

Peak District Local Access Forum

Annual Report 2015



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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

The Peak District LAF continued the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the introduction of access land with special access events throughout 2015. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act saw the public's right of access grow from 240 sq km to more than 500 sq km. This gave considerable new opportunities to explore the wonders of the Peak District National Park. This continued promotion of open access during 2015 included the launch of a special beer called Wild Side which has been well received by the general public.

Not only has the LAF been involved with celebrating and promoting open access, members have commented, supported or been involved with woodland disposals, dedications, access for disabled people, access to water, the wider Peak District cycle strategy and Derbyshire cycling plan, National Park management plan, environmental issues, financial resources reviews and the Access Fund.

The LAF members are always particularly keen to raise awareness of multi-users sharing the National Park. The PDLAF is concerned that all users respect each other and act appropriately whether they are on trails, footpaths or in wild areas. Usage of off-road routes brings health and economic benefits for many but with increased users this brings its own challenges.

I hope that you will read the rest of the annual report to understand the nature of the work that the Forum has undertaken over the last year.

It has been my privilege to Chair the PDLAF over the past 12 months. The people that I work with on the LAF help deliver what I believe. The LAF members are a fantastic group of people who champion the outdoors and in particular the Peak District National Park. I work with some very interesting and knowledgeable colleagues and our debates are wide-ranging and constructive. 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 for their hard work and guidance.

Although we all have dark days I often think that we are incredibly lucky to have the countryside with its wild space and freedom.

Edwina Edwards MBE

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

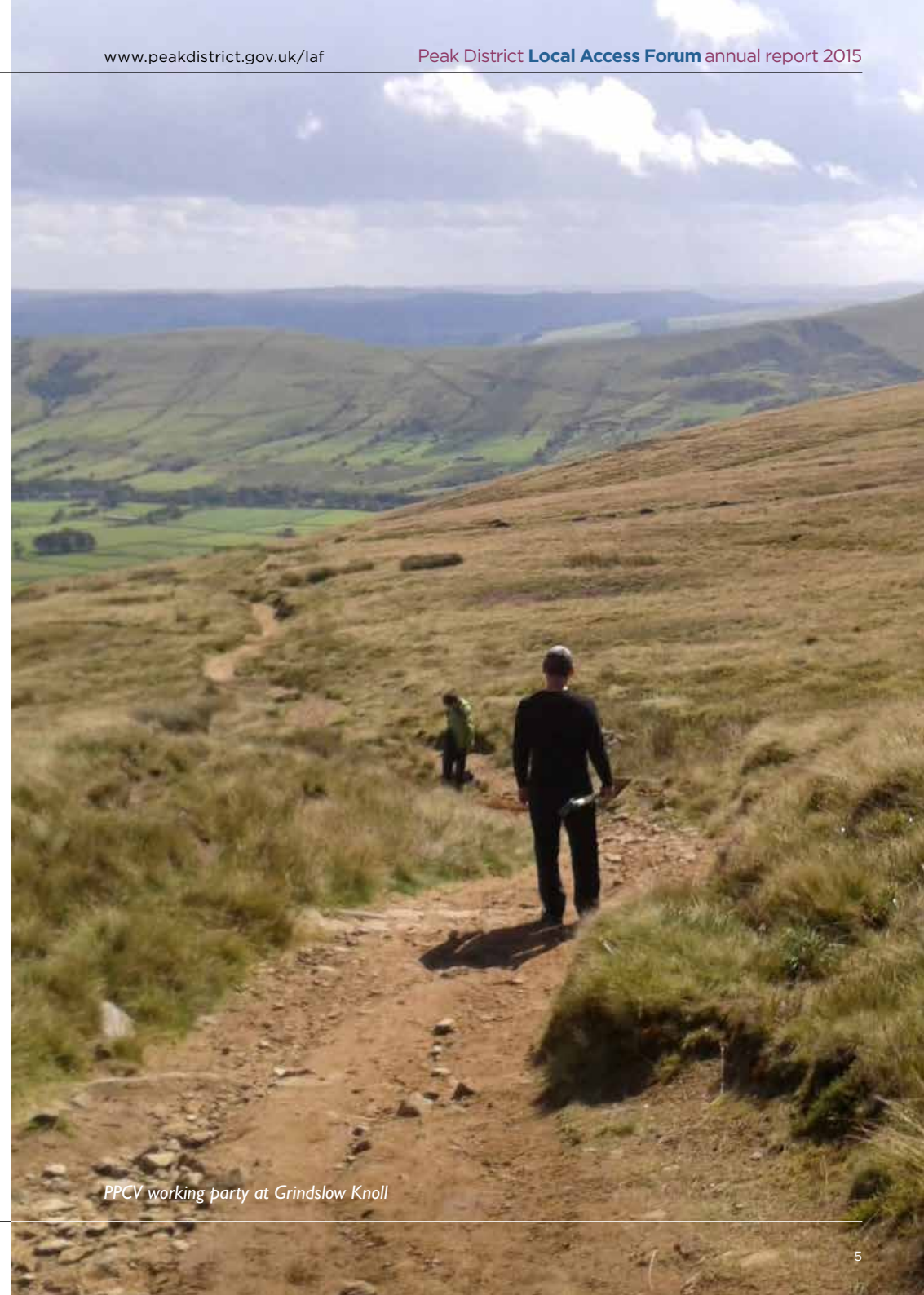
Membership of the Forum

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/looking-after/local-access-forum/lafmembers

In 2015, Laura D'Cruz, Matt Hutson and Andrew Murley joined the Forum. Dick Peart stepped down at the end of his term of appointment in August 2015, having been a member of the Forum since its inaugural meeting on 2nd December 2000.

There have also been newly appointed members for both the National Park Authority (Cllr John Walton who replaced Cllr Nicola Turner in September 2015) and Derbyshire County Council (Cllr Caitlin Bisknell who replaced Cllr Damien Greenhalgh).



PPCV working party at Grindslow Knoll

Meetings of the Forum in 2015

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

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

The Forum also undertook site visits to look at Hurstclough Lane and to report on green lanes in the Cheshire part of the National Park and met up with Sheffield and Barnsley Local Access Forums to discuss opportunities on Yorkshire Water land.

Issues discussed at the formal meetings included:

Access reports

The LAF received updates from the Access Sub group which met in February, May, July and October to consider the Authority's woodland disposals, dedications, proposals for improving access in the South West Peak and to Yorkshire Water's land, fencing and tracks on moorland and the review of long-term directions on access land.



Green Lanes Sub-group visit to Three Shires Head

Access Fund

At each meeting of the sub-group, LAF members considered access improvements and provided support for the National Park's Access Fund through their advice and guidance and their promotion of it. The first annual report in Autumn 2015 was welcomed and initiatives for the future were considered at the meeting in December.



Green Lanes Sub-group visit to Cumberland Lane

Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The County Council has provided the LAF with regular updates on progress in delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) using funding (in excess of £1million) secured through the Local Transport Plan and other sources, including Natural England and the Public Health Resource Fund. During 2015 there has been a strong emphasis on cycling through the continued expansion of the multi-user Greenway network; Pedal Peak II and the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, along with high profile events like Eroica Britannia and the development of a Derbyshire Cycling Plan to complement the Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy. Other key issues have focused on the role of volunteers; proposed budget cuts and the review of the Rights of Way Service which the County Council

provides. At December's meeting there were initial discussions about the LAF's involvement in the ten year review of Derbyshire's RoWIP due to be completed in 2017.

Green Lanes

The Forum was updated on the action plans for green lanes and illegal use by motor vehicles and consulted on 2 possible traffic regulation orders during 2015. The LAF was also consulted on repairs at Chapel Gate and held a meeting open to the public at which they heard from a number of speakers. In 2015, the LAF also carried out site inspections on 3 priority routes in the Cheshire part of the National Park. The Green Lanes sub-group met in January, March, May, July, October and November.

Other key matters discussed:

- Access for disabled people
- Access to water
- Updates on the Pedal Peak II Project
- Financial resources reviews: PDNPA and DCC
- Health, well-being and the natural environment
- National Park Management Plan review

- The PDNPA's draft planning guidance on tracks

Training and Liaison

The LAF has been represented by members at:

- National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Monitoring Group and an initial Review and Cultural Heritage Tour ahead of the NPMP Review for 2017
- Regional LAF Chairs' meetings
- Introductory Meeting for the Chair and Vice Chair with the new Chief Executive of the National Park Authority

hopefully other ROWIP Reviews covering our area

- Walking for Health
- Developing green lanes as a resource and managing the issues arising from motor vehicles and working closely with user groups and Highway Authorities
- Maintenance of Rights of Way
- Managing Large-scale events
- Developing opportunities for inclusive access
- Cycling Strategy work including mountain biking and future opportunities for the wider Peak

District and Derbyshire

- Developing a partnership approach to water-based activities
- Working with neighbouring Local Access Forums and Access and Highway Authorities on shared interests
- Further training in conjunction with Natural England and others
- Continuing to raise the profile of the Local Access Forum among a wider audience

Formal Consultations

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Draft Derbyshire Cycling Plan
- Review of Directions to Restrict Access under CROW Act sections 24 & 25: Turncliff Common, Hollins Hill (Hollinsclough), Top Field (Crowden)
- Derbyshire Rights of Way Service Review Priorities in the light of reduced resources
- The future of DCC's Minor Maintenance Scheme with Town and Parish Councils
- Sheffield's Outdoor City Consultation
- Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for New Road, Eyam
- Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders at Washgate and Derby Lane

The Year Ahead

Some of the likely priorities for the work of the Forum in 2016 are outlined below.

- Identifying access improvements and supporting efforts to secure more contributions to the Access Fund
- Involvement and input to the National Park Management Plan Review for 2017
- Monitoring progress on delivery of existing Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- 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 in 2017, and

Dates of Meetings in 2016

- **Thursday 10 March**
Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw
- **Thursday 23 June**
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 22 September**
Aldern House, Bakewell
- **Thursday 8 December**
Aldern House, Bakewell



LAF Members and mountain trikes

Financial Statement 2015

Members' Travel	£215
Room hire, refreshments & lunches	£442
Annual Report	£389
TOTAL	£1,046

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:

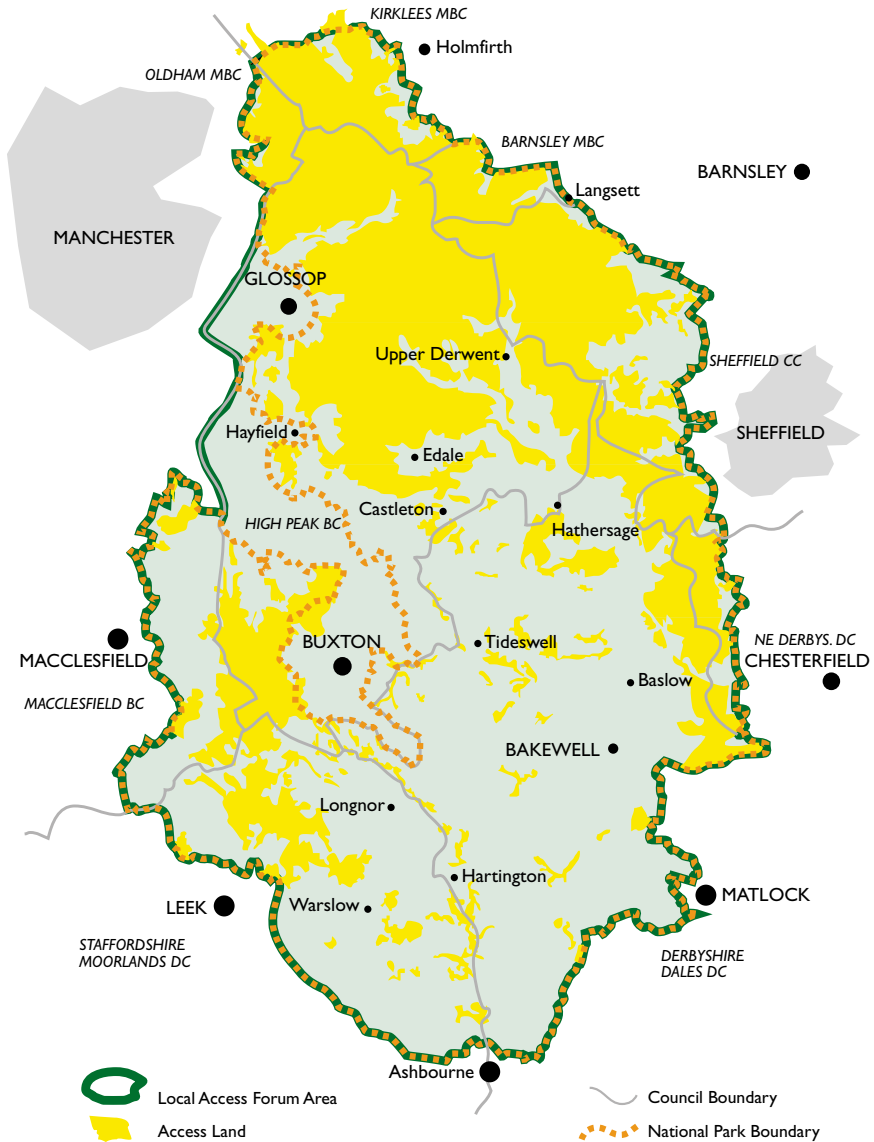
Chris Page, John Thompson (vice-chair), Mike Johnson, Jon Stewart, Ally Turner, Bob Berzins, Laura D’Cruz, Terry Howard, Andrew Murley, Henry Folkard, Caitlin Bisknell, Clare Griffin, Nicola Turner, Sue Weatherley, Caroline Hanson, Ian Bunting, Charlotte Gilbert, Edwina Edwards (chair)

Local Access Forum Members

Member Details and Attendance 2015

Member	Background and Interests	Appointment Expiry Date	19/03/15	11/06/15	17/09/15	03/12/15
Edwina Edwards (Chair)	Community transport, Girl Guiding UK, walking, cycling, fell running	Sept 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Thompson (Vice-chair)	Partnerships in recreation and education	June 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bob Berzins	Fell running, conservation	June 2016	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caitlin Bisknell	Derbyshire County Council appointee	N/A	-	✓	✓	✓
Ian Bunting	Water company, recreation	Dec 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laura D’Cruz	Access for families, young children	March 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Entwistle	Motor vehicle users	Dec 2016	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry Folkard	Climber, conservation	Aug 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Gilbert	Land manager, horse rider	Dec 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clare Griffin	Trail-bike rider, fell runner	Oct 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Hall	Farming	Nov 2016	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caroline Hanson	Moorland owner	June 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terry Howard	Walker, access campaigner	Aug 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matt Hutson	Outdoors education, Duke of Edinburgh	Dec 2018	-	-	-	-
Mike Johnson	Walking, climbing, paragliding	June 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edge Last	Outdoors education, cycling inc mountain biking	Oct 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Andrew Murley	Access for those with disability	March 2018	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chris Page	Widening access, canoeing	Dec 2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Peart	Outdoors education	End of term 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	Replaced in Sept 2015	✓	✓	-	-
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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