

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

24th November 2014

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard, Les Seaman, Cath MacKay, Basil Merry, Philip Ryder.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of the meeting 8th September, 2014

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

TH reported that the Redmires walk/meeting with Nick Clegg, deputy Prime Minister, had been useful and interesting. TH and LS had raised the problem of National Parks applying TROs, which is such an incredibly slow process, especially in comparison with Highways Authorities needing to restrict access, that people sometimes don't bother. One objection can slow the whole process massively.

Research into Wharncliffe Craggs has shown that it is Crown land and therefore it is not possible to claim rights of way. Sheffield City Council has recently granted open access to all parks and woodland within the city limits. Derbyshire County Council has indicated that it sees parks and woodland as assets and will not dedicate them for open access.

Review of Access Matters

Efforts are continuing to enable access to certain open access land i.e. the only way to access Rod Moor is to trespass. This has been ongoing since 2004.

At Stannington a fence has been erected alongside the road, on common land. It is unclear whether the responsibility for common land lies with the highways authority or comes under the CroW Act. Either way money is likely to be a problem in resolving the issue.

Review of Rights of Way Matters

Work continues in the Burbage valley, with temporary closes to the RoW when a helicopter is in action. CM commented that paths on the ground in the Burbage valley bear little resemblance to paths on the OS map, some paths being historic hollow ways.

BM had attended a meeting with Derbyshire County Council with representatives from Ramblers Groups, with an interest in the Peak District National Park, to discuss common issues.

The situation re Eckington 34 RoW had changed slightly, with a metal gate being installed close by, at the moment leading to a locked gate. The situation will continue to be monitored.

Walton 16 was described as a vertical bog, a cattle trough at the top currently directing its overflow down the path. However DCC have said that they will sort out the problem, a too-small conduit, in 2015.

Review of Countryside Matters

There has been no recent activity re the HS2 and HS3 projects.

BM said that there were many applications for 'solar farms' in Derbyshire which, while not directly affecting any RoW, would make walking less pleasurable.

AOB

None.