

Peak District Local Access Forum

Access Sub-group

7 January 2011

Aldern House, Bakewell

Attendees: Edwina Edwards, James Kellie, Terry Howard, Henry Folkard, Sue Weatherley, Bob Berzins, Charlotte Gilbert, Mike Rhodes, Sue Smith

Apologies: Andrew McCloy

1) Snares

The issue of snares on open access land was discussed as a follow-up to the December LAF meeting.

Matters covered the role of the LAF and NPA, remedy/response under law, location and frequency of snares, review of code of practice, and land management practices.

The owner has been informed that incidents have taken place involving snares on his access land. Although it is acknowledged that setting snares is a legitimate practice, it may have an impact on those that have a right of access for recreation.

Agreed actions:

- Contact NE & Defra re review of code of practice
- Charlotte to enquire of gamekeepers whether there's been a change in practice
- If other incidences inform the landowner and NPA

2) Roaches

The consultation on the objectives for the Roaches, relating to its future ownership and management, was discussed.

Henry declared an interest. The BMC is involved in discussions on Rockhall. The BMC will work with all interested parties.

The importance of this area for recreation and climbing was emphasised, as well as looking to ensure that opportunities are explored for public rights of way and access land dedications. Comments also included traffic management, shooting rights, the review of the management plan and consultation.

Action: Sue S to forward comments to Edwina for response to be sent

3) Grindsbrook

A consultation on the proposed dedication of the land at Grindsbrook as open access land was discussed. The Sub-group was fully in support of dedication for the meadow and woodland.

The LAF welcomed further dedications to safeguard sites in perpetuity. There should be a presumption of dedication for each site. Present lack of access to a site should not be a bar. In view of the disposal policy, consider reviewing the Authority owned woodlands to see whether access can be provided.

Action: Sue S to table comments to the sub-group for agreement.

4) Mapping and Agri-environmental payments

The PDNPA is still able to offer some payments for access on sites where work is currently ongoing with landowners.

Work is ongoing on developing the PDNPA's Natural Zone dataset which could be fed into any future mapping review.

Clive Betts MP has been involved in discussions on the legislation for the mapping.

5) Site Issues

Fencing issue on common land at High Riggs. Sheffield CC are the commons registration authority.

New access point at Dove Top.

6) Future for public bodies

Major upheaval at NE. The Bakewell office is being closed.

Claire Herring, E Mids LAF co-ordinator, will not be in post after 1 April 2011. The England Access Forum will go. There is current uncertainty re regional access forums. The Chairs are keen but there will not be the support from NE. Yorkshire & Humberside are maintaining £7k for secretarial work. Concern that the loss of support from the regions could lead to a demise of LAFs.

7) AoB

Henry and Sue both attend the Green Lane Alliance. They have been invited to join the committee but have declined as they wish to retain their status of observers. Karen Hinkley is likely to become the Chair, John King/George Wolfe may provide the secretariat.