

Committee: ACCESS
Date: 17 April 2008

Report: OPEN ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Members views and comments on the Open Access Management and Development Plan (Annex 1 and 2).

Strategic Planning Framework

2. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

- Best Value Performance Plan objectives 07/08

Produce a comprehensive Open Access management and development plan

Background

3. Open Access commenced in the Yorkshire Dales National Park on the 28th May 2005 and increased available access land from 4% to 62% of the area of the National Park.

4. Before commencement, the Authority established and developed the Ranger Service and the Access and Recreation teams, adding to and re-structuring resources in preparation for taking on the new responsibilities placed on the Authority by the CRoW Act 2000.

About the Plan

5. This plan sets out procedures that can be measured in relation to the practical management and development of open access opportunities for the public in the National Park over the next 5 years. It is very much an internal working document intended to guide the Ranger Service and others in delivering practical improvements on the ground and access to information by:

- Consulting with interested parties
- Identifying opportunities across the park.
- Targeting resources to achieve our objectives.
- Ensuring that open access opportunities are maintained to an appropriate level consistently across the national park.

- Monitoring progress and achievement.
 - Demonstrating that resources are being used effectively.
6. The Draft Plan has been to both the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and Access On Foot Advisory Group meetings in March 08 for discussion and comments made have been incorporated into the current draft.
7. The Authority has measured it's performance in relation to our work on open access through the following Performance Indicator:
- Ensure that no more than 5% of Open Access land is subject to a long-term restriction (greater than 6 months).
8. It is now felt this does not truly reflect or measure the effect the Authority has made in relation to the management of open access. The proposed plan puts in place a series of specific targets, which will more accurately reflect the nature of the work carried out by the Authority in relation to its practical management and development of open access opportunities and should lead to more meaningful indicators in the future.
9. The Authority continues to be committed to the management and development of Open Access as a programme of work. With a Full Time equivalent of 3 persons and an ongoing proposed capital budget of 23K 2008/09, 23K 2009/10 and 25K 2010/11 for positive visitor management, infrastructure, monitoring and a ongoing contribution to the Open Access Contact Centre. This will enable the Authority to continue to meet its objective as 'access' and 'relevant' authority of managing the open access provisions.

Conclusion

10. In conclusion the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has taken a thorough approach to the introduction and implementation of open access across the Park. The CRoW Act 2000 Open Access legislation was the most significant change in access legislation for many years and has created opportunities for both the public to enjoy, and for the Authority to pursue its purpose 'to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public' over extensive areas of the Park.
11. The provision of an ongoing Open Access Management Plan with a regular programme of review and monitoring will assist the Authority to deliver it's access objectives.

RECOMMENDATION

12. Members views on the draft report are sought.

Alan Hulme
Ranger Services Manager
6 March 2008
Background documents: None



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A Plan for the Management and Development of Open Access Opportunities in the National Park under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

December 2007

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A Plan for the Management and Development of Open Access Opportunities in the National Park under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

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Appendices

- i. Open Access Management Plan

A Plan for the Management and Development of Open Access Opportunities in the National Park under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an assessment of whether the National Park Authority has been successful in opening up land to public access in practice and what more can be done to enable the public to exercise their relatively new right.

1.2 Open access has only been in place for a short period and it remains early to measure take-up and even harder to measure future potential. The right of access was introduced in May 2005 and allowed access to nearly two thirds of the national park. It is important however, that we do not sit back but continue to develop and promote opportunities.

1.3 The plan will look at ways of increasing familiarity with the relatively new arrangements, and improved information on how to find and use access land, will encourage people to exercise their rights and should increase the benefits of the 'open access' initiative over time.

'Open access appears to be currently delivering what its current visitors want but this does not inform understanding of what such land would need to deliver to people who do not currently visit or use open access opportunities.'
(Natural England Report 2006)

1.4 The plan will seek to address this issue.

1.5 In conclusion the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority can feel extremely satisfied in relation to the way it has managed the implementation of the new rights of 'Open Access' which has created new opportunities over extensive areas of the park.

1.6 However, we must not sit back on our laurels the really hard work begins now in continuing on from the momentum of the launch and the initial 3 year period. It is not good enough to say that 'open access appears to be delivering and meeting the need of its current visitors' but to continue to develop and establish the opportunities open access provides for the public. This is indeed a long-term aim which may take generations but who would have thought in the 1950's Public Rights of Way would be the recreational facility that they provide today.

The National Situation

1.7 The introduction of 'open access' enabled the public to walk across large areas of countryside without being restricted to footpaths. The right of public access, often referred to as the 'right to roam', applies to 865,000 hectares (6.5 per cent) of land in England and covers mountains, moors, heaths, downs and registered common land. The right includes walking, bird watching and climbing, but does not permit camping, hunting or organised games without the landowner's permission.

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1.8 Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency), Defra and access authorities have had some success in raising general awareness of open access through media campaigns, leaflets and events. Polling conducted by a market research firm for the Agency in 2005 indicated that 53 per cent of those surveyed had heard of the right to roam and 31 per cent of open access, an increase of 10 per cent on similar polling a year earlier.

1.9 Natural England conducted a further survey in 2005 to build on the previous results at specifically selected sites around the country to provide baseline figures of peoples use as well as public awareness and understanding of their new rights. Overall, almost two thirds (62%) of visitors to the random sample sites said they had heard of Open Access.

1.10 In June 2006 the National Audit Office produced a report on the Right of Access to Open Country and came up with a series of recommendations which although directly relating to English Nature are considered within the following report. These were

- Countryside access website: English Nature should regularly review usage and feedback of its countryside access website to confirm that the information is easy to search, view and navigate.
- Telephone helpline: English Nature should either clarify the scope of the service offered to the public by its helpline or stop advertising (and advise third parties to stop advertising) the telephone number as a public helpline.
- Tourist information centres: The Agency should target specific guidance to tourist information centre staff, to enable them to respond to people's queries about using their new right and to encourage them to display leaflets and other material about open access.
- Dogs and access land: The Agency should encourage access authorities (national park authorities and local highway authorities) to make signs specifying dog-related rules on access land clear, consistent and accurate.
- Increasing opportunities for the public to use the right of access: The Agency should encourage access authorities to explore with their neighbouring councils the cost-effectiveness of diverting weekend bus services past open access land in order to enable people on low incomes and from urban areas to use their new right.

1.11 Members of the Local Access Forum (LAF) considered the recommendations and the issues of developing and enhancing open access opportunities within the park at a special workshop held in Jan 2007. The outcomes from the workshop have also been incorporated within the plan. However both the Local Access Forum and the On Foot Access Advisory Group still have a significant role to play in advising on future development and enhancement of open access opportunities in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

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2.0 Purpose of the Plan

2.1 This Plan sets out the direction for the ongoing management, development, enhancement and promotion of open access opportunities over the next five years for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and provides guidance for other organisations and groups. At this stage, we can only influence what will directly affect the national park however, we continue to provide advice and guidance for other organisations at both local and national levels. Past experience shows that we already have good working relationships and contacts with many groups with direct interest within the National Park and the plan aims to build on these.

2.2 Whilst maintaining flexibility, the strategy provides focus and working practices for the continued development of open access opportunities within the park and the promotion of understanding in partnership with others.

3.0 Open Access in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

3.1 In May 2005 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) the public acquired rights of access over mapped areas of 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land. This increased open access land available by right from 4% to date around 62% in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and is a significant change for the National Park Authority.

3.2 The CRoW Act access rights entitle the public to enter and use access land on foot for 'open-air recreation'. This term is not defined in the Act but includes most common forms of recreation on foot including walking, running and climbing.

3.3 Since its launch in May 2005 the National Park Authority has implemented the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, as follows:

- a) We made the draft, provisional and Conclusive Maps of open access areas available to the public for inspection
- b) We implemented a communication strategy which said how we would reach various audiences, and the messages we wished to get across.
- c) We provided and continue to provide signage to help manage open access on the ground.
- d) We liaised with over 200 Landowners and farmers to develop access area 'profiles' through 'drop in days' and onsite meetings and attended various meetings eg parish councils, and interest groups.
- e) We procured the national restrictions data management system which is web based, and includes a national central point of contact through the Open Access Contact Centre.
- f) With English Nature, we undertook an 'assessment' of the likely effect on the introduction of open access on the habitats and wildlife (including breeding birds) within the National Park.
- g) Having discussed provision of infrastructure with land managers and the LAF, we agreed the Authority's policy on providing infrastructure and have provided 61 new stiles and gates as well as enhancing a number of existing crossings.

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- h) Area Rangers have been trained as 'case workers' to deal with applications for exclusions and restrictions under the CROW Act. We have dealt with 100% of applications (22 in total) in the time period prescribed by the legislation.
- i) We have continued a training programme to enable existing Dales Volunteers, who wish to, to carry out the warden function set out in CROW Act, and monitor the impact of open access on sites important for nature conservation and general use. A total of over 1,000 access duties have been completed to date.
- k) We have made information available to existing and potential users through our website, access information points and leaflets.

4.0 Legal Framework

4.1 The Authority is both 'Access' Authority and 'Relevant' Authority, i.e. it is responsible, under the CROW Act, for ensuring both access to access land and determining if restrictions and/or exclusions to the access rights are required. Restrictions and exclusions can be for a number of reasons: land management, fire hazard, wildlife and heritage conservation, public safety, or defence. In addition landowners and farmers can notify for a number of discretionary restrictions eg landowners can exclude dogs from grouse moors for up to five years as well as close at specific times of the year up to a maximum of 28 days. Significant areas of the national park are subject to both dog restrictions and 28 day discretionary restrictions (mainly around nesting time on an annual basis).

5.0 Related Documents and Strategies

5.1 This document is a Plan which will provide guidance for the continuing management and development of open access opportunities under the Crow Act within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It draws together existing Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority strategies and guidance from Natural England and the National Audit Office as contained in:

- National Park Management Plan
- Integrated Access Strategy
- Interpretation Strategy.
- Internal design guide (visual identity guidelines).
- Signs on access land in England. Guidance for access authorities.
- Signs on access land in England. Guidance for land managers.
- On Site Monitoring Survey 2006, Natural England
- The right of Access to Open Country Report, National Audit Office

5.2 There are also several principles that underlie management of access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. These are:

- The National Park Authority should fulfil its duties as both 'Access Authority' and 'Relevant Authority';
- Access rights should not significantly interfere with land management operations and/or place an undue burden, in terms of liability (whether financial or otherwise), on the occupier;

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- The duty of care owed to the public exercising their open access rights is, in the most part, the lowest it can be in law;
- The integrity of wildlife and cultural heritage sites should be safeguarded;
- Visitor management or intervention, through restrictions and exclusions, should always involve the least restrictive approach.

6.0 How we propose to achieve it

In developing opportunities the plan will specifically take account of the National Park Management Plan aims and principles which are:

6.2 Aim

There will be opportunities for access and recreation in the National Park for people of all ages and abilities and from every sector of society to enjoy the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales and derive a sense of well-being from their experiences.

6.3 Principles

- a) The development and management of access and recreation opportunities will involve local communities, landowners, land managers and users. The Local Access Forum will provide advice and help to resolve conflict, encourage responsible use and promote good practice.
- b) Monitoring and research will be used to develop and inform the management of access and recreation.
- c) People of all ages and abilities from every sector of society should have opportunities to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park.
- d) The public rights of way network and other recreational infrastructure will be managed to improve and extend opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park's special qualities, while ensuring those qualities are conserved for future generations.
- e) Information and guidance through a wide range of media will encourage users to understand, enjoy and respect the National Park's special qualities.
- f) Partnerships will be encouraged in order to develop and promote an integrated and accessible public transport network, which enables people to get into and around the National Park, both for leisure and for everyday life.
- g) Information on recreation and travel opportunities should be up-to-date, easy to find and available in many formats both within the National Park and beyond its boundaries.

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7.0 Corporate Plan

The new corporate plan will identify specific actions annually and these will be influenced by the Open Access Management and Development Plan

The specific actions for 2008/09 as identified in the Corporate Plan are to:

Manage and develop Open Access opportunities:

- a) work with partner organisations to develop Fire Plans for areas of open access land in Cumbria and North Yorkshire
- b) review impact of Open Access on Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- c) deliver a programme of 8 introductory walks to open access
- d) survey and record all existing infrastructure stiles and gates in open access land
- e) continue monitoring programme of use of open access land

8.0 Resources

8.1 The then Countryside Agency spent £52.6 million implementing the open access programme and once all other costs were included. Total central government expenditure to the end of March 2006 amounted to £69 million and Natural England continues to support on going running costs.

8.2 The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority put considerable capital but especially revenue cost in the allocation of staff resources across all departments to the development and implementation of open access within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and have played a significant role throughout at a national level.

8.3 The Authority continues to be committed to the management and development of Open Access as a programme of work and although there has been a reduction in capital and revenue. With a Full Time equivalent of 3 persons and an ongoing capital budget of 23K 2008/09, 23K 2009/10 and 25K 2010/11 for positive visitor management, infrastructure, monitoring and a ongoing contribution to the Open Access Contact Centre and this will enable the Authority to continue to meet its objective as 'access' and 'relevant' authority of implementing the open access provisions.

9.0 Conclusion

9.1 The Yorkshire Dales offers tremendous opportunities for outdoor recreation. Open access allows for chances to experience what the public have stated that enjoy when visiting and we have termed 'special qualities'. There is also the challenge of ensuring that all sectors and members of society, not least those who traditionally have not visited or have been unable to visit, have opportunities to enjoy the National Park's special qualities.

9.2 Most of the people who come to the National Park will experience a range of emotions, triggered by its beauty, grandeur and other, less tangible qualities. These all help create the 'spirit of place' that is unique to the Dales. This impacts differently on different people, as the experience is personal to the individual. High on the list of elements that inspire are those that touch and excite the senses, the sounds, sights and qualities that stir the emotions, that allow people to relate to nature and that enhance true enjoyment.

7.3 Open Access can and should continue to provide an opportunity for the greater enjoyment and understanding of a great many of the special qualities the national park has to offer.

OPEN ACCESS ACTION PLAN FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK 2008/13

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AIM

There will be opportunities for access and recreation in the National Park for people of all ages and abilities and from every sector of society to enjoy the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales and derive a sense of well-being from their experiences.

PRINCIPLE

a) The development and management of access and recreation opportunities will involve local communities, landowners, land managers and users. The Local Access Forum will provide advice and help to resolve conflict, encourage responsible use and promote good practice.

Progress	Action	Who	When
<p><u>Members</u> Series of papers considered by the Authority and Access Committee regarding the introduction, implementation and ongoing management of the new rights.</p>	<p>Access Committee to consider papers</p> <p>Specific Papers to be considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Access Management Plan • The Management of Fire Restrictions • Monitoring of Open Access Use and Perception Survey • The Process for Reviewing Exclusions and Restrictions • Review of Current Restrictions and Exclusions 	<p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RSM/AT</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p>	<p>As req</p> <p>Apr 08</p> <p>Jul 08</p> <p>Jul 08</p> <p>Oct 08</p> <p>2009/10</p>
<p><u>Local Access Forum</u> Advice sought from the Local Access Forum on a number of issues regarding the introduction, implementation and ongoing management of the new rights.</p>	<p>Local Access Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Access Management Plan • The Management of Fire Restrictions • Exclusions and Restrictions Annual Summary • The Process for Reviewing Exclusions and Restrictions • Review of Current Restrictions and Exclusions • Natural England 3 Year On Site Monitoring Programme 	<p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p>	<p>Feb 08</p> <p>Jun 08</p> <p>Sept 08</p> <p>Sept 08</p> <p>2009/10</p> <p>2009/10</p>
<p>Access On Foot Advisory Group formed in 2007</p>	<p>Access On Foot Access Advisory Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Draft Open Access Management Plan • Consultation on Open Access issues as listed above • Consult on the ongoing development and promotion of Open Access opportunities. Two meetings per year. 	<p>RSM</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RS</p>	<p>Mar 08</p> <p>Mar 08</p> <p>2008/13</p>

Progress	Action	Who	When
<p><u>Landowners</u> Liaised with 200+ individual landowners or interested parties through open days</p> <p>Series of Landowner Newsletters</p> <p>Ongoing liaison through normal work programmes</p>	<p>Continue liaison with landowners regarding Open Access through existing work programmes</p> <p>Liaise with landowners regarding the reviewing of existing restrictions and exclusions</p> <p>Produce an annual Access Newsletter including updates on Open Access for landowners and tenants.</p> <p>Continue to liaise through existing channels with major landowners, estates and associated representative organisations inc Moorland Association, Country Landowners and Businesses Association, National Farmers Union, Grazing Committees, etc</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>AR</p> <p>RSM</p> <p>RS</p>	<p>2008/13</p> <p>2009/10</p> <p>2008/13</p> <p>2008/13</p>
<p><u>Local Community</u> Series of articles in the Dales Newspaper, Parish Newsletters and existing work programmes, Parish Forums and Meetings</p>	<p>Continue liaison with local community regarding Open Access through existing work programmes</p> <p>Articles in the Dales Newspaper and Parish newsletters</p> <p>Promotion of Open Access opportunities through existing work programmes.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>RS</p> <p>EA/RS</p>	<p>2008/13</p> <p>As req</p> <p>As req</p>
<p><u>Users</u></p>	<p>The Local Access Forum (3 meetings per year) and the Access On Foot Advisory Group (2 meetings per year) and the Rocksport Advisory Group will act as the main conduit for direct liaison with users on Open Access issues</p>	<p>LAF/AOFAG /RAG/RS</p>	<p>2008/13</p>

<p><u>Natural England</u> Series of training and workshops attended.</p> <p>Attendance at Natural England Case Officers Meetings</p>	<p>Continue to attend workshops and training events as required.</p> <p>Attend National Case Officers Meetings (4 times per year) As required depending on agenda items and location</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>AT/AR</p>	<p>2008/13</p> <p>As req</p>
<p><u>Neighbouring Authorities</u> Liaison meetings with Nidderdale AONB, Forest of Bowland AONB, Cumbria County Council Ranger Service and North Pennines AONB</p>	<p>Continue to liaise and explore cross boundary working enhancements and opportunities</p>	<p>AR</p>	<p>As req</p>

b) Monitoring and research will be used to develop and inform the management of access and recreation.

Progress	Action	Who	When
<p>Annual monitoring programme of use reports in 2005,2006 and 2007</p> <p>YDNP Open Access Perception Survey 2006/2007</p> <p>National Audit Office report on the Right of Access to Open Country.</p>	<p>YDNPA Monitoring Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and Refine Monitoring Programme • Annual Monitoring Programme • Annual Monitoring Programme Report • Conduct YDNP Open Access Perception Survey 	<p>AR/AT RS/DV AT AO</p>	<p>Feb 08 2008/13 2008/13 Oct 2010</p>
<p>22 long term Restrictions and Exclusions applications dealt with.</p> <p>Management of discretionary restrictions</p>	<p>Review current Exclusions and Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hubberholme • Ingleton Waterfalls Walk • Holgates Moor 	<p>AR/AT</p>	<p>2009</p>
<p>Natural England on going perception and monitoring programme.</p>	<p>Natural England On Site Monitoring Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider results and recommendations from current 3 year national monitoring programme. Report as required 	<p>NE RSM</p>	<p>2008 Jan 09</p>
<p>Assessment of potential impact of Open Access in relation to Nature Conservation and Heritage 2005.</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment of all Sites of Special Scientific Interest completed 2005</p> <p>Monitoring of specific sites</p>	<p>Review Sites of Special Scientific Interest with Natural England Area Conservation Officers</p> <p>Ongoing detailed monitoring subject to outcome of review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxenber/Wharfe Wood • Combe Scar • Tarn Moss • All remaining Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 	<p>AR/AT/SO RS</p>	<p>2008/09 2008/13</p>

c) People of all ages and abilities from every sector of society should have opportunities to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park.

Progress	Action	Who	When
	Identify opportunities for people of all ages and abilities from every sector of society through the Access On Foot Advisory Group and the Access For All Advisory Group and to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less mobile • Wheelchair users • Recognised Disabled Vehicles (Trampers) • Young People • General Users 	ADO/LAF/RS/AOFAG	Mar 09
	Investigate ways to improve general navigation skills of users to enable greater opportunity to experience Open Access land potentially through Navigation Awareness/Training and Geocaching opportunities	RS/AOFAG/DV	Mar 09

d) The public rights of way network and other recreational infrastructure will be managed to improve and extend opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park's special qualities, while ensuring those qualities are conserved for future generations.

Progress	Action	Who	When
Erected information signs and signs indicating Open Access land	Continue to work with landowners on identifying and managing use of Open Access land	RS	2008/13
Erected 61 new of stiles and gates in open access land.	Identify opportunities to negotiate with landowners to erect and enhance stiles and gates	RS	2008/13
	Identify opportunities to improve access to open access land through provision of furniture or permissive routes in non access land	RS	2008/13
Introduction of Open Access in the national park	Area Rangers to develop individual 4 year Open Access Development and Promotion Area Plan integrating actions and outcomes from the Open Access Management Plan	AR	Apr 2009
Identified a number of specific improvements to enhance Open Access Opportunities.	Survey of all Open Access land in relation to existing infrastructure	RS/DV	2008/2009
	All existing and new infrastructure to be recorded onto a Geographical Information System (GIS)	RS	Mar 2009
	Consider methods of presenting GIS information to the public through existing channels and examine opportunities for making the information more accessible to the public	RS/AOFAG LAF/AC	Dec 2008
	Investigate and identify opportunities for improvements to Open Access signing on and off areas	RS/AOFAG LAF/AC	Mar 2009
	Investigate opportunities for additional and higher rights	RS	As req

e) Information and guidance through a wide range of media will encourage users to understand, enjoy and respect the National Park's special qualities.

Progress	Action	Who	When
Produced: YDNPA Open Access Leaflet YDNPA Big 5 Leaflet YDNPA Primary Information Points 8 Open Access Walks led by Area Rangers Liaised on: National Trust Promoted walks leaflet Natural England promoted walks Ramblers Association Books Green Networks of the Dales book	Continue to direct users and interested parties to the main Natural England website www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk Review current YDNP Authority information and publications relating to Open Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Information Points • Open Access Publications • Signing Strategy • Guided Walks Programme • YDNPA website information Investigate ways of making infrastructure information more accessible to the public Make infrastructure information available to the public in appropriate formats	EA/PM EA/RS RS/OFAAG LAF/AC EA/RS	2008/13 2010/11 Dec 2008 April 2009
Acted as Relevant Authority in relation to applications for restrictions and exclusions	Continue to act in relation to our role as Relevant Authority for the dealing of application for restrictions and exclusions	AT/AR	2008/13
Managed closures for reasons of extreme condition on 3 separate occasions	Work with partner organisations to develop Fire Plans for areas of open access land in Cumbria and North Yorkshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Yorkshire Estate Fire Plans developed • Work with Cumbria Wildfire Group to develop fire management practices and plans Continue to monitor and manage fire restrictions Media campaigns regarding extreme conditions & promoting appropriate behaviour	RSM/MA /NYFRS RS RS RSM/MO	Apr 08 Mar 09 As req As req

f) Partnerships will be encouraged in order to develop and promote an integrated and accessible public transport network, which enables people to get into and around the National Park, both for leisure and for everyday life.

Progress	Action	Who	When
No specific progress in relation to Open Access however public transport does provide opportunities for people to reach Open Access land	Through sustainable travel partnerships investigate opportunities to promote public transport as a means of reaching Open Access land as per the National Audit Office recommendation		2008/13
National Trust Shuttle Bus Malham Tarn	Seek to continue support the National Trust Shuttle Bus	NT/AR	2008/13

g) Information on recreation and travel opportunities should be up-to-date, easy to find and available in many formats both within the National Park and beyond its boundaries.

Progress	Action	Who	When
Created Open Access web page with links to Natural England Countryside Access site	Continue to direct users and interested parties to the main Natural England website www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk	PM/EA	2008/13
	Briefing of National Park centre Staff and Park Information Points	RS	2008/13
	Review content of YDNPA website open access page	EA/RS	Mar 2009

PM	Park Management	AC	Access Committee	DV	Dales Volunteers
EA	External Affairs	LAF	Local Access Forum	NT	National Trust
RSM	Ranger Services Manager	AOFAG	On Foot Access Advisory Group		
RS	Ranger Service	RAG	Rocksports Advisory Group		
AR	Area Ranger	MO	Media Officer		
AO	Access Officer	NYFRS	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service		
ADO	Access Development Officer	SO	Species Officer		
AT	Access Technician	MA	Moorland Association		