

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	<b>Leicestershire Local Access Forum</b>
Name of LAF Chair	Terry Kirby
Name of LAF Secretary	Ben Holihead

Total number of LAF members	14
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	10
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	4
Number of members representing other interests	

Number of full LAF meetings held	4	Number of sub-group meetings held	12
Number of working groups led by others	3	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?		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?**<sup>1</sup> 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?

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

<sup>1</sup> 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)			
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	4	20	
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)			
Local development frameworks and planning strategies			
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			
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 public access etc.			
Forestry and woodland			

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

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### What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

One of our top priorities for the year ahead will be to decide which of these are most likely to lead to a successful claim and justify the probable work needed to collect evidence and then to organise volunteers to work through the list. We are pushing the boundaries of our remit in that we consider the adequate provision of public transport to be an essential part of access and we have engaged with bus companies and Network Rail, made comment in this regard on major planning applications and spoken on rights of ways issues at the National Infrastructure public hearing on the new regional freight interchange. We have also initiated and become heavily involved in walking facilities for the less able and dementia sufferers.

### 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 major challenge that will affect our ability to deliver improvements to public access will be finding enough volunteers to put in the leg work for research and the resources to cover the costs involved

We still at time find it hard to get some officers of the District Councils to approach us for input. Some do but we frequently have to initiate any approach and cannot always learn of issues early enough to give the consideration due. Those who we have engaged with have complemented us on our level of knowledge and expertise.

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

### Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>2</sup>

### Comments from the Appointing Authority

### Comments from LAF Chair

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<sup>2</sup> 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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**Any other comments**