

# Stakeholder Working Group on Public Rights of Way

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **Purpose**

Natural England has formed this Working Group to bring together representatives of the key relevant interests nationally to consider ways of improving access through public rights of way. In particular, the Group will:

- consider the issues and difficulties associated with the process of recording of pre-1949 and other public rights of way that are not currently shown on the definitive map and statement maintained by surveying authorities; and
- work together with the aim of reaching consensus on a balanced package of strategic reforms in law and procedure that in the Group's view would bring real benefit to the various interests potentially affected by the claimed existence of such rights.

Where appropriate, the Group will draw attention to other issues it identifies that may effect improvement of access.

### **Structure**

- A clear numerical balance between the three sectors of interest in this subject:
  - Land management interests
  - User interests
  - Local authority interests
- Membership of the group is by invitation of Natural England.
- A small enough group to permit workable debate on complex issues.
- The Group may from time to time ask others outside of the membership to attend meetings and contribute to discussions.
- A list of members is appended at Annex 1.

### **Style of working**

- Independent chairing ensures a proper balance of input from members.
- Honest, open debate among a group of people that listen to and respect each other's opinions, and expect their own to be treated in the same way.
- Members commit in advance to personal attendance at all the Group's meetings, which will be programmed in advance.
- A determination to make real, positive, innovative progress on a group of issues around this subject that in the past have proved difficult to resolve.
- A strategic approach, informed by appropriate expert input and evidence from within and outside the Group.
- Each member contributes to the Group of their own knowledge and experience, whilst at the same time acting as a conduit and ambassador

for the Group, encouraging others in their sector to input to the Group's work by sounding out ideas with them or gathering information.

- Natural England will co-ordinate the sharing of information both with and within the Group.
- Natural England will prepare a note of key points from discussions, to be confirmed with the Group and then shared more widely to enable others to contribute to the Group's work.
- The Group's final report, building on these meeting notes, will be drafted by Natural England and finalised with the Group through discussion and correspondence. The report will be made public.

### **Members' expenses**

- In general, it is expected that the organisations to which members belong will pay travel expenses; where this is not possible Natural England will pay travel expenses.
- Natural England will pay accommodation costs for meetings involving an overnight stay.

**Annex 1.**  
**Stakeholder Working Group Membership**

Chair:

Ray Anderson

Representing farming, land management and business interests:

Andrea Graham  
Alasdair Mitchell  
Sarah Slade  
Sue Steer  
Gwyn Williams

Representing rights of way users:

Kate Ashbrook  
Janet Davis  
Robert Halstead  
Alan Kind  
Mark Weston

Representing local authority interests:

Richard Gething  
Alex Lewis  
Rosalinde Shaw  
John Thorp  
Mike Walker

Observers

Paul Johnson  
Carys Drew  
Terry Robinson  
Gavin Stark – Secretariat  
Dave Waterman

*Further invitations to attend as observers will be extended to:  
The Planning Inspectorate and the Department of Transport.*

**Stakeholder Working Group  
on Public Rights of Way**

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2008	10:30 to 15:30	Nobel House, London
2	Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th November 2008	12:30 Wednesday to 14:00 Thursday	The Rutland Arms Hotel, The Square, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1BT
3	Tuesday 13th January 2009	10:30 to 16:00	1 East Parade, Sheffield, S1 2ET
4	Thursday 26th February 2009	10:30 to 15:30	<b>Sheffield- venue to be confirmed</b>
5	Monday 30th March 2009	10:30 to 15:30	<b>Sheffield- venue to be confirmed</b>
6	Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th May 2009	12:30 Tuesday to 14:00 Wednesday	Provisional booking made for: Losehill Hall, Castleton, Hope Valley, S33 8WB
7	Thursday 25th June 2009	10:30 to 15:30	1 East Parade, Sheffield, S1 2ET
8	Tuesday 8th September 2009	10:30 to 15:30	1 East Parade, Sheffield, S1 2ET
9	Thursday 22nd October 2009	10:30 to 15:30	1 East Parade, Sheffield, S1 2ET