

# Annual review 2013

In 2013 our planning work focused on a number of speculative housing proposals on green field and green belt sites, principally in the High Peak and NE Derbyshire. We also made strong representations on Rotherham's Core Strategy and Doncaster's Sites and Policies document. And we objected to wind turbines near Stocksbridge and above Ewden which were subsequently refused by Sheffield City Council.

We successfully lobbied the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) to serve a prohibition order at Backdale Quarry on Longstone Edge East. In line with our support, a small quarry above Beeley will be re-opened to provide stone for the restoration of Chatsworth.

### We had notable successes with:

- Our Take Back the Tracks campaign; we were delighted when the PDNPA banned trail-bikes, quad bikes and 4x4s permanently from the Roych.

However, as a result of the escalating impact of off-roading by motorised vehicle users, the limited resources available and the costly repair work, we strengthened our policy on off-roading and are now calling for a ban on all off-roading in national parks.

- Two new undergrounding schemes were completed, one in Chapel-en-le-Frith and one at Peep-o-Day near Hayfield. Northern Powergrid are soon to bury intrusive wires near Midhoptstones and Holmfirth. We continue to press National Grid to ensure the pylons in Longendale will be an early candidate for undergrounding through their visual impact provision fund.

Serious threats still remain however, including: Upgrading the A628 trunk route across the Pennines; Network Rail plans to upgrade the Hope Valley line; HS2 planned route through South Yorkshire; and the A6 Manchester Airport Relief Road.

# 2013 ~ Successes, Issues and Campaigns ~ 2013

## Take Back the Tracks



Despite welcome changes in rights of way law, 4x4s and trail bikes continue to use green lanes (both legally and illegally) which, due to their location and condition, cannot sustain such use.

The tranquillity and quiet enjoyment of many users is spoilt by off-roading, through noise, safety issues and the physical damage to the green lanes. There can also be serious impacts on biodiversity, soil erosion and land management practices, including farming.

As a result of the escalating impact of off-roading in the National Park, in 2013 we decided to change our off-roading policy. The main change is to lobby for a change in the law so that all off-road use of green lanes within the Peak District National Park is illegal. We will continue working with the Peak District Green Lanes Association in order to change the legislation as it applies within the National Park.

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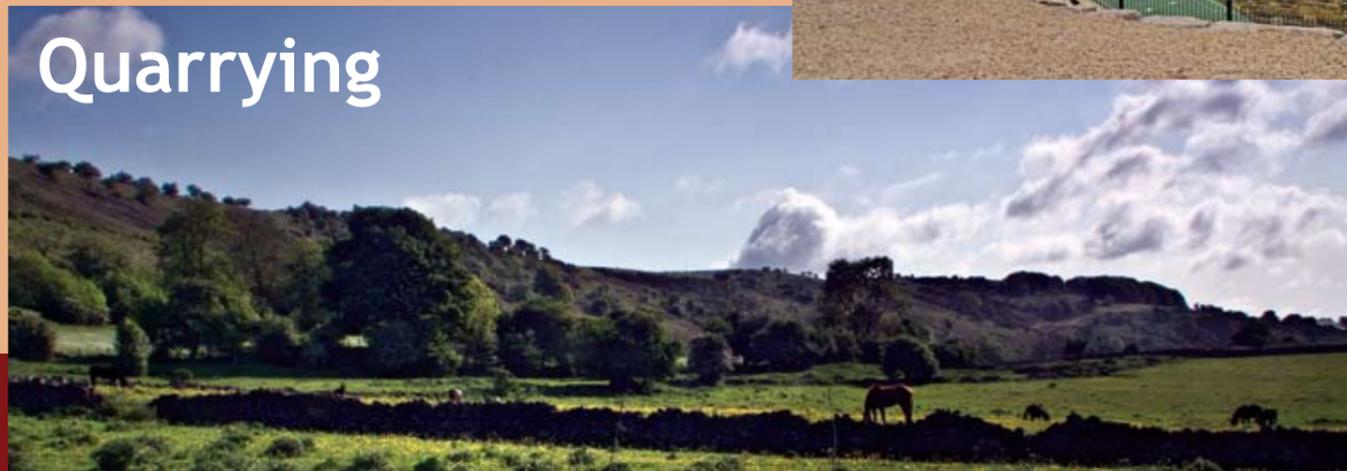
## Green Buildings Open Up Weekend

Locals and tourists alike enjoyed a green weekend in October, when green buildings across the Peak District opened their doors to the public to showcase a range of green technologies. Visitors were treated to tours and presentations by farmers, home owners and community members, all of whom had been involved in innovative green buildings projects, such as air source heat pumps; rainwater collection systems; small scale hydro schemes; biomass boilers and local sustainable building methods.



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## Quarrying



We scored a major victory by successfully lobbying the PDNPA to serve a prohibition order at Longstone Edge East (which includes the notorious Backdale Quarry). We have long campaigned against illegal quarrying in this area, fighting a number of public inquiries. After work at Backdale was suspended for over two years and the necessary environmental information to keep the permission alive had not been submitted, the NPA issued the prohibition order to prevent any future working on the site, but the owner objected. So into 2014 we are facing a public inquiry, which we are pledged to fight.

In line with our support for small scale quarrying for local use, we were

pleased that an application to re-open Burntwood Quarry to provide stone for the restoration of Chatsworth House was agreed by PDNPA.

We continued to monitor other live quarry cases such as: the continuation of underground mining at British Fluorspar's Milldam Mine, which we supported in principle (as it reduces pressure for open cast sites) but we are concerned about subsidence and lorry problems; and the amendment of conditions regarding restoration at Dale View Quarry near Stanton Moor (we objected to further processing/sawing there on tranquillity grounds).

## Undergrounding

Undergrounding of intrusive electricity wires progressed in 2013, with two new schemes completed by Electricity North West near Chapel-en-le-Frith. Northern Powergrid (ex-YEDL) are soon to remove wires near Midhopstones and Holmfirth. Western Power Distribution completed a scheme at Edensor (see below). All companies look likely to spend



out their 2010-15 allowances for the PDNP and possibly more, using underspend from other NPs/AONBs. This is testament to us and the NPA bringing forward sufficient proposals in a timely manner. We continue to press National Grid to keep open the undergrounding option in their pylon renewal plans for Longendale. Despite earlier rhetoric that they were open to undergrounding, especially if OFGEM released sufficient funds (which they now have and in spades, £500million!), National Grid are now looking to reverse their commitment. This is very worrying.



## Planning work

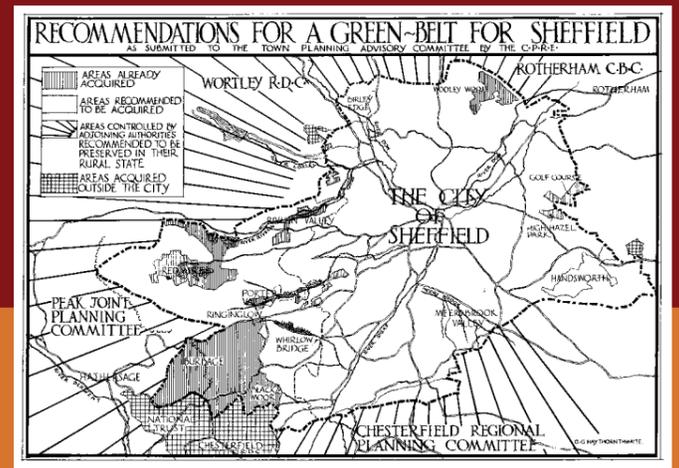
Monitoring planning applications and commenting on local plans and policies are core areas of work. In 2013 we continued to utilise a team of local planning volunteers, who helped us to make comments on a total of over 300 applications during the year and detailed responses on 30 of those. 2013 saw the first anniversary of the National Planning Policy Framework, which has resulted in a greatly increased number of speculative and potentially damaging housing applications put forward, particularly in the High Peak area.

We continue to concentrate our threat work on a series of speculative housing proposals for a number of green field and green belt sites. A number are sites where we have seen off previous proposals at inquiry. Welcome refusals of permission for two sites in Glossop and Hadfield have subsequently been through appeal and since been overturned in 2014.

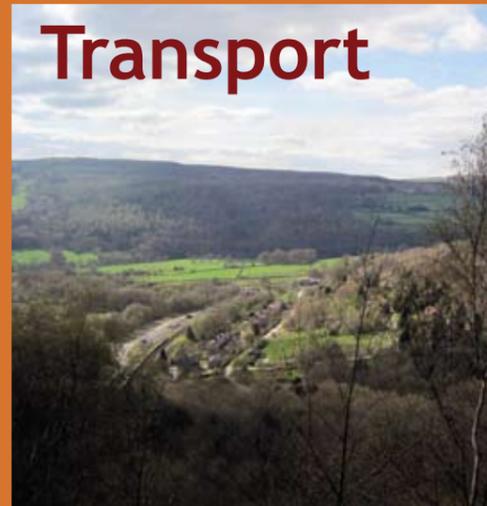
We spent a lot of time working on our representations for the Examination in Public (EiP) for Rotherham's Core Strategy and attended the main sessions of the EiP to put our case, and to counter the evidence being

given by housebuilders. In essence they want a free for all, allowing them to cherry pick the best sites. We want a phased release of sites, with greenfield and green belt sites being options of last resort. We continue to monitor the final consultation stages of Doncaster MBC's Site and Policies document, working with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

We objected to wind turbines at Sheephouse Heights near Stocksbridge which have yet to be determined by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Two turbines above Ewden have been refused by Sheffield City Council in line with our views and those of many residents.



## Transport



An upgrade to the A628 trunk route across the National Park was threatened in July 2013 by the Treasury's infrastructure plan and the Department for Transport's Action for Roads proposal. This highlighted that the route would be subject to a feasibility study to identify problems and investment needs.

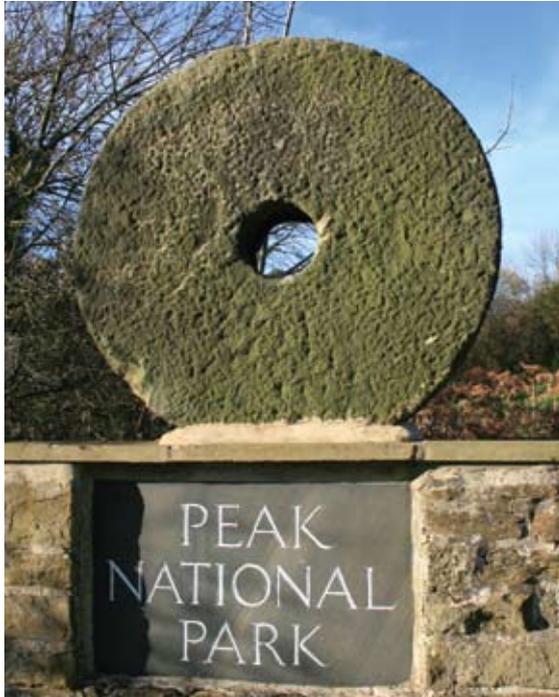
Network Rail presented its proposals for upgrading the Hope Valley line in order to allow an increased number of fast non-stopping trains between Manchester and South Yorkshire. The upgrade is part of the Northern Hub plan to increase

connectivity between Manchester Leeds and Sheffield. Our policy is in principle to support rail improvements as they offer greater opportunities for sustainable transport of goods and people. The work includes passing loops, one at Dore and the second at Grindleford. Both locations would see significant disruption; we supported the works at Dore but objected to the work at Grindleford due to severe impacts on the National Trust's Longshaw estate and ancient woodland.

# Finance report

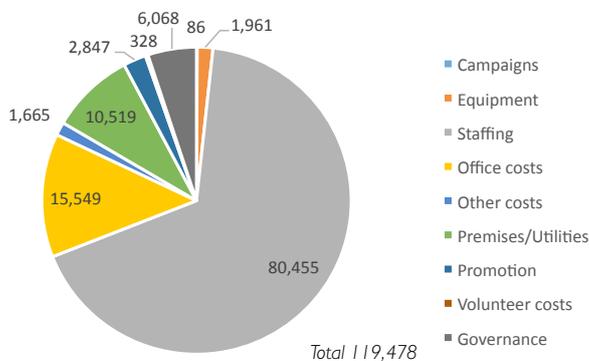
The principal activity of the charity is to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular the area within the Peak District and South Yorkshire.

2013 was our first year of operation following the necessary cost reductions made in 2012. Our reduced team of four part-time staff moved into shared office accommodation with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, and a new era for the charity began. In spite of these changes, we continued with our core work, and made significant and important contributions to protecting the landscapes of the Peak District and South Yorkshire.

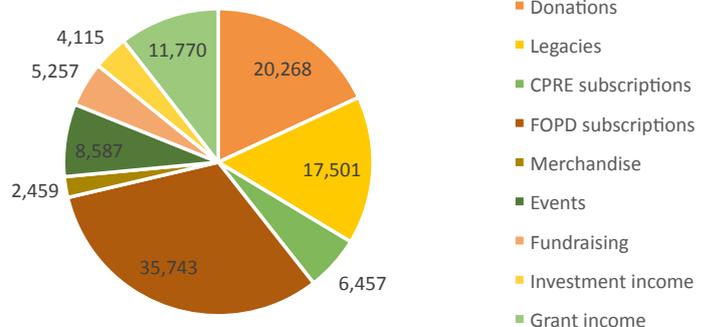


	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>			
Donations	10,747	9,521	20,268
Legacies	17,501	-	17,501
CPRE subscriptions	6,457	-	6,457
FOPD subscriptions	-	35,743	35,743
Merchandising income	-	2,459	2,459
Events income	-	8,587	8,587
Fundraising income	2,013	3,244	5,257
Investment income	4,115	-	4,115
Grant income	-	11,770	11,770
	<b>40,833</b>	<b>71,324</b>	<b>112,157</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>			
Costs of generating funds	7,953	13,493	21,446
Charitable Activities	62,460	50,950	113,410
Governance Costs	4,000	2,068	6,068
	<b>74,413</b>	<b>66,511</b>	<b>140,924</b>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before investments</b>			
Investment gains/(losses)	-33,580	4,813	-28,767
Profit/(loss) on sale of assets	12,458	-	12,458
Total funds brought forward	5,000	-	5,000
	269,695	69,211	338,906
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>253,573</b>	<b>74,024</b>	<b>327,597</b>

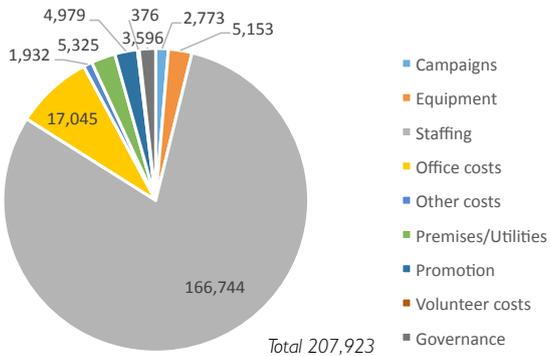
2013 charitable activities expenditure



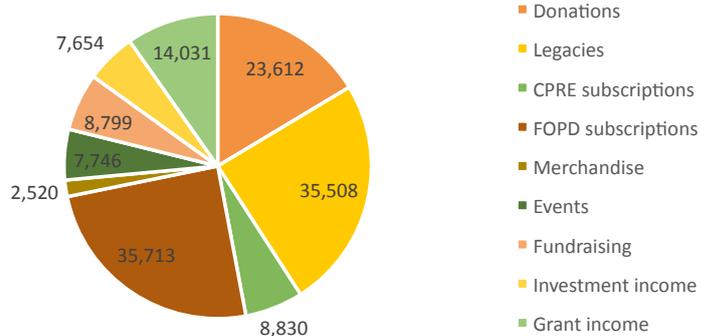
2013 Income



2012 charitable activities expenditure



2012 Income



The deficit in 2013 was caused mainly by one-off costs associated with the IT upgrade (£10k+) plus the additional cost of employing a planning officer for two days a week (£16k+). Both items were accepted as exceptional expenditure in the original (Feb) and amended budgets (June), to be met from reserves if necessary.

**Trustees** Isabella Stone – Chair; John Lambert – Vice Chair; Isabel Hartland – Treasurer; Pat Coleman – Secretary; Adrian James; Chamu Kuppusswamy; Gareth Williams; John Anfield; John Barkley; John Hoare; Yvonne Witter.