

Membership of the Local Access Forum for the South Downs

You can find out what a Local Access Forum is and how they work on the governments website.

[Local Access Forums: participate in decisions on public access - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Description of Role

A member of the local access forum (LAF) will be expected to;

- Attend LAF meetings. These are likely to be held between three to four times per year depending on agenda items. Most meetings, unless they are site visits will be hybrid, allowing both face to face and on-line participation. Meetings will normally be held during regular working hours, but some evening or weekend meetings will be considered to ensure maximum availability of members.
- To spend some time outside meetings reading and preparing comments on documents that are sent out.

A member of the LAF may also be expected to;

- Volunteer to attend other meetings on behalf of the LAF or disseminate or gather information from other groups of which they may be a member.
- Volunteer to research a particular subject as an individual or part of a small group and report back to the LAF.

Criteria for Appointment

A member of a LAF must have an interest relevant to access to the countryside. The LAF must have a balance between those representing the management of land and the recreational users but there is also the need to have some representation of other interests that may be relevant. This could be a very wide range of things such as conservation, local business, people with disabilities, parish councils, minority ethnic backgrounds health and well-being or sustainable transport. Ideally a member will not just represent a single issue but will have experience in more than one relevant area.

Members are usually appointed for a three year term.

A LAF can only give its advice if a consensus is reached. Therefore members must be able to compromise and negotiate a position of agreement.

The number of members of the LAF who are also elected members of district and county councils within the National Park area and members of the National Park Authority itself is limited by the Regulations to a maximum of 3.



Training & Expenses

All successful LAF appointees will receive an induction, to provide background information about the Local Access Forum and their role. All LAF members will be eligible for reasonable travel and other eligible expenses.

See person specification below.

Person Specification

Requirements	Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
Knowledge / Experience	Relevant membership of interest group or profession	E
	Good working knowledge/experience of access or recreation issues	E
	Knowledge of the South Downs	D
	Knowledge of National Parks	D
	Experience of engaging with decision making bodies	D
Skills / Abilities	Strong communication and inter-personal skills.	E
	Ability to negotiate and reach consensus	E
	Ability to engage external partners such as land owners, farmers, recreational users or other stakeholders.	D
	Ability to think creatively and laterally to explore solutions and new ways of doing things.	D
	Ability to identify and maximise opportunities for the National Park	D
Personal Qualities	Awareness of when to compromise and when to seek a particular solution.	E
	Can work as part of a team, share ideas and information and solve problems.	E
	Able to use own initiative, be creative, seek opportunities and find innovative solutions.	D