

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum
Name of LAF Chair	Richard Pushman
Name of LAF Secretary	Christina Beevers

Total number of LAF members	13
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	6
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	2
Number of members representing other interests	5

Number of full LAF meetings held	3	Number of sub-group meetings held	0
Number of working groups led by others	0	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	1
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?	0	How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	£540.00
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			350

Partners your LAF worked with during 2015/16 (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAF achievements/making a difference?¹ Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

Sucessfully lobbied for the removal of fencing on a piece of common land in Latimer, Buckinghamshire, without the need for enforcement action, attracting positive publicity for the Forum.

Volunteered to mediate in a case involving fencing on a common in Frieth, Buckinghamshire after complaints to the parish council. This case is ongoing.

Working in parinership with neighbouring authorities such as Slough borough council and Royal Borough Windsor and Maidenhead LAFs to manage improvements along the Jubilee River.

Successfully registered the Disabled Ramblers as a good cause on the Aylesbury Vale Lottery.

Sucessfully bid to Wingrave parish council for £500 worth of access improvements, installing two gates, leveling a manhole cover and a installing drainage solution.

The main role of the LAF is independent strategic oversight access, but the LAF has volunteered to become involved in a number of specific projects as outlined above.

What activity did your LAF undertake to help record historical PROW before 2026?

¹ These achievements form an important part of the national annual report that is submitted to Defra/Minister and help to promote the work and good practice of LAFs

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The LAF have undertaken a 'Restoring the Record Project' in this financial year. A total of 45 volunteers and 1 project co-ordinator have been recruited and a full training day, led by Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks was organised. The LAF worked in partnership the Buckinghamshire Archives to provide part of that training, arranged for a photo pass scheme for volunteers, and worked closely with parish councils. *Volunteer hours are difficult to quantify, but include at least: 40 volunteers at 7 hour at the training day (280hrs); and 5 hrs per week volunteer co-ordinator work for 13 weeks January to March (65hrs).

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice	Optional Detail
Green Infrastructure strategies			
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	4	1	Consults: 1. East West Rail; 2. Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid; 3. A355 relief road; 4. M4 Smart motorway; Adv: 5. LTP4
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	0	0	
Public open space (public space protection orders)	0	0	
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	0	
Planning applications /Housing development schemes	0	0	
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	1	1. Waddesdon cycleway planning application - public meeting (adv.)
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0	0	
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	0	0	
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off	0	1	1. Restoring the Record presentation by Phil Wadey (adv.) and insigated a 45-strong volunteer group to investigate claims
Right of Way Improvement Plan review	0	0	
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	0	1	1. Written to the Environment Agency pressing for formal equestrian access to the Jubilee River multi-user route (adv.).
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	0	1	1. mediated in a clay pigeon shoot and equestrian access issue in Quainton
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	0	1	Provided advice to the Ridgeway National Trail Officer on MPVs and carriage driving access.

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Parish Council or other grant schemes	0	1	Wingrave parish council grant scheme (adv.)
Access for people with reduced mobility	0	2	1. physical disabled access gate improvements at Wingrave; 2. advised Little Chalfont parish council on compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 on planning for a nature park
Commons, village greens	0	2	1. Pinner Green common & 2. CL217 Frieth
Open Access land restrictions	0	0	
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	0	1. Ridgeway National Trail stratgic links
NNR dedication	0	0	
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	0	
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	0	0	
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.	0	0	
Forestry and woodland	0	1	1. Royal Forestry Society (c).

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

The LAF have lobbied for a Pegasus crossings on the A418 in Aylesbury and requested information on a bridleway crossing of the A412 in Wexham .

What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

1. Maintaining momentum for the Restoring Lost Ways Project and recruiting more volunteers;
2. Seeking a new LAF members.

Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAFs operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?

None.

Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work program for next year?

Better education on the Deregulation Act 2015 and it's effect on rights of way

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Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies²

None

Comments from the Appointing Authority

The long-standing chairman stood down this year and was replaced by a retired county and district councilor, Richard Pushman, who has a wealth of experience in local government. Membership on the whole has remained stable. Advice from the LAF has been robust and well-informed, with close scrutiny of the work undertaken by the council's ROW teams. The most successful LAF work has been to take onboard advice from Phil Wadey on the 2026 cut-off and act upon it, committing to lead on the co-ordinated recruitment of volunteers to investigate lost ways. It is notable for being involved in a number of disabled access initiatives and being willing to act upon problems brought to the Forum relating to common land. Nothing came forward in this year to enable direct engagement with LEPs, the LNP, HWBB and LEADER, but the LAF would be pleased to provide advice and support to access project bids through these structures.

Comments from LAF Chair

I was somewhat surprised to be proposed as chairman of the Local Access Forum on the retirement of John Elfes, who had filled that role with both considerable experience and much courtesy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the years of dedication and hard work that he has put into the Buckinghamshire LAF. Throughout my life I have been a keen protector of our rural heritage and its environment and firm in the belief that free access to its benefits are essential for the well being of all citizens.

You will read elsewhere in this annual report of the work undertaken by the Forum over the past year and of the time and effort expended by both members and officers. Much of this effort has been provided on a voluntary basis and without this support our access to the pleasures of our countryside would be lost, we have much for which to thank them.

Any other comments

None.

² The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.