

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	Torbay Local Access Forum
Name of LAF Chair	Chairman are currently being chosen on a meeting by meeting basis
Name of LAF Secretary	Lisa Antrobus

Total number of LAF members	8
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	3
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	1
Number of members representing other interests	4

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

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?

The LAF has successfully recruited two new members, recruitment has always been difficult so we were pleased to attract two new members.

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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None

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)			
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)			
Public open space (public space protection orders)			
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders			
Planning applications /Housing development schemes	2		
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)			
Local development frameworks and planning strategies			
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each			
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off			
Right of Way Improvement Plan review			
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)			
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area			
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW			
Parish Council or other grant schemes			
Access for people with reduced mobility			
Commons, village greens			
Open Access land restrictions			
Coastal Access/National Trails			
NNR dedication			
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	1		
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)			
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS)			

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and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.			
Forestry and woodland			

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

Presentation on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

Forming relationships with other agencies that view open space and access to such land as being key to a healthy lifestyle and mental wellbeing.

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?

Decreasing resources to support the LAF, the loss of the regional co-ordinator has impacted greatly. The Clerk is part of a much wider multi skilled team where the LAF is competing with other priorities such as income generation, regulatory committee's, member development/support and elections.

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

Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies²

Comments from the Appointing Authority

We support the LAF to fulfil its statutory duties but do not have resources to extend the role of the LAF. It is hoped that the new members we have recruited will bring a new dynamic to the Group and will help to expand the work of the LAF beyond its statutory role. The loss of the regional co-ordinator has significantly reduced the amount of support and information provided to the LAF as we do not have the expertise and capacity to carry out the research that this person previously provided.

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.

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Comments from LAF Chair

Any other comments