



Bracknell Forest Local Countryside Access Forum (LCAF)

Annual Report 2005

➤ Consultation on Local Access Forum Regulations

The LCAF was informed about a review of the Local Access Forum Regulations and invited to comment on the proposals. The majority of these were agreed with, although it was felt that forum membership should not be widened. Minutes from neighbouring forums would in future be sent to members for their information.

➤ Review of Forum Membership

At the 6th forum meeting in September, members were informed that as many had been in post for 3 years, they would need to formally state their wish to carry on as forum members prior to the next meeting. Forum membership would then be publicly advertised to fill any remaining spaces on the group.

Further Information

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/leis-local-countryside.htm>

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:

<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm>

The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002

<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2002/20021836.htm>

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Introduction

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) gave Bracknell Forest Borough Council, as the Highway Authority, a new duty to establish a local access forum.

The forum is a group of between 10 and 22 members of the public who are interested in countryside access issues; they advise the council on securing more and better access to the countryside for open-air recreation within the borough. It is governed by the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002.

Formation of the Bracknell Forest LCAF



In late 2002, press notices, posters and other adverts were used to invite members of the public to become LCAF members.

At the first meeting in March 2003, the LCAF consisted of 18 members. 16 members now make up the forum, representing a mix of countryside managers, users and other interests.

LCAF Work During 2005

➤ Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

During the year, forum members were presented with updates on the ROWIP and asked to comment on the consultation results, audit, network evaluation and analysis. A draft version of the plan was presented to the forum and discussed at the 6th meeting in September. Comments from forum members and the public consultation would then be taken on board and the final ROWIP produced by the end of March 2006.

➤ Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and Motorbike Problems



Construction of new Bridleway 25

TROs and the problem of illegal off-road motorcycling (mainly in Swinley Forest) were discussed at the February meeting. The forum was updated on the BFBC and Crown Estate rangers' and police's attempts to catch offenders.

➤ 'Syngenta' Bridleway, Warfield

The forum was updated on the progress of the diversion of Bridleway 25, Warfield, which currently runs through the Syngenta site. The new route for the bridleway will provide a wider, safer, longer and more pleasant route around the site. Construction and the closure of the existing bridleway and footpath (FP2 Warfield) is hoped to be completed in early 2006.

➤ Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Bill

The forum was made aware of the forthcoming NERC Bill which would bring into force Restricted Byway status for RUPPs and the extinguishment of an existing right of way for mechanically propelled vehicles in certain circumstances. It will also form Natural England, a new statutory body with responsibility for conserving, enhancing and managing the natural environment.



Hazelwood Lane, Warfield