



Message From our Area Chair- Roy Hunt

As I start to write this report, the world has just witnessed the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. I was personally moved by the occasion and in particular the outpourings of grief, love and affection for our, now, former monarch.

Next year is the official opening of the full England Coastal Path. It seems a long time ago that our members worked enthusiastically with Natural England to determine the route along our section of the East Coast and the Humber Estuary. We must mark this event with our own celebration.

For personal reasons, our two Area Footpath Secretaries, one covering the north of our Area (York and North Yorkshire) and one covering the south (Hull and East Riding) have tendered their resignations. My personal thanks to both for the work they have undertaken. Having area footpath managers provides a single point of contact for the different authorities we need to work with. We need to find two "willing" replacements to cover this important aspect of our charitable work. Help is immediately available to anyone who is interested in either or both roles. Of course the roles can be shared or a committee formed to take on the work (as worked well previously). But first we need some volunteers. Please contact myself or Marian if you feel able to help in whatever way you can.

The Ramblers General Council (AGM) takes place in Birmingham on 1st April 2023. This is the place where the Board and senior staff report on the past year's activities, where we get to debate and vote on motions and elect trustees to serve on the Board. We can send two delegates who can contribute to the debates and vote. I would urge anyone who is interested to put their names forward at our AGM when delegates are appointed.

At our last Area Council meeting we discussed the possible merits of groups hosting Facebook pages. From an analysis of membership figures, both Beverley and GYBO groups, who have Facebook profiles, have increased membership whereas the other groups have collectively lost members. Since COVID we have been unable to produce a six monthly printed programme and also we inevitably have more of our members becoming internet users. I am particularly impressed with GYBO's use of Facebook to advertise walks, report on walks completed, welcome new members, car sharing and advertising social activities etc. If any group is interested in creating a Facebook profile and they have someone who is interested in running it for their group, but need help to set it up in the first instance, if they contact me (07783 534501) I will attempt to find the right help to get you started.

Notice of 2023 Area AGM

All East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers members are invited to attend our **Annual General Meeting at 2.00 pm on Saturday January 21st 2023 at Victoria Dock Village Hall & Community Centre, South Bridge Rd, Victoria Dock, Hull HU9 1TL** (there is plenty of parking at the venue).

Prior to the meeting there will be a 4.5 mile walk starting from the venue at 10.30am, finishing about 12.30pm. The Village Hall will be open from 12.30pm if walkers wish to eat their sandwiches before the meeting, tea/coffee will be available; alternatively there are numerous pubs, cafes and shops nearby.

When the formal meeting is over and after a short break for refreshments, speaker(s) will give an update on the English Coast path from a national and local perspective.

There will be no mail shot in January, if you wish to receive a copy of the Annual Report by post please contact Ann Laing by 31st December, either by email: laing25@tiscali.co.uk or send a text message to 07919 105401. Copies of the Annual Report will also be available in January on the Area website, from Group secretaries and at the AGM.

VACANT POSTS Unfortunately both our Area footpath officers wish to stand down at the AGM. David Nunns has given decades of service as Footpath Officer covering York and the parts of North Yorkshire in our area and has kindly indicated that he would be willing to mentor his successor(s) in the role, which could be undertaken by two or more people wishing to work together.

Matthew Harrison -footpath officer for East Yorkshire & Hull also wishes to resign for health reasons; again expertise & advice is available to anyone taking on this role, which could be shared by a couple of people working together. Protecting footpaths and Rights of Way is the most important aspect of the Ramblers charitable objectives. Please consider whether you could take on one of these key roles.

Free Navigation Training

Do you sometimes get lost? Are you occasionally confused by what's on the map? Do you know what a compass can do for you other than point to North? Then why not come on one of my navigation courses? The course consists of you studying a training book, which I will supply. We then go out for a day on the Moors to put into practise what you have learnt, and the best part is that there is no charge for this course.



Each course has only four students and I supply each of them with an OS map of the area and a Silva compass. We spend about 6 hours on the moors, mostly in open access moorland, carrying out a series of navigation exercises in pairs. We do map reading exercises to determine our position using landmarks; use compass bearings to walk across open moorland to a location and use pacing and timing to judge the distance we have travelled. Afterwards we usually go to a teashop in Hutton-le-Hole to talk over the day.

I am a silver level mountain leader and used to lead for HF Holidays and have run 31 of these courses, so I don't usually get lost. If you are interested then please contact me on 07752801488 or samdavbor@yahoo.com
Sam Borman

Hull & Holderness Group

Hull & Holderness Group are still struggling to find enough walk leaders, although membership overall continues to grow - around 180 now. The walks we do organise are well attended, regularly attracting 20+ Ramblers and ages of people on H&H walks this year have ranged from 13 to 86! As well as the popular Wolds routes, we have been exploring Holderness a bit more, for instance at Sproatley and Hornsea. At Flamborough we enjoyed a slightly different 6 mile walk - we've noticed in the past that although it is mostly flat cliff top walking, there are some killer vertical steps at the bays. Many people want to do the walk, but are put off by the steep climbs, so we designed a there & back again route from Flamborough to Thornwick Bay, with easy escape routes allowing the steps to be by-passed. Because it was there and back again, people who didn't want to complete the whole walk were able to wait at a designated point for the group to return, the latter was made possible by the proliferation of cafes, toilets and beaches along the way! It wouldn't work if you had to leave someone in the middle of a field, however it was a useful experiment in making a walk more accessible.

Steve Lack- chair Hull & Holderness Group



Pocklington Group's Walking Holiday To Buxton May 2022

At the end of May 2022, the much anticipated Pocklington holiday to Buxton took place. It was a particularly momentous occasion as the holiday had originally been planned for 2020, then 2021 and so it was definitely third time lucky in 2022. The group comprised fifty four people, despite a couple of people succumbing to COVID just before the event, after having avoided it for nearly two years!

Buxton is a thermal spa town, nestled in the centre of the beautiful Peak District in the UK's oldest National Park. It has stunning ornamental gardens and famous Georgian and Victorian architecture. We stayed for five nights at the Lee Wood Hotel on a half board basis. The hotel is perfectly positioned for walking in the Peak District, it is equally appealing for those wishing to explore the historic attractions of Buxton Spa itself. Every day there was a choice of three walks and walks were graded using our recently developed grading system so that people could select a walk suitable for them.

Walking highlights included a route from Whaley Bridge back to the hotel which took in Taxal Edge, Cats Tor, Shining Tor, Goyt's Moss, Burbage Edge and was a challenging route led by Martin Hill. An energetic route to Mam Tor route taking in Jacob's Ladder led by Alex Gymer. A leisurely route around Chatsworth led by Jill Anderson. These are just a few examples from a host of walks which provided lots of choice and variety. These opportunities would not be available without the commitment of those offering to lead walks- so our thanks goes to all walk leaders. Buxton is also a good venue for non-walkers with easy access to a number of Derbyshire towns and areas of interest such as Chatsworth House.

The organisation of this event had been taken on by Julie Bowling and Denise Godson and the group are extremely appreciative of all the hard work that went into making this such a successful occasion. Particularly, given the number of setbacks caused by COVID restrictions. The holiday marked the return to some normality after the strict regulations during the initial pandemic years. Such is the success of the holiday, the group voted to return to Lee Wood Hotel next year from Sunday 21st May to Thursday 25th May 2023 for four nights; from the 1st November we are opening up bookings to other Ramblers groups. If you are interested in joining us please contact Julie Bowling: bowlingjr@gmail.com for further details.

Kate Plumb, Chair Pocklington Ramblers



Wold Rangers Way Walking Festival



Drifffield Town Council's first walking festival took place between 17th and 24th July. Themed on Wold Rangers folklore, the event attracted participants from a wide area, e.g. Newcastle and Cheshire, with 64% being from outside East Riding.

Nineteen led routes were on offer, distances ranging from 3 to 44 miles. Ramblers contributed to the event, providing leaders and back markers for six of the walks, mainly those of 9 to 14 miles.



Thanks to leaders and back markers: Sally White, Kate Plumb, Gerry Hutchinson, Martin Hill, Keith Dalby, Anne Exton and Tony Corrigan from Pocklington Group, Penny Hudson and Ann Laing from Ryedale Group, Marian Thomas from Howden & Goole Group.
Tony Corrigan

Area Camp June 2022

This year's annual Area Camp was held on Friday 10th to Monday 13th June at Orcaber Farm campsite, Austwick in the Yorkshire Dales. The camp was organised by Donna & Wayne Dosdale and 19 members from various groups attended.

As usual there was a shorter walk on the Friday afternoon (High Bentham riverside walk), full day walks on the Saturday (Stocks Reservoir & Forest of Bowland) and Sunday (Austwick circular) and a shorter walk on the Monday morning (Stainforth- woodland, moorland & caves).



New book- "Walking in East Yorkshire"

Linda Ellis has been in touch to tell us about her new book "Walking in East Yorkshire" which contains 30 circular walks of between 4 to 10 miles in length. The walks are largely on the east side of the county with a number of coastal walks but does also include walks in the Yorkshire Wolds.

Copies can be obtained on-line from www.lulu.com and purchased for £10.99 (plus postage). For further details of the contents e-mail Area News editor Marian: thomas.marian@btinternet.com



Walking is Good for your Health

Two octogenarian's agree that walking every week with the Ramblers keeps them well and is good for their physical & mental health. Photo shows Brian Currey (86) and Nigel Emery on a Howden & Goole Group 8 mile walk at Tibthorpe Wold.



Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Wolds Way

The Yorkshire Wolds Way celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year; the idea to have a continuous footpath from the shore of the Humber at North Ferriby and finishing just north of Filey was first promoted by members of our Ramblers Area, who appreciated the uniqueness and beauty of the Wolds. The campaign was led by the then Area secretary David Rubinstein. By 1968 the proposed footpath was approved in principle by the National Parks Commission and then by Humberside County Council. In 1971 David Rubinstein published his book "The Wolds Way" outlining the proposed route. But years of laborious negotiations with landowners and farmers lay ahead, and the proposed route underwent several alterations before being approved by the Environment Secretary in 1977.

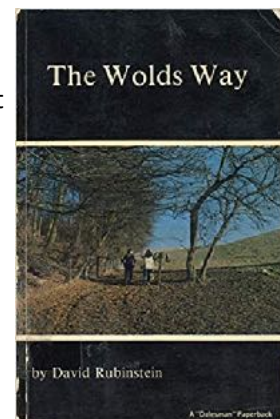


Ramblers' member Patsy Stoneman was part of the original planning and survey team, she writes: "It was in 1968 that the East Riding Area of the Ramblers Association began to discuss a plan for a long-distance footpath, a bold plan since, as David Rubinstein lamented, 'the county map of rights of way was woefully incomplete'. At that time I was a member of the local Ramblers committee, and we set about reconnoitring possible routes by dividing the proposed area into sections, and allocating each area to a pair of committee members. The idea was to walk as many paths as possible in each section and report back on their accessibility, attractiveness and potential for linking with the next section(s). I was paired with Jim Thompson and as far as we can remember, we walked paths in the east-west section above Heslerton and Sherburn, overlooking the Vale of Pickering. The committee then co-ordinated all our reports and with considerable difficulty, put together a proposal for a continuous route. In 1971 a specific route was approved by the County Council, even though many sections of it were under dispute and not established as rights of way. David Rubinstein's book of that year, 'The Wolds Way', recommends numerous alternative routes in case of difficulty.

I particularly remember 1971 since in March (I believe) of that year the BBC television "Look North" programme decided to interview someone from the local committee in some of the locations of the new path. No-one was available but me, it seemed, and although I was six months pregnant at the time I found myself being whisked at enormous speed in a Range Rover between Welton at the start of the route, and Filey at its end. In each location I was filmed giving what information I could about the process of establishing the route and its major attractions. The film was then speeded back to Leeds for the evening programme".

Ann Holt, David Rubinstein's widow continues the story:

"I first met David Rubinstein in 1972 (eventually we were married, but that is another story) and quickly became aware that he was hard at work on a project called 'the Wolds Way', I knew nothing about it then but was soon to learn quite a lot. He had just finished writing a guide to the proposed route for Dalesman Books and was thrilled when copies arrived with Dalesman's smart black cover, enlivened by a picture of Wintringham Church from Deep Dale plantation. By that time a group of local RA members had been working on what was then called a Long Distance Footpath (now a National Trail) across the Wolds for some years. They launched the scheme in early 1968 and, encouraged by positive publicity and County Council approval, set to work to pioneer a route. As David wrote at the time, 'a route must exist on the ground, not in the air'.



They were under no illusions that any such grounded route would be achieved quickly. Why did it take so long? Any project which brings together a determined group of Ramblers who want something, a group of farmers and landowners almost equally determined to prevent them getting it, and two bureaucratic organisations which are being pressured by a variety of opposing groups - the County Council and the Countryside Commission - is going to take a long time, that is just the nature of these things.

On the Ramblers' side there was a wearying amount of lobbying, negotiating, letter writing, attending of meetings, organising publicity, surveying and checking of paths, all to be done by a group of people who had lives, families and jobs but somehow remained cheerful, determined and passionate about rambling in general and the Wolds in particular. They were deeply offended when the Countryside Commission invited a landowner who had prevented the Way from going through a particularly attractive and interesting area, which he happened to own, to perform the opening ceremony. Aware that, if they were to retain credibility as a campaigning organisation, the RA would have to demonstrate its disapproval, holding an alternative opening, agreed at national and local levels. So, on 2nd October 1982, at the same time as the official version, our ribbon was duly cut to great applause and our banner, specially made for the occasion, was proudly displayed. It all made for splendid publicity and we all hoped the Countryside Commission (now morphed into Natural England) would in future remember that it was a good idea to show some respect to people who had worked hard on a project for years, rather than acting as though they had done the whole thing all by themselves."

Message from Malcolm Hodgson- National Trails Officer for the Yorkshire Wolds Way

"As National Trails Officer for the Yorkshire Wolds Way for the past 26 years, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with friends at the East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers Association. With their help and the strong support and the action of the local authorities, this special trail has gone from strength to strength in that time and is used by many thousands of walkers per year."

There have been a number of improvements to the route over the years. One was at High Hunsley when a potentially lethal road stretch was removed by a new footpath. Another important change was to bring the route off road at Munston. There is still a problem remaining at North Ferriby foreshore, where walkers need to walk up through the village because of high tide, rather than continue along the foreshore before turning north through Long Plantation. The Countryside Commission were unable to put the route on top of the flood bank because of local objections.

Peter Ayling says: "we celebrated the 10th anniversary in 1992 by walking the route from Hessle along the Wolds to Filey Brigg in five separate stages. But unfortunately on the second stage from South Cave to Towthorpe near Market Weighton, the coach went to the wrong Towthorpe (a hamlet north of York), so in pre-mobile phone days we were unable to communicate with the coach driver, the main party walked south and I drove to South Cave to meet a small group of members who lived there, and we walked north, crossing with the main group at North Newbald. For the 25th anniversary in 2007, then chairman Chris Bush organised another set of walk stages, again tremendously enjoyable. Also we were invited to a splendid celebratory lunch for many guests at Fridaythorpe, provided by Defra. We did have a Ramblers rally afterwards to mark the Ramblers alternative opening in 1982.

This year, the 40th Anniversary Walk on 2nd October was splendidly organised by the Yorkshire Wolds Way Officer, Malcolm Hodgson, in conjunction with the local authorities and the Ramblers led by Martin Hill.

Yorkshire Wolds Way 40th Anniversary Celebrations

On Sunday the 2nd October 2022 it was the 40th Anniversary of the long distance footpath the Yorkshire Wolds Way. The footpath goes from Hessle Foreshore to Filey Brigg a total of 79 miles that runs through the chalk landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds and passes through some of the most beautiful countryside in East and North Yorkshire to end with stunning coastal views. To celebrate this anniversary, it was decided that this National Trail would be walked on one day in seven sections. Ramblers Walk leaders from Pocklington, Beverley and Scarborough led five of the seven sections, whilst Patrick Wharam Footpaths Manger and Samantha McGivern Footpaths Officer both from East Riding Council led the remaining two sections.

Martin Hill led the most popular section of the Wolds Way from Huggate to Wharram Percy with nearly thirty walkers and with the BBC Look North crew in tow! The full coverage of the event was aired on Monday 3rd October towards the end of the programme and a brief mention was made on the Sunday 2nd October edition of Look North. Both are available on BBC iPlayer until the end of the month and are well worth watching.

I led the section from South Cave to Towthorpe picnic site and our initial group of ten expanded to eleven when we were joined by an enthusiastic man who had walked from Hessle Foreshore to meet up with us at South Cave. I hasten to add it was planned that way. Not wanting to miss us he had set off just after 6.00 am and consequently had an hour to wait at the Trail-Head going into Little Wold Plantation before we arrived from our bus journey from Towthorpe. The weather was warm and sunny, with great views over the Humber.

Another highlight of our section was the viewing of a Trig Point (grid reference SE 928 387) south of Hessleskew Lane and Gare Gate on the route by the side of the Wolds Way that had been adopted by the Windmill Walkers. Its restoration had just been completed before the Yorkshire Wold Way Anniversary walk, they had done a fantastic job.

Spirits were high as we walked through Goodmanham and the finish of our day. The reward for our efforts — the wonderful landscape, beautiful views and a cake at the end of the walk to mark our achievements.
Kate Plumb, Pocklington Ramblers



Photo shows Patrick Wharam (Countryside Access Manager ERYC), Roy Hunt (our Area chair) and Rosie Sanderson (NYCC Rights of Way Officer) on the final section of the 40th Anniversary walk. They are holding the original banner made by Dennis Parker for the Ramblers alternative opening ceremony on 2nd October 1982.

News from Ryedale Group

In August we once again enjoyed a lovely day of walking followed by cream teas. The hire of Goathland Village Hall gave us free parking and use of the hall, before splitting into three walks of 10, 8 or 6 miles. On our return we all sat down to a full cream tea and cakes, in all a grand day out.

We have also introduced a regular monthly social walk. This is a shorter walk of about 5 miles with the opportunity to have a drink and a chat together afterwards. Fortunately, thanks to our hard working leaders, our regular Sunday walks have continued all year. Do come and join us anytime.
Penny Hudson, Ryedale Group chair.



Yorkshire Wolds – possible Designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

In June 2021 Natural England announced that part of the Yorkshire Wolds would be considered for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the benefit of this is to acknowledge the special beauty of the local landscape and brings environmental protection and perhaps some investment to the area.

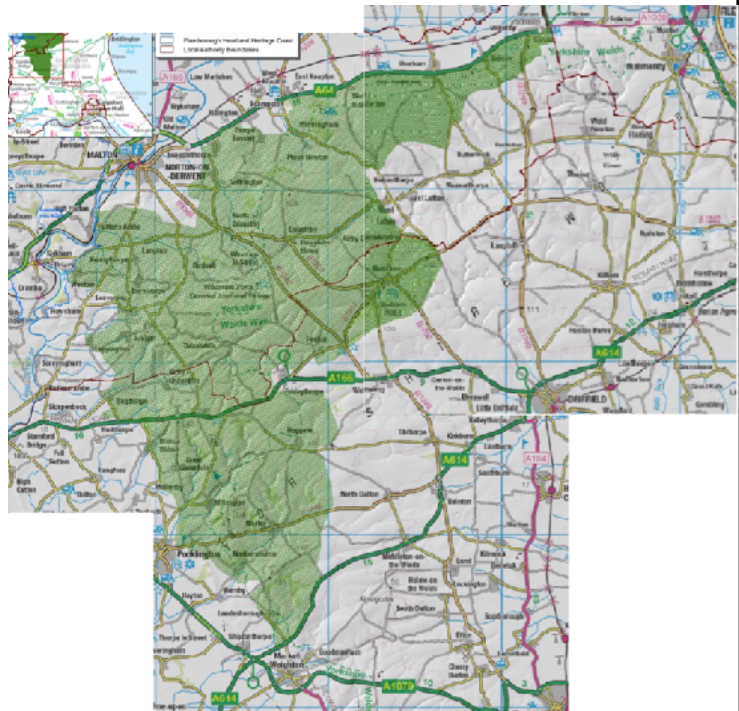
From June to August this year members of the public were asked to contribute to the decision making process and submit their views on this proposal. There was around ten drop in sessions both in the north and south Wolds where people could make their views known, several on-line webinar sessions and individuals were invited to submit their views using the on-line submission forms on the dedicated website www.yorkshire-wolds-designation-project.org

The proposed candidate area for AONB designation is roughly that covered by the Wolds Way to the north of Market Weighton to Staxton, it excludes Filey but does include a narrow strip of coastline north of Flamborough upwards just to the south of Filey. **It does not include anywhere south of Market Weighton.**

The project organisers did state that there were other pockets of qualifying land in the area but these were small and fragmented and have not been included in the AONB candidate area.

Tom Halstead our Area Access Officer submitted an excellent response in favour of the proposal of AONB status on behalf of EY&D Area. He also made the case for the extension of the candidate area to include land around the villages of Fordon and also around Cottam (near Sledmere).

This first round of public engagement has now finished and 237 submissions were made. There will be further opportunities during the formal public consultation process that is planned for next year, once further detailed technical assessments have been completed and a detailed proposed boundary produced.



Contributions to Area News should be sent to Marian Thomas
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