

Trails Steering Group – Workshop 1

Building our understanding about the trails

Workshop Report



Wednesday 14th September 2011
Aldern House, Bakewell

Facilitated by Mandy Sims & Pete Spriggs

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Workshop objectives

By the end of the workshop we will have:

- Got to know the other members of the Steering Group better;
- Increased our understanding about the Trails and the Management Plan process;
- Begun to develop a vision for the trails
- Discussed the responses from 'Trails Saturday', reflecting on the emerging themes and identifying possible omissions.

Agenda

Time	Session
16:00	Arrival at Miller's Dale Station car park
16:15	Depart for short guided walk along the Monsal Trail
17:30	Arrive back at Miller's Dale Station car park, travel to Aldern House, Bakewell
18:00	Arrive at Aldern House – light buffet provided
	Welcome & introductions
	Setting the scene
	A bit of vision
	Building on Trails Saturday
	What next?
20:30	Depart

Attendees

The workshop was attended by:

Name	Organisation / Interest
Abi Ball	PDNPA
David Ashton	Bamford with Thornhill Parish Council
Phil Booth	Dukes Barn
Dan Cook	Cycle Touring Club
Chris Coombs	Derbyshire County Council
Matt Easter	Sustrans
Charlotte Gilbert	Local Access Forum & Peak Horse Power
Chris Manby	PDNPA
Gill Millward	Derbyshire County Council
Jane Proctor	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Mandy Sims	Facilitator
Pete Spriggs	Facilitator
Nick Stephens	Ramblers Association
Patrick Strange	Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust
Yvonne Witter	Mosaic Project
Hilary Young	Peak Parishes Forum

Apologies were received from:

Name	Organisation / Interest
David Bennett	High Peak Access Group
Steve Farren	PDNPA
Elaine Hill	High Peak Access Group
Alison Salmen	High Peak Access Group

Guided Walk

The majority of the Steering Group attended a guided walk led by Abi Ball, Property Manager, PDNPA along a short section of the Monsal Trail from Miller’s Dale Station to Chee Tor Tunnel. Along the way issues relating to the Trails were observed and discussed by the group.



Introductions

The group then reconvened at Aldern House in Bakewell. By way of introduction each Steering Group member said their name, who they represented and what they most liked about the trails. Mandy Sims scribed these comments onto a flip chart.



The final list was as follows:

Things the Steering Group members most like about the Trails

Flat	Wide variety of users	Enabler for all people
Landscape	Reliable and safe	Seeing others enjoying it
Accessible	Safe and good for cycling	Casual walk, keeping feet dry
Wealth of heritage	Working on them and getting feedback	Birds and flowers
Enables disabled cyclists		

Setting the Scene

Abi Ball set the scene by giving some background to the trails and explanation on the trails management plan process.



Background To The Trails

- Tissington Trail
- High Peak Trail
- Monsal Trail
- Thornhill Trail



Management Plan Process

- 5 year Management Plan
- Timescale
- Scope of Plan
- Purpose of Plan
- Stakeholder engagement & consultation



Inputs into the plan...



Trails Steering Group



- Principal consultation forum
- Representative of main interest / user groups
- Time commitment
- Objectives
- Thank you!

Pete Spriggs then introduced the draft 'Ways of Working' to the group (Appendix 1). These were taken away with the request that any comments be fed into the second Steering Group workshop on 24 November so they could be approved by the group at this time.

A bit of Vision

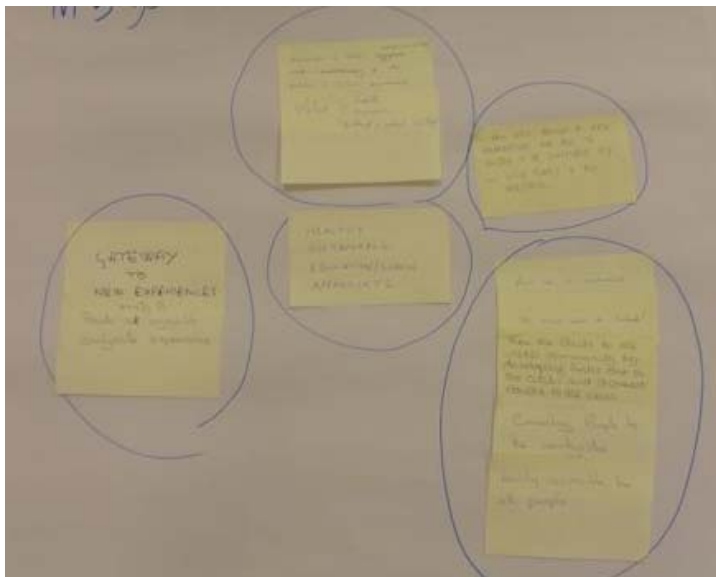
Mandy Sims introduced the idea of visioning to the group, and asked for help in developing a 5 year vision statement for the Trails. The group looked at examples of organisations' vision and mission statements, and examined the need for a vision to be challenging as well as realistic.

After actively imagining a successful outcome for the Trails in 5 years' time, members worked in pairs, discussing and writing down words and phrases that may contribute to a vision statement. The pairs joined with others, shared phrases and selected the ones liked most in the small groups. These phrases, on post-it notes, were then put onto the wall, and a 'diamond ranking' exercise was done as a whole group to select the most useful / appropriate phrases (see below). These will be developed into a Vision Statement for the group to comment on at the next meeting.

Final 'diamond ranked' words and phrases for Trails Vision Statement

Top

- Facilitate a better appreciation of the natural and cultural environment
- Value: health; economic; cultural and natural heritage
- Well used, provide a rich experience for all to enjoy and be inspired by
- Wild places and all heritage



Middle

- Gateway to new experiences
- Provide a variety of enjoyable countryside experiences
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Education / Learn
- Appreciate
- Clustered phrases about linking and networks - easily accessible to all people; connecting people to the countryside; take the trails to the wider community by developing links out to the cities and to connect routes to the local communities; the trails will be linked!; part of a network

Other words / phrases not 'diamond ranked'

- Linked to local environment, landscape, communities, heritage etc
- Remain affordable and accessible to all
- Means to an end not an end in itself

Building on Trails Saturday

Pete Spriggs ran an exercise to check whether anything was missing from the Trails Saturday responses from the perspective of the organisations and interest groups present on the Steering Group.

Participants moved around each of the flip charts containing a summary of comments and added in any omissions if necessary.

The responses to 'What's missing?' from the comments made on Trails Saturday were as follows:



Tissington Trail – How could the Trail be improved?

- Code of conduct
- Information Centre – leaflets about the Trails
- Marketing links to neighbouring business – café, pub etc
- Promote awareness that the trails are for all – not any one group

Monsal Trail – How could the Trail be improved?

- Clever interpretation of all types

- Direction signs to have miles to
- Have regard to biodiversity, vista, geology, archaeology. Let the Trail reflect the environment it is passing through.
- Information about other Trails
- Greater awareness of all the natural heritage e.g. nature reserves along the Trail and accessing them
- Litter bins
- Sign needed at Bakewell Station to indicate way onto track for cyclists (it's not obvious you have to go round end of station building)
- Creation of view points with seats – possibly just off the track
- Diversions from the track to interesting sights / places

High Peak Trail – How could the Trail be improved?

- Clever interpretation – a mix of approaches
- Investment in the facilities – toilets / seats / walls

Thornhill Trail – How could the Trail be improved?

- Let the Trail reflect the environment it passes through
- With loss of most of public transport in the area – a valued access route between Bamford and Dams
- Information at Bamford Station onto route

All Trails – What do you like most about the Trails?

- No additional responses

The above have been included in the combined list of comments, which can be seen in Appendix 2.

What next?

Mandy concluded the workshop expressing her thanks to everyone for their time, constructive comments and support for the process thus far.

She reminded everyone that the next Steering Group meeting would be on the evening of 24 November 2011. More details would be circulated in early November.

The workshop ended at 20:30

Appendix 1 - Trails Steering Group Suggested Ways of Working

Purpose of Steering Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To act as the principal consultation forum for the Trails Management Plan process• To represent the main user and interest groups associated with the four trails• To establish a clear 5 year Vision for the Trails• To draw from own experience / expertise• To help identify current and future management issues, and make recommendations as appropriate• To help build consensus amongst trail users• To sign off Management Plan
Expectations of Trails Steering Group on PDNPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timely information sent out in advance of meetings• Minutes of the meetings are produced and circulated in a timely manner• Effective communication of up to date information• Maintenance of Trails Management Plan web page• To keep to pre-agreed timetable for Management Plan process• Consult / involve internal experts as necessary• To identify in advance of the management plan process, matters that can not be consulted on
Expectations of PDNPA on Steering Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members to do their best to attend Steering Group meetings• Members to contribute their expertise and lessons learned from experience• Each member will do their best to keep the people they represent fully informed and involved in the Steering Group's work and in the progress of the Management Plan• Members will respect the views of other members• Every effort will be made to reach agreements acceptable to everyone• Everyone will have the opportunity to have a say and their opinion will be valued• Steering Group decisions will normally be made at the meetings• Steering Group members should recognise that we operate within a statutory framework which impacts on our work
Membership: Who, Duration etc

- Membership should represent the main user and interest groups
- Optimum membership of 15, max of 20
- Membership to initially last for the duration of the management plan process (until 31 May 2011)
- Continuing future role to be discussed (implementation of plan)

Frequency / Location of Meetings

- Maximum of five steering group meetings to be hosted by PDNPA
- Meetings to be held in the evening at locations to be agreed

Appendix 2 – PDNPA Trails Management Plan Consultation

Summary of comments from ‘Trails Saturday’ & Survey Monkey & Steering Group

The tables below show a summary of the responses given. The ‘x number’ indicates the number of responses deemed to be similar to the one shown.

High Peak Trail

How could the Trails be improved?

Wider track would be good (3m as standard) / cut turf back x 7	More information / interpretation boards / info pods / podcast x 5	Few more picnic benches / picnic stops x 4	Improve surface (better surface on Monsal) x 4	Turn visitor centre and café in winter to make use of building x 2
Possible distinction between pedestrian & cycle trail to avoid accidents x 3	Accurate distances between stops as the maps do not coincide with the trail sign distances x 2	Certain stretches of the trail have developed pot holes & could be filled in x 3	Winter shelter at Parsley Hay - there is nowhere to stop x 2	Use Parsley Hay car park for events - EQM / Arts / Guided walks - birds, butterflies etc
Improved signage of Tissington Trail in Ashbourne - found it difficult to find TT	Mapleton Lane car park	A proper bike shop at Parsley Hay would be a good idea.	More pubs!	Maybe new building at Ashbourne that looks like a business premises
A guide to campsites & B&Bs close to trails would be good.	More horse water troughs x 2	More safe places to tie up horses at stopping places	A bit overgrown with raspberries that can cause a puncture	More wildflowers / managing for biodiversity x 2
Abolish or reduce car parking charges - a deterrent for the 'working man' to come out	Card payment or cash back facility at hire centre for parking and purchasing	Webcam at Parsley Hay so people can see what the weather is doing! Could be posted on website	Displaying the by-laws (your legal obligation).	Encourage respect / put measures in place for users to respect each other (e.g. bells on bikes, speed limits) x 14
Get rid of danger signs	Dog bins	Open up views	Dogs on leads x 2	Improve access for cyclists x 2
Improved surface (vibration for cyclists)	Mix of trail surfaces / 'pump' tracks for mountain bikers x 7	More links between trails, towns, stations x 11	Litter picking	Needs a bikebus to access it without a car
More resources / maps	Don't widen it	Revised code of conduct		

Trails Saturday -23 responses, 42 comments
 Survey Monkey - 48 responses indicating this Trail
 Steering Group additions:

- Clever interpretation – a mix of approaches
- Investment in the facilities – toilets / seats / walls

What do you like most about the Trails?

Excellent amenities at the station stops (refreshments) x 11	Scenery / great views x 16	Well maintained paths x 10	No cars x 19	Flat! x 5
Safe (and good) for cycles x 8	Wild flowers & wildlife x 5	Exercise & fresh air x 5	Well signposted x 4	Fantastic day out for all the family x 5
Stops are within reasonable distances of each other x 2	The surface is really nice to ride my horse on	Accessibility at several points / access points x 6	... the beautiful countryside x 3	No need to negotiate muddy fields and know how to navigate
Good clean loos & car parks x 11	Watching the animals	Options available	Reminders of the railway heritage x 3	Information good x 2
Looking at the geology	Links to other rides and networks x 5	Lots of picnic areas	Peace & quiet x 2	Meeting people
Good for running x 2	Good networks of easier mountain bike routes	Year round availability		

Trails Saturday - 17 responses, 49 comments
Survey Monkey – 48 responses indicating this Trail

Tissington Trail

How could the Trails be improved?

More benches (picnic stops?) x 4	More rubbish bins (and dog poo bins) x 3	Cyclists to use bells x 7	Leave them as they are x 2	A few signs to say this is not only a cycle path
Don't add more signs (don't clutter the countryside) x 2	Open up more views through trees x 4	Dog poo bags in car parks / dog bins x 2	Make sure fencing on bridges is safe for children	Make it easier to stroke animals
Dogs on leads x 3	At the end of the trail maybe a park or something	Biggin - 54 needs better sign when it joins trail	Stop the kids from running on the trails - it's for us cyclists	Open the tunnels at Buxton like the one at Ashbourne
More mile markers	Cleaner toilets at Ashbourne cycle hire	Slow down the more reckless cyclists	A sign in Ashbourne to Tissington Trail	Encourage respect / help users use etiquette e.g keep left x 9
Better info boards x 2	Horse watering points	More litter picking	Tree planting	Speed limits x 2
Links to make looped circuit / other trails, towns / provide maps x 10	Improved surface (vibration for cyclists) and drainage x 4	Improve access for cycles x 3	Manage land to increase biodiversity	Different surfaces for different users e.g. technical sections for mountain bikers x 3
L shaped shelters from the wind	Ice creams to sell	More things to see on trail - statues, signs, sound attractions		

Trails Saturday - 22 responses, 28 comments
Survey Monkey – 43 responses indicating this Trail

Steering Group Additions:

- Code of conduct
- Information Centre – leaflets about the Trails
- Marketing links to neighbouring business – café, pub etc

- Promote awareness that the trails are for all – not any one group

What do you like most about the Trails?

Level, good surface x 11	Lovely place to walk / ride (peaceful) x 7	Perfect for family day out, all ages x 10	Easy access to beautiful countryside x 9	Refreshments x 3
The water & fish x 2	Traffic free x 18	Toilets x 3	The tunnel x 2	Clean, mostly, of litter
Watching the cows and the sheep	Perfect for less confident, beginner cyclists x 5	Interpretation x 3	Hiring mobility scooter	Camping close by
Direct link to Tissington and other connections x 3	Looking at the wildlife / flowers x 4	Eating the blackberries	Felt safe x 5	Nice views x 8
Good for cycling	Fresh air	Parking x 2	Historical interest x 2	Opportunity to enjoy the Peak District
Good for running, especially as dry in winter	Good being long distances x 3			
A good challenge for even the novice rider x 3				

Trails Saturday - 23 responses, 40 comments
Survey Monkey – 42 responses indicating this Trail

Monsal Trail

How could the Trails be improved?

Go all the way/ links to Buxton & Matlock x 13	Visitor centre and café at Millers Dale / café and toilets x 11	More seating x 7	More tunnels x 4	Add a separate lane for cyclist / walkers x 10
Better drained and with less puddles	More tea stops x2	Some of the access steps (connecting the flat paths) are very uneven without handrails	The ramps need rebuilding - too steep	Cut some trees down to make views x3
Connect trails to longer bike routes e.g. Long distance bike routes x5	Some sort of food vans at Bakewell	Toilets at start (Bakewell)	Run a little train along the track like the one that goes round Meadowhall.	Access at Litton Mill / Cressbrook
A 'road train'	The ladies toilets here at Millers Dale are dreadful	By re-opening the railway.	More seating towards the Buxton end	More advice to cyclists about keeping to the left when in the tunnels
Keep website up to date	Better publicity	Clear information on map and on trail where access points for bikes are	Cycle centre at Millers Dale and café	Code of conduct x5
Better info boards	Dog bins x2	Distance markers with an indication of calories burnt	Dogs on leads x2	Improved surface x2

Podcast about the trails	Different routes for different users with suitable surfacing	Better access at Topley Pike end	Tree planting	Speed limits x3
Links to make looped circuit / other trails, towns x9	Litter picking	Better access via public transport	Manage land/ verges to increase biodiversity	Different surfaces for different users e.g. technical sections for mountain bikers x3
Encourage cyclists to use their bells x4	Cut back turf where it's encroaching	Notices asking everyone to keep left x3	Ban horses	Better disabled access x2
More respect between users x11	Items of interest to obscure never ending vanishing point	Stop cyclists from using trail	Route that avoids A515/A6 into Buxton	More toilets
More sculptures / points of interest	Limit number of users x2	Better maps x3	Emergency phones in tunnels	Marker ID posts for emergency services
Needs a bikebus to access it without a car	Mix of trail surfaces / 'pump' tracks for mountain bikers			

Trails Saturday - 42 responses, 49 comments
Survey Monkey - 65 responses indicating this Trail

Steering Group Additions:

- Clever interpretation of all types
- Direction signs to have miles to
- Have regard to biodiversity, vista, geology, archaeology. Let the Trail reflect the environment it is passing through.
- Information about other Trails
- Greater awareness of all the natural heritage e.g. nature reserves along the Trail and accessing them
- Litter bins
- Sign needed at Bakewell Station to indicate way onto track for cyclists (it's not obvious you have to go round end of station building)
- Creation of view points with seats – possibly just off the track
- Diversions from the track to interesting sights / places

What do you like most about the Trails?

Tunnels x 16	The views / scenery x 17	Good for cycling x 7	Well laid trails and access / well maintained x 8	Traffic free / safe x 24
Abundance of wildlife / flora x 6	Family friendly x 16	Informative signs / interpretation x 6	The peacefulness x 3	The flat trails x 15
Plenty of seating along the way x 2	Meeting people x 2	Easy access & parking facilities x 10	Local historical sites x3	A great opportunity to keep active
To be able to walk the full length without leaving the trail.	Public conveniences	Get into Peak District without car - sustainable transport x3	Being able to cycle from home (Bakewell)	The combination of tunnels and viaducts - almost Alpine!
Good circular routes x2	Ample car parking	The length x2	Wide track	The beauty of the area
Great attraction for Derbyshire	It is fun and I love having picnic here	Links with other trails / routes x6	Opportunity to enjoy the Peak District / countryside x9	Good food stops x6

Improved access to the limestone gorge between Millers Dale and Wye Dale.	Year round availability x2	Good access to climbing in Chee Dale x2	Historical interest x3	Access to Longstone
<i>Good for running, especially as dry in winter</i>	<i>Good being long distances</i>			

Trails Saturday - 38 responses, 65 comments
 Survey Monkey – 63 responses indicating this Trail

Thornhill Trail

How could the Trails be improved?

By banning motorised vehicles x 2	Retaining the character of bridleways when engaging in resurfacing work	Trail code of conduct	Sign at Carr Lane car park to show where the trail is	An interpretation board at Carr Lane car park x 2
Signs to let visitors know of many points of interest near the trail e.g. Ladybower, Derwent Dams etc.	Encourage cyclists to use their bells x2	More signs at start of trails advising people not to stray from the footpaths!	Dogs on leads	Dog bins
More respect between users x2	Different surfaces for different users e.g. technical sections for mountain bikers x4	Improve surfacing x2	More links between trails and other routes x5	Manage land to increase biodiversity
Open up views	'pump' tracks for mountain bikers x2			

Trails Saturday – 7 responses, 9 comments
 Survey Monkey – 17 responses indicating this Trail

Steering Group Additions:

- Let the Trail reflect the environment it passes through
- With loss of most of public transport in the area – a valued access route between Bamford and Dams
- Information at Bamford Station onto route

What do you like most about the Trails?

Views have been opened up and benches put in	Very well maintained	Keeping tree branches etc. cut & path is clear	Little litter	Started walking the Derwent Way from Heatherdene and so far very impressed
Traffic free / safe x7	Family friendly x2	The beauty of the area / countryside x 4	Links to wider networks / countryside x3	In the Peak District
They are well maintained	Local communities involved in projects			

Trails Saturday - 5 responses, 7 comments

Survey Monkey – 16 responses indicating this Trail

Comments consistent across all / most of the Trails

How could the Trails be improved?

Better or more signs, both giving information and / or interpretation	More seating (benches, picnic stops)	More opportunities to buy food (ice creams, tea shops, cafes)	Improve the way cyclists and walkers use the Trails together (marked paths, use of bells, use of notices)	Better surfacing in some areas
Different surfaces for different users e.g. technical sections for mountain bikers	Encourage respect / put measures in place for users to respect each other	Links to make looped circuit / other trails, towns	Code of conduct	Better access for cyclists
Dog bins	Dogs on leads	Open up views	More litter picking	More / better resources / maps

What do you like most about the Trails?

Good surfacing / well maintained	Refreshments	Signs / interpretation	Wildlife and countryside	Family friendly
Views	Feels safe	Toilets	Flat	No cars
Historical interest	Good for running esp. in winter	The networks and links to other paths	The long distance	Good access
Peacefulness				