

## Access the Dales Making the Inaccessible Accessible

### Aim

Access the Dales exists to break down the barriers that prevent children with limited mobility enjoying the great outdoors either independently or with their friends and family. We will do this wherever need, demand and our capacity allow, by making all-terrain mobility vehicles available to borrow at outdoor locations in the Yorkshire Dales.

### Objectives

To enable Access the Dales the ability to fund initiatives and activities for charitable needs which reflect its beliefs and ethos.

To encourage and inspire all people, whatever their ability to enjoy the outdoors for the benefit of physical and mental health.

To remove the barriers to getting children with disabilities outdoors in the Yorkshire Dales by the provision of all-terrain wheelchairs in suitable locations.

The charity will have sole ownership of the wheelchairs. It will be responsible for the insurance and for the yearly maintenance of the chairs. Chairs will be located in places where we are confident that they will be used correctly to enhance visitor experience to the Yorkshire Dales and that they will be properly stored and used. An agreement will be signed between the charity and the organisation where the wheelchairs will be kept regarding safe use and safe storage.

We will be working with different organisations in the UK to reach out to families who are caring for or have someone who is living with a disability that prevents them from accessing the countryside, such as The Bendrigg Trust, The Mosaic Communities, Open Country, Experience Community and Accessible Derbyshire. We also have close links with the Yorkshire Dales National Park and our manager, Debbie North, plays an integral part in the Local Access Forum and is also chair of the 'Assess for All' group. She is also responsible for the auditing of the 'Miles without Stiles' routes that have been established within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

### Launch of Access the Dales April 2022

In April this year we will be launching the charity.

The official launch will be at Ravenseat Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, where the first children's all terrain wheelchair will be homed. Aman Owen, Yorkshire Farmer and TV personality has kindly agreed to be our patron. The launch will also mark the start of our first accessible festival in the Yorkshire Dales – a celebration of what the area already does to welcome people with disabilities.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April we are holding a Diversity and Inclusion Day at The Engine Shed, Kirkby Stephen. Fund for this has been given by the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Dales.

The On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April we are planning an 'Access for All' conference, again at The Engine Shed. This is open to all businesses in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding area to learn about small changes that can be made to make places and experiences more accessible for people with disabilities. The day is being led by Access for All UK, with key speakers from our area. We have obtained part funding for the conference from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

We are hoping to be able to invite Gold Winner Boccia Paralympian champion, David Smith to our launch. We will have to cover his accommodation costs and travel expenses, but to have his support will be a huge boost for media coverage for our events. He has agreed his support in principal.

Throughout the week we have different events taking place around the Dales, including a stile free walking festival.

We would like to ask the council for some funding to support the events that are happening throughout the week.

So far the charity has raised £ 2,300 towards the running the events and would ask the council an additional £1,000 to help cover our costs.

Please click [here](#) to find out more about Access the Dales and about the events that are so far taking place in and around the area to showcase accessibility in the area.

Please see our website too [www.access-the-dales.com](http://www.access-the-dales.com)

Click this [link](#) to view the Westmorland Dales film that was made by Debbie North and Holly Brega, both trustees of Access the Dales.

Many Thanks  
Debbie North