



Derby and Derbyshire  
Local Access Forum

# SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

Dedicated to the promotion and improvement  
of public access and rights of way



*Forum Members at the June meeting held at Elvaston Castle*

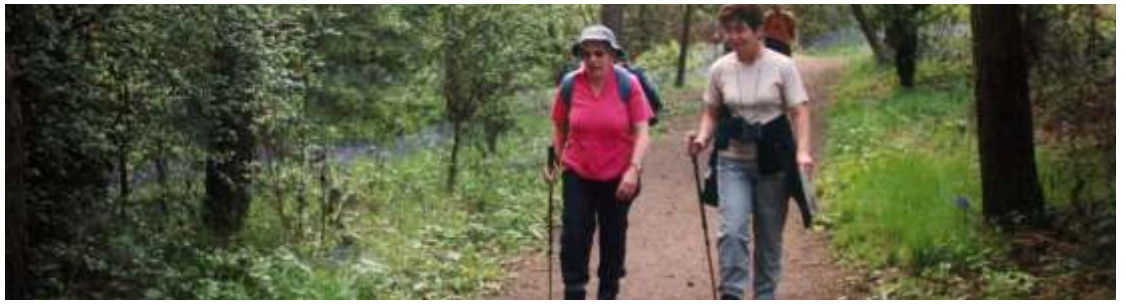
September 2008 -  
August 2009



## **Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum Sixth Annual Report September 2008 - August 2009**

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## 1. Chairman's Introduction

This has been another busy twelve months for the Forum and it is shocking to think that yet another year has flown by.

The Forum continues to monitor the Rights of Way Improvement Plans of both Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council. We are in the process of setting up two working groups to look at this in much greater detail than is possible at the main meetings.

We have responded to the County Councils proposals for a "Rights of Way Charter" and discussed their proposals to prioritise Definitive Map Modification Orders, Diversion Orders, and obstructions to the public rights of way network. In conjunction with the Peak District LAF we attended a whole day workshop event looking at the Revision of Derbyshire County Council's Vehicles in the Countryside Policy. It is true to say that all of these issues provoked lively debate within the Forum and will no doubt return many times more!

Following the failure of National England's Discovering Lost Ways project, a sub-group has been formed to look at the feasibility of working with Parish Councils in the County to identify well used routes that, for some reason, do not appear on the definitive maps. We have had some feed back from the parishes so this work continues on a small pilot area.

2009 has seen the Forum start to look to the future bringing forward proposals for an Erewash riding route that it is hoped will one day be able to link the two country parks of Elvaston and Shipley. This is a bold proposal and there are substantial safety and funding issues that have to be overcome. Any such route can only be achieved with the co-operation and help of local landowners in partnership with the riding community. There is still much to do and we will keep working.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Forum for the time, commitment and dedication that they have shown to the LAF and also to the City and County Councils for the support they have given us over the last year.

Andrew Shirley  
Chair Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum  
September 2009

## **2. The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum**

### **2.1 Vision Statement**

The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum is established to advise on the development and promotion of access to the countryside of public rights of way in Derby City and Derbyshire, east and south of the Peak District National Park. The Forum takes into account the interests of all countryside users, including recreational users, landowners and conservation managers.

### **2.2 Statutory Purpose**

The Forum is a statutory body, set up by Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It is concerned with Derby City and Derbyshire County to the south and east of the Peak District National Park.

The purpose of the Forum is:

- To advise the City and County Councils on the improvement of public access to the land within it's area for the purpose of open air recreation and enjoyment of the area.
- The Forum can also provide advice to other bodies in relation to strategic access and recreation issues.

### **2.3 Background to the Forum**

The inaugural meeting of the Forum took place in August 2003, followed by the first formal meeting in September 2003. The meetings are hosted alternatively by the City and County, and are open to interested members of the public.

This report covers the sixth year of the Forum's business over the period September 2008 - August 2009.

## **3. What's happened during the year?**

### **3.1 The Forum at work**

The Forum has fulfilled its role in a number of ways:

- 4 meetings have been held during the year: in September 2008, December 2008, March 2009 and June 2009.
- The Forum has been involved in both responding with comments and advice to matters raised by either the City or County Council and also with acting proactively to pursue new areas of work that it thinks are important.
- A series of sub groups have been established to reflect the reactive and proactive work. These groups have been set up either in order to be able to consider issues in more depth than is possible during the main meetings or to

progress matters that require a resolution outside of the timetables permitted by the meeting regime. 4 sub groups have been designated over the year to consider the following:

- ◆ To develop the Erewash Bridleway Strategy Project.
  - ◆ To look at a “Lost Ways” Project for Derby and Derbyshire.
  - ◆ The consultation from the County Council on the review of the East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy.
  - ◆ The consultation from the County Council on a Public Rights of Way Charter.
- Forum members have represented the Forum at meetings, seminars, regional and national events.
  - Forum members have used their own networks of contacts to gather information and to help the authorities to disseminate information.

### 3.2 Working with the City and County Councils

The Forum has received reports and given its advice on the following subjects during the year to the two appointing authorities:

- It has provided comments and advice to both councils on the production and production and subsequent delivery of their **Rights of Way Improvement Plans**. The Forum considered the annual work programmes from both councils for 2009/10 as well as detailed annual monitoring reports for 2008/09. In the case of the work programmes the Forum was keen to push both councils into identifying more measurable targets than were evident in the main Plans in order to be able to monitor progress. The Forum also charged a sub group to consider the County’s RoWIP programmes in more detail in order to consider how the Forum can best provide support and advice to the County Council.
- The Forum has received updates from the County Council on matters relating to the **Use of Motorised Vehicles in the Countryside**. Forum members attended a joint seminar with members of the adjacent Peak District LAF to review the County Council’s Policy on the issue.
- The Forum provided feedback to the County Council on the maps for the revision of the **East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy**.
- The Forum was invited to comment on the revisions being proposed to the **Walk’s Leaflets produced by the City Council**.  
The Forum considered a draft **Public Rights of Way Charter** produced by the County Council to provide details on how it proposed to prioritise reported problems. A sub group met to consider the draft and also met officers from the County Council to discuss this matter in more detail as they had some concerns over the content. In connection with the Charter the Forum also reconsidered an earlier report produced by the County Council on prioritising how it dealt with legal orders affecting the Definitive Map, which some members of the Forum also had concerns about.
- Forum members have also invited **senior managers** from the two authorities to attend a meeting to discuss issues directly with the Forum. During the year the relevant Assistant Directors from the City and County Councils attended a meeting each to talk about access and rights of way issues with Forum members.



*Members attending a site visit on the Great Northern Greenway with a local ecologist*

### 3.3 Other matters discussed and information received

The Forum has **standing items** on all of its agendas to receive progress reports from both councils on their Rights of Way Improvement Plans, to consider issues relating to Open Access Land and Town & Village Greens, Vehicles in the Countryside, Gating orders and Press releases.

Forum members have received the following briefings and information:

- A presentation from the County Council's **Transport Partnerships** Officer on the SE Derbyshire Accessibility Partnership and Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership.
- A presentation from the County Council's Countryside Service's Funding Officer about **funding opportunities for access projects**.
- Information about the work being carried out by the County Council's Countryside Service in connection with **Equalities issues**.
- Site visits following the June meeting to look at the newly constructed Great Northern Greenway extending from the City out to the County around Breadsall and how the works were affected by **nature conservation** and biodiversity issues.
- Information from the County Council about **public transport information** as requested by a member of the Forum.
- A review by Natural England of Environmental Stewardship schemes in the region.
- The Forum also received a considerable amount of information during the year including information from Defra (Access Newsletters), Natural England (general updates), and copies of local, regional and national newsletters relating to access matters.



### 3.4 Liaison with others

- Members of the Forum once again attended a “Meet your Local Access Forum Member” walk promoted as part of a festival of walks in Derby City during June.
- The Forum was represented at the regional meetings organised by Natural England for Local Access Forum Chairs (or their representatives) to discuss regional issues such as training requirements and other regional matters.
- The Chair of the Forum, attended a meeting of the England Access Forum organised by Natural England on behalf of the East Midlands Region.

## 4. The Way Ahead

The Forum continued to build on the report considered at the meeting on 15 June 2007 produced by a sub group set up to look at the future working and way ahead for the Forum which was described in previous annual reports.

Two sub groups of the Forum have been looking at the first two topics identified: specifically at progressing a scheme for identifying “Lost Ways” within its area and to look at how it could develop an existing document produced by horseriders on proposals for a Bridleway Strategy for the district of Erewash.

The following suggestions for training and speakers in the future were put forward by Members, the list was not in any preference order:-

- Dispute resolution and consensus building
- Disability Training
- Networking Events and interaction with other LAF’s
- Information about Planning processes
- Speaker from a Primary Care Trust on Health issues
- Woodland Trust



## Membership of the Forum

### 5.1 Members and representation

The Forum is constituted so that there is a balance of views representing:

- Different users interests.
- Landowners or occupiers and land management issues.
- Other relevant local interests relating to issues such as: nature conservation and heritage, local community involvement, tourism and local business, sustainable transport and access for all.

The Forum has the capacity to have up to twenty two members. Twenty members were originally appointed in July 2003, plus two Councillors, one from each authority.

A full list of the members of the Forum during the period September 2008 - August 2009 can be found in Annex 1, together with details of their fields of interest. Annex 2 provides details of member's attendance record at the formal meetings.

### 5.2 Contact details

Further details about the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum and minutes of the meetings can be found on web pages set up for the Forum, which can be accessed from either Derbyshire County Council or Derby City Council's web site: ([www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) or [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)).

The chair can be contacted by email: [andrew.shirley@cla.org.uk](mailto:andrew.shirley@cla.org.uk) Members of Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum can also be contacted by writing to the Secretary of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum, c/o County Secretary, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG (for the attention of Anne Barrett).

## Annex 1

### Membership of Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum 2008-09

Name	Representing	Other Interests
Robert Bacon	Land use (farming)	Walking
Mike Benten (Vice Chair)	Conservation and access	Walking and bird watching
David Blackburn	Walking interests	
Cllr Michael Carr	Derby City Council	Climbing and walking
John Clarke	General rights of way	Historical routes, walking
Hon Richard Curzon	Land use (farming)	Local History, Parish Councils
John Disney	Small business and sustainable transport	Walking
Tony Dunks	General rights of way interests	Walking and running
Ian Else	Land use (estate management)	
Richard Felton	Community/disability	Volunteering
David Giles	Motor vehicles interests	Mountain leadership and canoeing
Edward Hickling	Land use (farming)	
Cllr Chris Jackson	Derbyshire County Council	Environmental issues & Sustainable communities
Lyndsay Jones	Equestrian interests	Walking, cycling, education & environmental issues
Cllr Brian Lucas	Derbyshire County Council	Environmental issues & Sustainable communities
Michael Missett	Community, sustainable transport	Community
Martin Pape	Walking interests	Cycling, orienteering
Boyd Potts	Access, conservation and outdoor recreation	Walking, climbing, caving & community involvement
John Pountain	Local Community	Walking, disability issues
Nancy Pountain	Disability issues	Elderly, general countryside issues
Andrew Shirley (Chair)	Land use (farming) and rural business	Walking
Terry Williams	Cycling interests	Walking
John Wiltshire	Land use (forestry)	Walking, education access and conservation

**Annex 2**  
**Members Attendance Register 2008-09**

Dates of Meetings	23 Sept 2008	5 Dec 2008	6 March 2009	19 June 2009
Robert Bacon	✓	✓		
Mike Benten (Vice Chair)		✓	✓	✓
David Blackburn	✓		✓	✓
Cllr Michael Carr	✓		✓	✓
John Clarke	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hon Richard Curzon		✓		✓
John Disney	✓	✓	✓	
Tony Dunks	✓	✓		✓
Ian Else		✓	✓	
Richard Felton	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Giles		✓	✓	✓
Edward Hickling	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Cllr Chris Jackson	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Lyndsay Jones	✓	✓	✓	
Cllr Brian Lucas	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Michael Missett		✓	✓	
Martin Pape		✓	✓	✓
Boyd Potts	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Pountain	✓			
Nancy Pountain	✓			
Andrew Shirley (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terry Williams	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Wiltshire	✓	✓	✓	✓