

02 June 2015

Our ref: EM LAFs

Your ref:



East Midlands LAFs

Apex Court
City Link
Nottingham
NG2 4LA

T 07900608043
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Dear LAF members

Arrangements following withdrawal of funding for Local Access Forum Regional Co-ordinator post (31/3/2015).

This letter gives information about LAFs previously dealt with by Natural England colleagues, or under the old Regional structure within the East Midlands.

Following Natural England's re-organisation into area teams, Area 05 covers Leicestershire and Rutland, Derbyshire, Peak District, Central Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire. (This letter is to all LAFs in this grouping- plus Northamptonshire LAF)

Natural England's Strategic Direction focusses on four key areas of our business which are defined by legislation and our statutory purpose:

1. Protect and build understanding of our landscapes and geodiversity
2. Reverse the decline in terrestrial biodiversity
3. Restore marine biodiversity
4. Promote and encourage access to and understanding of the natural environment

Natural England's statutory role in respect to LAFs is limited and covers:

- receiving copies of all local access forum annual reports; and
- being notified of changes made to forum arrangements and the Secretary.

Whilst continuing to work more effectively with fewer resources, we recognise the contribution LAFs can make; as a section 94 body Natural England continues to welcome advice from the LAFs on:

- the operation of open access restrictions, management and mapping;
- the condition of National Trails;
- access to the coast;
- the implementation and effects of the EU funded agri-environment scheme on access land and public rights of way;
- facilities and services for visitors at National Nature Reserves;
- opportunities afforded to LAFs through engagement with Local Nature Partnerships and
- other matters relating to the provision of access and opportunities for the enjoyment of the natural environment.

Local contacts

Your local Natural England contact for LAFs

Northamptonshire

Jane Barrett (Area 8)

Peak District LAF	Kristina Gould (Area 5)
Derby and Derbyshire LAF	Kristina Gould (Area 5)
Leicester City LAF	Kristina Gould (Area 5)
Leicestershire LAF	Kristina Gould (Area 5)
Nottingham City LAF	Kristina Gould (Area 5)
Nottinghamshire	Kristina Gould (Area 5)
S. Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF	Kristina Gould (Area 5)

Communication

We will keep in contact with you by email so please please keep me updated with any changes to your LAF's contact details. Our ability to respond to queries may be limited.

Rob Leek will continue to support you in the use of Huddle to help you communicate across the country (rob.leek@naturalengland.org.uk)

Regional chair meetings

We recognise the importance of Regional Chair meetings to you. We can secure two dates per year if booked well in advance. You may wish to consider a rota for preparing the agenda and note-taking. I have booked a venue our Natural England office at Apex Court, City Link, Nottingham, NG2 4LA on 9th September 2015.

Reporting

Rob Leek will send out reminders about Annual Reviews to you to complete these for the Minister. We will not be producing a regional report.

Future engagement of Natural England with LAFs

It's not intended that Natural England fulfil the role of the Regional Co-ordinators. However, we look forward to continuing working in partnership with you to enhance people's access to and experience of the countryside on more project-based, Area priority-focussed activities.

Yours sincerely,

Kristina Gould
Lead Adviser (kristina.gould@naturalengland.org.uk)
East Midlands Team