



Outdoor Recreation Network

Encouraging more people to enjoy
and engage with the outdoors



The Outdoor Recreation Network (ORN) has the vision of encouraging more people to enjoy and engage with the outdoors.

Our members from across the United Kingdom and Ireland work in collaboration to help share research, facilitate information exchange and champion sustainable good practice.

ORN grew from a common interest of those seeking to share and improve opportunities to access the outdoors and evolved from the work of the Countryside Recreation Network that was established back in 1968. Our current members are researchers, enablers, providers and practitioners, all committed to providing diverse and immersive experiences in the outdoors, something we are proud to build on.

As recently appointed Chair of ORN, this is an exciting time to play a key part in leading the growth and future development of the Network. There has been a real recognition over the years of the value of giving people connections with the outdoors, access to healthier lifestyles and to a range of environmental and community benefits. We are looking for others to join us, to act as advocates and to work in collaboration to help achieve our collective goals.

Fiona Groves

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Groves".

Outdoor Recreation Network Chair



Vision

‘Encourage more people to enjoy and engage with the outdoors’

Mission

‘Collaborate with members to share research, facilitate information exchange and champion sustainable use and good practice.’



Themes

Our Action Plan 2019-2022 will focus on the following themes:

Research and Knowledge Sharing (including monitoring and evaluation)

Environmental Sustainability

Health and Wellbeing

Engaging Children and Young People in the Natural Environment

Resource Management (including funding and income generation)

Download our full [Action Plan 2019 -2022](#)

Membership Opportunities

Benefits of Membership	Support Membership	Full Membership
Collaboration		
Membership of a UK and Ireland wide industry network	✓	✓
Collaboration on join initiatives e.g. research	✓	✓
Eligibility to be elected onto ORN Executive Committee		✓
Events		
Number of free tickets to Annual ORN Conference	1	2
Number of free tickets ORN Seminars (2 per annum)	1	2
Hosting priority for ORN events		✓
Seminar & conference content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights • Presentations • Case studies / journal 	✓	✓
Networking		
Number of spaces for representatives at ORN Member's Meetings (3 per year)	1	2
Access to key insights and outworking from ORN Member's Meetings	✓	✓
Information		
Annual ORN E-Journal	✓	✓
Bi-Annual ORN E-zine	✓	✓
Contribute and share information via ORN communication channels e.g. Twitter & LinkedIn	✓	✓

COLLABORATION

By definition, the Network provides a catalyst for collaboration to allow our members to achieve their collective aims. ORN proactively identifies opportunities in which members can combine expertise, resources and budgets to provide outputs which are greater than a sum of their parts.

EVENTS

Members gain free tickets to ORN's Annual Conference and two seminars per year which provide high quality insights and practical learnings from influential speakers and outdoor recreation practitioners.

If for some reason you cannot attend, members can still access links to key insights, presentations and selected videos online. New members will be given priority when selecting hosts for upcoming events allowing them to avail of professional event management and promotion services provided by the ORN Secretariat.

NETWORKING

In addition to the conference and seminars, ORN provides Members Meetings which provide a focused and unique opportunity to engage, network and share with industry counterparts.

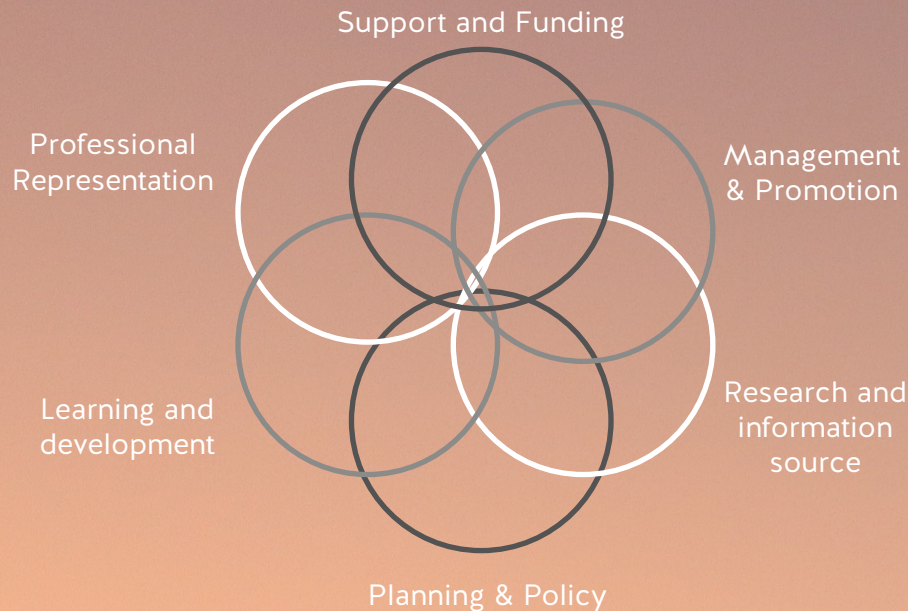
Join the ORN Members and the Executive Committee for an informal pre-conference meal and the opportunity to share information on the current work of your organisation such as upcoming projects, new partnerships and appointments, and the latest developments in policy and strategies.

INFORMATION

Members can stay in touch with industry news and insights via our annual e-journal, bi-annual e-newsletters and regular updates via our Twitter and LinkedIn channels. Members can utilise ORN channels to communicate with industry counterparts, drive recruitment and source collaborators.

Membership Opportunities

ORN membership is aimed at organisations with an active engagement in outdoor recreation and with a passion to share and collaborate with others. Our members typically include organisations with a role in:



We currently offer two levels of membership to attract organisations at national, regional and local level. You can sign up as a member at any time for a 12 month period.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Aimed at larger organisations operating at a national or regional level - £1850 per year

SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

For smaller organisations, directing work at local level - £750 per year

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We appreciate some organisations may not be in the position to join as members, however there are several ways you can engage with us:

- Purchase individual tickets for our Annual Conference and two Seminars per year
- [Sign up to our e-newsletter](#) so you can receive updates on our work, upcoming events and other opportunities to get involved.

We are always looking at creative and flexible ways to work with new members. So please talk to us if you have ideas on this.

HOW TO JOIN US...SIGN UP NOW

Simply contact Elizabeth Rogers of the ORN Secretariat or complete the membership application form (Google Doc)

Email: enquiries@outdoorrecreation.org.uk
Phone: 028 9030 6945

Meet our Executive Committee



FIONA GROVES (Independent Chair)

Fiona has been at the forefront of outdoor recreation for over 30 years, collaborating with a range of organisations from the natural environment, heritage, learning and adventure sports sectors. Fiona currently is owner / director of The Natural Route which specialises in connecting people with natural and built environment and heritage settings. In this role she works as a planning and engagement specialist, including work on complex Lottery Funded Projects for Local Authorities, trusts and partnerships. Fiona has previously held a range of recreation roles across policy, strategy, visitor services and training within the Forestry Commission and Peak District National Park.



BRIDGETTE HALL (Vice Chair)
Head of Recreation – Forestry England

Bridgette is currently Head of Recreation at Forestry England, having started her career as a ranger in the New Forest. Forestry England is the largest land owner / manager in England with people making over 230 million visits to England's public forests every year. Bridgette is responsible for leading the recreation and community teams across England.



LEE NEWTON (Finance Officer)
Head of Leisure – Ordnance Survey

Lee has worked with Ordnance Survey, Great Britain's National Mapping Agency since 2008 as Head of E-Commerce and for the past 4 years as Head of Leisure. Ordnance Survey aims to provide mapping that informs, guides and inspires. As a consumer business, it believes in helping more people get outside more often. Lee is accomplished and highly experienced at working with cross functional teams to create, implement and achieve a desired strategy. He has strong commercial skills with excellent financial awareness building high growth, high margin businesses.

Meet our Executive Committee



ALLY KOHLER

Director of Conservation and Communities - Dartmoor National Park Authority

Ally Kohler joined Dartmoor National Park Authority in 1988 as a Recreation Planner. Since then she has performed a number of roles for the Authority including recreation management, access and tourism; all of which require an understanding of wider land management across the National Park. Ally took up a senior management role in 2007 and her most recent post as Director of Conservation and Communities in April 2012. Ally believes strongly in partnership working and building long lasting relationships to deliver positive benefit for the environment and people.



PIPPA LANGFORD

Principal Specialist Recreation and Access - Natural England

Pippa is currently Natural England's lead on the evidence relating to the delivery of recreation and access, a brief that covers both the management of the physical resource that people use when they are outdoors and the communication of information and inspiration that gets them outdoors and enjoying the experience. Previously Pippa held a number of related specialist and management roles within NE and the Countryside Agency. In addition, Pippa was previously Director at Wildlife & Countryside Link and a Senior Lecturer. Pippa is also a member of the Institute for Public Rights of Way and is a Chartered Manager.



KEVIN LAFFERTY

National Policy Advisor for Access, Health and Recreation - Scottish Forestry

Kevin is the National Policy Advisor for Access, Health and Recreation in Scottish Forestry which serves as the forestry directorate of Scottish Government. Kevin's remit covers access legislation including rights and responsibilities, outdoor recreation, tourism and woods for health programme. Kevin is an expert in health and environment policy and practice and has a passion to reconnect people with woodland and natural environments through contact with nature programmes.

ORN SECRETARIAT

The Executive Committee is supported by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland who provide professional secretariat services which include event management and promotion, membership liaison and communication, network development and administration.

Our Members

Our growing membership base across the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ensures proactive representation across the nations, providing a collective industry voice.



WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY...

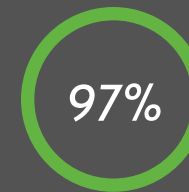
'Forestry England is the largest provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in England. As a part of the Forestry Commission it was also a founder member of ORN some 50 years ago. For us it is as relevant and forward thinking today as it was at the start. The benefits of ORN membership are wide ranging, from the CPD opportunities it provides to our staff members, excellent networking sessions, and quality conferences covering the hot topics of the day, it makes membership very good value for money'.

[Bridgette Hall – Head of Recreation, Forestry England](#)

The Ordnance Survey joined the ORN to learn from others, take part in conferences to ensure our thinking remains current, and to meet new contacts via the excellent networking sessions. We have not been disappointed! The ORN is a fantastic membership network that has helped the Ordnance Survey form new partnerships and achieve its aim of encouraging more people to get outside, more often.

[Lee Newton – Head of Leisure – Ordnance Survey](#)

DELEGATE FEEDBACK FROM 2019 EVENTS



of delegates stated they would recommend ORN events to a colleague or industry counterpart

'Outdoor Recreation 2030: Future Trends & Insights' Conference, Dartmoor National Park - October 2019

"Outdoor recreation in 2030. What does the future hold? Yesterday I attended the Outdoor Recreation Network conference which had a focus on future trends, insights and imagining our industry in 2030. Expertly hosted by Dartmoor National Park Authority, expertly organised by ORNI and expertly chaired by Fiona Groves. Such a great range of speakers that are so passionate about their work. Thank you all for such a great, inspiring day."

[Neil Reeves](#)

[Head of Countryside and Recreation, South West Lakes Trust](#)

Contact Us

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@ORN_official



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