



Peak District LOCAL ACCESS FORUM



Annual Report 2012

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Full details of the Forum, its reports, minutes from meetings and information on members, is published on the website:

<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/access>



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



During 2012 the Local Access Forum (LAF) agreed a list of priorities which I believe we achieved but will need to continue in 2013. Consultation took place on a number of issues which included the Cycling Strategy, Countryside Code, review of motorised vehicle strategy and action plan, a new Statement of Action for Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan, High Peak Moors Master Plan and the Peak District National Park Management Plan.

The past year has seen the Access sub group and Green Lanes sub group develop to provide an arena for detailed discussion and priorities which

were then agreed at the full LAF. As resources become tighter it is important the LAF ensures that Officer and volunteer time is well spent. To do this, clear priorities are required to ensure that the special features of the Peak District National Park are cherished.

I continue to be amazed by the amount of constructive feedback volunteers give to the LAF which is so valuable. Thank you too for the support from the officers of the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council.

Edwina Edwards

Chair, Peak District Local Access Forum

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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.

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. www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/access

In 2012, Caroline Hanson, Ben Young and Nicola Turner joined the Forum. Andrew McCloy and Ben Rayner resigned during the year.

MEETINGS AND MAJOR ISSUES FOR THE FORUM IN 2012

During 2012, the formal meetings of the Local Access Forum took place on the following dates:

Thursday 22 March, Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw Estate
Thursday 14 June, Aldern House, Bakewell
Thursday 27 September, Aldern House, Bakewell
Thursday 6 December, Losehill Hall, Castleton

The following major issues were discussed:

I. Recreational Motor Vehicles on Unsealed Roads

This subject continued to be a major topic for Local Access Forum (LAF) discussion during 2012.

The Forum was updated by both PDNPA and DCC on revisions to their strategies and the resources and action plans for managing motor vehicles on green lanes and off-road.

The LAF sub-group dealing with this area of work met in January, May, August, September and October to provide input to the assessment of priority routes and respond to consultations on potential traffic regulation orders. LAF representatives also spoke at the PDNPA committee meetings when this was discussed.

Below: Green Lanes sub-group site visits



As a result of the sub-group's widened remit to respond to consultations, it changed its name to the Green Lanes sub-group in September.

The LAF was also represented at meetings of the Peak District Green Lanes Forum and reported back on its work to LAF meetings.

2. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIP)

The LAF had regular updates on progress in delivering Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the proposed work programme for 2012/13.

Derbyshire County Council has also been working closely with the LAF to refresh of the RoWIP's Statement of Action for the next five years through to 2017. The joint LAF sub group met and commented on the draft Statement of Action which was out for public consultation until the end of October 2012. A further meeting of the sub group was planned for early 2013 to go through the consultation responses in more detail and to agree any changes to the document.

3. Open Access Issues

The LAF received updates from the LAF Access sub group which met twice during the year to discuss Open Access issues. The group has compiled a 'wish list' of desirable improvements to the Access network which have all been examined and many will be kept under review.

The impacts of snares on access land, which was discussed during 2011, was resolved by low fencing, marking of the snares, and new routes being opened through the bracken to lead people on different routes through the Access Land.

Natural England have notified the LAF of its intention to dedicate its National Nature Reserves as open access and the dedication of the Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve will take place during 2014. The LAF will be given a presentation during 2013, and will be able to input into this process.

4. National Park Authority Asset Review

The Forum has continued to provide input into the review of National Park Authority properties. Land owned by the Authority at Grindsbrook Meadows, Edale, has been dedicated as Open Access prior to its proposed disposal. The Roaches Estate has been leased to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, and the

LAF will be consulted when the Property Management Plan is devised. Some suggestions have already been supplied by the LAF for orienteering and horse riding routes. The LAF has representation on the working group of the Eastern Moors Partnership and on the Stanage Forum.

5. National Park Authority Updates

The Forum received updates and made written comments on the following:

- Trails Management Plan for the Tissington, High Peak, Monsal and Thornhill trails – Abi Ball.
- Recreation Strategy – Judy Gould.
- Peak Connections Travel Survey – Carol Lavell, Lucy Atkins and Tim Nicolson
- Cycling Development – Carol Parsons
- Sustainable Transport Action Plan – Tim Nicholson



6. Presentations and information

The Forum received presentations from the following:

- Patricia Stubbs, Peak Horsepower, on the use of barriers which allow horse usage but prevent illegal access by motor vehicles
- Charlotte Gilbert on the proposal for a long distance horse route around Kinder and an overview of the inaugural ride which took place over the Kinder Mass Trespass celebration weekend in April 2012
- Jon Stewart spoke about the National Trust's High Peak Moors Vision and Management Plan
- John Thompson summarised the current cycling strategies, projects and action plans in the area, and suggestions for co-ordinating future action.
- Elizabeth Barnicott from Natural England provided a session on the use of Huddle for LAFs after the March meeting, and an overview of the Paths for Communities fund in September

- SPEED – a local action group from Charlesworth and Chisworth with the common interest of improving road safety for all users gave a presentation of the work they are doing particularly in respect of a bridleway route around the villages
- Richard Taylor from Derbyshire County Council on the Council's Management of Green Lanes Policy and Action Plan
- Matt Easter from Sustrans about cycling initiatives
- David Giles and Nigel Bennett from the recreational motor vehicle user groups on the relationship of the Green Lanes Forum with the Local Access Forum

Formal Consultations

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Eastern Moors Partnership
- Sheffield Moors Partnership
- National Trust's High Peak Moors Vision and Management Plan
- Proposed traffic management for Chertpit & Leys Lane and Brushfield to Upperdale route
- Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders at Long Causeway & The Roych
- Natural England's National Trails consultation
- Lost Ways Project consultation
- Derbyshire RoWIP review 2012 – 2017 – draft statement of action.
- DCC Management of Green Lanes Policy and Action Plan
- Defra's review of National Park Authority membership
- Peak District NPA Review of public speaking at authority meetings



Training and Liaison

The LAF has been represented by members at:

- Peak District Green Lanes Forum
- Stange Forum
- Eastern Moors Partnership working group
- Trails Management Plan focus group
- Recreation Strategy Steering Group
- National Trust moorlands workshop

THE YEAR AHEAD

Some of the likely priorities for the work of the Forum in 2013 are outlined below.

- Developing improvements to open access land
- Offering advice in relation to the disposal and future management of publicly owned land
- Involvement in the delivery of the National Park Authority's Recreation Strategy and task groups
- Input and advise on the content and delivery of the Sustainable Transport Action Plan for the Peak District
- On-going work on managing recreational motor vehicles in the countryside
- Monitoring progress on delivery of Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- Contribution to the review of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Greenways, Access for All and other measures for inclusive access
- Cycling Strategy work and future opportunities for the Peak District
- Public transport links
- Issues relating to specific recreation types such as mountain bikers, horse-riders and water-based activities
- On-going liaison with neighbouring Local Access Forums
- Working with adjacent 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
- Encourage more representation from officers of the National Park Authority and the constituent authorities and from the general public at meetings
- Support the work of the LAF Regional Co-ordinator and involvement in the "huddle" for LAF's

DATES OF MEETINGS 2013

Thursday 21 March - Aldern House, Bakewell

Thursday 13 June – Moorlands Discovery Centre, Longshaw Estate

Thursday 19 September – Aldern House, Bakewell

Thursday 5 December – Aldern House, Bakewell

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members' Travel	£358.42
Room hire, refreshments & lunches	£799.64
Annual Report	£164.83
TOTAL	£1,322.89

Expenditure incurred is met by the National Park Authority's access budget with a contribution of £1,995.45 from Derbyshire County Council towards administration costs.



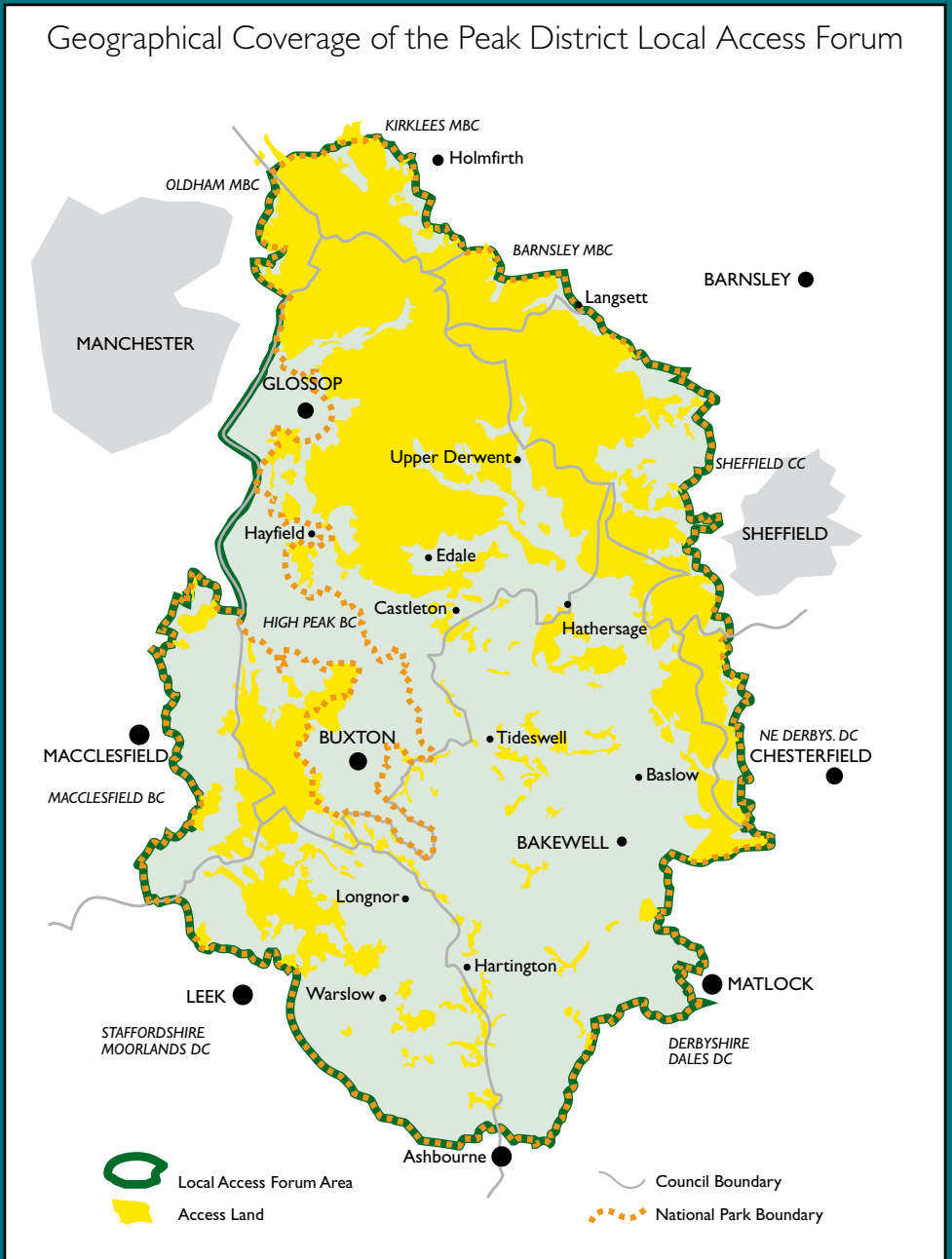
Local Access Forum members

Left to Right – Clare Griffin, Edwina Edwards, Ally Turner, John Thompson, Charlotte Gilbert, Sue Weatherley, Jon Clennell, Mike Johnson, James Kellie, Henry Folkard, Richard Entwistle, Bob Berzins, Terry Howard, Adge Last, Caroline Hanson, Jon Stewart, Ben Young.

MEMBER DETAILS AND ATTENDANCE 2012

Member	Background and Interests	Appointment Expiry Date	22/03/12	14/06/12	27/09/12	06/12/12
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 2013	✗	✓	✓	✓
Jon Clennell	Outdoor pursuits, local community	Dec 2014	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Entwistle	Motor vehicle users	Dec 2013	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry Folkard	Climber, conservation	Aug 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Gilbert	Land manager, horse rider	Dec 2014	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clare Griffin	Trail-bike rider, fell runner	Oct 2014	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Hall	Farming	Nov 2013	✓	✗	✓	✓
Caroline Hanson	Landowner & Moorland manager	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 2014	✗	✓	✓	✓
Andrew McCloy	Outdoors writer, walker, local community	Resigned 2012	✓	✗	-	-
Richard Peart	Outdoors education	Aug 2015	✗	✗	✓	✗
Ben Rayner	National Park Authority appointee	Resigned 2012	✗	✗	-	-
Jon Stewart	Recreation and conservation, National Trust	Oct 2014	✗	✓	✓	✓
Ally Turner	Horse riding, walkers, young people	Oct 2014	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicola Turner	National Park Authority appointee	n/a	-	✓	✓	✓
Sue Weatherley	Ramblers, wildlife	June 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jean Wharmby	Derbyshire County Council appointee	n/a	✗	✗	✓	✗
Ben Young	Land management and recreation. Water Company representative	June 2015	-	✓	✗	✗

Geographical Coverage of the Peak District Local Access Forum



www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

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