

CUMBRIA LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

First Annual Report

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CONTENTS

	Page
1. Chairman's Introduction	4
2. The Cumbria Local Access Forum	
2.1 Statutory Purpose	6
3. The Forum	
3.1 Members and Representation	7
3.2 Advisers	8
3.3 Secretariat	8
4. What happened during the Reporting Period	
4.1 Regulations and appointment to the Forum	8
4.2 Formal meetings of the Forum	9
4.3 How we operate	10
4.4 Training and Development	11
5. Financial Statement	11
Appendices	
A: Terms of Reference	12
B: Members	15



"The CROW Act gives us a wonderful opportunity to increase responsible recreational enjoyment in Cumbria; the LAF will help to ensure that we do not let such an opportunity slip through our fingers"

Duncan Graham CBE
Chairman, Cumbria LAF



- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [News](#)
- [Meetings & Minutes](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Welcome

The Cumbria Local Access Forum (Cumbria LAF) is a statutory advisory body. Its role is to provide advice on countryside access in Cumbria (outside the National Parks). The Forum will advise the Local Authorities on providing rights of access to the open countryside, after the [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act](#) which became law in 2000.

We hope that you find this report useful and that it will help you enjoy what Cumbria has to offer

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Annual Report of the Cumbria Local Access Forum. We were set up in March 2003 to provide independent advice to Cumbria County Council and the Countryside Agency on matters relating to the CROW Act of 2000, in particular open access and the Right of Way Improvement Plan. We have 22 members representing a cross-section of those with interest in and experience of the issues.

At our first meeting it was clear that members were knowledgeable and enthusiastic but, understandably, a bit in the dark about our remit and how to discharge it. We set about an ambitious training programme, the details of which you will find elsewhere in this report. As a result, we have been able to advise a variety of organisations and institutions and have established good working relationships with partner organisations.

We have developed the principles on which we work. We are in favour of access as far as it is legally provided for and practicably sensible to provide it. We subscribe to the twin views that access should be available to all and that it should be exercised in an informed and responsible manner - the "Right to Roam Responsibly."

We have established good working relationships with the other Forums which have responsibility in Cumbria - those for the Lake District National Park and for the Yorkshire Dales. We meet with representatives of all the Forums in the North of England.

We have an excellent rapport with Cumbria County Council whose officers have served us well while respecting our independence. Our advice to the Council has not always been to their liking, but that is the way it should be. Concerned about a lack of resources for implementing open access and preparing the Rights of Way plan, we exerted some pressure which resulted in a significant addition to the CROW budget. We are grateful to the members of the Council in a time of financial constraint.

Perhaps our biggest surprise was to discover the contrast between the potential of Cumbria, outside the lakes, in terms of recreational and tourist potential, and the inadequacy of the provision historically made by the County Council with perhaps only 40% of footpaths passable, no front-line field staff who can work with the public, and as a consequence no volunteer involvement.

A few months ago we set up a sub-group to support the County Council on forward planning. I am grateful to its chairman John Bevan and his colleagues for effort well beyond the bounds of voluntary effort. In particular, their enterprise in identifying "Crow Islands" and investigating how to construct "causeways" to them in partnership with landowners shows great promise. The group has assisted with the preparation of responses to the seemingly endless succession of consultation papers emanating from DEFRA.

We have, I think, made substantial progress in our first year. Thanks to press interest and an excellent web-site set up by my Vice-Chairman, John Miles, we are getting better known, although there is much still to do in working with our local community.

I am quietly confident that we will have even greater success to report next year. My thanks, for their dedication and hard work goes to Forum members who give so freely of their volunteer time and their expertise. We acknowledge the sterling support of our advisers from DEFRA, English Nature, The Countryside Agency, and from the officers of Cumbria County Council, with a special word of appreciation to Rob Terwey and Jackie Currie.

Duncan Graham
Chairman
May 2005

2. CUMBRIA LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

2.1 Statutory Purpose

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the County Council was required to set up a Local Access Forum. The main role of the Forum is to advise the County Council and the Countryside Agency on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation, in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests.

The Forum covers the whole of Cumbria, excluding the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

The Forum gives advice on four main topics:

- (a) development of integrated recreation and access strategies which cater for a wide range of people;
- (b) strategic improvements to the rights of way network and related plans;
- (c) implementation, management and review of the statutory rights of access to the countryside; and
- (d) the development and implementation of information and educational strategies.

3. THE FORUM

3.1 Members and Representation

The Forum, when all vacancies are filled, has 22 members, all appointed by Cumbria County Council. The members of the Forum represent:

- (a) owners and occupiers of access land or land crossed by local rights of way, or
- (b) any other interests especially relevant to the authority's area
- (c) users of the new right of access introduced by Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (principally walkers) and users of local rights of way (eg walkers, horse riders, cyclists and carriage drivers).

The membership is balanced to avoid dominance by any single interest group or coalition of like interests and includes a cross section of local interests in the countryside. The Chair, Vice-Chair and members are independent of the County Council.

The current members of the Cumbria Local Access Forum are:-

Name	Area of Interest	Interest Detail
Colin Barr	Other	Walking
Robert Benson	Land	Land Management, User, Conservationist
John Bevan	User	Walking, Youth Work, Adventure Activities
Douglas Chalmers	Land	Director of the Country Land & Business Assoc.
Chris Clark	User Other	Riding and walking
Charles Ecroyd	Land	Land Management
Duncan Graham (Chairman)	Other	Countryside, environment, recreation, rural transport and deprivation
Harry Hawkins	User Other	Walking, canoeing, wildlife and archaeology
Bryan Jeffrey	User Land	Bird-watching, fell walking and land management
Brian Leah	User	Walking, cycling, canoeing and skiing
Jim Loxham	User Land	Conservation, recreation, access, rock climbing, and mountaineering
Jim McQueen	User	Countryside, access and recreation
John Miles (Vice-Chairman)	User Other	Walking, bird-watching, fishing, conservation and land management
Steve Mitchell	User	Outdoor activities

Jake Morley	User Land	Land management and conservation
Chris Woodley- Stewart	Other	Conservation, recreation, walking and bird-watching
David Young	User	Walking, mountain biking and driving

The Forum has 3 members appointed by Cumbria County Council; Philip Chappelhow, Duncan Fairbairn and Lawson Short.

There are currently 2 vacancies on the Forum, and we would hope to have a full complement of members by Summer 2004.

The Forum agreed that Members will usually serve for three years. So that it develops a continuity of membership, the Forum agreed that the first appointments would be for periods of two or three years.

3.2 Advisers to the Forum

The Forum invites the following to its meetings:-

Mr Rob Terwey, Cumbria County Council
 Mr Bruce Cutts, Countryside Agency
 Ms Kate Doughty, Rural Development Service (DEFRA)
 Mrs Erica Donnison, English Nature

3.3 Secretariat

Cumbria County Council provides the secretariat to the Forum:

Jackie Currie, Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle, Cumbria. CA3 8LZ

4. WHAT'S HAPPENED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD?

4.1 Regulations and Appointments to the Forum

Regulations

The Cumbria Local Access Forum was established under Statutory Instrument 2002 No 1836 - The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002. The Regulations were laid before Parliament on 16 July 2002 and came into force on 7 August 2002.

Appointments

The Forum elected its first Chairman - Duncan Graham and Vice-Chairman - John Miles at its first formal meeting on 3 March 2003.

4.2 Formal Meetings of the Forum

Five formal meetings have been held during the reporting period. The dates of these were:-

3 March 2003
30 April 2003
30 June 2003
19 September 2003
1 December 2003

The location of the meetings has rotated around the county to make the Forum more accessible to the public.

The agendas have embraced a variety of topics including:-

- (a) Operation of the Forum
- (b) Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 - Provisional Maps of Common Land & Open Country - Area 2 the Lower North West of England
- (c) Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 - Draft Maps of Common Land & Open Country - Area 4 the Upper North West of England
- (d) Tenure of Membership
- (e) Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 - Draft Maps of Common Land & Open Country - Area 5 North East
- (f) Appointment of Advisors
- (g) Consultation on Foot and Mouth Disease Closure Protocol
- (h) Terms of Reference (Appendix A)
- (i) Budgets 2003
- (j) Communications Strategy
- (k) Cumbria Local Access Forum - Website
- (l) Consultation on the paper on Regulations Relating to the Removal or Relaxation of General Restrictions on Access land
- (m) Countryside Access Strategy Project Report
- (n) Ravenstonedale Moor - Byway Open to All Traffic

Minutes, agendas and reports of meetings are available on the website at www.cumbrialaf.org.uk

4.3 How we Operate

(a) Terms of Reference

These were agreed at the third meeting of the Cumbria Local Access Forum in June 2003. These Terms of Reference set out the purpose of the organisation and the way it operates both for members and the general public (see Appendix A).

(b) Philosophy

As a general approach the Forum:-

- Favours access as far as it is legally provided for and practically sensible to provide;
- Believes that access should be available (within the bounds of reasonableness) to all existing and potential future users;
- Believes that access should be exercised in an informed and responsible manner.

(c) Area Representatives

The Forum appointed a number of area representatives, who then became the Cumbria Local Access Forum's delegates on the County Council's Area Transport Advisory Groups.

Representatives are:-

Allerdale	-	David Young
Barrow	-	Colin Barr
Carlisle	-	Bryan Jeffrey
Copeland	-	Vacant
Eden	-	Brian Leah
South Lakeland	-	Jim McQueen

(d) Website

The Cumbria Local Access Forum has a mission statement which sits on the front page of their website:-

"The CROW Act gives us a wonderful opportunity to increase responsible recreational enjoyment in Cumbria; the Local Access Forum will help to ensure that we do not let such an opportunity slip through our fingers".

4.4 Training & Development

Before each of the Forum meetings we hold training sessions, during the reporting period members received training on the follows:-

- (a) Where the LAF fits in to the Local Transport Plan
- (b) Demonstration project on how to produce an access strategy
- (c) Branding of the Cumbria LAF
- (d) Rights of Way in Cumbria
- (e) The role of the Countryside Agency
- (f) The role of English Nature
- (g) The role of DEFRA
- (h) Legal aspects relating to the work of the Forum
- (i) Management of Byeways
- (j) The Rights of Way Improvement Plan

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 April 2003-31 December 2003

	Budget 03/04	Expenditure To End of Dec 2003
Administration	4500	3146.08
Training	1000	
Communications	1750	
Research	250	
	<u>£7500</u>	<u>£3146.08</u>

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 TITLE

1.1 Cumbria Local Access Forum.

2.0 GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

2.1 The area covered is the whole of Cumbria excluding the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

3.0 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The primary role of the Cumbria Local Access Forum is to provide advice to Cumbria County Council and to the Countryside Agency on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation, in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests. The Forum will encourage and assist access provision.

3.2 The Cumbria Local Access Forum will give advice on four main topics:

- a) development of integrated recreation and access strategies which cater for a wide range of people;
- b) strategic improvements to the rights of way network and related plans;
- c) implementation, management and review of the statutory rights of access to the countryside; and
- d) the development and implementation of information and educational strategies.

3.3 In providing advice the Cumbria Local Access Forum will have regard to:

- the needs of land management;
 - the desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area for which it is established, including flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features of the area;
- guidance, including this document, given from time to time by the Secretary of State

3.4 The Cumbria Local Access Forum will work to:

- a) develop a constructive and inclusive approach to the improvement of recreational access to the countryside;
- b) respect local circumstances and different interests while operating with national guidance;
- c) provide advice on issues of principle and good practice which is consistent with national guidance;
- d) engage in constructive debate and seek consensus wherever possible; and

- e) where consensus is not possible, make clear the nature of differing views, and suggest how they might be resolved.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The membership is:

- a) balanced to avoid dominance by any single interest group or coalition of like interests; and
- b) includes a cross section of local interests in the countryside.

4.2 The membership includes:

- a) an independent chair and vice chair; the latter from a different membership category;
- b) a maximum of 22 members, including the chair and vice chair.

4.3 Members in total must bring a wide range of experience, including:

- a) recreational use, for example walking, riding, climbing and cycling;
- b) land management, for example, tenants, landowners and occupiers, and others with an interest in land;
- c) 'other' including tourism, health, business, trade unions, transport, nature conservation and heritage.

4.4 Members not necessarily experienced in the topics at 3.2, or aligned with any particular interest group may also be appointed. Three members will be appointed by the County Council.

4.5 The Forum should contain roughly equal numbers of members ascribed to each of the categories in 4.3 a, b or c. Members who genuinely have experience and credibility in relation to more than one category in 4.3 will be particularly useful.

4.6 Before appointment members will be asked to confirm;

- a) their support of the positive purpose of Local Forums;
- b) commitment to working within the terms of reference and achieving the aims of the Local Forum through constructive working with other members; and
- c) that they are able to devote the necessary time to attend meetings, training and to network with a wide range of interests outside meetings.

5.0 ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Meetings will be held at least twice a year, and more frequently when necessary.

5.2 Meeting agendas will be agreed between the chair, the vice chair and the adviser.

5.3 Meetings will be in public and advance notice will be given.

- 5.4 Agendas, papers and minutes will be available to the public.
- 5.5 Observers will be appointed to the Local Access Forum.
- 5.6 Observers will be able to contribute to the proceedings at the discretion of the chair.
- 5.7 The public will be able to ask questions on the business of the meetings at the discretion of the chair.

MEMBERS

COLIN BARR

From	Ulverston	Term of Appointment	2 years
Telephone	01229 861408	E-mail	info@barrecol.co.uk

Background

Colin worked for the Centre of Ecology & Hydrology for 32 years before taking early retirement and setting up an ecological consultancy. He has lectured extensively on countryside matters to a wide range locally based organisations. He is interested in all aspects of the countryside and particularly enjoys walking at home and abroad and has travelled extensively to fulfil this passion.

ROBERT BENSON

From	Penrith	Term of Appointment	
Telephone	01768 86807	E-mail	robert.benson@lowther.co.uk

Background

Robert has lived and worked in Cumbria for the last 30 years, working for the Lowther Estates. Responsible for all sporting management, the 40,000 acres of Estates Uplands and Commons.

Robert is a Moorland Association Committee Member, and he is also Chairman of the North Lakes Red Deer Group, the Eden Valley Deer Management Association and the Penrith Red Squirrel Group.

He combines his countryside work and interests with being Show Director of Lowther Driving Trials and Country Fair.

JOHN BEVAN

From	Appleby	Term of Appointment	2 years
Telephone	01768 353433	E-mail	johnbevan@compuserve.com

Background

Mr Bevan qualified as a scientist, and is now a retired Ombudsman doing consultancy work, mainly on activity safety and child protection issues. John is currently a member of Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee and has been for the past 7 years.

He is a hill walker and occasionally active on Rights of Way issues. He is responsible for drafting national submissions to DfES, DEFRA and the Countryside Agency on Activity Licensing, CROW and other access issues.

DOUGLAS CHALMERS

From Appleby Term of Appointment 2 years
Telephone 017683 53329 E-mail douglasc@clanwest.demon.co.uk

Background

Douglas is Director of the Country Land & Business Association in the North West and North East Regions, and as such represents landowning interests on many groups. He and his wife also own a small farm running Herdwick sheep and free range chickens.

PHILIP CHAPPELHOW (County Councillor)

From Penrith Term of Appointment 2 years
Telephone 0176 898740 E-mail philip.g.chappelhow@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Background

Philip was born in 1954 in Penrith in Cumbria and has lived in the Eden Valley all his life. He was educated at Morland Primary School and Appleby Grammar School and when leaving school worked on his father's farm. He married in 1977 and started up his own roofing business. Philip's hobbies include watching sport, playing golf and walking.

CHRIS CLARK

From Ambleside Term of Appointment 2 years
Telephone 0870 321 5373 E-mail Chris@CumbriaBridlewaysSociety.org.uk

Background

In the past Chris has been a British Horse Society Level 3 Assessor, Honorary Secretary of Cumbria Bridleways Society (CSB), and Chairman of the Cumbria Bridleway Society and was an Instructor for the Riding for the Disabled Group (RDA). Chris has written 4 trail guide books for horse and rider and was involved in the early Hierarchy of Trails Initiative. Chris is currently Head of Research for the Cumbria Bridleways Society, Chairman of the Lost Ways User Group Forum and a Member of the Cumbria Rights of Way Liaison Group. Chris has a good working knowledge of Definitive Map Modification Orders and other Rights of Way procedures. She also has an understanding of access problems and needs of the horse and rider, and access problems and needs for the disabled.

CHARLES ECROYD

From Carlisle Term of Appointment
Telephone 016974 72009 E-mail charles@ecroydc.freeseve.co.uk

Background

Charles was brought up near Armathwaite and went to college in Harrow-RAC Grencester.

After some 20 years experience in Estate Agency handling residential and commercial sales and lettings in London and the East Midlands he returned to Cumbria in 1996 and now manages the family estate in the Eden Valley which totals approximately 1,600 acres and comprises: 5 tenanted/let farms, woodland (400 acres), let cottages, salmon fishery and commercial shoot. He has been a member of Country Landowners Association (CLA) Cumbria Branch Committee since 1998, a member of CLA since October 1991, was elected to CLA Executive Committee in January 2001 and subsequently to CLA Legal Property Rights Sub-Committee in October 2003. He is actively involved in various county-wide fishery and woodland bodies.

DUNCAN FAIRBAIRN (County Councillor)

From Wigton Term of Appointment 2 years
Telephone 016973 43160 E-mail duncan.s.fairbairn@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Background

Duncan was born in Darlington and spent his early years here and in Bishop Auckland, moving to Cumbria in 1969. Mr Fairbairn has been a County Councillor for 3 years (also served as a County Councillor from 1977-1981) and a parish councillor for 33 years, with 2 parishes, but mostly with Aikton PC. During the mid 90s he was Chair of Aikton PC and during this period brought into the parish £16,500 to provide footpath/bridgeway furniture and three footpath pamphlets. Duncan is a member of the Lake District National Park Authority and the Solway Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). As a County Councillor Mr Fairbairn covers the parishes on the Allerdale/Carlisle & Eden Boundaries, all rural; they all have Footpath/Bridleway issues. Duncan spent many years in Financial Services and now works in Business Services.

DUNCAN GRAHAM - CHAIRMAN

From Colby Term of Appointment 3 years
Telephone 017683 52920 E-mail grahams@wendun.fsnet.co.uk

Background

Duncan's career was in teaching, local government and the civil service. He was awarded the CBE in 1987 for services to education. Duncan has had a lifelong interest in

the countryside, specifically the environment, recreation, rural transport and rural deprivation. He became Chairman of Eden Rivers Trust (ERT) after a successful pollution compensation claim: he initiated a successful lottery bid to promote habitat restoration, conservation of fish stocks, improved access and the economic regeneration of the wider Eden Valley. Duncan has a number of active interests including walking, cycling and fly-fishing. His interest in rural transport has resulted in his recently becoming Chairman of Fellrunner Village Bus and he is regularly to be found behind the wheel. His ambition is to see the CROW Act implemented with the support of all the stakeholders, and as far as possible, with consensus.

HARRY HAWKINS

From	Penrith	Term of Appointment	2 years
Telephone	01768 864340	E-mail	101503.673@compuserve.com

Background

Harry is an active member of the Ramblers' Association and is currently the Chair of the Lake District Area (Cumbria and North Lancs). Harry has lived and worked in Cumbria for 24 years but has been visiting it since 1961, he is now retired. Other interests are reflected in his membership of the British Canoe Union, the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Appleby Archaeology Group and the Society for Landscape Studies.

BRYAN JEFFREY

From	Longtown	Term of Appointment	2 years
Tel	01228 791964	E-mail	not applicable

Background

Bryan was born in Gateshead in 1936 and began bird watching and fell walking at Newcastle RGS in 1948. In 1960 Bryan obtained his Veterinary Degree from Cambridge and spent four years practicing in Brampton and then in County Durham. In 1971 Bryan took over a farm practice in Preston. Bryan has been a member of the Council of British Veterinary Association and the Society of Practising Vets. He has been President of Lancashire Vets and British Cattle Vets and the Chairman of the local and Lancashire county NFU. Bryan was also on the Lancashire Rights of Way Forum.

He is still fell-walking, though less vigorously these days, and does guided walks for the East Cumbria Countryside Project and naturalist bodies. He had 11 footpaths crossing his land whilst living in Lancashire but in Cumbria he only has 1.

BRIAN LEAH

From	Penrith	Term of Appointment	3 years
Telephone	01768 88714	E-mail	Brian.Leah@cobbetts.co.uk

Background

Brian is a solicitor and a partner in a firm based in Manchester but working most of the week from home in the Eden Valley. Brian specialises in employment law. He is a keen walker, cyclist (on and off road), canoeist and when conditions allow, skier. Brian was previously a social worker, working with young offenders, and was involved in outdoor activities with young people.

JIM LOXHAM

From	Coniston	Term of Appointment	3 years
Telephone	015394 41633 (home) 015394 41197 (work)	E-mail	jim.loxham@nationaltrust.org.uk

Background

Jim has worked in Countryside Management for the past 25 years, mostly in land management working with tenant farmers on farm projects, conservation, recreation and access, and also ESA, walls, hedges, and woodland re-establishment. Jim is experienced in upland erosion management and has strong inter-personal links with many organisations involved in land and recreational management. He is a member of the Countryside Managers Association, a retired member of the Association of British Mountain Guides and a member of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club. His interests include rock climbing and mountaineering, mountain bikes and walking.

JIM McQUEEN

From	Arnside	Term of Appointment	3 years
Telephone	01524 761798	E-mail	jimmy.arnside@virgin.net

Background

Jim worked for the Countryside Commission in the Northern Region and then in the North West with a variety of responsibilities including, giving advice on the funding and policies for National Parks and AONB's; Groundwork Trusts and giving advice towards landscape enhancement. Jim was responsible for the establishment of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, along with a small team on the practical research and report writing. Jim retired from the Countryside Commission in 1996. In 1996 he joined the British Horse Society as Director of Access and Rights of Way for the UK. Although not a rider himself, he understands the problems of the lack of bridleways and byways.

JOHN MILES - VICE-CHAIRMAN

From	Carlisle	Term of Appointment	3 years
Telephone	01228 670205	E-mail	j.miles2@ntlworld.com

John has worked in the Countryside for more than 30 years, in forestry, and wildlife conservation. John also worked for the World Bank in Egypt. John has experience of carrying out Environmental Assessments and has led bird watching tours both home and abroad. John's hobbies include walking and watching wildlife, football and cricket, fishing including haaf netting, gardening and travelling to explore new places.

STEVE MITCHELL

From Penrith Term of Appointment 3 years
Telephone 01768 486508 E-mail howtownoac@aol.com

Background

Steve runs Howtown Outdoor Centre on the shores of Lake Ullswater. He is an international mountain guide, skier, sailor, canoeist, and has taught outdoor activities all his working life. Steve has walked, climbed and dived (sub aqua) all over the world and has enjoyed National Parks all over the world. His hope is that the new Countryside Access Act will result in far greater access to the countryside for everyone.

JONATHAN MORLEY

From York Term of Appointment 3 years
Telephone 01347 888332 E-mail garrigill.estate@tiscali.co.uk

Background

Jonathan has been a moor manager for 25 years and is the winner of 5 conservation awards. He is the Chairman of the Game Conservancy Upland Steering Committee, a Moorland Association Committee Member and a member of the Moorland Management Advisory Group (CROW Act).

LAWSON SHORT (County Councillor)

From Ulverston Term of Appointment 3 years
Telephone 01229 820805 E-mail lawson.short@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Background

Lawson has had a varied in both location and employment. He has lived in many parts of the Country. Employment history includes the trawling industry as an engineer, oil rig supply and standby, the Norwegian Merchant Navy, the British Armed Forces (Royal Signals), and farming. Lawson studied Environmental Land Management with UCLAN and has a keen interest in sustainable farming. Lawson is the County Council's Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste Management, Economic and Rural Development and Regeneration. He is also a member of the LGA Rural Commission Steering Group, and Chair of the Waste Management Steering Group and the High Level Task Force.

CHRIS WOODLEY-STEWART

From County Durham
Telephone 01325 365438

Term of Appointment 3 years
E-mail chris.woodley-stewart@durham.gov.uk

Background

Chris Woodley-Stewart has been the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Beauty Officer since June 2001. He is based in Stanhope in Weardale, Co Durham, but works across the whole of the North Pennines AONB to co-ordinate effort for the implementation of the North Pennines AONB Management Plan. Chris is also the Secretary to the North Pennines (Durham and Northumberland) Local Access Forum. Previous work in the conservation field includes roles as the Chilterns AONB Countryside Officer, running a Countryside Management Project in North East Essex and being a Ranger in Cheshire. He has extensive professional experience in all aspects of countryside management, including access and rights of work, and has a broad knowledge of countryside issues.

DAVID YOUNG

From Workington
Telephone 01900 62563

Term of Appointment 3 years
E-mail david@blitz413.fsworld.co.uk

Background

David has lived and worked in Cumbria most of his life. From an early age he has been able to enjoy the countryside, first as a walker and then as a mountain biker, exploring the network of quiet country roads, bridleways and byways. For the last 10 years this access has been supplemented with the use of four-wheel drive vehicles. David's interest in rights of way led to becoming the North Lakes 4 x 4 club's Rights of Way Officer. With this position David became a member of the Lake District National Park Authority's 'Hierarchy of Trails' Panel.