

Peak District Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11 June 2025 at Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell.

Members Present:

Martin Beer
Martin Bennett
Charlotte Gilbert
Jez Kenyon
John Towe

Clare Griffin (Chair)

Cllr Susan Hobson
Austin Knott
Louise Hawson
Geoff Nickolds
Ian Ord

Others Present:

Nick Doran, Local Access Forum
Rich Pett, (PDNPA)

Sue Smith, (PDNPA)
Mike Rhodes, (PDNPA) (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Charlotte Leech, Ben Seal and Richard Entwistle.

14. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2025

11/25 Member Reports

This should read '*King Charles III English coastal path (KCIII ECP)*' will give access to coastal areas including cliffs and beaches.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 February 2025 are approved with this amendment.

15. MATTERS ARISING

Dawn Biram, a member of the public spoke to the PD LAF about erosion of rural paths. Several sites were referred to. Works to try and improve access and footpaths sometimes had a negative impact depending on materials and methods used when upgrading gates, seating and shelters.

The Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) will be considered at the next LAF meeting due to Gill Millward's absence.

The Review of Long-Term Direction Excluding Access at Turncliff Common, due to be raised under Any Other Business, will similarly be taken to the October 2025 meeting in Gill's absence.

There will be an update at the next meeting on the response from the National Trust in relation to the Derwent and Howden Moor fencing over the request to remove once no longer required, and to seek confirmation of access points along the fencing line.

Action: That the Peak District LAF contact the National Trust regarding removal of the fencing once the project is complete. Any comments to be sent to Mike Rhodes who will pass them on to the National Trust.

16. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL PARK RANGER

Rob Kenning, the Ranger Team Manager, gave an update on the current Ranger Team and its work. The recent restructure has reduced the Engagement resource within the team and faces various challenges. At the same time there are more visitors to the National Park, with some sites seeing intense footfall.

National Park Rangers can assist fire services and other agencies on the ground but don't have enforcement powers. The LAF is a good place to liaise with representative groups, and the rangers look to complement their work by working with partner organisations. The Highways Authorities are responsible for managing the Rights of Way network and rangers support that work. They have some budget from Derbyshire County Council to work on priority routes.

Action: Rob Kenning to share area ranger details with the farming community.

17. ACCESS UPDATE

Sue Smith, Access and Rights of Way Officer, gave an Access for All update. The Defra programme has now been extended for another year (Year 4) with capital funding of £255k available until the end of March 2026. Items identified for Year 4 will develop more miles, more places and more mobility. Sue's presentation summarised the work completed in Year 3 of the programme and other accessibility improvements in the National Park.

LAF members referred to Horseshoe Quarry as a good example of accessible climbing, where agencies have worked together. People's lives are changed through being able to access sites that were previously inaccessible to them. Shelters are a useful facility to all users, and should be accessible, and in keeping through the use of existing buildings and structures.

Action: That the report is noted

18. ACTIVE TRAVEL (TIM NICHOLSON)

Transport Policy Planner, Tim Nicholson, and Access and RoW officer, Sue Smith, gave an update on the Active Travel England Capability programme.

The National Park's constituent Highway Authorities have produced Draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, but only the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Plan covered part of the Peak District National Park. The gap in coverage of rural areas led to Active Travel England providing funding to National Parks to produce their own Plans. The PDLAF has been involved in stakeholder workshops. The finalised Plan will include identification of a series of schemes and an economic business case for the existing and proposed strategic network has been prepared. Subject to funding, work will continue to design, develop and deliver the strategic network.

Action: That the report is noted and any queries on the economic business case be taken to a future meeting of the Active Travel Sub group.

19. CHESHIRE EAST RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (GENNI BUTLER)

Genni Butler, Countryside Access Development Manager at Cheshire East (CE) Council updated the LAF on their RoWIP. The Cheshire East Countryside Access Forum covers an area across the Cheshire Plain, covering Crewe, Nantwich, the southern edges of Manchester, and across to the Peak District. It has 11 members representing various

interest groups. The CE Forum flags up access opportunities and concerns and is a 3 CONTROLLED consultee for Highway Authorities, Natural England and the planning system. The current RoWIP 15-year plan to 2026 is being reviewed.

The PDLAF discussed concerns about Rights of Way reporting with different systems across the country. One platform would simplify reporting. Some Local Access Forums are struggling to continue their work, but were important for debating, advising, consultation, prompting bodies to act and as a sounding board with a wide variety of user groups.

Actions: Genni to share the Countryside Access Forum Annual Report with the Peak District Local Access Forum and PDLAF to be consulted on the new 15-year Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan in Autumn 2025.

Useful Links:

Cheshire East Public Rights of Way
Cheshire East Countryside Access Forum

20. DERBYSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE (GILL MILLWARD)

Mike Rhodes introduced the DCC RoWIP update to the LAF as Gill Millward was not present at the meeting.

It is anticipated that Rob Greateorex from the DCC Highways Team will attend the October LAF.

Action: That any questions relating to the report be deferred to the next meeting

21. DISCUSSION ON PATH FORWARD FOR THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Rob Kenning, Ranger Team Manager, opened up a discussion about the future of the PDLAF.

Forum members preferred to keep three in-person meetings a year, as there was a statutory duty on consultations, and an advisory role to the PDNPA and DCC, as the appointing authorities. Some topics were suitable for discussion within a smaller working group outside the full Forum meetings.

Action: LAF members to consider possible changes to the running of the Forum and to set up a working group to discuss in more detail.

22. PEAK DISTRICT TOURISM CHARTER

CEO, Phil Mulligan, presented the Peak District Tourism Charter to the Forum, which was approved in response to visitor impact on the National Park.

Tourism is important. The Charter sets out a plan to work with partners to mitigate some of the negative impacts, and to look at ways of bringing in funding.

LAF Members expressed some concern about the tone of the Charter, which should be carefully worded to avoid negative language towards visitors and respect rights to access the National Park.

Action: To note the Tourism Charter and to provide input as it progresses and for the PDLAF to discuss further at the action planning stage in the Autumn.

23. SHEFFIELD LOCAL PLAN WILDLIFE MITIGATION

The Sheffield Local Plan Wildlife Mitigation report is out for consultation for LAF members to make any comments.

Action: Comments to be sent to Louise Hawson, as a member of the Sheffield Moors Partnership Group, to include in any consultation response.

24. MEMBERS REPORTS

Martin Bennett reported back on the Hayfield Kinder Trespass Group meeting on 26 April, with discussions on the variations across the country of the Rights of Way network. The Peak District has a good network, but in other areas with fewer rights of way, the Right to Roam campaign can make a significant difference to access.

Charlotte Gilbert advised on a Peak Horse Power initiative to have occasional fundraising rides on chosen bridleways. To avoid a lot of people turning up on one day to take part, a different route will be publicised each month.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There is a consultation on the review of a long-term Direction at Turncliff Common, Buxton. Previous comments made by the PDLAF at the last review still stand.

Action: Additional comments should be forwarded to Claire Griffin by 16 June 2025.

The East Midlands Mayor is to walk the 150 mile active travel loop to promote the area and meet key people en route.

Action: The PDLAF to consider its involvement.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 15 October 2025. The Chair to be confirmed nearer the time.

Meeting ended at 12:40

The LAF concluded with a presentation to Mike Rhodes in appreciation for his guiding role in setting up and operating the Forum over the last 25 years.

Meeting ended - 12.40 pm

