



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

JLAF First Annual Report DRAFT 2003-2004

Summary

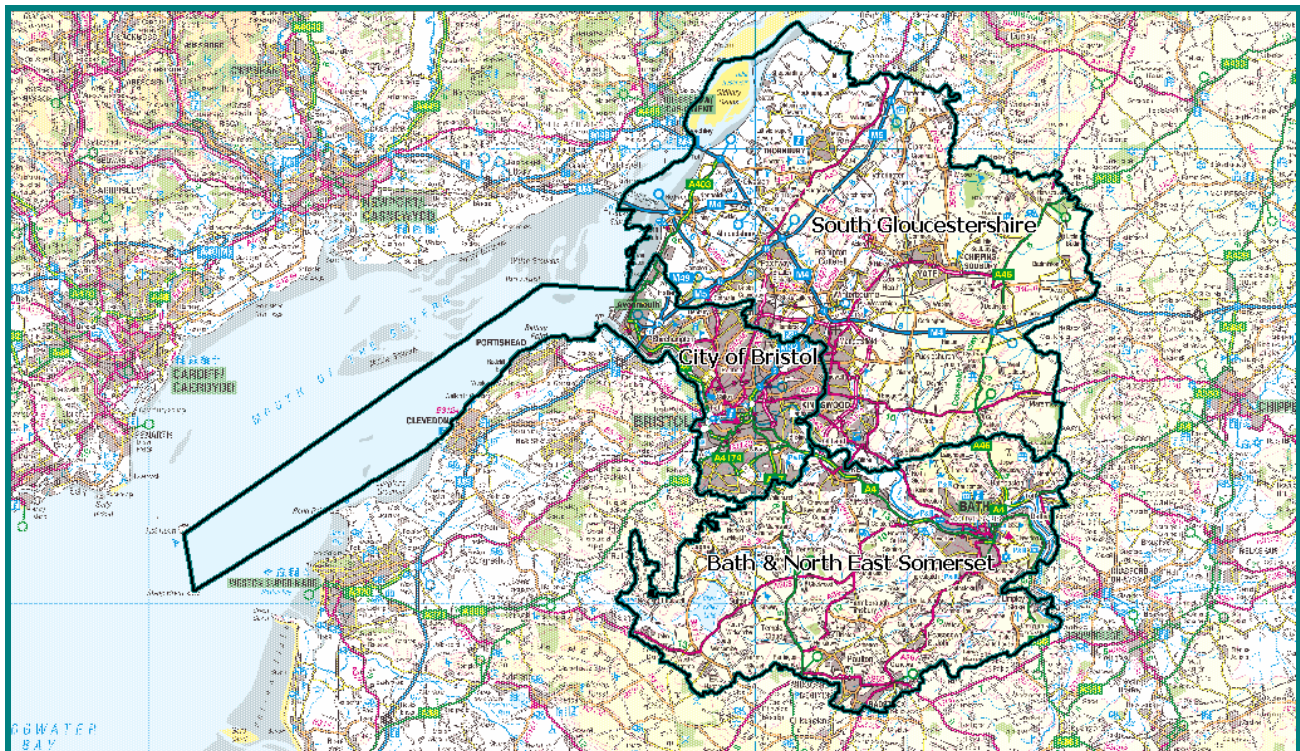
This is a report on the first year of the Joint Local Access Forum for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire (the JLAF). This report fulfils the requirements of paragraph 12 of The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002.

Establishment

The JLAF was established on the 5th July 2003 by the three authorities, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council to meet the requirements of sections 94-95 of the Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000 with The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002. The JLAF is supported by a secretary employed by the three authorities.

The JLAF Area

The map below shows the JLAF area of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire.



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Licence Number 100023334. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Additional information © JLAF

 Printed on Recycled Paper

The JLAF is a statutory body established by the three councils shown below, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land in the area of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. Its views do not necessarily represent those of the three councils.

Membership

The JLAF has 21 voluntary members, that is, one councillor from each authority involved and 18 other members. The councillor members are appointed annually by each authority. The other 18 members are appointed by the three authorities together, with a reasonable balance between members with landowning interests, user interests and other interests. These 18 members were appointed for periods of either two years or three years.

There have been no resignations from the JLAF in the first year. However, there have been two changes to the membership. Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council both changed their nominees in May 2004; Bath & North East Somerset Council's nomination remains the same.

At the first meeting of the JLAF on the 5th July 2004, the members elected Alun Morgan as Chairman and Ray Newbiggin as Vice Chairman for a period of one year.

The membership of the JLAF is shown in the table below.

JLAF Member	Area of interest	Appointment Period
Bill Blyth	Representative of other interests	2 years
David Colbourne	Representative of other interests	2 years
William Dawson	Representative of user interests	3 years
Ann Fay	Representative of user interests	3 years
John Gunnery	Representative of owner/occupier interests	3 years
Rae Harris	Representative of user interests	2 years
Peter Hart	Representative of user interests	3 years
Robert Killen	Representative of owner/occupier interests	2 years
Alun Morgan	Representative of other interests Chairman of the JLAF, JUL03-JUL04	2 years
Ray Newbiggin	Representative of other interests Vice-Chairman of the JLAF, JUL03-JUL04	2 years
Angela Nicoll	Representative of user interests	2 years
Ronald Phelps	Representative of user interests	2 years
Andrew Short	Representative of user interests	3 years
Adam Stratton	Representative of owner/occupier interests	3 years
Janet Wallis	Representative of other interests	3 years
Chris Weedon	Representative of other interests	2 years
Robin Winfield	Representative of owner/occupier interests	2 years
Paul Wynne	Representative of owner/occupier interests	3 years
Councillor Chris Cray	Nominated by Bath & North East Somerset Council	JUL2003-MAY2004 MAY2004-MAY2005
Councillor Evelyn Elworthy	Nominated by Bristol City Council	JUL2005-MAY2004
Councillor Christopher Orlik	Nominated by Bristol City Council	MAY2004-MAY2005
Councillor Arnold Lovell	Nominated by South Gloucestershire Council	JUL2003-MAY2004
Councillor Howard Gawler	Nominated by South Gloucestershire Council	MAY2004-MAY2005

JLAF Observers

There are a number of observers of the JLAF. These are bodies or individuals that are invited to the JLAF meetings, who can provide information to the JLAF or receive advice from the JLAF. These include a member of the executive of each council, secretaries of adjacent local access forums and government and agency contacts.

Meetings of the JLAF

The JLAF held three main meetings during its first year, on 5th July 2003, 7th November 2003 and the 12th March 2004. An introductory session was held before the first meeting. In addition to the three main meetings, a discussion group met to look at access land issues in detail. Papers for all of the meetings of the JLAF are available from the secretary and on the JLAF website, but below is a selection of subjects considered by the JLAF:

- Access Land introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The development of Rights of Way Improvement Plans by each of the three authorities
- Selected areas of interest: education, urban routes, local mapping and signage
- A proposed Avon-area cycle map
- A new Countryside Code
- Consultations on Bath & North East Somerset Council on Enforcement and a draft strategy for horse riders
- Consultation by the Countryside Agency on Access Land Signage
- Consultation by DEFRA on Mechanically Propelled Vehicles
- Consultation by DEFRA on Cross-Compliance

Documents of the JLAF

In addition to the formal papers of the meetings, the JLAF has produced a number of documents to assist its members and others in areas relating to the JLAF's work. These include:

- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - An introduction, August 2003
- Some background to the Law on Public Rights of Way, August 2003
- Glossary of terms and abbreviations, September 2003
- Area Statistics, October 2003
- Map showing the JLAF Area, October 2003
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans Handout, October 2003
- Access Land Handout, October 2003
- JLAF Update, May 2004

JLAF Website

A JLAF website was launched in February 2004 at www.jlaf.org.uk. The website includes all meeting papers of the JLAF, documents produced by the JLAF and other information that relates to the work of the JLAF.

JLAF Work Programme 2004/5

The following areas of work are among those that the JLAF expect to consider in the coming year:

- Access Land. The new right is expected to come into force in December 2004, and the JLAF will provide advice to the Access Authorities on the management of access land, and to the Countryside Agency on relevant restrictions proposed for land in the JLAF area. The JLAF is a statutory consultee for some matters relating to Access Land.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs). These are to be prepared by each authority by November 2007. It is anticipated that a ROWIP framework document will be produced this year, and the JLAF will provide advice on its preparation and the preparation of the linked Local Transport Plan. The JLAF also expects to provide advice on the following ROWIPs. The JLAF is a statutory consultee for Rights of Way Improvement Plans.
- JLAF liaison with authorities. The JLAF wishes to develop its relationship with each authority with a view to promoting the authorities' functions. Similarly, the JLAF wishes to develop its relationships with other bodies, including adjacent LAFs and the Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups arranged by each council.

JLAF Forward Programme 2004/5

The table below shows meetings proposed for the following year. This does not include any additional meetings including sub-groups that might be arranged.

Proposed Meeting Date	Agenda items submitted by	Pre-meeting, week of (suggested)	Papers available by
05 NOV 2004	15 OCT 2004	18 OCT 2004	29 OCT 2004
04 MAR 2005	11 FEB 2005	14 FEB 2005	25 FEB 2005
01 JUL 2005	10 JUN 2005	13 JUN 2005	24 JUN 2005