

Wensleydale Dormouse Project



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National Parks in England, Wales and Scotland

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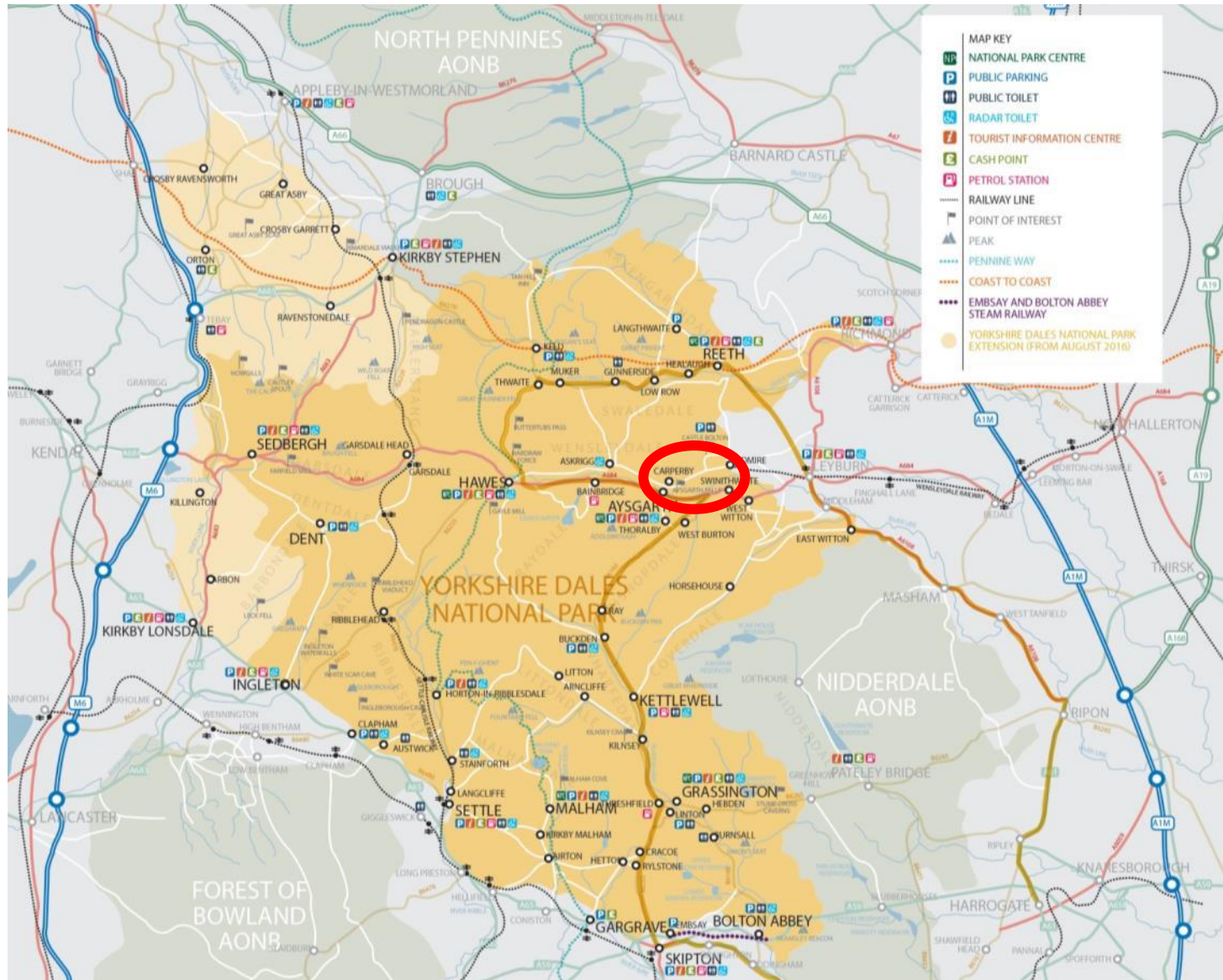
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- There are 15 members in the national park family.
- These are protected areas because of their beautiful countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage.
- National parks welcome visitors and provide opportunities for everyone to experience, enjoy and learn about their special qualities.
- People live and work in the national parks and the farms, villages and towns are protected along with the landscape and wildlife.

Yorkshire Dales National Park



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



Dormice in the Yorkshire Dales NP



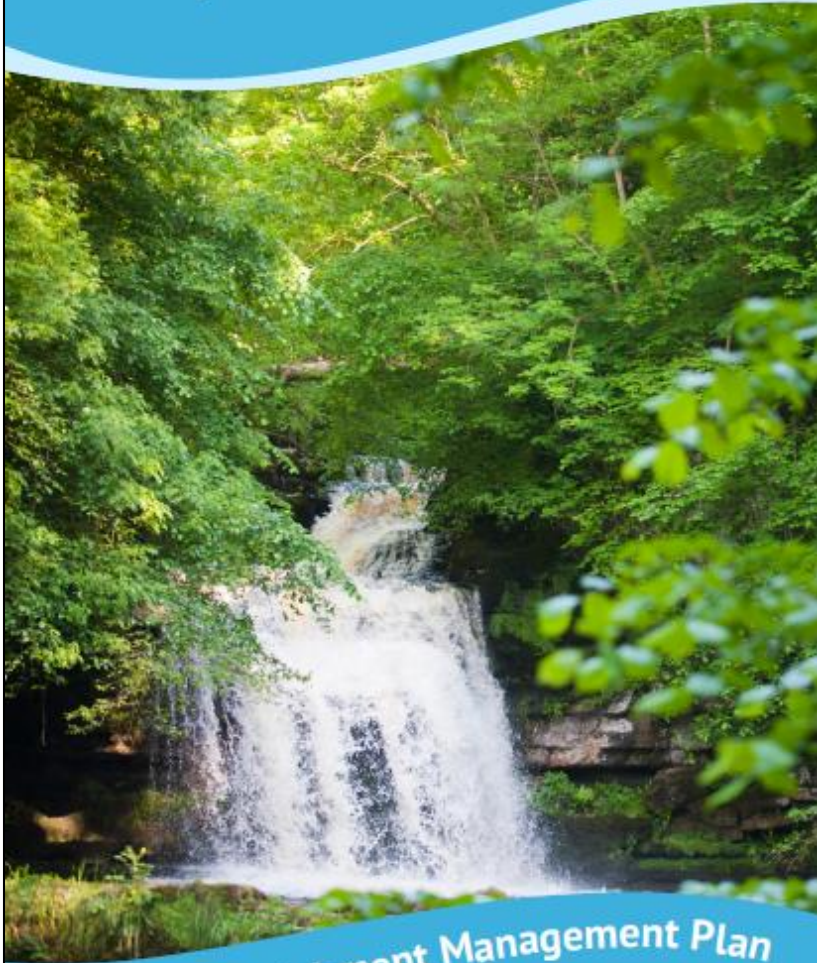
YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

- Present across Yorkshire Dales up until late 19th Century, and still extant at Aysgarth in 1884.
- Following two previous projects in Yorkshire, a third reintroduction into the county was undertaken near Aysgarth in 2008.
- Coppice management programme and annual monitoring as part of NDMP.



Range Expansion

The Wensleydale Project *Yore Past, Ure Future*



Catchment Management Plan

Proposed strategy for dormouse reintroductions in England and Wales

people's
trust for
endangered
species

Report by Ian White
Dormouse Officer PTES

October 2014

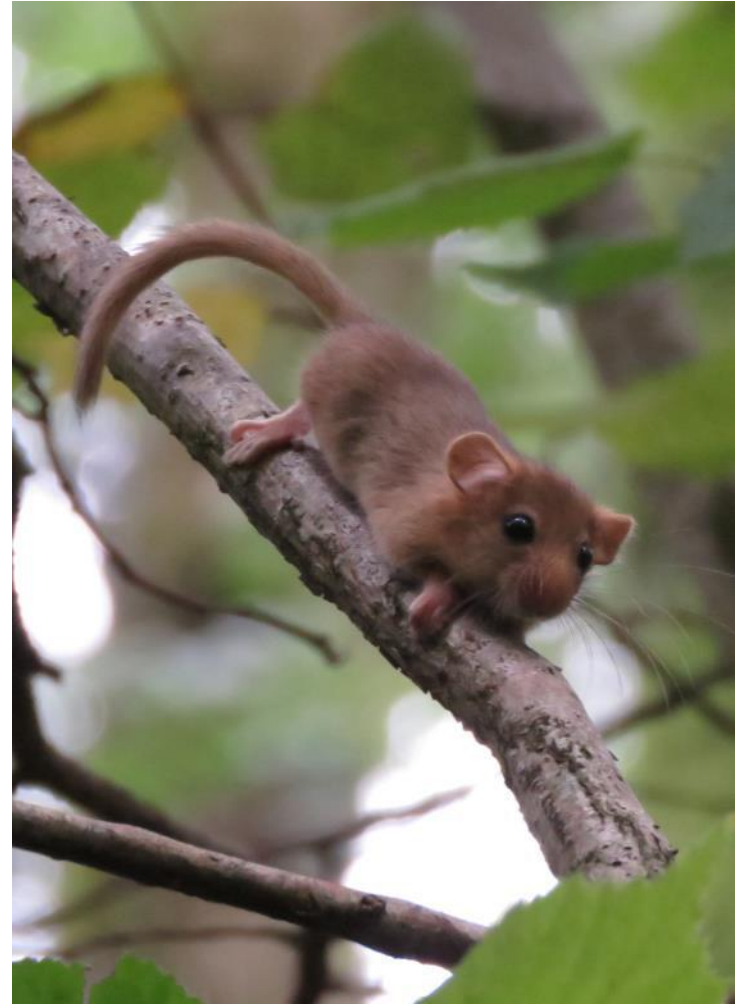
Wensleydale Dormouse Project

“Create a contiguous network of appropriately managed woodlands and hedgerows in the mid-Wensleydale area, to facilitate the expansion of the Dormouse population from the successful reintroduction site at Freeholders’ Wood.”



Project Funding

- Peoples Trust for Endangered Species.
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.
- Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.
- Countryside Stewardship:
 - Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant;
 - Woodland Creation Grant.
- Woodland Trust.



Project Structure

- Three year project ends in April 2020.
- Part-time project officer to undertake landowner liaison and deliver capital works.
- Dormouse monitoring work undertaken by YDNPA staff and volunteers.
- Over-arching project aims and objectives overseen by YDNPA and PTES steering group.



Supplementary Reintroduction

- 16.48 ha broad-leaved Hazel woodland just two miles from Aysgarth.
- In June 2017, a total of 38 captive bred animals (21 females and 17 males) from ZSL and Paignton Zoo.
- Widespread dispersal within the wood.



Hedgerow Survey

Determine quality and extent of the linear hedgerow and linear landscape features in the project area.

- Desk based survey identified boundary features.
- 12.8 km of hedgerows surveyed and entered into Hedgelinek online database.
- Assessment of a further 44.3 km of boundaries features.



Hedgerow Management

Bring 2.1+ km of existing unmanaged or gapped hedgerow into appropriate management.

- 1.9 km of hedgerows now managed including:
 - 810 m improved and enriched with Bramble and Honeysuckle.
 - 1110 m fences repaired or replaced and gapped up.



New Hedgerow Planting

Plant a minimum of 1.7 km of new hedgerows.

- A total of 1610 m of new hedgerows created, 210 m out for tender.
 - 745 m of new hedgerows planted.
 - 865 m of new fencing completed and will be planted this coming season.



Bring ten small wooded areas (c. 50 sq. m) into appropriate management.

- To date ten woodlands have been identified for habitat improvement over four land holdings, totalling 3.7 ha.
- One has been completed whilst the remaining nine are subject to current contracts.



Raising Awareness

Deliver four workshops for stakeholders, an annual monitoring report and project summary papers.

- Workshops for local landowners, Yorkshire Mammal Group and CIEEM.
- The project featured on regional ITV Yorkshire and Tyne Tees regions and BBC Look North.
- Annual reports and summary paper in prep.



Dormouse Habitat Connectivity



Project area = 8.25 square kilometres

Project Legacy

- Defined project area where future management will be targeted for dormice.
- Now have five licence holders, two just been assessed and one training.
- Aim to monitor dispersal from reintroduction sites.
- Look to repeat hedgerow survey.
- Further opportunities to promote dormouse conservation work.



Project Legacy



Project Funders



With additional support from:

- Woodland Trust
- Natural England