



**North
Pennines
National
Landscape**



**NORTH PENNINES NATIONAL LANDSCAPE
ACCESS and RECREATION WORKING GROUP
&
PENNINE NATIONAL TRAILS NORTHERN WORKING GROUP**

MINUTES

17 February 2025.

Teams

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies.

| Attendees | Apologies |
|---|--|
| Mike Ogden - Durham County Council (Chair) | Susan Gray – Scottish Borders Council |
| Simon Wilson - North Pennines National Landscape | Sarah Hudspeth – North Pennines National Landscape |
| Sara Schultz – Natural England | Molly Jones – North Pennines National Landscape |
| Adam Crolla – North Pennines National Landscape | Ted Liddle – Northumberland Joint Local Access Forum |
| David Benson – Westmorland and Furness Council | Ron Lyon – Disabled Ramblers |
| Duncan Lovatt – Northumberland County Council | Jane Hayes – North Pennines National Landscape |
| Mike Knipe – Durham LAF | Jim Welch – County Durham Local Access Forum |
| Mike Murden – Durham County Council | Jo McAllister - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |
| Denise Brydon – Scottish Borders Council | Lorna Lazzari -Northumberland National Park Authority |
| Charlie Shepherd - Ramblers | Hazel Wainwright - Westmorland and Furness Council |
| | Hannah Kay – Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority |
| | David Gibson – Cumberland Council |
| | Shane Harris – North Pennines National Landscape |
| | |

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising

The group discussed ideas on replacement of PIP and other Open Access infrastructure. SW agreed to consider a survey of the PIPs.

Action. SW to look at options for PIP survey.

AC reported on review of the Kirkoswald slow trail. He will be detailing works to be done and sharing with the access authority.

Long Meg, SW will talk to Andy again to see if any discussion has taken place about cows in the field.

4. Roof of England Walk progress

SW presented the summary from Shane Harris.

- The Roof of England Walk is a 14-day walking route – a journey around the North Pennines National Landscape. It is 303km (189 miles) long and touches on the highlights of the North Pennines.
- Web presence - website build is almost complete. The task of adding content and building the services directory will begin March onwards.
- New designed digital map is nearing completion.
- Waymarks are now in production - based on the new lapwing logo for the National Landscape (will be used on sections not already part of a main promoted route - c75km). In process of gaining consents now. Waymarking planned to be completed by end of March.
- Imagery and videography contract is almost complete.
- The recent work has been funded through the North Pennines Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (not including Shane's time).
- The route will launch later in 2025

CS passed on his thanks to Shane for pulling everything together so well.

5. National Trails update including 60th anniversary – Hannah Kay briefing note

- Update on funding / grants – Partnership meeting in March where these will be discussed.
- PW 60th – 'Trail of Inspiration' opened at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes – being very well received - quote from YDNPA chair who went to see it 'It's an excellently curated presentation of access, social action, natural environment, cultural history, health and well-being, and a wide range of creative arts.'
- Have invited Jane Hayes and North Pennines National Landscape team down to Hawes to have a look and to work out how the exhibition can be adapted for Bowlees Visitor Centre.
- Media interest seems to be growing – hoping for a peak around anniversary time (24 April).

- PW 60th - Guardian visit – Hannah is happy to be involved.
- PW 60th event 24th April – official invites have gone out and speakers being arranged. Baroness Hayman invited – will depend on parliament commitment.
- Other PW 60th activities – website live – reminder to let Hannah know of any activities. All links here
For more information on the Pennine Way 60th
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way-at-60
Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/PennineWayNT/ Instagram - www.instagram.com/penninewaynationaltrail/

The group discussed the good progress on 60th celebrations.
SW advised that he is about to submit an application for Pennine Way People Programme 2025-26.
DBe advised on progress within the North Pennines on the Coast to Coast National Trail, including the extensive flagging from Nine Standards.

Action. ALL, to let Hannah know of any relevant activities.

6. Access for All update – Simon Wilson

SW updated on progress made to improve accessibility using the Access for All funding, including path surfacing and structures, boardwalk completion at Bowlees, new Trampers, work being undertaken by Malcolm Judge on Access to Eden programme, new benches, family activities.

7. Governance Review and North Pennines National Landscape Management Plan – Simon Wilson

MO updated the group on the new partnership structure/changes to include an executive group, partners' forum and annual conference.
SW advised that the team would be looking at the structure of working groups following the review.

8. Project and scheme updates

AC advised that he has now been out on most of the Pennine Way in the North Pennines since starting in post and has a good understanding of issues for future works and investment. SS asked about the role of Spine Race funding and whether there was any evidence of Spine race specific impact. The group welcomed continuing funding support if available and felt that there were no major specific impacts.

SW updated members on progress on the Weardale Way, including contribution to resolve the problem bridges, National Landscape team - Tees Swale Programme funded access works now substantially complete and starting work on new walk leaflets.

9. Updates from members

MO mentioned the 3 BHS DMMO applications that have just been published using Enclosure Award evidence (Westgate, St Johns Chapel etc). Also updated the group on the 'Way of Hope' Weardale Way based pilgrimage route.

DL mentioned the joint work to replace 4 stiles with kissing gates on the Pennine Way and resolve the closed section of the National Trail at Lintley.

SS advised that there is trail manager recruitment happening and gave a general update on budgets.

DB advise that works will be happening on Great Dunn Fell ridge to limit erosion. Also mentioned that the Dryburn Bridge replacement tender will go live on 10th March. Discussing funding support with National Trails UK (likely £250,000). DB also mentioned the planned Westmorland Way that will start in Alston and head south.

10. AOB

11. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Late June, in person, in Westmorland or Northumberland.