

MEMBERS OF THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Updated: October 2017

John Thompson (Chair)

Appointed until: September 2019

John has over 40 years' experience and knowledge of Derbyshire and Peak District countryside issues, having latterly worked for the National Park Authority as Director of Recreation and Education until his retirement in May 2007. In this role he was involved in access and rights of way developments and improvements, developed close and effective partnerships with a number of bodies including national and regional sports and recreation panels, three water companies, the National Trust and other land owning and management interests. He has also served on the National Forest Board for six years. He is also active in his local community, and is currently chair of the Anthony Gell School Foundation Trust, which has supported development of improved sports facilities for the school and community, and is a trustee (former chair) of the Wirksworth Recreation Ground Trust, providing opportunities for local sports.

Bob Berzins (Vice-chair)

Appointed until: June 2019

Bob's main area of interest is fell running. He is a member of Sheffield-based Dark Peak Fell Runners, writes columns for the Fell Runners Association website and magazine, and represents fell runners throughout the National Park. Through his involvement in the Stanage Forum he has developed his interest in access and conservation, and works with landowners, keepers and conservationists to improve understanding of the impacts of fell running on local moorland.

Charlotte Gilbert (Vice-chair)

Appointed until: December 2020

Charlotte lives in Alport near Bakewell and has a great interest in access to the countryside from many different perspectives; as a farmer and land manager, as a walker and horse rider and as a conservationist. She is Chair of Peak Horsepower bridleway group whose aim is to extend the bridleway network in the Peak District.

Ian Bunting

Appointed until: December 2017

Ian is a Visitor Experience Manager for Severn Trent Water and is responsible for conservation, access and recreation around several reservoirs. He is a keen walker and pot holer in the Peak District and is a volunteer at community projects and Heritage organisations. Having a farming background he understands some of the challenges surrounding access but is keen to make it as open to as many as possible.

Edwina Edwards

Appointed until: September 2018

Edwina is the Chief Executive of Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport and has also worked voluntarily for them for several years. She has also worked for the Youth Hostels Association and has served in various roles for Girlguiding in Derbyshire and is Midlands Region DofE coordinator. A keen walker, cyclist and fell runner, she is also very much part of the local Yowlgrave community and comes from a farming background.

Richard Entwistle

Appointed until: December 2019

Richard has lived near the Peak District for over 35 years and has been a frequent visitor to the National Park as a sightseeing visitor, a keen walker and occasional driver on the historic unsurfaced roads. He is very keen that all user groups have fair access to the countryside, and so has been involved with the Stanage Forum steering group representing the Green Lane Association (GLASS).

Henry Folkard

Appointed until: August 2018

Henry's professional association with the Peak District began in the late 1970's when, as Area Officer for the Manpower Services Commission's Job Creation Programme, he worked to develop a range of special projects in the National Park. He is currently the British Mountaineering Council's (BMC) Area Access Officer, was a founder member of the Stanage Forum and member of the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area, Eastern Moors Stakeholder Group, Sheffield Moors Partnership and the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Committee. He has contributed to the BMC's policy on, and responses to, the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act. He has a strong amateur interest in ornithology and botany and landscapes are a particular interest.

Clare Griffin

Appointed until: October 2020

Clare enjoys a wide range of outdoors recreation, including fell running, orienteering and trail bike riding. She is a member of the British Orienteering Federation, Fell Runners Association, Macclesfield Harriers running club, Trail Riders Fellowship and Vintage Motorcycle Club and has recently joined Peak Park Conservation Volunteers working parties. She works at Manchester Royal Infirmary and lives in Bollington.

John Hall

Appointed until: November 2019

John is a farmer in Edale.

Terry Howard

Appointed until: August 2018

Terry has an in depth knowledge of the Peak District as a walker for over 50 years. He is currently the President of the South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Ramblers, Chairman of Sheffield Ramblers and Access Secretary to Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland. A former Teacher of Environmental Studies and Youth Leader, he has organised many outdoor training events for Teachers and Youth Leaders. He has been involved in many joint working groups within the Peak District and is currently the Chairman of the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group. Currently involved in promoting walking for those seeking a healthier lifestyle and promoting the understanding of the Peak District, its heritage and wildlife.

Matt Hutson

Appointed until: December 2018

Matt is an Outdoor Education professional, living in Buxton with his young family. He is the current Peak District Network co-ordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as well as the Regional Representative for the Institute of Outdoor Learning and the British Association of International Mountain Leaders. From an educational background (working with EBD and disadvantaged groups) he is passionate about responsible access to the Countryside for all and is currently completing his Masters dissertation on the economic footfall of youth expedition programmes in the Peak District National Park. In his spare time he is a keen hillwalker and paddler.

Adge Last

Appointed until: October 2020

Adge is an outdoor education professional whose work supports the personal development of young people from Sheffield. He has links to the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres, as well as contact with local groups in Great Longstone regarding motor vehicle issues. Actively involved in rock climbing, cycling (both road and mountain biking) and walking, he lives and works within the National Park at Thornbridge.

Andrew Murley

Appointed until: March 2018

In his early years Andrew hiked and cycled around most of the Peak District and became a member of Buxton Mountain Rescue Team; he is still an associate member. Since the onset of various ailments he now ventures out in a wheelchair and tries to visit as much of the Peak District as possible on the accessible routes. He has lately gained a qualification in Managing Sustainable Rural Development. He attempted to relate most of his studies toward the Peak District and the last year of study was purely devoted towards the interaction between Peak District farmers, the local economy and local community. He is keen to see the residents, communities and economy of the Peak District and local surrounding area benefit from the opportunities afforded them through work performed by the Local Access Forum.

Geoff Nickolds

Appointed until: October 2020

Geoff Nickolds spent most of his career with Severn Trent Water where, as Conservation, Access and Recreation Manager he was responsible for recreation, access and biodiversity issues. This included over forty reservoir sites and countryside receiving over four million visitors each year, with facilities including visitor and education centres, restaurants, access trails, car parking, bird hides and water sports.

After leaving Severn Trent Water, Geoff served as Chairman of an Environment Agency Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (2005-2012), and as a Member of the Peak District National Park Authority (2007 - 2015) where he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority and had member lead roles on both biodiversity and recreation. His work as an independent Conservation, Access and Recreation consultant has included strategic advice on proposed reservoir and wetland developments for Thames Water, South East Water and the Environment Agency, and on implications of the Water Framework Directive for water based recreation for Defra.

Geoff is a member of the Forestry Commission Regional Advisory Committee and of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the East Midlands. He has also been a member of the National Trust Midlands Regional Advisory Board and National Trust Council. Spare time interests include membership of (and visiting) the National Trust and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and walking and cycling.

Paul Richardson

Appointed until: March 2020

Paul has been visiting the Peak District National Park all of his life and has been a resident for 20 years. He owns and manages a business based in Hope, and his interests outside of the working environment have included rock climbing, walking

and mountain biking. He has recently stepped down from Chair of the Peak District Mountain Bike group which was formed to help provide a voice for mountain bike riders that are resident in the national park, a group that is now some 3000 strong and growing. His work as a volunteer with the National Trust and his degree, have provided him with a good background in both theory and practice of the managed landscape.

Jon Stewart

Appointed until: October 2020

Jon has been involved in conservation and recreation work in the Peak District for over ten years through roles with English Nature/ Natural England (including input to CRoW access and Moors for the Future). He is now employed as General Manager for the National Trust with responsibility for delivery of the Trust's key aims of conservation and access/enjoyment in the Peak District as the largest landowner. He brings strong perspectives on conservation, access and land ownership/management.

Ally Turner

Appointed until: October 2020

Ally is a keen horse rider and walker. She has recently retired from being a secondary school teacher with experience of working with pupils with Special Educational Needs and disadvantaged young people. She lives in a farming community near Longnor.

Sue Weatherley

Appointed until: June 2018

Sue comes from a farming background and has worked in public service in Derbyshire in a variety of roles for over 30 years. She lives in Youlgrave and is now retired. She is an active walker and cyclist, and even manages to do some open water swimming. At present she is Access Officer for the Derbyshire Dales Group of the Ramblers.

Appointees:

John Walton

Appointed by the Peak District National Park Authority

John is self-employed and has been a High Peak Borough Councillor since 2003. He lives within the National Park and supports a balanced approach to tourism in the Hope Valley. He supports protection of the environment, development for business and pleasure which is sympathetic to the natural beauty of the area and development on brown sites with careful planning.

Jason Atkin

Appointed by Derbyshire County Council

Jason is an elected Councillor on both Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council and is a member of the Planning Committees of both these Councils. He lives just outside the National Park boundary in Darley Dale and is a shop manager. His family have been farmers in Derbyshire for over 100 years and he runs his own business. In his County Councillor role he has had experience of cultural heritage issues as a representative on the Derwent Valley World Mills Heritage site. He is keen to promote affordable housing schemes to preserve the communities within the National Park and to support closer workings with other Authorities that surround the National Park and support national promotion of the National Park and closer working ties with the other National Parks.

