

# Peak District Local Access Forum

Annual Report 2014



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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](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf)

## Chair's Introduction

This year has once again proved a challenge with the reduction in resources that are available. However despite these pressures, all Local Access Forum (LAF) members appreciate the time National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council Officers provide in keeping everyone informed of the latest information. Even more important are the improvements to rights of way and access despite decreasing budgets.

With the continued efforts of the LAF a wider Peak District cycling strategy was approved and was used to help draw down funds to develop more cycling routes in and around the National Park. The increase in cycle usage from such events as the L'Eroica vintage bike ride, the cycling festival and UK Tour de France has brought tremendous economic benefits to the Peak District National Park.

LAF members have participated in sub groups that have helped to formulate responses to consultations on traffic regulation orders. The onsite work of the Green Lanes Sub Group has helped provide guidance for the Highways Authority and the Peak District National Park Authority.

2014 was a year to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the introduction of open access. A fantastic, inspirational and reflective event took place at the Moorland Discovery Centre at Longshaw. This event included speeches from access champions, an atmospheric walk above Longshaw and the launch of the National Park Access Fund which helps provide financial support for access improvements. At the end of the celebration event, LAF members were left with the challenge of engaging with everyone in understanding, enjoying and appreciating open access for the next 10 years and beyond.

Thank you for the tremendous work from the volunteers, officers from Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council. The time and dedication is very much appreciated.

### Edwina Edwards

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 area and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills and Glossop (refer to back cover for geographical coverage).

This appointment is a requirement of Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which states that the purpose of the Forum is;

**“To advise the appointing authorities on the improvement of public access for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area.”**

In undertaking the above, the Forum has due regard to the needs of land management and of conserving the natural beauty of the area.

Details of the duties and responsibilities of the Forum are laid out in:

- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) Act 2000
- Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007
- Guidance on Local Access Forums in England issued by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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 advertised on the National Park Authority’s website at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lafmeetings](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lafmeetings)

## Membership of the Forum

Membership of the Forum is reviewed regularly and appointments are made on renewable three-year terms. Recruitment is made on the basis of ‘expressions of interest’ made to the Authorities in response to adverts in the local press and direct mailing. Interviews of applicants are then held, to ensure that prospective members fulfil the requirements of the position.

The appointing Authorities are required to ensure a reasonable balance is made 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 on the National Park Authority’s website at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf)

In 2014, Chris Page and Ian Bunting joined the Forum and Jon Clennell and James Kellie stepped down after having been involved with the Forum since 2005.



## Meetings of the Forum in 2014

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

- Thursday 13 March, Aldern House, Bakewell
- Thursday 19 June, Aldern House, Bakewell
- Thursday 11 September, Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw
- Thursday 4 December, Aldern House, Bakewell

The Forum also undertook site visits to look at the Stanage and North Lees Estate, including Derbyshire County Council's repair works at Long Causeway; to report on green lanes in the Staffordshire part of the National Park, and to look at an area of open access land near Buxton.

Members of the Sheffield LAF were invited to the September Forum meeting and site visit.

The following major issues were discussed:

### Open Access

The LAF received updates from the Access Sub group which met in March, April, July and October to consider statutory reviews on directions restricting access, the access wish list, the dedication of National Nature Reserves and the celebration of the 10th anniversary of open access. The Forum welcomed the setting up of the Access Fund by the Authority.



Open access anniversary celebrations

### Properties

An update was provided to the Forum on the Authority's vision for North Lees. The Forum was also updated on the new Heritage Lottery funded South-West Peak Landscape Partnership which covers the properties at the Roaches and Warslow Moors and progress implementing the Trails Management Plan.

### Cycling

Following the successful partnership bid for funding in 2013, the LAF was updated on the Pedal Peak II Cycling Project by Derbyshire County Council and welcomed the progress to develop key links and cycle hubs. The LAF was also a consultee for the NPA's wider Peak District cycle strategy. Its key request of action relating to mountain biking was agreed.

### Peak District National Park Recreation Strategy

In 2014, the Forum took on a direct role in identifying priorities and actions to implement the recreation strategy and action plan in place of the Authority's former strategic management group. Progress updates were provided.

### Derbyshire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The LAF had regular updates on progress in delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the proposed work programme for 2014/15. These included information about how substantial amounts

of funding secured through the Local Transport Plan and other external sources were being spent on public rights of way and multi-user Greenway schemes across the county.

### Green Lanes

The Forum was updated on the action plans for managing motor vehicles on green lanes and off-road and the implementation of 4 traffic regulation orders during 2014 on which they had been formally consulted. The LAF also carried out site inspections on 4 priority routes in the Staffordshire part of the National Park. The Green Lanes sub-group met in February, September and November. A presentation was also given by Land Access and Recreation Association on their byway code and other issues related to recreational motor vehicle use.



Green lane sub-group site visit to Hollinsclough

## Newsletters

Regular access and green lanes newsletters circulated and published by the National Park Authority were welcomed by Forum members.

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/how-we-look-after-access/access-newsletter](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/how-we-look-after-access/access-newsletter)

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/vehicles/newsletter](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/vehicles/newsletter)

Derbyshire County Council also informed the LAF about its regular electronic Pedal Peak II newsletters which people could sign up to via the website:

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/pedal\\_peak/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/pedal_peak/default.asp)

## Formal Consultations

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Review of Directions to Restrict Access at Deer Hill, Meltham; Diggle Rifle Range; West Nab, Bradfield; Hollins Hill, Hollinsclough and Top Field, Crowden
- Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy
- Derbyshire Waterways Strategy
- Defra's Strategic Environmental Assessment on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy
- National Park Authority's Stanage survey
- Defra's reform of access and engagement guidance

- Planning application at Cowdale Quarry, nr Buxton
- Natural England's dedication of the Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve

## Training/Liaison

The LAF has been represented by members at:

- Regional LAF Chairs meetings
- PDLAF members also attended open access celebrations by the NPA, Ramblers and the British Mountaineering Council ([www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/wildside](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/wildside)) and an open access event hosted by the neighbouring Derby and Derbyshire LAF.

## The Year Ahead

Some of the likely priorities for the work of the Forum in 2015 are outlined below.

- Promoting contributions to the Access Fund and developing improvements to open access land
- Managing events in the National Park
- Exploring the links between countryside access and health
- Considering opportunities for enhancing accessibility for all
- Developing green lanes as a resource and managing recreational motor vehicles

- Cycling strategy work and opportunities for the wider Peak District
- Advice in relation to the future management of NPA properties and trails
- Monitoring progress on Rights of Way Improvement Plans delivery
- Volunteering opportunities
- Considering impact of declining resources on access and rights of way delivery
- Working with neighbouring Local Access Forums, Access and Highway Authorities

- Training opportunities in conjunction with Natural England and others
- Promote the Local Access Forum among a wider audience
- Increase the use of Huddle to exchange information with other LAFs

## Dates of Meetings in 2015

- **Thursday 19 March 2015**  
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 11 June 2015**  
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 17 September 2015**  
Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw
- **Thursday 3 December 2015**  
Aldern House, Bakewell



Access for all on the Tissington Trail

## Financial Statement 2014:

Members' Travel	£284.50
Room hire, refreshments & lunches	£445.78
Minibus & tramper hire	£128.00
Annual Report	£325.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1183.28</b>

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:**

Nicola Turner, Edwina Edwards, Mike Johnson, Bob Berzins, Jon Clennell, Henry Folkard, Caroline Hanson (kneeling), Ally Turner, John Hall, Terry Howard, John Thompson, Sue Weatherley

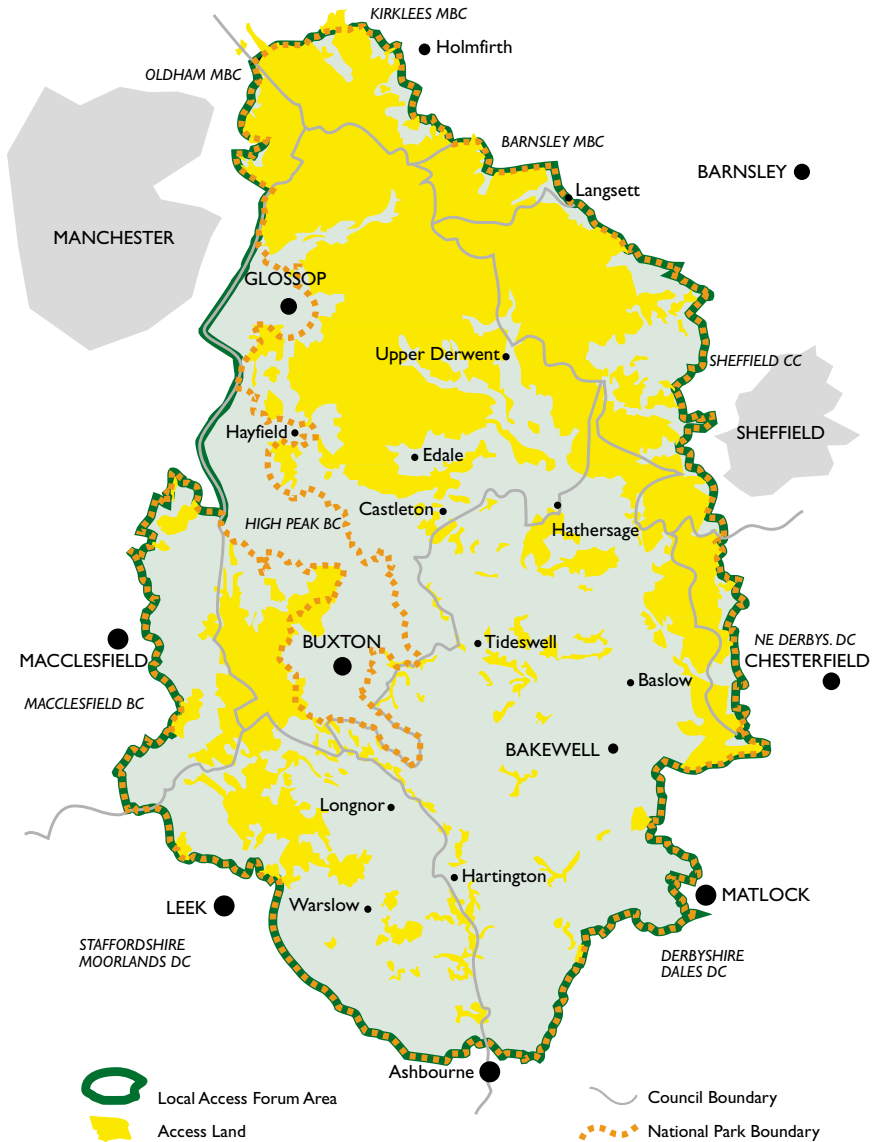


Forum site visit to Long Causeway

## Member Details and Attendance 2014

Member	Background and Interests	Appointment Expiry Date	13/03/14	19/06/14	11/09/14	04/12/14
Edwina Edwards (Chair)	Community transport, Girl Guiding UK, walking, cycling, fell running	Sept 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Thompson (Vice-chair)	Partnerships in recreation and education	June 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bob Berzins	Fell running, conservation	June 2016	✓	✓	✗	✓
Ian Bunting	Water company, recreation	Dec 2017	-	-	-	✓
Jon Clennell	Outdoor pursuits, local community	Dec 2014	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Entwistle	Motor vehicle users	Dec 2016	✓	✗	✓	✓
Henry Folkard	Climber, conservation	Aug 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Gilbert	Land manager, horse rider	Dec 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Damien Greenhalgh	Derbyshire County Council appointee	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Clare Griffin	Trail-bike rider, fell runner	Oct 2017	✓	✗	✓	✓
John Hall	Farming	Nov 2016	✗	✓	✗	✓
Caroline Hanson	Moorland owner	June 2015	✓	✓	✗	✓
Terry Howard	Walker, access campaigner	Aug 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mike Johnson	Walking, climbing, paragliding	June 2015	✗	✓	✓	✓
James Kellie	Landowner, holiday accommodation	Dec 2014	✓	✗	✓	✓
Adge Last	Outdoors education, cycling	Oct 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chris Page	Widening access, canoeing	Dec 2017	-	-	-	✓
Richard Peart	Outdoors education	Aug 2015	✗	✗	✗	✗
Jon Stewart	Recreation and conservation, National Trust	Oct 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ally Turner	Horse riding, walkers, young people	Oct 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicola Turner	National Park Authority appointee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Sue Weatherley	Ramblers, wildlife	June 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Geographical Coverage of the Peak District Local Access Forum



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[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)

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