

Peak District Local Access Forum

Annual Report 2018



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Contact Details

Details of the Forum are available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf

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 and are available on audio webcast.

Mike Rhodes

Access and Rights of Way Manager,
Peak District National Park Authority

mike.rhodes@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Gill Millward

Countryside Access Improvement
Officer, Derbyshire County Council

gill.millward@derbyshire.gov.uk



Chair's Introduction

It has been a busy and productive year for the Forum with tremendous support from our two Vice Chairs in Charlotte Gilbert and Bob Berzins. We had 2 long serving members (Terry Howard and Henry Folkard), retire after giving wonderful support and advice. We appointed 5 new members and are now up to full strength of 22 members having considerable knowledge and enthusiasm which is greatly valued. At our September meeting we combined some member training with feedback about ways we could improve our work and links with constituent Highway Authorities and neighbouring LAF's.

We respond to consultations and provide advice on rights of way and access matters, and value the current efforts being made with and by partners to achieve increased accessibility by all to and within the Peak District. Special thanks to all involved in developing the Miles without Stiles project, with 20 routes highlighted so far and a book funded by Yorkshire Water. Sustainable management of our Green Lanes remains a key area of work and advice which has led to consultations on Traffic Regulation Orders near Stoney Middleton and Wetton.

We made considerable input to the Review of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and were supportive in identifying members of the LAF to advise on how best to achieve delivery. The NPA's Chief Executive has welcomed our approach and offers of input to achieve action on a number of key Areas of Impact – the first of which has been an excellent Workshop on Reviewing arrangements for Management of Events.

A Peak District National Park charity and board of trustees has now been established. We are looking forward to seeing how the Charity's work and

priorities evolve separately from the Authority and other charities in the Peak District. We have been pleased to support opportunities for donations for access improvements via the Access Fund and Mend our Mountains. The LAF also has an important role to play in identifying the need for improvements via its access wish list.

We identified issues and suggestions for a National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Beauty Review under Julian Glover and Panel to be reported later in 2019 – the 70th Anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Our advice and thoughts are offered as volunteers with a real love of the Peak District and as strong supporters of the partnership approach which is crucial to successful working with other interests. 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 current and previous LAF volunteers whose time and dedication is very much appreciated, along with officers from the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council. My thanks in particular for the help and support we receive from Mike Rhodes, Sue Smith, Richard Pett and Gill Millward as officers for their hard work and guidance, and to Jason Spencer and Karen Harrison who do a great job in minute taking. 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 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 2018, two of our longest-serving Members stood down from the Forum. Terry Howard and Henry Folkard have been regular contributors to the Forum for 18 and 15 years respectively and were given warm thanks from fellow Forum members and officers for their wonderful commitment and contributions.

Vacancies have been filled by Dan Richmond-Watson, Roly Smith, Jez Kenyon, Louise Hawson and Alastair Harvey – each of them offering different perspectives and many years' experience of improving and managing public access.

Meetings of the Forum in 2018

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

- **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



Issues discussed at the formal meetings in 2018 included:

Fundraising

At each meeting of the Forum and a meeting of the Access sub-group in February 2018, the LAF has advised and received updates on access improvements and the funding for them via the Access Fund which was established in September 2014. The Forum has also contributed to the Mend our Mountains fundraising campaign and the setting up of the Authority's charity proposals.

Miles without Stiles

In November, the Forum attended the launch of the National Park's first 20 Miles without Stiles easy access routes showcasing the landscapes of the Peak District with categories for all, many and some. The Forum also visited Parsley Hay Visitor Centre in June to experience the range of inclusive cycles there.

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 help progress its ten year review. In March, a presentation was given to the Forum relating to the work on Unrecorded Ways. During the year, there have been updates on the PRow ease of use surveys, legal orders, funding secured for access work, the development and maintenance of the Key Cycle Network/ multi-user Greenway network, including Pedal Peak II and the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, as well as the valuable contribution from volunteers.

National Park Management Plan

The work to review the National Park's Management Plan and the delivery of outcomes for areas of impact continued during 2018. The Forum has a key role in inputting to this with LAF members taking this forward to offer support and advice based on their particular interests and expertise.

Green Lanes

In March, the Forum was updated on the Authority's action plans for the year ahead and received the first Green Lanes Annual Report. LAF members further welcomed the objectives for green lanes as part of the focus to look after these routes as a valued resource. The Forum was also consulted on two traffic regulation orders in 2018 and received updates on the progress of repairs by Derbyshire County Council.



LAF visit to Parsley Hay Visitor Centre



LAF Member, Andrew Murley testing an all-terrain vehicle

Other key matters discussed:

- National Park Authority resource and structural changes
- Landscape Partnerships – Sheffield Lakeland, South-west Peak
- The role of the Local Access Forum Sub-groups
- The condition of rights of way

Formal Consultations

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Traffic Regulation Order at Wetton Hills
- Traffic Regulation Order at Jacob's Ladder
- Long-term direction at Silence and Old Grove Mines
- National Parks Review

Training and Liaison

The LAF has been represented by members at:

- National Park Management Plan (NPMP) review and delivery
- Regional LAF Chair meetings
- Sheffield Moors Partnership and Eastern Moors Partnership
- Moorland Mangers' meeting
- National Park Authority's Trails Management Plan

The Year Ahead

- Identifying access improvements and supporting efforts to secure contributions to the Access Fund
- Contributing towards further development of Miles without Stiles easy access routes and accessibility improvements with partners
- Input to the Mend our Mountains Appeal and the Foundation
- Involvement in landscape and other partnerships and the protection and promotion of countryside assets
- Reviewing and supporting Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Strategic support for Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails including pursuing completion of the Pennine Bridleway around Glossop
- Contributing to the Staying on Track campaign for green lanes
- Involvement in advising on delivery of outcomes of the National Park Management Plan
- Input to the review of long-term directions on Access Land

- Mountain biking and cycling opportunities for the wider Peak District and Derbyshire
- Seeking further expansion and improvements to horse riding routes including Unrecorded Ways
- Working with neighbouring Local Access Forums, Access and Highway Authorities on shared interests
- Continuing to raise the profile of the Local Access Forum among a wider audience

Dates of Meetings in 2019

- **Thursday 14 March**
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 6 June**
Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw
- **Thursday 19 September**
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 5 December**
Aldern House, Bakewell



LAF members at the Miles without Stiles launch

Financial Statement 2018

Members' Travel	£250
Room hire, refreshments & lunches	£320
Annual Report	£166
TOTAL	£736

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

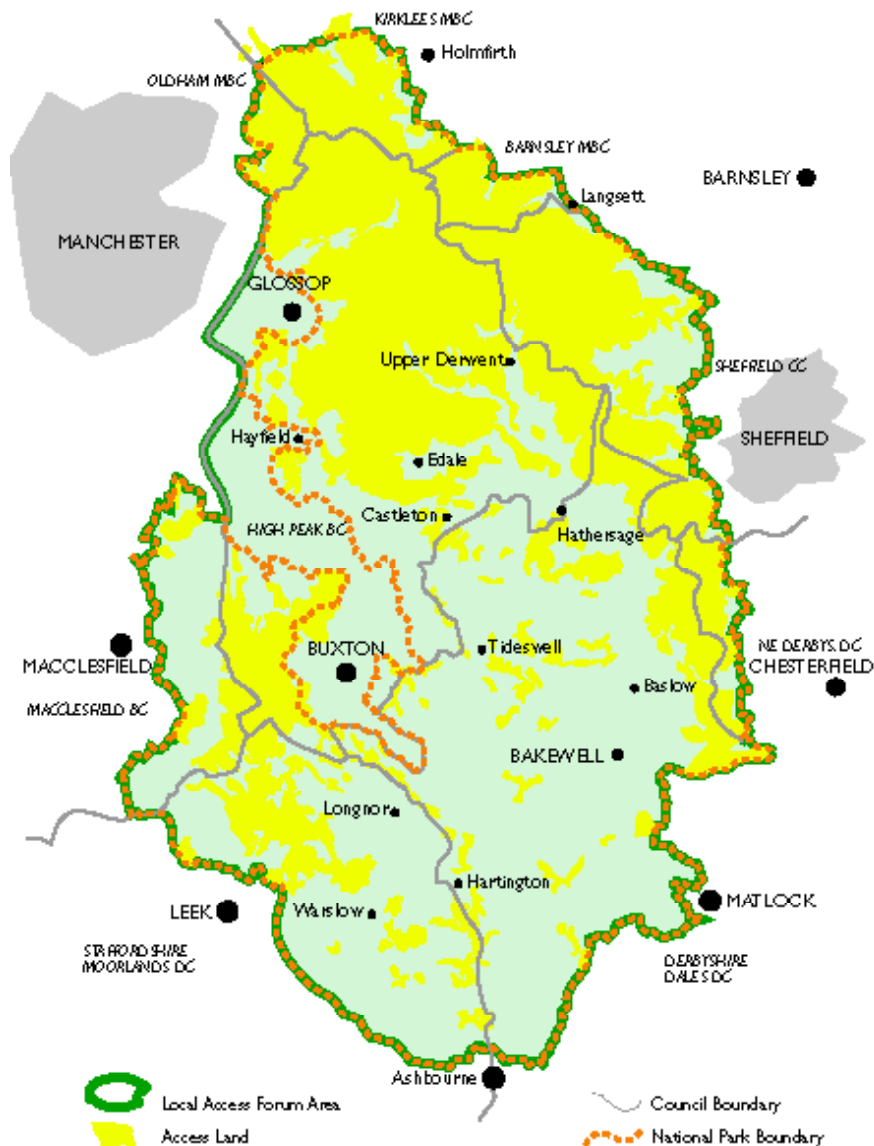
Member Details and Attendance 2018

Member	Background and Interests	Appointment Expiry Date	15/03/18	14/06/18	20/09/18	06/12/18
John Thompson (Chair)	Partnerships in recreation and education	Sept 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bob Berzins (co-vice-chair)	Fell running, conservation	June 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Gilbert (co-vice-chair)	Land manager, horse rider	Dec 2020	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jason Atkin	Derbyshire County Council appointee	N/A	✓	✗	✗	✓
Joe Dalton	Farmer, landowner	Dec 2020	✓	✗	✓	✓
Edwina Edwards	Community transport, Girl Guiding UK, walking, cycling, fell running	Sept 2021	✓	✓	✗	✓
Richard Entwistle	Motor vehicle users	Dec 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry Folkard	Climber, conservation	Resigned June18	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clare Griffin	Trail-bike rider, fell runner	Oct 2020	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Hall	Farming	Nov 2019	✗	✗	✗	✗
Alastair Harvey	Landowner	Dec 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓
Louise Hawson	Climbing, running	Sept 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terry Howard	Walker, access campaigner	Resigned March18	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jez Kenyon	Ramblers	April 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adge Last	Outdoors education, cycling inc mountain biking	Oct 2020	✓	✗	✗	✓
Andrew Murley	Access for those with disability	March 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geoff Nickolds	Recreation and land management	Dec 2020	✓	✗	✓	✓
Paul Richardson	Mountain-biking	March 2020	✓	✓	✗	✓
Dan Richmond-Watson	Land manager	Dec 2020	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roly Smith	Outdoor writer	April 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jon Stewart	Recreation and conservation, National Trust	Oct 2020	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ally Turner	Horse riding, walkers, young people	Oct 2020	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Walton	National Park Authority appointee	N/A	✗	✗	✓	✗
Sue Weatherley	Ramblers, wildlife	June 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓



LAF Member, Terry Howard with a donation to Mend our Mountains at the June 2018 Local Access Forum meeting

Geographical Coverage of the Peak District Local Access Forum



www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

☎ 01629 816200

@ customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Derbyshire County Council, County Hall,
Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG

☎ 0845 605 8058

@ contact.centre@derbyshire.gov.uk