



# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results






This report summarises the results of a survey of Local Access Forum (LAF) Chairs and Secretaries which ran between 8<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 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

Do you know who your LAF local contact is in Natural England?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		88.41%	61
2	No		11.59%	8
			answered	69
			skipped	9

How would you rate the level of support from your LAF local contact?

			Response Percent	Response 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).

# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

## Regional support from Natural England

How would you rate the level of support from your LAF regional coordinator?






			Response Percent	Response 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

How would you rate the level of support from Natural England nationally?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very good		7.25%	5
2	Good		28.99%	20
3	Satisfactory		49.28%	34
4	Poor		13.04%	9
5	Very poor		1.45%	1
			answered	69
			skipped	9






## 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.

# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

## Other contributions to LAFs from Natural England

How would you rate the level of support and advice from Natural England teams?



			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very good		5.88%	4
2	Good		33.82%	23
3	Satisfactory		41.18%	28
4	Poor		16.18%	11
5	Very poor		2.94%	2
			answered	68
			skipped	10

## 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



Are you aware of the Defra guidance issued by the Secretary of State in 2007?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		85.51%	59
2	No		14.49%	10
			answered	69
			skipped	9

Do you use it?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		70.59%	48
2	No		29.41%	20
			answered	68
			skipped	10



# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results



Does it need to be revised?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes (provide details below)		45.61%	26
2	No		54.39%	31
			answered	62
			skipped	16
<b>Answers for:</b> If you answered 'Yes', how should it be revised?			32 answers	

## 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

Are you aware of the LAF handbook?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		94.20%	65
2	No		5.80%	4
			answered	69
			skipped	9

Do you use it?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		58.21%	39
2	No		41.79%	28
			answered	67
			skipped	11



# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results





Does it need to be revised?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes (provide details below)		56.14%	32
2	No		43.86%	25
			answered	62
			skipped	16
<b>Answers for:</b> If you answered 'Yes' what do you feel is missing or needs to be improved in the current version?			40 answers	

## 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

Does your appointing authority provide training for new LAF members?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		37.31%	25
2	No		62.69%	42
			answered	67
			skipped	11






If you answered 'Yes', how would you rate the training?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very good		8.70%	2
2	Good		43.48%	10
3	Satisfactory		43.48%	10
4	Poor		4.35%	1
5	Very poor		0.00%	0
			answered	23
			skipped	55

# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

Do you think some form of training should be organised nationally (or regionally) for new LAF members?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		82.09%	55
2	No		17.91%	12
			answered	67
			skipped	11

If you answered 'Yes', in what form would you like this training?






			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Booklet		52.46%	32
2	Website		62.30%	38
3	Job shadowing		4.92%	3
4	Mentoring		22.95%	14
5	Other, please specify:		45.90%	28
			answered	61
			skipped	17
<b>Answers for: Other, please specify:</b>			<i>28 answers</i>	

## Common comments and suggestions re training

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




## Huddle

How would you rate Huddle for ease of use?





			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very good		11.86%	7
2	Good		22.03%	13
3	Satisfactory		45.76%	27
4	Poor		16.95%	10
5	Very poor		3.39%	2
			answered	59
			skipped	19

# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results



## How often do you use Huddle?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Daily		0.00%	0
2	Weekly		28.79%	19
3	Monthly		34.85%	23
4	Other, please specify:		36.36%	24
			answered	66
			skipped	12
<b>Answers for:</b> Other, please specify:			24 answers	



## How do you feedback information from Huddle to your LAF?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Email		39.34%	24
2	At meetings		62.30%	38
3	Don't feedback		21.31%	13
4	Other, please specify:		18.03%	11
			answered	61
			skipped	17
<b>Answers for:</b> Other, please specify:			11 answers	

## Do you feel confident to join in discussions or post comments?






			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		67.24%	39
2	No		32.76%	19
			answered	58
			skipped	20






## 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

# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

How useful do you find each section on the LAF Workspace?						
	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% (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






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






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






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



# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

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

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

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.



# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

## Annual reporting process






How clear and easy to follow did you find the annual reporting process this year?

			Response Percent	Response 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

Did you see a benefit from using the proforma?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		60.29%	41
2	No		39.71%	27
			answered	68
			skipped	10

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.

# Local Access Forum Survey March 2013 Results

## Finally

Do you feel that you are fairly treated by Natural England?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		92.19%	59
2	No		7.81%	5
			answered	64
			skipped	14

## Common comments and suggestions re possible additional support for LAFs

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