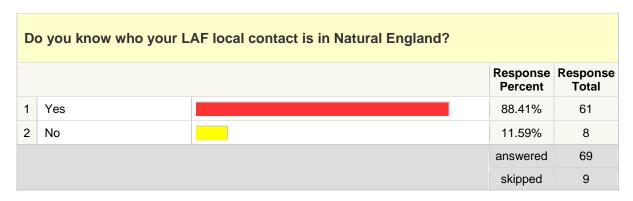
This report summarises the results of a survey of Local Access Forum (LAF) Chairs and Secretaries which ran between 8th to 28th March 2013. A total of 78 responses were received (77 online, 1 emailed) and thanks to everyone who took the time to complete it. Natural England (NE) will use this information to help it to prioritise its support to LAFs.

Local support from Natural England



Н	How would you rate the level of support from your LAF local contact?				
	Response Percent Total				
1	Very good	16.42%	11		
2	Good	34.33%	23		
3	Satisfactory	31.34%	21		
4	Poor	13.43%	9		
5	Very poor	4.48%	3		
		answered	67		
		skipped	11		

Common comments and suggestions re local support

- More local communication with LAFs, Secretaries and Chairs.
- A local NE contact be accessible to provide support, help and advice.
- Promote LAFs locally to help attract new members.
- Provision of training (e.g. Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE)) for LAF members and council support.
- A joint memorandum of understanding between LAFs, Appointing Authorities (AA), NE and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

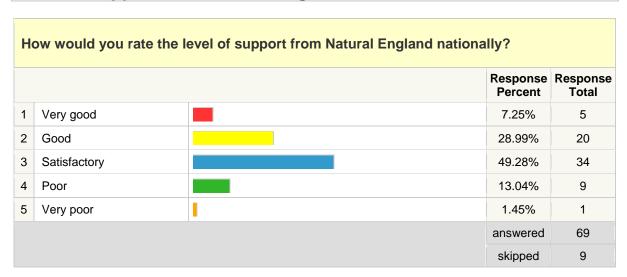
Regional support from Natural England

Н	How would you rate the level of support from your LAF regional coordinator?				
	Response Percent Total				
1	Very good	52.24%	35		
2	Good	34.33%	23		
3	Satisfactory	13.43%	9		
4	Poor	0.00%	0		
5	Very poor	0.00%	0		
		answered	67		
		skipped	11		

Common comments and suggestions re regional support

- Renew the Regional Coordination (RC) budget for 2013/14 RC role essential.
- As well as regional Chairs meetings, ask LAFs if regional Secretaries meetings, training events and/or conferences would also be useful.
- Attendance at some LAF meetings.

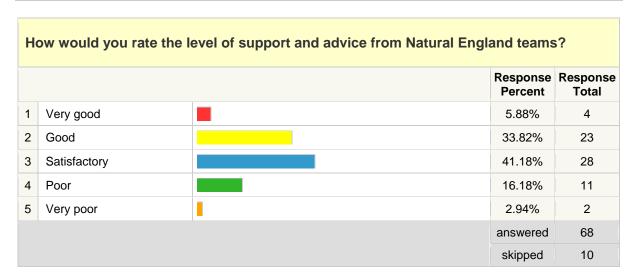
National support from Natural England



Common comments and suggestions re national support

- Quarterly 'update' newsletter.
- More communication from NE to LAFs.
- Conference in Sheffield was good and helpful hold similar again this year.
- Promote national consultations to LAFs via Huddle.
- NE to provide a list of the variety of support provided for LAFs.
- Work on improving the national visibility of LAFs.
- Feedback on how annual reports have been used.
- LAF ideas taken to higher level and acted upon.

Other contributions to LAFs from Natural England

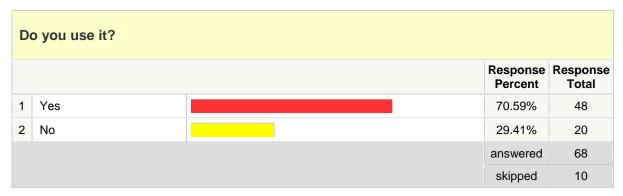


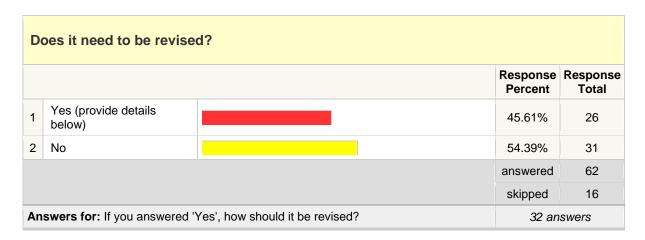
Common comments and suggestions re other Natural England support

- An organisational chart/map giving relevant NE contacts/teams in these areas.
- Newsletters from other NE teams on Huddle.

Defra guidance



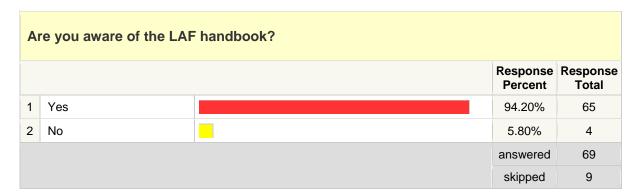


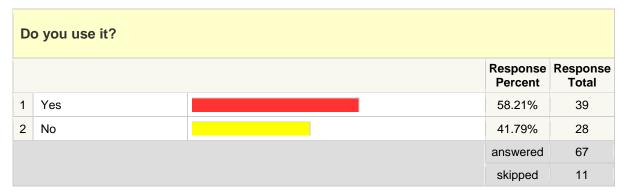


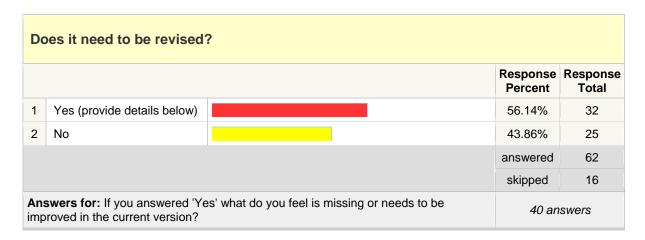
Common comments and suggestions re Defra guidance

- All sections should be checked to ensure up-to-date.
- Some LAFs are advising on matters that fall outside the originally envisaged remit. It might be worth issuing advice on this in the LAF handbook.

LAF handbook





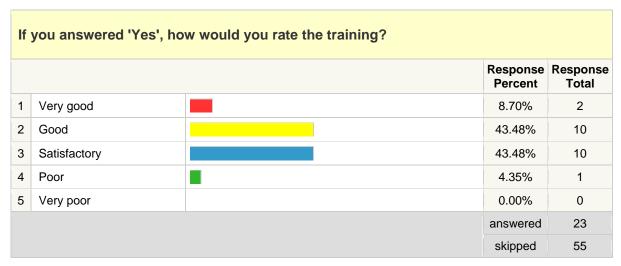


Common comments and suggestions re LAF handbook

- Should be revised (shorter, punchier) and web based Wiki style that can be edited.
- Too large and should be discontinued. DEFRA guidance is more practical and should be the 'bible'.
- Produce version similar to Scottish LAF handbook.

Training





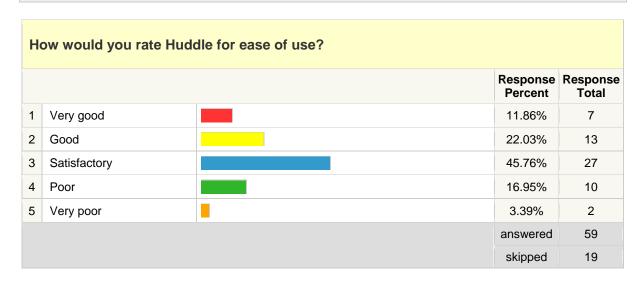


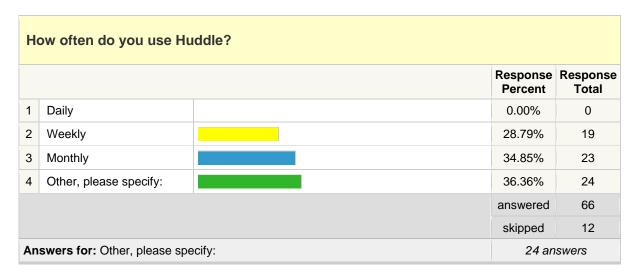


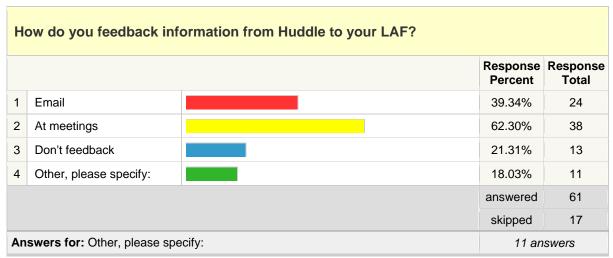
Common comments and suggestions re training

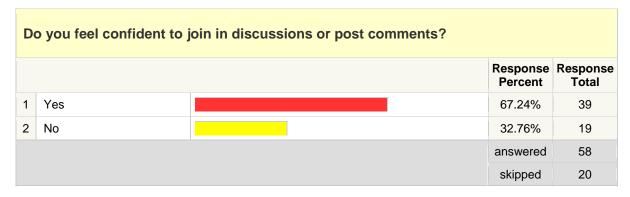
- Produce a new member training 'pack'.
- Update handbook to help new members.
- Training element at national conference.

Huddle









Do you feel confident to upload files or create / update Whiteboards?				
		Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Yes	50.00%	30	
2	No	50.00%	30	
		answered	60	
		skipped	18	

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very poor	Response Total
Overview / Calendar?	7.0% (3)	27.9% (12)	41.9% (18)	16.3% (7)	7.0% (3)	43
Whiteboards?	4.7% (2)	41.9% (18)	37.2% (16)	9.3% (4)	7.0% (3)	43
Tasks?	0.0%	12.2% (5)	56.1% (23)	22.0% (9)	9.8% (4)	41
Discussions?	17.0% (8)	42.6% (20)	31.9% (15)	6.4% (3)	2.1% (1)	47
Files?	4.7% (2)	46.5% (20)	34.9% (15)	11.6% (5)	2.3% (1)	43
People?	4.8% (2)	47.6% (20)	31.0% (13)	14.3% (6)	2.4% (1)	42
					answered	47
					skipped	31

Ov	Overview / Calendar?		Percent	Total
1	Very good		6.98%	3
2	Good		27.91%	12
3	Satisfactory		41.86%	18
4	Poor		16.28%	7
5	Very poor		6.98%	3
			answered	47

WI	Whiteboards?		Percent	Total
1	Very good		4.65%	2
2	Good		41.86%	18
3	Satisfactory		37.21%	16
4	Poor		9.30%	4
5	Very poor		6.98%	3
			answered	47

Та	Tasks?		Percent	Total
1	Very good		0.00%	0
2	Good		12.20%	5
3	Satisfactory		56.10%	23
4	Poor		21.95%	9
5	Very poor		9.76%	4
			answered	47

Dis	Discussions?		Percent	Total
1	Very good		17.02%	8
2	Good		42.55%	20
3	Satisfactory		31.91%	15
4	Poor		6.38%	3
5	Very poor		2.13%	1
			answered	47

Fil	Files?		Percent	Total
1	Very good		4.65%	2
2	Good		46.51%	20
3	Satisfactory		34.88%	15
4	Poor		11.63%	5
5	Very poor		2.33%	1
			answered	47

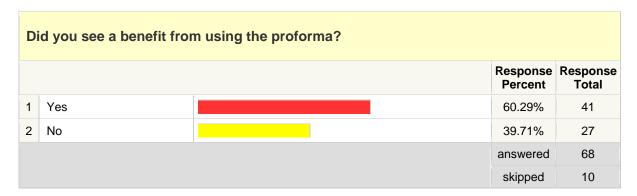
Pe	People?		Percent	Total
1	Very good		4.76%	2
2	Good		47.62%	20
3	Satisfactory		30.95%	13
4	Poor		14.29%	6
5	Very poor		2.38%	1
			answered	47

Common comments and suggestions re Huddle

- Promote Huddle and its use more.
- More pictures, graphics and graphs.
- Promote code of conduct/good practice of Huddle use link related items, more focussed discussion, how to use Huddle more effectively.
- A 'what's new' summary digest of key issues.
- Have an 'expert' available to comment on a specific topic for a short period.
- Promote Huddle guidance that email alerts can be turned off.
- Promote that Huddle is open to all LAF members.

Annual reporting process

Н	How clear and easy to follow did you find the annual reporting process this year?				
	Response Percent Total				
1	Very good	4.41%	3		
2	Good	38.24%	26		
3	Satisfactory	45.59%	31		
4	Poor	10.29%	7		
5	Very poor	1.47%	1		
		answered	68		
		skipped	10		



Н	How did you rate this year's annual reporting process?				
		Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Very good	7.35%	5		
2	Good	30.88%	21		
3	Satisfactory	45.59%	31		
4	Poor	14.71%	10		
5	Very poor	1.47%	1		
		answered	68		
		skipped	10		

Common comments and suggestions re annual reporting

- Better and quicker feedback on how the information has been used.
- Rename the proforma so it is not confused with LAFs Annual Reports for public consumption.
- Promote the importance of Annual Work Plans for LAFs.
- Revise the proforma but keep it as simple as possible.

Finally



Common comments and suggestions re possible additional support for LAFs

- Help and encourage AAs to support their LAFs.
- Reintroduce the English Access Forum.