



## Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Access Forum

### 2022-23 Recruitment

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Access Forum is seeking to recruit a number of new members to represent a variety of outdoor access-related interests...

#### What is the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Access Forum?

The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Access Forum (the Forum) is an **advisory group** established by the National Park Authority (NPA). Its main function is to provide independent advice to the NPA and the public on access matters relating to the implementation of Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (the Act) – i.e. Scotland's public access rights on land and water. The NPA is an 'Access Authority' as defined by the Act and has the same powers and duties as neighbouring local authorities.

#### Access Rights

Part 1 of the Act created a right of responsible, non-motorised access over most land and water in Scotland. The right includes outdoor activities such as walking, horse-riding, cycling, kayaking, swimming and paddleboarding. The 'responsibility' element of access rights is defined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (the Code). The Code gives guidance to both those taking access and to those managing land over which access rights apply, all of whom have responsibilities. (Links to both the Code and Act are provided overleaf.)

#### Purpose and Make-up of the Forum

The Forum comprises representatives of a balanced range of relevant interests including both access 'takers' and land managers. It advises the NPA with regard to its duties and responsibilities under the Act and offers advice to

both NPA and the public on a variety of access matters including core paths planning and issues associated with the exercising and management of access rights. The Forum also has the opportunity to input more strategically to broader plans relating to the promotion and management access and recreation in the National Park.

## **Time Commitment**

The Forum meets up to four times per year and meetings are generally in the early evening on a weekday and last for approximately an hour and thirty minutes to two hours. During and after the Covid pandemic the Forum has met online, but we expect to return to in-person meetings in 2023. For Forum members, meeting preparation is generally limited to a small amount of reading.

## **Who are we looking for?**

Candidates for Forum membership would be expected to have a genuine interest in public outdoor access and recreation in the National Park and be willing to work constructively and build productive relationships within the Forum for the good of all.

General requirements:

- someone who **enjoys taking access** in the National Park (e.g. as a walker/wheeler, cyclist, horse-rider, paddleboarder, kayaker, etc), and/or is involved with an access organisation; or
- someone who **manages or owns** land and/or water in the National Park over which access rights apply, or is involved with a land management organisation; or
- someone interested in access and access management from another perspective, e.g. a community organisation, development trust or business.

With regard to maintaining a balance of interests on the Forum, we are now particularly seeking people who can represent the interests of:

- People with disabilities
- Cyclists
- Water-based access takers (e.g. wild swimmers, paddleboarders)
- Local businesses
- Local communities
- Utility companies

**Of course one person may embody on or more of the above interests and experience and we welcome this.**

## **Expressions of Interest**

If you are interested in joining the forum (without obligation) or would simply like more information about its role and work, please email [accessteam@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:accessteam@lochlomond-trossachs.org), marking your email 'LLTAF Recruitment'. A member of the Access Team will then get back to you to provide further information on the role and the appointment process. An expression of interest will not be taken as a commitment to join.

## **Links to relevant documents**

The Code and further information about access rights and responsibilities can be viewed or downloaded from: [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com). The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 can be viewed at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/contents>.