

Welcome to this ORN Webinar

From Vision to Delivery: Lessons from the Coast to Coast National Trail



Please note this webinar is being recorded and will be made available to watch on the ORN website.

Welcome

James Nevitt

Senior Public Access & Recreation Advisor, MOD
ORN Co-Chair



Please mute mic & turn camera off during presentations



Session is **being recorded** and shared afterwards



Use **chat for questions/comments** throughout



Use 'raise hand' during Q&A

Agenda

Setting the Scene: Designating a National Trail

Hazel Thomas (Principal Officer, Natural England)

Delivering the Trail on the Ground

Angela Hobson (Garsdale to Hawes Project Manager, Yorkshire Dales National Park)

Strategic Perspective and National Trails as Nature Corridors

Hannah Brightley (Nature Recovery Programme Manager, National Trails UK)

Panel Discussion + Q&A

Setting the Scene: Designating a National Trail

Hazel Thomas
Principal Officer
Natural England



Coast to Coast Path National Trail

Presentation to ORN
30 April 2026



What is the C2CP NT?



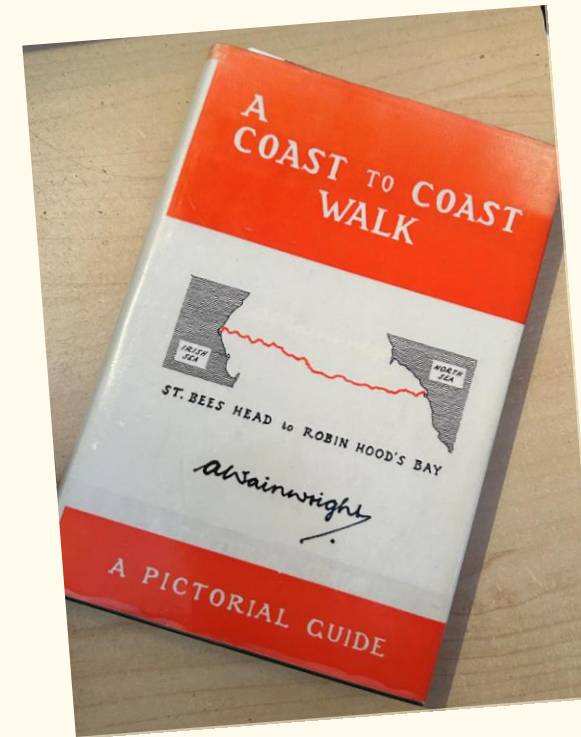
- c 190 miles end to end with just under 200 miles designated as NT (2 formal braids) from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay..
- Completed establishment phase 31 March 2026 with 3 launches across northern England: at Ennerdale in the Lakes, at Robin Hood's Bay in the North York Moors and finally at Reeth in the Yorkshire Dales.
- Worked with 6 partners across the route: Cumberland, Westmorland & Furness and North Yorkshire Council's plus Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks
- Budget of £5.6m over 3.5 years – **delivered on time and on budget!**



Background/Timeline:



- In 1973, Alfred Wainwright devised and promoted 'A Coast to Coast Walk'
- In 2006, the Wainwright Society agreed to campaign for the route to become a National Trail
- In 2016, Rishi Sunak – MP for Richmond through which the trail passes – got behind the Wainwright Society's campaign, including sponsoring a debate in the HoC with MPs from across the route.
- In 2019, the Conservative Party manifesto for the incoming administration, specifically committed to delivering the Coast to Coast as a national trail.



What did we do?



- In 2021 Defra formally commissioned NE to prepare a proposal to the Secretary of State using our powers and duties under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act,
- The commission was to 'confirm where possible the existing walked route of the Coast to Coast as a national trail.
- The 1949 Act requires us to consult with local highway and planning authorities and national parks as part of the process. We did this through a monthly Steering Group with the (then 5) delivery partners. We also undertook a detailed site survey of the entire route looking at legal lines, walked lines, desire lines, promoted lines etc etc.
- The proposals were agreed between NE and the delivery partners before submission to the SoS in July 2022.
- Approval was given on 25 July and announced on 12 August 2022

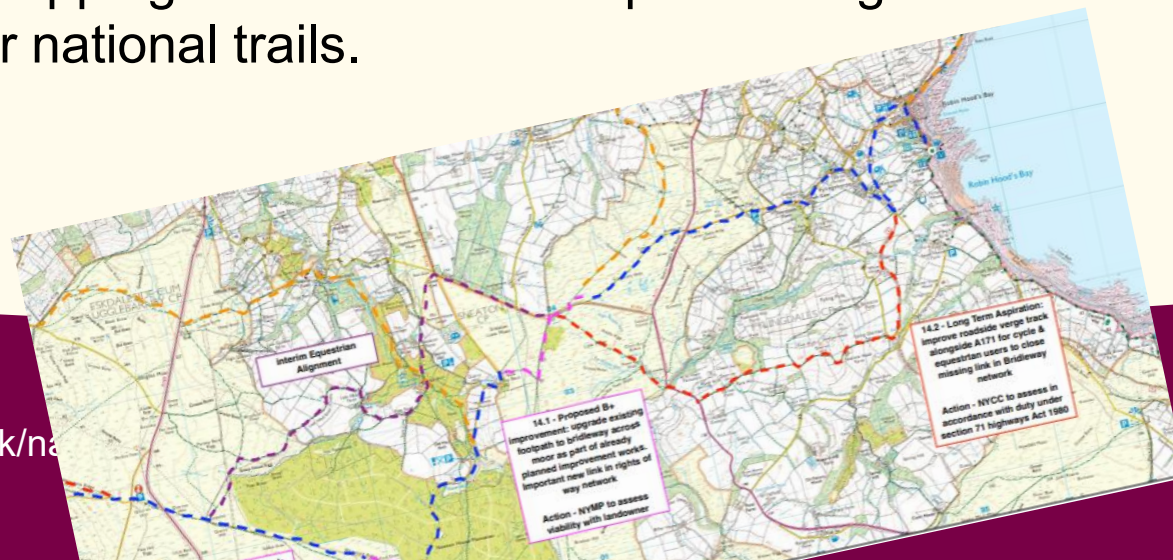
Realising the Benefits:

- In 2021, in parallel with the development of the route proposal, we commissioned the Yorkshire Dales to explore the opportunities for *up front* development of projects to illustrate the benefits of national trail designation.
- It is about the corridor and the special places and communities through which the route passes.
- Including a modest proportion of their recommendations in the formal proposal sets a precedent for any future NT proposals.



Riders Route

- Wider Benefits work and a legal challenge from BHS/CUK has resulted in identification of complementary Riders Route and additional specific works beyond the route itself
- New panels being piloted, initially in Yorkshire Dales, taking users to a landing page hosted by BHS.
- Ambition is for improvements to route for cyclists and horseriders AND to use this pilot for mapping similar routes complementing other national trails.



Governance:

- Quarterly Programme Boards with all 6 authorities and Defra
- Preceded by Quarterly Technical Working Group meetings with all 6 authorities sharing good practice and challenges and report progress and issues to the PB
- Sub group from TWG for legal work
- 6 monthly External Stakeholder Group meetings to report progress – including wider benefits project
- 6 monthly newsletter



Highlights include:

- Delivery of largest single capital project on a NT establishment project: flagging c5km over Nine Standards Rigg/White Mossy Hill to protect the surrounding upland peat and provide a sustainable surface for users.



NATURAL
ENGLAND



Highlights include:



- Replacement of all signage across the whole route to meet NT Quality Standards (including incorporation of the acorn) but also incorporating 'aw' monogram in recognition of Alfred Wainwright
- Approx. mid point of the route is at Keld in the Yorkshire Dales – where the route crosses the Pennine Way..... excellent location for a marker point for a launch!



Highlights also include:



Working with fantastic colleagues from the local authorities along the route....



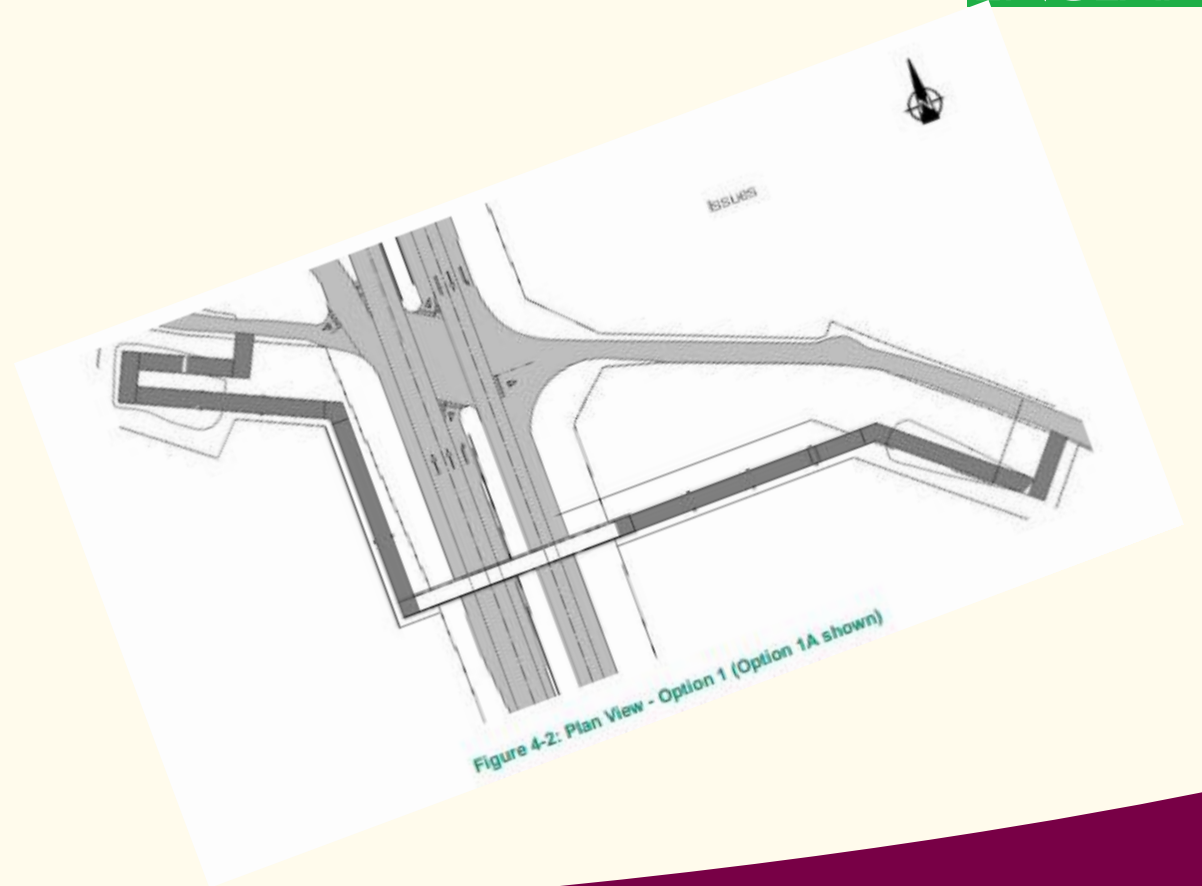
Unresolved issue – the A19

- The route crosses the busy A19 to the west of Ingleby Arncliffe. On both sides of the A19 the route is bridleway. At that location there are also lead in lanes to a garage on the west and a local road into Ingleby Arncliffe meaning that users effectively have to get across 6 lanes of potential hazard.
- In our proposal we set out that our preference was for there to be a bridleway bridge at the current location although our cost estimates did not take account of this.



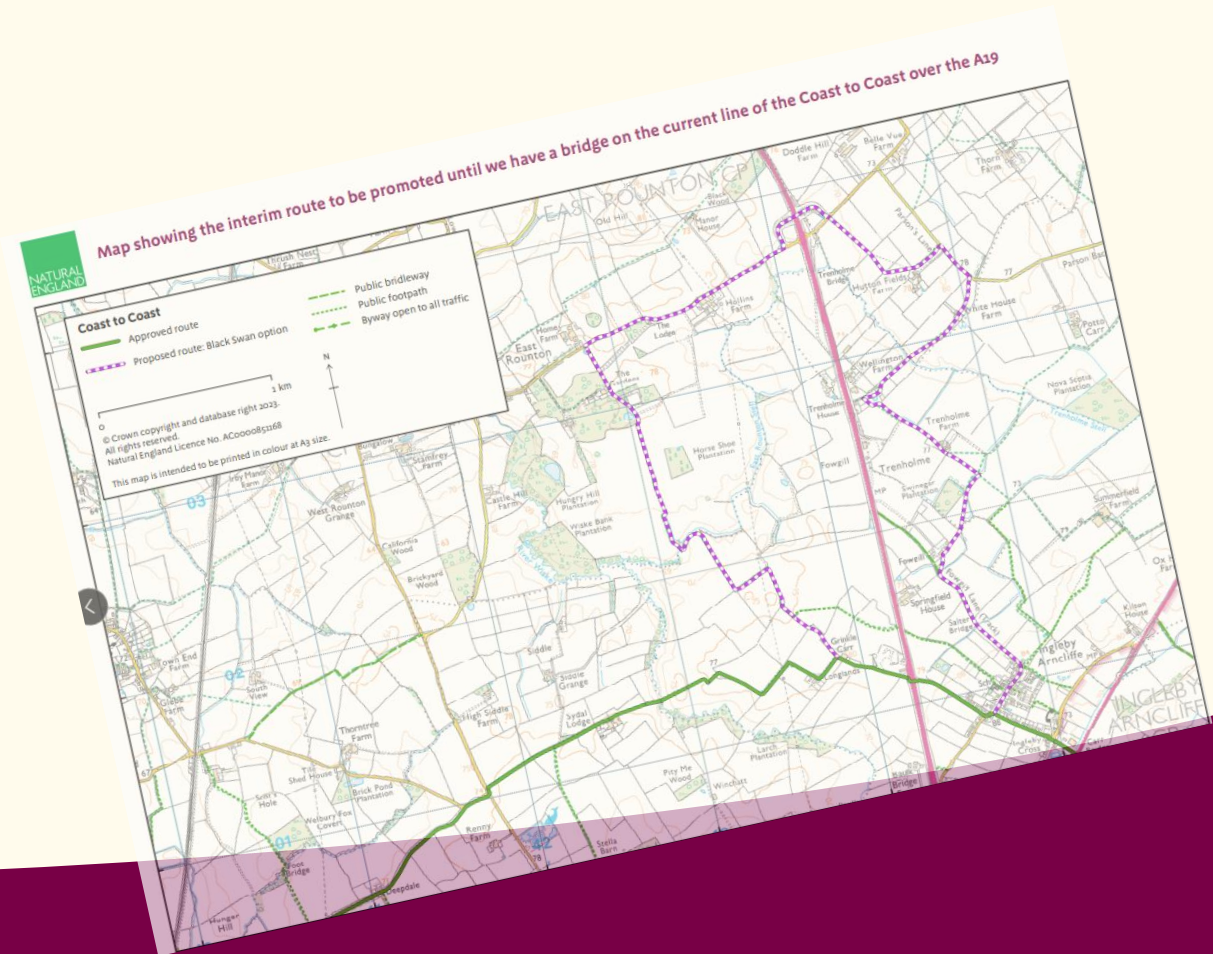
Unresolved issue – the A19

- We have worked closely with Defra and National Highways leading to the preparation of a full Technical Options Appraisal which includes costs.
- The recommendation clearly sets out the preference for a bridleway bridge at the current location (c£8m) although Defra have formally paused further work and are not currently seeking to bid for funds.



Unresolved issue – the A19

- A formal interim diversion has been put in place which takes users to the nearest feasible crossing although this takes people an additional 4.5 miles at the end of what (for end to end walkers) would already be a long day of walking. Local businesses remain concerned about potential diversions.
- For the launch we have shared a map on the national trails website showing a gap in the approved route across the A19 given the serious potential risk.



Lessons learned...

Topics:

- Wider benefits realisation and awareness
- 3 launches great for local and regional coverage
- Consultation, transparency and effective communication
- Legal underpinning
- Grant commitments and processes
- Future for new national trails/networks etc



C2CP NT is a 'classic' NT in that it provides high quality, well managed access to some of our most special landscapes (as per vision of the 1949 Act) but it is actively demonstrating its relevance to the current political agenda through the parallel delivery of the Wider Benefits programme.



.....people who
walk it love it!



Delivering the Trail on the Ground

Angela Hobson

Garsdale to Hawes Project Manager
Yorkshire Dales National Park



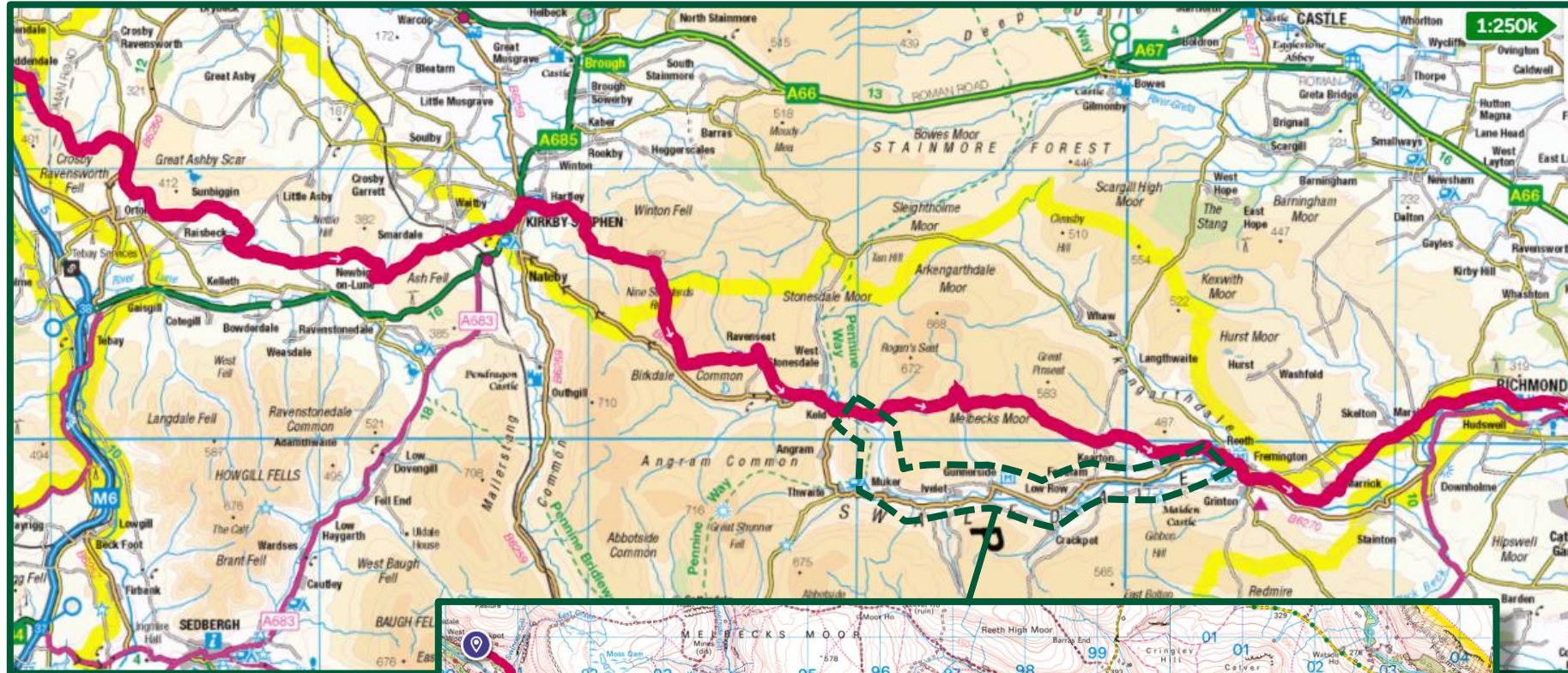
Coast to Coast Path National Trail



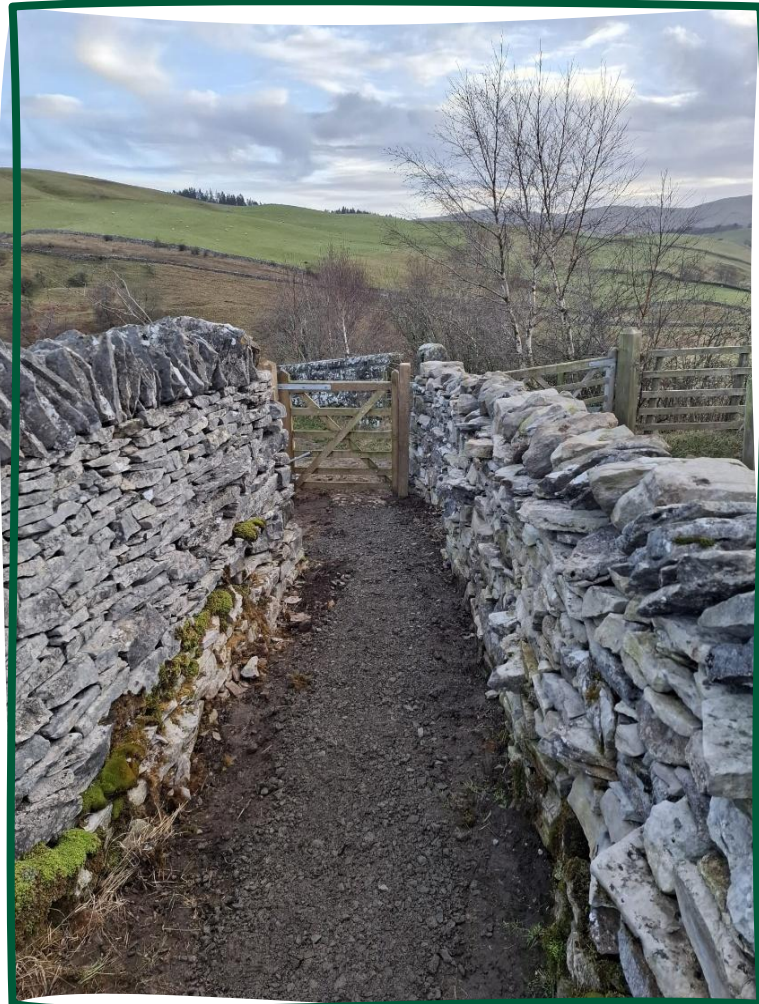
YDNP section of C2C



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



Some stats...



- Circa **£1.4million** investment in the PRow network over three years
- An **additional 5503m** (of which 1063m is bridleway) of PRow has been formalised into the network
- An additional **3.2km of PRow that is step/style free** & is a minimum of 900mm wide.
- **2998m of additional flagged/pitched** highway surface to support access and manage surface erosion.
- **5 new bridges**, maintenance works on a further three bridges.
- **169m of aggregate path**
- **100m of board walk** installed/repaired.
- **75 new finger posts & 87 new waymarker posts**

Access v landscape protection

Visitors welcome, but the landscape still calls the shots

*"National Park Authorities can do much to reconcile public enjoyment with the preservation of natural beauty by good planning and management and the main emphasis must continue to be on this approach wherever possible. But even so, there will be situations where the two purposes are irreconcilable... Where this happens, priority must be given to the conservation of natural beauty."
(Lord Sandford, 1974)*



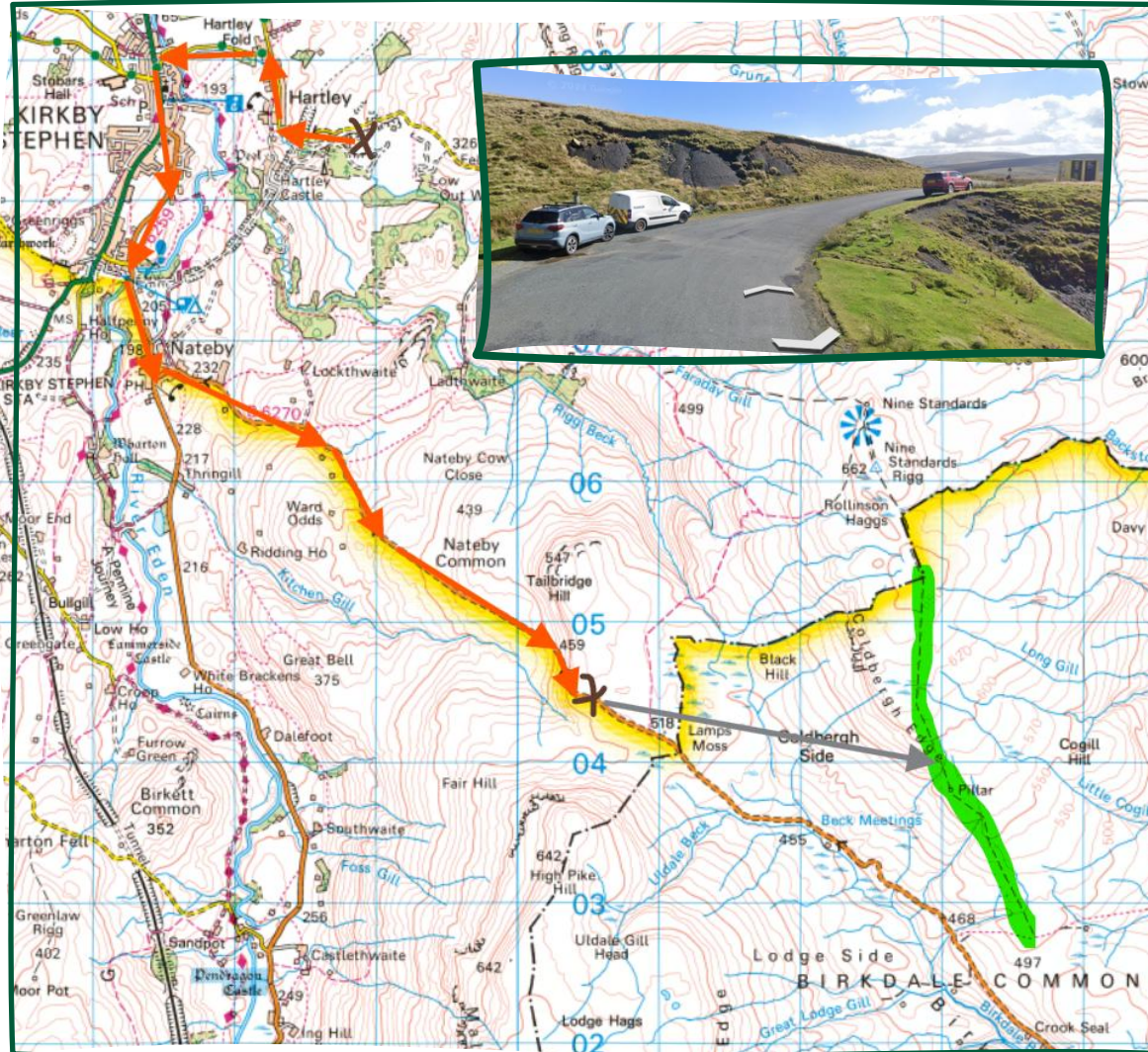
White Mossy Hill



- 2.7km flagged path, across a notoriously challenging section of the C2C.
- 446 pallets of flags weighing circa 1.6tonne
- Total number of airlifts circa 550
- Total cost circa £750,000
- Construction works across two financial years, completion Nov 2025 (no works in bird nesting season).
- **Reportable construction project** [reportable (notifiable) to the HSE under CDM 2015 if the construction project lasts longer than 30 working days and has more than 20 workers on site simultaneously, or exceeds 500 person-days]
- **SSSI SPA SAC**

What we learned.....

(During the unexpected Plot Twists)

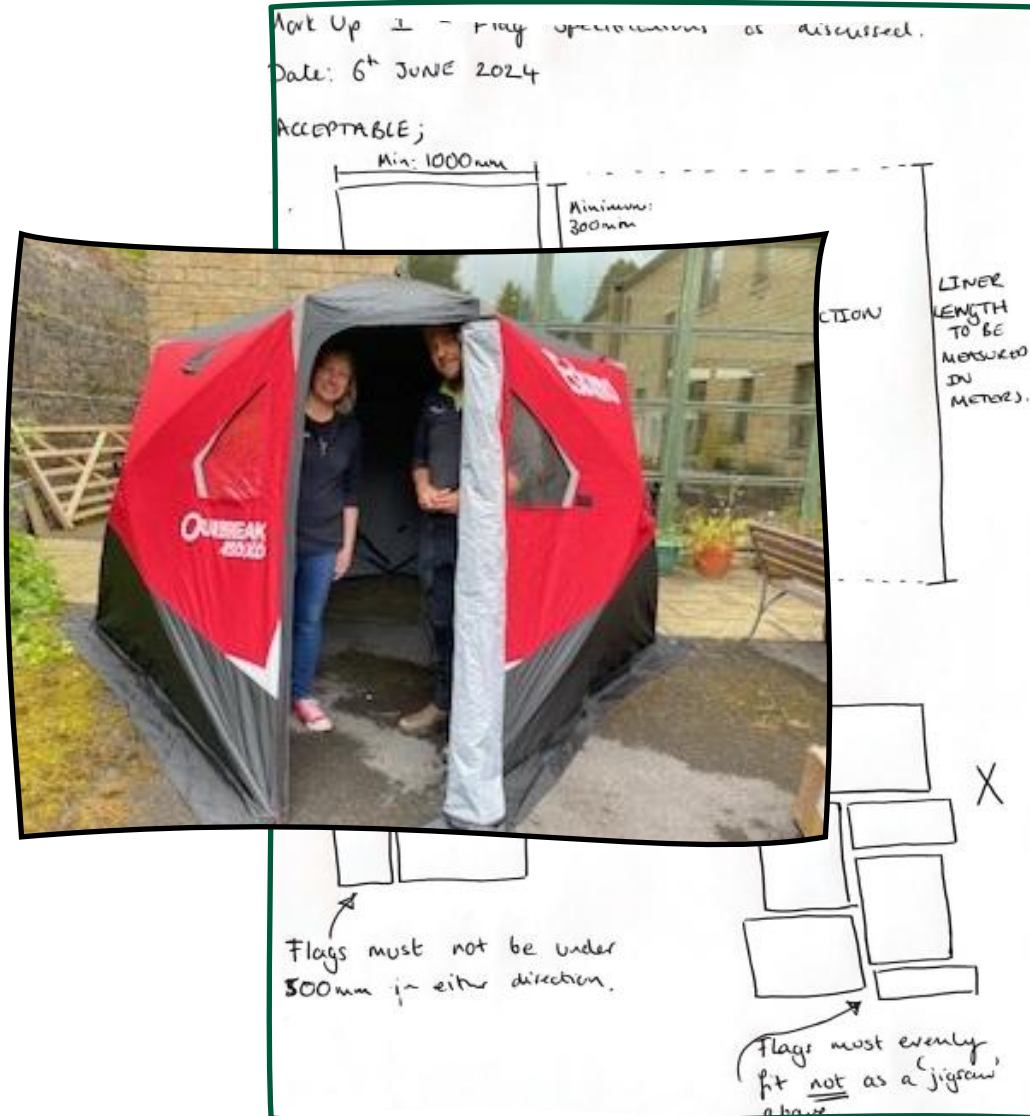


"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail"
Benjamin Franklin

- Logistics
- Delivery team
- CDM 2015
- Risk Management

What we learned.....

(During the unexpected Plot Twists)



“A picture paints a thousand words”

- Materials
- Equipment
- Specifications
- Procurement
- Always plan to minimise landscape/ecological impact from early stages.
- Maintenance
- Unique landscapes –creates unique solutions

What we learned.....

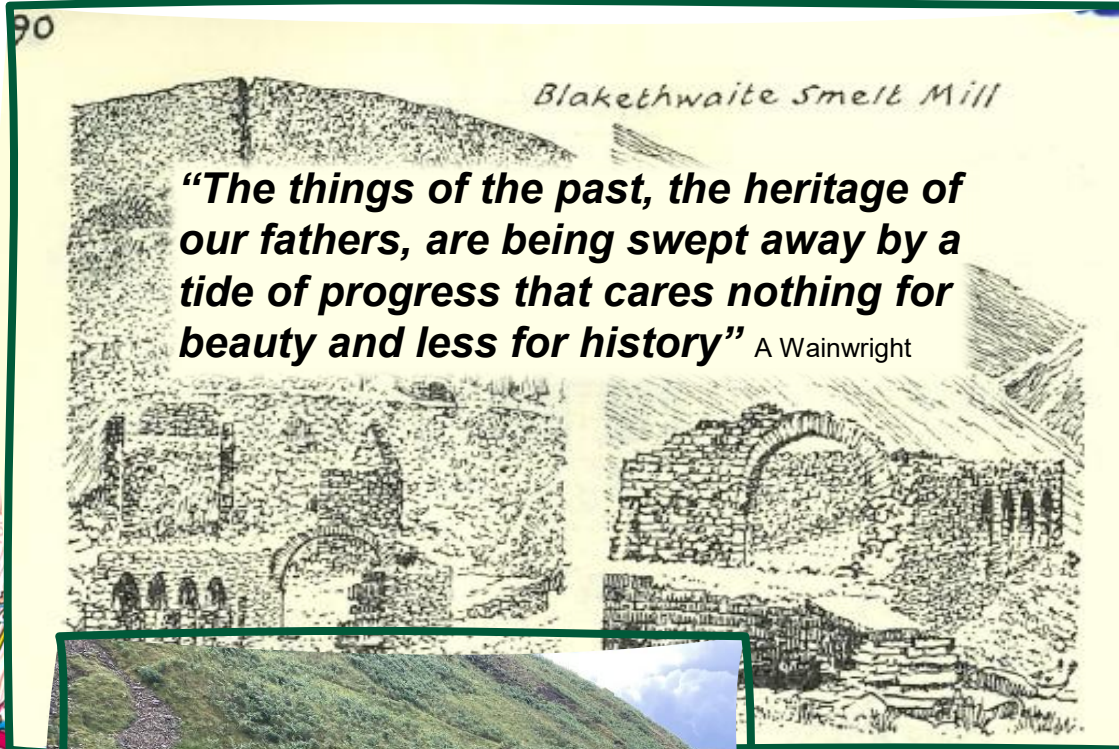
(During the unexpected Plot Twists)



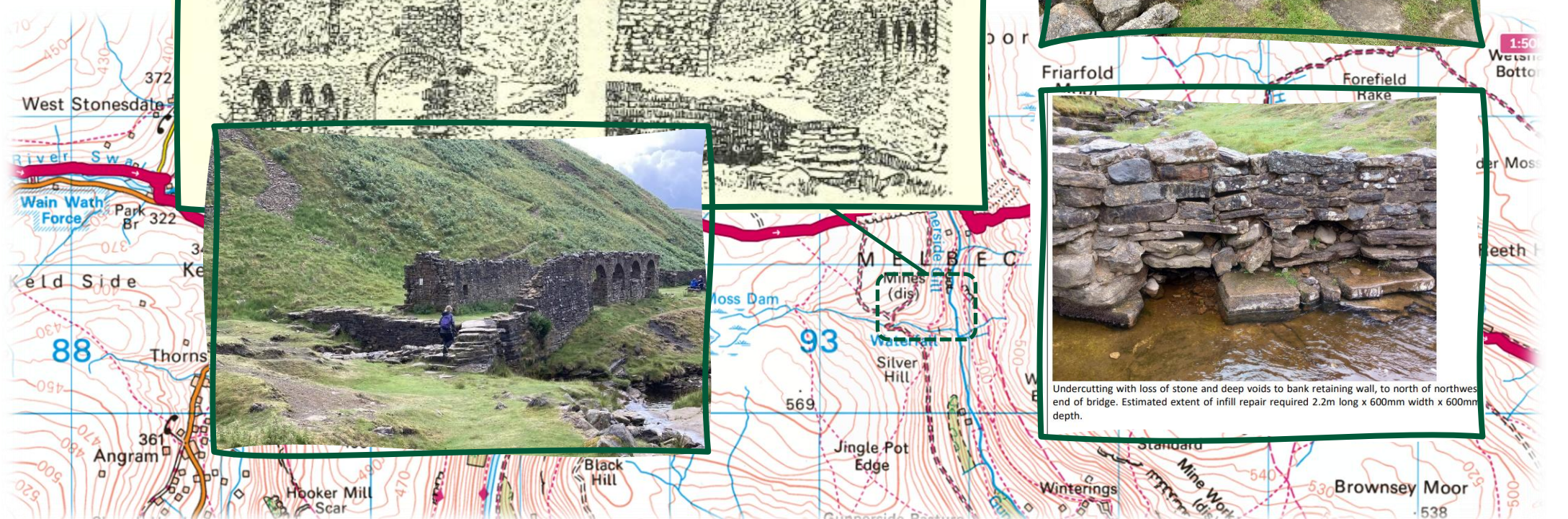
“Your budget is your best guess - until reality submits its corrections.”

- Adjust your budget to keep it live.
- Communicate with funders
- Be realistic - acknowledge in remote locations/designated landscapes that costs can be significantly higher and evolve.

Gunnerside – Clapper Bridge



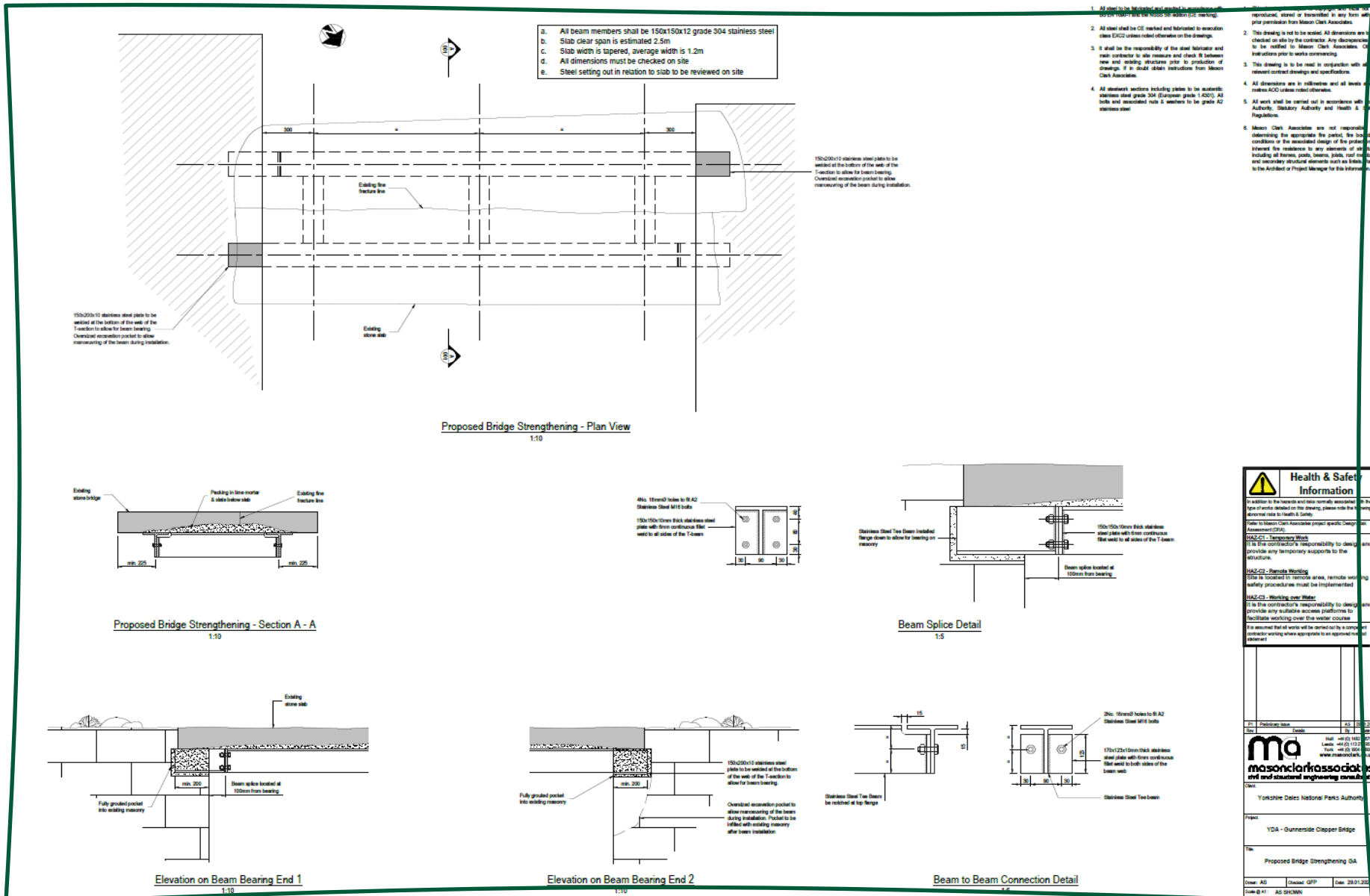
Undercutting with loss of stone and deep voids to bank retaining wall, to north of northwest end of bridge. Estimated extent of infill repair required 2.2m long x 600mm width x 600mm depth.



Gunnerside – Clapper Bridge



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



What we learned.....

(During the unexpected Plot Twists)



"Scale and Complexity Don't Always Align"

- Small' tasks steal time.
- The first solution isn't always the right one — ask the challenging questions.
- Work in partnership with others to find solutions.
- Quiet work can be just as valuable as the spotlight projects.

And finally... Collaboration drives better outcomes...



“A project succeeds in proportion to the strength of the team behind it.”

- Build good relationships.
- Listen, reflect, act, evaluate... repeat.
- Recognise gaps in knowledge and be prepared to seek out the skills and knowledge you need to ensure delivery.
- Be excited by the journey
- Task focused
- Keep laughter handy



Strategic Perspective and National Trails as Nature Corridors

Hannah Brightley

Nature Recovery Programme Manager

National Trails UK



NATIONAL TRAILS.UK

National Trails as nature corridors

Hannah Brightley, Nature Recovery Programme Manager
Hannah@nationaltrails.uk



We are the Protected Landscapes Partnership



**NATIONAL
TRAILS.UK**



The National Trails

- 21 trails across the UK

14 in England:

- Hadrian's Wall Path
- Pennine Way
- Pennine Bridleway
- Cleveland Way
- Yorkshire Wolds Way
- Norfolk Coast Path & Peddars Way
- Cotswolds Way
- Ridgeway
- Thames Path
- North Downs Way
- South Downs Way
- South West Coast Path
- King Charles III England Coast Path
- Coast to Coast Path

3 in Wales:

- Offa's Dyke Path (& England)
- Pembrokeshire Coast Path
- Glyndŵr's Way

4 in Scotland (Long Distance Routes):

- West Highland Way
- Southern Upland Way
- Speyside Way
- Great Glen Way



National Trail UK's strategy

Our vision

A network of high quality, nature rich National Trails which are highly valued and used by everyone.

Our mission

To strengthen the UK's National Trails so they can sustainably deliver more for people and nature, advocate on their behalf, and inspire more people to use them as a gateway to the great outdoors.

Our pillars

Strengthen | Advocate | Inspire

NTUK



Protected Landscapes Partnership

Purpose of the PLP:

By working more closely together we aim to **strengthen** the impact and influence of our organisations and members towards our common objectives on **nature, people** and **climate**. Together we **amplify** our collective efforts and **maximise** delivery, demonstrating the power of **partnership** in achieving national goals.

Functions:

- Evidence & research
- Innovate & experiment
- Incubate & scale
- Knowledge-exchange



The Opportunity

5,500 mile network

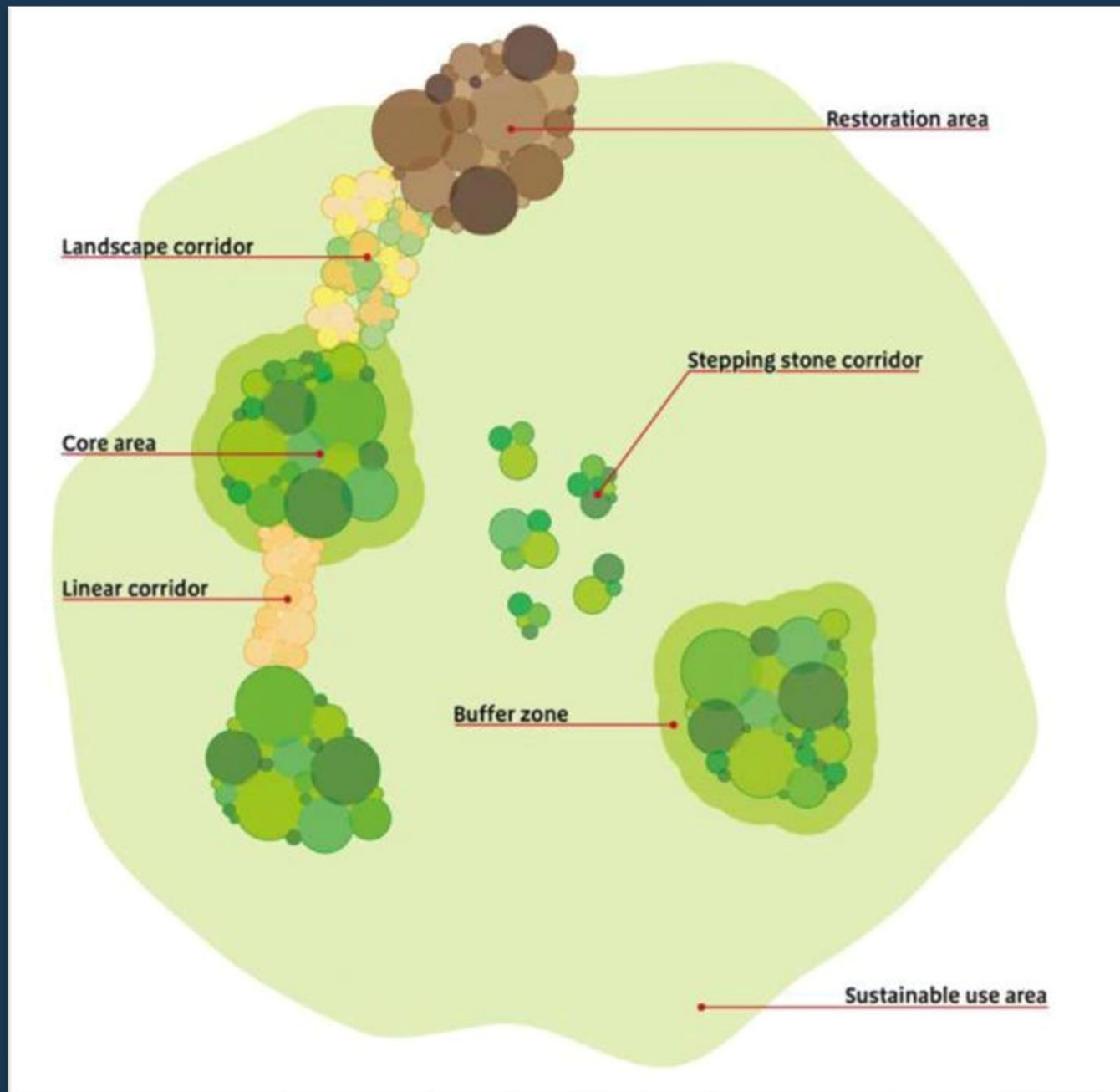
~1000 protected sites for nature

41 Protected Landscapes

58% outside of a Protected Landscape

>5.6 million people living within 1km

>15,000 historic buildings and sites





Canal &
River Trust

The Vital Connector for Nature and People

The Role of our Canal Network in UK
Nature Recovery and Connectedness

NTUK



How we're making space for nature on the National Cycle Network

Greenways, much more than just routes for walking and cycling.

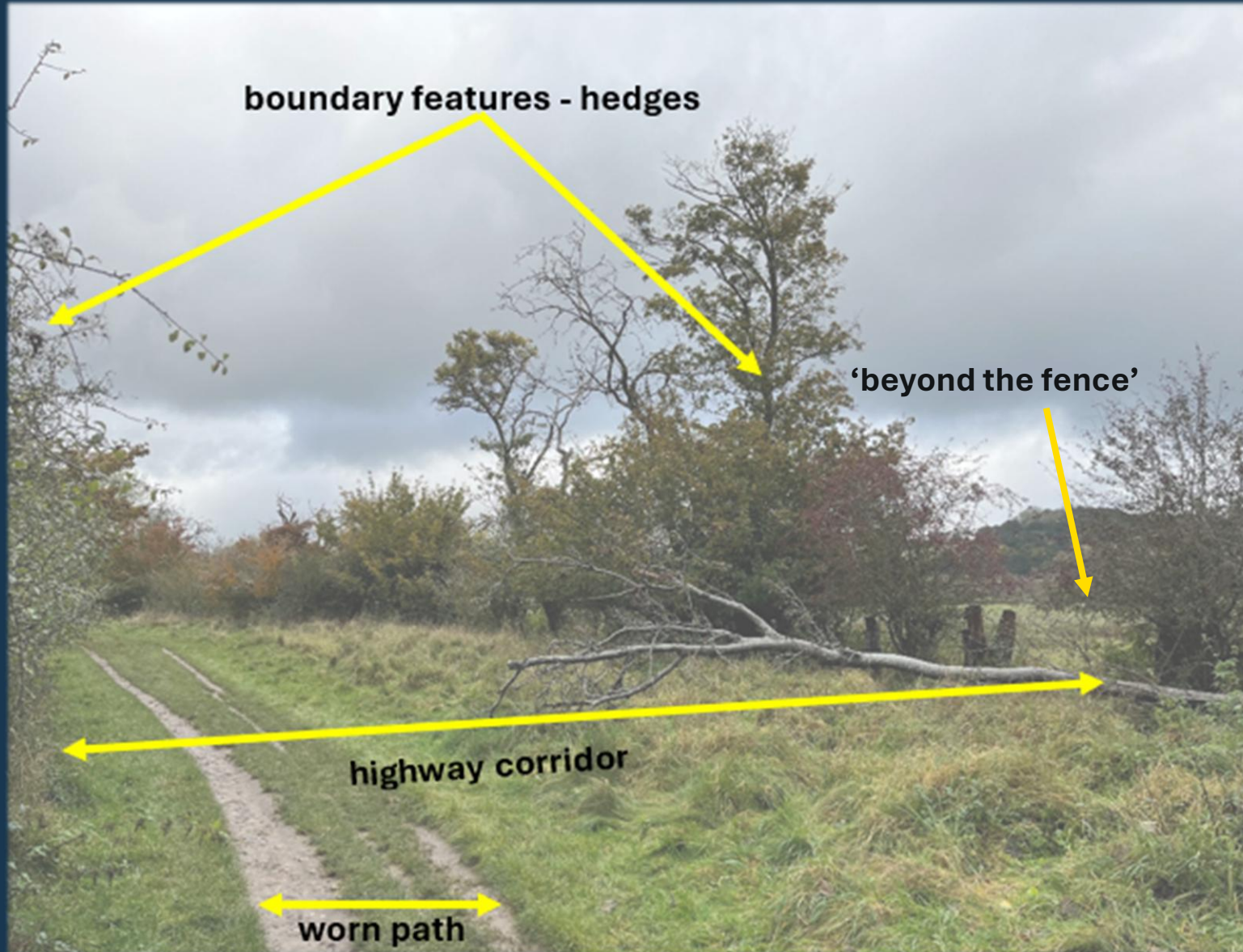
National Highways and The Wildlife Trusts announce biodiversity boost across England

Published 13 May 2022

We've joined forces with The Wildlife Trusts to launch a new £6 million Network for Nature programme that will improve habitats across England, benefitting people, nature and wildlife.



How?





Pennine Way © Moors for the Future



Rowardennan Rowardennan to Inverarnan Inverarnan to Tyndrum Tyndrum to Inveroran Inveroran to Kingshouse Kingshouse to Kinlochleven Kinlochleven to Fort William

The West Highland Way is famous for its stunning scenery and wildlife, but how much do you know about the special protections given to the landscapes you will be walking through?



West Highland Way



Offa's Dyke Path, Helen Upson



Cleveland Way, Andrew Carter



Yorkshire Wolds Way, Sam McGivern

Support through NTUK



Nature Recovery Programme

National Trails as **corridors** for people *and* nature

Key aims:

- **Support** National Trail staff and their partners deliver nature recovery outcomes now and, in the future,
- **Advocate** for the National Trails as **connectors** to and for nature, alongside National Parks and National Landscapes



We are the Protected Landscapes Partnership



NATIONAL TRAILS.UK





National Trails Nature Recovery Toolkit

VI, 2025

**NATIONAL
TRAILS.UK**

Protected
Landscapes
Partnership

Contents

Click on the fingerposts to explore the toolkit...

Making the case for nature recovery on National Trails

Opportunities for Nature Recovery on National Trails

Nature Recovery 101: Useful Definitions

Step by Step Guide

Nature-Friendly Maintenance

Trail Users & Nature Recovery

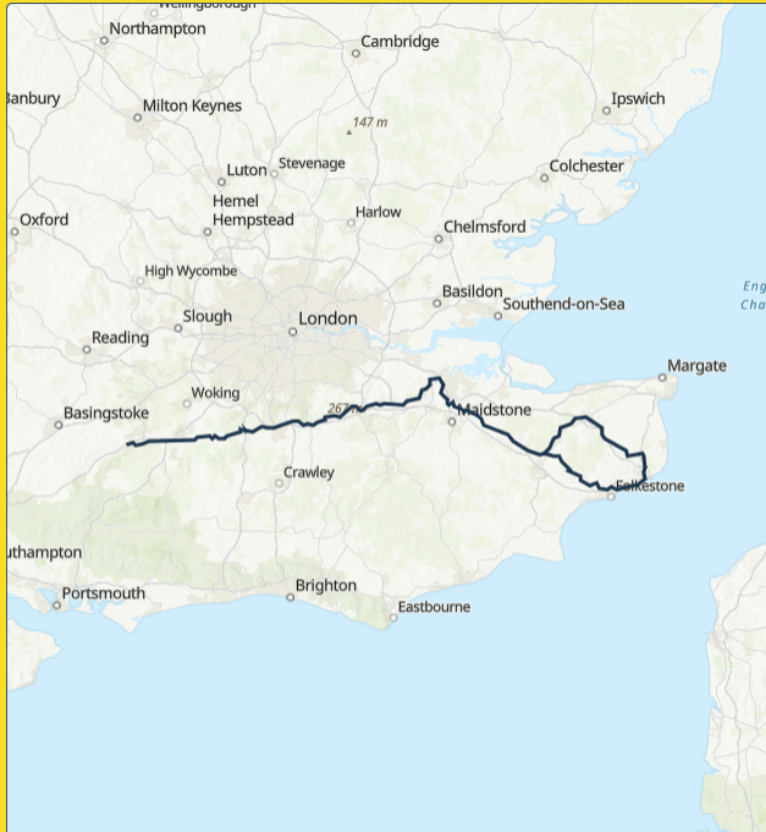
Case Studies

NTUK

[Access Here](#)

Select a National Trail
North Downs Way

Select a Country
No selection



Number of protected sites within 100m



Protected Sites

Priority Habitats

National Trail Length (miles)

159

Intersecting Protected Landscapes

2

Percentage of trail within a Protected Landscape

79%

Number of people living within 1km



Population

IMD

Number of historic buildings and sites within 100m



The Path to Nature Recovery:
The Pennine Way

Play (k)

0:02 / 6:29

The Path to Nature Recovery: The Pennine Way

National Trails UK
13 subscribers

Analytics Edit video

13

Share Promote Download Clip

This is a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "The Path to Nature Recovery: The Pennine Way". The video shows a wide, open landscape of rolling green hills under a cloudy sky. The video player includes a play button, a progress bar at 0:02 / 6:29, and various control icons. Below the video, the channel name "National Trails UK" with 13 subscribers is displayed, along with buttons for "Analytics" and "Edit video". A row of interaction icons shows 13 likes, a share icon, a promote icon, a download icon, and a clip icon.

The Path to Nature Recovery
Durham Heritage Coast

0:02 / 9:10

The Path to Nature Recovery: Durham Heritage Coast

National Trails UK
13 subscribers

Analytics Edit video

6

Share Promote Download Clip

This is a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "The Path to Nature Recovery: Durham Heritage Coast". The video shows a coastal landscape with cliffs and a beach. The video player includes a play button, a progress bar at 0:02 / 9:10, and various control icons. Below the video, the channel name "National Trails UK" with 13 subscribers is displayed, along with buttons for "Analytics" and "Edit video". A row of interaction icons shows 6 likes, a share icon, a promote icon, a download icon, and a clip icon.

Coming soon..
From the Kent Wildlife Trust, North Downs
Way & Kent Downs National Landscape



Guide to Habitat Baselining National Trail Corridors for Informed Habitat Action Plans



NATIONAL
TRAILS.UK

The Process

CLICK ON EACH STEP FOR MORE INFO



1. CREATE BASEMAP

A desk-based exercise to generate a spatial basemap of habitat boundaries along a 'trail corridor', which can be populated with the best available existing habitat data.



2. TRAIL PRIORITISATION

It is unlikely you will be able to survey the whole trail in one survey season. You will therefore need to identify priority sections of the trail corridor to survey.



3.a CONDUCT BASELINE HABITAT SURVEY

Ground-verify desk-based results to accurately and precisely identify, map and condition-assess habitats to support informed decision making on habitat management.



4. PROCESS, INTERPRET & RECOMMEND

Process and interpret the survey data to inform recommendations for habitat management.



5. DEVELOP YOUR ACTION PLAN

Working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, identify what can be achieved to improve habitat condition along your trail corridor.



6. MONITORING

Monitor change following implementation of the Action Plan, to inform whether the changes made are having the desired effect and can then be used to update the basemap & trail prioritisation for future surveys & work.

3.b ADDITIONAL SURVEYS

Additional surveys may be required to collect more detailed baseline data to inform habitat management.

3

7 Feedback loop

“Wildflower meadows along the Cleveland Way are vibrant spaces for both wildlife and people. Through ‘A Moment in the Meadow’ we’re encouraging walkers to pause, take in these colourful landscapes and feel more connected to nature. We hope it not only inspires people to care for these special habitats, but also encourages more people to get out and experience our National Trail”.

Naomi Green, Countryside Manager for Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council



Photo Credit: Cam James

Coast to Coast Nature Trail



Predevelopment Phase

Thanks to National Lottery players, we will be exploring the creation of an extensive wildlife rich corridor of at least 60,000 hectare, along and around the newly designated Coast to Coast National Trail.

This is a partnership project between:

- Lake District National Park
- Yorkshire Dales National Park
- North Pennines National Landscape
- North York Moors National Park
- National Trails UK
- Westmorland Furness Council
- Cumberland Council
- North Yorkshire Council.



And finally...



Hadrian's Wall Path Fieldtrip – October 2025



Offa's Dyke Path Fieldtrip – April 2026



Panel Discussion + Q&A



Hazel Thomas

*Principal Officer, Coast to
Coast Path National Trail
Natural England*



Angela Hobson

*Garsdale to Hawes
Project Manager
Yorkshire Dales National Park*



Hannah Brightley



*Nature Recovery
Programme Manager
National Trails UK*

















Past Event Resources

Recording + resources available next week

- Members: via ORN website
- Non-members: via email

Past Events


Filter by Category  

	ARG Meeting: The role of nature in eldercare & the future direction of ARG sessions 
	24 - 24 March 2026  Online Academic Research Group Meeting
	ORN Success Awards – and Reveal of the new ORN Co-Chair! 
	22 January 2026  Webinars
	Climate Resilience in Outdoor Recreation 
	06 November 2025  Webinars
	ARG Meeting: The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme – Building for a Resilient and Thriving Future 
	17 November 2025  Online Academic Research Group Meeting





Upcoming Events




 Thursday - Thursday
30 - 30 April 2026

ORN webinar – From Vision to Delivery: Lessons from the Coast to Coast National Trail

 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

 Webinars




 Tuesday - Tuesday
12 - 12 May 2026

1-Day Workshop on Wildfires: Managing Public Access within Statutory Frameworks

 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

 Smithills Hall, Smithills Dean Road, Bolton, BL1 7NP




 Tuesday - Tuesday
16 - 16 June 2026

ARG Meeting: June session


 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm


 Online Academic Research Group Meeting




 Tuesday - Tuesday
23 - 23 June 2026

ORN webinar: Inclusive Outdoor Recreation

 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

 Webinars




 Tuesday - Tuesday
07 - 07 July 2026

ARG Meeting: July session

 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

 Online Academic Research Group Meeting




 Monday - Wednesday
28 - 30 September 2026

2-Day Masterclass on Responsible Recreation


 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

 MOD Tidworth Garrison Theatre, Wiltshire (England)




 Thursday - Thursday
15 - 15 October 2026

ORN webinar: Funding the Future

 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

 Webinars




 Tuesday - Tuesday
17 - 17 November 2026

ARG Meeting: November session

 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

 Online Academic Research Group Meeting

Full 2026/27 events calendar live

- Suggestions for speakers & case studies are welcome
-  elizabeth@outdoorrecreation.org.uk

Upcoming events

Wildfire & Public Access workshop

- Booking closes COP **tomorrow**
- 12 May – Smithills Hall, Bolton
- Free spaces for members
- Booking link in chat

ORN 2-Day Masterclass

- 29–30 September
- Tidworth Garrison Theatre
- Theme: Responsible Recreation
- Save-the-Date – booking information coming soon



Why join the ORN?

Strategic impact + personal value from one network

Strategic Value (Organisation-level)	Personal Value (Individual-level)
<p>Shape the sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence policy and contribute to sector-wide direction• Representation through Executive Committee opportunities <p>Deliver more impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate across UK & Ireland to share research and best practice• Pool expertise and resources for greater collective outcomes <p>Raise your profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase visibility through ORN platforms and communications• Opportunities to host and lead sector events	<p>Grow your expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free access to webinars, in-person masterclasses and research sessions• Continuous professional development opportunities <p>Build your network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect with senior peers and decision-makers• Participate in exclusive member events <p>Access knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tap into shared resources, toolkits and insights• Learn from real-world case studies and innovation
<p>Be part of a UK & Ireland-wide network shaping the future of outdoor recreation through collaboration, evidence and action. Learn more at https://outdoorrecreation.org.uk/orn-membership/reasons-to-join-orn/</p>	

