

**Peak District Local Access Forum  
Access Sub-group  
Aldern House  
6 November 2013**

**Attendees:**

John Thompson (Chair), Edwina Edwards, Terry Howard, Henry Folkard, Sue Weatherley, Bob Berzins  
Sue Smith

Suzanne Fletcher for item 4.

**Apologies:**

James Kellie, Caroline Hanson, Charlotte Gilbert, Clare Griffiths, Mike Rhodes, Gill Millward

Terry was welcomed back and best wishes were sent to Lesley.

**1. Update**

Dogs – Members considered it was hard to get the message across on keeping dogs under control on access land and felt more information should be available. Henry reported that the BMC were collaborating with the Moscar Estate on notices for the dog restriction.

**ACTION: Sue S to review the information on the website.**

Hollingdale Plantation – Approaches have recently been made to the Fitzwilliam Estate who prefer to wait until the review date before making a commitment. Sue S advised that access had been considered by the Countryside & Economy Team at the time of submitting the application for the works.

**ACTION: Sue to refer to the C&E Team.**

NNR Dedications – The British Mountaineering Council have a meeting arranged with NE. NE will be giving a presentation to the December meeting of the LAF.

**ACTION: Henry to forward NE contact details.**

Mapping – Sue confirmed that the review date is 2019 and further meetings would be held with NE at the appropriate time.

Higher Level Stewardship fencing – Terry reported that Natural England have advised that LAFs are to be consulted on fencing schemes.

**ACTION: Sue to consider LAF consultation arrangements with C&E**

Fallinge Edge – Members queried whether the access point had gone in.

**ACTION: Sue to investigate progress.**

High Riggs – raises a key issue of fencing on common land.

**ACTION: Sue to investigate progress.**

Redmires –Members queried the progress made.

**ACTION: Sue to investigate outcome of meeting.**

## **2. Derbyshire County Council Access Land**

The LAF's views are sought on potential access improvements by DCC to their access land. Sue broadly outlined some of the areas from an earlier visit with Gill and members considered that it would be helpful to have more information before they consider further.

**ACTION: Gill to forward information for consideration at the next sub-group meeting.**

## **3. Access Restrictions**

Resumption of a long-term restriction is being considered by the National Trust at Lyme Park. Members queried the nature and extent of the restriction and what has been happening since it lapsed. Sue responded that these details would be included in any application made and the LAF would be a formal consultee on this.

It was also reported that the 5 yearly reviews of the existing long-term directions would also be commencing next year.

**ACTION: Sue to refer details of long-term directions to the LAF.**

## **4. Agricultural Policy Reform**

Suzanne Fletcher joined the meeting to present the details of the consultation on the future of farming, the rural economy and the environment in England. Members were provided with an earlier response by National Parks England to a call for evidence. NPE would be providing a response to this current consultation. This would be prepared by the agriculture and rural development officers with the input of others including the access officers.

Sue S reported that the opportunities for payments for access appeared to be limited, despite the view that they provide an incentive to target network improvements.

Members felt that it was important to emphasise the importance of recreation and tourism to the rural economy. They referred to the amount spent on tourism set out in the recent NPE report on Valuing the National Parks and the contribution NPs make to national prosperity and wellbeing through their special qualities.

Members also considered the impact of proposals on the existing permissive access arrangements currently within HLS. It was felt that where schemes were

due to expire opportunities should be taken to seek to continue access with the agreement of the landowner. Edwina mentioned the approach which is being considered by S Lincs and Rutland LAF. Suzanne considered that in the Peak District contacts had already been developed by the C&E Team and that this would be the best approach to take on priorities identified by the LAF.

It was considered that it would be possible to incorporate the LAF's comments within the NPE response. Members also queried whether this would be circulated to other LAFs.

Members thanked Suzanne for her contribution to the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to work more closely on permissive access and fencing proposals.

**ACTION:**

- **Suzanne/Sue to circulate Defra presentation**
- **Suzanne/Sue to circulate draft consultation response by 15 November for further input from LAF before consultation end date on 28 November 2013.**
- **Sue to enquire of other NPs re their LAF involvement**

**5. Moorland Plans**

High Peak – Henry commented that it was a good vision – it begins with people and farming is seen as a way of delivering objectives.

Sheffield Moors – Terry reported that the recent stakeholder meeting had been very positive.

**6. North Lees**

John reported that North Lees was to be retained by the Authority and no partnership was proposed at this stage. The Authority was aiming for full cost recovery, events, and working with stakeholders.

The management plan is to be reviewed in January. John would circulate the existing management plan for views from LAF in preparation for the LAF's involvement. Jane Chapman and Mary Bagley are joint champions for this project.

Henry reported that the Stanage Forum had met Mary and were meeting with Tony and would keep people, engagement and conservation on the agenda. The British Mountaineering Council had also met with Jim re the campsite. Jim has also written about fundraising and visitor payback.

**ACTION: John to circulate North Lees management plan to sub-group members.**

**7. Improving Access Land Information**

It was reported that next year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of open access in the Peak District. The Authority were looking to update their leaflet,

Walking on the Wildside, and suggestions were sought from members. Sue was also considering how to improve the access information on the website and to make access points downloadable. Members identified the potential for ranger walks at this time.

Sue also highlighted the access to woodlands website which is about making information as well as the woodlands accessible. It works on user-generated contact. More information would be useful on the NPA woodlands which are open access. The website can be viewed at [www.visitwoods.org.uk](http://www.visitwoods.org.uk).

## **8. AOB**

Members reported:

- Potential for a talk on Local Environmental Partnerships to the LAF
- Obstructions, waymarks and maintenance issues especially in Staffs CC
- Update to LAF on events at Thornbridge
- Impressed by branding in Lake District National Park
- Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Paths for communities projects at Lady Cannings and Wigtwizzle plantations.
- Update on the SW Peak landscape partnership scheme and wish list requirements

## **9. DoNM**

Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 10.15am.