

For everyone who loves the Peak District

Peakland guardian

Winter 2016



Also protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire

**CP
RE** South Yorkshire
Campaign to Protect Rural England

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Friends of the Peak District is an independent charity working to protect and enhance the unique landscapes of the Peak District for future generations. Friends of the Peak District represents the Campaign to Protect Rural England in the Peak District, and is the national park society for the Peak District.

CPRE South Yorkshire – Our aim is to promote the beauty, tranquility and diversity of South Yorkshire's countryside for everyone to enjoy now and in the future. We campaign for green spaces unspoilt by development, environmentally friendly farming and forestry, and thriving villages and attractive towns, connected by excellent public transport.

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Cover picture: The mist breaks on Baslow Edge ©JChris Charlesworth

Back page picture: Hay Wood, Froggatt Edge ©Mike Arundale

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These are times of threat but also some opportunity for our countryside. Some are new, some old. The Brexit vote and what is in effect a new government has changed the political landscape.

Old threats remain, such as that to the countryside in general but particularly the green belt, from incoherent government policies on housing and planning. The threat of fracking - industrial units and damaging additional traffic - is growing, also bringing with it a probable delay to the needed rapid growth of sustainable energy production to reduce the impact of climate change and its negative effect on our countryside.

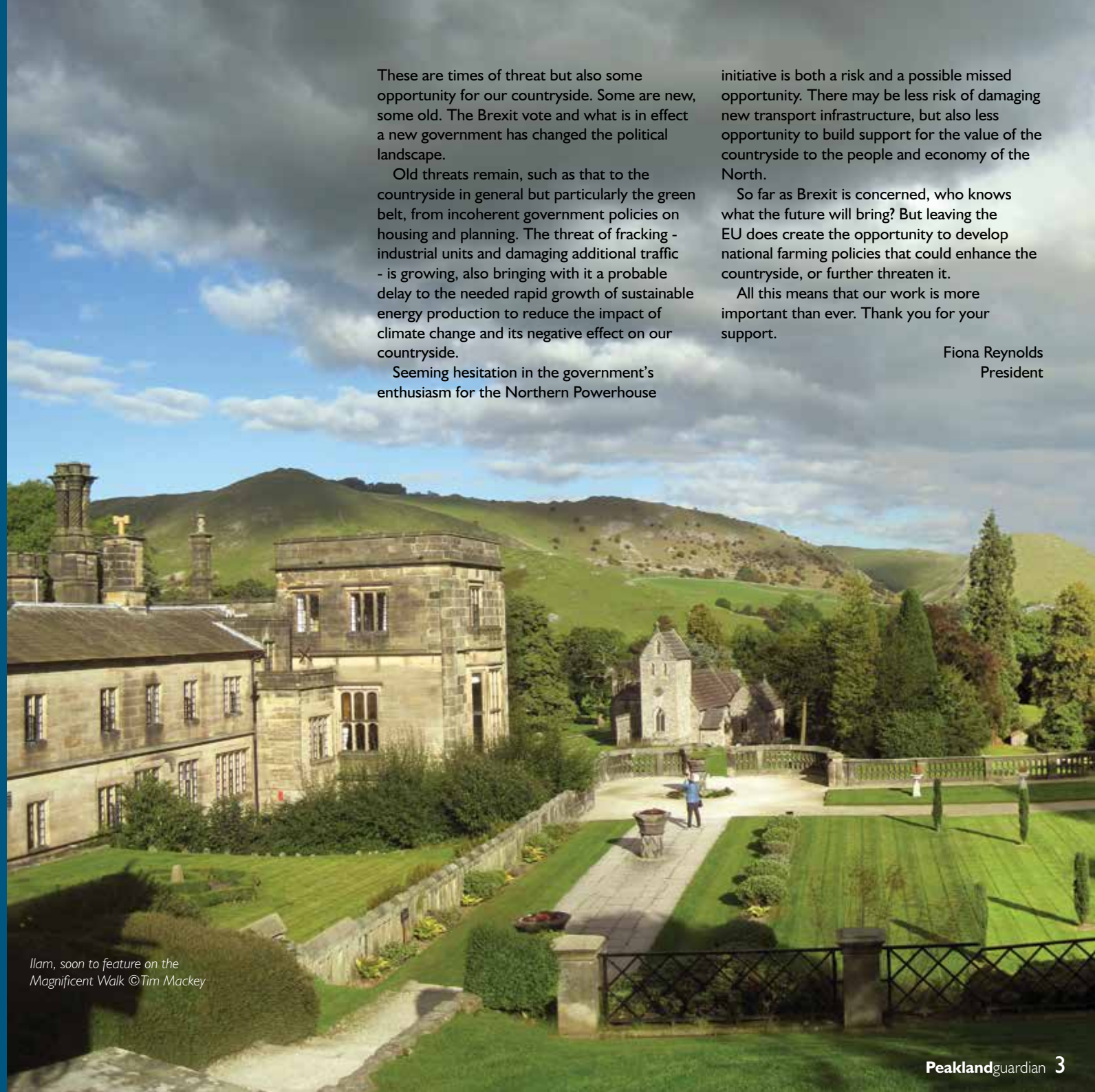
Seeming hesitation in the government's enthusiasm for the Northern Powerhouse

initiative is both a risk and a possible missed opportunity. There may be less risk of damaging new transport infrastructure, but also less opportunity to build support for the value of the countryside to the people and economy of the North.

So far as Brexit is concerned, who knows what the future will bring? But leaving the EU does create the opportunity to develop national farming policies that could enhance the countryside, or further threaten it.

All this means that our work is more important than ever. Thank you for your support.

Fiona Reynolds
President



*Ilam, soon to feature on the
Magnificent Walk ©Tim Mackey*

Trans-Pennine Tunnel 2016



Despite the government getting cold feet over big expensive infrastructure projects, the trans-Pennine tunnel study rumbles on, unfortunately still as a dual carriageway and not as a more sustainable railway. Another interim report was published in August to media brouhaha but it added little to what we knew already, and seemed more of a political statement to reassure the north that the new government hasn't forgotten it.

The tunnelled route is now clearly emerging not as a Manchester-Sheffield link but as a M67/M60-M1 motorway connection that would bypass the M62, with five potential routes between north-east Manchester and the countryside between Sheffield and Barnsley now being investigated.

However, the report shows that there are few benefits of a tunnel, potentially 10 to 18 miles long, even for the Peak District National Park. They rely on the new road attracting traffic from the A628 and A57 routes, on which trans-Pennine flows are low compared to traffic flows through the Longdendale villages and Glossop. Air quality and tranquillity might improve within the park but there could be new features on Bleaklow, Crow Edge or Heyden Moor - heritage barns to conceal ventilation shafts which emerge into European protected habitats. No mention is made of escape routes out of the tunnel and the need for access to them by road or helicopter. Outside the park to both west and east, much of which represents the

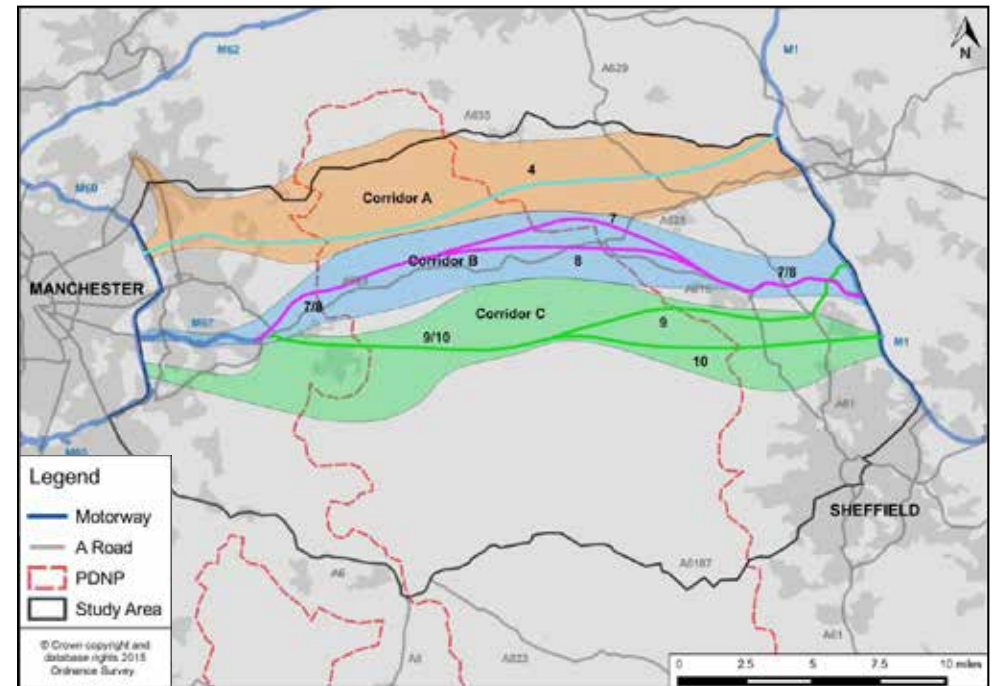
setting of the national park, the devastation would be profound. Air quality, noise, landscape, wildlife, and townscape would all suffer large adverse impacts.

To their shame none of the tunnel promoters seem to be looking at the bigger picture and how such a scheme would fit with emerging spatial strategies for Manchester and Sheffield city regions. In both city regions this 'M62 bypass' would dump traffic onto congested motorways with severe air pollution. Any time savings between cities would be lost by sitting in traffic jams on the motorways and in the urban areas.

Despite this, all the usual platitudes about transport connectivity promoting the economy are rehearsed again but without any supporting evidence to show that the tunnel project offers the best value for money. Although the tunnel would reduce journey times between the two cities to 55 minutes, this is still 10 minutes too long for businesses in Manchester to attract employees from Sheffield and vice versa.

And what about all the other ways such a huge sum could be invested? A recent Centre for Cities analysis showed that intra-city, not inter-city, investment is the reason for successful clusters of cities on the continent. Nor are we told which cities would benefit - the tunnel could lead to Manchester 'robbing' Sheffield and Leeds.

Rather than developing plans around government projects, the Northern Powerhouse



should be considering strategic options and outcomes which would sustain all communities. A step change in the quality, speed and reliability of city-to-city rail links must be the over-riding priority. Both commuter journeys by rail, and freight movements by rail and water, should be maximised to avoid trans-Pennine road journeys.

The focus of the work to date has been on the feasibility of tunnelling under the Pennines. We have been told repeatedly that construction, operation and maintenance of a tunnel are all feasible. What is needed now is for the Northern Powerhouse and the Department for Transport to get out of the engineering detail and into wider strategic considerations before billions of pounds are poured down the drain on a tunnel that won't even benefit motorists.



Longdendale

pop goes the permission!

The Friends were recently able to celebrate properly the end of our 13 year long campaign against illegal quarrying at Backdale on the scenic Longstone Edge. We joined with former members of the Save Longstone Edge Group (SLEG) and the National Park Authority for a celebration walk and picnic on the Edge, popping some fizz to mark the removal of planning permission. The removal happened in early summer when, after a public inquiry to which we gave evidence, the Secretary of State confirmed the decision to uphold a 'prohibition order' which removed the old planning permission and forced modern restoration conditions on the land owner.



This was only possible following research and lobbying by Friends of the Peak District and the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) which helped to create new legislation that allows the serving of a prohibition order if environmental information is not provided by quarry owners or companies in a timely manner. Although the Peak Park is the national leader at securing quarry relinquishments using prohibition orders, this was the first time they had used one when the environmental review process had stalled. We salute the National Park Authority for its far sighted approach!

It was also the end of an era as SLEG has now dissolved and given its remaining campaign funds to the Friends to allow us to continue our vigilance. We are hugely grateful to them and many others within the local community, plus other local and national groups such as the British Mountaineering Council, Plantlife, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust for their support throughout a decade of campaigning. And to you, our members, for your unceasing help, responding to appeals and letter writing. We couldn't have done it without you!

Vice President news



We're thrilled to welcome Bella Hardy as our new Vice President. Born in Edale, and BBC Radio 2 Folk Singer of the Year 2014, Bella says the rich landscape of the Peak District has inspired her music from an early age.

"I have a great sense of belonging, and pride, from being from the Peak District. The hills, the views, and the people; the whole feeling travels with me wherever I find myself, from China to America, influencing my music. I'm honoured to be a vice president for Friends of the

Peak District and support their good work."

It's great to have Bella on board, someone who shares our love of the Peak District and wants to highlight the work we do and act as our ambassador.

And finally...

We were sorry to receive Simon Groom's letter of resignation as one of our vice presidents. His continuing ill-health and family commitments mean that he is unable to play the active role with the Friends that he would like.

He said *"It's been an honour and a privilege to hold the role of vice president - and I'm full of admiration for the excellent and tireless work you do, caring for our precious environment"*

We send our thanks and warmest wishes to Simon.

A628

With all the media coverage of the trans-Pennine tunnel you could be forgiven for not knowing that, behind the scenes, Highways England has been quietly progressing proposed improvements to the existing A628 corridor. Illogical though it may seem, the tunnel and the management of the existing trunk road are progressing in parallel rather than in an integrated way.

There have recently been two public consultation events in Hollingworth and Tankersley to gauge public opinion on the principle of the A628 improvements, but not much information was made available. It is early days yet and the preferred route announcement is not expected until July 2017. But the real purpose of the events appeared to be to test local feeling for half a bypass.

The proposed scheme comprises five components

1. A dual carriageway from the roundabout at the end of the M67, connecting with the A57 at Mottram Moor and bypassing the A57 trunk road
2. A new link road from Mottram Moor to the A57 at Brookfield, bypassing the existing A57 junctions with the A628
3. Two climbing lanes within the Peak District National Park allowing drivers to overtake on the uphill sections east of Woodhead Bridge in Longdendale
4. Safety and technology improvements focusing on sites of accident clusters; and

5. In South Yorkshire dualling of the A61 between the A616 roundabout and junction 36 of the M1 near Tankersley.

These proposals, whilst relieving Mottram village of its horrendous traffic congestion, would only move the bottleneck east down Mottram Moor and leave Hollingworth and Tintwistle exposed to through traffic and rat running by local drivers. Unsurprisingly local people are distressed and angry at being left without a solution to the problem.

In progressing these new plans, alternative measures have been largely ignored and poorly investigated. For example, improvements to public transport, re-routing of heavy goods vehicles and demand management of local traffic have not been seriously considered.

We would be keen to see the effect of implementing the safety and technology proposals by themselves, but were told that even if this occurred the rest of the package would automatically follow. In other words, there is no facility within the process to implement small scale measures and monitor their impact before proceeding with the whole programme.

Although environmental impacts would occur largely outside the national park, the climbing lanes would trigger the 'major development test' and there would be substantial increases in cross-park traffic, both on the A628 and on the A57 Snake Pass. All of which would lead to unacceptable impacts.

We have always maintained that the environment in the villages to both west and east need to be improved, but the solution must address the problem. The majority of the congestion in the Longdendale villages is local traffic for which a bypass would provide no respite. Furthermore, neither a half nor a whole bypass would do anything for the long queues into Glossop on the A57 which are almost permanently in place.

Before any of these drastic measures are taken any further, active travel measures, improvements to public transport and rerouting of lorries must be shown to fail.

Night BLIGHT

Over the past 100 years, our skies have become obscured by light pollution and unless we act now, many children will grow up never seeing the Milky Way or experiencing the wonder and beauty of a truly dark night sky.

Apart from the impact on people's experience of the countryside, there is an increasing awareness of the effect that light pollution can have on wildlife, by interrupting natural rhythms, migration, reproduction and feeding patterns.

Light spilling up into the night sky also wastes money and energy: local councils spent an estimated £613 million on street lighting in 2014-15 which can account for up to 30% of a council's carbon emissions.

CPRE has campaigned against light pollution for many years, fighting for the protection and improvement of dark skies, and against the spread of unnecessary artificial light. Now, using data captured by satellite, CPRE have released detailed maps of England's night skies which

enable users to find the darkest and most light-polluted areas.

The Peak District currently has some dark skies and is looking to pursue international recognition for the quality of them. There are three dark sky sites which are well known for their panoramic views in the day time, and astronomy interpretation panels on site will now help people to enjoy the night sky views as well.

- Surprise View, near Hathersage
- Parsley Hay, near Hartington
- Minninglow, at Pikehall

"We can all do our bit" says Emma Marrington, CPRE. "If you need to install outside lights, make sure they are fully-shielded, to only shine downwards, also consider how much light you need and the colour of your light bulb. These simple steps will make a real difference to help ensure that our skies above remain truly dark."

The interactive map can be viewed here: <http://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/>

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Peak District planning update



Newburgh Site Jan 2008

After several years, the future of the Newburgh Engineering site in Bradwell has been decided. Following withdrawal of an unsatisfactory scheme, the Parish Council produced a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. This proposed a mixed-use development including market homes, affordable homes and business units. To back this up, Bradwell set up a Community Land Trust, which would own and manage the affordable homes. The great news is that a developer then came forward with a planning application to build the scheme which the community wanted, and that permission has now been granted.

This demonstrates that a well-focused Neighbourhood Plan can have a real effect on getting the kind of development a community wants. It also proves that the Park Authority's determination not to approve the previous application was a sound move; refusing the wrong scheme is a crucial step towards getting the right one.

Just as we went to press we received bad news that the appeal at Hartington has been allowed.



Hartington Church ©David Coates

This means that 26 homes will be built on the former Dove Dairy site. We objected to the proposal, as it is out on a limb from the village, provides too few affordable homes and features a conspicuously large house at the western edge of the site. The Parish Council - who are also working on a Neighbourhood Plan - have worked long and hard to fight this scheme, and it is striking that the Inspector actually took the exact opposite view, deeming that it will enhance the village and that the large house is important to the design of the whole development. The contrast with Bradwell could not be sharper: at Hartington landowner and community have been at loggerheads throughout, and all the community's attempts to secure a mutually acceptable solution have gone unheeded.

Meanwhile at Warren Lodge, which stands alone in a unique spot just below Curbar Edge, a plan to refurbish and extend the house was refused by the Park's Planning Committee. The owner then secured permission for an alternative



Curbar village

scheme that we warmly supported, as it skilfully addressed most of our concerns. However, the applicant also successfully appealed the previous refusal, and is likely to build to the earlier plan.

The problem here seems to be that the pre-application advice didn't fully appreciate the distinctive character and location of the building. It's important for the Park Authority to give consistent pre-application advice that is rooted both in policy and in empathy for how proposals are likely to be perceived by local communities.



Take Back the Tracks

The National Park Authority has been making good progress with traffic orders banning off-road vehicles from green lanes which cannot sustain such use. We hoped this would continue with a total ban of motorbikes and 4x4s on Washgate. However, Washgate is included in the circuit used by historic motorcycle trials, which have been part of the south west Peak culture for nearly a century and use a local network of roads and green lanes. At its meeting in September the Authority agreed to find out more about the impact of these trials, through a short consultation, in order to consider an exemption for them from the traffic order.

A motorcycle trial is undertaken on specialist lightweight bikes to test the driver's skill. Points are lost if any part of the bike or person touches the ground. The Bemrose and Reliance Cup trials regularly use the route and in 2016 these trials saw 244 bikes there in just two days. This usage is not insignificant when compared with 'informal' motor cycle use of Washgate, which was logged as 299 bikes over a period of eight weeks in 2016. Clearly the Authority needs to understand the impacts of such use.

At the meeting we supported the Authority's approach but believe a much wider assessment than Washgate must be made.

©John Beatty

For example, according to published routes for the trials, Limer and Swan Rakes in Hollinsclough form part of that network. At present both of these Rakes are unusable by horse riders and only with extreme care by walkers and cyclists. Limer Rake is a scree run in places and both Rakes are in a disgraceful state of disrepair due to the total neglect of its duty by Staffordshire County Council as the highway authority.

We believe that one of the conditions for trials to continue on Washgate is that the Rakes must be repaired in keeping with their character and in a manner that lasts, which requires motorised vehicles to be prohibited. If Staffordshire County Council will not take action we will be urging the National Park Authority to prioritise the route at its annual review next March.

Let's get off-road vehicles off Jacob's Ladder

Respond by 12 December 2016

Derbyshire County Council is now consulting on whether or not there is sufficient evidence to support the making of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to ban off road vehicles from Jacob's Ladder in Stoney Middleton. We need to show them there is no doubt about the evidence.

The lane ascends from Stoney Middleton to join the now closed New Road to Eyam. The impacts of off-road motorised vehicles on Jacob's Ladder have been well reported and the substantial evidence from residents and visitors for closing the lane to motorised traffic is already compelling. The

character of the lane – narrow with blind bends and no verges – makes it inherently dangerous for it to be used by horse riders and pedestrians whilst vehicles are permitted to use it – a resident was knocked down by a vehicle last year. Not only is repairing the lane, which DCC has deployed twice, a short term measure but it also does not address unsustainable use nor the conflicts that arise between those using motorised vehicles and other more vulnerable users. We urge everyone to respond to the consultation by 12 December in order to show the council once again the overwhelming support that exists for a TRO.

All the information, including map and questionnaire can be found here www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say

Hurstclough Lane

Hurstclough Lane is a wonderful sunken hollow-way, overhung with trees, which connects Long Causeway with Bamford, passing Gatehouse and descending to Saltergate Lane – part of the old salt trading route between Cheshire and South Yorkshire. The whole route between Hurst Clough and Stanage Edge is marked as 'ancient causeway' on the 1840 OS map. In places some of the old causey stones, of medieval origin, have been exposed but the lane itself may even predate Roman times.

Sadly, the lane is in a poor state of repair due to poor drainage and vehicle use – the lane is a byway open to all traffic (BOAT) – and horse riders cannot use it. Local residents have long despaired of Derbyshire County Council undertaking the necessary repairs and managing conflicts between users.

But, recently the council put out its plans for resurfacing the lane. These involve improving the drainage, which is essential, but also filling the deep

ruts with two layers of tarmac planings and the surface sealed with bitumen. Not only would this conceal the existing causey stones, it would also destroy any sense of the ancient environment that the lane currently provides as you walk it. Instead, the route would become a tarmac road down which motor vehicles could gather considerable speed, making conditions more dangerous for all users.

We do understand that times are tough for local councils whose budgets have been severely reduced. Pressing health and education needs must be met. However, the heritage of the national park must be respected and enhanced, and on Hurstclough Lane we believe that the causey stones should be exposed and restored. Innovative funding solutions could be sought through perhaps crowd sourcing which would enable residents and visitors to contribute. At the same time the causey stones require protection from motorised vehicle use for which a traffic regulation order should be used. Hurstclough Lane is worth nothing less.



Hurstclough Lane

Space invaders?

The Friends recently gave evidence at a major public inquiry called to decide whether permission could be given to three large wind turbines (99m to tip), just south of the national park, near Matlock. Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) refused permission in 2015 for a larger (five turbine) scheme but the developer, Njord Energy, decided to appeal a modified scheme, removing the two turbines closest to the National Park and the hamlet of Ible. The developer claimed that the smaller scheme was now acceptable in landscape terms and that the local community's views had been taken into account (crucial to gaining consent after the government introduced a new policy test in June 2015).

We argued that although the impact on the national park had been lessened, it was still

unacceptable. The developer also tried to argue that adding three more turbines to seven existing ones (just to the south near Harboro Rocks) improved the overall landscape impact as the turbines would now appear as a cohesive single windfarm. We disagreed strongly as did DDDC, the Peak District National Park Authority, CPRE Derbyshire, the National Trust, the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society and all the local parish councils, who all believe that the capacity of this landscape to take more turbines is now exceeded.

With strong evidence being presented by us and others at the inquiry plus the government toughening its policies against windfarms, it seems likely that the appeal will be refused. A decision is expected before Christmas or shortly after new year.

Bye bye pylons...

We are edging closer to our historic goal of National Grid (NG) removing pylons from the worst affected landscapes in the Peak District. NG are currently moving to the design stage with a small but positive scheme to remove the huge, overbearing pylons at Dunford Bridge on the Trans-Pennine Trail. Feedback from a series of local NG roadshows this summer gave overwhelming support for the project so engineering feasibility studies are now in hand. The undergrounding will hopefully be completed by 2023.

In anticipation of the NG scheme being delivered, the Peak District National Park Authority and the Friends are working with Northern Powergrid to underground as much of the lower voltage electricity poles and wires around Dunford as possible, including a very intrusive stretch of wires alongside the Dunford to Harden road, just east of Winscar Reservoir, which has a major effect on the setting of the national park.

Elsewhere in the national park, we continue to search out and submit new schemes to Electricity North West and Western Power Distribution where removing wires would improve views and villages. In recent years, this work has been undertaken by our extremely able volunteer, David Allwood, but sadly he has now stood down and we are looking for someone to take over his role. Please contact Andy on 0114 279 2655 or andy@friendsofthepeak.org.uk if you are interested

in helping us with this very rewarding project. Meanwhile we are hugely grateful to David for his dedication in driving forward this important, pro-active part of our work.

David Allwood



Just as we end one of our longest running campaigns against illegal quarrying (Backdale, see page 6), the Peak District is once again under threat from society's relentless search for minerals – in this case, gas for energy. Fracking has already proved itself hugely controversial in Britain with both the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments operating moratoriums against any form of exploration or extraction. In England, despite strong opposition from environmentalists, and strong local protests in Sussex, North Yorkshire and Lancashire, the industry seems to be gaining a foothold.

The current government is backing the industry because of the effect on the economy; an anticipated drop in energy prices (as has happened in the USA) an increase in energy security and the creation of jobs. A recent editorial in The Times pooh-poohed the environmental impacts (though making no mention of climate change), simply branding campaigners as flat-earthers. It is clearly a highly polarised debate. And with permission now being given in Lancashire, to add to that in North Yorkshire, the industry will be ramping up their applications.

It is now the Peak District which is in the firing line. The Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and other allied bodies recently held a public meeting in Dronfield, on the eastern edge of the Peak District to explain the statutory oversight of fracking, presumably to allay local concerns. This is heralding likely applications for exploration and Ineos, one of the local licence area holders, is already negotiating with landowners for permissions for seismic and other tests. Although the well heads would be outside the national park, the government decreed last year that fracking would be allowed under national parks, reversing a previous promise that national parks would be inviolate. This u-turn was strongly opposed by ourselves and our national organisations, CPRE and CNP. In addition, National Parks England, the voice for all national park authorities, also oppose fracking under our finest landscapes.

We recently adopted a new fracking policy which has a clear presumption against fracking because of impacts on countryside, amenity and the environment but also because it would damage the necessary transition to a low carbon energy

mix. Nationally CPRE are also reviewing their policy position, with possible new options of a moratorium or an outright ban.

Where next for the Peak District? We understand applications in Derbyshire, on the western fringe of the Peak are imminent, with one developer already having pre-application discussions with the county council. Communities around the Peak are already worried and last year High Peak Borough Council, acting partly on advice from the Friends, passed a resolution against fracking in their area. The National Park Authority are also opposed to fracking and are committed to applying their rigorous protection principles and policies to any proposals to frack under the Peak District.

We are therefore now gearing up for what could be a long campaign to protect the Peak District from fracking. We intend to fight with the same vigour that our founders did for most of the last century, working with local communities around the Peak plus other allies who share our vision. We hope you do too!

Frack off!



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Ward's grave - update

As you can see from the photograph, the memorial grave of the Ward family including Gerald and Ethel Haythornthwaite (our founders), has fallen into disrepair. We are very pleased to have secured the generous support of the Ward family to help restore the grave so we hope to arrange for the full restoration of the graves in 2017.



Ethel & Gerald Haythornthwaite circa 1955



Ladybower from Win Hill ©Tim Mackey

The Fight for Beauty

Much of the time and effort of our planning officer, Andrew Wood, is spent influencing local plans. Here he ponders how we can factor beauty into our thinking.

Anyone who has worked on a strategy will know that two principal questions are usually posed: where are we now, and where are we trying to get to? The starting date is treated as year zero, and what has happened in the past is easily forgotten. I think this is an unhelpful way of thinking. If a trend has persisted for 50 years then we need to plan with an understanding of decisions that were made during that time.

With this in mind, it was deeply refreshing that our new President, Dame Fiona Reynolds, brought to her inspiring talk at our AGM a real sense of where we've come from, and why it is history that makes our work relevant to the future. Few of us stop to consider that the land-use planning system we've worked with and helped to shape since the 1940s was originally part of the post-war deal, alongside the NHS, to give quality of life to the working classes who had paid a heavy price in the war. Considering how fiercely we still guard the NHS against those who seek to fragment it, it's curious that we're quick to blame planning for all manner of ills, and often paint it as an obstacle to progress. And considering how radical and socially-focused the planning system was supposed to be, it is a sad irony that it has become so controlled by the development industry.

Dame Fiona's central argument – and the title of her new book – is 'The Case for Beauty'. She posits that the idea of beauty as a public good, as

something society should strive for alongside prosperity, has been a casualty of our modern obsession with measuring everything with targets, outputs, indicators and assessments. Beauty cannot be calibrated in this way, yet it is at the heart of how we appreciate places, people, language, art, nature – frankly, everything. We respond to beauty in ways that help make us happy and healthy and, when we see a development, be it in Edale or Ealing, our judgement of it often hinges on whether there is beauty to be found within it. We're looking for signs of something more than a cold-hearted financial transaction.

Countryside campaigners such as ourselves should carry some responsibility for the loss of beauty from our agenda. In facing up to the economic juggernauts, we have sought to put price tags on beautiful things, like landscapes and trees and birds, and in doing so have allowed them to be traded off. Even the act of campaigning demands that we be angry about threats, and anger is an ugly trait that makes for harsh discourse.

Listening to Dame Fiona's talk, and reflecting on how far we've travelled in defending the countryside, especially in the Peak District, I found myself wondering whether it just might be possible to re-introduce beauty into the planning dialogue. It's obvious that communities are not against development, but against bad development – and rightly so. So it's equally obvious that the way to avoid progress being stymied by local objection is to offer progress that is infused with beauty, not just numerical indicators. This is the challenge we face.

South Yorkshire *planning update*



We've been as busy as ever in South Yorkshire. The draft Barnsley Local Plan has been published, and we made a detailed response. The main focus of growth is in urban Barnsley, which should be welcome, but on closer inspection 'urban Barnsley' is drawn widely to include several surrounding villages such as Mapplewell, Higham and Worsborough. The effect is that a large proportion of the urban development is actually earmarked for sites currently in the green belt.

This risks villages merging into Barnsley and abandoning the green belt's important role in bringing the countryside close into town. Meanwhile, Barnsley Borough seems determined to persist with its motorway junction-based locations for employment. This means, on the one hand, that Hoyland will become subsumed into a morass of big sheds and small roundabouts, while Penistone will see housing growth without employment growth, and become more of a commuter dormitory, than a dynamic market town.

Also in Barnsley, a small but significant site in Thurgoland has received permission for housing. This was a 'safeguarded site', meaning it should have been reserved in case of a need for further housing land in the future, but should otherwise have remained as open countryside. It has come forward early because Barnsley lacks a five-year housing land supply, which triggers the euphemistic 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. We argued that, since there are no housing land

allocations in Thurgoland, Barnsley Council must not consider the village to be a sustainable location for new housing. But sadly this argument cut little ice – further evidence, if we needed it, that the policy of safeguarding sites for the longer term does not work.

Another site has been sacrificed on the altar of the five-year land supply at Doncaster Road, Hatfield, where outline permission has been granted for 300 houses. This eats up one of the last remaining rural stretches between Hatfield and Doncaster town centre, and several other sites near Edenthorpe and Armthorpe are also under pressure. The prospect of a continuous ribbon of development from Doncaster to Thorne gets ever closer, while the regeneration area north of Hatfield – the former colliery site – is still only progressing very slowly. This situation is a sharp reminder of why a green belt east of Doncaster, one of our long-running campaigns, should have been established long ago.

We received extensive media coverage from the news that the redevelopment of Oughtibridge Paper Mill, in the Upper Don Valley, was to go ahead. Proposals for 320 houses on this brownfield site came prematurely, in our view, because Sheffield City Council has ambitions for a growth corridor of several thousand homes along the valley from the city centre to Stocksbridge. Much of that land is green belt and there are big problems with road congestion; so it is essential



that new growth is properly master-planned to maximise use of brownfield sites, upgrade public transport, incorporate green spaces and enhance the rural setting of the valley. Permitting this scheme now really puts the cart before the horse, but unfortunately the planning system lacks the power to say to developers, "don't apply now, wait a few years".

On a positive note, we were influential in preventing the applicant wriggling out of contributing to affordable housing in the area.

Finally, there has been a proposed change to the HS2 route through our area. The previous route would have affected several sensitive landscapes

and cut off the Chesterfield Canal, which has enjoyed a recent 20 year restoration programme. The new route follows the M18 to Maltby, crosses the Dearne Valley at Mexborough on a viaduct and then passes through the high quality Magnesian limestone landscape around Barnburgh and Hickleton. On balance, the impact of this new route would be less but still significant. Either way, pressing questions remain unanswered about how the route will genuinely benefit our area in ways that might justify the impacts, and our main concern is the urgent need for better rail infrastructure between Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester to reduce road traffic.



The future of Hope?

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees visited the Hope cement works to learn about this huge industrial operation in the heart of the national park. But it was not just an educational trip: the company which runs the works, Hope Construction Materials, are in the early stages of planning to extend their planning permission. As it stands, the permission ends in 2042, with the requirement that mineral extraction will cease and the quarries be restored. Hope now want to extend the life of the works which will mean extending the quarry yet again. Rather than wait for the application to be made, several years hence, we want to engage proactively with them and maximise our influence.

We were given an introduction to Hope's position in the UK cement market by Keith Rowland, the quarry development manager, including the options for the future supply of shale and how the limestone quarry could be enlarged



most sympathetically. We were then taken on a tour of the shale quarry (now nearing the end of its life and with much of it already restored) and the huge limestone quarry, finishing with the impressive control room. We now have much food for thought and will need to consider emerging proposals against their landscape impact whilst taking into account society's need for cement and Hope's contribution to rural livelihoods in the Hope Valley and beyond.

A legacy for all our futures

The outstanding natural beauty of the Peak District is an inspiration to millions of us every year.

Yet despite its national park status, the Peak District is fragile: under threat from inappropriate road developments without sufficient investment in public transport to relieve the pressure; unsustainable quarries inflicting ugly scars on the landscape; inconsiderate motorised recreation users of green lanes; giant electricity pylons dissecting stunning scenery; and inappropriate housing estates devouring our countryside.

As a registered charity Friends of the Peak District relies entirely on donations to fund our work and legacies are a lifeline for our campaigns and projects. In 2015, over 60% of our income came from legacies.

Leaving a legacy gift in your Will really can ensure that our beautiful and tranquil countryside will be here for future generations to enjoy.

Making a Will is the only way you can ensure that your estate goes to your loved ones and that your wishes are followed after death.

If you choose to leave us a legacy:

- We will always respect your privacy. We

recognise and appreciate that your will is completely personal to you.

- We also realise that, rightly, your family and loved ones will come first.
- You can tell us that you've left a gift if you want to, and we'd love to hear – but you don't need to and we won't keep asking.
- You can change your mind at any time – we will always respect your decision.
- We will use your gift carefully and cost effectively so it has the greatest impact on the Peak District.

When a loved one dies, many people request donations are given to a favourite charity instead of flowers at the funeral. Often such donations can amount to hundreds of pounds; money which is hugely valued and appreciated. If this is something you can influence when making funeral arrangements for a friend or family member, please consider nominating Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire as the designated charity. Thank you.

If you would like to talk to someone about leaving a gift in your Will please call us on 0114 279 2655 or email susan@friendsofthepeak.org.uk.



Unique habitat in danger

An important part of the Peak District ecology is being destroyed by a silent killer. Scrub is encroaching on the internationally important biodiverse limestone grasslands, and action is needed before it's too late.

The casual visitor to Monsal Head looks out on a grand vista of river and valley and may think the scene has ever been thus. But compare today's view with old postcards and it is obvious that grassland has been transformed to woodland. The young hawthorn, hazel and ash now spotted across the remaining grassland show that this loss will continue until all has gone.

While woods are good, it is the limestone grassland which is the rare and valuable habitat in the Derbyshire Dales, and which – once lost – can never be restored. It is rich with flowers and herbs: different species of orchids, cowslips and primroses, violets and milkwort, rock rose and yellow rattle, wild marjoram and thyme, and many others. They provide food for butterflies and other invertebrates which cannot survive in woods or on the intensively cultivated farms on the surrounding plateau.

The losses are due to changing farming practices, such as the transformation from sheep to dairy cattle when the new railway opened up the city markets to local farmers.

Solutions will not be easy, and will include labour-intensive scrub clearance plus sensitive grazing plans. Volunteers from conservation groups like the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust do what they can to hold back scrub in places, but the scale of the problem demands action at greater scale. Plans must be informed by facts: as the next step, a survey is needed, reviewing what has been lost, what remains and current management practices, which can lead to larger-scale management plans. A rare biodiverse habitat is being lost through inaction: it is time now to act.

Charles Palmer



From Hob's House 1957



From Hob's House 1982



Monsal Dale, from Hob's House 2009

Photographs from George Challenger

Sustainable farming



The importance of farming cannot be overstated. But it isn't just about producing food. Farming uses approximately 70% of all land in England and helps maintain the unique character of our landscape - its hedgerows, meadows and woodlands - formed over thousands of years by cultivation and livestock grazing.

Sustainable farming and outdoor livestock production is the best way to maintain a working, living countryside, which is home to prosperous communities and is efficient at maintaining water quality, cutting flood risk and protecting wildlife.

In the post-war push to secure the supply of food, government policy supported the industrialisation of farming and the use of chemicals became the norm, enabling spectacular gains in yields, whilst machinery improved the efficiency of labour.

But the environment suffered as industrialisation has removed livestock from fields, turned varied landscapes into vast monocultures and stripped away the abundance of natural life from the soil and the countryside.

Since 1973, the dominant policy driver has been the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Farmers are currently paid directly via the CAP for the land they farm. The billions of pounds

of public money involved make this a critical issue for farmers' livelihoods. Without these sums, roughly half of farming is uneconomic.

Protecting the landscape has been a core aim for CPRE since its foundation. For more than 50 years we have campaigned to influence the policies and programmes which affect how the countryside is managed.

In order to preserve our beautiful countryside and a thriving farming community, we want to see the government promote sustainable farming; subsidise green farming schemes; connect farms to communities with local food supply chains and encourage greater diversity in fields so that crops, livestock and nature find a better balance.

A new report released by CPRE 'New model farming' argues that "The government has a great opportunity post-Brexit to determine what farming and the English countryside will look like. To forge a more resilient future, the government should encourage a mix of farms that produce different foods for local people and varied, thriving landscapes. The obvious place to start is by redirecting funding to help smaller, more innovative and mixed farms, and by making land available for new farmers to enter the market."

New president for CPRE



We were very pleased to have played a part in helping to recruit pottery designer and businesswoman Emma Bridgewater as the new President of CPRE after we hosted a visit by her to South Yorkshire to show her our work on green belt protection. She was interviewed recently about her new role and said: "Some of our greatest landscapes have been saved by our planning system, and by the voices of those like CPRE."

I could not have been more thrilled to be invited to become CPRE President. I've always really admired what the organisation has stood for. It has been immensely effective in standing up for the countryside.

So I'm looking forward to speaking about urban regeneration, particularly through tackling suitable brownfield sites. We need to make good things happen in the sometimes-decaying centres of our cities, at the same time as preserving green belts.

There's a scandal going on with affordable housing. Affordable homes should be at the heart of planning applications - instead, they're a tack-on, which often get dropped by developers.

Everyone should have access to the countryside and green spaces. That's not a political thing - it's about our common humanity."

MAGNIFICENT WALK 2017

Starting and finishing at the Royal Oak Inn (the home of the world toe-wrestling championships!) in the picturesque village of Wetton near Ashbourne in the beautiful Manifold Valley, we'll be exploring the area including Ilam Park, Dovedale and the Manifold Way.

There are three walks to choose from: a 20 mile challenge, a 10-12 mile stunner, plus a 5-7 mile family outing. Runners are also welcome. Do join us!

Date for your diary: Saturday 20 May 2017

Book your place now: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk/shop



Royal Oak Inn, Wetton

New rose at Hopton Hall



To celebrate 150 years of the Barnardo's charity, a Harkness Rose was launched at the Chelsea Flower Show earlier this year - called Sweet Syrie, after Thomas Barnardo's wife. The Rose can be seen at Hopton Hall Derbyshire in the summer rose garden.

The Rose has a perfume that is strong and sweet. The flowers are large, opening to about 12 cm across, in clusters of three or five blooms. With a complex combination of pink and apricot/peach colours the flowers are always interesting. With strong growth and very healthy foliage this is a climber that will look good on walls, fences, trellis or pillars.

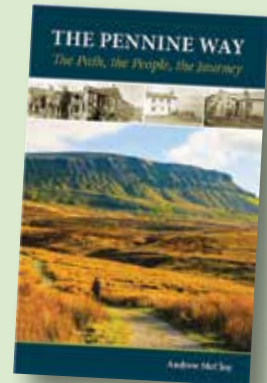
To buy your own Sweet Syrie Rose, visit <http://www.roses.co.uk/home/568-sweet-syrie.html>

The Pennine Way

Andrew McCloy is a writer and journalist specialising in walking and the outdoors and has written or contributed to over 20 titles, including the first ever guide to walking from Land's End to John o'Groats.

His latest book 'The Pennine Way - the Path, the People, the Journey' is a portrait of Britain's oldest and best known long-distance footpath, stretching for 268 miles from Edale to the Scottish Borders. It charts the path's remarkable history, and walkers past and present relate their experiences of this exhilarating and complex path.

Andrew, who lives in Youlgreave is also the editor of our very own book - due out in 2017 - about the Friends' Peak District Boundary Walk. Watch this space!



Christmas cards for sale

Treat your family and friends to one of these inspiring views of the Peak District this Christmas. Four gorgeous photographs by Chris Maguire – Destination Derbyshire Photographer 2015.

- Winter walk – Edensor
- Winter's Edge – Stanage
- Lone Tree – Tideswell
- Winter Woolies – Chatsworth Park

One pack of eight cards (two of each image) for just £5 (plus P&P)

The message inside each card says 'Season's Greetings'

Contact Susan on susan@friendsofthepeak.org.uk or buy online!



Buy a gift for someone who has everything

A Special Christmas Gift Package including: 12 months membership; a Peak District 2017 calendar with photos by Phil Sproson; a pack of postcards and a £5 gift voucher, all gift wrapped for someone special you know who loves the Peak District.

This is a great way to help them support us to care for the Peak District.

- Support your favourite charity
- Encourage family and friends to care for the Peak District too
- A gift that lasts all year
- £40 for an individual membership and £60 for a joint membership

- Help us to protect our incredible landscapes

To buy a gift of Friendship visit www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk or call Rob on 0114 279 2655

And don't forget to GIVE AS YOU LIVE

Log into www.giveasyoulive.com and make a donation to Friends of the Peak District every time you shop. AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU. You have nothing to lose, and we have a lot to gain.



Give as you Live®

Yes - I would like to be a Friend of the Peak District

Membership type (please tick) Minimum annual amount Other amount. Surprise us!

Annual individual	£27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual joint	£42	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Guardian	£100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gold Guardian	£250	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life membership (under 60)	£600	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life membership (60+)	£350	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Friend	£50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Guardian	£250	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are a UK taxpayer please tick the box below so that we can claim back an extra 25p for every £1 you give:

☐ I would like Friends of the Peak District to claim back the tax on all gifts of money that I have made in the past four years and all future donations that I make from the date of this declaration.

☐ If I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

giftaid it

Signature _____
Date _____

Your details Title _____ Firstname _____ Surname _____

Title _____ Firstname _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____ Email _____

If the membership is a gift, please provide the details of the member

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____ Email _____



Please make cheques payable to Friends of the Peak District and send to us at 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF. Or pay by direct debit

Instructions to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit

I would like to pay £ _____ to Friends of the Peak District Monthly ☐ Annually ☐

Name of account holder(s) _____

Bank/Building Society account Sort code

Name and postal address of your bank or building society

To: the manager _____ Bank / Building Society

Address _____

Postcode _____

Originator's Identification Number:

Reference number:



Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Friends of the Peak District from the account detailed in this instruction, subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Friends of the Peak District and, if so, details will be passed on electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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Love the Peak? Help us protect it