

Peak District Local Access Forum

Annual Report 2017



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Contact Details

All Forum meetings are open to the public, and by prior arrangement, members of the public may ask to speak at the meetings. Meetings are at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lafmeetings

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Full details of the Forum, its reports, minutes from meetings and information on members, are published on the website www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf



Chair's Introduction

I was honoured to be elected in September as Chair of the Peak District Local Access Forum (having been Vice Chair), to follow on from Edwina Edwards who did an excellent job for 7 years. Her leadership, knowledge, skills and commitment were acknowledged at the September meeting and her continued involvement with the Forum will prove to be invaluable.

I am delighted to be joined by two Vice Chairs to share the work in Charlotte Gilbert (a horse rider and land manager) and Bob Berzins (a fell runner) who both have good experience and excellent service on our LAF.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 included setting up Local Access Forums with this one being the first. We continue to work with quarterly meetings and the advice and support of two Sub Groups for Green Lanes and Access, and have a Joint Sub Group with the Derby and Derbyshire LAF reviewing the vital Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The approach to our work is to achieve consensus through understanding and working together on issues. We respond to consultations and provide advice on rights of way and access matters, and value the current efforts being made with partners to achieve increased accessibility by all to and within the Peak District, including the National Parks-wide initiative to pursue Miles without Stiles. Our advice and thoughts are offered as volunteers with a real love of the Peak District as strong supporters of the partnership approach which is crucial to successful working with other interests.

During 2017, we have had involvement in landscape partnerships across

the National Park and initiatives for mountain biking, cycling and horse riding and are currently inputting to the National Park Management Plan Review, and its Partnership Delivery Plan. We have also been pleased to support opportunities for voluntary donations for access improvements via the Access Fund and Mend our Mountains and consider that there is a clear role for the Authority here without potential for conflict with other interests. The LAF, also, has an important role to play in identifying the need for improvements via its wish list.

Every year millions of visitors come in search of that special magic that can only be experienced in a National Park. Thank you for the tremendous work from the current and previous LAF volunteers whose time and dedication is very much appreciated and must not be underestimated, along with officers from the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council. In my first few months as Chair, I am enjoying working with very knowledgeable and committed colleagues. My thanks go to them all and, in particular the help and support we receive from Mike Rhodes, Sue Smith, Richard Pett and Gill Millward as officers for their hard work and guidance.

I hope that you will read the rest of the annual report with interest to understand the nature of the work that the Forum has undertaken over the last year and will take the opportunity to hear our discussions and advice at meetings which are now broadcast live.

John Thompson

Chair, Peak District Local Access Forum

Purpose of the Forum

The Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF) is a statutory body, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). It covers the National Park and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills and Glossop.

The Forum advises on the improvement of public access for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment and in so doing takes into account the needs of land management and conserving the natural beauty of the area.

Membership of the Forum

Membership of the Forum is reviewed regularly to ensure a reasonable balance between the number of members from land owning, recreation and local interests. Details of the current membership are included at the end of this report and at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf

In 2017, Edwina stood down as Chair after seven years and was succeeded by John Thompson, the previous Vice Chair; Charlotte Gilbert and Bob Berzins agreed to share the duties of Vice-chair; Caitlin Bisknell, Laura D'Cruz, Caroline Hanson and Chris Page all left the Forum; and Jason Atkin, Joe Dalton, Geoff Nickolds and Dan Richmond-Watson joined.

Meetings of the Forum in 2017

Formal meetings of the Local Access Forum took place on the following dates:

- **Thursday 9 March,**
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 15 June,**
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 21 September,**
Moorland Discovery Centre,
Longshaw
- **Thursday 7 December,**
Aldern House, Bakewell

The Forum also undertook site visits to look at the management of farming, conservation and access, a proposed Miles without Stiles route, and to the route at Wetton.



LAF visit to a proposed Miles without Stiles route at Longshaw

Issues discussed at the formal meetings in 2017 included:

Fundraising

At each meeting of the Access sub-group, which met in January and April, the LAF considered access improvements and the funding for them via the Access Fund. The Forum was also updated on the Mend our Mountains fundraising campaign and expressed views on the Authority's charity proposals. The Access Fund annual report was received at the December meeting.

Miles without Stiles

The Forum have been following progress on the identification of accessible routes in the National Park and in September contributed to the development of route selection criteria. The Authority's work on accessibility was reported at the end of 2017 in its annual report.

Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The County Council provided the LAF with regular updates on delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) with the Peak District and Derby and Derbyshire LAFs working together to progress its ten year review. During 2017 there has been continued emphasis on cycling through the continued expansion of the multiuser Greenway network; Pedal Peak II and the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. Workshops have also been held on unrecorded ways.

Green Lanes

The Forum was updated on the making of two traffic regulation orders and consulted on a proposal for another. The Authority reported on actions for the year ahead and progress on voluntary restraint, with legal status and repair updates being provided by Derbyshire County Council. The Green Lanes sub-group met in February and July.



LAF Access Sub-group visit to Alport



LAF visit to a proposed Miles without Stiles route at Longshaw

Other key matters discussed:

- Mountain-biking initiatives
- National Trails – Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway
- Bus service in the Upper Derwent Valley
- National Park Authority resource and structural changes
- Moorland Owners' Liaison
- Landscape Partnerships – Sheffield Lakeland, South-west Peak

Formal Consultations

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Derbyshire Cycling Plan – Key Cycle Network consultation
- National Park Management Plan
- Traffic Regulation Order at Wetton Hills
- Staffordshire Rights of Way Review
- PDNPA Transport Design Guide

Training and Liaison

The LAF has been represented by members at:

- National Park Management Plan (NPMP) monitoring and review
- Regional LAF Chair meetings
- Sheffield Moors Partnership and Eastern Moors Partnership

The Year Ahead

- Identifying access improvements and supporting efforts to secure contributions to the Access Fund
- Involvement in landscape and other important partnerships and the protection and promotion of countryside assets
- Involvement in advising on completion of the National Park Management Plan Review and Implementation Plan
- Responding to the National Park Authority's conclusions and any suggestions for a Park Wide charity and ongoing support to the Access Fund
- Contributing advice and suggestions regarding further development of "Miles without Stiles" and accessibility improvements with partners
- Input to the Mend our Mountains Appeal proposals including the Great Ridge and Cut Gate
- Reviewing and supporting Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Developing green lanes as a resource and managing recreational motorised use
- Strategic support for Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails including pursuing completion of the Pennine Bridleway around Glossop

- Mountain biking and future opportunities for the wider Peak District and Derbyshire
- Seeking further expansion and improvements to horse riding routes and opportunities, including Lost Ways
- Involvement in a Joint Working Group with the Derby and Derbyshire LAF for the ten year Review of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan and its relationship with Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, and hopefully other ROWIP Reviews covering our area

- With neighbouring Local Access Forums, Access and Highway Authorities on shared interests
- Further training in conjunction with Natural England and others
- Continue to raise the profile of the Local Access Forum among a wider audience

Dates of Meetings in 2017

- **Thursday 15 March,** Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 14 June,** Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 20 September,** Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw
- **Thursday 6 December,** Aldern House, Bakewell



LAF members being updated on proposed repairs at Cutthroat Bridge, Ladybower

Financial Statement 2017

Members' Travel	£217
Room hire, refreshments & lunches	£442
Annual Report	£126
Minutes	£268
TOTAL	£1052

The Peak District National Park Authority administers and provides secretariat for the Forum with financial support from Derbyshire County Council

Local Access Forum Members

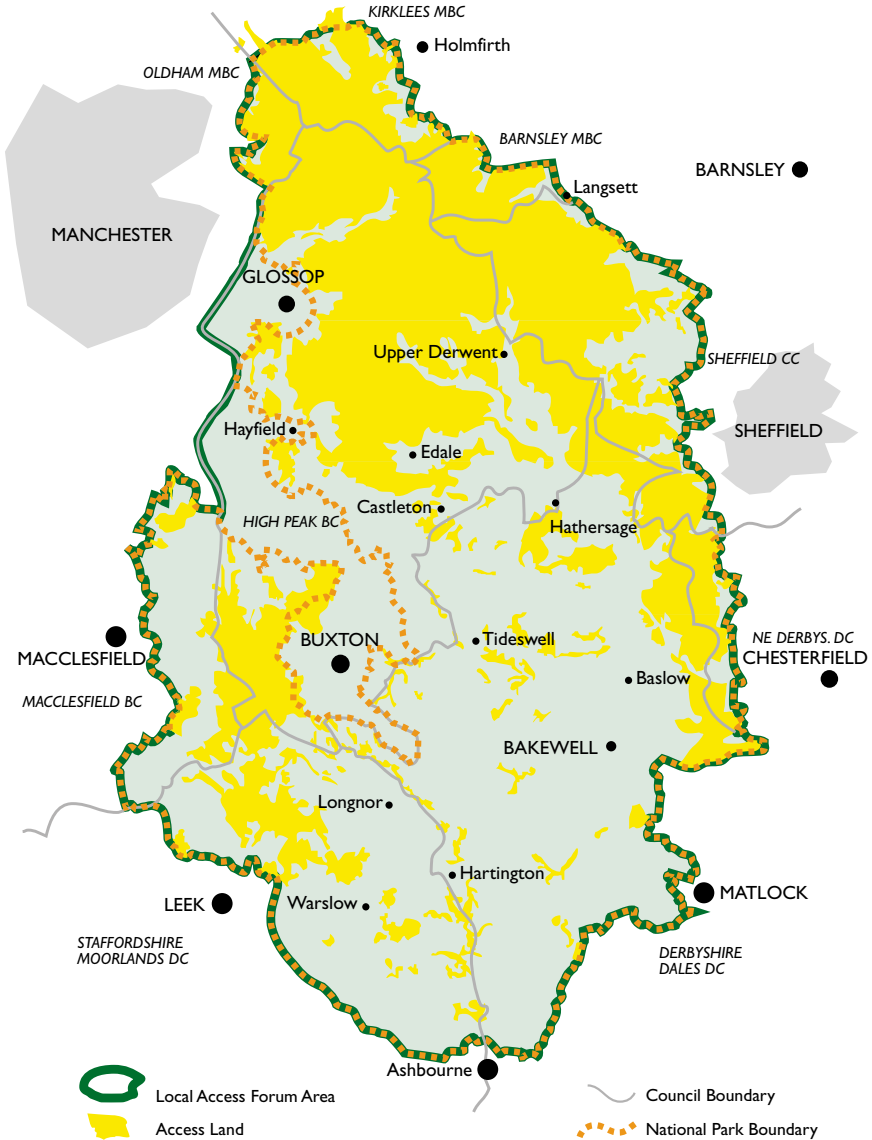


Pictured above, from left to right:
 John Thompson, Edwina Edwards, Henry Folkard, Adge Last, Jason Atkin, Bob Berzins, Terry Howard, Claire Griffin, Richard Entwistle, Charlotte Gilbert, Paul Richardson, Sue Weatherley

Member Details and Attendance 2017

Member	Background and Interests	Appointment Expiry Date	09/03/17	15/06/17	21/09/17	07/12/17
Edwina Edwards (Chair to September)	Community transport, Girl Guiding UK, walking, cycling, fell running	Sept 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Thompson (Vice-chair March/June, Chair Sept/Dec)	Partnerships in recreation and education	June 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jason Atkin	Derbyshire County Council appointee	From September			✓	✗
Bob Berzins (co-vice-chair from Sept)	Fell running, conservation	June 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caitlin Bisknell	Derbyshire County Council appointee	Left May 2017	✗			
Ian Bunting	Water company, recreation	Dec 2017	✗	✗	✗	✗
Laura D'Cruz	Access for families, young children	Resigned March 2017				
Joe Dalton	Farmer, landowner	Dec 2020				✓
Richard Entwistle	Motor vehicle users	Dec 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry Folkard	Climber, conservation	Aug 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Gilbert (co-vice-chair from Sept)	Land manager, horse rider	Dec 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clare Griffin	Trail-bike rider, fell runner	Oct 2017	✓	✗	✓	✓
John Hall	Farming	Nov 2019	✓	✗	✗	✗
Caroline Hanson	Moorland owner	Resigned June 2017	✓			
Terry Howard	Walker, access campaigner	Aug 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matt Hutson	Outdoors education, Duke of Edinburgh	Dec 2018	✗	✗	✗	✗
Adge Last	Outdoors education, cycling inc mountain biking	Oct 2017	✗	✗	✓	✓
Andrew Murley	A ccess for those with disability	March 2018	✓	✓	✗	✓
Geoff Nickolds	Recreation and land management	Dec 2020				✓
Chris Page	Widening access, canoeing	Resigned Sept 2017	✓	✗	✓	
Paul Richardson	Mountain-biking	March 2020	✓	✗	✓	✗
Dan Richmond-Watson	Land manager	March 2021				✗
Jon Stewart	Recreation and conservation, National Trust	Oct 2017	✗	✓	✗	✓
Ally Turner	Horse riding, walkers, young people	Oct 2017	✓	✓	✗	✓
John Walton	National Park Authority appointee	N/A	✓	✗	✗	✗
Sue Weatherley	Ramblers, wildlife	June 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓

Geographical Coverage of the Peak District Local Access Forum



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