

How often does the Forum meet?

Normally there will be six meetings a year but there may be other sub-group meetings. Members may also attend site visits, workshops, training events and conferences as appropriate.

Are Forum members paid?

No. All members give their time freely. However, they may claim reasonable expenses incurred as part of Forum duties including travel, subsistence and costs of care for children or dependents.

Can I see agendas and minutes of Forum meetings?

Minutes and papers are available to download from the website. Copies of the Annual Report can also be downloaded from there.

Can I attend a meeting of the Forum?

Yes. All full Forum meetings are open to the general public as observers.

How can I get something onto the Forum agenda?

Please contact the Forum Secretary, details below, who will then discuss the matter with the Chair.



Can I speak at a Forum meeting?

Please contact the Forum Secretary for guidance. It is best for questions to be submitted in writing at least a week before the meeting so that an informed answer can be provided.

How can I become a Forum member?

Applications are welcomed. Details of how to apply and what being a forum member involves are on the web site.

Does the Forum also cover Leicester?

A separate Local Access Forum covers the City of Leicester. More details are at:

www.leicester.gov.uk/local-access-forum

Neighbouring counties have their own Access Forums which are listed on the website of Natural England at:

www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Access/LAF

How can I contact the Forum?

Contacts should be made via the Forum Secretary at the following address:

Local Access Forum
c/o Rights of Way Team,
Leicestershire County Council,
Room 500, County Hall, Glenfield,
Leicester, LE3 8TE

Telephone: (0116) 305 7086

Email: accessforum@leics.gov.uk

www.leics.gov.uk/laf
Leicestershire
Local Access Forum
Promoting Rights Of Way And Access Land

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Walkers and wheelchairs users © Natural England / Tina Stallard
Girl on Horse back © Black Environment Network

www.leics.gov.uk/laf

Leicestershire
Local Access Forum
Promoting Rights Of Way And Access Land



- **Advising on all aspects of Countryside Recreation & Access**
- **Covering Paths, Byways, Bridleways, Access Land & Country Parks**
- **Representing Walkers, Riders, Farmers, Conservation & other interests**
- **Working with all levels of Local and National Government & other agencies**
- **The public are welcome at all meetings**

See More ... Make Contact ... Join In
www.leics.gov.uk/laf

What does the Local Access Forum do?

The Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LAF) is an independent official body, set up as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and exists to represent the interests of everyone in the County concerned with public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways and byways) and access to the countryside.

Leicestershire has a network of 'definitive paths' totalling over 3000 kms (the equivalent of a path from Leicester to well beyond Moscow) and more than 100 Open Access areas. There are also permissive paths, Country Parks and other opportunities to walk and ride.



Forum members discussing access issues on 'The Slabs' between Barrow upon Soar and Quorn in the Borough of Charnwood.



LAF members during a management presentation at Bradgate

What is the Access Forum for?

The main role of the Forum is to advise all levels of Local Government, National Government and other agencies by commenting officially on policy proposals and any other access issues. It focuses particularly on:

- improving public access to land for outdoor recreation.
- encouraging the enjoyment and understanding of the countryside.
- considering the needs and concerns of land managers, tenants and owners.
- enhancing and conserving the natural environment.
- developing the rights of way network, working through the Rights of Way Improvement Plan first published in 2006.
- broadening opportunities to use the rights of way network – considering especially those who, at present, may feel excluded.

What else is expected of the Forum?

Whilst giving advice the Forum is expected to:

- Develop a constructive and inclusive approach to the improvement of recreational access to the countryside.
- Respect local circumstances and different interests while following national guidance.
- Act as a bridge between different interest groups and seek a consensus wherever possible.

Who does the Access Forum advise?

The forum is a 'statutory advisory body' which may comment officially on relevant matters to various public agencies including:

- the County and District Councils
- Town and Parish Councils
- Central and Regional Government
- Highways Authorities
- Natural England

The Forum may also advise other Conservation and Environmental bodies.

Who does the Forum represent?

The Forum is made up of local people. Individual members represent fields of interest rather than any particular organisation of which they might be a member. The Forum has a maximum of 23 members, up to 3 of whom will be County Councillors. The aim is to maintain a reasonable balance of members representing different interests who either:

- enjoy countryside access activities, such as walkers, horse riders, orienteers, runners, cyclists, motor users, climbers and wildlife enthusiasts.
- own, farm and manage the land, including landowners, tenants, farmers and other occupiers.
- have an interest in local community and conservation issues promoting health, the environment, public transport and tourism.

Can the Forum take up individual issues?

The Forum focuses upon broader concerns and does not normally comment on individual issues. However, it is able to raise issues of a more general nature with Council officers, and regularly monitors the work of the County Council's Rights of Way Team.

