

LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN WALES



WHAT ARE LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS?

Local Access Forums (LAFs) have been set up in Wales under Act of Parliament to advise local authorities, National Park authorities, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government about improving public access to land in their area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

In giving this advice LAFs must have regard to the needs of land management and the desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area.

There are 29 LAFs in Wales.



WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Forums, which elect their own Chairpersons, normally hold about 4-6 meetings a year. The public are welcome to attend all meetings (subject to rare exceptions).

Since their initial formation in 2002/03, the Forums have considered a wide range of issues. Their remit is large and they have advised on all forms of countryside access, including on foot, horseback, cycling and motorised off road access.

They have spent much time advising on the planning and management of the new right of 'open access' and improvements to the local Rights of Way network.

They have also considered how to tackle problems such as the damage caused by the illegal use of motorised vehicles in the countryside and possible conflicts between access and nature conservation.

To find out more about the LAF in your area you can attend one of their meetings or obtain a copy of their annual report.

WHO APPOINTS MEMBERS AND RUNS THE FORUMS?

In National Parks the National Park Authority is the 'appointing authority'; elsewhere it is the responsibility of the local authority. If they wish, appointing authorities can sub-divide their area to create more than one LAF or they can agree with their neighbours to create a joint LAF to cover their combined area.

The appointing authority selects the members from the applications it receives.

It is the duty of the appointing authority to ensure that their LAF is balanced and that relevant interests are represented.



HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

LAFs generally recruit every three years. However, vacancies can arise at any time.

There are no set criteria for membership but members should be committed to the function of the LAF to advise on the improvement of public access and they should be willing and able to play a full part in all aspects of a Forum's work.

Members are generally selected because of their ability, through knowledge and experience, to represent the interests of at least one group of access users, land managers or owners, or other issues relevant to access such as conservation or tourism.

It is desirable that members reside in, are particularly familiar with, or have any other interests especially relevant to, the area of the Forum.

If you wish to be considered for membership please contact the relevant LAF secretary.

WHO SITS ON THE FORUMS?

LAF members sit as individuals, rather than as representatives of any specified organisation.

Legislation requires that there should be a reasonable balance of members representing the needs of:

- users of access land and rights of way, and
- owners and occupiers of access land and land over which rights of way run.

Other interests especially relevant to the area must also be represented.

LAFs have between 12 and 22 members. They are not paid but reasonable expenses are covered.



LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN WALES



LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS all have secretaries who work for the relevant National Park or local authority. If you require further information, wish to attend a meeting, receive annual reports or papers of meetings, or enquire about membership you should contact the relevant LAF secretary.



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LAF SECRETARY

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	TELEPHONE
Arfon & Dwyfor	Gwynedd Council	01286 672255
Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	01495 350555
Brecknockshire	Powys County Council	01597 826000
Brecon Beacons Central	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	01874 620484
Brecon Beacons Eastern	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	01874 620484
Brecon Beacons Western	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	01874 620484
Bridgend	Bridgend County Borough Council	01656 643643
Caerphilly	Caerphilly County Borough Council	01443 815588
Cardiff	Cardiff County Council	029 2087 2000
Cardiganshire	Cardiganshire County Council	01554 747500
Ceredigion	Ceredigion County Council	01545 570881
Conwy East	Conwy County Borough Council	01492 574000
Denbighshire	Denbighshire County Council	01824 706000
Flintshire	Flintshire County Council	01352 752121
Isle of Anglesey	Isle of Anglesey County Council	01248 750057
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	01685 725000
Monmouthshire	Monmouthshire County Council	01633 644644
Montgomeryshire	Powys County Council	01597 826000
Neath Port Talbot	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	01639 763333
Newport	Newport City Council	01633 656656
Pembrokeshire	Pembrokeshire County Council ¹ & Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	01437 764551
Radnorshire	Powys County Council	01597 826000
Rhondda Cynon Taff	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	01443 665565
Snowdonia North	Snowdonia National Park Authority	01766 770274
Snowdonia South	Snowdonia National Park Authority ² & Gwynedd Council	01766 770274
Swansea	City & County of Swansea	01792 636000
Torfaen	Torfaen County Borough Council	01495 762200
Vale of Glamorgan	The Vale of Glamorgan County Council	01446 700111
Wrexham	Wrexham County Borough Council	01978 292000

¹ The two appointing authorities rotate the secretariat on a three yearly basis. Please contact Pembrokeshire County Council from 1 April 2005 until 31 March 2008.

² Please contact Snowdonia National Park Authority regarding this LAF.

THE NATIONAL ACCESS FORUM FOR WALES

The Local Access Forums have an elected national representative on the National Access Forum for Wales.

Unlike the LAFs, the National Access Forum is not statutory and individuals cannot apply for membership - member organisations nominate representatives.

The National Access Forum for Wales brings together representatives of landowners and managers, countryside access user groups, public bodies and voluntary sector organisations to consider countryside access issues in Wales. It advises the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the Welsh Assembly Government. CCW administer and chair the Forum and all meetings are open to the public.

For further details see CCW's website www.ccw.gov.uk or ring the CCW enquiry line on 0845 130 6229.