

Lake District Local Access Forum
Annual Report 2010 to 2011





Chairman's Report

As this is my last report as Chair, I felt it was worth looking back over the last ten years since the Forum's inception in 2001.

Initially we were heavily involved in the advent of open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, supporting the National Park Authority's work in managing this process with as little conflict as possible. During this time, the Authority recognised that it needed to work with external agencies and the local community; a process that has continued and evolved over the last ten years. The current Partnership Plan recognises a very different style of working than existed 10 years ago.

Later, we acknowledged that the rights of way network was vitally important to both the health of communities and tourism. We support the work of rights of way officers and are fully involved in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and its annual action plans. It is essential that the Forum continues to ensure that work in this area is not affected as a result of the current financial situation facing all access authorities.

There have been differences between the Forum and the Authority but these have been resolved in a spirit of compromise. Recently, proposals to combine the Cumbria and Lake District Forums have been discussed. However the roles of the two authorities in terms of access and recreation provision are so fundamentally different that it was decided, rightly in my view, that the two Forums remain separate entities. Joint working is beneficial for some access work which is the reason the Forum supports the creation and continuation of the Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership – established to ensure common standards across the county and with political membership to raise the profile of access provision.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Forum for their continued hard work, enthusiasm and commitment and the officers serving the Forum for their help and support.

Charles Flanagan
Chairman

What is the Lake District Local Access Forum?

The Forum is an independent statutory body. Our members are appointed by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Our purpose is to advise the National Park, and anyone else who we think may benefit from our advice, on the improvement of public access to land - including lakes and rivers, for open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area and for any other purpose. Our advice takes into consideration the needs of land management and the desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area, including the flora, fauna, geological and landscape features. We welcome contributions from the general public. Our meetings are open to all and are well advertised in local papers and on the LDNPA's website. At these meetings time is provided for members of the community to put questions to the forum. Please make use of us.

Who is on the Local Access Forum?

Our members represent both the owners and occupiers of access or land or land crossed by public rights of way, and the users of access land and rights of way.

Each year around a third of forum members decide to step down, allowing us to recruit new people. If you think you can contribute to this valuable work then please apply to the LDNPA which provides the administrative support for the forum.

Lake District Local Access Forum members 2010 to 2011

Name	Area of representation
Amanda McCleery	Special interests and education
Andrew Hunter	Special interest area
Carole Barr	Recreation
Charles Flanagan (Chair)	Land management
David Rawle	Land management
David Williamson (resigned July 2010)	Special interest area
Diana Matthews	Land management
Geoff Wilson	Recreation
James Thurlow	Recreation
Joe Holliday	LDNPA member
John Atkinson	Land management
John Crosbie	Recreation
John Taylor	Land management
Judith Moore (Vice-Chair)	Special interests and transport
Ken Taylor	Land management
Malcolm Petyt	Recreation
Philip Griffiths	Recreation
Stephen Pighills	Recreation
Veronica McGloin	Land management
Wendy Emmett	Special interests and education



What has the Lake District LAF achieved during 2010 to 2011?

We have had less involvement with recreation and access work over the last 12 months due in part to the financial pressures facing all access authorities. We made representations to both the LDNPA and Cumbria County Council and are pleased that the County Council has modified its budget proposal to significantly reduce its provision for access work. We have:

- ▲ monitored the LDNPA's work in respect of its new permitted paths policy.
- ▲ given advice on proposed modifications to individual rights of way.
- ▲ continued to monitor progress of proposals to implement a right of way around the coast of England. One of the first stages of this work will be proposals on the Solway coast.
- ▲ worked with the LDNPA to maximise the provision for access and recreation at a time of significant financial constraint.
- ▲ continued to work with the LDNPA in respect of the implementation of the ROWIP; a number of access issues involving open access land.
- ▲ helped with additional routes for the less able
- ▲ championed better management of public access land the Lake District National Park.
- ▲ represented a number of users groups in respect of the County Council's proposals to coordinate and manage large scale events.

Lake District LAF Consultations

Particular consultations of note include:

- ▲ **Selling Forestry Commission woodlands**
We responded to the proposals to sell FC woodlands and will continue to monitor this, particularly in respect of the need to maintain public access.
- ▲ **Regeneration of woodland**
We've also responded to a number of proposals to fence areas of common land, subject to access rights, to allow the regeneration of woodland including above Glenridding and on Armboth Fell.
- ▲ **Fix the Fells**
We've given advice to the LDNPA on many proposed modifications to public rights of way, including those arising from the Fix the Fells project.
- ▲ **Enlarging the two national parks**
We've also made representations in respect of the proposals to enlarge the two National Parks.



Further Information

If you want to learn more about us please contact us.

Lake District Local Access Forum

c/o Park Management South Team
Lake District National Park Authority
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7RL

Phone: 01539 724555

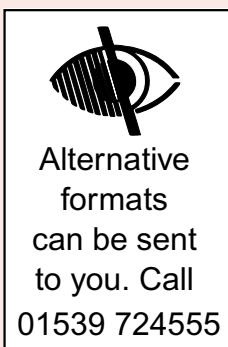
Email: laf@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Minicom: 01539 792690

Lake District LAF agendas, papers
and minutes can be viewed at:

www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/local_access_forum

The website also includes the details of current
members, the Forum's terms of reference and other
relevant information. Please contact us if you would
like any documents on paper.



Photographs by: Dave Willis, Charlie Hedley,
British Mountaineering Council, Michael Turner,
Steve Barber, Designworks and LDNPA.

Publication number 07/11/DW/200

