by TV zoologist Miranda Krestovnikoff, who presents the BBC's popular landscape and nature programme, "Coast."



Tony Hams, NT Longshaw Estate manager Mike Innerdale, BBC presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff and children from Grindleford and Totley All Saints primary schools.

More information:
www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk - click on Learning & Discovery,
or call 01433 637907.

A628 bypass – public inquiry

The National Park Authority is continuing its opposition to the Highways Agency's proposed Mottram-Tintwistle bypass at a public inquiry which started at Stalybridge Civic Hall on June 26.

The consultation period resulted in 2145 objections to the bypass and 1335 letters of support, and the public inquiry will continue for several weeks.

Though the bypass itself would be short, the Authority's prime objection is to the severe knock-on effects of an estimated 34% more trans-Pennine traffic on the rest of the A628 which crosses the National Park.

The route is a major Manchester to Sheffield link, and a bypass would draw traffic from the M62 motorway. Funnelled through some of the most environmentally-sensitive landscapes, it would affect ecology, pollution, tranquillity, access and natural beauty.

The A628 crosses moorland protected for its wildlife and rare peatland habitats that are one of the nation's most important carbon sinks. It includes a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

In addition, four national trails cross the route, including the Pennine Way and

Trans-Pennine Trail, used by thousands of walkers, cyclists and riders each year, who could be deterred by further traffic hazards.

The Authority is calling for immediate congestion-relief and safety measures. It firmly believes this bypass-scheme is not the right answer, and is reviewing its previous support in principle.

The Authority has received 276 letters from the public - 95% opposed to a bypass. A class from Tintwistle Primary School studied the topic, and voted 25 against a bypass, three in favour.

More information on the public inquiry:
www.persona.uk.com/mottram



Farming for



Farmers rise to financial challenge

This is a tale of two Ashes Farms – one in the Derwent Valley, one on the slopes of Kinder Scout. Each demonstrates different ways that Peak District farmers are adjusting to a harsh new financial climate.

Hill farmers are having to adapt to a market-oriented system that favours lush lowland farms and squeezes those on the margins of profitability, as in the Peak District.

By 2012 government subsidies for food production will have been phased out – replaced by area-based payments and smaller grants to help care for wildlife, landscape, education, health and access.

Farming is tough here, but the National Park would be vastly poorer environmentally and economically if too many farms were forced to close.

The two Ashes Farms featured here show resourceful farmers seeking a viable future – one diversifying, one specialising.

Surviving by hook and by crook – Ashes Farm, Derwent

Sisters Andrea Jolley and Kathleen Birkinshaw are an award-winning team on their small, beautiful 47-hectare farm, rented from the National Trust on the edge of the Derwent Reservoir.

Using traditional, environmentally-sensitive methods they care for 80 Swaledale sheep and eight cattle, haymaking on the steep slopes by hand, propagating wildflower meadows and answering questions from thousands of passers-by.

This year they were presented with the prestigious David Arnold-Forster Trust Award* for exemplary care of their stock and land.



Farming sisters Andrea Jolley and Kath Birkinshaw

Part of the award was for the way the sisters have sustained their business by diversification. They provide farm-services as contract shepherds, dry-stone wallers and mole-catchers. And Kath, an expert photographer, has set up her own public

speaking and photography business, helped by a New Environmental Economy grant.

Said Kath: "We needed to branch out to support the business. Farmers find it really precarious making a living here now, it's touch and go for many, but hopefully we'll be able to keep going. It's not easy, but we were brought up in the Derwent Valley, and it's what we love."

Kath is available to give illustrated talks on "A Year in the Life of a Hill Farm." Visit www.kathbirkinshaw.co.uk or tel: 01433 651780.

*The award commemorates former English Nature chief executive David Arnold-Forster, who died in 2002. He chaired the government's Hill Farming Task Force, and the award is for best practice in sustainable hill farming. See www.hillfarming.org.uk





Farmer Mike Salisbury (left) with butcher John Mettrick

Focus on food – Ashes Farm, Hayfield

Mike Salisbury is a farmer born and bred. Having run Ashes Farm at Hayfield for 24 years, he says, "I started out to be a farmer, I'm not interested in diversifying, all I want to do is make my living from the land."

And he is doing that single-mindedly on a National Trust land-holding of some 550 hectares around Kinder Scout, Abney and New Town.

Mike's sheep are carefully bred and managed to lamb at different times, so that he can consistently supply Mettricks butchers in Glossop for nine months a year. He also

produces beef from his 120-strong herd of suckler cows.

J.W.Mettrick and Sons is no ordinary butcher – a winner of the BBC Food and Farming Award, it has its own local abattoir and brand: High Peak Lamb, whose suppliers must all hold the National Park's Environmental Quality Mark*.

"We've worked with Mettricks for over 20 years," said Mike. "It's a partnership that works well for us and for the animals, with just a short journey to the abattoir where we know they're treated humanely."

"Farmers have got to look after themselves, the government's not going to put British farmers first. Nowadays there is this movement for local, seasonal produce and that's what we're concentrating on here."

"I didn't go into farming to run a B&B or a campsite, though I know a lot of farmers have gone that route. I've always worked with animals and looked after the environment that supports them, and that's all I want to do."

Information

For farmers/land managers:

The National Park Authority helps run the Peak District Land Management Advisory Service (with Natural England, the Forestry Commission and Environment Agency), offering co-ordinated advice on grants and regulations.

Call in the LMAS drop-in centre, Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell, every Monday, 9.30am-3.30pm. Tel: 01629 816270 or 01629 816640. E-mail:

farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk or eastmidlands@naturalengland.org.uk

For producers:

*The pioneering Peak District Environmental Quality Mark recognises food, farming, accommodation and craft businesses that are environmental champions. To qualify, holders must:

- conserve the natural and traditional features of the National Park
- use local products and services from within the National Park
- be environmentally-friendly, cut waste
- publicise local produce and caring for the environment.

Go to www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eqm or phone 01629 816321.

- Look out in the next Parklife for a feature on 'Peak Choices', a scheme backed by the Prince of Wales to promote quality meat in the Peak District.

For consumers:

Local food producers, shops, butchers, restaurants: www.peakdistrictfoods.co.uk

Find your nearest local food producers/farmers' markets: www.bigbarn.co.uk



The Peak District was first farmed for sheep, cattle and crops 6,000 years ago

We're here to help

— so get in touch!

Whenever you have a comment or question about the work of the Peak District National Park Authority, our Customer Service team is here to help. You can:

Phone **01629 816200**

Email customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Fax **01629 816310**

Visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Minicom **01629 816319**

You can also write to: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE. - or call in during office hours

Our reception and public areas have recently been updated, with improved access, including better facilities for disabled people.



National Park Authority Members...

The Members are the people who make the decisions. They are responsible for setting policies and priorities, ensuring resources are well used and money is well spent

There are 30 Members. Sixteen are appointed by county, district, city or borough councils. Fourteen are appointed directly by the Secretary of State: eight because they understand and have specialist knowledge about the issues that affect the National Park and six who are parish councillors.

Following recent district and parish council elections several members are still to be appointed. Look out in the next issue of Parklife for full details on our new members.

In addition, a new chair of the Authority and committee chairs were being elected on July 6.

All Members can be e-mailed by using the formula: firstname.surname@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Chair of the Authority

Tony Hams OBE

Government-appointee

Tel: 01298 871790



Deputy Chair

Hilda Gaddum

Macclesfield Borough Council

Tel: 01260 252456



County or unitary council members

Terence Bristowe

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Tel: 01226 215151

Andrew Marchington

Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

01484 641698

Colin McLaren

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

0161 627 4197

James Muir

Staffordshire County Council

Tel: 01283 544477

Irene Ratcliffe

Derbyshire County Council

Tel: 01629 823023

Sylvia Roberts

Cheshire County Council

Tel: 01625 575306

Judith Twigg

Derbyshire Dales District Council

Tel: 01629 813292

Garry Weatherall

Sheffield City Council

Tel: 0114 2735588

Roger Wilkinson

Derbyshire County Council

Tel: 01457 866531

Barbara Wilson

Derbyshire County Council

Tel: 01298 70562

Government appointed members

Anne Ashe

Tel: 0114 266 1512

Narendra Bajaria

Tel: 0114 230 7825

Pauline Beswick

Tel: 01433 631256

Geoffrey Nickolds

0115 938 3305

Christopher Pennell

Tel: 0114 235 1568

Sue Prince

Tel: 01335 310274

Leigh Rix

Tel: 01909 486411

Parish member

John Herbert

Sheldon (Derbyshire Dales)

Tel: 01629 814229