



## JLAF Glossary of terms and abbreviations – September 2003

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This is a non-conclusive and working list of terms and abbreviations used in Public Rights of Way and Access. Its purpose is to provide a brief introduction to the terms and abbreviations likely to be encountered in the work of the JLAF and further clarification should be sought where necessary. It is written with relevance to the JLAF area and thus may not be transferable to other areas. Errors and omissions excepted. Please contact the JLAF at [secretary@jlaf.org.uk](mailto:secretary@jlaf.org.uk) with any suggestions for addition or amendment.

**Access:** Sometimes refers to access to land; sometimes refers to access by disabled people (see below).

**Access:** Access is the right of all people, both disabled and non-disabled people, to use all facilities and services provided. Developing good access depends on improving information, organization and attitudes as well as removing physical barriers that prevent the full and equal participation of disabled people.

**Access Authority:** National Park authority or highway authority. Access authorities have certain powers and duties for their areas conferred on them by the CROW Act.

**Access Land:** Land shown on Conclusive Maps issued by the Countryside Agency (in England) as Open Country or Registered Common Land, and registered common land and land over 600m where no Conclusive Map has been issued, but not land that is excepted land.

**Appointing Authority:** The highway authority for an area, except areas of National Parks where the National Park authority is the appointing authority. The authority with powers and duties relating to Local Access Forums and Joint Local Access Forums, in particular with the power to appoint members to Local Access Forums and Joint Local Access Forums.

**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):** Designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, for their natural beauty, with the objectives of protection and enhancement. For example the Cotswold AONB and the Mendip Hills AONB.

**Auto Cycle Union (ACU):** 'The main objective of ACU Motorcycling GB is to provide all participants in motorcycle sport with enjoyable, safe and competitive days of sporting action'.

**Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES):** Bath & North East Somerset Council or its area. Bath & North East Somerset Council is one of the three partner authorities who have established the JLAF.

**Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI):** Best value is the way that local government measures, manages and improves its performance. Best Value performance indicators are used to measure the performance of local government functions so that comparisons can be made year on year and between councils. BVPI178 is used to measure the performance of public rights of way functions, and measures "the percentage of the total length of footpaths and other rights of way that were easy to use by members of the public".

**Bristol City Council (BCC):** One of the three partner authorities who have established the JLAF.

**Bristol Physical Access Chain (BPAC):** The Bristol Physical Access Chain is an access group which is open to any disabled person who lives or works in Bristol and would like to be involved in consultation on improving access. The group is called a 'chain' because disabled people need the 'access chain' to be complete - they need to get out of their homes, to use transport, and for the place they are visiting to be accessible. If one part of the chain is inaccessible or incomplete then disabled people cannot make the journey or use the service.

**British Horse Society (BHS):** 'The BHS is the UK's largest and most influential equestrian charity. It is committed to improving the welfare of horses and ponies, through education and training, and promoting the interests of its membership of horse riders and owners'.

**Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT):** A right of way on foot, horseback or bicycle, or in or on wheeled vehicles of all kinds including horse-drawn and motorised vehicles. BOATs are used mainly for the purposes for which footpaths and bridleways are used, i.e. by walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

**Byways and Bridleways Trust (BBT):** 'The Byways and Bridleways Trust is a small charitable trust formed in 1979 to protect Britain's network of ancient minor highways, more usually known as byways and bridleways'.

**Carriageway:** A way that has rights on foot, on horseback and in or on a vehicle.

**Carriageway mainly used as a Bridleway (CRB):** Also referred to as a Cart Road Bridleway and a Carriage(way) Road Bridleway. A non-statutory term used to describe some RUPPs during the surveys leading to the compilation of definitive maps following the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

**Carriageway mainly used as a Footpath (CRF):** Also referred to as a Cart Road Footpath and a Carriage(way) Road Footpath. A non-statutory term used to describe some RUPPs during the surveys leading to the compilation of definitive maps following the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

**Community Forest Path:** A 45-mile recreational route around Bristol, the Community Forest path is designed to help people get out of the city and into the countryside and green spaces.

**CON29:** The Local Government Association and The Law Society produced and revised in July 2002, CON 29 'Inquiries of Local Authorities', a non-statutory document used as a template for searches of land charges at local authorities. This is the form often submitted to local authorities during the purchase of a property. Questions on this form inquire as to the public rights of way shown on the definitive map and statement.

**Countryside Land and Business Association (CLA):** 'The Country Land and Business Association aims to be the leading organisation representing and supporting owners of land and businesses in rural communities, including all forms of land management, as well as tourism, services and industry'.

**Countryside Agency (CA, CoAg):** The Countryside Agency is a statutory body funded by DEFRA, which seeks to conserve and enhance the countryside; promote social equality and economic opportunity for the people who live there; and help everyone, wherever they live, to enjoy this national asset. It was created in 1999 when the former Countryside Commission and Rural Development Commission were merged. The Countryside Agency is the relevant countryside body in the JLAF area and has duties in relation to access land, for example the mapping process and the regulation of restrictions to access land.

**Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act, CROW):** Act of the UK parliament. Acts will be addressed elsewhere, but CROW included here, as it is an often used abbreviation.

**County Surveyors' Society (CSS):** An association of officers in local authorities. The Countryside Working Group encourages liaison and the establishment of best practice in public rights of way and access.

**County that Used to Be Avon (CUBA):** An informally used term to describe the area that used to be under the jurisdiction of Avon County Council, and that is now the areas of the authorities: Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

**Cycle Lane:** A designated space on a carriageway for use by cyclists. These are marked by a white line (which may be broken) along the carriageway.

**Cycle Path:** These are normally located away from the road, but may occasionally be found alongside footpaths or pavements. Cyclists and pedestrians may be segregated or they may share the same space (unsegregated).

**Cycle Track:** A way over which the public have a right on pedal cycles that are not motor vehicles and may or may not have a right of way on foot. A cycle track does not run alongside and is not part of a carriageway.

**Cyclists Touring Club (CTC):** 'CTC offers a comprehensive and specialised service for the leisure and commuting cyclist. CTC is the UK's largest cycling organisation with more than 70,000 members and supporters throughout the world'.

**Dedication Agreement:** An agreement made between the council of a parish or community and a person with the power to dedicate a new highway (including public rights of way).

**Definitive Map and Statement:** The legally conclusive documents that record certain classes of public rights of way, namely public footpaths, public bridleways, roads used as public paths, byways open to all traffic and restricted byways. All routes included on these documents are public rights of way. That a route is excluded from these documents does not mean it is not a public right of way.

**Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO):** An order, based on evidence, either documentary or user or both, that changes the Definitive Map and/or Statement. These orders either add, remove or change the status of a route.

**Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA):** Government department with responsibility for, among other areas, Access and Public Rights of Way legislation.

**Department for Transport (DfT):** Government department with responsibility for transport.

**Down:** Land comprising semi-natural grassland in areas of chalk or limestone geology generally within an open landscape. The typical vegetation type is unimproved grassland often with scattered scrub. It does not include agriculturally improved or semi-improved grassland, but may include areas of scattered trees, dwarf shrubs, streams, springs, or a mosaic of these.

**English Nature (EN):** A Government agency set up by the Environment Protection Act 1990 and funded by DEFRA. English Nature champions the conservation of wildlife, geology and wild places in England.

**Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA):** The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme was introduced in 1987 to offer incentives to encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices which would safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value. The ESAs scheme aims to maintain and often to enhance the conservation, landscape and historical value of the key environmental features of an area, and, where possible, improve public access to these areas. ESAs are administered by DEFRA.

**Excepted Land:** Land which for reasons listed under Section 2 and Schedule 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act is not access land. One example is 'land used as a park or garden'.

**Footway:** Footways are part of a carriageway and are for pedestrian use only. A footway (often a pavement) runs along the side a carriageway and is distinct from a footpath, which is separate from a carriageway.

**Forest of Avon:** The Forest of Avon is one of 12 Community Forests in England and is part of the National Community Forest Partnership. The Forest of Avon covers 221 square miles in and around Bristol.

**Forestry Commission (FC):** The Forestry Commission of Great Britain is the government department responsible for the protection and expansion of Britain's forests and woodlands. The Forestry Commission has specific powers relating to access land.

**Forum:** A Local Access Forum or Joint Local Access Forum, **the Forum** is a reference to the JLAF.

**Frome Valley Walkway:** A 20 km path running along the River Frome between Old Sodbury and Castle Park in Bristol.

**Geographical Information System (GIS):** Computer software that is used to hold geographic data, for example on public rights of way networks as a tool for the management of the network.

**Government Office South West (GOSW):** An outpost of central government. From offices in Bristol, Plymouth and Truro they represent the work and interests of several Government departments.

**Green lane:** Has no legal meaning. 'Green lane' is a descriptive term only and usually refers to a physical description of an unsurfaced track or lane, often enclosed by hedges and sometimes of some antiquity.

**Heath:** Land of a generally open character, usually characterised by natural ericaceous dwarf shrubs. Heath usually occurs in lowland areas on nutrient poor soils. The typical vegetation types are heathers, gorse, bilberry, mires, scrub, unimproved grassland, and bracken. It does not include agriculturally improved or semi-improved grassland, but may include areas of scattered or dense naturally regenerating trees, open water, rivers, streams, carr, sand or other bare ground, or a mosaic of these.

**Highway:** A route over which the public has a the right to pass and repass.

**Highway Authority:** The body that holds the responsibility for highway functions. This includes maintenance of public rights of way. This is usually a unitary authority or a county council.

**Institute of Public Rights of Way (IPROW):** The professional body which represents over 300 individuals who are involved in the management of public rights of way in England, Wales and Scotland principally as local government officers.

**Joint Local Access Forum:** A Local Access Forum established by more than one appointing authority.

**The Joint Local Access Forum ("JLAF") for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire:** A statutory body, established by Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land in the area of the three councils for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. Established as a result of the requirements of Sections 94 and 95 of the CROW Act.

**Land Access & Recreation Association (LARA):** 'The motoring organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association and acts as a national forum for the principal groups in countryside motor sport and recreation'.

**Legal Event Modification Order (LEMO):** An administrative definitive map modification order that changes the Definitive Map and/or Statement following a Public Path Order or other legal instrument. Sometimes called a 'Legal Event Order'.

**Local Access Forum (LAF):** Advisory bodies established by appointing authorities that fulfil the same purpose as the JLAF. Where two or more appointing authorities have established a Local Access Forum, LAFs are referred to as Joint Local Access Forums.

**Local Agenda 21 (LA21):** An agreement signed at The Rio Conference in 1992, Agenda 21 outlines objectives and actions that can be taken at local, national and international levels and provides a comprehensive blueprint for making the transition to sustainability. Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 document calls on local authorities to work with their local communities to achieve a local action plan, a 'Local Agenda 21.'

**Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** Usually the reorganisation as a result of the Local Government Act 1992 that created Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council as Unitary Authorities, but may be a reference to previous reorganisations.

**Local Plan:** A plan produced by planning authorities outlining the planning policy in the area. Included with every Local Plan is a map of the area showing the planning status of land.

**Local Rights of Way:** The footpaths, cycle tracks, bridleways and restricted byways within a highway authority's area and the restricted byways and byways open to all traffic within that area shown on the definitive map and statement. This definition is used in relation to rights of way improvement plans.

**Local Transport Plan (LTP):** Plans produced by Local Authorities on local transport published in full every 5 years with annual reports. They are used as the basis for capital funding for transport schemes. It is likely that ROWIPs will be included within the LTPs due in 2005.

**Modification Order:** see Definitive Map Modification Order and Legal Event Modification Order.

**Moor:** Land usually of an open character with semi-natural vegetation such as; mires (including blanket bog), heaths, rough unimproved acid grassland, and upland calcareous grassland. It does not include agriculturally improved or semi-improved grassland, but may include areas of unimproved bent-fescue grassland, scattered trees, scrub, bracken, open water, rivers, streams, bare peat, rock outcrops or other bare ground, or a mosaic of these. Moor usually occurs in upland areas but may also be found in lowland areas.

**Mountain:** All land over 600 metres above sea level and other upland areas comprising rugged and steep land, crag, scree, fell, or other bare rock and associated rough vegetation. It does not include coastal cliffs. It includes semi-natural upland vegetation, but does not include agriculturally improved or semi-improved grassland. It may include areas of bracken, scattered trees, open water, rivers, streams, bogs, mires, bare peat, or a mosaic of these.

**National Farmers' Union (NFU):** 'The democratic organisation for farmers and growers in England and Wales'.

**Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM):** Government office with responsibility for, among other areas, planning.

**Open Country:** Land which appears to the Countryside Agency (in England) to consist wholly or predominantly of mountain, moor, heath or down, and that is not registered common land.

**Open Spaces Society (OSS):** 'The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865. It is Britain's oldest national conservation body. The Open Spaces Society protects common land and public rights of way'.

**Ordnance Survey (OS):** The mapping agency for the UK. On most Ordnance Survey maps, the delineation of public rights of way is not necessarily authoritative.

**Other Routes with Public Access (ORPA):** A form of notation on some Ordnance Survey maps that shows routes that have not been transcribed from definitive maps but which may carry public rights.

**Parish Access Trail (PAT):** A scheme in South Gloucestershire to develop improvements to public rights of way, working in partnership with parish councils.

**Performance Indicator (PI):** see Best Value Performance Indicator.

**Planning Authority:** A district council, unitary authority or national park authority with powers to make planning policy and determine planning applications in their areas. They are responsible for producing Local Plans and issuing Supplementary Planning Guidance.

**Planning Policy Guidance (PPG):** Guidance on planning matters issued by central government.

**Planning Inspectorate (PIIns):** Works for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the National Assembly for Wales on a range of casework under Planning and Environmental legislation. The PI's work includes undertaking inquiries into public rights of way orders, planning applications and access appeals relating to the mapping of access land.

**Private Right of Way:** A right of way where use by right is limited and not available to the public. In order to distinguish the between private rights of way and public rights of way it is helpful to always refer to the terms in full.

**(Public) Bridleway (BW):** A public right of way over which the right is on foot, horseback and bicycle.

**(Public) Footpath (FP):** A public right of way over which the right is on foot only.

**Public Path Creation Agreement:** An agreement between a local authority and a person with the power to dedicate, usually the landowner, that creates a public right of way.

**Public Path Creation Order:** An order made by a local authority creating a public right of way.

**Public Path Diversion Order:** An order changing the route of a public right of way.

**Public Path Extinguishment Order:** An order extinguishing a public right of way.

**Public Path Order (PPO):** A generic term for legal orders made to change the public rights of way network. PPOs include Creation Orders, Diversion Orders and Extinguishment Orders.

**Public Right Of Way (PROW):** A generic term for a highway over which the public has a right to pass and repass, that is normally taken to include public footpaths, public bridleways, roads used as public paths, byways open to all traffic and restricted byways and to exclude cycle tracks.

**(Public) Rights of Way Liaison Groups:** Voluntary consultative groups established by highway authorities to discuss public right of way specific issues.

**Ramblers' Association (RA):** 'The Ramblers' Association is Britain's biggest organisation working for walkers, a registered charity with 139,000 members across England, Scotland and Wales. The RA has been looking after Britain's footpaths and defending its beautiful countryside for more than 65 years'.

**Registered Common Land:** Common land registered as a result of the Commons Registration Act 1965. Under that Act, 'Common land' is land over which one or more persons have a rights, termed a 'right of common', over the land in addition to the landowner, or is waste of the manor not subject to rights. Registered common land is to be access land for the purposes of open-air recreation.

**Restricted Byway (RB):** As a result of CROW, all RUPPs are to be reclassified as Restricted Byways. These public rights of way will have equivalent status to bridleways plus rights of access with a horse-drawn vehicle. The reclassification of RUPPs to Restricted Byways will occur when parliament makes a commencement order for the relevant section of the CROW Act. The date for this is not set as yet.

**Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP):** Sections 60 to 62 of the CROW Act require local highway authorities to prepare and publish Rights of Way Improvement Plans for improving local rights of way in their areas, taking into account the needs of the public including disabled people. To be produced by November 2007.

**'The new Right to Roam':** Popular but misleading reference to the new access to open country and registered common land resulting from the provisions of the CROW Act.

**River Avon Trail (RAT):** A scenic riverside path between Pill Harbour and Bath, twenty miles long.

**Road:** this includes any highway and any other road to which the public has access.

**Road Used as a Public Path (RUPP):** A class of public right of way where use is predominantly non-vehicular. The precise rights that exist over RUPPs are unclear. To resolve the difficulties raised by this situation, RUPPs are to be reclassified as Restricted Byways as a result of CROW.

**Rural District Council (RDC):** These were abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974 and a new local government structure with county and district councils or in some areas metropolitan county and metropolitan district councils was established.

**Secretary of State (SoS):** The minister in central government who carries the responsibility for a major government department. Usually in the work of the JLAF, this will refer to the secretary of state for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It may alternatively refer to the Deputy Prime Minister who holds the responsibility for planning matters, or any other responsible minister.

**Severn Way:** One of the longest marked walking trails in Britain – at 210 miles long, it traces the Severn Valley from source to sea, passing through Gloucester, Worcester, Bridgnorth, Telford, Shrewsbury and Newton. The Severn Way Bristol link is a footpath from the city centre that links up to the Severn Way.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** Site notified by English Nature under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 because of their plants, animals, or geological or geographical features.

**South Gloucestershire (S Glos):** South Gloucestershire Council or its area. South Gloucestershire Council is one of the three partner authorities who have established the JLAF.

**Street:** A legal definition that includes all highways, including public rights of way, but can include non-highway routes.

**Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG):** Guidance produced by planning authorities on a specific subject, for example, a SPG document may be produced on public rights of way.

**Surveying Authority:** The body with the responsibility of maintaining the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. Usually the same body as a highway authority.

**Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF):** 'The TRF is the National, voluntary and non-competitive body formed in 1970 by people who enjoyed exploring 'green lanes' by motorcycle. Their aim is to conserve our heritage of green lanes for everyone to enjoy. Trail riding is an 'active recreation' '.

**Traffic Regulation Order (TRO):** An order to regulate the use of a highway, including public rights of way.

**Unitary Authority (UA):** A council that has the responsibility for all of the functions of a local authority, that is, the functions that are carried out elsewhere between county councils and district councils.

**Urban District Council (UDC):** These were abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974 and a new local government structure with county and district councils or in some areas metropolitan county and metropolitan district councils was established.

Chris Hogg, JLAF Secretary, September 2003.