

National Access Forum meeting

Sheffield, January 2008
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Chairman of Joint LAF

National Access Forum PURPOSE

To facilitate:-

- A balanced view to NE and feedback from LAFs across the country;
- Exchange of information and best practice;
- Effective and co-ordinated joint lobbying of government;
- Delivery of accurate information on policy initiatives and objectives;
- Feedback on initiatives and implementation.

National Access Forum Constitution

- **Meeting** - three times per year
- **Membership** - 16 LAF members, two nominated by each region, and a number nominated by Natural England.
- **Term of office** - three years.
- **Chairman** - appointed from the LAF members.
- **Secretariat** - provided by NE
- **Papers** - from the LAFs or NE or jointly prepared.
- **Communication** - through LAF Regional Coordinators
- **Travel expenses** - reimbursed by Natural England

National Access Forum Key points

- A constructive partnership.
- LAF members should be representatives, not mandated delegates, and there should be continuity.
- Each region can decide how to choose its two members.
- Meetings will allow scope for discussion about regional development and inter-region liaison.
- Regions should be encouraged to submit agenda items and to discuss agenda items prior to meetings.
- LAF Regional Coordinators have a key role to play.

National Access Forum Recreation Policy Review Key points

The natural environment provides measurable benefits to offset the substantial health care costs arising from obesity, diabetes and cardio vascular disease.

LAFs can assist Natural England by:-

- **Collecting and presenting evidence**
- **Demonstrating the benefits of the natural environment**
- **Promoting quality and appealing environments, both rural and urban**
- **Adopting a benefits based approach**
- **Publicising successes**
- **Marketing opportunities**

National Access Forum RoWIP discussion

- LAFs role is to:-
 - support ROWIPs.
 - feed in local information on scheme progress.
 - campaign about the importance of ROWIP delivery to achieve recreational infrastructure.
 - press for the implementation of ROWIPs through Local Area Agreements.
- NE's role is to:-
 - potentially fund specific schemes in specific places – future nationwide grant aid is unlikely.
 - help to secure funding from other sources.

What next?

The next meeting is in May. By then:

- LAFs in the region should nominate two representatives for the NAF.
- LAFs in the region can suggest a couple of agenda topics.