

**Notes from Yorkshire & the Humber Regional Local Access Forum
Meeting
Portland Hotel, Hull, 25 March 2009, 10am - 3pm**

1. Welcome and introductions

Karen Wood welcomed those present and invited them to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies were received from Roger Kite (Sheffield LAF), David Northcliffe (West Yorkshire Pennine LAF), Helen Wilkin (Natural England)

3. Welcome

Cllr Rick Welton from Kingston Upon Hull City Council welcomed those present to Hull, and gave an overview of the importance of access issues and the work of Local Access Forums, mentioning local examples.

4. Feedback from England Access Forum meeting on 11 March 2009

Hazel Armstrong and Richard Holmes fed back from the recent EAF meeting. Duncan Graham addressed delegates on behalf of EAF and invited questions. Topics raised included:

- Gating orders - Highways authorities should have a written adopted policy which includes a disability impact assessment
- LAFs to engage with Local Area Agreements (in particular with reference to national indicators relating to access).
- Rights of way and trunk road improvements
- ROWIPs – the need to link them into Local Transport Plans
- Requesting the EAF to encourage dialogue with organisations such as The Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, , British Waterways and Railtrack to promote access for all
- Dual status routes
- LAFs' experience of working with local planning departments

Duncan commented that LAFs in the region undertaking much good work, exhibiting much diversity.

5. Disability and Access to the Countryside

Yvonne Hosker provided a presentation on disability and access to the countryside. (Copy of handout attached). Participants raised the following points:

- Access was not only about access to the countryside in terms of recreation but also access to work and shops.
- How LAFs can engage with groups with visual impairments.
- Motorbikes can be an issue when opening up access routes.
- The need for partnership working with organisations (including transport providers) to meet legislation requirements.

6. LAF Updates

Information was shared by a total of 11 individual LAFs from across the region. They focussed on what makes their LAF distinctive, their achievements as well as the challenges (summary attached).

7 Future Meetings

A summary is attached of this facilitated session.

8 Coastal Access in Yorkshire & the Humber

Andrew Mackintosh provided a power point presentation on current Coastal Access issues. Participants from the coastal areas of the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston Upon Hull LAF and the Lincolnshire LAFs raised the issues of coastal erosion and flooding with Andrew who assured them that there would be an opportunity for them to comment during the consultation stage.

9 Close

Karen thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.30pm.