

North Yorkshire

Local Access Forum

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

**NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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Chairman's Foreword

This has been my first year as LAF Chairman. The main objective has been to establish both continuity and to fulfil the aspirations of the LAF after some quick changes in Chair in previous months.

The whole question of LAF activities in the future has been raised by DEFRA and it is certainly a challenging and exciting time for LAFs as our duties become more widely recognised. We will continue to be involved with both DEFRA and Natural England to agree the way forward for LAFs.

We have continued this year to provide advice to section 94 bodies and will be working to expand our involvement in the future.

Two members left the LAF during the year but we want to record our thanks to Both David Shaftoe and Ian Jakulis, for their valuable contributions.

Introduction

The North Yorkshire Local Access Forum is an independent advisory body set up by North Yorkshire County Council under sections 94 & 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum covers the area of North Yorkshire outwith the two national Parks.

Role and Responsibilities

Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on the County Council, as highway authority, to establish a Local Access Forum. The primary purpose of the Local Access Forum is to provide advice to North Yorkshire County Council on how to make the countryside more accessible for open air recreation. Key functions include providing advice on:

- The development of access strategies, including the Rights of Way Improvement Plan;
- Improving the rights of way network; and
- The implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to open countryside.

Membership of the Forum

During 2010/2011 membership of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum was as follows:

Name	District	Term of office to	Interest Group
Tom Halstead	Ryedale	2012	Users
Leo Crone	Darlington	2012	
David Gibson	Craven	2011	
Rachel Connolly	Richmonshire	2010	
Ian Jakulis*	Hambleton	2011	
Janet Dowling	Harrogate	2012	
Hugh Spencer	Ryedale	2012	
Pat Whelan	Richmondshire	2013	
Edward Dennison	Hambleton	2011	
Anthony Martin	Harrogate	2011	
Catherine Wardroper	Hambleton	2013	
David Shaftoe*	Harrogate	2011	Other interests
Co Cllr John Fort BEM	Harrogate	2012	
Co.Cllr David Jeffels	Ryedale	2012	
Co.Cllr Robert Heseltine	Selby	2012	
John Taylor (Chair)	Selby	2012	
Martin Whiles	Selby	2012	

*Left the Forum during 2010/2011

The County Council is grateful to all members of the Local Access Forum for their very valuable contribution to its work over the course of the past year.

Member Profiles

Rachel Connolly

Rachel lives north of Scotch Corner and enjoys all aspects of the countryside. She walks regularly, birdwatches and dowses! As a retired access volunteer she understands the needs of landowners as well as users and is enthusiastic to make improvements in the network.

Leo Crone

Leo lives in Darlington. He is a member of the North Yorkshire County Council Rights of Way Liaison Group and sits on the North York Moors anti social behaviour group. He is a primary contact on vehicular access to the countryside with the Durham and Cleveland Police Forces. He was previously on Sports Council regional forums and the North York Moors National Park Rights of Way Committee. He aims to represent the views and aspirations of vehicle user groups and has a large network of contacts.

Edward Dennison

Edward is a farmer and landowner from Thornton-le-Beans near Northallerton, where he is a Parish Councillor. A former NFU County chairman and is knowledgeable about the countryside and wildlife. He is interested in seeking a balance between protection of the environment, access and the rights of owners and occupiers.

John Fort BEM

John Fort is North Yorkshire County Councillor for Pateley Bridge and lives at Dacre in the Nidderdale AONB. He is a retired police officer with an interest in country pursuits and is the County Council's Executive Member for community services.

David Gibson

David is a retired solicitor and justices clerk from Burton-in Lonsdale in Craven. He is a founder trustee and former Chairman of North Lancaster Victim Support, a charity working with victims of crime. He is a keen walker with an interest in history and archaeology. He is Access Officer for West Riding Ramblers Association, Footpath Officer for Craven Ramblers Association and a member of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum.

Tom Halstead

Tom is a retired academic scientist from the University of York. He lives in Wheldrake near York. He is the East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers Area Access Officer and Chairman of the Ramblers York Group. He was the main author of the booklet "Open access walks: North Yorkshire", recently published by the North Yorkshire County Council.

Robert Heseltine

TBC

David Jeffels

TBC

Tony Martin

Tony has been a Parish Councillor at Follifoot with Plompton Parish Council (between Harrogate & Wetherby) for several years . He is also on Follifoot Village Hall Management Committee and is co-ordinator of the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme . His broad interest in rural affairs is lifelong together with an active involvement in field sports . He is particularly keen to develop a greater understanding between landowners and the public wishing to access the countryside . As a result of his parish council service he wants to help forge a strong , effective , ongoing and sustainable relationship between the L A F , NYCC and the various parish councils within the county to resolve outstanding issues and generally

improve access for all members of the community.

John Taylor

The current LAF chair, John lives in Bolton Percy near Tadcaster and has spent his working life in the oil industry. He enjoys the countryside and is keen to see a balance between the needs of both land owners and those who want to share the pleasures of our landscape. He believes that it is important when encouraging access to emphasise the responsibility to protect our natural heritage.

Catherine Wardroper

Catherine has lived and worked in North Yorkshire for 35 years. She is a land agent with a wide experience of the management of rural property in North Yorkshire and thus the opportunities and challenges presented by the rights of way network. She is also a rider (horses), walker and naturalist.

Patricia Whelan

Pat is a member of both the North Yorkshire and Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forums and an Officer of the British Driving society with responsibility for responding to access and rights of Way consultations. She is also an active member of Hudswell Parish Council and the N E Horse Driving Trials.

Martin Wiles

TBC

Meetings of the Forum

Meetings of the Forum are advertised in the local press and are open to the public, who are always made very welcome. An opportunity will be provided for any member of the public who attends to ask questions or to make a statement should they wish to do so. Wherever possible, meetings are held at locations relevant to the business under discussion.

Business of the Forum

The agenda and minutes of the quarterly meetings, and a copy of the most recent Annual Report, are available for inspection on the North Yorkshire County Council website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

The principle agenda items at each of the regular quarterly meetings during 2010/11 were as follows:

20th May 2010 County Hall - Northallerton

- Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads
- Local Transport Plan 3 Consultation
- RT Roads
-

19th August 2010 County Hall - Northallerton

- Consultation on 'The Nature of England'
- Skewkirk Bridge Update
- Bedale & Leeming Bypass consultation

18th November 2010 County Hall - Northallerton

- Public Rights of Way maintenance
- Open Access Land restrictions

17th February 2011, County Hall, Northallerton

- The future of the public forest estate in England
- Countryside Code consultation

Forward Plan for 2010/2011

Members are asked to consider future agenda items in advance and to discuss these with the Chair prior to each meeting of the LAF. The LAF then agrees a Forward Plan at each meeting covering the following year.

19th MAY 2011 - County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RT Roads• PRow Maintenance update• Restructuring of NYCC Consultative groups
8th SEPTEMBER 2011 – County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rights of Way Improvement plan update• Definitive Map update• Restructuring of NYCC Consultative groups
24th NOVEMBER 2011 – County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report 2010/11• PRow maintenance priorities• Barrie Mason – Assistant Director Highways & Transportation
TBC – February 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRow maintenance report• Sponsorship of the PRow network• Report on implications of DEFRA gaps gates and stiles guidance

Contacts

Information on the work of the Forum can be obtained from the following County Council staff:

Countryside Service Officers:

Countryside Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Aidan Rayner Public Rights of Way Team Leader
Penny Noake Definitive Map Team Leader

e-mail: paths@northyorks.gov.uk

Local Access Forum Secretariat:

Committee Services, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Jane Wilkinson Local Access Forum Secretary

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NYCC website: www.northyorks.gov.uk