

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

Name of LAF	<b>Slough Local Access Forum</b>
Name of LAF Chair	David Munkley
Name of LAF Secretary	Jacqui Wheeler

Total number of LAF members	9
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	7
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	2
Number of members representing other interests	3

**1. LAF achievements?** (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)

Continued liaison with CA Technologies - getting better arrangements in place for improved communications, joint chair meetings initiated by Slough and RBWM LAF's and mushrooming into Berkshire wide meetings. Co-operation with other forums is looking optimistic with joint working and shared interests, Basin improvements consultation with Canal and River Trust has led to the LAF providing impetus to plans for interim enhancements at the basin and also through summer site visits there is motivation to join together with Bucks CC for improvements to cross boundary links to country parks via the canal towpath in the east of the borough.

**2. What are the main challenges affecting your LAF's ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?**

Lack of time the LAF Support Officer has available to deal with actions and take forward ideas from the LAF.

Ability to be proactive and reach out to communicate with relevant organisations.

Resources available directly to the LAF which could be directed towards looking at the local PROW network in terms of the 2026 cut-off date Reliant on Council that is desperately short of funds/resources.

**3. What are your top three priorities for the year ahead?**

1. Developing work programme, raise public and business sector profile in order to enhance the relevance of the LAF and successful joint working with other local LAF's on cross boundary and areas of joint interest. 2. Delivering benefit for the community by engaging with locally relevant organisations on local issues eg; the Slough Canal, Heathrow, SIFE, Linear Park (Council owned route) LAF would like to see some real progress. 3. Would like to assess the gaps in the network within the town on a level of infrastructure. Push for new provision either permissive or dedicated access eg; wexham row and Old Bath Road site and any others that come to light.

**4. Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities?**

General rights of way training for members. ROWIP workshop in guidance and helping to look at the review.

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### LAF activity in 2014/15

Number of full LAF meetings held	3	Number of sub-group meetings held	
Number of working groups led by others		Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	0

**Partners the LAF worked with during 2014/15** (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"/>

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
Green Infrastructure strategies	0	0
Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)	0	3
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	10	0
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	0	0
Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)	0	0
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	0
Planning applications	1	0
Housing development schemes	1	0
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0	0
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	1	3
Right of Way Improvement Plan review	0	0
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	0	2
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	0	0
Definitive map and recording PROW	0	0
Parish Council or other grant schemes	0	0
Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?	0	0
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	0	1
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	0	0
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	0
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	2
Open Access land restrictions	0	0
Coastal Access/National Trails	0	0
NNR dedication	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	0

Any other LAF activity (please specify)

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LAF members attended a programme of summer site visits to locations of specific LAF interest thus allowing members to gain a perspective on the ground rather than just discussing in meetings. Another programme of summer site visits has been organised for Summer 2015. Two local Joint LAF Chair meetings have been attended in 2014/15.

### 5. Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>1</sup>

There is continuous feedback from the Council's Transport team on general transport schemes which affect the cycling and walking infrastructure in the town giving updates on implementation.

The council's integrated transport team have been providing feedback and information on developments in the local cycle hire scheme, cycle hub (secure cycle parking) and cycle training. They are keen to utilise the LAF as an alternative to a separate cycling forum.

### 6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

The Slough LAF is enthusiastic in it's outlook and presently the membership numbers are looking optimistic. Members are keen to engage with local groups relevant to walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough and seek to improve physical cross boundary links and relationships with other local LAF's. There is an identified pressure on resources available to support the LAF work.

### 7. Comments from LAF Chair

The challenges of attracting members (especially from particular activity groups); raising the profile of the LAF so as to attract those new members and also increase the degree to which it is meaningfully consulted; and finding resources to deliver improvements in public access are still priority issues. Nonetheless, Slough is fortunate to have intelligent and enthusiastic members as well as an excellent supporting officer from the Borough Council and so I am privileged to have been Chair for the last year. Progress has been made in raising our profile as a consultee and in dialogue with Computer Associates to reduce the frequency and duration of Ditton Park path closures; we have expanded the number of and attendance at site visits and cross-border conversation has increased with Chairs meetings that began as a venture between Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead but are taking on the form of Berkshire-wide Chairs meetings. We hope that from the wider meeting of LAF Chairs will arise greater cross-boundary working with commensurate results. It is our intention to maintain this progress and, in doing so, to secure improvements to access for key facilities such as the Slough Arm of the Grand Union Canal in which our neighbouring Buckinghamshire LAF can be such an important collaborator.

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<sup>1</sup> 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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**8. Any important information to bring to the attention of Natural England**

**9. Any other comments**