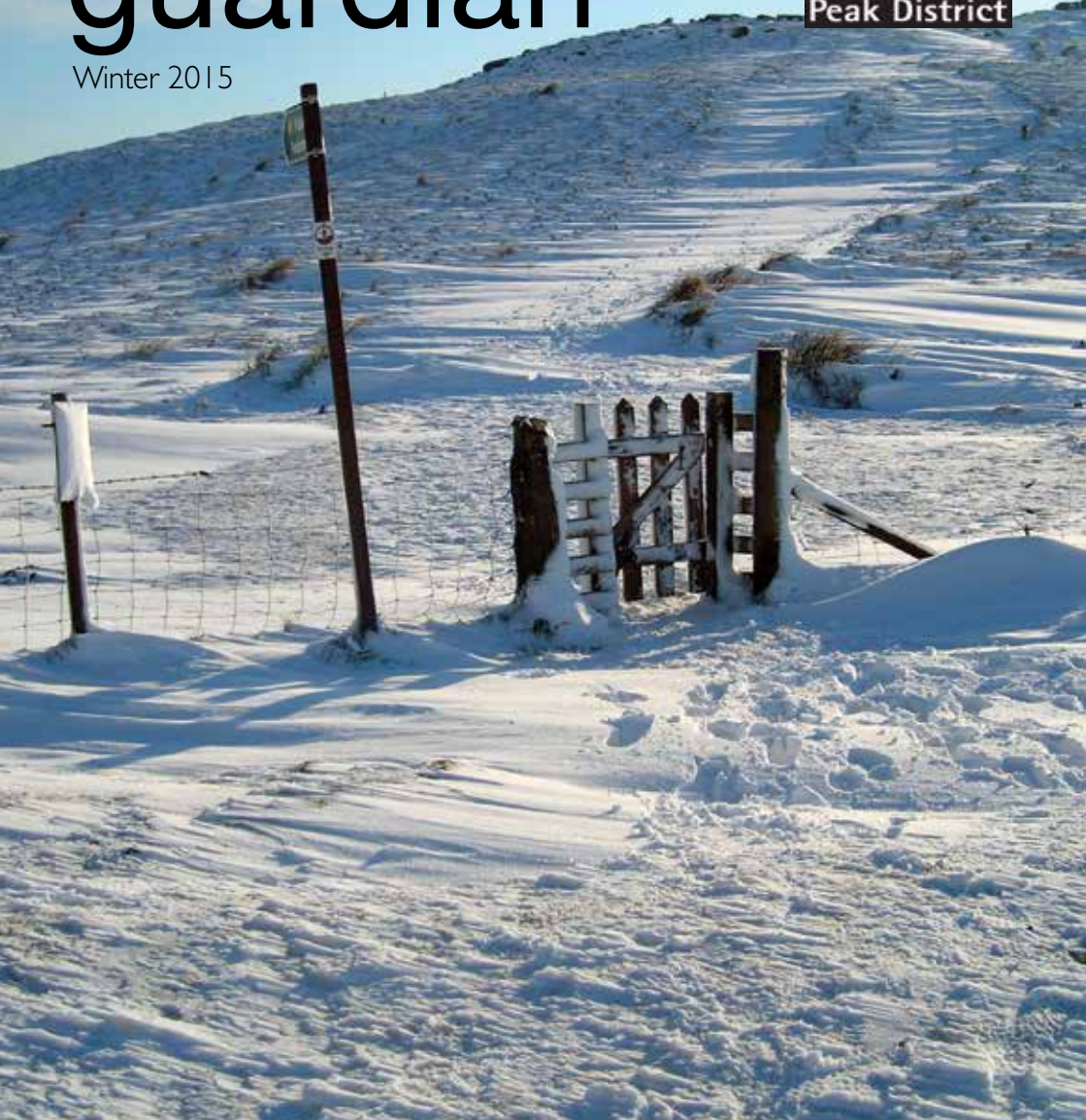


For everyone who loves the Peak District

Peakland guardian

Winter 2015



Also protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire

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

This issue...

From the Chair	3
New President	4
Good news updates	4
High Peak Local Plan	5
Fracking	6
More hydro at Chatsworth?	8
CNP and 38 Degrees walk	9
Taking back the tracks at Hollinsclough Rakes	9
Final curtain for Backdale?	10
The demise of the rural post office	11
Wither planning?	12
Pylon success	12
NE Derbyshire's green belts	13
Good news update	13
Community planning workshops	14
Loxley Valley – a bad precedent	14
Hassop Station joins the Friends	15
Pedal Peak District	16
Events and info	17
The thin green line	18
Northern powerhouse	19
Peak District boundary walk	20
Speaker service	20
Christmas cards and gift membership	21
Everyone's business	22

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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The chancellor's northern powerhouse was a major feature of the general election campaign and the Conservative Party conference. We cannot help wondering, what are its implications for our countryside?

So far there is little detail. There are to be studies of possible new rail and road transport links between northern cities. There is talk of a strategic land use plan for our city regions.

Sheffield and South Yorkshire have long recognised not just the pleasure and wellbeing that our countryside gives us, but also its economic value.

The countryside is important for the economic activity that takes place within it and also because it is an important part of the package that companies take into account in deciding where to invest. When we met councillor Leigh Bramall, the deputy leader of Sheffield City Council, we agreed on all of this.

But can we have the same confidence in the other important players in the northern powerhouse, the chancellor and the rest of Whitehall, and the councils of other northern cities?

We will be trying to join forces with others in CPRE and the Campaign for National Parks to lobby central

and local government to recognise that our wonderful countryside is an important part of the economic package that can help deliver greater prosperity for the north.

And who knows, perhaps making the whole of the Pennines from the Peak District to the Scottish border into a chain of national parks could be part of making the north of England more prosperous?

John Lambert, Chair

THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE: A threat or an opportunity for the countryside?

Sunrise over Hope Valley
© Chris Charlesworth

NEW PRESIDENT

Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire are delighted to welcome Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as our new president.



Dame Fiona says “I’m honoured and delighted to be President of Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire. I love this part of the world, and have close family connections with it, making me even more determined to help with the campaign for protecting its beauty and vibrancy.”

As Fiona said in a recent lecture celebrating the charity’s 90th anniversary “In the Peak District and South Yorkshire beautiful landscapes surround us, and protecting them has been the *raison d’être* of this branch of CPRE and Friends of the Peak District since its foundation in 1924. Its founders, volunteers, and all subsequent staff have fought to protect our countryside ever since, and the fight is not over yet.”

Outgoing president, Julia Bradbury, said “It has been a real pleasure to be President of the Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire over the last eight years. The Friends’ work is critical to the ongoing fight to protect vulnerable areas of our beautiful countryside and I’m thrilled to welcome Dame Fiona Reynolds as my successor. She will be

a real asset to the charity close to all our hearts. You’re not getting rid of me though! I’m delighted to continue supporting the Friends of the Peak District as a vice president.”



Julia Bradbury

Good news updates Washgate Lane

The National Park Authority has agreed to progress consultation on a full TRO on Washgate Lane near Hollinsclough. At last this delightful and intimate route which crosses the Dove on a narrow packhorse bridge and ford should get the protection from off-road vehicles that it needs. Once pitched with stone throughout its length, all the stonework had disappeared until volunteers did a great job restoring the slope near the river.



Hope Valley rail loop consultation

After nearly two years of consultation which led to a better location for the Hope Valley Line loop, Network Rail are now progressing the proposed improvements on the line between Bamford and Hathersage and at Dore. The plans can be found here <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/hopevalley>. We support the improvements in principle but will make a full response to the plans, particularly looking to see (a) that the test of major development in a national park has been fulfilled, and (b) that management of impacts on landscape and wildlife, and arrangements for access, enhance the stunning environment of the park where possible.

High Peak Local Plan: getting a little better?

Back in January 2015 we took part in the Public Examination of the High Peak Local Plan. At the time, new data was about to be published by the government showing that household growth was forecast to be significantly slower than previously thought. What effect should this have on an emerging Local Plan?



At the Inspector’s request High Peak Borough Council sought to answer this question before he completed his report, and ran a public consultation on some draft changes in July. The proposed reduction in housing numbers was not as much as we hoped – only 10 units per year less over the 20 year plan period – but this change would enable two very welcome changes. Firstly, a string of three greenfield sites on Woodhead Road, Glossop, can be taken out of the housing land allocations. Developing these sites would have had significant landscape impact and also threatened some local heritage assets: we have consistently objected to the allocation of these sites, and whilst some developers will certainly protest at their de-allocation this does look like a pragmatic approach by the council, which the Inspector seems likely to accept. Secondly, the proposed new housing figure of 350 dwellings per year should enable the council to demonstrate a five-year land supply, which would protect many

sites across High Peak from the kind of aggressive speculative planning applications that have wrought havoc in recent years in places like Glossop, Whaley Bridge, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Harpur Hill.

We think 350 dwellings per year is still an over-ambitious target for High Peak. These numbers are unlikely to be built, and in particular there is a strong risk that it is only expensive houses on greenfield sites that will be built, while brownfield sites will remain undeveloped and the chronic shortage of affordable and social rental homes will remain unmet. At Friends of the Peak District, we maintain that the housing requirement should be clearly split into market and affordable segments, and that market housing should not be permitted unless good progress is being made in the supply of affordable housing – but sadly the tide of national planning policy is still against us.

The High Peak Local Plan will hopefully be adopted in the first half of 2016.

Fracking

getting closer?

The government has just – controversially – announced a further round of licensing for shale gas exploration and production, including many areas within South Yorkshire and Derbyshire whose countryside and biodiversity is highly prized.

Twenty-seven licence areas (in 10km x 10km blocks), judged less sensitive environmentally, are being released immediately. Three of these blocks sit squarely in South Yorkshire and cover land to the east of Sheffield, running in a spine from Eckington and Killamarsh north through Rotherham, Rawmarsh, the Deane valley and up to Hemsworth (West Yorkshire). In these areas, no special conditions to control fracking will be imposed and, in an effort to get shale gas extraction kick-started, the government has now introduced new rules to stymie local opposition, including being able to overrule local councils who don't meet deadlines for decisions. So much for 'localism'! These new blocks are in addition to areas around Maltby, Blyth, Bawtry and Armthorpe which were licensed in the last round in 2013.

More worryingly, a further 132 blocks which include internationally important nature conservation sites and cross into our finest landscapes, including the Peak District National Park, are being consulted on. For these blocks, conditions may be imposed including bans on any form of exploration, drilling or production. Whilst this is welcome, the devil is in the detail. Although the government tried to grab the headlines last year with a 'ban' on fracking in national parks, weasel words since then have clarified that fracking could take place under national parks as long as the drilling was done outside the boundary. This is worrying.

CPRE and Friends of the Peak District's main concern with fracking is what the impacts would be on our precious countryside. Experience from elsewhere suggests that although the UK has a stringent set of regulations to meet, some impacts cannot be readily mitigated, including pollution, noise (loss of tranquillity) and lorry movements. If any of these cause a significant impact on the quality and amenity of the countryside and its communities, we will object.

In addition, at a time when we should be radically increasing our use of renewable sources of energy, should we be encouraging a new, and



potentially damaging, way of exploiting more fossil fuel? It is far from clear that using shale gas will either reduce energy costs to consumers or help us reduce carbon emissions as we seek to reduce the impact of climate change on our lives, landscapes and communities. We still believe there is huge scope for more energy saving that will help us limit the proliferation of controversial energy sources, be it wind, nuclear or fracking.

We are obviously particularly concerned if some of the most sensitive areas of countryside in South Yorkshire or the Peak fringes were to be affected. Our initial analysis raises concerns over licence blocks centred on Bentley, Thorne and Goole which could affect the wonderful Thorne and Hatfield Moors that we have already fought hard to protect from other developments. Coming west, blocks near Barnsley, Wigtwizzle, Chapeltown and Ecclesfield, Sheffield and Dronfield, and Ashover could all impact on the highly protected South Pennine Moors and Peak District Dales nature conservation areas, most of which lie within the national park. Worryingly, few restrictive conditions are proposed for these licence areas currently. We will be responding strongly on the need to maintain vital protection for key biodiversity areas, whether in South Yorkshire or the Peak District.

More hydro at Chatsworth?

The story starts partly with Friends of the Peak District's pioneering Peak Power project, which investigated the options for re-introducing hydro power to the Peak by bringing back old mill sites as sources of clean, green energy. We identified the weirs at Chatsworth as a key priority scheme.

Chatsworth already had a good record in this respect as they had refurbished their high head hydro turbine, fed by the same water that feeds the Emperor fountain, some years ago to provide electricity for the House. More recently, Chatsworth have been slowly implementing a 'greening' project, driven by the Duke of Devonshire's son, Bill (Lord) Burlington, looking at more sustainable ways of running the house and estate. After much discussion with English Heritage (now Historic England) and the planners at the national park, they put forward their proposals.

We were keen to support the scheme in principle as it would be a much needed step forward in providing more renewable energy in the national park. However, there were strong cultural heritage sensitivities and both the installations would be seen, up close and personal, by the huge number of visitors the House and parkland area attracts. We felt the design was low key and in keeping with the surrounding landscape and, although the power plants are clearly industrial structures, to us it was an appropriate form of change to re-introduce modern power 'mills' as a further layer of history in this rich cultural landscape.

Historic England and the national park archaeologist still had significant concerns but recognised that the public interest in providing renewable energy, combined with a lack of suitable alternatives, and improved mitigation could tip the planning balance. We lobbied the National Park Authority strongly to approve the scheme and happily they did so unanimously.

But the latest news is not so happy. The government have now proposed cutting the subsidy regime for renewables, including hydro, from January 2016. If the cuts go ahead as proposed, the scheme will be less viable. We will lobby the government to take a softer line on hydro which we feel is one of the most sustainable green technologies and which should be supported properly.

Earlier this year, and after several years of quiet deliberations and feasibility studies, the Chatsworth Estate applied to build two micro hydropower plants on the River Derwent within the historic Chatsworth Park (a Grade I listed Park and Garden). Eyebrows were certainly raised in some quarters.

CNP and 38 Degrees walk



The effects of government cuts on national park services, with perhaps more to come, remain of huge concern to all of us.

To show everyone the value of national parks, the Campaign for National Parks and the National Park Societies worked with 38 Degrees to get people walking in our ten English national parks in August with numbers ranging from 25 on Exmoor to 57 in the Peak District and 90 on Dartmoor.

In the Peak District the walk journeyed from Hathersage, past North Lees Hall to the bottom

of Stanage Edge where we all picnicked and Anne Robinson led a discussion on behalf of CNP. Only one person had never been to the PDNP before so the walk had attracted the 'converted' – many of whom were park residents. All seemed well versed in the value of national parks and well informed about topics as diverse as the impact of ash dieback on the Dales, future landscapes and local transport and how to improve it. With 38 Degrees involvement some of us were expecting wider engagement. However we are grateful to the 183,000+ who signed the 'Save our National Parks' petition.

Taking back the tracks at Hollinsclough Rakes

The south west parish of Hollinsclough is criss-crossed by packhorse routes once taken by the salt trade and the local silk industry. Sadly these tranquil routes, with stunning views of the unique local topography such as Chrome Hill, have become hot spots for off-roading by motorbikes and 4x4 vehicles. The two of greatest concern at present are Limer and Swan Rakes (rake being the name given to such routes in the locality rather than referring to a mineral vein). Both rakes are now impassable due to deep rock steps and ruts. Even GLASS (Green Lanes Association) on behalf of offroaders has cautioned use of these lanes.

They are now too dangerous for the local horse trekking centre to use, and off road traffic intimidates local people from using them and creates a public nuisance particularly late on Friday and Saturday night. Trees and other objects are used for winching stuck vehicles, and stone from the walls has been thrown down to make Limer passable. Erosion and damage by weather and vehicle use has led to loss of the original drainage system and water now floods down the rakes and into the village instead of into the fields.

We are pressing Staffordshire County Council to remedy this unacceptable situation urgently with a permanent ban for all recreational motorised vehicles.

Swan Rake



Final curtain for Backdale?



After 12 years of campaigning to end mineral extraction from Backdale Quarry near Calver, we think the end is now at hand. Last year the National Park Authority served a 'prohibition notice', which, if upheld by the secretary of state, would mean the end to any further mineral extraction over a vast area at the eastern end of Longstone Edge. Unsurprisingly, and as we reported in previous issues, the land owner (Peter Hunt of Bleaklow Industries Ltd, BIL) and mineral rights owner (British Fluorspar) objected. This caused a public inquiry to be called, now scheduled for January 2016.

But recently, British Fluorspar withdrew their objection after drilling studies concluded there was insufficient evidence of an economically viable fluorspar resource. This was a dagger blow to any chance of the order not being upheld. BIL followed suit by also confirming that it did not wish to object

to the prohibition of mineral working, although it still wished to contest some of the restoration requirement within the order. Unless their concerns are resolved through negotiation with the PDNPA's mineral planning team, the inquiry will still need to convene, albeit for a much reduced period of time.

Although it would be premature to celebrate until the secretary of state confirms the order (hopefully some time in spring 2016, should the inquiry go ahead), it looks as if we have seen the end of damaging quarrying in this sensitive and much loved landscape. However, we are tracking developments and are still aiming to play our part in the inquiry to ensure that the future amenity of the area is protected and enhanced. To that end, we are also working with the PDNPA rights of way team to ensure that the nearby footpath network is improved.

One final question remaining will be the future use of the quarry site itself. An application has been made for an employment site that would form a mini-business park. Whilst promoting rural diversification and local jobs is a good thing in principle, and re-purposing the site (which already has industrial use) is needed, we feel a strong enough case has not yet been made which overcomes some of the problems with a remote (out of town/village) location.

The demise of the rural post office



As our regular readers know, we have been proud to support the Angler's Rest in Bamford, the first community pub in Derbyshire. It is a unique and special place. As their website states 'The Anglers Rest offers something for everyone... with many other facilities'.

It is also a successful role model of a modern rural post office providing free cash withdrawals, postage services, foreign currency, mobile phone top-ups, bill payments and lottery tickets.

However, this success story does not reflect the national picture; with media headlines screaming about the number of branches dwindling from about 25,000 in the mid 1960s to around 11,500 today.

History

- 1516** Henry VIII established a 'Master of the Posts', a position which evolved into the office of the Postmaster General.
- 1635** Charles I made the postal service available to the public, with the cost of postage being paid by the recipient.
- 1654** Oliver Cromwell granted a monopoly over the mail delivery service in England to the 'Office of Postage'.
- 1657** Fixed postal rates were introduced.
- 1660** Charles II established the General Post Office.

Post offices are a precious national asset which have been the hub of rural communities for decades. No wonder we feel so protective of them.

- 20 million people visit a post office each week
- 99.7% of the population live within three miles of a post office
- Over half of small businesses visit a branch each week

But are post offices now outdated? Many people now have benefits and pensions paid directly into bank accounts; renew their car tax online or by phone and buy stamps at many thousands of outlets

The PO network lost £4m a week in 2006, despite an annual subsidy of £150m from the government. About 16,000 branches served less than 30 people a week, and all rural branches were losing money. Understandably, ministers decided this

could not continue and proposed changes intended to help the post office adapt to customer demands in a highly competitive and rapidly changing retail environment.

Despite government promises to protect vulnerable consumers in remote areas, rural post offices are still under threat, as the residents of Edale recently found out. Whilst the village shop is still very much open for business the crippling costs and prohibitive logistics mean that the traditional post office 'hub' has been lost.

Joe Snape, who runs Coopers Café next door explored the opportunity of taking on the PO licence but found himself dealing with months of tortuous telephone calls and seemingly arbitrary obstacles to overcome. "It was constructive closure basically" said Joe. "There was no way we could make it viable. The post office had to be open as many hours as the shop, seven days a week; we couldn't be flexible by season; we had to stand the cost of repairing the shop after they ripped out the old counter, and the cost of bars at the windows. Then we were told we couldn't take more than £1,000 per day in cash even though this would have been a really valuable service to the other businesses in the village. And all for an income of approximately £700 a year!"

Cllr Sarah Helliwell of Upper Booth was disappointed to hear of the closure. "There's more to a rural post office than post office business" she said "It's where pensioners meet and chat. This new model may work in urban areas but not in rural ones where there's not enough business to make it profitable.

And there's no public transport to get to places anymore so it's really tough for people who are not very mobile. It's really sad as older folks have to move back to urban areas for the facilities that are lacking in the villages".

Joe now runs the shop on his own terms but insists the three main services which will be most missed are world-wide mail services for local businesses; pension collection; and the free cash machine. "You'd be amazed how many people turn up without cash!" he said. After all, if walkers in Edale want to support the local economy, they should be encouraged and find it easy to do so!



governments have displayed about the planning system.

I don't think anyone could have objected to the intention to simplify the planning system and make it more localist. But none of us predicted the chaos that has been unleashed by the ill-considered and highly inadequate National Planning Policy Framework.

It could have been a lot worse, of course: CPRE were at the forefront of a major campaign to secure improvements to the draft NPPF, but while we helped ensure that green belt policy remained intact, we are a long way from having the planning system we need to manage land use change effectively, meet the growing need for more housing, and tackle the environmental challenge of climate change.

However I genuinely think there is still reason to be optimistic. It's clear that the public recognise the beauty of our landscape and the need to take more care in the way we use our limited land resource, and that this means the activities of individuals and the private sector need to be constrained.

I am confident we will soon build a planning system which is environmentally-driven, well-resourced and which enjoys public and cross-party political support. Its overarching goal will be to help us manage land use more sustainably so this remains the most beautiful country in the world".

An extract from the final blog of outgoing Policy and Campaigns Director, for CPRE National Office, Neil Sinden 'Wither Planning?'

"Looking back on the past 20 years, my overriding concern is that the job of local CPRE staff and volunteers has been made immeasurably more challenging by the shocking ignorance that successive

Pylon success!

After our 10 year long campaign to reduce the landscape impact of the pylons that cross the national park from Hazlehead in the east to Tintwistle in the west, National Grid have announced they have prioritised part of the eastern section from Hazlehead to Dunford Bridge for undergrounding. This will have a hugely positive effect on the village of Dunford Bridge and for users of this key section of the Trans Pennine Trail. However, we believe a longer stretch of undergrounding is needed and have already lobbied National Grid to extend the scheme further east so that the unsightly 'sealing end compound' (where the cables re-emerge and the pylons start again) is located outside the national park. We will keep the pressure on in the next year or so as the plans are taken forward and refined.

We are also bitterly disappointed that there wasn't enough consensus around a scheme that would have removed the much worse stretch of pylons in Longdendale, west of Woodhead. However the unprioritised schemes remain 'on the books' and should further monies be made available, either in this current price period (running from 2015-23) or beyond, we will be pushing hard to find an acceptable route to bury the cables and help restore this magnificent valley.



The north-east Derbyshire green belts



Friends of the Peak District recently collaborated with CPRE Derbyshire to comment on the first round of consultation on the NE Derbyshire Local Plan. The district has a curious geography: the major town in its centre, Chesterfield, is a separate local authority, so planning-wise it's a doughnut. It has some huge but quite remote brownfield sites to the east, which could accommodate new, sustainable settlements, though we fear that the public investment and motivation to do this properly is lacking. It also has beautiful, tranquil countryside to the west stretching into the Peak District. Yet three of its four main settlements, Dronfield, Killamarsh and Eckington, are in the very north of the district, surrounded by green belt.

This has clearly posed NE Derbyshire District Council with a conundrum: how do they focus growth on their main settlements without having a big impact on their green belt? They have partially resolved this by slightly shifting the balance of growth away from the three northern towns – mainly towards Clay Cross in the south but also to some more remote, rural settlements such



Upper Birchett Farm, 9m wind turbine

as Ashover. So there is a danger that protecting the green belt will have the perverse effect of damaging the more remote, more tranquil parts of the district.

Of course, there is a very large elephant in the room: Sheffield. In practical terms, Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh are in Sheffield's housing market, and their green belt is really Sheffield's green belt. Sheffield is now reviewing its Local Plan and its green belt, and the city will inevitably look to its smaller neighbour to accept some of its housing growth. The risk is therefore that the 'duty to co-operate' on Local Plans will cause Sheffield to interrupt the Local Plan process in NE Derbyshire, and that pressure to make big changes to the green belt will become greater than ever.

We know that some green belt change to the south of Sheffield is unavoidable, but the real challenge for us is getting the decisions that affect it to be made in a coherent way, and not allowing developers to play one local authority off against the other to create a feeding frenzy on greenfield sites either side of the administrative boundary. We are therefore arguing that the Sheffield and NE Derbyshire green belt reviews should be fully co-ordinated.

Good news update Swainsley Tunnel

This old railway tunnel is part of the Manifold Way between Hulme End and Wetton Mill. Recently the local community and users of the trail have been intimidated by, and had their peace and tranquillity repeatedly disrupted by joy riders in cars and on bikes who race through the tunnel at high speed. The speed limit is 60mph so the police have found it impossible to take action for speeding. The good news is that Staffordshire County Council are now consulting on a traffic regulation order for a 30mph restriction on the route (a narrow quiet lane) between the tunnel and Wetton Mill, and for a 20mph restriction through the tunnel itself. Once the order is confirmed the police will be able to prosecute joy riders for speeding.



CPRE Community Planning Workshops: Planning for your green belt

Local groups are often keen to protect their most immediate piece of green belt. They accept that change is needed and usually do want some new housing, but they see sites coming out of the green belt at the behest of landowners and developers, rather than to meet genuine needs. Worst of all, they feel that the plan making process is rigged against them, by placing too much emphasis on housing numbers. Ironically, the urban authorities of South Yorkshire, that have largely succeeded for 20 years in containing suburban sprawl and prioritising brownfield sites, are the ones now under most pressure to eat into their green belts.

We are running a joint project with CPRE West Yorkshire to provide a series of planning workshops. These aim to help communities raise the right issues at the right point in the planning process, and to have more influence by working

together. So far we have run two workshops, one in Leeds and one in Penistone, focusing on influencing the Local Plan, and challenging the increasing threats to green belt sites. We will make material from the workshops available online.

These planning workshops are an important opportunity for us to work more closely with local communities, so we benefit from their local knowledge and they benefit from CPRE's strategic expertise. We are preparing to run similar workshops elsewhere, especially in Sheffield and Doncaster where Local Plan processes are at different stages; and also looking at other issues such as fighting aggressive planning applications or the pros and cons of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. If you would like to attend a future workshop please email andrew@cprepeakandsyorks.org.uk

Loxley Valley a bad precedent

We have been fighting against an application for 88 houses at Dyson's former works on Stopes Road, in the Loxley valley for well over a year. Sadly though, as Peakland Guardian went to press, we learned that the planning application was approved by Sheffield City Council. We attended the planning committee meeting, and along with representatives from Dungworth and the Loxley Valley Protection Society made a strong case. Several committee members agreed with us and were particularly concerned about impacts on local infrastructure.

We argued that this former factory site needs to be redeveloped and re-used, but this volume housebuilder solution is entirely wrong. The site deserves something genuinely relevant to its

setting and to the local community. 88 houses here will create a new hamlet, in the countryside, in the green belt, with negligible local amenities.

The Sheffield green belt usually works so well because it stops the built-up areas from sprawling along the river valleys, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the Loxley Valley, where you burst suddenly out of Stannington into open countryside. Replacing an old factory which stands almost a mile out into the countryside, well beyond the edge of the city, with a suburban housing estate that wears a thin mantle of sandstone, is not a simple case of re-using a brownfield site. It breaches the whole principle of what the green belt is there to do. The dramatic distinction between city and country will be lost and, perhaps worst of all, the precedent for further damaging incursions into the green belt will be established.



Hassop Station joins the Friends

Hassop Station was built 150 years ago for the Duke of Devonshire as his own private railway station.

In the 1960s the rail line was closed and the track bed is now the magnificent traffic free Monsal Trail which runs nine miles through the heart of the Peak District and its spectacular scenery.

Hassop Station is right on the Monsal Trail and is now a family owned café, cycle hire, giftshop, bookshop and children's play area.

The café was opened in 2010 by Duncan and Rebecca Stokes and after a successful first year serving fresh, homemade food in a family friendly environment they opened Monsal Trail Cycle Hire to coincide with the opening of the former railway

tunnels. The opening ceremony was performed by the Duke of Devonshire and ironically this was the first time in history one of the dukes had visited Hassop Station!

Hundreds of thousands of cyclists have ridden the Monsal Trail from Hassop Station in the last four years and along with all the walkers and horse riders it has become a jewel in the Peak District crown, for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy a safe and peaceful day out.

The business has gone from strength to strength over the last five years on the back of the tunnels opening and the success of the Monsal Trail, and now employs over 30 local people during peak summer months.

The café uses locally produced food from local suppliers and was recently awarded the Peak District Environmental Quality Award for its commitment to local, sustainable and ethical practices.

Hassop Station is now a new business member of the Friends of the Peak District and looks forward to helping enable more people to enjoy the Peak District and all it has to offer.



PEDAL Peak District



The Peak District's burgeoning reputation as one of the nation's premier cycling destinations brings with it the dual potential benefits of more visitors and fewer vehicles in England's first national park. Events including the Tour de France, Eroica Britannia and the Tour of Britain have raised the area's profile and the Peak District National Park Authority's Cycle Strategy, underpinned by the £7.5million Pedal Peak II project, which continues to make the region more attractive to cyclists of all standards.

With some of the country's finest traffic-free trails and routes, the long-term challenge is to connect urban centres with iconic landscapes to deliver lasting health, economic and community benefits.

Some of the money is being used to connect the Monsal and High Peak trails into Matlock and Buxton, while the Hope Valley Link complements the Little John Route, a Sustrans signed Sheffield to Manchester route across the national park, by providing a new off-road section through the Hope Valley.

More is being done to support these major developments via the Cycle Friendly Places Fund: cycle stores, bike stands and outdoor facilities to clean bikes have been installed at YHA hostels in Hathersage, Castleton, Hartington and Ilam,

meaning all eight YHA properties within the national park have now been improved for cyclists. This is in addition to one-off initiatives such as the creation of a cycling hub at the Anglers Rest community pub in Bamford.

The recent introduction of the Peak Cycle Shuttle service offers safe links between two of the Peak District's largest towns and miles of traffic-free cycle routes. The bookable on-demand bus service, operated by Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport, collects passengers, including local residents and visitors, from railway stations at Matlock and Buxton. The vehicle is equipped to carry bikes and, for those without their own machines, can take passengers to the cycle hire centres at Parsley Hay and Fairholmes.

Peak District National Park chief executive Sarah Fowler is determined to improve cycle accessibility for all, and recently raised £8,500 in sponsorship at the Eroica festival to buy a powered all-terrain wheelchair bike to be based at the Authority's cycle hire centres.

Sarah said: "Cycling is such a great way for people to get out and about and enjoy the landscape, discover great views, visit friendly villages and have fun with family and friends. I want people of all abilities to have the opportunity to experience the national park by bike."

Events in 2016

In 2015 we compiled a list of over 30 events we wanted to attend: to talk to people about the issues we're facing, the campaigns we're fighting and the planning developments we're opposing; to explain the work we do, and encourage local people and visitors to support the protection of the Peak District National Park.

We are saddened by how many people we talk to at events who have not heard of us and are not aware of the work we do to protect the landscape they love.

There are over 10million visitors to the Peak District every year; 20,000 to the Bakewell Show alone. Imagine how many new supporters we could engage with and inspire to join the fight for our countryside if we had the resources to attend more.

If you would like to help us by sponsoring or attending an event, even for a few hours, please contact Susan or Julie on 0114 279 2655.

Beautiful books for sale

'*Peak Echoes*' is a collection of fictional short stories written by members of Writers in the Peak and inspired by places in the Peak District, making it an ideal book for visitors and residents alike. Local photographer, Chris Gilbert, has provided wonderful photographs to complement the text.

Only £7.50 (+P&P). Call the office to get your copy today.

'*Peak District through the Lens*'

has been created by James Grant as a guidebook to the most picturesque places in and around the Peak District, with all the best locations, when to visit, accessibility information and a 50 page section on how to improve your own photography skills. You can buy now directly from www.jamesgphotography.co.uk



'*Top 10 Walks*' is a series of pocket-sized books exploring themed short circular walks in the Peak District. The final pair are now on sale:

- Peak District: Pub Walks
 - Peak District: Waterside Walks
- Both are written by outdoor writer Dennis Kelsall, with expertly written directions, Ordnance Survey maps, panoramic photographs, and interpretation of points of interest along the way. Now on sale for £5.99. Buy online from the publishers: www.northerneyebooks.co.uk

St Peters Church in Hope

Saturday 7 November: 10am–12 noon

Coffee morning in aid of Hope Valley Medical Aids

Saturday 14 November, 10am–12 noon

Christmas warm up

The Unknown Land at Hathersage Village Hall

Friday 13 November 7.30pm

In aid of Friends of the Peak District. A tale of survival, based on the 1840s race to discover the fabled North-West Passage which gripped the public imagination. Performed by one actor and one musician. Visit our website for tickets.

Artisan Market at Haddon Hall

Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 November

10am–3pm

The best produce, gifts and crafts from around the region for visitors to the atmospheric rooms and courtyards at Haddon Hall. £2 entry

Chatsworth Christmas market

Thursday 12 – Sunday 29 November

Join in the festive spirit with live seasonal music, mulled cider, German beers and perfect presents for all the family!

Christmas carol singing at Longshaw Estate

Saturday 12 December. 4.30–5.30pm

Join 'Saxational' saxophone quartet and sing along to some Christmas carols. £3 per person includes a mince pie and a hot drink. Meet at the Moorland Discovery Centre.

The thin green line

Do you know how fragile our defence of the countryside is?

At a recent CPRE meeting in London there were about 30 people in the room from branches as far afield as Northumberland and Cornwall. During the introductions it became clear very quickly how woefully inadequate our resources are to fight for our countryside, in the face of increasingly unfair odds.

That room of passionate people, mostly volunteers, is often the only fragile thing which stands between the vast all-consuming housing development power-house, supported by a profits driven government, and the protection of our precious rural countryside.

- **Do you realise how close we are to losing a national asset which we as a nation rank with the royal family, Shakespeare and the NHS?**
- **Did you know that there is no other organisation which exists solely to protect our beloved green spaces?**

We work alongside increasingly furious and frantic community groups which are disparate and isolated by their very nature, accused of being NIMBYs, trying to find their way through the bureaucracy that is our planning system.

Anyone who has tried to combat the threat of unnecessary housing estates or retail emporiums or roads or hugely inappropriate wind farms – even in the green belt – will understand how fragile our objections can seem.

Instead we are allowing our green belts to be destroyed based on developers' propaganda: the most successful tactic of the rural developers was hijacking the housing crisis and claiming it could only be resolved by building in open country. But as the

recent CPRE report 'From wasted space to living space' shows, there is no urgent need to sprawl onto greenfield sites. We still have capacity for more than one million homes including more than 400,000 with planning permission, on brownfield sites, which could provide the high quality and affordable housing that is needed to tackle the housing crisis.

Planning is a never-ending cycle: our planning officer, and his small team of volunteers, examine hundreds of planning applications, make detailed responses and deal with lengthy battles, for example in Hatfield (Doncaster), Dinnington, Anston, Barnsley and Sheffield where Local Plans propose substantial losses to our green belts.

Please join us and join the fight to save our countryside: Support our appeal to fund our planning work so that we can stand up and fight; attend hearings and inquiries; write opposition papers and advise local groups how to progress their own campaigns.

We need to raise at least £16,000 per year to make sure we have the resources to campaign for the areas you love and protect them from inappropriate developments.

Please donate today

Go online: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Phone: 0114 297 2655

Email: susan@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Or send a cheque, made payable to 'Friends of the Peak District' to

Green Belt Appeal, 37 Stafford Road
Sheffield, S2 2SF

We make a difference. Please help us

Northern powerhouse

What does it mean for the Peak District?

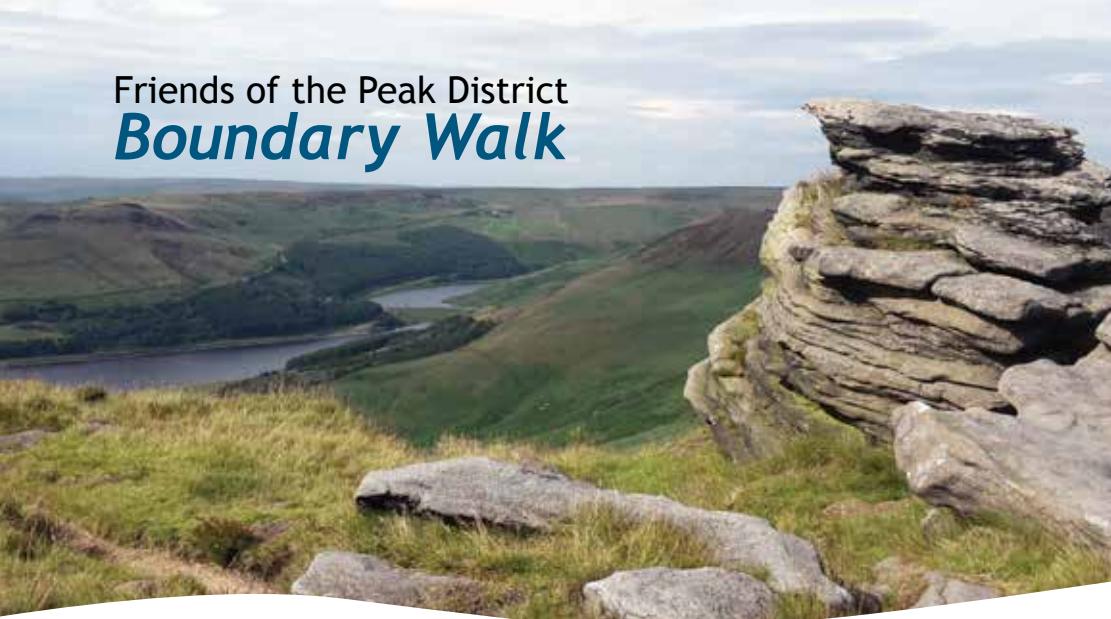
Since George Osborne began campaigning for the 2015 general election, there has been much talk about a northern powerhouse. In that time it seems to have moved from one of those phrases thrown out casually by ministerial speechwriters, into the mainstream lexicon of politicians, planners and economists. In reality, it's just a unifying idea for various local investment initiatives and projects across the north of England. It has no geography of its own: you can't draw it on a map, and there is no organisation with responsibility for it.

Nevertheless, look behind the linguistic screen and there are some very real changes happening in terms of economic and transport policy, and devolution to new combined authorities. These appear to be paving the ground for a gradual but huge overhaul of local government in England, which will ultimately result in fewer, larger authorities with elected mayors. This model works fairly well in the city regions, such as Sheffield and Greater Manchester, where the combined authorities are mirroring the long-lost metropolitan county councils. At the same time, public investment in economic growth and transport

infrastructure are increasingly focusing on the big cities, possibly to the detriment of smaller towns and the countryside. There is scope for groups of rural councils to form combined authorities, but it remains to be seen how they will work in practice.

In this context, we have begun to make the case for the countryside as an essential part of the northern powerhouse. The three major conurbations of South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester work together as a complex, diverse metropolitan system, and at its heart is a totally unique feature: the Peak District National Park. The Peak District is intrinsic to their identity, quality of life and attractiveness to global investors. There is also a wealth of local countryside, most of it protected by green belt, which makes our towns and villages healthy, liveable, attractive places. CPRE branches across northern England are now developing a shared agenda for the northern countryside, especially for how we best influence combined authorities. This will be particularly important if and when they acquire planning powers, including determining housing numbers and green belt boundaries.

Friends of the Peak District *Boundary Walk*



We have been happily surprised by the number of volunteers who 'stepped up' to help us with this exciting venture.

We asked accomplished walker, Brian Couzins, to help us create a long distance walk around the Peak District boundary. He is the man who walked every square mile of the Peak District National Park over a period of seven years, without the aid of a GPS. His tales of falling into various holes, wading thigh deep through mud, being attacked by a swarm of bees and being benighted on a fog bound peak earn him more than enough credentials for the task.

Initially, we mapped the approximate route on a paper map, then Brian digitised it and we sent out our intrepid volunteers to walk the proposed route and bring us their feedback. As well as getting their feet wet and enjoying some stunning scenery, they made lots of suggested improvements for us to consider. They also gave us the benefit of their local knowledge in terms of local history, public transport and eateries en route.

We now have a long distance walk which is approximately 192 miles long and never strays more than 1.5km from the boundary of the Park. It includes sub-sections so it is accessible to all walking abilities from day trippers to long-distance

hikers. It follows existing paths, tracks and quiet lanes and enjoys a wonderful mix of all that our beautiful Peak District has to offer: craggy peaks, boggy cloughs, tumbling streams, wide open moorland, quiet woodland, populated trails, quaint villages, and calm open water, as well as industrial heritage sites, breath-taking views and some little known gems in rarely trod corners of the park.

We hope to publish the route on our website and maybe even produce a book, but we need to find some funding for this first. Watch this space.

We also need a snappy title. If you've got any ideas, please send them to julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk. If you'd like to be involved, or help fund it, please get in touch.

Looking for an interesting local speaker?

We now have a team of speakers who can give a fascinating talk and presentation at your meeting, about the history of the Friends and our work in the Peak District from mapping out the national park boundary to current issues and campaigns.

We can usually do daytimes or evenings, we charge just £40 and our talks can be tailored to last from 30 minutes to an hour.

To find out more please contact julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

CHRISTMAS cards for sale

Treat your family and friends to one of these inspiring views of our stunning 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

Buy online or call
0114 279 2655

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



The perfect Christmas gift - the gift of Friendship

For anyone who loves the Peak District, this is a great way to help them support us to care for and protect it.

- Support your favourite charity
- Encourage family and friends to care for the Peak District too
- A gift that lasts all year
- From as little as £27
- Help us to protect these incredible landscapes

To buy a gift of Friendship visit www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk or call Susan on 0114 275 1649

And don't forget to GIVE AS YOU LIVE



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.

The Peak District is everyone's business



Hope Valley from Hathersage Moor
©Bill Bennet

The outstanding natural beauty of the Peak District is a source of inspiration, relaxation and recreation for millions of people.

We work to protect this landscape and campaign for a thriving countryside which provided jobs and supports sustainable local communities.

The Peak District is a very special place and helps make local businesses successful. Please join us and:

- Show your customers and employees that you care for the Peak District and its future
- Publicise your business to environmentally aware customers
- Enjoy positive recognition as a socially responsible business
- Help us keep the Peak District special

Business Friend - £50

- A weblink from our business directory with your logo and company profile
- Press release announcing your membership
- Half page profile of your company in Peakland Guardian
- Use of our logo in your publicity
- Discounts to great places
- Multiple copies of Peakland Guardian for your customers

- Certificate of support to display at your premises
- Opportunities to advertise in Peakland Guardian

Business Guardian - £250

- All of above plus...
- One free 1/4 page advert in Peakland Guardian
- Opportunities to promote your company to our members
- Access to our image library

Without government funding, we are dependent on the support of our members and supporters.

As a Friend, your business can benefit by being associated with our highly regarded organisation. Working with you, we can continue to protect the Peak District assets and strengthen your connection to them which makes your brand unique.

Join today and help us achieve our vision of a living, working Peak District that changes over time but remains beautiful forever.

Join online at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk/support-us

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

Your details Name(s) _____

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 _____

A: Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF
T: 0114 279 2655
E: info@friendsofthepeak.org.uk
W: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk



One of our members, David Selkirk, visited the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes recently, where there is a large display board with a lovely quotation from George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury:

"In a world with too few opportunities for quiet contemplation, refreshment of mind and spirit and reverence for the beauty of creation, it is our duty to look after the National Parks with the utmost care and respect."