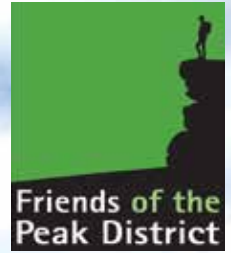


For everyone who loves the Peak District

Peakland guardian

Spring and Summer 2017



Also protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire



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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: Towards Mam Tor ©Andrew McCloy
Back page picture: Lambs at Crowden ©Tim Mackey

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The Sheffield City Region Vision, launched recently, creates a picture of the future of our area.

There are difficult geopolitical considerations about the precise area of the City Region which have not yet been resolved and have caused the election of the first Mayor to be postponed. Leaving these aside, the proposal for Britain's first Urban National Park, to connect the Peak District, Sherwood Forest, the Dearne Valley and the South Yorkshire Forest, has a great deal going for it. We and many others believe that the quality of our countryside, in the Peak District and beyond, is important as an economic asset as well as in its

own right. It is important as a means of attracting and keeping the highly skilled and qualified people who are the key to its prosperity.

We will be pressing to be included in discussions about making a reality of this proposal. Given that government policy gives particular protection to national parks in relation to two key issues, housing and fracking, what is proposed for the City Region suggests that existing green belts should be retained and that there should be no fracking in our local countryside.

John Lambert
Chair



*Buxton and beyond from
Solomon's Temple ©Tim Mackey*

Peak District Boundary Walk

Contrary to the media myth, national parks did not come about just because of the Kinder Mass Trespass of 1932. The idea of national parks dates back to Wordsworth in the early 1800s and then began to take hold elsewhere in the world, notably in the USA where the first to be created was Yellowstone in 1872. After stop-start progress in Britain from the turn of the century, public pressure became more focused in the 1930s when CPRE, the Ramblers and the YHA formed the Standing Committee for National Parks to argue the case.

In November 1938, a group of organisations, including CPRE, the Ramblers and the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society, met at the Rambler Inn in Edale to begin the campaign for the Peak District National Park. But, even before this, a group of campaigners, led by the Friends' founder, Ethel Haythornthwaite (then Gallimore), had already drawn up a proposed boundary for a national park in the Peak District which is almost identical to the one we have today.

After agreeing that national parks were not going to be 'merely a national playground for townspeople' and that landscape preservation, access and open-air recreation and protection of wildlife were all of equal importance, the campaigners examined maps, explored the proposed boundary on the ground and engaged in many discussions and disputes before the boundary was finally agreed.

The new Peak District Boundary Walk, which follows existing paths, tracks and quiet lanes and never strays far from the official park boundary, celebrates not only the huge diversity of our first national park but also its historical significance. We hope it will also increase awareness of the Peak District's beautiful landscape and encourage people to cherish and protect it.

As with the original, there are likely to be many debates and disputes as to where the route for this boundary should and should not go. But at the moment it's where the Friends of the Peak District, like our founders before us, say so!

Our official guide to the new Peak District Boundary Walk, edited by Andrew McCloy, not only includes detailed Ordnance Survey maps and



Kinder Downfall from Mount Famine ©Phil Sproson

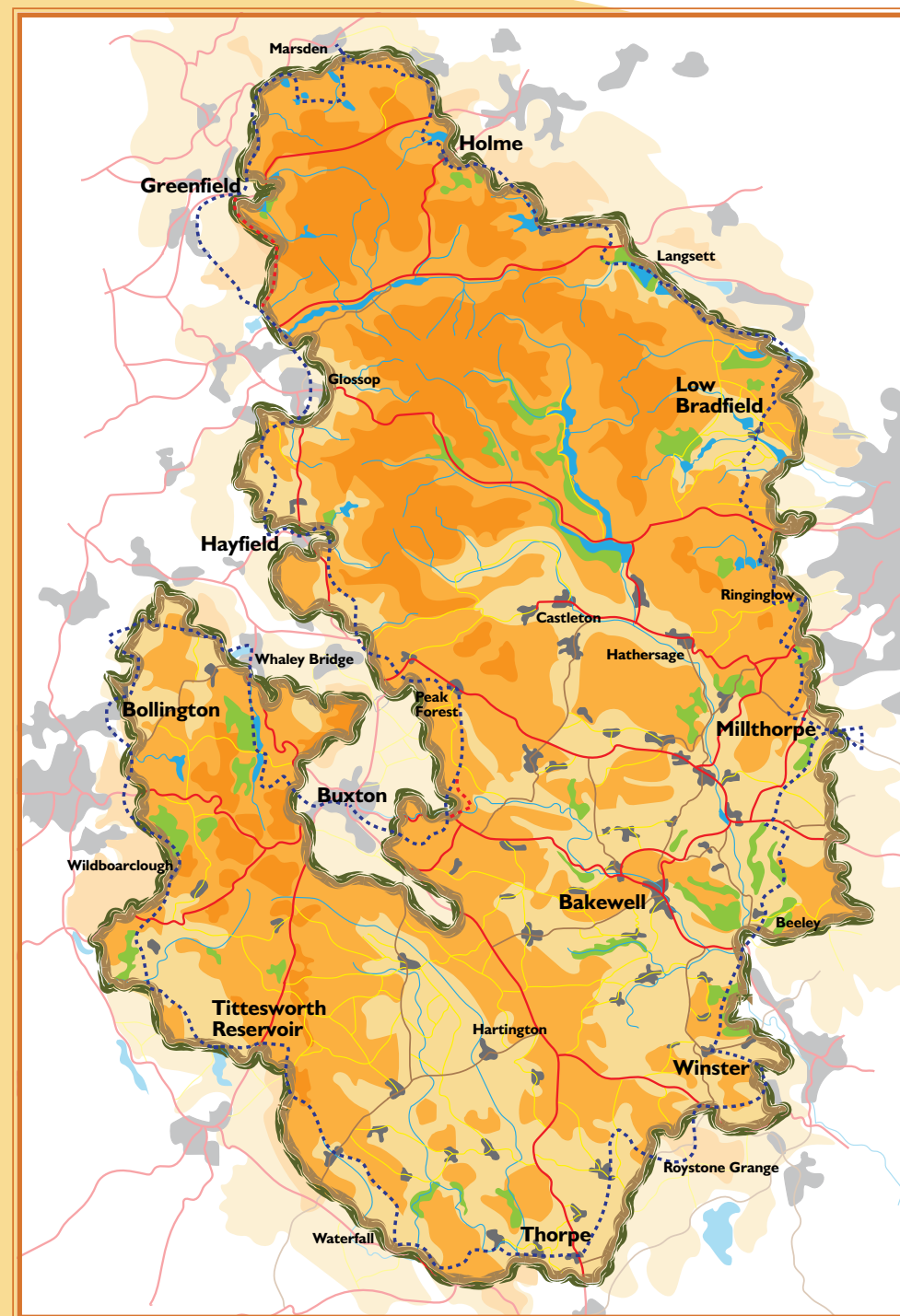
route directions, it also contains articles about the issues and campaigns faced by the Friends of the Peak District and our predecessors.

Long distance walkers may enjoy the challenge of walking all 190 miles in one go, but we have divided the route into 20 stages which are more accessible to walkers who prefer to explore the Park boundary in manageable day-long walks.

The stages have been designed so that they start and finish at locations convenient for public transport connections, car parks, toilets, local shops, cafes and pubs; but given the sometimes remote nature of the Peak District, this hasn't always proved possible.

The launch of the book and the UK's newest long-distance walk takes place on Saturday 17 June at the Buxton Market Place, the official start and end of the route.

The official guide, the Peak District Boundary Walk, will be available on our website for £10. For more information about the walk, and to buy your copy of the book, please contact julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk or visit www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk



Griffe Grange wind farm - *appeal won!*

This has been a high profile case for the Friends which we had been involved in since the first application back in spring 2014.

The original proposal was for five large turbines to be erected on high ground just to the south of the National Park boundary near the Via Gellia. Even the developer's environmental assessment stated that it would create a new windfarm landscape type across an area extending some distance into the national park. This was clearly unacceptable. Working together with the National Trust and CPRE Derbyshire, we called for permission to be refused, which Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) duly did in February 2015. The National Park Authority also objected and pledged to help DDDC fight any subsequent appeal.

The developer, Nord Energy, then appealed

a revised scheme of three turbines, to offset landscape concerns and impacts on the hamlet of Ible, which is within the national park. Throughout the whole process, we worked closely with Ible residents, many of whom were strongly opposed to the wind farm.

Our evidence at the inquiry, finally held late last year, focused on the significant additional harm to the Peak District National Park from this development, in addition to seven other existing turbines nearby. The developer tried to use national CPRE tranquillity and intrusion data to prove the low value of the local landscape, evidence that both we and DDDC refuted successfully.

In the end, the Inspector's decision was straightforward: the wind farm would cause a fundamental and significant change to local landscapes, including parts of the national park. This alone outweighed any benefits of the scheme. Happily, policy and common sense prevailed!

Welcome to our newest Business Guardian



Tram Tours and themed walks through Buxton with knowledgeable guides and expert story-tellers. Buxton's hidden history revealed – from spectacular geology to royal visitors, hidden villages and architectural gems to the finest pubs and traditional well dressings. We're delighted to welcome our newest Business Guardian to the Friends: their membership will help support our shared passion to protect and cherish the local identity and diversity of the Peak District's rural economy.

www.discoverbuxton.co.uk

01298 79648

info@discoverbuxton.co.uk

Taking back the tracks

Derby Lane, Monyash

A ban on all recreational motor vehicle users from using the route between Summerhill Farm and Long Rake came into force in February this year. We are delighted that the National Park Authority has protected an unspoilt green lane before it becomes heavily damaged by vehicle use.

Brushfield

Another lane on which off-road traffic should be a thing of the past is Brushfield, which links Upperdale by the River Wye and Brushfield hamlet. The Planning Inspector has determined it is a bridleway, but it is difficult to erect barriers which stop motorcycles and allow horses. The activities of off-road bikes damaged not only the surface of the lane but also the hummocks of the old lead workings on Putwell Hill through illegal off piste activity. But at least motorbikes being on the lane will now be illegal and can be reported to the police.

Hollinsclough Rakes



On the outskirts of Hollinsclough village, Swan and Limer Rakes used to provide a grassy route for push chairs and horses. No longer. Both Rakes are now more of a rock scramble due to a combination of off-road vehicle damage and water erosion.

Alongside local people we have been urging Staffordshire County Council to take action for several years, so we are delighted that it has now applied an 18 month ban on safety grounds to any use of the Rakes. This should give time to prepare (a) a permanent order banning off-road vehicles, as neither lane can sustain their use, and (b) a plan for repairs that would respect the distinctive character of both Rakes.

Moscar Cross Road

Those of you who traverse this route through Hollow Meadows will, in the winter, find the western grassy incline turned into what looks like a ploughed field. Each spring Sheffield City Council spend £300-400 harrowing and re-seeding the lane but each winter the lane deteriorates. A seasonal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) banning off-road vehicles would avoid this damage and, in the long term, save the council recurring costs. However our request for a TRO appears to have fallen on deaf ears as both the Peak District and Sheffield Local Access Forums believe current management, coupled with voluntary restraint, is satisfactory.

Washgate



We are delighted that a full permanent TRO has been agreed by the National Park Authority along the route between Tenterhill and Booth Farm, making it illegal for 4x4s and motorbikes to use the route. This is a tranquil intimate route that descends steeply on both sides of the River Dove to cross it through a particularly distinctive and charming ford and on a Grade 2 listed packhorse bridge. At 4ft 6ins wide, the packhorse bridge is particularly vulnerable to motor vehicle use and its setting is marred by signs warning of a width restriction. We are also pleased that two historic trials that have traditionally used the route and predate the designation of the national park – the Bemrose and the Reliance Trials – have been exempted from the ban and will still be able to use the route. They are not speed trials but test skill and endurance. Obviously this exemption will be subject to careful monitoring of the impact on the route and its ecology – there are supposed to be white clawed crayfish in the Dove.

Progress on pylons

National Grid are now nearer to removing an important stretch of pylons which currently mar the community of Dunford Bridge and the Trans Pennine Trail at the head of the Upper Don valley. After national lobbying by Friends of the Peak District, CPRE, CNP and the John Muir Trust, a new Visual Impact Provision Scheme was set up by OFGEM and funded to the tune of £500 million to reduce impacts of electricity transmission infrastructure in national parks and AONBs, with the lion's share of the money to be spent on undergrounding the worst pylon lines.

At a recent stakeholder workshop, a preferred route was agreed and the main constraints (in terms of ecology, habitat impacts, accessibility and rights of way diversions) identified for National Grid to address. It will be a significant and disruptive piece of engineering, lasting around two years but there was consensus that the landscape benefits alone would outweigh the temporary impacts.

National Grid will now work up the full proposals which they will consult on again before making a full planning application (to Bamsley Council and PDNPA) later in the year. With a fair wind, National Grid hope that the Dunford scheme will be the first to be implemented in the country.

To improve local amenity further, we are also working with the local electricity company (Northern Powergrid) to remove as many low voltage wires as possible in the area, helping to improve significantly the visitor experience and economy in this special part of the Peak.

A future for the uplands?

The decision to leave the European Union is significant for the environment and landscapes we love, with real potential dangers. But it also presents opportunities for positive change, particularly in relation to farming and the future of the uplands in England. We are now pondering what this could mean for the South Pennines, including the Peak District.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been a double edged sword with intensification causing environmental damage including eutrophication, overgrazing, habitat loss and species decline, particularly of farmland birds. Such problems are proving hard to reverse. On the other hand, CAP provides subsidies and grants to landowners and farmers who maintain upland farming and economies, and rewards more environmentally-friendly farming through tailored schemes to benefit wildlife, access and heritage protection.

As a recent CPRE foresight paper emphasised, farming's role within rural England cannot be overstated. It is the main land use and has created the landscapes we love and cherish, even in areas of our uplands which many perceive as being wild. In the uplands, farmers occupy a hub role in rural economies and communities, stewarding protected landscapes such as national parks and

producing important local foods and resilient livestock to sell on to lowland farms. Although upland farms have diversified into tourism, sustainable energy production and other off-farm services, business viability often remains fragile and still depends heavily on public subsidies.

In past years, we have called for the retention of specific support for uplands (defined mostly as 'severely disadvantaged areas') and a new payment regime that properly rewards landscape management and other public benefits. Our call was echoed by many, including the Commission for Rural Communities in their seminal 2010 report 'High ground, high potential – a future for England's upland communities', which also emphasised the need for rewarding positive management of water and carbon assets, part of the suite of so-called 'ecosystem services'. Sadly, nothing much has happened since the CRC report came out.

Peer organisations such as CPRE nationally, the Campaign for National Parks, National Parks England and GreenerUK, a major coalition of UK environmental groups, and the National Farmers' Union are now being energised by the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure environmentally sustainable farming by developing a new system of agri-environmental and land management schemes. We will work with CNP, CPRE and regional partners (including the northern national park societies) to ensure a healthy future for our precious uplands.

Taddington: could do better

There is a shortage of affordable homes in the Peak District, and we're always looking to support good schemes which deliver them. One of our main objections to the Dove Dairy development at Hartington was that it didn't provide enough affordable dwellings compared to the open market houses on the site. It is often so difficult to secure affordable homes that the social housing sector has little choice but to support any scheme; too few is seen as better than none at all. In our view, it would be better to hold out for genuinely beneficial schemes that communities welcome, such as the excellent development in Youlgrave completed a few years ago.

Recently the Peak District National Park Planning Committee approved a scheme for four affordable houses at Town End, Taddington. Located on a triangular site at the eastern edge of the Conservation Area, this development will impact on the character of the village, in particular compromising a couple of beautiful, mature trees

and the lovely, moss-laden stone walls that border the site. The committee recognised this was a difficult decision, but made the understandable choice that communities' needs for affordable housing should take precedence.

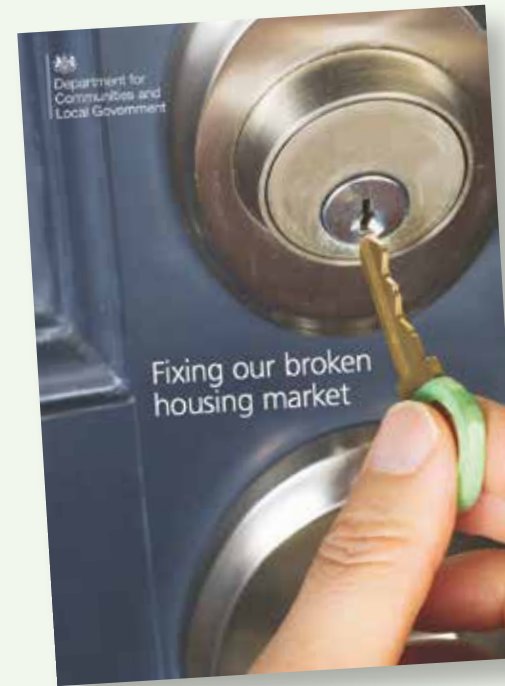
Friends of the Peak District objected to the application. In our view there were two problems: the scheme itself is not good enough, and there are at least two other sites in Taddington that we think would be more suitable and should be developed first. The principal reason this application was approved is that those other sites are not coming forward for development. That is not a good enough reason: better ways to find sites and finance for affordable housing are needed.

The Youlgrave development was an early success for Community Land Trusts. The current Planning Minister Gavin Barwell has declared himself a big fan of CLTs and other innovative ways of securing better developments that the community wants. What is now needed are stronger powers for planning authorities, local communities and social housing providers to identify and acquire sites that can provide the right homes in the right places.

Taddington



The Housing White Paper: chinks of Light?



that need to be happening as well, such as small enterprise, self-build and Community Land Trusts. The homes that people actually need would be affordable, well-designed, suitable for an ageing population, zero-carbon, built on recycled land in really accessible locations that can support ailing town centres, big enough to enable home-working but dense enough to justify investment in public transport. Instead the homes that tend to be built are expensive, generic, suburban housing estates where residents are dependent on cars for most journeys. So they are largely irrelevant to meeting people's needs.

How is the planning system broken? The big housebuilders who are building the wrong homes have increasingly dominated the planning process, mainly by owning and manipulating the technical evidence on which Local Plans and planning decisions depend. Meanwhile, local authority planning departments have been stripped of money, skills and morale, and central government is fixated on the mirage of 'completed' Local Plans that can miraculously deliver double or treble the historical rates of housebuilding.

But what's really broken is the land market. Developable land in the UK is one of the most lucrative investments in the world, and all but the biggest players have been squeezed out. The problems are worst in the South-East, but even in South Yorkshire there are thousands of homes' worth of unbuilt planning permissions. The Housing White Paper appears to recognise these issues, but isn't really grasping the nettle in terms of planning powers and financial instruments. Without real – and, for some, costly – reforms which could make land available to communities and small enterprise builders, combined with stronger planning powers so we can insist on the type and quality of what is built, progress will be thin on the ground.

The much-anticipated Housing White Paper, entitled 'Fixing the Broken Housing Market', was published in February. On the face of it, there is much to commend, not least the opening recognition that the housing market is not in good health. That in itself is almost a U-turn, compared to the government's previous housing ideology – which underpins the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – that all we needed to do to fix the housing shortage was make things easier for the private housebuilding market. As ever, the angels and devils will be in the details.

How is the housing market broken? The UK hasn't built enough homes for decades, but the big, private sector builders have built at a pretty steady rate, so it's other forms of housebuilding

The reality of fracking

The phoney war is over. Fracking is now a reality for communities in our area, with the first, exploratory planning applications being prepared by operators INEOS for sites in North East Derbyshire and Rotherham.

At Marsh Lane, near Eckington (NE Derbyshire), a planning application is imminent as we go to press for a 'vertical core well', to be drilled to over 2km depth to extract rock samples which will be analysed for the presence of shale gas. This would take place over a period of between eight months and five years, including time for restoring the site. Although such development is regarded as 'temporary' in planning terms, it still has a potential for severe impacts on the countryside and neighbouring communities.

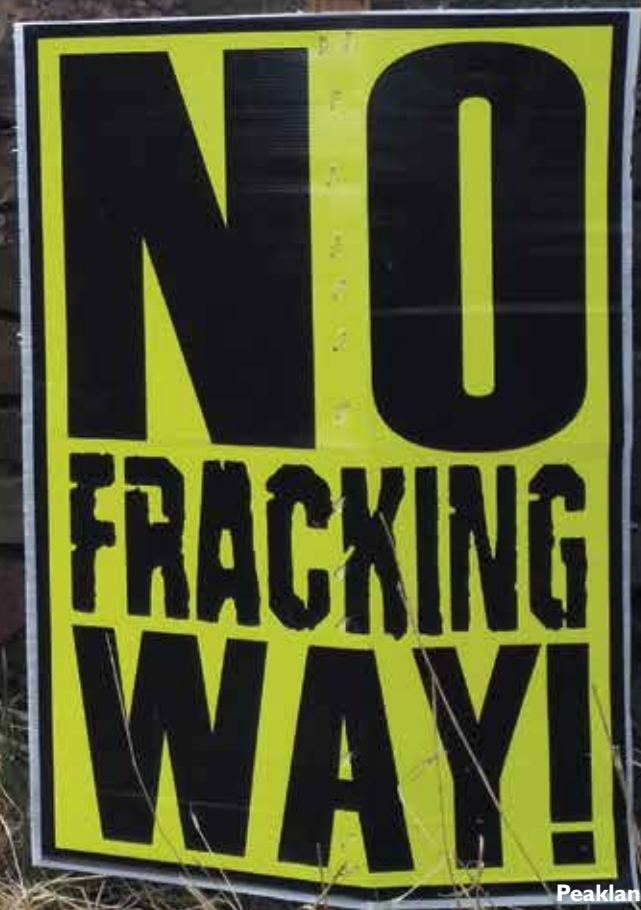
INEOS asked Derbyshire County Council (DCC), the determining authority for mineral planning applications, in January for a decision on whether the proposal would need a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) to accompany the application. DCC have announced that they will not require an EIA, although a suite of studies to show the nature and severity of impacts (noise, visual and transport movements) will probably be needed in any case. We are clear that landscape impacts must be fully assessed as the drilling rig will be 60m high and the site is on prominent high ground. Impacts of the drilling (which could be continuous) on local amenity and tranquillity are also a concern.

Even though there are no proposals actually

to extract shale gas (by hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking') at Marsh Lane, local communities (including Eckington, Mosborough, Dronfield) and people further afield (in Chesterfield and Sheffield) are outraged by the prospect of drilling. Mostly working through social media, local groups have garnered thousands of supporters in a matter of weeks and large numbers are meeting (sometimes weekly) to plan their opposition. The scale of local response to the fracking threat is unparalleled in recent memory.

Unsurprisingly they look to the CPRE, among others, for support and help and of course – given our presumption against fracking – we are doing all we can. We have already helped provide planning advice at regional workshops that we have hosted with Friends of the Earth and the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and more specific training and advice sessions on influencing local plan policies are in the pipeline.

STOP PRESS: A second proposed core well has just been announced by INEOS just east of Harthill, in the lovely Rotherham countryside. We are working with Harthill Parish Council and Harthill Against Fracking to oppose fracking in this area too.



NE Derbyshire Local Plan

The North-East Derbyshire Local Plan was recently published in draft for consultation, and Friends of the Peak District prepared a joint response with CPRE Derbyshire. As ever with Local Plans, it is the high housebuilding targets and the associated difficulties of meeting land supply requirements that pose threats to the countryside.

North-East Derbyshire has an unusual planning geography. It surrounds Chesterfield, but the city is a separate planning authority. It has four main settlements – Clay Cross, Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh, three of these sitting within the green belt and much more related to Sheffield than to elsewhere. West and south of Chesterfield, the beautiful, open countryside around Ashover blends seamlessly into the Derbyshire Dales, while the eastern side is characterised by the M1 corridor and former colliery towns that cry out for a new lease of life.

The draft Local Plan seeks to keep the future distribution of growth similar to recent trends, except for substantial strategic regeneration sites

around Wingerworth, Clay Cross and Markham Vale; and it proposes some green belt losses in the north in order to protect smaller villages in the south from being hit by disproportionate development.

The proposed green belt losses would be a hard pill for communities to swallow, especially when they can see sites within the towns which they would prefer to be developed, and when the overall housing target seems unrealistically high. But the biggest threat is that landowners and developers will talk down the prospects of the big regeneration sites in the coalfields being able to deliver enough houses quickly enough to meet NE Derbyshire's targets. If they win that argument, the green belt impact could be much worse than it looks now. This would be doubly disastrous, because it would undermine coalfield regeneration and increase the problem of Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh becoming commuter dormitories for Sheffield; and the only winners would be landowners in the green belt.



RIP Elizabeth

We were saddened to hear the news that Elizabeth Bramley (formerly Garland), former staff member and trustee, had died in December. She gave unstinting and expert assistance to the Branch for nearly 30 years. She first joined us in 1985 as Assistant Technical Officer, assisting Gerald Haythornthwaite. By 1991, she was essentially in charge and led on the Branch's planning work. Her mastery of detail contributed to powerful cases being made and often won. Her determination was legendary – famously braving severe winter weather and hazardous travelling conditions to get to public inquiries in far off parts of the Peak District. She was soon destined for greater causes and in 1993 was appointed Director

of the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS, the equivalent of CPRE in Scotland) where she stayed until 1999. During that time, she played a pivotal role in stopping the Lingerbay superquarry on Harris, a huge environmental victory.

She then came back to Sheffield and became a trustee of the Branch, serving through the 2000s – a vital time when the organisation was being re-shaped into the Friends and growing in size and influence. Her wise counsel, mainly on planning matters, was invaluable in this period and was the foundation upon which our reputation for quarry campaigning was rebuilt. She mentored successive members of staff and always ensured that our stance was both principled and well-evidenced. She was a linchpin in our long running Backdale campaign, where her attention to detail was essential in marshalling our arguments at the crucial public inquiry. Her expertise, warmth and kindness will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to John and her family.

Paving the way to conserving the Peaks

Moors for the Future Partnership has completed works to protect vulnerable blanket bog on the iconic Kinder Scout from damage.

A 5.5km footpath has been created heading from Peep O Day and Rushup Edge to the Brown Knoll trig point. This beautiful route is hugely popular with walkers but years of foot traffic have caused significant erosion to the landscape.

Industrialisation played a large role in the degradation of blanket bog across the Dark Peak. Air pollution and wildfires killed off peat-forming sphagnum mosses, resulting in large areas of bare peat. Moors for the Future was set up to reverse this damage.

This winter, the team has spread heather brash,

blocked gullies, planted native shrub and 50,000 sphagnum plug plants across the Peak District.

Healthy blanket bogs provide an essential habitat for wildlife, as well as improved water quality, flood mitigation and reduced wildfire risk.

Since 2003, the Moors for the Future Partnership has been using innovative conservation techniques to transform over 32 sq km of black degraded peat, with a state-of-the-art monitoring programme providing evidence and specialist communications.

To find out more and get involved visit: www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk.



Saving Smithy Wood

Smithy Wood near Sheffield is over 800 years old and part of a unique network of ancient woodlands. It existed for many years as coppiced woodland, providing timber for nearby homes and businesses. It was split in four by the M1 in the 1960s, but still survives as a well-used and well-loved designated Local Wildlife Site in Sheffield's green belt.

It is currently under threat: developers, MSA Extra, have applied to build a retail park six times the size of a typical motorway service station with fast food outlets, such as McDonalds and Starbucks, and an 80-bed hotel. This service station would be on one of the safest stretches of road in the region which is already well served by other local businesses. The development

would permanently destroy irreplaceable ancient woodland and diminish the green belt. Government guidance is clear – ancient woodlands cannot be compensated for by new tree planting or woodland management elsewhere.

The Sheffield City Council planning committee meeting scheduled to consider Smithy Wood has been delayed four times. We now know that a rival operator is preparing an application for a service area just a few miles away at Junction 33, Brinsworth, on a site without environmental designations and a previous outline approval for a hotel. This gives the lie to MSA Extra's argument that Smithy Wood is the only feasible location for the development.

2017 AGM

Tuesday 11 July at 7pm

(refreshments served from 6.30pm)

Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield

Theme: 90+ years of CPRE



Oliver Hilliam is Senior Communications and Information Officer at the CPRE, with responsibility for their 90-year archive. Previously working in the University of Hull's archives, Oliver's role at CPRE allows him to combine his interest in history with a passion

for the countryside inspired by his farming roots in rural Lincolnshire.

A co-author of *22 Ideas that saved the English countryside*, Oliver will speak on the leading role of the Friends of the Peak District in establishing ideas like green belts and national parks. He will also explore the huge contribution made by Gerald and Ethel Haythornthwaite to the development of the English conservation movement and the subsequent successes of CPRE over the past 90

years. Oliver will also celebrate the importance of the present-day work of the Friends, and consider which new ideas could help protect and enhance the countryside of the Peak District and South Yorkshire for the next 90 years and beyond.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the AGM by calling Susan Belt on 0114 275 1649 or by email at susan@cprepeakandsyorks.org.uk. Full papers will be on our website www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk from 19 June. Ask Susan if you would like a hard copy mailed out.

Agenda

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies.
2. Minutes of the 14th AGM of CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire
3. Presentation of the 2016 annual report and annual accounts: John Lambert, Chair of Trustees; Andy Brightmore, Honorary Treasurer.
4. Appointment of auditors for 2016: we proposed that VAS Community Accountancy Service be re-appointed to examine the accounts independently
5. Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Trustees (as necessary)
6. Election of President/Vice-Presidents (as necessary)
7. Pre-notified items: to be submitted by 30 May
8. Any other business

Snitterton Fields

In conjunction with CPRE Derbyshire we recently objected to a planning application for hundreds of houses that would intrude into unspoiled landscape outside Matlock, on the edge of the national park.

The huge Cawdor Quarry site has been redundant for some years. Part of the site has returned to nature and is now an important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but there is a large, flat, neglected area with great potential for a sustainable new development. This site already has planning permission and it should be developed. However, the developer has applied to extend the development onto a large greenfield site at Snitterton Fields, just outside Snitterton village. The applicant argues that this additional element is needed to make the whole scheme, including the quarry, financially viable.

This greenfield element is wholly unacceptable in landscape terms. Situated on high ground where the Wensley and Derwent valleys meet, within a few metres of the national park boundary, the scheme would effectively breach into two beautiful landscapes at once. The applicant has suggested that the national park boundary be extended up to the edge of their site, to guarantee against the further sprawl of development, but this entirely misses the point. In reality, the national park landscape reaches beyond its boundary, another half-mile into Matlock; and besides, the boundaries of the Park are defined by legislation, not jiggled around to create edges to built-up areas.

The case also exemplifies an increasingly familiar trend, in which developers seek permission for a lucrative greenfield site in order to prop up the viability of developing an adjacent brownfield site. On occasion, such deals may be worth doing, but there is a risk of it becoming the norm, and Snitterton Fields should not fall victim to this ruse.



Snitterton Fields

Oughtibridge Mill: Sheffield holds its nerve



Part of Oughtibridge Mill housing site

CPRE campaigns for the right homes in the right places, and our objection to the redevelopment of Oughtibridge Paper Mill, north of Sheffield, was principally that it would result in the wrong homes – too many expensive ones and too few affordable ones. However the outline scheme for 320 houses was approved earlier this year with a 10% allocation of affordable houses.

Last month the developer, CEG, applied to withdraw the 10% affordable housing element of the scheme, citing the government's Vacant Building Credit as their justification. We objected to this, and happily Sheffield City Council's Planning

& Highways Committee robustly and unanimously refused the application.

Every time a housing scheme goes ahead without achieving the target amount of affordable housing, the ability to meet the target gets that bit harder. And the benefits of restoring a brownfield site must accrue to the local community, not just to the landowner. Vacant Building Credit exists to make schemes that are otherwise acceptable in planning terms more financially attractive, especially to smaller developers. It is not designed to let big developers off the hook and incentivise unacceptable developments.

It was heartening to hear Sheffield Councillors give a steely response to the applicant. "We've had this time and again with developers," they said. "We make agreements in good faith, and we owe it to the people of Sheffield to hold you to your agreement."

Landlines - CPRE's new national report

The new CPRE National Office publication 'Landlines: why we need a strategic approach to land' makes the case for a Land Use Strategy for England. The report features a series of important and challenging viewpoints from key thinkers, including former Secretary of State for the Environment Lord Deben (John Selwyn-Gummer), architect Sir Terry Farrell and former Environment Agency Chief Executive Baroness Young.

The report gets to the heart of one of the ongoing difficulties in CPRE's work: we campaign for the countryside, but we expend most of our energy influencing a planning system that only really deals with urban challenges and sees the countryside – outside national parks and AONBs – as just empty space. It is this empty space mindset that causes so many threats to arise. We need to plan for the things our countryside is full of, in a joined-up way. You will often hear the cry, "Only 9% of England's land is built-up, there's no problem building a bit more!" What you don't hear

The Landlines report is available here: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/item/4534-landlines-why-we-need-a-strategic-approach-to-land>

is that the other 91% of our land is working hard for us, producing food, water, processing waste products, and supporting the ecosystems on which we depend. Surely, if we make a strategic decision to use some of that land to build on, we should also have a strategy for how the remaining un-built land will support us more sustainably in a changing climate?

Having a strategic purpose for all land would also improve and update our sense of what the national park is for. All too often, decision-makers point to the Peak District and say, "That's the countryside, there", ignoring the fact that 65% of land in 'urban' South Yorkshire is also countryside – countryside that really matters to people. National parks are a vital resource for natural and cultural identity and wellbeing, but they should not be oases in a desert. For example, there are controversial plans afoot in Sheffield for heavily-engineered new flood defences in the river valleys that connect Sheffield to the Peak District. We have seen no evidence so far that 'soft' alternatives that could slow the run-off from the upland fields and moors into the rivers have been considered which, instead of threatening Sheffield with huge embankments, might offer real benefits for people and nature upstream. Until we start thinking about land in the round, we'll keep missing those kinds of opportunities.



As a Friend of the Peak District you will receive:

10% off any of the walking weekends, holidays or trips with Large Outdoors.

10% discount at all Cotswold Outdoor shops.

10% off all events with Peak Mountaineering.

Please remember to show your card to gain discounted entry to the local attractions and other member discounts.

Peak District Well Dressings

The blessing of the water supply is an ancient custom which is unique to the Peak District and the surrounding areas such as South Yorkshire and East Staffordshire. The custom had almost died out in the 1950s, but since then it has been enthusiastically revived.



Buxton well dressing

Some sources attribute the practice to the period of the Black Death in 1348-9, when probably a third of the population of England died of the disease, but some villages such as Tissington were untouched.

The local people attributed this to their clean water supply and gave thanks by 'dressing' the village wells. However, it seems more likely that the practice goes back much further than this - probably to pagan times - and the fact that many well dressings have a 'well queen' suggests echoes of ancient spring fertility rites.

The practice is continued mainly in the limestone villages of the central and southern peak between May and September.

The construction of the well dressings is a skilful and time consuming art which usually takes about ten days. Wet clay is spread a couple of inches deep onto a wooden board, a design is 'pricked out' using a paper pattern and then petals and other items are placed in the areas laid out by the design.

After the wells are dressed, there will be a procession around the town to bless each well in turn. The ceremony is usually the start of a week of celebrations with a range of events often culminating in a carnival.



Whitwell well dressing

Where and when

Tissington 5 - 11 May
Ashford 21 - 29 May
Wirksworth 28 May - 1 June
Middleton by Youlgreave 28 May - 4 June
Monyash 28 May - 4 June
Castleton Garland Day 30 May
Tintwistle 10 - 18 June
Disley 11 - 16 June
Cressbrook 12 - 19 June
Tideswell 18 - 26 June
Flash 18 - 26 June
Litton 18 - 26 June
Mayfield (Ashbourne) 25 June - 1 July
Youlgreave 25 - 30 June
Bakewell 25 June - 2nd July
Buxworth (nr Chinley) 25 June - 2 July
Mellor 25 June - 2 July
Rowsley 25 June - 2 July
Whaley Bridge 26 June - 3 July
Hope 23 June - 3 July
Hathersage 2 - 10 July
Chapel-en-le-Frith 2 - 9 July
Hayfield 2 - 9 July
Dore 3 - 9 July
Buxton 3 - 11 July
Harthill (nr Youlgreave) 4 - 10 July
Peak Forest 6 - 16 July
Whitwell 8 - 15 July
Hayfield 9 - 17 July
Bamford 9 - 17 July
Over Haddon 9 - 17 July
Charlesworth (Glossop) 9 - 17 July
Pilsley 14 - 21 July
Belper 16 - 20 July
Great and Little Longstone 16 - 23 July
Stoney Middleton 23 July - 1 August
Bradwell 30 July - 6 August
Great Hucklow 11 - 17 August
Taddington 20 - 26 August
Wormhill 27 August - 4 September
Eyam 27 August - 3 September
Foolow 27 August - 3 September
Longnor 4 - 10 September
Hartington 10 - 17 September

With thanks to Cressbrook Multimedia for this information (peakdistrictinformation.com)

EVENTS

Peak District Boundary Walk

The GRAND OPENING of the Friends' Peak District Boundary Walk and the LAUNCH of the accompanying book (edited by Andrew McCloy).

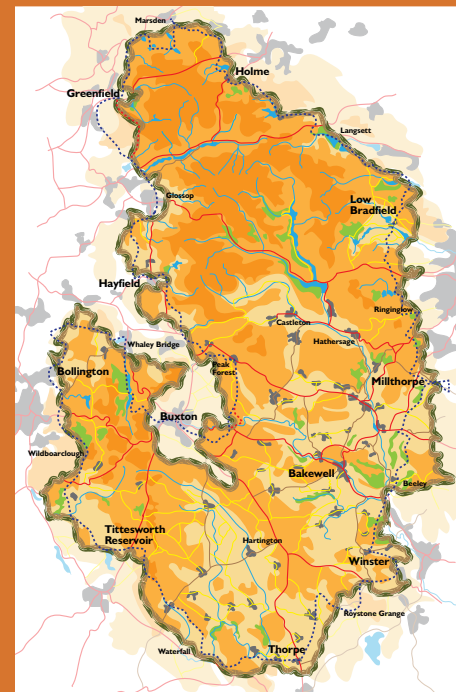
Saturday 17 June

10am Groups of walkers will 'first-foot' all 20 stages of the walk around the boundary

12 noon Opening Ceremony at Buxton Market Place, outside the Town Hall, hosted by the Mayor of High Peak and officially opened by Emma Bridgwater, President of CPRE.

6pm At the end of the day we'll all gather in Buxton for celebrations. Do join us if you can.

Buxton Market will be open all day with a special outdoor activities focus, and lots of stalls selling food and drink.



Magnificent Walk 2017

Saturday 20 May

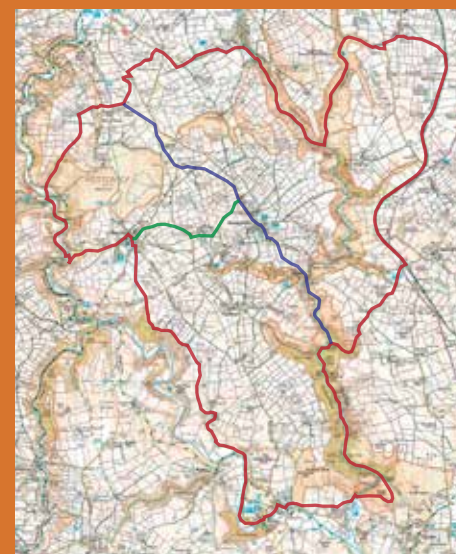
Walk the beautiful Manifold Way, Dovedale and the stunning Ilam Park

Meet at the Royal Oak Inn, Wetton Village near Ashbourne

Choose from: 21 mile challenge walk; 14 mile stunning walk; 5-7 mile family walk

Just £12 per walker. All proceeds to Friends of the Peak District, £3 extra on the day.

Book your place online: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11 July 2017

To be held at our office: 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF. See page 16 for details.

Contact Susan to confirm your attendance: susan@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Leaving a legacy - making a difference

The Friends have survived and continue to protect Peak District landscapes because of the generous legacies of our founders and their friends - both in terms of money and their pioneering conservation work. You can help us to continue to be a strong force for good in the countryside by leaving a donation in your will.

In the last few years we have been fortunate to receive two very sizeable legacies which enabled us to develop the Peak District Boundary Walk and to appoint Rob, our membership recruiter. We hope that both these activities will help us generate ongoing sustainable income to support our work and enable us to protect the Peak District and its outstanding countryside from the dangers which threaten it over the next five, 10, 20 years and beyond.

Please remember us in your will

Legacies do not have to be big gifts. Every donation we receive is important and really does help our work and will be used to help protect the beautiful Peak District.

Please contact Susan at susan@friendsofthepeak.org.uk for more info or call us on 0114 279 2655 for an informal chat.

Gift Membership

The perfect gift for anyone who loves the Peak District's beautiful landscapes: they get something that lasts a whole year, and you'll know that you've spent your money on something very worthwhile.

We've been caring for the Peak District since 1924, and our founders were key in making it Britain's first national park. Yet it remains fragile and needs your support. Giving a Friends of the Peak District gift membership is a great way to do this.

Gift Membership includes

- Greetings card for you to personalise
- Membership benefits and visitor attraction discounts
- A pack of postcards, a pin badge and a car sticker
- Peakland Guardian delivered to your door

Order your Gift Membership online at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk or call us on 0114 279 2655.



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

Membership type (please tick)	Minimum annual amount	Other amount. Surprise us!	<p>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:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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"/>	

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: 5 9 9 7 0 5

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 _____

**Friends of the Peak District and
CPRE South Yorkshire**

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Sheffield, S2 2SF

T: 0114 279 2655

E: info@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

W: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk



Love the Peak? Help us protect it