

**National LAF Conference (South) 23 February 2016, Bristol**

## **Disability access workshop**

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### **Background and brief description**

The Gloucestershire LAF have set up a sub group - the Disability Access Group which is tasked with looking for achievable and practical ideas to enable the LAF to improve access for people with disabilities.

To date, the LAF have been working on the following: identifying people to join the forum to represent disability access; changing people's perceptions particularly within the local authority and among the landowning community about disability access; looking at Gaps, Gates and Stiles to try to reduce barriers to access; exploring the use of Radar gates; compiling a database of disability organisations in the county (challenge of making contact with lots of small groups); a grant application; identifying paths with a view to improving furniture to enable access for all; and identifying routes for the Disabled Ramblers and other Trampers users.

Future plans include: having a landowner/farmer representative on the sub group; getting a NFU/CLA rep to speak to the group about their position on Gaps, Gates and Stiles and removing barriers; and contacting the groups on the Disability Access Database to seek their views on access.

### **Other suggestions (identified in workshop)**

- Use a GPS tracking device such as 'view ranger' and download information onto the 'photo trails' website [www.phototrails.org](http://www.phototrails.org) This was developed by the Fieldfare Trust to provide people with more information and choice about where to spend a day out in the countryside. Each walk is described through a filmstrip and slideshow of photographs which let you see just what the walk is like. They include information on the surrounding environment, the walk distance and the features and highlights.
- Encourage use of QR codes to provide people with information about access
- Encourage use of Radar gates and keys