

Local Access Forums

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of the
Countryside Recreation Network

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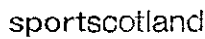
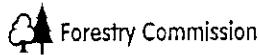
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- Networks thousands of interested people

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to promote information exchange relating to countryside recreation, and to foster general debate about relevant trends and issues.

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to spread information to develop best practice through training and professional development in provision for and management of countryside recreation.

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LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS

Gareth Roberts

Countryside Council for Wales

The seminar was organised to coincide with the publication by The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) of draft Regulations on Local Access Forums (LAFs). One of the aims of the seminar was to influence the final Regulations on LAFs, which were at the time of the workshop the subject of consultation. The second aim was to provide the opportunity to share experiences with those who had already established Access Forums and to try and identify good practices in order that we might better prepare for the work of the LAFs which are to be established throughout England and Wales.

Representatives of DEFRA and NAW outlined the draft regulations for England and Wales respectively. English and Welsh regulations differ slightly. Roger Smith from DEFRA outlined the English regulations and Angharad Huws highlighted the areas where the regulations differed from the Welsh. A handful of pilot LAFs have already been established across England and Wales in recognition of the crucial role that these can play in developing and managing access opportunities and in helping to create better understanding and partnerships between landowners, access users and local and National Park authorities. Speakers were also invited from various agencies and organisations across England and Wales that have been involved in the setting up and running of these pilot LAFs. Richard Davison from Scottish Natural Heritage provided an insight into the role of LAFs in Scotland, where there seems to be a wide recognition of their benefits among access users and landowners alike. The speakers and delegates representing existing LAFs testify to the important role that Forums have played in reaching consensus on access issues in their areas.

This event attracted delegates from all parts of the UK including 28 representatives of National Parks and local authorities that will be responsible in England and Wales for setting up and administering the new Local Access Forums (LAFs).

**COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000:
PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN
ENGLAND**

Roger Smith

Countryside Division, DEFRA

This paper outlines the material covered in the presentation by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of its proposals for regulations on Local Access Forums (LAFs) in England to the seminar on 29th August. A full version of the proposals is contained in the consultation paper, "*Proposals for regulations on Local Access Forums under sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*" published July 2001, and is available on the Department's web site along with links to the Act and other Departmental publications.

Introduction

The regulations on LAFs form part of a series of regulations to be made by DEFRA for implementing the Act's access to open countryside provisions in England. The Access to the Countryside (Maps in Draft Form) (England) Regulations 2001, was laid before Parliament on 9th October.

DEFRA proposes to adopt a "light touch" approach to the regulations on LAFs, leaving detailed decisions to be resolved by appointing authorities. This should allow appointing authorities sufficient flexibility to respond to circumstances prevailing locally, such as variations in the nature of their territory, the characteristics of the population, and the need for recreational provision.

Local Access Forums

Part I of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 provides for the creation of a new statutory right of public access on foot to open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land in England and Wales. Section 94 of the Act places a duty on local highway authorities and National Park authorities to establish LAFs. It will be the principal function of a LAF to advise as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. LAFs will be statutory consultees on draft maps of open country and registered common land, any bylaws to be made by access

authorities in respect of access land, councils' proposals to appoint wardens for access land, and on rights of way (ROW) improvement plans prepared by the local highway authority. In addition, the legislation requires LAFs to be consulted on directions to be made by the relevant authorities in relation to long term exclusions from access land.

Consultation Paper Proposals (In Brief)

Establishment & Geographical Coverage

We propose that each appointing authority must establish at least one LAF for its area within a year of the regulations taking effect. The aim is to allow sufficient time for appointing authorities to: consult on geographical coverage; appoint members; and make the necessary arrangements for secretarial/administrative support. As the Act envisages, we propose that regulations should facilitate the establishment of joint LAFs.

The consultation paper proposes that an appointing authority which has district councils in its area should be under a duty to consult them on the number and boundaries of forums in its area. Parish councils would be consulted on boundaries if the authority decides to establish more than one Forum. Local highway authorities should similarly be consulted by National Park appointing authorities.

It is proposed that LAFs should hold at least two meetings a year, and that the need for and frequency of meetings above that minimum should be decided by each Forum.

Representation and Balance

The Act requires appointing authorities to ensure that certain interests are represented on LAFs. They are: users of local rights of way; users of the new right of access to open countryside; owners and occupiers of access land or land crossed by public rights of way; and any other interests especially relevant to the authority's area. Our proposals would leave it to appointing authorities to determine the "other interests especially relevant to the area".

The Secretary of State must have regard to the desirability of maintaining a reasonable balance of interests on LAFs between representatives of certain interests, ie: users of rights of way and users of the new public right of access to open countryside; owners/occupiers of access land or land crossed by local rights of way. We propose that appointing authorities should have to ensure

reasonable balance between numbers of representatives when making appointments to LAFs both when making initial appointments to the Forum and when appointments are renewed subsequently.

The consultation paper seeks views from local highway authorities and National Park authorities on the appropriate voting arrangements for LAFs, but does not propose to make regulations on this matter.

Membership: Means of Appointment

We aim to ensure that appointing authorities have all the powers they need to achieve the necessary balance of representation on the Forum and have proposed, therefore, that before appointing any members to LAFs, authorities:

- must consult individuals and organisations which they consider appropriate - for instance, those whom they know to have an interest in the establishment of the Forum, or who may already be involved in a local advisory group;
- may invite organisations to submit nominations for Forum Members: and
- may advertise in newspapers for expressions of interest from members of the public
- We propose that once appointed, Members of an LAF should elect one of the Members to chair the Forum.

Membership: Number of Members

Research commissioned by the Countryside Agency indicated that the preferable maximum size of local access advisory groups for efficient working was 20. This is what is proposed for regulations. DEFRA considers it preferable not to propose a minimum size for LAFs, because of the risk of making it impossible to establish a Forum in a small or sparsely populated area.

Membership: Elected Members

DEFRA sees no reason to prevent an appointing authority from appointing an elected council member or National Park authority (NPA) member to a LAF. The proposals would however limit the number of local authority members who serve on LAFs, in the interests of protecting the independence of Forums as advisory bodies. We propose one place for such members in the case of a single-authority Forum and two places for joint Forums or in a National Park. The elected or

NPA member need not be from the appointing authority - for instance where a councillor from a district council would provide more effective representation.

We propose nothing that would prevent an elected council member from being elected to chair the LAF if that is what the Forum Members want.

Membership: Length of Membership

We propose that appointments should last for one - three years, the length of term to be determined by the appointing authority in each case. There should be no limit on how many times any appointment could be renewed on expiry, so that valuable members need not be lost to the Forum purely because of having served for a certain length of time. Varying terms in such a way would ensure that, having been initially appointed at the same time, all memberships need not come up for renewal simultaneously.

It is considered prudent that regulations should make provision for termination of appointments in certain circumstances, including misconduct.

Public Access to Meetings and Business

The Local Government Act 1972 applies to local authorities in England, National Parks and the Broads Authority, and sets out public openness arrangements for committees and sub-committees. We propose that regulations should introduce similar arrangements in respect of LAFs so that for example:

- meetings would be advertised in advance;
- public could attend meetings;
- agendas, papers and reports would be available for public inspection;
- a register of Forum Members would be made publicly available by the appointing authority;
- and
- reasonable facilities are afforded to the press for reporting proceedings.

We have proposed that the regulations should require LAFs to report to the public annually. Reports might usefully contain information on the frequency of meetings and type of items considered, the content of the advice given by LAFs, and a note of to whom the advice was given.

Appointing authorities would be responsible for the publication of reports, singly or jointly as the case may be.

Cost of Forums

We propose that the appointing authority should provide secretariat and running costs, and reasonable expenses incurred by LAF members in connection with their duties.

Successive Governments have committed themselves to providing new money to local authorities where their legislation places new administrative burdens upon them - including the new duty on local highway authorities and National Park authorities to set up statutory LAFs. For 2001/02, the Government announced an extra £400,000 for LAFs in England. We expect further amounts to be made available for the purpose in financial years 2002/03 and 2003/04.

Accountability

We have proposed that overview and scrutiny committees appointed by local authorities under s21 of the Local Government Act 2000 should work with LAFs to make recommendations on access and ROW issues. However, LAFs will have no executive powers or duties so it is considered that the issue of accountability of the Forum itself is unlikely to arise - any more than it does in relation to the National Countryside Access Forum. The consultation paper seeks views from National Park Authorities and local highway authorities on the matter of accountability and the need for regulations.

Draft Regulations

DEFRA will prepare draft regulations in light of the responses to the consultation exercise. The closing date for responses was 23rd October 2001.

PROPOSAL FOR REGULATIONS ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN WALES

Angharad Huws

Coastal and Countryside Access, National Assembly for Wales

Introduction

The Regulations relating to Local Access Forums (LAFs) is the second set of regulations for consultation that the National Assembly for Wales (NAW) has issued following the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. The first set was in relation to Mapping Regulations for Draft Maps, the consultation period for this finished on the 24th of August 2001. A number of responses were received on this, and we hope to incorporate a number of the constructive suggestions into our draft regulations which will be placed before the Assembly at the end of December to commence in January 2002.

Local Access Forums

Section 94 and 95 of the CROW Act require local highway authorities and National Park authorities to establish LAFs for their areas. The Forums are to be advisory bodies, but their main role will be to advise the local authorities and National Parks on the improvement of public access to land for open-air recreation. The Forums will also have a specific role to play in advising on the implementation of the new rights of access under the CROW Act.

A number of informal LAFs and other similar bodies have already been established in Wales. The National Assembly is keen to build on these arrangements to help maximise benefit from their experience and expertise. Because of this we are looking to keep the regulatory framework covering the establishment of the LAFs reasonably light, allowing room for local flexibility but naturally trying to meet the varying needs of different parts of Wales.

Key Issues for Consultation.

NAW and DEFRA are working closely on all the CROW Act regulations, to ensure that where practical there is consistency on both sides of the border. The differences in the consultation papers reflect the different needs of both countries, and are the benefit of devolution rather than either proposal being right or wrong.

Establishment and Coverage of Local Access Forums

These are very similar to DEFRA proposals and provide the opportunity for local authorities to establish single or joint LAFs. The LAFs should be set up within one year of the regulations being commenced by the Assembly.

Difficulty In Establishing Cross-Border Forums - i.e. Joint Forums Covering An Area Straddling The England/Wales Border

DEFRA and the Assembly looked at the possibility of establishing such Forums closely but there are complex legal issues arising here, especially as the Forums are being established under different powers. Saying that, there would be nothing to prevent two Forums on either side of the border working together on specific issues. Hence the Assembly's initial view is that informal arrangements might be better than seeking a statutory solution for this. It is proposed that the forum would meet every three months - four times a year compared with the proposal by DEFRA of twice a year.

Membership Arrangements

- The Act requires the membership to be balanced between representatives of user and land management interests. Practical experience of existing interim LAFs in Wales suggests that smaller groups of no more than 25 are likely to be more effective than larger ones and we suggest a minimum of than 10 members. (DEFRA's proposals are for a maximum of 20 and no minimum number).
- It is clearly desirable that, as well as Members having a good knowledge of and being drawn from across the area covered by the Forum, they should reflect the gender balance and the age and ethnic make-up of the area, so far as possible.
- It would seem sensible to prescribe in the regulations a maximum period of appointment for the Chair and Members of the Forum. It is proposed as three years within the consultation paper. NAW is considering whether it would be beneficial to specify in the Regulations organisations that should always be represented on the Forum. It is proposed that the members of the Forum choose the Chair at its first meeting.

Appointment Method

Here the Assembly's proposals differ slightly from DEFRA's:

- 11 The Assembly proposes to advise on the preferred method of appointment in guidance and not to specify any requirements in the regulations. Each local authority will have the opportunity to decide on the method that best suits its needs.
 - 12 It is proposed that each local authority and National Park authority should be able to appoint one Member to the Local Access Forum to represent its interest (except where they are joint Forums).
 - 13 It is proposed that to assist in the administration of the Forum that each local authority/National Park authority appoint a secretary. Secretaries will not be Members of the Forum but will be responsible for ensuring that meetings are properly arranged, and for collating material for the annual report etc.
- The Forum must maintain a reasonable balance between the number of Members representing user interests compared with land management interests. Within the consultation paper it has been left to the local authority/National Park authority as part of their responsibility of receiving and considering nominations for membership of the Forum.

Public Access to Meetings

The consultation proposes that the Forums should be treated as committees/sub committees for the purpose of Part V (A) of the Local Government Act 1972. This would mean unless there was a risk of confidential/exempted information being disclosed, Forum meetings would normally be open to the public, advertised in advance; copies of the agenda and reports of meetings would be open to inspection by the public; and the local authority/National Park authority would maintain a register of Members which would be available to the public.

Forum Costs/Administration

The local authority/National Park authority will be responsible for the costs of establishing the LAF and for providing administrative support to it. It is proposed that Members should not receive attendance allowance, but should be able to receive reasonable expenses to cover such things as travel and childcare costs.

Accountability

Regulations should include provision for each of the Forums to publish an annual report on its activities. It is proposed that scrutiny committees of local authorities should examine the work of LAFs from time to time. Any comments on whether this is necessary and how it could be achieved within National Parks would be appreciated.

Draft Regulations

A first draft of the Regulations has been circulated with the consultation paper. It is hoped that sight of the draft Regulations will assist the consultation process. Closing date for responses was 21st September 2001.

The expectation is that draft Regulations will be placed before the Assembly at the end of 2001 or beginning of 2002 with the Regulations coming into force shortly afterwards.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM FOR THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

Mike Rhodes

Peak District National Park Authority

This paper describes some of the key the issues and the process involved in the establishment of a Local Countryside Access Forum (LCAF) for the Peak District.

The Context

- The Peak District has been included in the Countryside Agency's northwest pilot area for mapping of open countryside and will be the first National Park to be mapped.
- It is a requirement of the mapping process that the relevant LCAF for an area is consulted.
- The mapping process is due to begin in February 2002 with a view to producing the first draft maps by September.
- In order to consult the LCAF before publishing these drafts, the Forum would need to be up and fully functioning – possibly as early as spring 2002.

The Process

This scenario was anticipated as far back as April 2000, however, at that time the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Bill itself had no specification to establish LCAFs. This was amended in the Lords in October/November during the Committee stage.

In May 2000 an Internal Discussion Paper was produced outlining various options for the development of a Forum in line with the Countryside Agency recommendations on good practice for the implementation of the expected new legislation.

Using the draft copy guidelines on the establishment of, and appointments to, an LCAF a report was taken to the Park's Authority meeting in July 2000. An area of north west Derbyshire, outside of the National Park, but separated by it, was included in the boundaries proposed, along with the option to include other contiguous areas upon request in the future. The terms of reference for the LCAF are given in Annex 1.

Following the adoption of the recommendations of that report, the LCAF was established as follows:

- Letters, inviting expressions of interest, were sent to all contact names and addresses we held already for access and recreation contacts, the Moors for the Future Heritage Lottery Bid contacts, the National Park Plan consultation contacts and any other names of potentially interested parties we could identify. 158 names and addresses in total.
- A press release was issued and articles ran in all local papers throughout the Park and its constituent areas.
- Following this, 38 individual expressions of interest were received, including three for the Post of Chair.
- A Selection Panel was convened and interviews for Chair of the Forum held, scoring against a Person Specification in line with fair recruitment procedures and Nolan Commission recommendations regarding fairness, consistency and transparency.
- The person appointed as Chair then joined the Selection Panel in short listing applicants for interview, again using a Person Specification and standard equal opportunities recruitment procedures.

Following this, and prior to the list of three sets of interviews, the appointed Chair withdrew for personal reasons. It was not felt appropriate to simply pass on to the next in line in view of how far events had progressed. Instead the Countryside Agency was asked to provide an Officer to assist in the interviews for the Forum, thereby re-enforcing the concept of the Forum being separate to and independent of, the National Park authority. The Agency were also asked to chair the first meeting at which a paper recommending the Forum appoint their own Chair for future meetings was tabled.

The Selection Panel then carried out 33 interviews over three days using a target framework as a guide, though not as a rigid format:

- a Forum of 18 people was appointed.
- one place was left vacant due to a perceived under-representation of Heritage. It is now for the Forum to decide if and how they wish to fill it.
- a further vacancy exists should the Forum be able to elect a Chair by a 2/3 majority internally.

The Outcomes

- A high standard of applicants (coupled with a good recruitment process) has resulted in a robust, well qualified and positive Forum of people covering a wide range of experience.
- The first meeting was held on 2nd December 2000 at Losehill Hall.
- A training day was held on 20th January 2001.
- The second meeting (at which the Chair was be elected) took place on the 17th February 2001.
- All reports, Minutes, Member biographies and training plans, together with news and developments is available on the Authority's website www.peakdistrict.org.
- An Access Officer to service the Forum as well as to take on other aspects of the new legislation took up the post on the 1st April 2001. (Previously this role was filled by means of Officer secondment)
- The Forum will be an informed and functioning body, who have learnt to 'work together' in time for the first mapping consultations

For further information see Annexes 1, 2 and 3.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERIM LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN WALES

Quentin Grimley

Access Forums Officer, Countryside Council for Wales

The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) has been very proactive in its promotion of Local Access Forums (LAFs). The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) was allocated £100,000 in its corporate plan (2001/02) to help establish interim LAFs in Wales. CCW has been involved with the establishment of six interim LAFs in Wales since 2000.

Berwyn, Llantysilio & Rhiwabon

This Forum was formed by CCW early in 2000 as part of CCW's pilot area, for testing the implementation of Part 1 of the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act. The decision to help set up the interim LAF was taken before it became clear that the responsibility for setting up LAFs would be a statutory duty of local & National Park authorities. The Berwyn, Llantysilio and Rhiwabon LAF comprises four unitary authorities Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Powys and Wrexham and Snowdonia National Park. Initially CCW invited organisations to nominate Members and other organisations have since been added as Members or Observers. The Chair is a CCW Council Member, Tom Jones OBE. The LAF has met six times to date.

Pembrokeshire

This is a joint Forum covering the whole of Pembrokeshire. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) administers the Forum with full involvement of Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC). These arrangements are to be kept under review. Initially PCNP/PCC and CCW had a meeting to discuss the way forward. Approximately 17 people were invited by CCW on behalf of the National Park to attend the first meeting. This group was then asked to discuss issues of membership and choice of Chair. The first two meetings were chaired by a CCW Council Member, Mr Robin Pratt. This was an interim arrangement and Cllr. Steven Watkins was selected as Chair by the Forum from the third meeting onwards.

Black Mountains

The responsibility for administering this Forum rests with Brecon Beacons National Park, with involvement of the two local authorities in the area, Monmouthshire and Powys. Initially it was

intended to involve Herefordshire as well but legal advice has precluded establishing a formal cross Wales/England border LAF in the longer term. Following a meeting of CCW and the relevant authorities, approximately 23 people were invited to the first meeting. This group was asked to advise upon Members/Observers. The first meeting was chaired by Cllr. Evan Morgan but following nominations Mr John Evans was subsequently appointed Chairman.

Ceredigion

Following two CCW/Ceredigion County Council meetings, approximately 20 people from interested groups were invited to attend a meeting to advise on Membership of the Forum. This has now occurred and the second meeting was scheduled for 5th September. The Forum covers the whole of Ceredigion with Cllr A.Ll Jones as the interim Chairman.

Caerphilly

At its meeting in January 2001 Caerphilly's existing Countryside Access Forum held a meeting to discuss the formation of an LAF. CCW briefed this meeting and it was agreed to use the existing Forum as the basis for an LAF. Due to Foot and Mouth disease the Forum has not met since.

Merthyr Tydfil

After a CCW/Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council briefing meeting a small working party was formed consisting of seven members to help with the formation of an LAF. This group met twice and the inaugural interim LAF meeting was scheduled for 27th September 2001.

A summary of interim LAFs in Wales is given in Annex 5.

THE BERWYN, LLANTYSILIO AND RHIWABON INTERIM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM - A CASE STUDY

Alun Price

Countryside Council for Wales

The Pilot Area

The area chosen by The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) as a pilot for testing the mapping of open country and common land is the upland area of Berwyn, Llantysilio and Rhiwabon in north east Wales. These hills with an elevation of 825m on the Berwyn range run in a near continuous spine of moorland from Dinas Mawddwy in the south west to the outskirts of Wrexham in the north west. The area is some 35 miles in length and 12 miles at its widest point. The Map in Annex 6 illustrates the extent of the Berwyn Local Access Forum Area and shows the land designated as Sight of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the pilot area.

Historically these hills have been the natural boundary between counties. Parts of the local authorities of Denbighshire, Wrexham, Powys, Gwynedd and part of the Snowdonia National Park are represented within the pilot area. Much of the topography of the area is that of gently rolling hills leading to the development of blanket mire and heath communities. The central area has many landscape features associated with glaciation and the northern hills above Llangollen are mainly upland calcareous grassland. Land use in this area includes sheep grazing, forestry, grouse shooting and nature conservation. These hills are a natural watershed with water running to the Dee and Dyfi systems to the North and the Severn system to the South. Lake Vyrnwy is a large reservoir with the main rivers also used for abstraction.

The core of the pilot area is important for its nature conservation features notably the upland communities and the upland breeding birds assemblage. The Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Snowdonia National Park (part) are the underlying designations encompassed by the pilot area. In addition the pilot area is bounded by the main roads and therefore brings in other land not covered by the designations above.

The main access opportunities are currently provided by a network of public Rights of Way and courtesy paths leading to the central summit ridge. Access is also provided at the local level by organisations such as Severn Trent Water, RSPB, private forestry, CCW and the local authorities.

The importance of the area for nature conservation is well known and documented. CCW has a long relationship with the area and its agricultural communities in the form of the Berwyn Society and graziers. Selection of this area as the pilot for mapping in Wales will ensure the process is fully tested in a part of Wales which provides all the necessary aspects of land use, sensitivity and proximity to a large urban population.

Setting up the Berwyn, Llantysilio and Rhiwabon Forum

The Forum first met in April 2000 under the auspices of CCW. At this time it was not anticipated that the Access Forum would be established in statute as is now the case under the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act. Twenty members were agreed between the landowners, users and CCW. Mr Tom Jones, a CCW Council Member was asked to chair the Forum. Observers are able to make comments if invited to do so by the Chair.

One of the first tasks of the Forum was to agree its terms of reference. Since February 2000 it has met six times, with a public meeting at the local secondary school in Bala at the end of last year.

The Work of the Forum

The Forum has been able to see and comment on the preliminary Section 4 maps of common land and open country for the pilot area. This has given the opportunity for Forum Members to understand the mapping process and the process which CCW needs to undertake. In addition the Forum has been on the ground to see for itself the issues of mapping boundary features, common land, improved areas and the information and content of the maps themselves. Officials of the National Assembly for Wales have been at Forum meetings and have seen the challenges on the ground. The experience has been invaluable to CCW from an early stage when the Bill and Regulations were being drafted. The work has also informed the Regulations which are being produced and considered between now and early 2002.

Other areas of work being considered are the exclusions and restrictions to future access land and the way in which CCW will consult on the draft maps.

The Future Workplan of the Forum

The proposed workplan of the forum in 2001/02 includes:

- advising on CROW Act Regulations;
- advising on the arrangements for consultation on the draft maps;
- considering improvement to the management of access;
- proposals to manage and monitor exclusions and restrictions;
- publicising access opportunities in the area;
- advising on the Rights of Way improvement plans.

What has been Learned to Date

Since the first meeting the Forum has allowed both the landowners/occupiers and potential users of access land to get to know each other and to build a level of trust which allows the Forum to work. The forum has considered maps, consultation and regulation. Consultation on the draft maps for the pilot area is scheduled to begin in early 2002. The work of the Forum has been invaluable in preparing for consultation and in disseminating its work not only to the National Assembly but also to other Access Forums established, or being established, in Wales.

What of the Future?

The Berwyn, Llantysilio and Rhiwabon Forum was not set up as a statutory Forum under the Act. Regulations on setting up Access Forums state that they will be based on the local authority areas. The pilot area crosses the boundaries of four local authority areas and as such the views of each authority must be taken into account. However the Forum is of the view that it should remain in being as a non-statutory forum until at least late 2002 by which time the consultations on draft maps of each county in the Forum area will be complete.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS: THE SCOTTISH PERSPECTIVE

Richard Davison

Scottish Natural Heritage

Introduction

The draft Land Reform (Scotland) Bill envisages the creation of new Local Access Forums (LAFs) by every local authority in Scotland, with these Forums playing an important advisory, mediatory and consultee role. This paper explores the background to the proposals for LAFs in Scotland and considers some of the issues that are now being addressed.

Background

The proposal that LAFs should be established and play a key role in helping to make the new access legislation work on the ground arose from recent, positive experiences of the value of Forums in Scotland. These experiences include the National Access Forum and a number of non-statutory LAFs established in recent years.

There has been a National Access Forum in Scotland since 1994. It is an independent grouping of the main national bodies - drawn from the recreational, land managing and public sectors - with an interest in access over land. Its role is to debate and resolve access issues at a national level. The policy framework is provided by 'Enjoying the Outdoors. A Programme for Action' (Scottish Natural Heritage, 1994). This called on the new Access Forum to develop a concordat on access to Scotland's hills and mountains.

This concordat was published in 1996 and its implementation supported by other work instigated by the Forum, including 'Care For the Hills' - a series of advisory publications aimed at encouraging responsible use of the hills and mountains - and the successful Hillphones service. This service provides up-to-date information on stalking activities to hillwalkers so that they can make better informed decisions about where and when to enjoy the hills.

In 1996, a separate group, called the Access Forum (Inland Water) was established to explore issues relating to recreation on inland waters. This Forum supported the publication of 'Calmer Waters' which sought to encourage good practice in providing for and managing access for water-

based recreation. It also developed advice for canoeists and anglers on how their activities could co-exist.

'Enjoying the Outdoors' also recommended that a Paths For All initiative be established to provide local path networks for walking, cycling and horse riding close to where people live. The development of access strategies and the establishment of LAFs were seen as critical early steps in delivering better access provision. There are currently 10 non-statutory LAFs in Scotland.

Since late 1997, the National Access Forum (which includes the Access Forum (Inland Water)) has been closely involved in the development of proposals for reforming access arrangements in Scotland. Initial advice was published by the Forum and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in late 1998 and since then the Forum has been heavily involved in drafting a new Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Thus, in Scotland there is a proven track record that Forums that bring together the main bodies with an interest in access do work and can produce worthwhile results. This explains why the idea of new LAFs in Scotland was seen by all interests as being important.

The Initial Proposals for Local Access Forums

In late 1998, the Access Forum and SNH published their advice to the Scottish Executive on what the future arrangements for access to the Scottish countryside should be (Scottish Natural Heritage, 1998). This advice formed the basis for the provisions within the draft Land Reform (Scotland) Bill on LAFs.

In its advice, the Access Forum set out a vision for the future of access in Scotland, which had four elements:

- That people will have a clear entitlement to be on land and water, provided that this entitlement is exercised responsibly with respect to land management, privacy and conservation.
- That land managers and recreational users will have a clear understanding of their responsibilities.
- That there will be better mechanisms and financial support for facilitating and managing access.

- That there will be a co-operative approach in which the needs of all interests are respected and in which people have a sense of responsibility for and stewardship of the natural heritage and the countryside.

This vision was translated into a wide range of proposals. The Access Forum proposed that a statutory right of access to land and water, exercised responsibly, for informal recreation and passage be created. A new Scottish Outdoor Access Code would define the responsibilities of the public, land managers and public bodies.

Communication and a co-operative approach was considered essential for sorting out any difficulties and in developing any local guidance or advice on the new rights and responsibilities. The Forum believed it to be essential that more opportunities for dialogue were created, particularly at the local level. It proposed, therefore, that each local authority have a new duty to establish LAFs for their areas. It recommended that these Forums should have the same basic tripartite structure, as does the National Access Forum.

The main purpose of the new LAFs would be to ensure that all key interests work together at a local level. These Forums would primarily have an advisory and mediatory role, and act as a consultee on the diversion and closure of paths in a core path network, and on the introduction of management rules, bylaws and longer-term restraints on the right of access. More specifically, the advice recommended that the LAFs should:

- keep under review the implementation locally of the new legislation and the new *Scottish Outdoor Access Code*, and report on this to both the local authority and the National Access Forum;
- advise the local authority in meeting its duties to prepare an access plan or strategy and to identify the core path network for its area;
- assist with the resolution of any disputes or issues that arise;
- work with the local authority to develop local advice for the public and land managers on their responsibilities;
- assist the work of public bodies in promoting responsible behaviour by the public and land managers;

- act as a formal consultee on various issues, including the diversion and closure of paths forming part of a core path network, the introduction of management rules and byelaws, and any proposals for longer-term restraints on access being considered by the local authority;
- advise local councils of particular management issues, on land and water, in their areas; and
- help councils to resolve local problems.

Given the diversity of local authorities in Scotland - from Highland Council which covers about a sixth of Scotland to Clackmannanshire - and the range of issues that each local authority might need to deal with, the Forum concluded that it should be for the local authority and key local bodies to decide how many LAFs might be needed.

The Forum considered it essential that the membership of each LAF is balanced between recreational interests, land managing interests and public bodies. It is expected that interim guidance will be issued in early 2002 on the role, structure and membership of the LAFs. It is recognised that there should always be some flexibility to ensure that the membership reflects any particularly important local interests (the membership of any Forum should be relevant to the area that it covers). There will also be cases where national interests might need to be represented. The size of membership is also important; too small and an insufficient representation of local interests is likely; too large and the Forum will become unwieldy and difficult to focus and manage.

The Forum recommended that members should be drawn from the following key groupings (the examples below are illustrative and not exhaustive):

- *recreational and other user groups* such as the Ramblers' Association Scotland, British Horse Society, Cyclists' Touring Club, Mountaineering Council for Scotland, Scottish Canoe Association, Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society, outdoor activity or activity holiday interests, the local access panel (representing people with disabilities) and the local sports council;
- *land managing groups* such as the Scottish Landowners' Federation, National Farmers' Union of Scotland, Scottish Crofters' Union, Timber Growers' Association, Royal Institution

of Chartered Surveyors', Association of Deer Management Groups, and the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards;

- *public bodies* to include representation from local public and community interests, from national conservation groups, and from agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Area Tourist Board, local enterprise company, Forestry Commission (either as the Commission or as a land manager through Forest Enterprise), local health board, water authorities.

The Forum concluded that it should be the local authority that would establish and lead each LAF. Allowing for direct representation of all possible local and national groups would make the LAFs much too large to be workable. Indirect representation - some interest being represented by another organisation - might be necessary. Local authorities could explore links between their LAFs and community councils. For example, local community councils could be invited to channel their thoughts on particular issues through the LAF.

The choice of Convenor for each LAF will be very important and this person must be as impartial as possible and have the support of the members. It is expected that each Forum would be serviced by the local authority, possibly through a small secretariat (presumably an access officer employed by the local authority) and with a sufficient budget to enable it to undertake its role properly.

The possibility of having links between the LAFs and a National Access Forum should be explored. This could be done, for example, by a representative of each forum (presumably the Convenor) meeting once or twice a year nationally to discuss common issues, with representatives of a National Access Forum in attendance.

The Draft Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

The draft Land Reform (Scotland) Bill and the draft Scottish Outdoor Access Code were published for consultation in late February 2001 by the Scottish Executive. The consultation period lasted until the end of June and over 3,000 responses have been received. The Scottish Executive is now considering what changes need to be made to the draft Bill before it goes to the Scottish Parliament in the autumn of 2001.

The draft Bill included a duty on local authorities to establish at least one LAF for their areas, though the role proposed in the Bill was not as wide as that proposed by the Access Forum and SNH. The first draft of the Bill identifies the functions as:

- to advise the local authority and any other person or body consulting the forum on matters having to do with the exercise of the access rights;
- to offer and, where the offer is accepted, to give assistance to the parties to any dispute about the exercise of the access rights towards the resolution of the dispute.

It is proposed that members of the Forums are appointed by the local authority and that a reasonable representation of recreational users and land managers is achieved. More than one Forum may be established for the area of a local authority. It is not clear at this stage if the Scottish Executive will make any changes to this part of the Bill.

The Existing Local Access Forums

LAFs have already been established by 10 local authorities: Dumfries & Galloway; Dundee; East Lothian; East Renfrewshire; Edinburgh; Falkirk; Midlothian; Scottish Borders; Stirling; and, West Lothian. A further three authorities are actively considering the establishment of LAFs for their areas: Angus; Fife; and, North Lanarkshire.

It is important to note that these have been established without any legislative framework and reflect the trend through the second half of the 1990's to bring together land managers, recreational users and public bodies as a way of helping to improve access provision and management. The relationship between these non-statutory Forums and those that would be created through the land reform legislation is an issue that is considered later.

The role of the LAFs is amply illustrated by the five goals of the Falkirk Countryside Access Forum;

- to contribute to the development of the countryside access strategy;
- to improve responsible access to the countryside for all;
- to develop procedures for progressing countryside access;
- to advise Falkirk Council on countryside access issues; and
- to help with problem solving on specific issues.

Its values include active partnership, informing and consulting with all interests, and achieving access by consensus. The bulk of its work is associated with the development and implementation of a countryside access strategy.

The Dumfries and Galloway LAF has also been heavily involved in the development and implementation of an access strategy. More recently, it was involved with other bodies in sorting out responses to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Dumfries and Galloway.

Issues

The future for LAFs in Scotland will remain a little unclear until the draft legislation is laid before the Scottish Parliament and the legislative process completed. What is almost certain is that at least 32 LAFs will be established by local authorities and these will have a significant role to play in assisting the implementation of the legislation.

The legislation is unlikely to set out much detail on the role, structure and membership of the LAFs, so timely and clear guidance is considered essential to help local authorities fulfil this new role. Some of the issues that the guidance will need to address are explored briefly below.

Membership

The membership of each Forum will need to be balanced - roughly equal numbers drawn from land managing, recreational and public body interests - but small enough to work efficiently. Given the range of bodies that could be represented on each Forum this might be difficult. One option would be to have a core membership (bodies that you would expect to see represented on all or most Forums) and additional local membership. Open meetings might also help to involve bodies that cannot be represented on the Forum itself.

The Number of Local Access Forums

As drafted, the legislation will require each local authority to establish at least one LAF covering their areas, so there will be a minimum of 32 Forums. Some local authorities, however, are likely to create more than one Forum either because of the range of issues that would need to be addressed (if, for example, an authority had a large amount of inland water issues) or because the authority is geographically large enough that it largely operates on an Area basis. Highland

Council, for example, is considering the possibility of up to six Forums, as is Aberdeenshire Council. For planning purposes, SNH expects at least 50 LAFs to be created.

The Balance Between National and Local Representation

It is expected that membership would be drawn from the local population wherever possible. This raises two tricky issues. First, finding sufficient numbers of people to represent various bodies (see below). Second, a Forum drawn exclusively from people resident in an area might not represent or be able to represent a wider national interest or the needs of visitors to an area. Most of the recreational use on Skye or the Western Isles, for example, is generated by people visiting the islands rather than by people resident there. Thus, the access arrangements in this type of location are of broader national interest and this should be taken into account in deciding the membership of Forums within such areas.

Finding People to Attend

This number of Forums will present problems for several voluntary bodies, not least because it is expected that the membership of the Forums would be drawn from the local population wherever possible. The membership of some recreational bodies, for example, will not be high in some of the remoter parts of Scotland and they might find it hard to find volunteers. Ways of supporting these voluntary bodies will need to be explored.

What Should Happen to the Existing Local Access Forums?

There is considerable overlap between the role of some of the existing Forums, such as Falkirk, and that envisaged for the new statutory Forums. In these cases, it makes sense to retain the existing Forums and ensure that their membership and remit mirrors the requirements of the legislation and any guidance produced. However, the guidance could require local authorities to review their existing Forums and ensure that their structure and membership is appropriate given the new legislative requirements.

The Relationships with Other Types of Forums and Committees

A wide range of Forums, committees and groupings already exist, such as community councils, civic Forums, Local Authority Area Committees, and countryside trusts. The guidance needs to touch on the relationships that should or could exist between the new LAFs and these other groupings.

Support Issues

It would be unrealistic to expect that 50 Forums could be established and that they would run perfectly from the first day. The Forums and their Members will need to be supported through training, information and capacity building. The process of running meetings and dealing with issues (particularly where the Forum is expected to play a mediatory role) will also need to be covered. Funding needs will also need to be met.

A Constitution

It would make sense to have a reasonably consistent approach to establishing and running LAFs. This points to the need for a model constitution for the Forums that would set out model procedural rules.

Conclusions

The legislative proposals for LAFs in Scotland build on a short but proven track record of performance shown by the National Access Forum and several LAFs. Local authorities will have a duty to establish them and they are expected to have an important advisory, mediatory and consultee role. Their role is expected to focus more on strategic and policy issues rather than on the day-to-day implementation of projects (though they will need to take an overview of such work if they are to fulfil their role).

It will be important to support these new Forums, particularly in their early years. This will require clear and timely guidance, covering a wide range of issues relating to the role, structure and membership of the Forums, and the provision of support. This will help the Forums to fulfil the important role that was envisaged for them by the Access Forum and SNH.

References

Scottish Natural Heritage (1994) *'Enjoying the Outdoors. A Programme for Action'*, SNH, Perth.

Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) *'Access to the Countryside for Open-Air Recreation. Scottish Natural Heritage's Advice to Government'*, SNH, Perth.

WORKSHOP PAPER
SETTING UP A LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Joanna Redgwell

Access Policy Officer, The Countryside Agency

The workshop's objectives were:

- to help appointing authorities to consider issues involved in setting up a Local Access Forum (LAF); and
- to provide feedback on how the draft regulations might work in practice.

Workshop participants were split into two groups (England and Wales) with each focussing on a potential forum area for their discussion. In England, the area chosen was Kent, in Wales, the Brecon Beacons. This paper summarises the findings from both those discussions.

Findings

Both groups concluded that there were some common issues which needed to be addressed, possibly in a wider or supplementary advice issued by The Countryside Agency (CA) and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW).

- Funding to support LAFs should be ring fenced. Needs to be identified and directed to the right budget headings.
- The process to set up Forums was perceived as more straightforward for National Parks than local authorities.
- Accountability - Forums will be made up of volunteers. How is the Forum accountable for their advice?
- If a Member is absent, and advice is being discussed, is that advice invalid? Can an organisation send another representative?
- The regulations for England should specify a minimum number of Members, to avoid Forums being set up with, for example, only three or four Members, which would be undesirable.

England (Kent)

- Kent will invite all interested parties to a general meeting to consult on the geographical coverage of the Forum.

- More guidance is needed on joint Forums. It is difficult to see how they could work, (particularly in England) due to the number of possible authorities that may be involved and the restrictions on the number of authority members that can be represented on each Forum.
- Balance of access and landowning interests should not be difficult to achieve.
- Discussion on the shortfalls of imposing a maximum number and how to involve the public, concluded there are ways of ensuring that all interested parties are consulted on a Forum's work, e.g. web site, feedback/complaint forms, media and press, newsletters. A yearly publicised access conference would also help liaison between the Forum and the wider public.
- The role of Members will change over time, and Forum Membership should change with it. This can be accommodated because of the proposed flexibility in the length of member appointments.
- Members should represent the organisation that nominates them and feedback to them. Individuals are also needed;
- Member skills should be matched to the Forum's work programme;
- Regulations should state that initially the Chair should be appointed, because at the first meeting, people will not know each other's skills. The Forum could choose the Chair from amongst its number on later occasions, when is better established.

Wales (Brecon Beacons)

- National Park Committee approval is likely to be needed for resources, terms of reference, geographical coverage and member representation.
- Co-operation will be required with four local authorities within the National Park, although Brecon Beacon National Park Chief Warden will take the lead.
- Appointments will follow wide consultation. Although there will be many who have an interest in the Park and who live outside its area, their interests are best represented by local groups, e.g. Ramblers Association. A 'Local Forum' should remain local.
- Balance and representation is more important than overall numbers.
- The proposed, formal interview process for appointing members could lose potentially interested people.
- Existing Public Rights of Way groups may be disbanded or assimilated with the new LAF.

WORKSHOP PAPER CONSENSUS BUILDING

Lindsey Colbourne

Projects in Partnership

This briefing paper was prepared by Lindsey Colborne to facilitate the workshop discussion. A summary of the workshop conclusions on consensus building is given in Annex 7.

Introduction -- the Inability to Agree

Traditionally, when people are involved in discussions, meetings, consultations or negotiations, they will take a particular position (e.g. “*I am against wind farms*”, or “*I don’t want X to be involved*” or “*I think this is a complete waste of time*”) and then defend that position. They believe that if they don’t ‘win’ the argument, they will lose. And they can’t afford to do that. This approach is known as *positional* or *adversarial*. It encourages battles to ‘win’ (to make others ‘lose’), the telling of half truths to strengthen one’s position and missed opportunities for better solutions all round. It is generally a negative approach to a very common problem – *the inability to agree*, or even to see that agreement will be desirable.

The tendency to assume that there will be an inability to agree, and therefore the need to be adversarial is often greatest when:

- meeting new people for the first time or in a new setting;
- the issues under discussion will have a major affect (on the individual, organisation or community);
- someone in the room with power is perceived to hold different opinions;
- people in the room come from different cultures or communities; or
- a precedent may be set up that will have lasting consequences.

So Local Access Forums (LAFs) have the potential for generating quite adversarial environments, especially early on. What hope is there for finding ways forward?

Finding a Way Forward

Sometimes, in traditional adversarial styles of discussion, people may start to compromise a bit by taking a slightly different position, or conceding something to the other side so that a solution

may be found. The weakest often has to concede more. This adversarial compromise often results in a solution that may be acceptable to all, but has resulted in an inferior product, anger, resentment disempowerment and distrust. Often the product doesn't last because it was a result of the heat of the moment, rather than finding the best way forward.

If you are looking for a more positive outcome of discussions at LAFs, where the best solution all round is found – one which is better than the sum of the parts - you may need to use techniques for building consensus. These techniques help those involved to move from 'win-lose' to 'win-win' situations.

Secrets of 'Win-Win' Success

Some basic tips for success in consensus building at LAFs for someone who is not a facilitator would include:

1. Be Sensitive to Different Cultures

Being sensitive to different cultures and their different needs, for example: Welsh/English; male/female; urban/rural; young/old; public/private/voluntary sector; black/white; funded/unfunded; is absolutely essential to success of any Forum. For example, considering what time of day or year to hold meetings, what style of discussion is appropriate, whether translation equipment or disabled access is required, whether to offer crèche facilities. You will not anticipate all needs – so ask about them!

2. Involve the 'Right' People

Carry out a methodical stakeholder analysis to see who should be part of the Forum, and to what extent they should be involved. You won't involve everyone all the time, so plan their involvement. For example, some people may regularly attend Forums, others may want to be consulted every now and then, and others may just want to be kept informed or to receive information about new services or changes.

3. Always Structure the Discussion Carefully

Even if you are not the 'Chair' or 'Facilitator', you can assist the Forum's discussions by ensuring that the following are covered in discussions. Some steps may need to be carried out before or after a Forum meeting, but all steps need to be covered at the meeting too – for every agenda

item! If some steps are missed out, the opportunity for conflict to arise is greater, because people are not up to speed, they don't understand what is being discussed (or why).

Set the Context

The purpose of the discussion (e.g. is it for information or to make a binding decision) any background information, any parameters that everyone should be aware of.

Frame the Question

Precisely what is the question that needs answering?

•

Give People Time to Think and Discuss

This may be time on their own at a meeting, time to discuss their 'constituents', or time to discuss with others at the Forum. It is usually best to start with an 'opening out' brainstorm type discussion.

Record the Results

Openly record the discussion and any decisions on flip chart paper, rather than keeping minutes. Use of 'post-its' is often useful at the brainstorm stage.

Work on the Result

Once you have done a broad discussion, it is usual to close it down in some way, for example, prioritising, testing, running a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis on options etc.

Close the Session

Link to the next session, agree what is going to happen next etc.

4. Use an Independent 'Third Party' Facilitator or Chair when Necessary

Sometimes, perhaps as you set up the Forum, or once it gets into really difficult discussions, it is important to have someone structuring and managing the discussions independently.

5. Encourage Wider, Deeper, Longer Discussion

Use the briefing materials, the structure of discussion and questions to help participants:

Look Wider

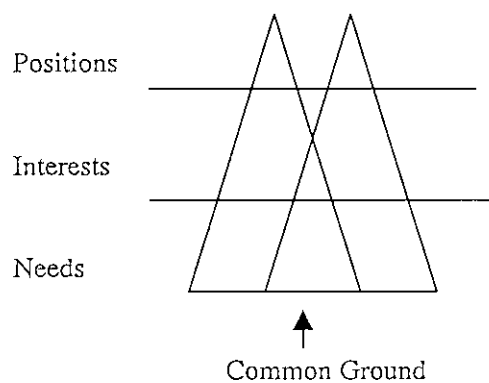
Help participants to consider a wider range of issues and options – encourage ‘lateral thinking’ amongst the participants and in the pre-briefing materials.

Look Deeper

When people are arguing from their *positions*, it is like negotiating with the tip of an iceberg. These positions are about people’s public ambitions. They tell us nothing about what underlies these positions – what do they really want to achieve, what are they concerned about, what values are important to them?

If you start to look under the surface of the iceberg, by using different questions for example, you will see the *interests* and *needs* on which their positions rest. At these deeper levels, you will find that there are always more things in common between different people and organisations. The trick is to find these, then to use them to look for solutions to the problems – the areas where they don’t agree. It is much easier than starting from conflicting positions and trying to bridge the gap.

The ‘PIN Iceberg’ model

*Look Longer*

Traditionally negotiations and consultations are limited to specific opportunities to take part – at an event, in a questionnaire. It is important that you start to think about what goes on before and after this opportunity. What needs to be provided before hand so people can prepare? Can you do some background work to find out what people’s issues are, or to calm people down? Can you follow up in some way, so that they know the outcome, or so they can cement the agreements reached and become further involved?

WORKSHOP 3

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REGULATIONS

Gareth Roberts

Head of Recreation, Access & European Affairs, Countryside Council for Wales

The group discussed in turn each of the proposals set out in the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consultation paper on Local Access Forum regulations. (Annex 8). The majority of the sixteen proposals were generally supported. However, the following points were raised as matters that needed to be addressed in supplementary guidance to accompany the final Regulations:

- It was agreed that sub-groups have a role to play given the need for LAFs to advise on Rights of Way open access and other open air recreation activities.
- It was thought by some that the setting of a quorum for LAFs should be a matter for guidance
- Most people agreed that one year is a reasonable time scale within which to set up LAFs. (Proposal 2)
- It was suggested that advertising for recruiting LAF members should take place further afield than just the area of the LAF, and that a website. Be established to publicise the work of LAFs. (Proposal 5)
- It was debated as to whether or not members should attend LAFs as individuals or as representatives of organisations. It was suggested that guidance could cover this.
- The question of local authority (LA) and National Park authority (NPA) representation on LAFs was raised. It was pointed out that as a prime role of LAFs is to advise LAs/NPAs it is appropriate therefore for LA officer or member representation to be limited as proposed. (Proposal 11)
- It was felt that having LAF meetings open to the public may inhibit discussion in some instances. (Proposal 13)

- It was thought that a mechanism for communication between members outside of meetings would be important. The Countryside Agency (CA) and CCW could help facilitate this process through their own websites and by reporting to National Access Forums.
- It is vital that funding is made available to enable effective LAFs to be established. (Proposal 15). Some consider that the funding might be channelled via CA and CCW.
- Training of those setting up LAFs and LAF members will be important. CA /CCW should help here.

WORKSHOP PAPER
LEARNING FROM EXISTING LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS

Tom Jones

Council Member, CCW and Chair, Berwyn, Llantysilio and Rhiwabon LAF

It should be noted that only representatives from the Berwyn Local Access Forum (LAF) were present so the workshop could only draw on direct experience of one LAF. These notes are not in any particular order of importance.

There should be clear and concise terms of reference including, for example:

- the Forum's remit, taking access and recreation in the widest sense to encompass related issues such as health, economic development education, conservation archaeology etc;
- how to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair;
- the nature of admin. support provided by the local authority;
- how the Forum makes links with adjacent Forums and National Access Forum;
- the role of Members, Advisors and Observers;
- what does the Forum expect from its members? (i.e. just attend meetings or additional work between meetings).

Many of the points below would also be included in the terms of reference. Consistency between Forums was identified as being important, and that model terms of reference should be adopted by every LAF;

- The mechanism(s) for achieving the Forum's objectives need to be identified, i.e. exactly how does the Forum influence the local authority or Countryside Council for Wales?
- Channels of communication between the local authority/CCW etc. and the Forum need to be clarified, i.e. relevant local authority officers need to be asked to explain how they have accounted for LAF views when working on access and recreation programmes;
- Advice should be given about how the Forum will carry out its work, i.e. will Forum members be expected to do research/information gathering, produce reports or should the Authority provide officers to support the Forum in this way? How much time, motivation,

expertise and resources do Forum members collectively have to do Forum work outside meetings?

- The success of the Forum rests with its Members – if they don't feel able to influence, aren't being listened to, they will become demotivated and attendance will drop.
- Members need to identify whether they are representing an organisation or themselves. If the former applies, the Forum needs to know how information and views will be communicated between organisation members and Forum Members in order to be confident that the Member is representing his/her organisation. This point is also important when establishing a membership that is balanced between representatives of user and land management issues and representatives of the social make up of the local communities in the area.
- It is essential that the public should attend meetings but only as Observers. There should be an opportunity for the public to express their views to Forum Members before/after meetings.
- Each Forum should decide about its own meetings: venue, frequency, times etc. to take into account local circumstances and needs of members. When applicable, time must be allowed between meetings for Members to report back to, and gain views from, the organisation they represent. These arrangements should be reviewed periodically.
- Forums should publish meeting dates and agendas well in advance of meetings to ensure maximum attendance and allow observers and advisors to attend where appropriate. Adjacent Forums should share agendas and Minutes with each other and liaise regarding meeting dates, as some members will sit on more than one Forum (which incidentally should be encouraged as they will provide a useful link between the Forums).
- The National Access Forum (NAF) should help confirm Codes of Practice and set up training and information exchange between LAFs to encourage best practice.
- Some research should be conducted into other Forums that exist, for example, AONBs, Local Agenda 21 Forums etc. so examples of best practice are adopted and common mistakes avoided.

ANNEX 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

The Peak District Local Countryside Access Forum

Geographical Coverage

The area covered is the whole of the Peak District National Park together with north-west Derbyshire (see Annex 4). Additional areas of open country contiguous with this boundary may be added later, subject to agreement with the relevant local authority, the Forum and the National Park authority.

Role and Responsibilities

The primary purpose of the Peak District Local Countryside Access Forum (PDLCAF) is to provide advice to the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and to the Countryside Agency (CA) on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation, in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests. The Forum will encourage and assist access provision, giving advice on issues of particular local relevance.

The PDLCAF will give advice on three main topics:

- development of recreation and access strategies which cater for a wide range of people;
- strategic improvements to the Rights of Way network; and
- implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to the countryside.

The PDLCAF will work to:

- develop a constructive and inclusive approach to the improvement of recreational access to the countryside;
- respect local circumstances and different interests while operating within national guidance;
- provide advice on issues of principle and good practice which is consistent with national guidance;
- engage in constructive debate and seek consensus wherever possible; and
- where consensus is not possible, make clear the nature of differing views, and suggest how they might be resolved.

ANNEX 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Membership

1. The membership will:
 - be balanced to avoid dominance by any single interest group or coalition of like interests; and
 - include a cross section of local interests in the countryside.
2. The membership will include:
 - an independent Chair; and
 - a maximum of 20 Members.
3. Members in total must bring a wide range of experience, including:
 - recreational use, for example walking, riding, climbing, cycling;
 - land management, for example, tenants, landowners and occupiers, and others with an interest in the land;
 - nature conservation and heritage; and
 - tourism, health, business, trade unions and transport.
4. Members not necessarily experienced in the topics at 3., or aligned with any particular interest group will also be appointed. One of the 'independent' members should be an elected or appointed member of the National Park Authority which the Forum is advising.
5. The Forum should contain roughly equal numbers of members ascribed to each of the categories in 3. and 4. Members who genuinely have experience and credibility in relation to more than one category in 3. will be particularly useful.
6. Members will be appointed by the Authority according to selection criteria which will include assessing if candidates have sufficient experience of access to the countryside in the local area to be able to make an informed and constructive contribution to improving access provision.
7. Before appointment Members will be asked to confirm:
 - their support of the positive purpose of Local Forums;
 - commitment to working within the terms of reference and achieving the aims of the Local Forum through constructive working with other Members; and
 - that they are able to devote the necessary time to attend meetings, training and to network with a wide range of interests outside meetings.

**ANNEX 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL
COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM****Administration**

- meetings will be held at least twice a year and more frequently when necessary;
- meeting agendas will be agreed between the Chair and the Secretary;
- meetings will be advertised in advance and held in public;
- agendas, papers and Minutes of meetings will be available to the public;
- the Chair will invite observers to the meetings when appropriate;
- Observers will be able to contribute to the proceedings at the discretion of the Chair;
- the public will be able to ask questions on the business of the meetings at the discretion of the Chair;
- the lead authority will have the right to review the chairing and membership of the Local Forum on an annual basis if necessary.

ANNEX 2. ACCESS FORUM TAKES THE FIRST STEPS IN THE PEAK DISTRICT**PRESS RELEASE**

The Peak District will be one of the first places in Britain to begin implementing the government's new Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) legislation when its local Countryside Access Forum gathers to discuss how the new law can be made to work.

The statutory Forum will have its inaugural public meeting at Losehill Hall, the National Park's study centre, at 10.00am on Saturday 2nd December, on the weekend after the bill is due to become law. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Lynn Crowe, Chair of the National Park's Park Management Committee, said, *"We are not sure what the final version of the Act will contain but we do know people are eager to find out how the legislation is going to work."*

The Forum is independent of the National Park Authority. It will represent recreational users (such as walkers, horse riders, cyclists and climbers), landowners and farmers, conservationists, residents, disabled people and local businesses.

Lynn explained, *"The Countryside Agency, which asked us to help set up the Forum, wanted members who would try and bring people together to create understanding between the different interests and sort out any problems."*

"Unfortunately it was impossible for everyone who applied to become a Member. However, the Forum will be as open and accessible as possible and, by using new technology, anyone with an interest will be able to contribute to its discussions."

She explained that special pages were being created for the Forum on the Authority's website (www.peakdistrict.org). Agendas, reports and Minutes of meetings would all be published and a 'bulletin board' was being set up to give people an opportunity to comment and put forward their ideas.

Lynn said, *"The freedom to roam debate is often presented in terms of conflict and strife but while there may have been difficulties, there have also been lots of examples of people coming together to successfully open up the countryside."*

"Nowhere can those successes be better seen than here in the Peak District. By creating one of the country's first Access Forums we hope to continue the proud tradition of bringing town and country together in a way that is beneficial to everyone."

ANNEX 3. PERSONNEL SPECIFICATION FOR APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (PDLCAF)			
REQUIREMENTS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	ASSESSMENT
SKILLS	<p>Good communication and inter-personal skills</p> <p>Ability to work constructively with competing interests.</p>	Proven ability to liaise with wider interests.	
KNOWLEDGE	<p>Knowledge of countryside issues, and the PDNP in particular.</p> <p>Knowledge of access to the countryside and the interaction between recreation, land management and conservation.</p>	Knowledge of administrative procedures in central or local government, NGOs. or similar organisations.	
EXPERIENCE	Experience of attending formal public meetings.		
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	The knowledge of relevant Equal Opportunities issues and the ability to work within the PDNPA Equal Opportunities Policy.	Knowledge of European Convention on Human Rights and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)	
OTHER JOB REQUIREMENTS	<p>Willingness to commit to the LCAF meetings/briefings and training events for three years.</p> <p>A commitment to making the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open air recreation in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests.</p>		

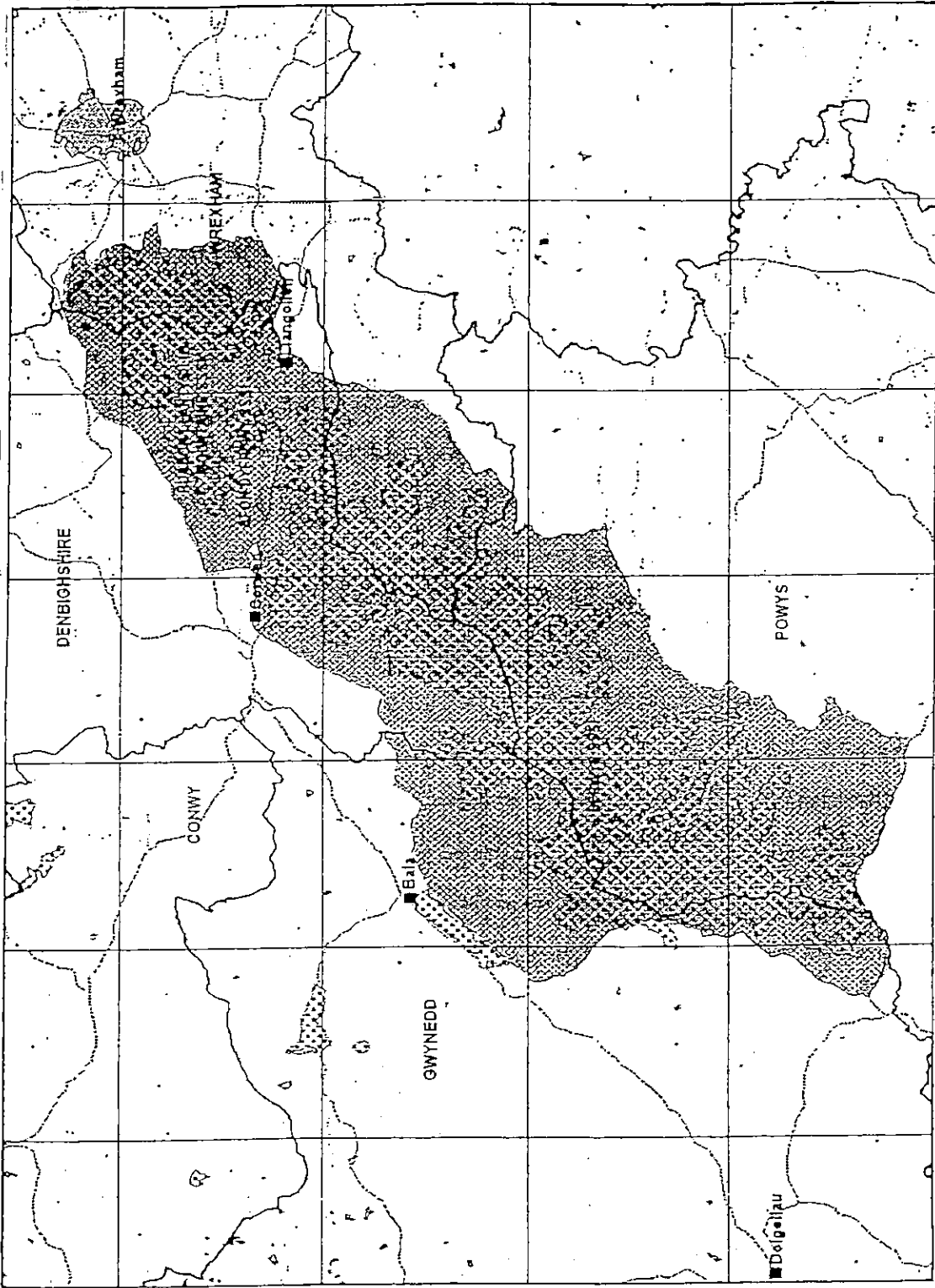
NAME OF FORUM	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	OTHER AUTHORITIES INVOLVED	FORMATION	CHAIR	MEETING DATES
Berwyn, Llantysilio & Rhiwabon	Countryside Council for Wales	Denbighshire CC Flintshire CC Powys CC Snowdonia NPA Wrexham CBC	Countryside Council for Wales invited organisations to nominate Members. Other organisations have approached CCW about Member or Observer status and been invited to join.	Countryside Council for Wales Council Member, Mr Tom Jones OBE	25 Apr 2000 6 Jun 2000 31 Jul 2000 9 Oct 2000 29 Jan 2001 9 Jul 2001 11 Sep 2001
Pembrokeshire	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	Pembrokeshire CC	CCW/PCNP/PCC briefing/plan of action meeting. Approximately 17 people invited by CCW on behalf of PCNP/PCC to first meeting. This group were then asked to nominate additional Members and Observers.	First two meetings chaired by CCW Council Member, Mr Robin Pratt. Members then chose own chair - Cllr Steven Watkins	30 Nov 2000 8 Feb 2001 20 Sep 2001
Black Mountains	Brecon Beacons NPA	Powys CC Monmouthshire CC (Herefordshire CC)	CCW and four authorities briefing / plan of action meeting. BBNP invited approximately 23 representatives. to attend inaugural meeting. This group were asked to advise on Members / Observers.	First meeting chaired by Cllr Evan Morgan. Nominations invited Mr John Evans appointed.	25 Jan 2001 14 Jun 2001 6 Sep 2001

ANNEX 5. THE FORMATION OF INTERIM/LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN WALES

**ANNEX 5. THE FORMATION OF INTERIM LOCAL
ACCESS FORUMS IN WALES**

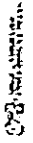
NAME OF FORUM	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	OTHER AUTHORITIES INVOLVED	FORMATION	CHAIR	MEETING DATES
Ceredigion	Ceredigion CC		CCW/CCBC briefing / plan of action meetings Approximately, 20 invited to first meeting to advise on Membership / Observers.	First meeting chaired by Cllr A.Ll. Jones. Chair to be appointed at next meeting.	12 Feb 2001 5 Sep 2001
Caerphilly	Caerphilly CBC		Existing Countryside Access Forum briefed on LAF requirements.	Existing Chair Phil Jayne CCBC.	26 Jan 2001
Merthyr Tydfil (outside National Park)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC		CCW/MTCBC briefing meeting. Small Working Party formed for two meetings consisting of: MTCBC, CCW, Groundwork Trust, British Horse Society, Ramblers Association, CLA, FUW.	Merthyr Tydfil officer to Chair first meeting with nomination and selection subsequently.	27 Sep 2001

ANNEX 6. BERWYN PILOT AREA



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Scale 1:263500

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ANNEX 7. TECHNIQUES FOR CONSENSUS BUILDING IN LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS

WHAT YOU MIGHT NEED	WHY	EXAMPLES OF TECHNIQUES
Techniques for dividing up a large group	To give people a chance to consider their thoughts, gain confidence, talk in more depth, build trust, reduce conflict	Allowing people to work individually or in pairs; small group working; working groups; cabaret style seating (rather than in rows)
Techniques for generating and sharing ideas	Encourage creative thinking; allowing everyone to 'down load'; finding out the scope of people's concerns, ideas, aspirations; open agenda setting	Listing everyone's ideas on flip charts; individuals listing ideas on post-it notes; visioning; listing ideas onto a SWOT; using models, video or maps to collect ideas
Techniques for feeding back and structuring outputs	Working on the outputs of a brainstorming session to make sure everyone hears what others have been talking about and putting it into a structure to clarify key themes emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-it Grouping – getting individuals/ pairs or groups to put postits into groups which indicate underlying themes • Mind-mapping – listing key ideas on a giant 'spider diagram' which shows connections between different ideas • Nominal group technique – going round group by group feeding back one point without duplication • Carousel – rotating groups around different 'stations' • Creative presentations • Presentation galleries
Techniques for analysing, planning next steps and action planning	Building on the structured outputs in order to draw together some conclusions, identify priorities, decide the way forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causal analysis – using a structure (eg fish bone, causal trees) to get people to think strategically eg back to root causes of presenting problems • Prioritising – asking people to indicate (eg using dots) what they think are the most important issues/areas to tackle • Action Planning – working with people to identify what needs to be done by whom by when • Evaluation – using various methods – from feedback forms to dot evaluation

ANNEX 8. PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS

Proposals for Regulations on Local Access Forums Under Sections 94 And 95 of The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - July 2001

Proposal 1:

Regulations should require an appointing authority which is a county council to consult any district councils in its area about the number and boundaries of Local Access Forums in its area. Where the appointing authority is a National Park authority, it should consult the local highway authority for, and any district councils in, the area covered by the Park. Where more than one Forum is proposed for an area, appointing authorities should consult any other bodies as they think fit about the number and boundaries of Forums in their area.

Proposal 2:

Regulations should require each appointing authority to establish one or more Local Access Forums for the whole of its area within one year of the regulations coming into force.

Proposal 3:

Regulations should enable appointing authorities to set up joint Local Access Forums.

Proposal 4:

Regulations should require that Local Access Forums should meet at least twice a year. It should be for the forums themselves to decide whether more frequent meetings are required.

Proposal 5:

Regulations should require appointing authorities, before appointing the Members of Local Access Forums, to consult such individuals and bodies as they think fit. Regulations should enable appointing authorities to invite nominations for Forum Members from such bodies as they consider appropriate having regard to the overall balance of the Forum, and to place an advertisement in a newspaper circulating in the locality giving persons the opportunity to express an interest in becoming a member of a Local Access Forum.

Proposal 6:

Regulations should prescribe a maximum number of 20 Members (including the Chair) for Local Access Forums, but should not prescribe a minimum number.

Proposal 7:

Regulations should provide for the terms of appointment for the Members of each Forum to be for a period of one to three years with the option of renewal on expiry in each case.

Proposal 8:

Regulations should provide that Members can have their appointments terminated because of prolonged absences from meetings or misconduct.

Proposal 9:

Regulations should provide for the Chair of a Local Access Forum to be elected from amongst their number for a period to be determined by the members of the Forum.

ANNEX 8. PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS**Proposal 10:**

As required by section 95(2) of the Act, regulations will specify that appointing authorities must appoint to the Local Access Forum persons who appear to them to be representative of users of local rights of way, the right of access conferred by section 2(1) of the Act and owners and occupiers of access land in the area or land over which local rights of way subsist.

Regulations will also specify that appointing authorities must also appoint persons appearing to them to be representative of other interests especially relevant to the area. Appointing authorities will decide on the relevance or otherwise of an interest to their area.

Proposal 11:

Regulations should provide that only one place on a Local Access Forum may be occupied by an elected member of a county or district council, or member of a National Park authority (including appointees of the Secretary of State). Where there is more than one appointing authority (such as a joint forum) or where the Forum is in a National Park, the number of such places should be extended to two. The elected council or National Park authority members occupying such places need not come from the appointing authority.

Proposal 12:

Regulations should require appointing authorities to ensure a reasonable balance between the number of Members on the Local Access Forum who are representative of users and the number who are representative of owners or occupiers. In addition, appointing authorities should be required to have regard to the overall balance of interest of members of the Forum, including those appointed under section 95(2)(c) of the Act.

Proposal 13:

Regulations should provide for open public access to Local Access Forum meetings and papers.

Proposal 14:

Regulations should require each Local Access Forum to prepare an annual report on its activities. The reports would be published by the appointing authority for the Forum or, where there is a joint Forum, by the appointing authorities jointly.

Proposal 15:

Regulations should provide for appointing authorities to pay reasonable expenses to members of Local Access Forums in respect of expenditure incurred for travel and subsistence and child care in the course of undertaking their duties as Forum Members.

Proposal 16:

Regulations should require appointing authorities to provide and pay for a secretary and the reasonable administrative costs of each Local Access Forum. The person appointed as secretary will be responsible for the administration of each Local Access Forum and must not be a Member of the Forum.

ANNEX 9. LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS - PROGRAMME

Programme

- 10.30 Registration
- 11.00 Welcome by Chair
Gareth Roberts, Countryside Council for Wales
- 11.10 **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Proposals for Regulations on Local Access Forums in England** *Roger Smith, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)*
Proposals for Regulations on Local Access Forums in Wales
Angharad Huws, National Assembly for Wales (NAW)
- 11.40 **Local Access Forums and National Parks - A Case Study in the Peak District National Park. Practicalities of Running an LAF**
Mike Rhodes, Peak District National Park
- 12.00 **Interim Local Access Forums in Wales – Case Study the Berwyn Project. What Lessons Can Be Taken Forward?**
Quentin Grimley (Access Forums Officer) and Alun Price (Area Access Officer NE Wales), Countryside Council for Wales
- 12.20 **Local Access Forums - The Scottish Perspective**
Richard Davison, Scottish Natural Heritage
- 12.40 **Question and Answer Session** (led by Chair)
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Workshops
- 3.30 Tea/coffee
- 3.50 **Report Back From Discussion in Workshops - steered by Chair**
- 4.20 **Sum up by Chair**
- 4.30 Depart

ANNEX 10. SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP LEADER BIOGRAPHIES

Lindsey Colbourne

Projects in Partnership

Lindsey Colbourne is internationally recognised for her pioneering work in developing and applying techniques for consulting and involving a wide range of individuals, communities and organisations. She specialises in bringing diverse groups of people together from all levels; local to international to deal with 'wicked issues' and complex decisions, often in situations of conflict.

In 1993, at the age of 25, Lindsey established Vision 21 in Gloucestershire, the first community-based Local Agenda 21, a vibrant network of 1,500 volunteers working on 60 projects, in partnership with the county council and six district councils.

Lindsey is now Director of Projects in Partnership, a national organisation specialising in creating sustainable solutions through participation and partnership. She co-ordinates InterAct, an alliance of leading process practitioners, writers and policy makers committed to putting participation at the heart of decision making and action in the UK. Lindsey is also a member of the Government's sustainable development advisory body, the UK Sustainable Development Commission.

Lindsey lives in Harlech, North Wales and much of her current work focuses on north and mid-Wales. She has a degree in Psychology from Oxford University and is a member of the Green Alliance.

Richard Davison

Access Programme Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage

Richard Davison is the Access Programme Manager for SNH and is responsible for co-ordinating SNH's operational work on access and for ensuring that SNH plays a full role in assisting implementation of new access legislation. He is also Secretary to the National Access Forum and was involved in drafting the Forum's access proposals and the new Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

ANNEX 10. SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP LEADER BIOGRAPHIES

Angharad Huws

Coastal and Countryside Access, National Assembly for Wales

Angharad Huws joined the National Assembly for Wales in March 2001 within the Countryside Division. Her branch has the responsibility of implementing Part 1, 11 and V of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act as well as Coastal Policy within Wales. Prior to joining the National Assembly Angharad worked in a Training and Enterprise Council in Oxfordshire.

Quentin Grimley

Recreation and Access Team, Countryside Council for Wales

Quentin Grimley works as part of CCW's Recreation and Access team with particular responsibility for developing and monitoring the Local Access Forums. He has so far been involved with the formation of six LAFs in Wales. Quentin also organises and provides the secretariat for the National Access Forum for Wales.

Tom Jones OBE

Chairman, Berwyn Local Access Forum

Tom Jones has been a member of the Countryside Council for Wales for the last 10 years and before that was a member of the Countryside Commission Committee for Wales. He is a farmer and has been the Chairman of the Berwyn Local Access Forum since its inception.

Joanna Redgwell

Access Policy Officer, The Countryside Agency

Joanna Redgwell is an Access Policy officer, working in Countryside Agency Cheltenham offices as part of the national team implementing the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. She has worked with Agency for just under two years and Local Access Forums is one of her areas of responsibility. Joanna has worked for a range of organisations in her career so far, the longest spell being in local government, at South Tyneside Council where she had responsibilities for Rights of Way, countryside management and community development.

ANNEX 10. SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP LEADER BIOGRAPHIES

Gareth Roberts

Countryside Council for Wales

Gareth Roberts is the Head, of the Recreation, Access & European Affairs Group with the Countryside Council for Wales.(CCW) Gareth has been responsible for advising on the development and implementation of the government's proposals to provide a new right of access to open country in England and Wales published in 1998. CCW has a duty to implement key access provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 including preparing and consulting on draft maps of open country and registered common land. The new access right will extend to include up to 450,000 hectares of the Principality. The mapping consultation in Wales is scheduled to begin in January 2002 in the Berwyn / Llantisilio / Rhiwabon Mountain are of north east Wales where the first interim Local Access Forum modelled on the government's 'Framework for Action' document was set up in 1999.

Roger Smith

Head of Countryside Access Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Roger Smith is the Head of the Countryside Access Team at DEFRA and is involved with drafting the proposals for Local Access Forums in England.

ANNEX 11. LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS DELEGATE LIST

Title	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Ms	Helen	ap Derwen Yewlett	Member	Countryside Council for Wales
Miss	Molly	Atkinson	Access & Recreation Officer	Countryside Council for Wales
Mr	Ian	Bamforth	Countryside Manager	Worcestershire County Council
Miss	Emma	Barratt	Network Manager	Countryside Recreation Network
Mr	Ian	Baugh	Recreation and Accomodation Officer	Kent County Council
Mr	Philip	Bennett-Lloyd	Countryside Access Team Leader	Norfolk County Council
Mr	Mike	Benten	Environment Manager	Derbyshire County Council
Mr	John	Bentley	Senior Lecturer	Harper Adams University College
Mr	Pete	Bland	Campaigns and Project Officer	Ramblers' Association
Mr	Paul	Burgess	Nidderdale AONB Project Manager	Harrogate Borough Council
Mrs	Lindsey	Colbourne	Director	Projects in Partnership
Mr	Frank	Coleman	Operational Manager, Countryside and Environmental Projects	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Ms	Kate	Conto	Campaign Officer	The Ramblers' Association
Mrs	Kay	Culhane	North.Wales Area Access Secretary	Ramblers' Association
Mr	Richard	Davison	Recreation & Access Group Manager	Scottish Natural Heritage
Mr	John	Dell	Rights of Way Officer	London Borough of Bromley
Mr	Arwel	Evans	Rights of Way Officer	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Mr	John	Evans	Black Mountain LAF Chairman	Black Mountain LAF
Mr	Graham	Findlay	Access Officer Member of National Access Forums	Disability Wales
Mr	Robin	Gee	Region Director West Midlands	Countryside Alliance
Mr	David	Giles	Acting Secretary	Trail Users Alliance
Mr	Ronald	Gladwin	Commitee Member of Lower Wye Ramblers	Lower Wye Ramblers
Mr	Duncan	Gray	Development Manager	London Borough of Bromley
Mr	Richard	Greenland	Public Rights of Way Technical Officer	North Somerset Council, Planning and Environment
Mr	Quentin	Grimley	Access Forums Officer	Countryside Council for Wales

ANNEX 11. LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS DELEGATE LIST				
Title	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Ms	Karin	Groeneveld	Rights of Way Team Leader	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Mr	Mark	Hatcher	Director	National Association of Fisheries and Angling Consultatives
Miss	Christine	Heywood	Network Assistant	Countryside Recreation Network
Miss	Sue	Hilder	Access and Recreation Officer	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Mrs	Eileen	Hird	County Chairman	Flintshire Ramblers' Association
Mr	Alan	Holmes	Rights of Way Assistant	Milton Keynes Council
Mr	Colin	Hudson	Public Rights of Way Officer	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Miss	Carla	Hughes	Assistant Rights of Way Officer	Wrexham County Borough Council
Mr	Alan	Hughes	Rights of Way and Access Officer	Conway County Borough Council
Ms	Angharad	Huws	Countryside Division	National Assembly for Wales
Mr	Alan	Ibbotson	Countryside Manager	Cornwall County Council
Mrs	Laura	Jones	Admin. Assistant Wardens LAFs	Brecon Beacon National Park
Mr	Tom	Jones OBE	Member	Countryside Council for Wales
Mrs	Shona	Lewis	Rights of Way Access Development Officer	Shropshire County Council
Mr	Roger	Lovegrove	Vice Chair Berwyn LAF	Countryside Council for Wales
Mr	Stuart	MacKintosh	Head of Countryside Access	Powys County Council
Mr	Bavid	McCabe	Rights of Way Officer	Newport County Borough Council
Mrs	Juliet	Michael	Access Recreation Officer	Countryside Council for Wales
Mr	Stephen	O'Sullivan	Waterway Supervisor	British Waterways
Mr	Mike	Overbeke	Head Public Rights of Way	Kent County Council
Mr	Garri	Owen	Access & Environment Officer	Welsh Orienteering Association
Mr	Rowland	Pittard	Chairman, National Countryside Committee	Youth Hostels Association (England and Wales)
Miss	Christine	Pope	Countryside Officer (Wider Welcome)	The Countryside Agency
Mr	Alun	Price	Area Access Officer NE Wales	Countryside Council for Wales
Mr	Chris	Probert	Principal Land Agent	Forestry Commission

ANNEX 11. LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS DELEGATE LIST				
Title	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Mr	Joanna	Redgwell	Access Policy Officer	Countryside Agency
Mrs	Ruth	Reid	Rights of Way Officer	Torfaen CBC
Mr	Mike	Rhodes		Peak District National Park
Mr	Paul	Richards	Principal Countryside Officer	Flintshire County Council
Mr	Brian	Riddlestone		Countryside Council for Wales
Mr	Gareth	Roberts	Head of Rec., Access & European Affairs	Countryside Council for Wales,
Ms	Diana	Shipp	Chief Information and Tourism Officer	The Broads Authority
Dr	Roger	Sidaway		
Mr	Roger	Smith		DEFRA
Mr	Paul	Smith	Map Development Manager	Ordnance Survey
Mr	Mike	Smith	Senior Landscape Planner	Cumbria County Council
Mr	Tim	Stevens	MRDO	Land Access and Recreation Association
Mr	Ben	Thomas	Access Adviser	Country Land and Business Association
Ms	Anne	Valdes	Countryside and Conservation Manager	Newport County Borough Council
Mr	Paul	Veitch	Countryside Services Manager	Mourne Heritage Trust
Mr	Bruce	Wallace	Rights of Way Officer	Carmarthenshire County Council
Mr	Alan	Ward	Area Manager	Brecon Beacon National Park
Mr	Andrew	Watson	Rights of Way Officer	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Mr	Keith	Wheal	Countryside Services Manager	Oxfordshire County Council
Miss	Jenny	Young	Conservation Officer	English Nature

