

Fylingdales Moor fire recovery update

Date: 07.11.25.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service update

This remains an open incident and fire crews continue to carry out regular checks. Some areas are still smouldering within the forestry areas and being assessed daily by the fire service and Forestry England. The moorland burning season has now begun and controlled burns may be carried out on the moors. These activities are planned and supervised, but if members of the public see smoke and suspect a fire may be unattended or spreading, they should call 999 and ask for the fire service.

Our fire investigation team is progressing with investigation into the cause of the incident. We will share the outcomes of the investigation once it is complete.

Recovery Coordination Group update

Partners in the Recovery Coordination Group (RCG), led by North Yorkshire Council, continue to lobby hard for financial compensation for the farmers, landowners and businesses impacted by the wildfire, where obvious funding streams have not yet been identified.

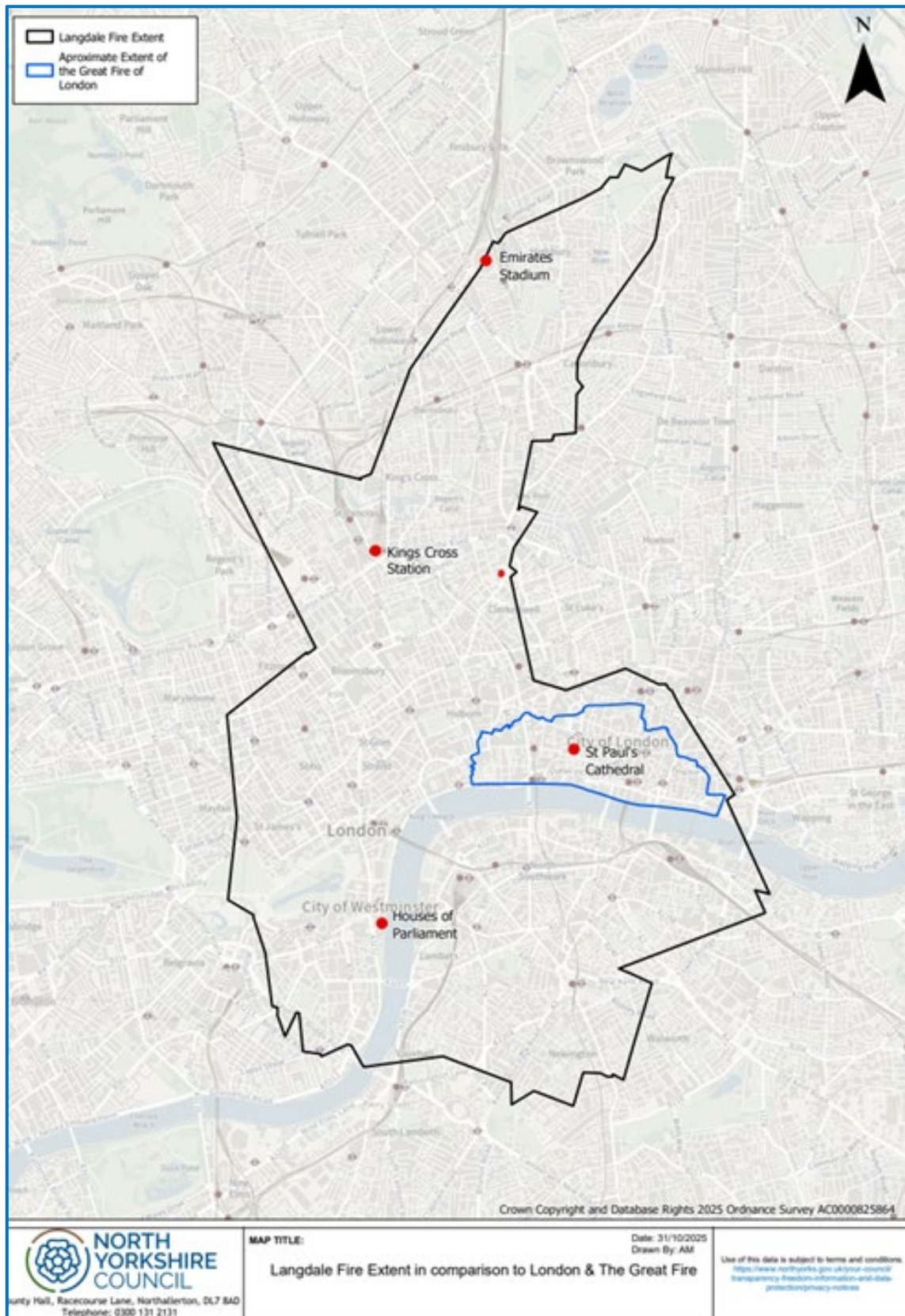
As such, on Wednesday this week (5 November), representatives from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, North Yorkshire Council, the North York Moors National Park Authority, and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, hosted a tour of the areas impacted by the fire for Government officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

This was a significant moment. The delegation was taken to May Beck and Woodsmith Mine, where the blaze originally jumped across the B1416.

The tour took in the very northern extremity of the fire and then travelled down the A171 to show MHCLG delegates the full extent of the fire area. They visited the Flask Inn and the Grouse Hill camp site, where a small number of evacuations took place during the height of the fire. They then returned to May Beck and followed the fire tracks past the Sneaton Highmoor Forest and

towards Lilla Cross. This demonstrated the size and scale of the firebreaks and the environmental damage that the fire has caused to a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The scale of the geography impacted by the fire was brought home clearly to the delegation in a map which overlays the Fylingdales Moor fire extent over the area impacted by the Great Fire of London, shown below:



The tour finished at the site of the former fire incident command point, and it was a valuable opportunity to visually represent the huge scale and impact of the Fylingdales Moor fire. The MHCLG delegates took many photos and videos of the areas impacted. There were helpful discussions around the risks that North Yorkshire faced, and could continue to face in the future, and discussions around how we can work with Government to support the return of the firebreaks, and the communities impacted.

We acknowledge that those attending for Government need to take this back and discuss with ministers. They asked a lot of questions, in particular to the fire and rescue service officers present about the capability that the fire service have, and need access to, to be able to tackle these risks. For example, the numbers of On-Call Firefighters and longer-term relief, the number and type of fire appliances, as well as types of equipment, and touched on the potential for how farming contractors might support preparedness in the future.

They were also keen to talk about health impacts and were conscious that a fire has a direct impact on landowners and property, but also the wider impact of plumes over urban areas as well as wider community anxiety and potential mental health issues.

During the tour the RCG partners asked for £3.17million in Government support to restore the firebreaks, as well as further financial support for landowners, farmers, and businesses directly impacted. We explained that if this had been a flooding incident we would be lobbying to activate the 'Farming Recovery Fund' and the 'Flood Recovery Framework' to access financial compensation for those impacted who have no obvious route to recompense. Such a framework does not currently exist for wildfires, and we believe it should, alongside other weather-related incidents. We also outlined why the Fylingdales Moor fire is different from other wildfires due to the presence of unexploded ordnance, and the depth of the peat which is still smouldering in places. These issues continue to delay recovery and financial assistance to those impacted which is critical.

The MHCLG representatives said afterwards that it was incredibly helpful to see and understand the huge challenges presented. We have already requested a follow up meeting with national government.

Economic subgroup update

Work is ongoing to assess economic impact and identify any required support measures. Advice is being offered to businesses in the area regarding insurance claim submissions. Any businesses that are having trouble submitting successful claims should reach out for support. For any business in the area that is not yet in touch with a support agency, please encourage them to reach out to the [York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub](#).

Environment and Infrastructure subgroup update

Public Rights of Way remain closed and Open Access to Fylingdales Moor is suspended due to the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and to support ongoing impact assessments. These closures affect both the Coast to Coast and Lyke Wake Walk routes.

All visitors must respect the closure notices. These restrictions are in place for public safety and will remain until the area has been fully assessed and confirmed safe. Specialist advice will guide decisions on when access to each Right of Way can safely resume.

The landscape and archaeology in and around Fylingdales Moor are not only hazardous but also damaged, fragile, and vulnerable to further erosion. Restricting access at this time is essential to protect both people and the ongoing recovery of the area.

Motorists are advised to exercise extra caution, especially along the B1416 Ruswarp Road, where pedestrian activity has increased due to the diversion of the Coast to Coast walking route.

For further information, including alternative walking routes and diversions, please visit the North York Moors National Park website [North York Moors National Park | NYMNP](#).

Humanitarian and Community Engagement subgroup update

We are reviewing all the feedback from the recent community event held in Whitby and collating information to support the preparations for more community drop-in events planned to take place soon.

Any queries about future community engagement, can be emailed to stronger.communities@northyorks.gov.uk. If you would like to find out more about the community support available, please email community.recovery@northyorks.gov.uk.

Communications subgroup update

The subgroup continues to meet to coordinate this partner updates and FAQs and to support the needs of the wider recovery programme.

Further information

Further information can be found on the following partner website pages:

- [North Yorkshire Council](#)
- [York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
- [North York Moors National Park](#)
- [North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)