

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 6 June 2016*

Agenda item 9: *LAF Annual Review Form 2015-16*

Draft attached for Members to review before the meeting. Additions or amendments to be discussed and agreed by Forum.

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	New Forest Access Forum
Name of LAF Chair	Ruth Croker
Name of LAF Secretary	Petronella Natrass

Total number of LAF members	18
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	6
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	5
Number of members representing other interests	7

Number of full LAF meetings held	4	Number of sub-group meetings held	
Number of working groups led by others	5	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	0
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?		How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	£0.00
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			

Partners your LAF worked with during 2015/16 (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAF achievements/making a difference?¹ Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

Involvement in development of:

National Park Recreation Management Strategy

Hampshire County Council Cycling Strategy

Hampshire County Council Walking Strategy

Give Each Other Breathing Space - including the making of a video encouraging all road users to have respect for each other.

Hampshire Small Grants Scheme - funding awarded for 6 resurfacing and other access improvement schemes within the New Forest Area

What activity did your LAF undertake to help record historical PROW before 2026?

¹ These achievements form an important part of the national annual report that is submitted to Defra/Minister and help to promote the work and good practice of LAFs

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2015 to March 2016

One member of the LAF (Chair) is a member of group 'Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage' (PATHH), a lottery-funded project discovering lost ways. Through this scheme progress is being made, albeit slowly, in recording historic rights of way in Hampshire.

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice	Optional Detail
Green Infrastructure strategies			
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)			
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)		2	Discussions on the route of England Coast Path in the New Forest
Public open space (public space protection orders)			Lymington
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders			
Planning applications /Housing development schemes			
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)			
Local development frameworks and planning strategies			
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each		1	
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off		1	
Right of Way Improvement Plan review	1	2	
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	2	4	Consulted on Hampshire County Council Cycling and Walking Strategies
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	1	4	Includes Cycle Working Group
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW			
Parish Council or other grant schemes	4	4	Hampshire Small Grants Scheme
Access for people with reduced mobility		4	
Commons, village greens			
Open Access land restrictions			
Coastal Access/National Trails		2	
NNR dedication			
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves			

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2015 to March 2016

Nature conservation (including SSSIs)		3	SSSI Wetland Restoration
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.	1		Brockenhurst - unsuccessful
Forestry and woodland		6	Forestry Commission site improvement plans

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

Consulted on the New Forest National Park Management Plan

Member representation on site visits for SSSI Wetland Restoration and monitoring of related planning applications (HLS)

Member representation on the Cycle Working Group and involvement with development of Cycling Charter (ongoing - meeting in May 2015)

Member representation on the New Forest National Park Authority Recreation Management Strategy Working Group (meeting in June 2015)

Member representation at a meeting of National Park Authority Members (July 2015)

Verbal advice to Ordnance Survey on detailed path network project (LAF meeting, September 2015)

Response to LAF National Conference Survey (September 2015)

Representation at SE LAF Chair's meeting (September 2015)

Appointment of new Cycling representative

Attendance at National LAF Conference (23 February 2016)

What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

Coastal Access - advising on the England Coast Path in the New Forest

Rationalisation and extension of the cycle network on Crown Lands

Assist in the establishment of a Recreation and Management Strategy for the New Forest National Park

Local Plan Reviews (New Forest NPA and New Forest District Council)

Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAFs operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?

Finance - reduced budgets of bodies we work with to achieve improvements.

Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work program for next year?

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2015 to March 2016

Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies²

Comments from the Appointing Authority

Comments from LAF Chair

We continue to have members with a good range of interests who work well together. We receive good secretarial and amangement support from the National Park and Hampshire County Council. Our advice seems to be valued.

Any other comments

² The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.