



JLAF08: Background Papers

Agenda item 7: Defra Consultation on diversions of rights of way: (1) for the protection of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs); and (2) temporary diversions for dangerous works.

NB: Following the granting of a short extension of the 4th November deadline responses, a JLAF response can be submitted to Defra following this meeting.

The consultation relates to the powers under schedule 6 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which introduced diversions of rights of way for the two purposes outlined above. Whilst the powers are set in legislation, this consultation relates to the approach taken in implementing the legislation. The following are the specific questions taken from the response form at Annex 9 of the consultation document.

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(1) SSSI Diversions

- Q1.** Does the form at Annex 1 adequately cover the scope and content of the information that should be contained in the notification of intention to apply for an SSSI order?
- Q2.** Given English Nature's undertaking to consult widely before making an application, and the provisions already contained in Schedule 6 to the 1980 Act for notifying orders, is there a need for additional persons, other than those already specified in legislation, who should be notified that English Nature propose to make an application?
- Q3.** Does the form at Annex 2 adequately cover the scope and content of the information that should be contained in, or attached to, the application?
- Q4.** Is there any reason why Defra should depart from the established forms for orders and notices in existing regulations?

(2) Temporary Diversions for Dangerous Works

- Q5.** What types or descriptions of works should the Government prescribe in regulations?
- Q6.** Does the form at Annex 3 adequately cover the scope and content of the information which the occupier should be required to supply?
- Q7.** Does the form at Annex 4 adequately cover the scope and content of the information which the occupier should be required to publish in a local newspaper?
- Q8.** Does the form at Annex 5 cover the scope and content of the information which the occupier should display?
- Q9.** Should the notice be displayed in any other places? Are you happy with the proposed manner and time it should be displayed?

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Agenda item 8: Rights of Way Improvement Plan

b. JLAF responses and ROWIP update

The following is a proposal for an approach to the assessment part of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

JLAF members are invited to comment on the approach, including comments on the factors included in the annex to the document.

Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council DRAFT Proposed Methodology for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Assessment

1. Context

- 1.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act 2000): Sections 60-62 outlines the duty of highway authorities (HAs) to produce Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) as a statutory requirement.
- 1.2 The Guidance describes the need for each HA to conduct an assessment of the network and the needs of existing and potential users. This document aims to show the requirements outlined in the Guidance and how the Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council's ROWIP proposes to fulfil these.
- 1.3 Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Councils are working together to produce a joint ROWIP. The final plan will be published by November 2007.
- 1.4 The ROWIP will be fully integrated into the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) by 2010. It will support and compliment the vision detailed in the Public Rights of Way Strategy Statement in the supporting documents of the JLTP, which aims to:

"...increase the use of Local Rights of Way by developing a network of safe and attractive routes which improves opportunities for sustainable access to essential services and facilities and which meets the present and future recreational needs of all members of the community, including those with visual impairment or mobility problems."

2. Resources

- 2.1 It has been agreed that two staff members will work on the Improvement Plan for a total of 3 FTE days per week. It is uncertain whether this capacity is likely to increase in the future.
- 2.2 The resources available for the ROWIP dictate that a detailed assessment of the entire network is not possible. It is necessary to rationalise the approach that is taken to fulfil the requirements of the Guidance.
- 2.2 Given that the PROW network in the area is at least 2000 km in length, we believe that much more useful information will be obtained by looking at sample areas of the network in detail than by looking at the whole network in a more superficial manner.

3. Requirements of the Assessment

3.1 The assessment is required to include:

- The extent to which the ROW meet the present and likely future needs of the public (as outlined in Sections 2.2.2-2.2.22 of the Guidance)
- Opportunities provided by ROW for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and enjoyment
- The accessibility of ROW to blind, partially sighted and people with mobility problems and their carers
- Needs and circumstances of people with a full range of expectations, interests and levels of ability
- Safety of users

3.2 The Countryside Agency has stated that an assessment working towards Best Practice should take account sites and locations that vary in:

- Location, scale and popularity of the main recreational attractions
- Land to which public have a right of access under Part 1 of the CROW Act 2000 (Open Access Land)
- Other land over which the public have right of access (e.g. MOD and Crown land)
- Beaches, lakes, river valleys, villages, viewpoints
- Areas open to the public under grant schemes
- Consideration of the "wider" network e.g. permissive routes, cycle tracks, towpaths and forest routes

3.3 The Countryside Agency also states that the assessment should seek contributions from and/or consult with:

- Organisations outlined in Section 2.3.12 and 2.3.13 of the Guidance, including the Joint Local Access Forum
- The public

4. Objectives

4.1 The objectives for the ROWIP assessment are:

- Fulfil the requirements of the Guidance where possible
- Devise a method that is achievable with the available resources
- Focus the method to provide the most robust and useful data possible
- Prepare a broad user assessment of the entire area
- Provide a detailed assessment of selected areas that can be extrapolated to provide guiding principles for the area as a whole
- Produce base-year data for existing usage of the network in the selected areas

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed process for the assessment will take on a two-tiered approach.

5.2 A global user survey will be conducted to produce data reflecting current and potential users' views and ideas. This will be conducted at shopping centres and town centres throughout the ROWIP area. The aim in doing this is to gain the opinions of "hard to reach" social groups that would normally be missed in consultation forums or organised events.

5.3 This will be combined with consultation with the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) and with user groups for their general views on usage and ideas with regard to the network and its management.

5.4 A more detailed assessment will then be conducted on a number of sample areas. These sample areas will be selected so that the combination will fulfil the criteria outlined in paragraph 3.2 and reflect the overall character and condition of the network in the ROWIP area. The objective of the focussed assessments is produce detailed data from representative samples of local users while highlighting network issues that recur throughout the whole ROWIP area.

5.5 The areas will be selected using a matrix, ensuring that the combination of study areas represent all of the criteria. An example of this matrix is included at the end of this paper.

- 5.5 Each selected area will undergo a detailed survey of users, and of the network, addressing the requirements set out in Sections 2.3.1-2.3.8 of the Guidance.
- 5.6 The assessment of users in each area will take on four key methods. These are:
- Postcard survey covering a random sample of dwellings within the area. It will give information on the project, the next stages in the assessment and will ask some basic questions about current and potential usage
 - Group consultation with stakeholders. The aim of these forums is to incorporate views from a broad spectrum of consultees reflecting the items outlined in paragraph 3.1
 - Site visits and consultation with the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) in order to hear views and ideas with reference to Section 2.3.16 of the Guidance
 - Face-to-face interviews with stakeholders to discuss specific issues and ideas
- 5.7 The assessment of the network in each area will:
- Include a physical survey of the local rights of way network in the area
 - Incorporate a survey of other access in the area
 - Measure use of the network in the area
 - Investigate potential use in the area and limitations to that use.
- 5.8 The aim of the process is to gain detailed and robust data that will inform a coherent strategy that can be applied to the whole ROWIP area.

6. Problems and Opportunities

- 6.1 In selecting sample areas, there will inevitably be issues that will arise that have not been considered in the assessment. It is proposed that as the document is "live", these will be addressed when they arise using similar methods of consultation. This will allow the principles adopted in these occasions to be incorporated into the plan formally during the plan's review. However, the areas selected for detailed study aim to reflect the issues in the area as a whole, thus minimising the frequency of new issues.
- 6.2 Producing a joint ROWIP between three local authorities could precipitate difficulties, in that each will have their own procedures and priorities. Regularly updates to the Heads of Service in each of the authorities will ensure that agreement has been reached at intervals throughout the preparation of the plan. The potential of a single senior 'project champion' is being investigated.
- 6.3 Effective cross-boundary working between the three authorities in the ROWIP area invites considerable benefits. A joined up and cooperative approach can produce strategies that will encourage all of the authorities maintain the same principles and ultimately work towards the same goals.

ANNEX: DRAFT FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN AREA SELECTION MATRIX

AREA DETAILS

- Name/working title of area (\$)
 - unit (e.g. ward/parish/bounded by ...) (unit)
- Local Authority (\$)
- Distance from other Local Authority (km/adjacent)
- size of area (Ha)
- population (#)
- population in surrounding 1 or 5 km cordon (#)
- Rural? (Y/N/mix)
- Suburban? (Y/N/mix)
- Urban? (Y/N/mix)
- Adjacent to urban or rural area? (Y/N)
- Distance from urban centre (minimum: km)
- Distance from an urban centre (e.g. shops, work: km or within)
- Distance from urban edge (minimum: km)
- Housing/estate types: urban - non-porous (Y/N)
- Housing/estate types: urban - porous, e.g. 70/80s cul-de-sac (Y/N)
- Housing/estate types: urban - porous, e.g. 50/60/70s public estates (Y/N)

- Number of settlements, for considering settlement links (rural areas, #)
- Number of public open or green spaces (# or significant)
- Index of Deprivation
- Arable/Pastoral/Mix (for rural)
- AONB (Y/N)
- Inside or outside Forest of Avon area? (Y/N)

ACCESS FACTORS

- Density of recorded PRO W network (nominal:high/med/low)
- Density of unrecorded network (PRO W/highways, cycle, permissive, parks etc; nominal: high/med/low)
- Recorded Footpaths (km)
- Recorded Bridleways (km)
- Recorded RUPPs and Restricted Byways (km)
- Recorded BOATS (km)
- Multiuser and cycle routes (km)
- "ORPA"s (Other routes with public access, km)
- Minor roads (km OR high/med/low???)
- CSS/Agri Access? (Y/N and area Ha.)
- Access Land (Y/N and area Ha.)
- Parks (Y/N and area Ha.)
- Country Parks(Y/N and area Ha.)
- Other land with access (Y/N)
- Other providers (FC/WT/NT/Sustrans/BritWater/etc)
- Local promoted route (Y/N)
- National/ regional promoted routes (Y/N)

CURRENT OR POTENTIAL USER INFORMATION

- Walkers: utility (Y/N/Possible)
- Walkers: 'amblers' (Y/N/Possible)
- Walkers: 'ramblers' (Y/N/Possible)
- Walkers: 'hikers' (Y/N/Possible)
- Joggers (Y/N/Possible)
- Sport (e.g. orienteering) (Y/N/Possible)
- Horse riders: individual or informal (Y/N/Possible)
- Horse riders: individual (Y/N/Possible)
- Horse riders: organised/trekking centre or stable) (Y/N/Possible)
- Carriage riders (Y/N/Possible)
- Cyclists: utility (Y/N/Possible)
- Cyclists: 'ambler' recreation (Y/N/Possible)
- Cyclists: mountain biking/ off-road (Y/N/Possible)
- Motorised: motorbike (Y/N/Possible)
- Motorised: >2 wheel (Y/N/Possible)

NETWORK ISSUES

- Gaps in available network (Y/N/possible)
- Severance (by road/rail/river) (Y/N/possible)
- Safety (Y/N/possible)

OTHER ACCESS ISSUES

- Development issues/ opportunities (Y/N/Possible)
- Nature Conservation designations (Y/N)
- Crime and ASB, real or perceived (later real only) (Y/N/possible)
- Perceived problems with use (e.g. illegal use)

FEATURES / ATTRACTORS

- High ground / views (Y/N)
- Nature Conservation (Y/N)
- Coastal (Y/N)
- River/Lake (Y/N)
- Heritage (Y/N)
- Picturesque etc (Y/N)

Agenda item 9: Access Land

Update of works on Access Land.

Bath & North East Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council are both involved in the Countryside Agency's Access Management Grant Scheme, for implementing works on Access Land designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

There follows a summary of the proposed works on Access Land for the financial year 2005/6, that has followed the advice given by the JLAF. It includes the five sites within each council area prioritised by the JLAF. In many cases the works will introduce timber or metal kissing gates on sites where there are currently stiles or no access. This will provide significantly easier access for many people.

Bath & North East Somerset

Access Land Site: Burlledge Hill

Improvements to access have been completed, including the installation of kissing gates and surfacing and revetment works to a section of footpath across the site that has been almost impassable in winter. Further proposed works include improvements to access on a footpath from the nearby village of Bishop Sutton, replacing a stile on a steep bank with a gate and steps. Access signage and information boards with site plans are also proposed.

Access Land Site: Breach Hill

Improvements to access include the installation of kissing gates in place of stiles, the installation of new steps and the provision of signs and information boards with site plans.

Access Land Site: Knowle Hill

Some clearance work has been undertaken at this site, signage and information boards with site plans are proposed.

Access Land Sites: Radstock (Bristol Road, Northfield, Southfield and Waterside)

Signage with access disks and information boards with site plans are proposed on all of these sites.

Access Land Site: Bannerdown

Improvements to access include the installation of access disks, large information notice boards and information boards with site plans on the public rights of way entrances to the site.

Access Land Site: Field North of Engine Wood

Improvements proposed here include the installation of a new footbridge, and the installation of access land signage with site plans.

Access Land Site: Prior Park

Four new kissing gates are planned to enable access through new field boundaries.

Access Land Site: Little Solsbury Hill

The installation of three new kissing gates to provide easier access are planned.

South Gloucestershire

Access Land Site: Spanorium Hill

The installation of seven kissing gates and new steps on a steep bank will significantly improve access on this site, and the public rights of way leading to it that also form part of the Forest of Avon trail. A bench and access signage are also proposed.

Access Land Site: Lower Woods

Significant improvements to access are proposed here, with the installation of new kissing gates and bridle/hunting gates on bridleways across the site. A short stretch of surfacing works to open a new route is also proposed.

Access Land Site: Broad Hill

Signage on routes leading onto the site, including boards with site plans are proposed here.

Access Land Site: Hanging Hill

Access Land signage and a new gate providing new access are proposed here.

Access Land Site: Cold Ashton

Works here include the installation of kissing gates, a field gate with pedestrian opening and surface improvements are included in the grant scheme. Also proposed are signage and information boards with site plans.

Agenda item 11: National Review of LAFs and Defra consultation on Local Access Forum Regulations

The University of Gloucestershire conducted a review of Local Access Forums for the Countryside Agency and Defra and reported on their findings earlier in the year. JLAF members received questionnaires as part of this review at the March meeting. Both the full report of 70 pages and a 14 page extract can be made available on request. Following the publication of this report, Defra, the Countryside Agency and the Local Government Association have outlined their response as an Action Plan, which follows.

Consultation relating to the amendment of the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002

The first action on this plan is a consultation on amendments to the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002 and this is enclosed with the papers. There follows an extract from that consultation paper, showing the summary of proposed amendments to the regulations. There follows an initial draft response to this consultation for JLAF members to consider.

From annex A at page 11 of the Consultation.

“

We invite views on whether Regulations should be amended in the following proposed ways:-

Proposal 1: We invite views on whether the Regulations should be amended so that the deadline in those Regulations is removed, thereby ensuring that there is a continuing duty on appointing authorities to have a forum (or forums) which cover their area

Proposal 2: We invite views on whether the Regulations should be amended to give appointing authorities the power to extend or reduce the area covered by a forum; combine forums with other forums; establish new forums; abolish forums; and/or, enter into or withdraw from joint arrangements.

Proposal 3: We invite views on whether an appointing authority, before making any of the changes referred to in Proposal 2, should be required to consult any other appointing authorities that the authority considers would be affected by the proposal. Similarly, the authority should be required to consult any existing forums that the authority considers would be affected.

Proposal 4: We invite views on whether the Regulations should be amended to give an appointing authority the power, when establishing a forum or entering into joint arrangements, to appoint members from amongst the membership of any forum(s) previously established by that authority, without a requirement for vacancies to be advertised or for the appointing authority to consult.

Proposal 5: We invite views on whether the Regulations should require appointing authorities to notify the Countryside Agency whenever (a) a new forum secretary is appointed or their contact details change or (b) whenever they make the types of changes referred to in Proposal 2.

Proposal 6: We invite views on whether the Regulations should require an appointing authority to submit a copy of their forum's annual report to the Countryside Agency.

Proposal 7: We invite views on whether the Regulations should be amended to reduce the minimum number of forum members from 10 to 8.

We are also inviting views on:-

(A) whether to extend the list of bodies to whom it is the function of local access forums to provide advice, and if so, which bodies should be included and why.

(B) whether the Secretary of State should prescribe additional matters on which local access forums should provide advice, and if so, what these additional matters should be and why.

(C) whether any other amendments should be made to the Regulations, in order to improve the effectiveness, operation or administration of forums, and if so, what these should be and why;

(D) how the Secretary of State's guidance to forums and local authorities should be revised; and

(E) examples of good practice which can be used in developing guidance for forums and local authorities.

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Draft response to consultation from the JLAF.

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DRAFT

Dear Mr Audcent,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your consultation document regarding amendments to the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002.

I have summarised the views of the JLAF for Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and the City of Bristol, and commented on each of your proposals in turn.

Proposal 1. We support this proposal.

Proposal 2. We can see the advantages of this proposal, but we should not wish to see a forum abolished unless it was subsumed into another nearby forum. Please also see comments made at view C, below.

Proposal 3. we consider that the authority should be required to consult other forums in the area before any changes are implemented as a result of Proposal 2.

Proposal 4. Whilst members from the "defunct" forum should be allowed to be considered for selection, we feel that vacancies for the new forum should be advertised in the normal manner.

Proposal 5. We strongly support this requirement.

Proposal 6. This should be automatic, and would provide the Countryside Agency with an annual summary of the activities, and health, of the forums in England.

Proposal 7. There is a danger that such a forum could become dominated by local authority members.

On balance, we consider that the minimum number should remain at 10.

View A. On the basis of our experience, we consider that the Environment Agency and the AONB Conservation Boards should be included. This should ensure that conflicting policy decisions are avoided at an early stage.

View B. The only additional area which has been suggested is the public's right of access to rivers and the shore. However, this may involve considerable legal expertise regarding riparian ownership etc, which may be difficult to obtain in a volunteer to the LAF.

View C. Under the current regulations it does not appear possible to appoint more than three members who are also members (Councillors) of a participating Appointing Authority. In order to address a difficulty where there might be more than three authorities involved in a Joint Local Access Forum, we suggest that the regulations could be amended to state that there should be a maximum of three councillors in a Local Access Forum, or a maximum of one Councillor from each appointing authority in the case of Joint Local Access Forums.

View D. Guidance is always useful when setting up a new forum - why reinvent the wheel| Probably the most critical factors will be the previous experience of the chair and vice-chair, and having a dedicated secretary.

View E. Our JLAF has a dedicated and experienced RoW Officer which has been a major reason why our JLAF has functioned satisfactorily. The examples of good practice listed in the CCRU report should be used to develop the guidance for members of the forums in England.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on your document,

Alun Morgan
Chair.

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ACTION PLAN TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP THE WORK OF ENGLAND'S LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS 25.10.05 DRAFT

The purpose of this Action Plan is to outline how the Countryside Agency, Defra, and the Local Government Association, intend to respond to, and where appropriate implement, the recommendations contained in the 2005 research report by the CCRU (Countryside & Community Research Unit), University of Gloucestershire.

The aim is to better support and develop the work of LAFs (local access forums) in England. The Action Plan is divided into seven broad themes, each of which includes specific actions. Details of action point contents may be found in Section 8 of CCRU's report. Please note that the Action Plan is not immutable – it should be regarded as a working document.

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Action by</u>	<u>By when</u>
1. Amending the regulatory framework to allow greater flexibility		
<u>Action:</u>		
(a) Invite views on proposed amendments to <i>Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002</i>	Defra	Sep 2005
(b) Responses considered, and LAF Regs amended	Defra	March 2006
2. Consider revising guidance to LAF members and secretaries, to clarify the role and remit of LAFs		
<u>Action:</u>		
(a) Invite views on whether, and if so, how the SofS guidance to LAFs might be amended, and invite examples of good practice which could be included in the guidance (or disseminated in other ways)	Defra	Sep 2005
(b) Discuss (selected) CCRU recs with CA regions, Defra, main interest groups (via ROWRC?), LGA (via Access Advisory Group). and CSS (via Countryside Working Group).	CA(LAR)	Nov 2005
(c) Collate responses, and make recommendations to Defra.	CA(LAR)	Nov 2005
(d) Consider consultation responses and issue revised guidance as appropriate (which may take the form of guidance from SofS or guidance from CA.	Defra/CA	March 2006

3. Revising the guidance to AAs (appointing authorities) on how they should engage with their LAFs and raise their profiles locally

Action:

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| (a) | Invite views on whether to amend guidance issued to AA's and other LAs | Defra | Sep 2005 |
| (b) | Discuss views on (selected) CCRU recs with CA regions, Defra, main interest groups (via ROWRC?), LGA (via Access Advisory Group). and CSS (via Countryside Working Group). | CA(LAR) | Dec 2005 |
| (c) | Collate responses, and discuss with LGA and Defra. | CA(LAR) | Dec 2005 |
| (d) | Issue improved guidance to AA officers & departmental heads concerning their role in 'sponsorship and engagement with their LAF. | Defra/CALGA | March 2006 |

4. Raising the profile of LAFs nationally

Action:

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|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| (a) | Update and improve the LAF section of the Defra web site | Defra | Sep 2005 |
| (b) | Add a 'dedicated' LAF section to CA web site | CA(LAR) | Nov 2005 |
| (c) | Encourage AAs to raise awareness within their organisations, including among their elected members | Defra/CALGA | Ongoing |
| (d) | Seek opportunities to increase awareness amongst members of the public, via agricultural shows, and radio (eg <i>The Archers</i>) and TV (eg <i>Countryfile</i>) programmes. | CA(LAR) | Ongoing |
| (e) | Encourage AAs and LAFs to contribute articles to magazines of special interest groups. | CA(LAR) Regions | Ongoing |
| (f) | Encourage AAs to issue press releases of good news about LAFs, as appropriate. | CA(LAR) Regions | Ongoing |
| (g) | Raise awareness, and ensure the function of LAFs is understood across Government (in England), and is reflected in policy developments, and new legislation as appropriate | Defra | Ongoing |

5. Developing additional resources for use by LAFs

Action:

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|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| (a) | Invite views on production of a generic LAF Member Information Pack from CA regions, Defra, main interest groups (via ROWRC?), LGA (via Access Advisory Group). and CSS (via Countryside Working Group). | CA(LAR) | Oct 2005 |
| (b) | Discuss views with Defra, and initiate action as appropriate. | CA(LAR) | Dec 2005 |
| (c) | Consider including advice or guidance on resourcing issues in revised guidance to LAFs and AAs (see 2 & 3 above). | CA/LGA/Defra | March 2006 |

6. Improving communication with LAFs

Action:

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|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| (a) | Continue to encourage/invite LAF chairs to attend NCAF meetings. | NCAF Secretary | Ongoing |
| (b) | Consider other measures to strengthen linkages between LAFs and NCAF. | CA(LAR) | Ongoing |
| (c) | Consider whether a national event should be arranged for LAFs | CA(LAR) | Nov 2005 |

7. Developing regional liaison arrangements for LAFs

Action:

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|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| (a) | Encourage LAFs to improve their inter-communication by supporting fledgling LAF regional network | CA(LAR) regions | Ongoing |
| (b) | Encourage improved lines of communication between LAFs and LAR regional offices, by supporting fledgling LAF regional network | CA(LAR) regions | Ongoing |
| (c) | Organise and/or support regional seminars, conferences, road shows, etc. | CA(LAR) regions | Ongoing |

DAVID GEAR
LAR LAF Liaison Officer
Oct 2005

Agenda item 12: Updates

a. Bath Definitive Map Project

This is an update on Bath & North East Somerset Council's Definitive Map Project. The project has been initiated to prepare a Definitive Map and Statement of public rights of way for the City of Bath, an area where no Definitive Map and Statement had previously been prepared.

1. Progress on Weston Ward

- A Definitive Map Modification Order to add 23 footpaths to the DMS was made on 23rd March.
- An objection was received to the order concerning the width of a footpath recorded between Lansdown Road and Brookfield Park.
- The Order was severed and the unopposed parts were confirmed on 29th September, meaning that 22 paths in Weston are now recorded on the DMS for the city of Bath.
- The objection was taken to Committee on 10th October. Committee have recommended that the order be referred to the Planning Inspectorate as made.

2. Progress on Lansdown Ward

- 17 paths were consulted on and a report was submitted to Committee on 12th July recommending that 14 footpaths be added to the DMS. (1 path will be looked into in more detail in Walcot ward as it crosses both wards and needs more research. It was felt that there wasn't sufficient evidence to add another 2 paths and they would be looked at outside of the scope of the project at a later date). Committee passed this recommendation.
- An order was made to add 14 footpaths in Lansdown to the DMS on 10th August. The end date for objections to the order was 29th September. Two objections were received.
- The Planning Inspectorate has been informed that the order will be severed. The Legal Team has been instructed to sever the order and confirm the unopposed parts (12 footpaths) on 16/11/05. The objections will be referred back to Committee at a later stage.

3. Progress on Lambridge Ward

- Approximately 39 paths identified in Lambridge.
- The paths have been walked.
- Ward Councillors and Interested Groups have been contacted to see if they have any more additional information regarding these paths and any not included.
- Letters have been sent during week commencing 24th October to adjoining property holders in Lambridge asking for information regarding paths in the area. Responses are being received.
- A small exhibition was displayed at the New Oriel Hall and members of the public were requested to submit any information they have regarding the paths in the area.
- Notices will be posted on all of the paths to request information from the public regarding the paths.
- Historical maps will be consulted and Land Registry searches will be done to ascertain the landowners.
- Once the information has been collated, a report will be submitted to Committee in 2006.

4. Newbridge Ward

- Research in Newbridge is scheduled to begin in November.

5. Definitive Map and Statement for the City of Bath

- 42 paths will be added to the DMS for the City of Bath. The Legal Orders for all of the paths included on the map have been gathered together.
- A draft DS has been written.
- DS to be audited, copied and bound.
- Map to be printed, sealed, copied, encapsulated, distributed and advertised.

Agenda item 12: Updates

b. Cycle Maps for the Avon area

A 'Map for cyclists' has now been published by each of Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council and members will each receive their own copies of the set of four maps. Their popularity has meant that reprints will be produced with corrections incorporated. Therefore, if there are any errors, or if JLAF members have any further suggestions then please contact the secretary.

Agenda item 12: Updates

c. Bath & North East Somerset Strategy for Horse Riders

d. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill

e. Liaison Groups

There will be a verbal update of these items at the meeting.

Agenda item 13: The next meeting JLAF09

(in Bath & North East Somerset on the 3rd March 2006)

Proposed Agenda Items

Following Meeting Dates

The following are dates for full meetings of the JLAF, following a pattern of once every 4 months, on the first Friday of the month:

Meeting Date	Location/ Host	Agenda items submitted by	Pre-meeting, week of (suggested)	Papers available
04 NOV 2005				
03 MAR 2006	Bath & North East Somerset	10 FEB 2005	13 FEB 2006	24 FEB 2006
07 JUL 2006	South Gloucestershire	16 JUN 2006	19 JUN 2006	30 JUN 2006
03 NOV 2006	Bristol	13 OCT 2006	16 OCT 2006	27 OCT 2006