

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum**6 July 2016****Local Access Forum Annual Review****Report of the Secretary****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To ask members to agree the annual review for submission to Natural England.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Local Access Forum is required to produce an annual report on its activity.
- 2.2 Natural England provides an annual review form, which is required to be returned to them by 31 July 2016, and which can also be used as the annual report template. This provides Natural England with consistent information from all LAFs, for reporting to DEFRA on the national position.
- 2.3 The Chair and the Secretary have drafted the attached responses on the annual review. LAF members are invited to comment on the draft and agree a final version for submission to Natural England by the deadline of 31 July.
- 2.4 In particular, members will be asked at the meeting to confirm which category of membership they consider themselves to fall into:
- Representing users of public rights of way or access land
 - Representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist
 - Members representing other interests
- It is hoped that LAFs will have a balance of representation across the three categories.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members agree the annual review form for submission to Natural England by the deadline of 31 July.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

Report author: Kate Arscott, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Background Documents: None

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April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	North Yorkshire Local Access Forum
Name of LAF Chair	Rachel Connolly
Name of LAF Secretary	Kate Arscott

Total number of LAF members	-182
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	0
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	
Number of members representing other interests	

Number of full LAF meetings held	2	Number of sub-group meetings held	0
Number of working groups led by others	0	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	1
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?	0	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?

Through contributing to Local Development Plan documents for the County Council and 7 District Councils that fall within the LAF area, as well as individual planning applications where appropriate.

Through commenting on the Countryside Access Service Review and proposals for future prioritisation of work

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

The LAF has identified this as a priority issue for 2016/17

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

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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)	1	2	NYCC LTP4/Highways England
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)			
Public open space (public space protection orders)			
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders			
Planning applications /Housing development schemes		7	Liaison between individual LAF members and District Councils
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)		1	Scotch Corner retail development
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	3		Scarborough Borough Local Plan Consultation; North Yorkshire and York Joint Minerals and Waste Plan; Hambleton District Council Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each			
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off			
Right of Way Improvement Plan review			
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)			
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area			
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW			
Parish Council or other grant schemes			
Access for people with reduced mobility			
Commons, village greens			
Open Access land restrictions			Notifications circulated for information
Coastal Access/National Trails			
NNR dedication			
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves			
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)			
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on			

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public access etc.			
Forestry and woodland			

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

Consultation on the Countryside Access Service Review
Schools and Education Project

What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

Working with NYCC on increased use of volunteers; preparation for 2026; Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads; continuing to contribute to the development of Local Development Plans; closer working with the Appointing Authority

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?

The current financial climate restricts the support available to the LAF at a national, regional and local level, as well as the ability of partners to fund and deliver improvements

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

Possibly archival involvement in relation to volunteer activity

Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies²

Comments acknowledged in relation to the LTP4; Joint Mineral and Waste Plan; and Scarborough Borough Local Plan

Comments from the Appointing Authority

The local authority undertook a review in 2015, which has restricted the ability of the LAF to make as much progress as they or we would wish. There has been a refresh of the administrative support to the LAF

Comments from LAF Chair

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.

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Following a lapse in the LAF's operation in the first half of 2015/16 we look forward to building a more positive relationship and achieving progress jointly with the Appointing Authority going forward.

Any other comments

This report only covers activity since the Local Access Forum was reconstituted in November 2015.