



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

JLAF24: Background Papers

Some items on the agenda are addressed verbally at the meeting, thus papers for every item on the agenda do not appear here. **Further reading of interest to members can be added to the meeting page of the JLAF website at www.jlaf.org.uk** – contact the secretary if you need assistance with this.

Agenda item A1: Welcome to new members and introductions

Membership of the JLAF as at 1st July 2011

JLAF Member	Interest Category	Period of Membership
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Councillor Memberships (TOTAL = 3)

Councillor Nicholas Coombes Bath & North East Somerset Council	Nominated as Councillor Members	Nominated annually by each Council
Councillor Kevin Quartley Bristol City Council		
Councillor Howard Gawler South Gloucestershire Council		

User/Landowner/Other Memberships (TOTAL = 18)

Chris Barrable*	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Chris Bloor	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Jill Britten	Landowning	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Bill Dawson	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Ann Fay	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Peter Gould*	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
John Gunnery	Landowning	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Robert Killen*	Landowning	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Colette Linehan*	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Bernadette Macey	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Ray Newbigin*	Other	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Andrew Short	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Chris Simpson*	Landowning	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Sheena Stephenson*	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Adam Stratton	Landowning	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
David Waterstone	Other	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2012
Rachael Whitlock*	User	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014
Michael Youe*	Other	Appointed to the JLAF for 3 years until 30/06/2014

***New members appointed, or members reappointed on the 1st July 2011.**

Agenda item B5: Monarch's Way as a National Trail

This paper was prepared by Peter Gould, JLAF Member.

From the MONARCH'S WAY ASSOCIATION WEBSITE:

"The Monarch's Way, at 615 miles, is the longest inland route and second longest of any description in Britain. Running from the site of the Battle of Worcester to Shoreham in Sussex, it passes through two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, six areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and one National Park.

It charts the flight of Charles II from the battlefield to the safety of France. Indeed, the historical background to this route was a pivotal point in English History, making The Monarch's Way unique amongst long-distance footpaths.

The Monarch's Way dedicated Management Team has just taken an important step to preserve this most inspirational of dramatic journeys with their five year strategic plan, which they hope will culminate in the awarding of National Trail status.

The Strategy aims to build on the good work that has already been carried out and based on the criteria of Natural England for National Trails has the following overall aim:

1. To provide a path through the finest landscapes which is easily passable for as many people as practicable, which is safe and maintained sympathetically to its terrain and surroundings and appropriate for its use.
2. To ensure that the area through which the Trail passes is of the highest quality, with land adjacent to the trail managed for full benefit of the landscape and its habitats and heritage features and where inappropriate development is kept to a minimum.
3. To ensure that Trail furniture (stiles, gates and steps) is of the highest quality meeting British Standards and that users have a safe enjoyable experience that reflects the landscape in which they are travelling.
4. To ensure that people using the Trail have access to published information and relevant services (accommodation, pubs, cafes and shops) which complement their enjoyment of the Trail.
5. To ensure that the path is easy to follow with unobtrusive but clear signing.
6. Progress towards achieving these goals will be monitored annually throughout the lifetime of the Strategy.

The Monarch's Way isn't just about long-distance walking. The series of guidebooks written by the trail's creator, Trevor Antill, breaks the route down into enjoyable day walks. These detailed guides make excellent walking companions for those taking on the whole route or smaller sections of it."

MONARCH'S WAY ASSOCIATION

The MWA asked its "minders" to lobby English Nature prior to a meeting in May as one of the EN staff had been sympathetic. The MWA provided the following guidelines:

- Three years in the making, all research done by Trevor.
- The longest *inland* footpath in England.
- Identified on the Ordnance Survey Maps.
- Well way-marked in both directions by Trevor.
- Is of significant historical importance – restoration of the Monarchy.
- It is now sixteen years since the Monarch's Way was 'open for business'.

MY SUBMISSION TO ENGLISH NATURE

I understand Natural England has been asked to consider the Monarchs Way as a National Trail

The Monarchs Way Association has doubtless sent the Agency the basic case. I wish to draw two other arguments to the Agency's attention.

First: this route has the unique advantage from the Heritage/Tourist point of view that it tells a story rather than following a geographical or historical feature. As a consequence, it takes walkers through parts of the country that miss out on conventional tourism.

Second: because the route follows His Majesty's flight it zigzags across the country to link up other National Trails and unofficial LDPs in a surprising way. In other words, it makes a significant contribution to the strategic long distance walking network.

Plainly, this is a skeletal statement. Nevertheless, please bring it to the attention of the National Trails Forum as flesh can be put on the bones if the NTF decides to take this application to adopt an "off the peg" Trail forward to the next stage.

NATURAL ENGLAND RESPONSE

Thank you for your interesting email suggesting that the Monarch's Way should become a National Trail. Natural England has received several other emails on the same subject and has taken note of your request and the reasons for it.

Natural England provides support for local highway authorities to maintain the present family of National Trails to a high standard, completing the Pennine Bridleway and creating Coastal Access, which in effect will be a new National Trail around the entire coast of England.

At this point in time we are not considering adopting any other routes as National Trails. We recognise the importance of the hundreds of other long distance routes that have been created and appreciate the dedication and hard work that volunteer groups put into them. The responsibility for maintenance of public rights of way lies with local highway authorities, so you may wish to contact the authorities along the route if you have concerns.

Agenda item C1: JLAF response to 'Moving inland waterways into a new charity in England and Wales'



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

Chris Hogg, Secretary to the JLAF
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**Ray Newbigin, Chairman, Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman**

Reference: S:\Prow\JLAF\JLAF Meetings,Business\JLAF23 upto JLAF24\2011-06-30 Consultation - moving inland waterways into a new charity in England and Wales\2011-05-25
JLAF Response - Moving Inland Waterways into a new....doc

By email to: NWCresponses@defra.gsi.gov.uk

NWC Consultation Responses
Inland Waterways Team, DEFRA
Area 2D, Ergon House
Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4AL

Thursday 26th May 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

Consultation on the Government's proposals for moving inland waterways into a new charity in England and Wales

**This letter constitutes formal advice from the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)
for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire, in
accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.**

The Joint Local Access Forum for Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire is a statutory body of 22 unpaid volunteers set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Our remit is to advise Local Authorities, Government Departments and others on issues concerning the ready access for the public to the outdoors. The future of Canals and Inland Waterways is, therefore of great interest to us. We are privileged to have part of the Kennett and Avon Canal running through our area but the network of waterways is a national asset and we comment on that basis. Our concern throughout the consultation is to ensure that this "precious legacy", which largely owes its continuing existence to the "Big Society" should be protected and enhanced.

We note that although there are several questions about the effective financial management of the new charity the Consultation does not specifically ask for opinions about the Government's financial commitment. We are content with the proposals for the move to what has been termed "civil society" and we hope that it is likely that a viable financial arrangement can be found. However, the Government should fully fund the legacy need to bring the network up to standard. It is arguable that this is a moral obligation as the condition has deteriorated under the Government's watch. But more importantly it will remove the debilitating drain on morale that financial struggle will impose on the new body.

We have answered only those questions which fall within our remit and expertise.

Question 1 Do you agree that, over time, the charity should work towards including other navigations, including the EA Navigations in the next Spending Review?

The timescales proposed for this massive change seem extremely optimistic. We think the important thing is for any legislation to be of an enabling character and not overly prescriptive on the charity regarding timing of this initiative.

Question 2: Do you think that the proposed requirements of the Trust Declaration are the right ones? Are they sufficient/are there others which should be considered?

We agree strongly that the nation's waterways should be held and operated for the public benefit. However, the operation and management should take account of regional and national as well as local social, economic and environmental needs. The Declaration should also demand that the Trust co-operates with bodies representing cyclists, equestrians and other users. Free, and practical, access to the towpath is absolutely critical for the best use of the resource.

Question 3: Do you agree that the suggested charitable purposes for the NWC are broadly the right ones? Can you think of other necessary requirements?

We agree with the proposed charitable purposes for the NWC. The objective of 'facilitating a broad range of other recreational and leisure uses for public health and well-being, including safeguarding free public access to towpaths' is particularly important.

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposed 'mission' statement? How could it be improved?

In general we agree with the proposed mission statement. However we are concerned that the emphasis on "local" in the mission statement and other parts of the Consultation might be to the detriment of a wider perspective and see no particular reason for this word to appear

Question 5: Do you agree with the proposed 'belief' statement? How could it be improved?

We agree with the proposed belief statement. But see our comments on "local" above.

Question 6: Do you agree with the proposed 'vision' statement? How could it be improved?

We agree with the proposed vision statement.

Question 7: Do you agree that the New Waterways Charity should enjoy the same powers and be subject to similar legal duties to maintain the waterways as British Waterways currently is.

We would just make the point that the "non-operational properties" are not just an income generating opportunity, important, though, that may be. In many cases their preservation is critical to the landscape and ethos of the network.

Question 8: Do you agree with the proposed governance model for the new charity? What improvements could be made?

We note the complexity of overlapping boundaries and administrative areas and the need for a "co-ordinated approach". Much of this will be genuinely "local" but the 11 "Partnerships" are better described as "Regional" or "Area" because of an overarching role.

Question 9: Should funds raised locally by the Local Partnerships be spent on local priorities?

It would be better not to be unduly prescriptive about this. However, transparency would demand that purposes of fund raising should be made clear.

Question 10: Who do you think should be encouraged to sit on Local Partnerships? How should the nominations panel be constituted; who are the essential parties?

People who appear to the new charity to be representative of walkers and other recreational users (horse riders, canoeists, cyclists etc) disadvantaged groups, community groups, tourism organisations, nature or landscape conservation, heritage, impaired mobility groups, public transport, boating and business/commercial interests. Relevant organisations should be invited to recommend suitable individuals or to advertise for individuals amongst their membership. The appointment process should be fair and transparent. Local partnerships should aim to be socially inclusive and include individuals from diverse backgrounds, whilst maintaining a reasonable balance of interests. The Local Access Forum procedure might be a suitable model.

Question 12: Which are the particular subjects or activities you think may require the attention of a specific sub-committee of a local partnership?

It may be beneficial to have a sub-committee looking specifically at access and open-air recreation issues. Such a group could consider issues such as: how to link towpaths with rights of way or open access land to create better, safer and more effective recreational opportunities; whether land could be dedicated as open access land under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (which offers lower public liability as well as secures access in perpetuity); signage and maintenance; accessibility by, and conflict between, different types of user (e.g. walkers, horse-riders, cyclists, etc) and by people with impaired mobility; integration with other types of access and public transport; and promotion and publicity. These sorts of issues may be best dealt with a smaller group than by the full membership of the Local Partnership.

The sub-committee should work with the relevant Local Access Forum(s) in the area to improve access and, where appropriate, assist in the implementation of the relevant Rights of Way Improvement Plan(s).

Question 14: How could the charity encourage effective working between different communities and partnerships who share the same waterway?

Most Local Authorities have "Liaison Groups", which are offshoots of Local Access Forums, for public rights of way that bring together disparate users. This may be an appropriate model for the new charity.

Question 29: Which of the following suggestions for the name of the new charity do you prefer, and why?

"National Trust for Waterways". This is given a cachet by comparison with the "National Trust" whilst not unfairly encroaching on their "brand". Breadth and importance is given by "National". Any mention of rivers is confusing because very few rivers, as such, are covered. "England and Wales" is superfluous because there is little chance of confusion with what might become a Scottish version and unduly lengthy.

Yours faithfully,

[submitted by email from secretary@jlaf.org.uk]

Ray Newbigin, Chairman of the JLAF.
cc. Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman

Agenda item C2: Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Consultation



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

Chris Hogg, Secretary to the JLAF
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**Ray Newbigin, Chairman, Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman**

Reference: S:\Prow\JLAF\JLAF Meetings,Business\JLAF23 upto JLAF24\Home office ASB Consultation\2011-04-15 JLAF Response - Home office AntiSocial Consultation.doc

By email to: asb-consultations@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Home Office Anti-social Behaviour Unit
4th Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Friday, 15th April 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Consultation

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Joint Local Access Forum for Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire (JLAF) is a statutory body set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to advise Local Authorities, the Government and others on public access to the outdoors. Our 22 volunteer members are drawn from landowners, users of open air facilities and others with an interest in the open air. We write to contribute to the Home Office Consultation on "More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour (February 2011)". We confine our comments to those matters within our statutory remit.

For a number of years the JLAF has been concerned about the use of Gating Orders to close off rights of way and other neighbourhood paths at the behest of one or more residents on the grounds of local anti-social behaviour and/or the fear of anti-social behaviour. These orders are not subject to appeal or proper public scrutiny and there is evidence that they are imposed without proper concern for an even-handed approach between the rights of the public to have ready access to such routes and the residents' expectations for security.

This is not the place for a full debate on the rights and wrongs of Gating Orders but we make the point that effectively the general public is punished for the misdeeds of the few. We contend that the current review of the "toolkit" for practitioners in the area of anti-social behaviour is an opportunity to institute effective Community Protection Orders that target miscreants rather than places. While we accept that the authorities may on occasion need to close routes and areas temporarily such powers would be more transparent and accountable than the current resort to Gating Orders.

In summary the JLAF would like to see the law relating to Gating Orders repealed and replaced with effective measures against anti-social persons as described in the consultation document.

Yours faithfully,

[submitted by email from secretary@jlaf.org.uk]

Ray Newbigin, Chairman of the JLAF.

cc. Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman

Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman

Agenda item D1: Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice



The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty

June 2011

CM 8082

£20.50

Executive summary: the natural choice

1. Nature is sometimes taken for granted and undervalued. But people cannot flourish without the benefits and services our natural environment provides. Nature is a complex, interconnected system. A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing.

2. This is why we must properly value the economic and social benefits of a healthy natural environment while continuing to recognise nature's intrinsic value. The Government wants this to be the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than it inherited. To achieve so much means taking action across sectors rather than treating environmental concerns in isolation. It requires us all to put the value of nature at the heart of our decision-making – in Government, local communities and businesses. In this way we will improve the quality and increase the value of the natural environment across England.

3. We will mainstream the value of nature across our society by:

- facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature;
- creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature;
- strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and
- showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally.

Protecting and improving our natural environment

4. The National Ecosystem Assessment shows that over 30% of the services provided by our natural environment are in decline. The Lawton Report, *Making Space for Nature*, found that nature in England is highly fragmented and unable to respond effectively to new pressures such as climate and demographic change.

5. Past action has often taken place on too small a scale. We want to promote an ambitious, integrated approach, creating a resilient ecological network across England. We will move from net biodiversity loss to net gain, by supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems and coherent ecological networks. We will publish a new Biodiversity Strategy for England, responding to our international commitments and setting a new direction for policy over the next decade.

6. We will establish a clear institutional framework to achieve the recovery of nature:

- We will establish Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) to strengthen local action. LNPs will enable local leadership and may operate across administrative boundaries. They will raise awareness about the services and benefits of a healthy natural environment. They will contribute to the green economy and complement Local Enterprise Partnerships, with which we are encouraging them to form strong links.
- We will create new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) to enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale, where the opportunities and benefits justify such action. Local partnerships will come together to form NIAs. We will set up a competition to identify 12 initial areas and will provide £7.5 million to support this.
- Through reforms of the planning system, we will take a strategic approach to planning for nature within and across local areas. This approach will guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks. We will retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system. We will establish a new, voluntary approach to biodiversity offsets and test our approach in pilot areas.

7. More broadly we will achieve a better quality natural environment by taking and promoting concerted action across our farmed land, woodlands and forests, towns and cities, and rivers and water bodies. We will press ahead with our ambitious commitments for the marine environment.

Growing a green economy

8. Economic growth and the natural environment are mutually compatible. Sustainable economic growth relies on services provided by the natural environment, often referred to as 'ecosystem services'. Some of these are provided directly, such as food, timber and energy. Others are indirect, such as climate regulation, water purification and the productivity of soil.

9. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study shows that protected natural areas can yield returns many times higher than the cost of their protection. There are multi-million pound opportunities available from greener goods and services, and from markets that protect nature's services.

10. Too many of the benefits we derive from nature are not properly valued. The value of natural capital is not fully captured in the prices customers pay, in the operations of our markets or in the accounts of government or business. When nature is undervalued, bad choices can be made.

11. We will put natural capital at the centre of economic thinking and at the heart of the way we measure economic progress nationally. We will include natural capital within the UK Environmental Accounts. We will establish an independent Natural Capital Committee to advise the Government on the state of natural capital in England.

12. Government alone cannot create a greener economy. Markets that trade sustainably in natural goods and services are essential. More businesses should benefit from new market opportunities, and from using natural capital more sustainably in their own supply chains. Government and business have a shared interest in protecting natural capital and should work together. Action we are taking includes the following:

- We will publish an action plan to expand markets and schemes in which payments are made by the beneficiary of a natural service to the provider of that service.
- We will set up a business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force to review the opportunities for UK business from expanding the trade in green goods and the market for sustainable natural services.
- We will publish a review of waste policy later this year.
- We will issue new guidance for businesses by 2012 on how to measure and report corporate environmental impacts.

Reconnecting people and nature

13. The NEA and the Marmot Review, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*, demonstrate the positive impact that nature has on mental and physical health. High-quality natural environments foster healthy neighbourhoods; green spaces encourage social activity and reduce crime. The natural environment can help children's learning.

14. Human activity can, in return, enrich nature. Voluntary activity to improve wildlife habitats or remove litter increases the value of nature. Well-informed choices made by people in their everyday lives – for example as shoppers, householders and gardeners – also have a positive impact. These connections are good for people and good for nature.

15. We need to make enhancing nature a central goal of social action across the country. We want to make it easier for people to do the right thing, with action in the health and education systems and in our communities. Particular action includes the following:

- To help local authorities use their new duties and powers on public health, Public Health England will publish practical evidence about improving health, including through access to a good natural environment.
- We will remove barriers to learning outdoors and increase schools' abilities to teach outdoors when they wish to do so.
- We will create a new 'Local Green Areas' designation to allow local people to protect the green areas that are important to them.
- We will establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership with civil society to support the development of green infrastructure in England.
- We will launch a new phase of the Muck In4Life campaign, offering volunteering opportunities to improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside.

International and EU leadership

16. We will show environmental leadership internationally and within the EU, to protect and enhance natural assets globally, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable growth. We will advance internationally the approach and principles set out in this White Paper.

17. We will press for effective implementation of the 2010 Nagoya agreement by the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, we will promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

18. We will improve the quality of the lives of some of the poorest people on the planet by providing £25 million for biodiversity and ecosystem projects through the Darwin Initiative. Through the International Climate Fund, we will support action to prevent dangerous climate change in developing countries and help those affected by the change that is happening. The £2.9 billion of finance we have announced for 2011–15 will include funding to reduce emissions from deforestation and achieve biodiversity benefits.

19. We want the EU to become the world's largest green economy and market for environmentally sustainable goods and services. We will work with our partners to put in place appropriate strategies and sectoral policies, to achieve low-carbon, resource-efficient growth. We are working to achieve:

- greening of the Common Agricultural and Common Fisheries Policies to improve environmental benefits, while achieving our other policy goals;
- implementation of an ambitious new EU Biodiversity Strategy, to put into effect what was agreed at Nagoya;
- a powerful 'EU2020 Strategy' that achieves low-carbon, resource-efficient growth; and
- an effective EU Roadmap for a Resource-Efficient Europe.

Monitoring and reporting

20. We will develop a set of key indicators by spring 2012 to track progress on this White Paper. We will publish periodically a single concise and integrated report about the state of the English environment.

Annex I: Commitments

Chapter 2: Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment

We want to improve the quality of our natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. We aim to arrest the decline in habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes. We will protect priority habitats and safeguard vulnerable non-renewable resources for future generations. We will support natural systems to function more effectively in town, in the country and at sea. We will achieve this through joined-up action at local and national level to create an ecological network which is resilient to changing pressures.

A vision for nature

- 1 Building on the National Ecosystem Assessment, the Government will support a further phase of ground-breaking research. It will investigate the mix of future actions most likely to secure the most benefits for nature and for people from our ecosystems. It will also develop practical tools to assist decision-makers in applying the lessons of the NEA. [15]
- 2 We will publish a new Biodiversity Strategy for England to follow this White Paper. It will respond to our international commitments and set a new strategic direction for biodiversity policy in England for the next decade. [15]
- 3 Our 2020 mission is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. [17]

Local Nature Partnerships

- 4 We will encourage and support Local Nature Partnerships where local areas wish to establish them. These partnerships will work at a strategic scale to improve the range of benefits and services we get from a healthy natural environment. They will aim to improve the multiple benefits we receive from good management of the land. [19]
- 5 Partnerships which fulfil the broad vision set out in this White Paper will be recognised by Government and its environmental bodies. We will host an annual Ministerial event at which

partnerships can come together to share best practice, discuss implementation issues and celebrate success. We will maintain a partnership database on the internet. [20]

- 6 The Government wants to provide support to both new and existing partnerships wishing to adopt an integrated, landscape scale approach. We will provide a one-off fund in 2011/12 worth £1 million, to develop Local Nature Partnerships. [20]
- 7 We will inaugurate a network of 50 Natural Value Ambassadors to engage key decision-makers and opinion formers using the latest evidence and materials available. [20]

Nature Improvement Areas

- 8 We will enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), based on a local assessment of opportunities for restoring and connecting nature on a significant scale. [21]
- 9 To provide inspiration and illustrate what works the Government will support the creation of Nature Improvement Areas. Natural England will set up a competition to identify 12 initial areas. We will provide £7.5 million over the current Spending Review period. [21]
- 10 Working within the framework of the National Policy Statements and the Government's planning reforms (see below), local authorities will be able to use local planning to support Nature Improvement Areas, including identifying them in their local plans where they choose, while not deterring sustainable development. [21]
- 11 We will capture the learning from Nature Improvement Areas, and review whether further action is needed in planning policy, regulation or capacity building, to support their development. [21]
- 12 The Government's environmental bodies are reforming the way they work together, to provide more coherent advice to local partners. This means sharing information to

help practitioners prioritise action based on environmental risks and opportunities. [23]

- 13** We will maximise the contribution which Environmental Stewardship and the Woodland Grant Scheme make towards our over arching objective to promote multiple benefits from ecological restoration at a landscape scale, including through Nature Improvement Areas. [21]

Protecting natural value through the planning system

- 14** The Government will consult extensively on a draft of the National Planning Policy Framework later in the summer, and has already invited comments on its content and received responses from a wide range of environmental and other interested groups [22]

Offsetting the impacts of development on biodiversity

- 15** We will establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting and will test this in a number of pilot areas. [22]

Planning for low-carbon infrastructure

- 16** The Government will work with others to establish a research programme to fill evidence gaps about impacts on the natural environment of the level of infrastructure needed to meet 2050 objectives, in particular with respect to the cumulative and indirect effects. [23]

Getting the best value from agricultural land

- 17** We will bring together government, industry and environmental partners to reconcile how we will achieve our goals of improving the environment and increasing food production. We will publish our conclusions within the next 12 months. [24]
- 18** We will use the review in 2012 of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment and the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan, as well as the evidence from elsewhere such as on pesticides or voluntary action under the Water Framework Directive, to assess more generally the effectiveness of this kind of voluntary industry-wide approach. [24]
- 19** We will work with our delivery partners and stakeholders to develop and pilot an approach to Environmental Stewardship that increases its focus on outcomes, including the possibility of

allowing greater flexibility within agreements in how these outcomes are achieved. [25]

- 20** We will carry out a full review of how we use advice and incentives for farmers and land managers, to create a more integrated, streamlined and efficient approach that is clearer for farmers and land managers and yields better environmental results. [25]

Protecting and improving our woodland and forests

- 21** The Government welcomes the case the “Read Report” sets out and has asked the Independent Panel on Forestry to provide advice on an appropriate level of ambition for woodland creation and more active management, the mechanisms and market conditions needed and options for ensuring everyone has the opportunity to experience and enjoy our woodland resource. [25]
- 22** The Government is committed to providing appropriate protection to ancient woodlands and to more restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (in recognition of their particular value). We have asked the Independent Panel on Forestry for advice on the restoration of open habitats and plantations on ancient woodland sites. [28]

Diverse and living landscapes

- 23** We will work with local communities in a number of areas throughout England to support local engagement in landscape planning. [28]
- 24** We will work with civil society to update and improve the consistency of the national landscape character area profiles and integrate information on the ecosystem goods and services that they provide. Each profile will identify the environmental potential of landscape areas, to inform national policies such as agri-environment schemes and help local communities and planners to make informed decisions about land use. [28]

Safeguarding our soils

- 25** We will undertake a significant research programme over the next four years to explore: how soil degradation can affect the soil's ability to support vital ecosystem services such as flood mitigation, carbon storage and nutrient cycling;

and how to best manage our lowland peatlands in a way which supports efforts to tackle climate change. We will use the results of this research to set the direction of future action. [28]

- 26** We want to reduce peat use to zero by 2030, setting the following milestones:
- a progressive phase-out target of 2015 for Government and the public sector on direct procurement of peat in new contracts for plants;
 - a voluntary phase-out target of 2020 for amateur-gardeners;
 - a final voluntary phase-out target of 2030 for professional growers of fruit, vegetables and plants,
 - we will establish a Task Force bringing together representatives from across the supply chain with a clear remit to advise on how best to overcome the barriers to reducing peat use, exploring all the available measures to achieve this goal,
 - building on the advice of the Task Force, we will review progress towards these targets before the end of 2015 and consider the potential for alternative policy measures if necessary. [29]

Restoring nature in our rivers and water bodies

- 27** We will develop a strategy to identify and address the most significant diffuse sources of water pollution from non-agricultural sources. [29]
- 28** We are establishing ten catchment-level partnerships to develop and implement plans for creating and maintaining healthy water bodies. We will also support additional groups who wish to take a lead in trialling a catchment approach. [30]
- 29** The Environment Agency and Natural England will work together with farmers to increase the number and appropriate location of Entry Level options under the Environmental Stewardship scheme where there are diffuse pollution problems. [30]
- 30** We will reform the abstraction regime. The new regime will provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystem function.

We will also take steps to tackle the legacy of unsustainable abstraction more efficiently. [30]

Restoring nature in our towns, cities and villages

- 31** We will provide funding to support the Big Wildlife Garden scheme. Backed by the Royal Horticultural Society and The Wildlife Trusts, the scheme will support a major national competition for Wildlife Garden of the Year, open to homes, schools and communities. It will also develop a definitive online guide for wildlife gardening, providing advice for gardeners of all levels and abilities. [32]
- 32** The Government will work with its transport agencies and key delivery partners to contribute to the creation of coherent and resilient ecological networks, supported, where appropriate, by organisation-specific Biodiversity Action Plans. We will host a forum with environmental stakeholders to inform future priorities for the enhancement of these green corridors. [32]

Managing our marine environment

- 33** The Government is committed to achieving good environmental status across England's marine area, working in partnership with those who use, enjoy and derive their income from the marine environment. [32]
- 34** The first two marine plans to be prepared will be in the East of England Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas and will be completed in 2013. We will have plans in place for the whole of the English marine area by 2022. [33]

Chapter 3: Growing a Green Economy

Our ambition is for a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but contributes to improving it. It will properly value the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country's natural resources. The economy will capture the value of nature. It will encourage businesses to use natural capital sustainably, protecting and improving it through their day-to-day operations and the management of their supply chains.

Capturing the value of nature in our nation's account

- 35** We will put natural capital at the heart of Government accounting. We will work with the Office of National Statistics to fully include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts, with early changes by 2013. In 2012 we will publish a roadmap for further improvements up to 2020. [36]
- 36** The Government will establish an independent Natural Capital Committee reporting to the Economic Affairs Cabinet Committee which is chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Committee will advise the Government on the state of English natural capital. [36]
- 37** To support the initial work of the Natural Capital Committee, the Government will take forward a scoping study in 2011 for a natural capital asset check. [36]
- 38** Later this year, the Government will publish a 'Roadmap to a Green Economy', to provide business with as much clarity as possible about the future direction of policy. [36]

Government and business working together in partnership

- 39** We have established a Green Economy Council with leading businesses, which will consider natural capital in its terms of reference. [37]
- 40** The Government will support a new international coalition of businesses and business organisations to follow up on the "TEEB for Business" report. The TEEB for Business coalition will catalyse and coordinate action by helping participating businesses from the UK and elsewhere, to understand and address their environmental impacts. [37]
- 41** We will work with business to consider how voluntary approaches could work on key products or natural assets, learning from existing voluntary deals on other environmental issues. [38]
- 42** We will work with local authority partnerships through the Total Environment initiative to identify and address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth, and share the lessons learned. [38]

Growing business opportunities that pay back to nature

- 43** We will publish an action plan in 2012 to expand schemes in which the provider of nature's services is paid by the beneficiaries, after undertaking a full assessment of the challenges and barriers. We will introduce a new research fund targeted at these schemes and will publish a best practice guide for designing them. We will also encourage pilots to develop across a broad spectrum of nature's services and beneficiaries. [29]
- 44** The Government will set up a business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force to review the opportunities for UK business from expanding green goods, services, products, investment vehicles and markets which value and protect nature's services. It will report back to Government in 2012/13, through the Green Economy Council. [40]
- 45** Following the Task Force report we will explore how best to drive forward the potential and help remove barriers to their development. [40]

Helping business capture the value of nature through responsible supply chains

- 46** We will develop an agreed approach to water footprinting by December 2012, working through the Products Research Forum [42]
- 47** We will update the Business Link website to provide information on natural capital including guidance on tools and resources businesses can use to assess their dependencies on environmental assets and services and identify growth opportunities. [42]
- 48** The Government will publish new guidance for businesses by 2012 on how to measure and report their corporate environmental impacts. [42]
- 49** We will work with the EU Joint Research Council to develop evidence on the environmental impacts of products and their supply chains, and to consider future developments in minimum standards under the EU Ecodesign Directive. [43]

Government leading by example

- 50** As part of our approach to mainstream sustainable development the Government will fully consider the value of nature in all relevant Impact Assessments. [43]

- 51** Later in 2011, we will publish new supplementary guidance to HM Treasury's Green Book for use by all Government Departments on valuing the natural environment in appraisals. [43]
- 52** The Government will buy products that bring good value for money for the public purse, whilst being more sustainable and efficient. Government will engage with its suppliers to understand and reduce the impacts of its supply chain. We have therefore committed to embed the Government Buying Standards in departmental and centralised procurement contracts. [43]
- 53** Government Departments will be open about the steps they are taking to address biodiversity and the needs of the natural environment, including actions to promote, conserve and enhance biodiversity; and reduce the environmental impacts of food and catering services. [43]
- 56** Public Health England and NICE will form a strong relationship in the future to enhance and promote use of these resources by Directors of Public Health within local authorities. [46]
- 57** In July we will launch a new Change4Life summer campaign through newspapers, the supermarkets, schools and on TV. This will inspire children and their families to get more active and eat more healthily over the summer holidays. Outdoor activities will be a big part of this, with ideas and tips for games in the park and healthy picnic options. [46]
- 58** In June 2011 we will consult on plans for meeting limits on nitrogen dioxide in the shortest time possible. [47]
- 59** We will investigate a national framework for Low Emission Zones, to assess their potential to improve air quality in our urban centres. [47]
- 60** Later this year, we will consult on measures to reduce reporting burdens for local authorities and improve how air quality is controlled and monitored through Local Air Quality Management duties. [47]

Chapter 4 Reconnecting people and nature

Our ambition is to strengthen the connections between people and nature. We want to help more people enjoy the benefits of nature by giving them more freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have fair access to a good-quality natural environment. We want to see every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment. We want to help people take more responsibility for the environment, putting people and local communities in control and making it easier for people to take positive action.

Connecting through nature's health service

- 54** Local Nature Partnerships and the Health and Wellbeing Boards should actively seek to engage each other in their work. Forthcoming guidance will make clear that the wider determinants of health, including the natural environment, will be a crucial consideration in developing joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies. [46]
- 55** To ensure local health professionals and others have the information they need, we have committed Public Health England to provide clear, practical evidence about how to improve health by tackling its key determinants including access to a good natural environment. [46]
- 61** Schools should be able to teach outdoors when they wish to do so. We will work with the Health and Safety Executive to remove unnecessary rules and other barriers to learning in the natural environment. [47]
- 62** We have created a Pupil Premium, intended to help raise the attainment of children from low-income families. This can give fairer access to nature for pupils from deprived backgrounds, for example, funding school trips to experience the natural environment. [47]
- 63** Natural Connections (supported by Natural England) will provide an online 'one stop shop' and direct support and advice for teachers, children and parents interested in learning outdoors. Thousands of local volunteers will be recruited to help schools. [48]
- 64** The Government will continue to support Open Farm Sunday and fund educational visits by schoolchildren up to the age of 16 and provide farm visits for vulnerable groups of people. [49]

Connecting through education – in and about the natural environment

Connecting through better neighbourhood access to nature

- 65** We will consult later this year on proposals for a new Green Areas Designation that will give local people an opportunity to protect green spaces that have significant importance to their local communities and aim to introduce the Designation by April 2012. [49]
- 66** We will continue to support the Green Flag Award scheme in promoting quality space management as an ambition for all green space managers and to create more opportunities for wildlife to flourish in our green spaces, contributing to local biodiversity and enriching the experience of people spending time there. [50]
- 67** The Government will establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership to support the development of green infrastructure in England. This will consider how green infrastructure can be enhanced to strengthen ecological networks and improve communities' health, quality of life and resilience to climate change. [51]
- 68** We are working with Keep Britain Tidy, businesses, local authorities and community groups to develop a new initiative called Love Where You Live which will be launched this summer. [51]
- 69** We will work with local authorities to establish mechanisms for formally identifying and protecting urban Quiet Areas, so that people living in cities can benefit from access to areas of relative quiet for relaxation and contemplation. [51]
- 70** We will work with industry and other bodies to reduce the negative impacts of artificial light and protect existing dark areas. [51]
- 71** In 2011 we will consult relevant organisations on whether the exemptions from artificial light statutory nuisance continue to be appropriate and then take action if necessary. [52]

Connecting by improving access to coast and countryside

- 72** We will consult on simplifying and streamlining the processes for recording and making changes to public rights of way, based on proposals made by Natural England's working group on unrecorded rights of way. [52]

- 73** The Government's £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund will help local transport authorities do more to encourage walking and cycling, improve public transport and make better connections between different forms of sustainable transport. [52]

Connecting by 'paying back' to nature in our most visited landscapes

- 74** Visit England will act as a source of best practice, identifying and sharing advice with Destination Management Organisations and others in the tourism industry who want to develop payback schemes. [52]

Connecting through voluntary action – good for us and good for nature

- 75** To boost volunteering further, we will launch a new phase of the Muck In4Life campaign. It will help improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside. It will offer volunteering opportunities for all. We are committed to working with national and local partners to develop the new scheme. We will together explore ways it could engage people who are less likely to have the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment. [54]
- 76** We will invest a further £1.2 million to support the development of the national biodiversity network and to create a new fund for biodiversity recording in the voluntary sector. [54]

Connecting through better access to environmental information

- 77** From summer 2011 Directgov will provide information on actions people can take to help the natural environment such as purchasing choices and making the most of green spaces. [56]
- 78** We will bring together web-based Government information on the natural environment and make this available through a single 'My Environment' web portal, including facilities to search by post code for environmental features such as local nature reserves. [56]
- 79** We will bring together key insights about sustainable behaviour and publish a revised sustainable lifestyles framework, together with supporting practical tools, in summer 2011. [56]

- 80** We will work with retailers, civil society organisations and communities in a new phase of the initiative to encourage the consumption of underutilised, sustainable fish species that would otherwise be discarded; incorporate biodiversity into retail spaces (such as green playgrounds); and make it easier for customers to choose eco-labelled and sustainably certified products. [56]
- 81** We are developing the UK's negotiation position on an EU eco-label for food. This will help us assess the possible impact of such a label on UK industry, and the potential for using eco-labels to achieve environmental benefits. [57]

Chapter 5: International and EU Leadership

Our global ambitions are, internationally to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security; and to put the European Union on a path towards environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the wellbeing of citizens.

International leadership

- 82** The UK will be pressing for implementation of the Nagoya agreement at the international level, and through leading by example at home. [60]
- 83** We are supporting the World Bank's Global Partnership on Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) which will enable eight to ten developing countries build the value of natural resources into their own national accounts. [60]
- 84** The Government will fund a £210,000 project to undertake case studies to help apply TEEB principles to the development of National Strategic Biodiversity Plans, further enhancing our reputation as global leaders in the field of biodiversity. [61]
- 85** Following the announcement of our continued financial support for the National Wildlife Crime Unit, we will ensure that it plays an active role on the international stage as well as at home. [62]
- 86** Within the International Whaling Commission we shall continue vigorously to support a moratorium on commercial whaling and promote the welfare and conservation of whales. [62]

Chapter 6: Conclusion, monitoring and reporting progress

- 87** We will establish an Ecosystems Knowledge Network. Run by an independent organisation, this network will involve our environmental bodies and include local projects, drawing on practical experience to share learning and good practice. [66]
- 88** In line with the approach taken by the National Ecosystem Assessment, we will be joining up the Government's environmental monitoring, to enhance our understanding of the state of ecosystem services. [66]
- 89** The new measures of national wellbeing which are in development will reflect our dependency on the natural environment for the quality of our lives. [66]
- 90** We will develop a set of key indicators by Spring 2012 to track progress on the ambitions of this White Paper. These will include a new, compact set of biodiversity indicators for the England Biodiversity Strategy. We will consult on them and finalise them by Spring 2012. [66]
- 91** By Spring 2012, we will review how indicators and other environmental statistics are reported and the extent to which existing reporting meets the needs of Government and other key audiences. [66]
- 92** The Government, through its environmental bodies, will periodically publish a single, concise and integrated report about the state of the environment on land. [66]

Agenda item D5: News from the PROW teams

This will be a verbal update from Council Officers covering the work of each council.

Agenda item D6: Public Rights of Way Liaison Group Agendas

There follows a copy of the Agenda for the most recent meeting of each of the Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups, together with the date of the next meeting. These meetings are not statutory as the JLAF is, and meetings are not held in public. If you would like further information, contact the JLAF secretary in the first instance.

South Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way Liaison Group (PROWLG) Tuesday 7th June 2011

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Notes of last meeting 23rd February 2011 and matters arising
3. The Annual Report of 2010/11
4. JLAF Report (OutdoorsWest website)
5. Relationship with Streetcare
6. Nuclear Developments at Hinkley and Oldbury
7. Priority Forms and issue progress
8. CAMS resolved discussion
9. LG Priorities from User Groups perspective
10. Any Other Business

The next meeting – 07SEP11

Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way Liaison Group (PROWLG) Thursday 2nd June 2011

Agenda

1. Apologies and Introductions
2. Introducing Wild City - a 3-year project funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces Programme. Paula Spiers, Wild City Project Officer
3. Minutes from PROWLG meeting of 10th March 2011
4. Update on OutdoorsWest website. Chris Bloor, JLAF Member and Chris Hogg, JLAF Secretary
5. Matters raised by members:
 - a. Update Re. Dundry (PG)
 - b. Gating Orders – Adoption and Publication of Policy (PG)
 - c. Henbury Golf Course – access issues (PG)
 - d. Monarchs Way – support for national trail status (PG)
 - e. Councillor appointments to PROW and Greens Committee 2011-12 (PG)
 - f. Council's Walking Strategy (PG)
6. JLAF Update
7. Any other business

The next meeting – Thursday 8SEP11

Agenda item F: The next meeting JLAF25

(in Bath & North East Somerset on the 4th November 2011)
In the Council Chamber, Keynsham Town Hall.

Subsequent 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.

Event/Meeting	Date	Location
JLAF25 Main Meeting	FR 04NOV11	Keynsham Town Hall
JLAF26 Main Meeting	FR 02MAR12	Keynsham Town Hall
JLAF27 Main Meeting	FR 06JUL12	Keynsham Town Hall
JLAF28 Main Meeting	FR 09NOV12	Keynsham Town Hall