

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's Foreword	I
Secretary's Foreword	I
Introduction	I
The Year Reviewed	
Advice Given by the Local Access Forum 2007 – 2008	2
Other Matters Considered	2
Committees	2
Other Meetings Attended	
Appointing Authority Details	Appendix I
Area Covered by LAF	Appendix II
Meeting Details	Appendix III
Membership Details	Appendix IV
Further Reading	Appendix V

**BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WESTERN AREA LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's Foreword

The Forum has been well attended, with its members contributing enthusiastically and robustly. Many matters have been considered in full meetings of the Forum and other matters progressed by sub-groups that have met outside the formal meetings.

The National Park's Rights of Way Improvement Plan has concerned us much and we have contributed to it. We look forward to its final adoption and to it is hoped for impact on the condition of the Rights of Way in the park.

The LAF has suggested some improvements to the Rights of Way in the West, as exemplars of what might be adopted in a wider context. We hope that our suggestions for circular walks using already adopted Rights of Way and negotiating links to complete the circuit will prove of use in improving the infrastructure in the Park in the interests of both local and tourist use.

Currently the Forum continues to provide its advice to the Park Authority on the situation of the considerable erosion of the upland areas. In the face of the daunting damage caused by a combination of wear and climate rigours we will continue to offer every support to the Park Authority in combating the decline in the condition of the paths that draw so many to take their leisure time in our Park.

Secretary's Foreword

In the Summer of 2007 the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority took the decision to dissolve the three LAFs covering the National Park area and establish a single LAF effective from 1st April 2008. I am sure that the new body will continue to work as constructively as the current LAFs do with the Appointing Authority.

During the year the BBNPA published its Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will guide its Public Rights of Way Management in the coming years. The Local Access Forums were of course statutory consultees during the preparation of the plan. Producing a ROWIP is only one part of a process and the BBNP LAF will have a continuing role as the plan is implemented over the coming years.

The Western area LAF also gave valued support, advice and views on the upland erosion strategy, Geopark issues, NG gas pipeline, access to inland water and a number of more specific issues.

I would normally also include a paragraph or two speculating on the coming year but this is more difficult since this LAF will cease to exist at the end of March 2008. However I anticipate that a number of members will apply and be appointed to the new BBNP LAF and I wish them well in the future. As always the BBNPA would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their contributions during the past year which have been valued by National Park Authority members and officers.

Introduction

The Western Area Local Access Forum (WALAF) was originally established in December 2002 and re-appointed in December 2005. The Forum comprises 11 members, a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman. The National Park Authority (NPA) had a statutory duty to establish the Local Access Forum (LAF) as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

The Forum has only one statutory function which is to advise the NPA, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and others 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. This advice should be given having taken due regard to the needs of land-management and the natural beauty of the area.

All meeting papers relating to the LAF can be found on the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) website at www.breconbeacons.org or members of the public can view copies at the National Park Office, Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon or can order individual copies from that office (at a small charge). Members of the public are welcomed at all meetings of the Forum and may be invited to speak at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may contact Forum Members via the Secretary.

THE YEAR REVIEWED

Advice Given by the LAF 2007 - 2008

BBNP Local Access Forum Rationalisation.

Members received information from the BBNPA outlining the Authority's proposal to rationalise the three Local Access Forums. The report from the BBNPA was discussed at length at the June meeting and members did not agree that the formation of one single LAF was the best way forward. At that meeting, nine members voted in favour of forming two LAFs, following the structure of the wardens' areas and there were two abstentions. The view of the Forum was presented to the BBNPA's Planning, Access and Rights of Way Committee in August and Forum members were informed at the meeting in September that a new single Local Access Forum would be established after 1 April 2008.

Upland Erosion Strategy

A presentation was made at the June meeting outlining the proposed Upland Erosion Strategy and the results of the upland erosion survey carried out in 2006. A consultation paper had been circulated to members. The Forum decided to set up a sub-group to consider and respond to the consultation document.

Other Matters Considered

1. Geopark. A presentation updating members on the Geopark project was made by the Geopark development Officer at the June meeting.
2. New Route at Coelbren – Penwyllt. The Forum considered this matter at several meetings and, although no progress was made on the section of the route in the National Park, members received updates on the progress of this project.
3. CCW Access Website. At the September meeting members were presented with an overview of this project and details of the more recent developments that had taken place.
4. National Grid Pipeline. Information was presented at the September meeting regarding the progress of the work to install the pipeline and reinstate the land.
5. Water Related Recreation. The Forum discussed this issue throughout the year.

Committees

A sub-group was formed and met on 12 July 2007 to review and comment on the BBNP's draft Upland Erosion Strategy.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

APPOINTING AUTHORITY DETAILS

Appointing Authority:

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Plas y Ffynnon
Cambrian Way
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7HP

Tel. 01874 624437

Fax. 01874 622574

Email. enquiries@breconbeacons.org

Secretary:

Richard Ball
Access Officer
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Plas y Ffynnon
Cambrian Way
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7HP.

Tel. 01874 620464

Email. richard.ball@breconbeacons.org

APPENDIX II

MEETING DETAILS

During the year the following meetings were held, all of which were open to the public:

2007

6 June

19 September

Both meetings took place at Craig-y-nos Country Park, Pen-y-cae.

APPENDIX IV**MEMBERSHIP DETAILS**

Name	Date Appointed To LAF	Background and Interests
Anne Amatt	10 Sept 2004 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Member of the South Wales Caving Club and West Brecon Cave Rescue Team. Interests include walking in the area and caving.
Graham Davies	9 Nov 2004 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Member of the Ystradgynlais Town Council, West Glamorgan Ramblers., Brecknock LAF, Board of Governors – Cwmtwrch CP School and the Management Board of Cwmtwrch Miners Welfare Hall. Has lived in the area all of his life and was the former Chairman of the Ffordd y Glowr Project. A keen walker with knowledge and expertise of the area.
Mary Galpin	11 Jan 2006	Member of South Wales Caving Club and the Ramblers Assoc. Has walked and caved in the area for over 45 years.
Judith Harvey	11 Dec 2002 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	BBNPA Area Manager for the Western part of the Park. Duties include management of rights of way and access issues. Member of the British Mountaineering Council. Interests include farming & community issues and nature conservation and common land management.
Jerry Herbert	11 Jan 2006	Member of the Green Lane Association, Countryside Recreational Access Group, All Wheel Drive Club and LARA. Saw military service in the Sennybridge area and has enjoyed map reading and orienteering in the area for a long time. Has been a motorised user for the last 10 years and is interested in protecting ROW for use by all and working with other user groups to improve access for all.
Elsie Little	6 May 2003 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Represents cavers on the National Access Forum. Member of South Wales Caving Club, Cambrian Caving Council, British Cave Research Assoc. and British Caving Research Assoc. Enjoys walking, caving and cycling.
Eileen Millward	11 Dec 2002 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Retired. Formally science teacher at Brecon High School for 21 years. Interests include conservation, access, way marking, education and agriculture.
Gary Mitchell	11 Jan 2006	Member of Try'n Glas Community Council, Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Beacons Alive, British Mountaineering Council and Welsh Canoeing Assoc. Through his work and for pleasure partakes in walking, climbing, canoeing, mountaineering, caving and off-road driving.
Dyfrig Morgan	11 Dec 2002 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Lives and farms in the Forum area. Member of Country Landowners and Rural Business (CLA), NFU Cymru and Chairman of CL70 Graziers Assoc. Enjoys walking in the local area.
Nigel Phillips	11 Jan 2006	Member of the Brecon Beacons Park Society Executive and Central Area Local Advisory Forum. Enjoys walking, mountain navigation, conservation, access improvements and maintenance of PROW network.

David Vaughan	11 Dec 2002 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Manager of the Cnewr Estate. Member of the Sennybridge Farmers Hunt. Interests include tourism, hill-walking and hunting.
Ann Watkins	10 Sept 2004 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Lives and farms in the Forum area. Secretary of the Nantyffin Baptist Chapel and member of local Cancer Research Committee and L.O.F Ystradgynlais C. Hospital. Enjoys walking, local history and local access.
John Williams	11 Dec 2002 Re-appointed: 11 Jan 2006	Dry stone waller and hedge laying contractor. Keen walker and has hunted in the area for a number of years. Interested in the history of the area and the historical/archaeological remains in the region.

FURTHER READING

LAF Annual Reports

All appointing authorities are required by statute to produce annual reports to cover the year ending 31 March. These can be obtained from the relevant LAF Secretary. Agendas, minutes and other papers are also available for individual LAF meetings.

Government Act

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
The Stationary Office Limited (2000).

National Assembly for Wales

The Countryside Access (Local Access Forums)(Wales) Regulations 2001;
The Stationary Office Limited (2002).

Countryside Council for Wales

LAF Guidance 1: The Establishment of Local Access Forums –
Advice & Best Practice Guidance (2002).

LAF Guidance 2: The Role Duties and Functions of
Local Access Forums (2002).

Local Access Forums in Wales
Annual Report & Directory 2003 (2004).