

Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

JLAF Activity Plan 2018 - 2019

In 2016 JLAF agreed the following objectives to guide its activities in the form of a JLAF Action Plan, now to be known as the JLAF Activity Plan going forward:

1. *Objective 1 – to be actively involved in the ROWIP, open access, coastal access, 2026 and other access projects*
2. *Objective 2 - through advocacy, influence and partnership work to advance access to the countryside*
3. *Objective 3 – effectively communicate through the provision of advice and information on issues relating to access to the countryside*

For the period May 2018 – April 2019 the above objectives will be delivered through the following areas of work:

Objective 1

a) Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

JLAF will establish a working group to work closely with the County Council to the review the ROWIP in order to ensure the county has a well-maintained, legally defined and promoted network of rights of way and access land.

We will be seeking a network that provides opportunities for all classes of users but is sympathetic to environmental and land management constraints.

b) The Sill

The JLAF working group will continue to work closely with the Sill team to maximise the opportunities the Sill offers to engage people of all abilities through use of rights of way and access land.

Objective 2

a) Representation

A member of JLAF will be nominated to attend meetings of:-

- Northumberland National Park Management Plan Partnership
- Kielder Water and Forest Park Affiliates
- Northumberland Coast AONB
- North Pennines AONB
- North East Local Nature Partnership

b) Access and business

- JLAF will seek the views of businesses that either directly, or indirectly, rely on rights of way and access land in order to gain a better understanding of their needs.
- We will seek to establish a partnership with businesses, under the umbrella of the Revitalising Redesdale Project, in order to pilot ways in which businesses can

become more actively engaged in maintaining and improving the rights of way network.

c) Community Involvement

JLAF will continue its work with parish councils to encourage local involvement in surveying and low level maintenance.

Objective 3

a) Provision of Statutory Advice

JLAF will continue to respond to consultations on proposals that affect access land. We will establish a working group to deal specifically with forestry issues.

b) Provision of non-statutory advice

We will seek to be proactive in providing advice to key organisations whose activities could harm and/ or enhance access.

A working group will be established to develop advice from JLAF to Defra on the approach to access within a post Brexit agricultural support scheme.

c) Information provision

JLAF will review, and continue to add to, its series of position papers. Future papers will relate to gates and the use of trampers.

d) JLAF Communication Plan

Working with the National Park and County Council's communication team the JLAF will make full use of social media, and other means of communication, to raise the JLAF profile and disseminate information on access and rights of way.

A working group will develop and progress the JLAF Communication Plan.

Progress on delivering the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) Action Plan 2018 - 2019

In 2016 JLAF agreed the following objectives to guide its activities were:

Objective 1 – to be actively involved in the ROWIP, open access, coastal access, 2026 and other access projects

Objective 2 - through advocacy, influence and partnership work to advance access to the countryside

Objective 3 – effectively communicate through the provision of advice and information on issues relating to access to the countryside

Objective	Activity	Progress since JLAF meeting 18 October 2018	Proposed Action for 2018/19
1	Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)		Move this forward with NCC
1	The Sill		Sill Working Group hope to meet with Sill officers in 2019 to take forward access related matters such as access and health agenda
1	Other related activity not specified in Action Plan		
2	Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members still to attend meetings of listed groups. • NE Local Nature Partnership to be chased up as no meeting recently. 	Continue to input to these groups
2	Access and Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the questionnaire completed at previous Tourism Fairs and returned to both Alnwick and Hexham Fairs this year. • Outcome: Businesses would like a poster they can display in their business advising customers on how they can report issues with PROW (simple eye catching infographic?) 	<p>Production of an eye catching infographic A4 poster for businesses to display.</p> <p>Focus on specific topic for Tourism Fairs e.g. to link with Parish work</p>

Objective	Activity	Progress since JLAF meeting 18 October 2018	Proposed Action for 2018/19
2	Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah/Sue pushing forward with Eglington Parish PROW Project; hoping to submit an application to the Middle Moor Windfarm Fund in the autumn. • Ted to keep moving ahead with the disused railways project. • Continue to work with Revitalising Redsdale Project although quiet at the moment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete application for funding through Parish Council; start on improvement works. • Continue to move this project forward; contacting landowners, including in the Alnwick area following July '18 meeting. • Continue to engage with project.
2	Other related activity not specified in Action Plan	Text taken from JLAF leaflet, updated and sent to organisations for newsletters and promo purposes	Send text to selection of organisations e.g. AONBs and Kielder Water Forest Park.
3	Provision of Statutory Advice e.g. consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Direct and Forestry Commission • CRoW consultations 	Continue to respond to all consultations
3	Provision of non-statutory advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded to Defra consultation – Health & Harmony: the future of food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit • Input to survey on implications of Brexit for Northumberland and North of England • Agriculture Bill 2017-2019 consultation (Nov 18) • 2026 - cut-off date for adding historic paths to the Definitive Map is 1 January 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with any further activity emerging from outcome of the consultation • Responded to Commons Public Bill Committee • Ongoing
3	Provision of Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Fairs attendance • Move ahead with making available information on volunteering opportunities on website etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up task and finish group to prepare information and access volunteering • Position Statements on Volunteering, Dogs in Countryside and Shared Use Paths to do
3	Other related activity not specified in Action Plan	Government's Designated Landscapes Review (Glover Review)	A Earnshaw attended workshop Sept '18