

**The Forum assists the Council to carry out its functions including:**

- ◆ **Publicising the Scottish Outdoor Access Code**
- ◆ **Deciding the need for Byelaws**
- ◆ **Upholding access rights**
- ◆ **Dealing with prohibition signs, obstructions, and other difficulties**
- ◆ **Formulating measures for safety, protection, guidance and assistance**
- ◆ **Acquiring land to facilitate the right of access**
- ◆ **Preparing the Core Paths Plan**
- ◆ **Maintaining the core paths**
- ◆ **Keeping the Core Paths Plan up-to-date**
- ◆ **Making path agreements**
- ◆ **Making path orders**

### **Further information**

**For more information on the Forum or to find out about getting involved, please contact the Council's Access Officer at the address below or visit:**

**[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/accessforum](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/accessforum)**

**where the notes from the Forum's meetings can also be found.**



### **How to contact the Forum**

**Access Officer  
Planning Services  
North Ayrshire Council  
Cunninghame House  
Irvine  
KA12 8EE**

**Telephone: 01294 324766  
Fax: 01294 324372  
E-mail: [accessofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:accessofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

# **North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum**



## What is a Local Access Forum?

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires each Scottish local authority to set up a Local Access Forum.

The Forum exists to:

- ◆ Give advice on access rights to the countryside and on the development of the local authority's Core Paths Plan
- ◆ Offer help in disputes about access rights

The local authority has the responsibility to manage outdoor access, while the Forum:

- ◆ Brings together all interested parties,
- ◆ Advises the local authority
- ◆ Contributes to the development of the authority's Access Strategy
- ◆ Helps shape the future of outdoor access in the Council area.

Forums play a key role in Scotland's distinctive approach to managing outdoor access. They will become valued local institutions - independent, expert and trusted - helping local authorities, land managers and those who want to enjoy Scotland's outdoors to make a success of the Act.

## North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

We were set up in 2003.

We meet once a quarter, usually in Ardrossan.

We meet more often when specific projects are in progress.

Our members represent:

- ◆ Walking, cycling, riding, canoeing and other outdoor activity groups (4 members)
- ◆ Official bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage (3 members)
- ◆ Our local communities (3 members)
- ◆ Farmers, landowners and others who manage our countryside (4 members)
- ◆ Substitutes for any members unable to attend

The Forum works to ensure that the outdoors can be enjoyed in a way that is fair to all concerned.

Our advice is:

- ◆ Impartial
- ◆ Well-informed
- ◆ Practical

## What does the Forum do?

Carries out statutory functions:

- ◆ Advising on the exercise of access rights
- ◆ Advising on the existence and delineation of Rights of Way
- ◆ Drawing up and adopting the Core Paths Plan

Offers advice to parties in dispute about:

- ◆ The exercise of access rights
- ◆ Rights of Way
- ◆ The Core Paths Plan
- ◆ Use of core paths

Acts as a statutory consultee on:

- ◆ Proposed Exemption Orders lasting six or more days
- ◆ Byelaws
- ◆ The Core Paths Plan

Contributes to the local and national access effort by:

- ◆ Shaping the Outdoor Access Strategy
- ◆ Advising on projects
- ◆ Responding to consultations
- ◆ Informing the National Access Forum and Scottish Natural Heritage of significant issues requiring national action