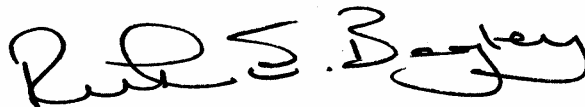


Date of issue: Tuesday 5th May 2009

MEETING	LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Councillors May Dodds and Satpal Parmar Laurie Tucker (Chair), David Coe, Toby Evans, Margery Hitchman, Ian Houghton, Margaret Innis, Les James, Malcolm Hellings and Ken Wright.
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 13TH MAY, 2009 AT 5.30 PM
VENUE:	COMMITTEE ROOM 2, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all meeting enquiries)	TERESA CLARK 01753 875018
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SECRETARY	JACQUI WHEELER, RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER 01753 477479

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

NOTE TO MEMBERS

This meeting is an approved duty for the payment of travel expenses.

AGENDA

PART 1



<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	
<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>TIME ALLOCATED</u>
1.	Apologies	-	
2.	Declarations of Interest (Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and prejudicial interests as set out in the Slough Local Access Forum Terms of Reference)	-	
3.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 11th February 2009	1 - 6	
4.	Matters Arising	-	15 mins
5.	Membership Update		5 mins
6.	Gating Order- Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Drive	7 - 8	15 mins
7.	Canal- Site Meeting with British Waterways	9 - 12	15 mins
8.	SEGRO- Proposals for regeneration of Slough Trading Estate	-	20 mins
9.	LAF Regional Update- SE LAF Members Conference; South East LAF Meeting; and EAF Meeting	13 - 62	10 mins
10.	How the LAF runs- possibilities for Members to take ownership	-	15 mins
11.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for articles for SE LAF Newsletter • New BR Route update • Beechwood Gardens Modification Order Update • Cinder Track link to Farnham Royal update 	-	10 mins
12.	Next Meeting Date- (To be agreed)	-	

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.



Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th February, 2009 at the Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough

Present:-

LAF Members

Ian Houghton, (Vice Chair- in the Chair)
Councillor May Dodds
Toby Evans
Malcolm Hellings, Slough and District Civic Society
Les James, Slough and District Civic Society
Councillor Satpal Parmar
Ken Wright

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Alex Deans, Principal Engineer, Highways
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer
Jacqui Wheeler, Rights of Way Officer

Public

Councillor Tony Haines

Apologies for Absence:- Margaret Innis and Laurie Tucker

12. Declarations of Interest

None.

13. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th November, 2008 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to indicate that Margaret Innis was present at the meeting.

14. Matters Arising

Footpaths 24 and 55

Members were advised that the Cabinet had recently approved a proposal to make an Order to upgrade the footpaths to bridleways. A discussion had also been held with the Rights of Way Officer from South Bucks area regarding signage from Farnham Royal pointing to the cinder track. Confirmation from the South Bucks Highways Department would be needed prior to any signage being erected. Jackie Wheeler (JW) also advised that she was looking into the upgrading of the most northern section of FP24 and the path it linked to in South Bucks.

15. Cross Boundary Routes Surrounding Canal and Site Visit with British Waterways

JW introduced a report to inform Members about various cross boundary issues relating to the canal and to identify which routes were desirable to pursue improvements. Members noted the four suggested routes and the opportunity to liaise with the Friends of Slough Canal and the Slough Canal Working Group on how these could be achieved. In some cases it was recommended that the future plans of British Waterways be amended to include these routes and also that liaison take place with South Bucks District Council.

Action- JW

Councillor Haines addressed the Forum on behalf of the Friends of Slough Canal and explained that one further route was the ex-footpath that ran between Wexham Road and Stoke Road adjacent to the Sikh school running on the South Bucks side of the boundary. The Local Neighbourhood Action Group had litter picked half of the route last year and it was noted that the route was often used by school children. Ramblers had written to the Parish Council requesting volunteers to walk the route. Apparently this was not identified as an official definitive footpath but this was in regular dispute. JW commented that she was aware of this route but it was not situated near to the canal. Councillor Haines stated that the general concern regarding these routes was the lack of maintenance and the problems caused by the overgrowth of weeds and rubbish. It was felt that it was important to discuss this with South Bucks District Council as soon as possible. Councillor Haines advised that British Waterways owned a metre of the canal north bank, i.e. 1m between the canal and the back gardens of houses. There had been some discussion about gating at the rear of properties to establish moorings between the Basin and the Wexham Road bridge. JW advised that she had received a response from Sam Thomas, Customer Operations Supervisor, British Waterways and it had been suggested that a site meeting take place to discuss the various issues resulting from the accessibility audit. Councillor Haines advised that he would like to attend this meeting and it was agreed that JW would circulate possible dates.

Action- JW

Councillor Haines referred to Nursery Lane where owners had gated a private road. South Bucks District Council had placed a sign here saying that there was a public right of way but there was a concern that fierce dogs in the locality would deter the public from walking in this area. JW confirmed that this lane was shown on an OS map as a public path and agreed that the sign would be looked at to establish whether it should be highlighted further.

Action- JW

Councillor Haines advised that the Friends of Slough Canal had a canal working party organised by Groundwork and they held a copy of the future

Local Access Forum - 11.02.09

yearly work programme. It was noted that Thames 21 managed O2 volunteers and had reinstated a piece of the tow path in the Langley area.

Agreed - That the four routes identified by JW as routes desirable to pursue improvements on be approved.

Gating Orders

Ian Houghton was concerned that there was no official policy on how many people should be consulted before a Gating Order was approved. He advised that he had been personally consulted on the Waterbeach Road Gating Order but was concerned that there was no question asking for comment or feedback. JW advised that Community Safety were carrying out this consultation and advised that this particular Order was not a public through route.

Councillor Dodds was concerned that a resident in Cress Road had not been issued with keys to the Bunton Meade flats garages. JW advised that Community Safety were responsible for this area and she would forward on Councillor Dodds' concerns.

Action- JW

16. Membership Update

The Forum noted that there was no change to the current membership of the LAF.

17. Letter to Eton College

JW outlined a draft letter to Eton College from the LAF relating to bridleway No 17, also known as Wood Lane. The letter highlighted the LAF's concerns about the safety of the bridleway running between the Jubilee and Moores Lane, Eton Wick. It was noted that the route was regularly used by cyclists, horse riders, walkers and people with children in buggies. The LAF suggested that the path should be widened to allow those on horseback or cycling or using buggies to pass easily side by side.

Agreed –

- (a) That the LAF approves the content of the letter to Eton College, subject to an addition to indicate that the path be widened to meet the requirements of a bridleway as stipulated by the British Horse Society (BHS).
- (b) That a reply be sought from Eton College within one month and a copy be sent to the local farmer, Eton Town Council, Windsor and Maidenhead LAF and a copy to Howard Albertini in the Planning Section.

Action- JW

18. South East LAF Members Meeting held on 3rd March - Slough LAF Position Statements

JW outlined a report seeking Members' agreement of draft position statements of the Slough LAF for consideration at the next South East LAF meeting on 3rd March, 2009. It was noted that Marjory Hitchman would attend the meeting to represent the Slough LAF.

In relation to the statement on Gating Orders a Member was concerned that footpaths could be lost through the back door. There was a general discussion on the benefits/disadvantages of Gating Orders and it was agreed that this subject should be the subject of a report at the next LAF meeting.

Action- JW

The position statement was amended to indicate that the Slough LAF would seek to provide advice on all Gating Order consultations in accordance with the legal criteria for making Orders laid out in Section 129A, Highways Act 1980.

Agreed - That subject to the amendment that the Slough LAF position statement on Gating Orders, coastal access and shared use routes be approved.

19. Conference for LAF Members in the South East

Members noted that the LAF had been invited to take part in a conference for LAF Members in the South East region, on 3rd March, 2009 in central London. Members were advised that Marjory Hitchman would attend the Conference and that a further three or four Members would be able to attend. Members were asked to let JW know if they were interested.

20. Annual Report

Members noted the content of the draft annual report and it was agreed that any comments should be forwarded to JW within two weeks.

21. Future Work Programme

It was agreed that someone from the Youth Cabinet should be invited to a future meeting of the Forum.

Action- JW

22. Any Other Business

Members requested that a copy of an ordnance survey map to highlight access routes be made available to Forum Members at future meetings.

Local Access Forum - 11.02.09

A Member was concerned that the availability of cycle parking in the High Street near to Boots had been reduced due to the Heart of Slough project. It was agreed that JW would look into this and report back to the next meeting.

Action- JW

JW advised that a Modification Order had been published for a new footpath between Beechwood Gardens and Windsor Road.

23. Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next LAF meeting be arranged for early May, 2009.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.25 pm)

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Gating Order - Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Drive

The table below shows the results of an informal consultation carried out by the Council's Community Safety team to investigate neighbourhood support for the way to be gated.

Street / Road	Total Consulted	Signed	Yes	Y %	No	N%	Questionnaires not returned	Qs Returned	No response %age	In Favour	In Favour %age
Lerwick Drive	92	15	6	23%	7	8%	64	28	70%	21	75%
Mildenhall Road	98	20	30	51%	2	2%	46	52	47%	50	96%
Kirkwall Spur	21	4	1	24%	0	0%	16	5	76%	5	100%
Sumburgh Way	26	2	0	8%	1	4%	23	3	88%	2	67%
Leston Way	14	1	0	7%	0	0%	13	1	93%	1	100%
Snape Spur	14	1	3	29%	0	0%	10	4	71%	4	100%
Thurston Road	49	3	5	16%	0	0%	41	8	84%	8	100%
Littleport Spur	34	2	6	24%	4	12%	22	12	65%	8	67%
Ronaldsey Spur	24	1	1	8%	1	4%	21	3	88%	2	67%
Mundesley Spur	27	7	1	30%	0	0%	19	8	70%	8	100%
Granville Avenue	135	5	10	11%	0	0%	120	15	89%	15	100%
Total	534	61	63		15		395	139	76%	124	89%

Avg Resp

Lerwick and Mildenhall	Total Consulted	Signed	Yes	Y %	No	N%	No response	Qs Returned	No response %age	In Favour	In Favour %age
Lerwick Drive	92	14	6	7%	7	8%	65	27	71%	20	74%
Mildenhall Road	98	20	30	31%	2	2%	46	52	47%	50	96%
	190	34	36		9		111	79	59%	70	89%

Avg Resp

Others											
Street / Road	Total Consulted	Signed	Yes	Y %	No	N%	No response	Qs Returned	No response %age	In Favour	In Favour %age
Kirkwall Spur	21	4	1	5%	0	0%	16	5	76%	5	100%
Sumburgh Way	26	2	0	0%	1	4%	23	3	88%	2	67%
Leston Way	14	1	0	0%	0	0%	13	1	93%	1	100%
Snape Spur	14	1	3	21%	0	0%	10	4	71%	4	100%
Thurston Road	49	3	5	10%	0	0%	41	8	84%	8	100%
Littleport Spur	34	2	6	18%	4	12%	22	12	65%	8	67%
Ronaldsey Spur	24	1	1	4%	1	4%	21	3	88%	2	67%
Mundesley Spur	27	7	1	4%	0	0%	19	8	70%	8	100%
Granville Avenue	135	5	10	7%	0	0%	120	15	89%	15	100%
	344	26	27		6		285	59	80%	53	90%

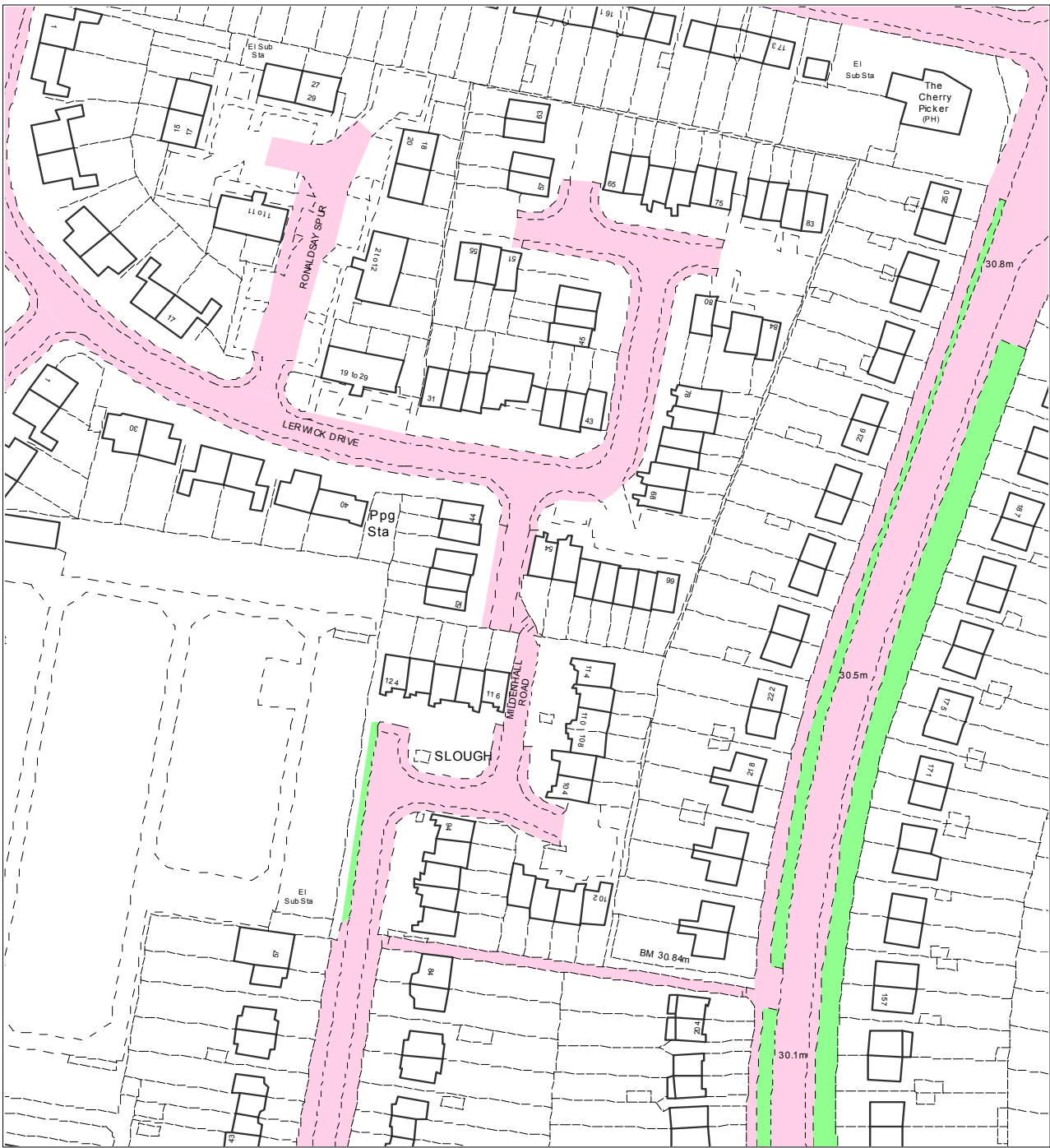
Avg Resp

Street / Road	Total Consulted	Signed	Yes	Y %	No	N%	Questionnaires not returned	Qs Returned	No response %age	In Favour	In Favour %age
Lerwick Drive	92	14	6	7%	7	8%	65	27	71%	20	74%
Kirkwall Spur	21	4	1	5%	0	0%	16	5	76%	5	100%
Sumburgh Way	26	2	0	0%	1	4%	23	3	88%	2	67%
Ronaldsey Spur	24	1	1	4%	1	4%	21	3	88%	2	67%
	163	21	8		9		125	38	81%	29	76%

Avg Resp

A2
People 1st

Mildenhall Rd
1-40 Lerwick, 1-27Kirkwall Spur, 1-44 Sumburgh Way, 1-29 Ronaldsey Spur



Minutes of Meeting on 3rd April 2009 at Slough Arm of Grand Union Canal

Those Present: Sam Thomas (British Waterways)
Tony Haines (Friends of Slough Canal)
Malcolm Hellings (Slough LAF)
Margery Hitchman (Slough LAF)
Jacqui Wheeler (Slough Borough Council)

1. The Basin –

- 1.1 ST will report back about the three parking spaces having “reserved parking” signs up. He said that these were not British Waterway’s parking spaces and the signs should not be there. TH said that the builder’s merchants had put them up for their customers. ST commented that British Waterways (BW) would not be able to enforce any signs that said “no parking” due to lack of resources.
- 1.2 It was agreed that promotion/signs were needed which clearly indicated to members of the public that the area was in fact meant for public parking in order to access the canal towpath. **Suggestions to be put forward/discussed.**



- 1.3 Travis Perkins is investigating a move to alternative premises with the leases for the BW land due to expire in 2010. TH stated that BW have said they will only permit short term leases thereafter of a year or two in length to allow the development of the basin land to provide amongst other things, improved public access.
- 1.4 The jetty would be removed completely if the basin were to be developed.

Suggestion – a letter from the LAF to support the redevelopment of the basin along the lines explained by Tony Haines.

- 1.5 New information boards are currently being produced to be put in place soon at the Basin and at the Uxbridge Rd Bridge. Louise Fishleigh of BW will be consulted for approval of the final proof of the new board via ST.

2. Litter/Dog Fouling

2.1 ST stated that BW litter pick once every fortnight.

2.2 There have been problems with normal rubbish being forced into the tops of the dog bins causing them to appear full. The current dog bins are due to be replaced by open bins, as these are considered to hold more rubbish. They will be emptied fortnightly.

Suggestion – LAF needs to investigate further ways of dealing with the dog mess issue on the towpath particularly around the basin where the path is narrower. Contact Community Wardens to see if they can hotspot this area for PCN's.

2.3 Litter under the Wexham Road bridge was identified as a major issue. The litter is hard to reach especially for volunteers. ST confirmed that the land on the western embankment below the pedestrian bridge walkway is not owned by BW and therefore the litter here is not for them to deal with.



Suggestion – LAF recommends that SBC clear this area of rubbish and install netting to catch any further litter

3. Surface Problems

3.1 BW aim to reinstate towpath surface to 1.5m width which will allow wheelchair users to access the canal and also allow buggies and cyclists to pass more easily. BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) in partnership with BW are due to work on the Slough Arm to widen the towpath on a monthly basis for six months.



3.2 ST also stated that BW under take monthly length inspections identifying defects. These are recorded on a spreadsheet by BW and dealt with according to prioritisation policy. This would include, trip hazards caused by cable TV services.

4. **ASB**

4.1 ST is in contact with Sadie Broadbridge, Community Safety Warden of SBC about these issues who has powers of enforcement for anti-social behaviour on the towpath.

5. **Accessibility**

5.1 BW is committed to working within MSS Minimum Safety Standards. This would mean that the ramps giving access to the canal towpath could be looked at in terms of providing handrails. BW owns the land between Goodman Park and the canal by Uxbridge Rd Bridge.

Suggestion: LAF encourages BW to provide handrail on the ramp leading up to towpath from Goodman Park.

5.2 The access point from Wexham Road Bridge does not comply with DDA requirements; with iron bollards preventing reasonable access. ST agreed and will look at possible improvements to this entrance.

5.3 The access points to towpath from Bowyer Playing Fields were noted as inaccessible and hazardous to children. It was agreed that self closing gates should be maintained at these points. JW would arrange with SBC Parks section.

6. **New Access**

6.1 ST acknowledged that the north bank of the towpath could be opened up as a potential access route and for leisure mooring. If it is proposed as residential mooring though the towpath would have to be gated. ST said there is increasing demand for residential moorings.

Suggestion: LAF requests a copy of BW future plans for Slough Arm of Grand Union Canal.

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SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 13TH MAY 2009

REPORT ON: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATE OF LAF MATTERS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members on the SE LAF Meeting, progress at the England Access Forum and the SE LAF members Conference.

2. ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM AND NATIONAL UPDATE

2.1 Amanda Earnshaw has taken over from David Gear as National LAF Liaison Officer for NE. Amanda's email address is :
Amanda.Earnshaw@naturalengland.org.uk.

2.2 Email from Alan Marlow, SE Region EAF Representative

The minutes of the meeting are attached. Some particular points of note, especially for us in the SE following our SE Regional day recently are as follows –

- You will see that our training day and our SE newsletter were singled out for very positive comment. It seems that our Regional activities are seen as among the best!
- The subject of Gating Orders (Paper 2) was top of the agenda for discussion. The problems expressed were many and varied but one particular action item that you are all recommended to pursue is to ensure that your Highway Authority has a clear published policy on Gating Orders (which includes the involvement of the LAF as required by the regulations). This should at least remove the sense of mystery which surrounds the subject in many authorities.
- Another opportunity for LAFs to widen their sphere of influence is the Local Area Agreement/Local Strategic Partnership programme. (Paper 3). You will see that the EAF minutes recommend that LAFs get involved in this process.
- Paper 4 offers some ideas to help LAFs that are struggling to get the appropriate level of attention from their HA. The paper points to a number of possible sources of support both regionally and nationally that may be able to help.
- The topic of horse riders' access to Forestry Commission land in the SE was tabled as a subject requiring more work, the next step is to meet with the FC at SE Regional level to try to further the dialogue before returning to EAF for further help if required.

If you would like to pursue any of the topics in the papers or minutes further with either Matthew or me then please get in touch.

2.3 Minutes of the ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM, THIRD MEETING, 11 MARCH 2009, SHEFFIELD

EAF representatives

Alan Marlow, South East
Matthew Balfour, South East
Paul Heal, South West
Bob Harvey, South West
Andrew McCloy, East Midlands
Andrew Shirley, East Midlands
Liddy Lawrence, East of England

Natural England representatives

Andrew Wood
Duncan Mackay
Peter Ashcroft
Belinda Davies

Duncan Graham, North West
Edgar Ernstbrunner, North West
Edgar Powell, West Midlands
Hazel Armstrong, Yorkshire & Humber
Richard Holmes, Yorkshire & Humber
Steve Scoffin, North East
Pam Brooks, North East

Apologies from

Bob Smith, East of England

Regional Organisation

The progress made in appointing LAF regional co-ordinators was welcomed.

Chair's update

- The Chair reported that there was abundant evidence of effective and imaginative work by LAFs across the country.
- He had received reports of impressive activities in various regions , with for example 50 LAF members at a training day in the SE, an ambitious programme on diversity and coastal access in Yorks and Humber and inaugural meetings in the NW.
- Topics submitted by regions were reaching the national agenda – e.g. gating orders and preserving access over new roads.
- There was early and effective involvement in NE policy consultations.
- Some regions were producing excellent newsletters which celebrated success and good practice.

Gating Orders

The paper on gating orders was discussed and the following points were made:

- The data collected might not reflect the situation in urban areas where LAFs may be not so well connected with the LAF regional networks.

- If gating orders lead to major restrictions in access this would conflict with Natural England's urban agenda.
- Are there sufficient checks and balances in the GO processes?
- There are different definitions of anti-social behaviour in the two components of the legislation.
- There are differences of substance between the legislation and the guidance.
- The impacts on people with disabilities needs to be recognised.
- The impacts on children and their home range was not fully recognised.
- This is a complex area which would benefit from a systematic review.

Action:

1. A summary of the legal basis for Gating Orders and its operation be disseminated to LAFs.
2. LAFs to be encouraged to lobby their parent highway authority to have a clear and published policy for Gating Orders.
3. Natural England would seek talks with the Department of Transport about evaluating the effectiveness of the legislation.
4. Natural England would explore ways of reminding Highway Authorities about their responsibilities.

Local Area Agreements

An excellent paper was welcomed for its clarity and for the specific advice as to how LAFs can get involved. The following points were made:

- Many LAFs are not yet aware of the significance of LAAs in funding access.
- LAFs need to do more to engage in this new process, where there are significant, if not new, funds to be played for.
- LAFs need to make the case that health is about accessing the natural environment as well as simply going to the gym.

Action

1. LAFs are encouraged to share within their regions and with EAF good examples of engaging with LAAs.
2. The paper be disseminated to LAFs with a recommendation for action.

Rights of Way and Trunk Road Improvements.

A verbal report was made on recent discussions which NE had conducted with the Highways Agency following the concerns raised by Suffolk LAF and the following points were made:

- Improvements to how rights of way and non-motorised road users are treated in the design of trunk road improvements were welcomed, including the involvement of LAFs, and the specific recognition of the Highways Agency as a 'highway authority'
- The ratings of risks and safety criteria should be apply to proposed improvements.

- Many of the same issues also apply to other busy roads where the good practice being adopted for trunk road improvements could be recommended by LAFs

Action

1. *Natural England will reflect these concerns in its transport and roads policy and will ask the Highways Agency for more evidence of how its 'listening approach' leads to improvements.*
2. *Natural England will consider how its local teams can have clearer advice on how to deal with local highway improvements.*
3. *The recent response from the HA be shared with the Suffolk LAF, and the main points be passed to other LAFs.*

Diversity and Equality

The forum appreciated an excellent and forthright presentation on diversity and equality where much remains to be done. The following points were made:

- Greater clarity on LAF responsibilities would be appreciated.
- Engaging with diversity groups is challenging.
- There is a need to widen understanding of diversity beyond wheel-chair users.
- Getting people to overcome their fears requires dedication and perseverance
- Small improvements can make a real difference.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans are a useful way of making progress.
- Use of the local media, eg local radio, by LAFs can widen interest in access and raise awareness

Action

1. *The presentation will be disseminated to LAFs.*
2. *The EAF working group will explore with NE in more detail how LAFs can respond to diversity issues, and will report the outcomes to LAFs.*
3. *EAF members are asked to send examples of good practice in their regions to the Secretary.*

LAFs strategic influence on Highway Authorities.

The paper was discussed and the following points were made:

- The value of LAFs having statutory consultee status.
- How LAFs would benefit from knowing what progress other LAFs made and how this was best achieved.
- Ways in which LAFs can communicate with members and senior officers when facing difficulties in being heard effectively.
- In what ways LAFs facing problems could be advised and supported by their regions and EAF.
- The continuing need for better communications.

- How the LAF Handbook can be made more accessible and updated where necessary.
- How annual reports which often contain examples of good practice can be shared more easily.

Action

1. *Natural England will consider what support it can provide its local teams so they can engage at the right level with highway authorities.*
2. *Natural England will look at how it can promulgate the LAF Handbook more effectively, and how communication can be improved by, for example, a website or newsletter.*

Integrating Access across Natural England's business.

The paper was welcomed as a very significant step forward in emphasising the value and importance of access. The following points were made:

- Natural England are aware that higher rights (ie beyond walking) need to be addressed by government but there are no current specific proposals.
- To be aware that woodlands will come within the scope of agri-environment agreements.
- The new Uplands HLS will have an access component.

Access and related Policy

An update included the following points:

- The policy had been amended in the light of advice received including that from EAF
- The Access policy will be sent to the Chair of NE for sign off before the end of March and a policy position statement disseminated shortly after confirmation by the April NE Policy Steering Group.
- Two further policies will be developed during 2009, in which LAFs and EAF will be engaged : one on broadening understanding and the other on volunteering/active citizenship.

Review of Trails and Routes

The review is now complete, with around 30% of LAFs involved in consultation events or providing written responses. The recommendations will be presented to the July Board meeting of NE.

ROWIP Awards

The chair welcomed this initiative which recognises the importance of ROWIPs and the achievements of both highway authorities and LAFs and described EAF's involvement as judges in selecting Award winners. The celebration culminates in an Awards Ceremony to be held in Leicester in March where the guest of honour will be Nicholas Crane.

Stakeholder Working Group

Andrew Wood reminded EAF of the make up and remit of this group, whose core purpose is around unrecorded rights of way, as distinct from wider rights of way or access improvement issues. However its terms of reference also allows the group to look at related issues, so it can form its recommendations in a proper access context.

Action

1. *Natural England will consult with the EAF chair should any wider access issues arise.*

Issues submitted by regions and requiring further work

1. fencing of woodland planting on open access land
2. access for horse-riders in the Forestry Commission Estate
3. Local Transport Plans
4. the impact on rights of way from major road improvements
5. LAF communications
6. Diversity

Action

1. *these items are remitted to the EAF working group.*

Peter Ashcroft

Members thanked the Secretary, Peter Ashcroft, for his efforts on their behalf in the establishment and management of the work of EAF and expressed best wishes to him in his new post.

Date of Next Meeting

This will be arranged in the next few months when dates for consultation on forthcoming policies etc become clearer.

3. SOUTH EAST LAF CONFERENCE on 3rd March 2009

- 3.1** Workshops were held on a variety of topics, all of interest to LAF members. The presentations/handouts/ notes of the workshops are attached here as appendices and are listed as follows:

- Appendix 1 - Discovering Lostways - Hampshire Project
- Appendix 2 - How can the LAF have greater influence? How can we publicise the LAF?
- Appendix 3 - Working with the Community

Appendix 4 - Working with Parishes
Appendix 5 - Gating Orders Workshop

3.2 South East LAF Meeting

We are currently still waiting for minutes from this meeting.

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Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

BACKGROUND

- CRoW Act 2000 introduced a cut-off date of 2026 for recording on the definitive map routes relying on historical evidence only
- The national 'Discovering Lost Ways' project stalled in 2007
- HCAF became frustrated by the lack of progress and in autumn 2007 decided to investigate a 'Lost Ways' project for Hampshire concentrating on –
 - Historic routes for which there is a modern need
 - Using volunteers
 - A simple process
 - Identifying routes, not necessarily establishing formal claims



Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

GETTING STARTED

- Established a working sub-group (incl. Users, Farmer/land manager, Forum Officer, member of New Forest Access Forum)
- Held meetings with HCC Map Review Team
 - Routes with identified current need (as identified by our RoWIPs)
 - Map Team help to train volunteers
 - Map Team would accept 5 -10 routes without formal 'claims' paperwork
 - Forum (landowner) representative would approach landowner when a good case found
 - Volunteers to research –
 - OS 1st Edition
 - Tithe Maps
 - Inclosure Maps
 - Highway Handover Maps
- Advertised for volunteers through User Groups and in 'Hampshire Now', a HCC free newsletter distributed to all households – generated approx 60 responses
- Met with Hampshire Record Office staff, (Records Office closed until April '08)



Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

TRAINING

- Each volunteer (approx 50) attended two evening training sessions –
 - 1. Presentations from HCAF and HCC staff explaining
 - Forum role
 - RoWIPs
 - The 2026 cutoff
 - Evidence needed to establish a 'historic way'
 - Parish maps of 'desired routes' established by the RoWIPs
 - 2. A practical introduction to the Hampshire Records Office
 - Hosted by the Records Office staff, Forum and HCC Map Team
 - Registered with HRO
 - Introduced to Records Room
 - Examined examples of the various maps/charts awards documents and record books
- Volunteers then 'signed up' for one or two parishes each



Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

MATERIALS

- For each of their parishes the volunteers were provided with –
 - Map of the parish showing existing RoW and RoWIP 'demand lines'
 - Forms to record their findings
 - Notes on using the Record Office (as discussed at the training sessions)
 - Notes on interpreting the Maps and Documents (as training session)
 - A summary reminder of project scope and objectives etc
 - A Freepost return envelope

- They were given a 2 month deadline to return their findings
 - (which, after the event, turned out to be inappropriate so was extended!)



Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

RESULTS SO FAR

- **Analysis of research findings returned by 31.08.08**
- Researchers focussed on RoWIP routes.
 - However, we are aware that the RoWIP layer is not complete in some parts of the County
- 45 parishes have had some work on them. This means that 225 parishes have not!
- Researchers reported on approx 250 specific routes
- The Forum working sub-group reviewed and analysed the findings
- The quality of the research has varied. Some form of quality control is, however, essential.
 - some research has been very good bearing in mind that most volunteers had no previous experience of this type of research.
- The top 5 routes have been submitted to HCC for processing. They are all RoWIP routes.
 - HCC Map Team report that they believe they are valid additions to the definitive map
 - Further research is required on another approx 17 promising claims, this is ongoing.
- Scaling up across the county it is estimated that the Project has the potential to produce an additional 50 or 100 more RoWs of relevance to the modern user.
- Realistically, Forum representatives do not have the time, nor necessarily the expertise, to project-manage a county-wide expansion of the project.



Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

THE NEXT STAGES

- We believe that the project has proved the principle that some modern needs can be met through 'Lost Ways'
- The first phase has demonstrated a need for significant co-ordination
- The Forum has supported a proposal to bid for £40-50,000 funding to contract a self-employed project/volunteer co-ordinator and pay related expenses
- The project would continue to use significant volunteer resource as in the first stage
- An outline bid has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund
 - Comments have been received and require further work before a full bid can be made



Discovering Hampshire's Lost Ways

TITLE

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South East Local Access Forum workshop - 3rd March 2009, London

Workshop writeup – How can the LAF have greater influence? How can we publicise LAF?

Influence of LAF

- Tend to be ignored by s94 Bodies other than the 'countryside or rights of way sections of the appointing authority. Even government agencies and departments seem to ignore/not be aware of the role of LAFs. This lack of awareness and involvement is self evident in national guidance for the 3rd round on Local Transport Plans, where LAFs are not listed as a consultee
- Consensus seems to be that influence is easier in smaller authorities or within national park authorities where there is a more joined up approach
- Suggestion that using media is an excellent way for LAFs to make sure their voice is heard – such as ensuring crossings of the A11 were provided as a subway for horses. Important to check the Highways Project Brief at a draft stage
- LAFs need to be aware, and make use of, the political setup within an authority – especially when local elections are on the horizon
- LAFs need to understand that organisations will not bother to consult them if a) they do not know who they are and what they can do, and b) the LAF is not seen as a credible source of balanced advice. Perhaps LAFs need to start off small with a particular issue and then build up their understanding and confidence rather than demanding to be consulted on everything. Caution needed to avoid 'hijacking' by interest groups.
- Is a Directive needed to enforce LAFs being a statutory consultee? Can enforcement action be taken against bodies that do not take LAF advice?

How to publicise LAFs work

- First of all need to ask WHY any person or organisation would want to know what your LAF is doing! Are you trying to engage, inform or influence?
- Good websites are potentially useful, but only if
 - a) LAF members are happy to use the website to keep informed about the work of the LAF
 - b) The website is easy to use and regularly updated
 - c) The website is well linked with other LAFs and related web pages
 - d) The hosting authority is not too strict with corporate look and feel as well as content management
- It is possible to set up a fully independent website for the LAF – if members are happy to keep it updated and contribute content. This can help to keep the LAF seeming independent and with its own identity
- The LAF annual report should be distributed to local councils in the area, but also to libraries, plus named contacts in user groups, authority members, senior officers and s94 Bodies. Invite these people to become involved too – as could be sources of new members in the future
- To get people aware of your LAF one really good idea was to put up posters advising of the next meeting and the agenda -and stick them up in country sites, libraries or selected public rights of way (without littering of course)
- Work with the media once you have something you want to say
- Ask the public for help with project's justification ("yes we want this") and also get them to suggest future agenda items at meetings

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Working with the Community

New Forest Access Forum

Ruth Croker – Forum member

Sarah Manchester – Forum officer





Working with the Community

- Finding out what the community wants
- Getting commitment to developments and improvements
- Providing feedback

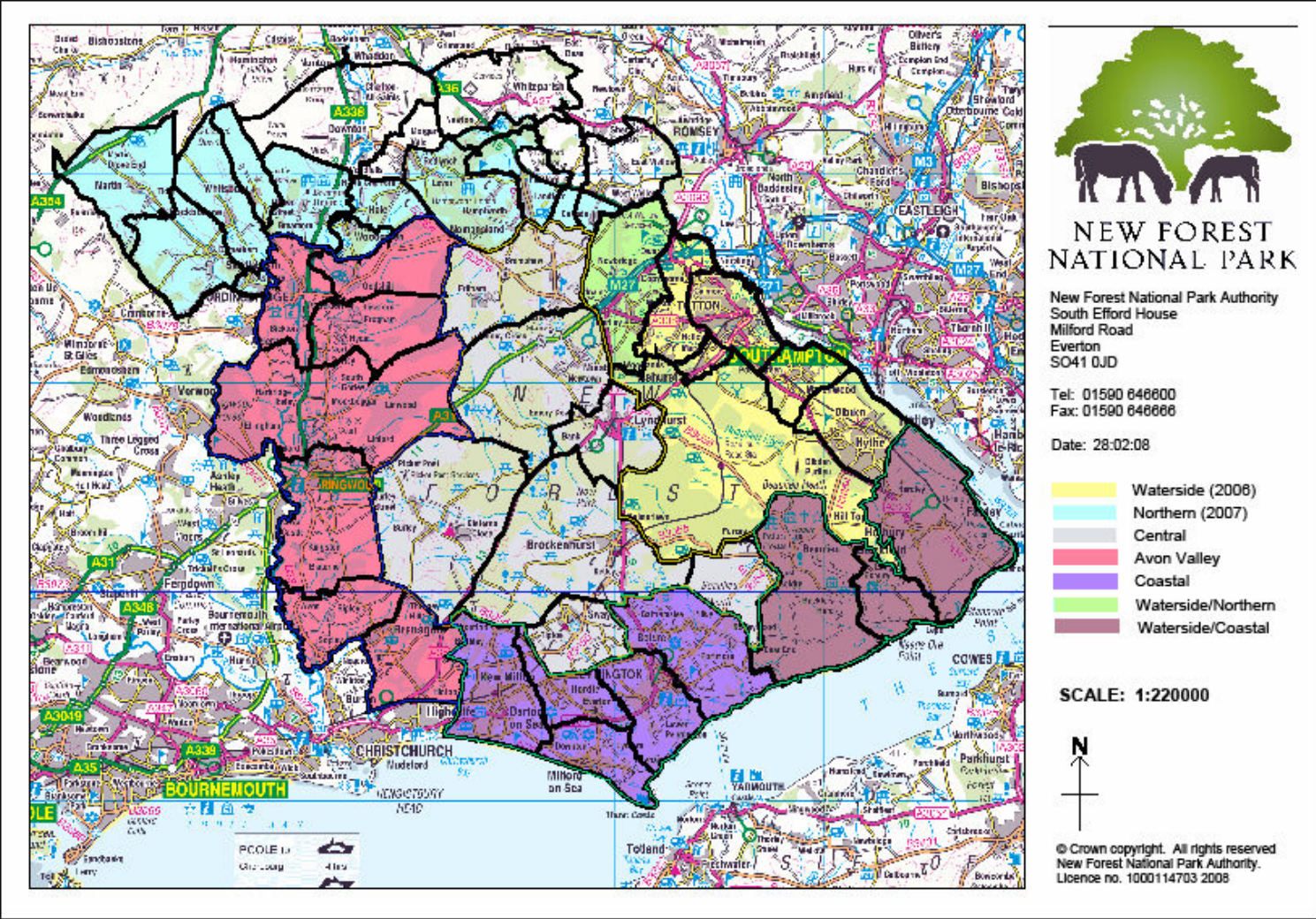


Working with the Community

Engaging with the community

- **Area based workshops**
- Parish Council conference
- Events and open days
- Welcoming LAF meetings

Area Based Workshops





Area Based Workshops

- Summer workshop – early July
- Located within Workshop area
- Invite:
 - Parish Councils
 - Recreational user groups
 - Land owners/managers
 - Interested individuals
- Suggestions discussed at next Forum meeting
- Feedback to all invitees



Area Based Workshops

Programme

10:00 Registration - Coffee/Tea

10:20 Introduction

10:30 Presentations:

Setting the policy framework for access in the New Forest, National Park Authority

The effect of the Habitats Directive on the provision of access in the New Forest, NE

Practical management of access on the Open Forest, Forestry Commission

How to best integrate public access with commoning practice, Verderers

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Break-out Group Sessions – groups to identify ways that access could be improved within, and to, the defined study area

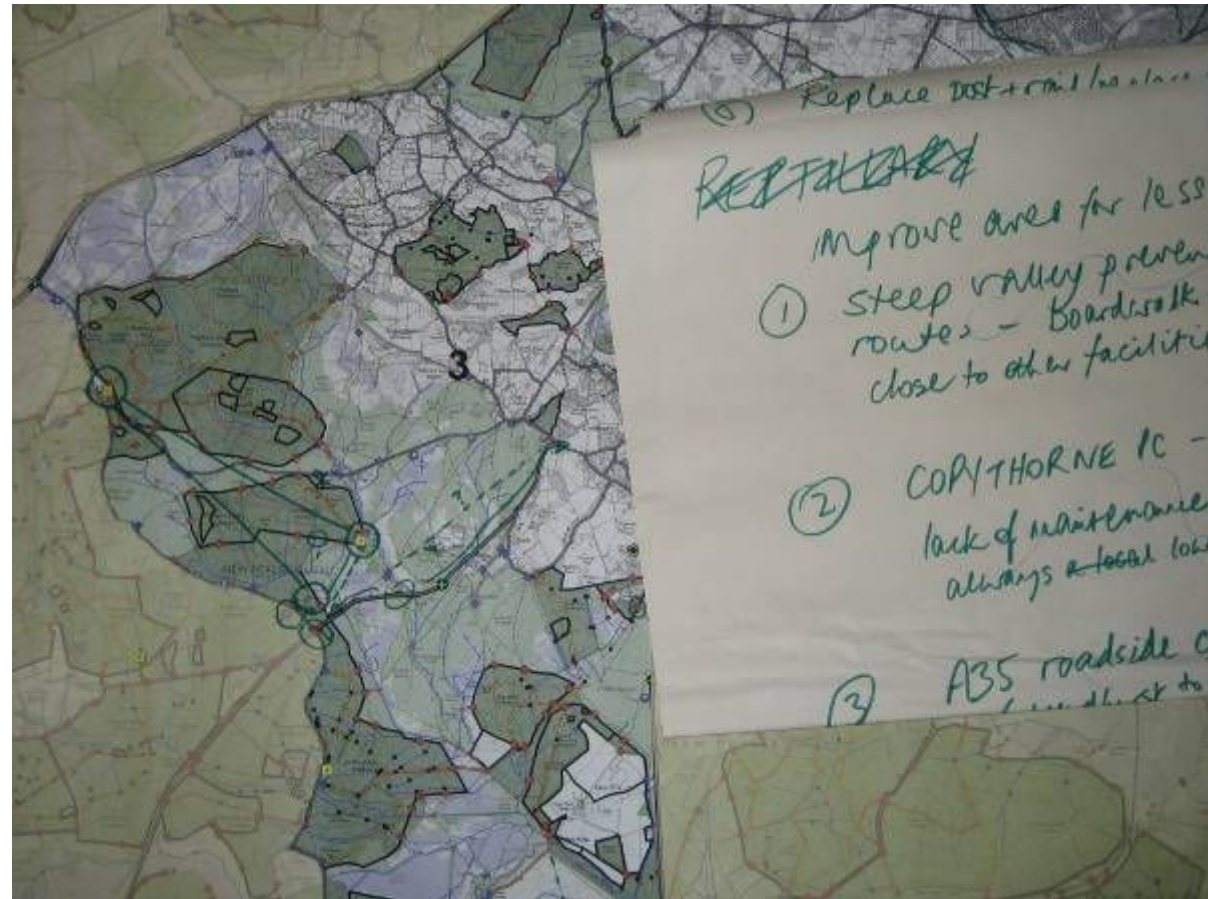
15:00 Summary and Conclusions

15:15 Finish



Area Based Workshops

Workshop 'output'





Area Based Workshops

Workshop Outcomes

- Formal advice from Forum
- Formation of Forum sub-group
- Ideas and suggestions help authorities to prepare actions plans, e.g.
 - ROWIPs
 - Management Plans
 - Recreation Strategies



Working with the Community

Some other ways to find out what the community wants:

- Participate at local events and open days
- Work with others on local consultations
- Members working with their own interest groups
- Make sure meetings are welcoming



Forestry Commission Open Day





Accessibility consultation





Some achievements

- Accessibility Information
- Breamore railway
- Health walks/leaflets
- Local improvements to paths e.g. drainage

- In progress:
 - Better provision for cyclists
 - On-site 'location' markers



Some achievements

Tall Trees Trail : route summary

Location	Blackwater
Length	2.2 km
Type	Circular route for walkers
Start / Finish	Blackwater car park (BU 266 057) or Black Hill car park (SU 267 048)

Hand walking experience with
of the tall trees.

car park has space for 50 cars with 2 spaces
r disabled visitors. It has toilets and disabled access
t tables, bike racks and an information point.

Foxtasy Commission car park with space for 20.

Key Information

- minimum width = 1.5m
- maximum gradient = 1:3 for 5%
- Don't step onto bridge

Ringwood
Circular walk 3

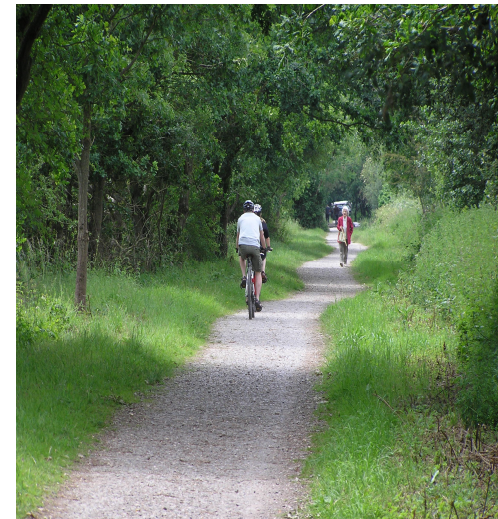
Healthy walks around the New Forest

Distance: 2 hrs / 9.56 miles
Duration: 25 minutes
Coordinates: South: 50-41 p, 00000000, west: 0000 0000



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Why and how to work with Parish Councils



Cath Hart

Countryside Service, Hampshire County

Why?

- They are public-spirited, knowledgeable groups of volunteers who want to improve their communities – just like LAFs!
- PCs have legal powers to work on ROW
- Tangible improvements for everyone – ROWIP delivery?
- Very appreciative of help offered

How?

- Invite their involvement in your LAF
- Assist them, through:
 - Guidance
 - Funding
 - Working together on projects
- Most of these will require your authority's input and support!



Parish Reference Guide


- Resource for Parish Councils
 - What is Countryside Access?
 - Legal records
 - Who's responsible?
 - A-Z of path problems
 - Improving local access

18

Who's Responsible?


This chapter gives an overview of the rights and responsibilities of those involved with public Rights of Way:

- Users
- Land owners, farmers and developers
- Local Access Forum
- Parish Councils
- District and Borough Councils
- National Park Authority
- County Council and Unitary Authorities
- Defra, Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate.



Two terms need to be thought about before we get into the detail of who can or should do what. These are **Duties** and **Powers**. Simple definitions for the purpose of this chapter are:

- **'Duties'** – actions that a body has a legal obligation to carry out; there is no element of discretion, the law says that they must be done, otherwise a body or individual can be called to account.
- **'Powers'** – actions that a body can choose to do; it is up to the individual organisation to decide whether a particular action is necessary or desirable and whether it is justified and achievable. Unlike **Duties** these entitlements are discretionary.



The table overleaf provides a quick reference guide to the **'Duties'** and **'Powers'** that those involved in Rights of Way have. A more in-depth exploration of each is presented throughout the rest of this chapter.

For the purpose of conciseness when Parish Councils are referred to this also includes Town Councils.

Conference

- 120 Parishes attended (200 people)
- LAF hosted and led workshops
- £2,000 plus officer time to organise
- Lots of enthusiasm!
- Lots of contact from PCs since

“I will be endeavouring to stimulate more activity with my PC, its volunteer groups and our landowners. As a small parish with a goodly mileage of rights of way, I am sure we should be making more use of the Small Grants Scheme!”

Parish Council representative

Small Grants Scheme

- Funding and advice to improve public access
 - Available to Parish Councils and landowners
 - Locally-initiated projects
 - 50% of project costs, max £2,500
- The LAF guided its establishment and form the panel to examine applications
- Last year, 25 projects funded...

Burghclere: gates



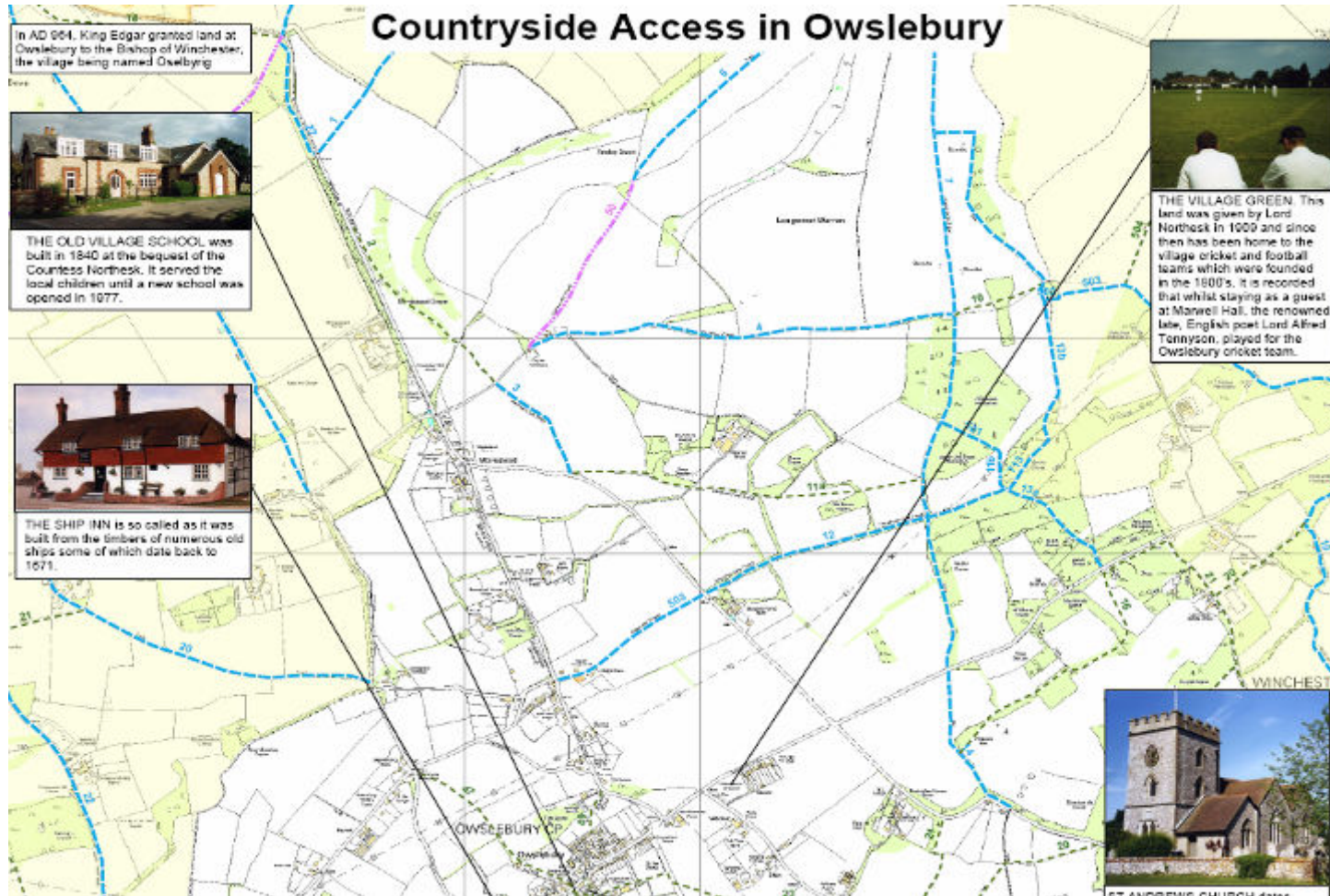
Bramdean PC: new bench



Beaulieu: new permissive path



Owslebury PC: map board



New Alresford: surfacing



Parish Path Poll

- Spot survey of ROW use
- Met a need for this sort of data
- LAF and CC oversaw; PCs did the work
- Helps to inform policies and strengthen rationale for supporting ROW



In Conclusion...

- Lots of potential
- Parishes keen to become involved
- Work with your local authority if at all possible!

Cath Hart: 01962 847221



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GATING ORDERS

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

When responding to a Gating Order (G.O.) request LAF's need to be clear on the criteria for a G.O. (explained in handout). In particular:

The 'alley way' must have a highway classification, some may not meet this!

The reason for a G.O. must be based on the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Check if the Council have a 'protocol' for dealing with G.O.s. and any G.O. proposal is well documented.

Be on good terms with Council Officers, they may be inexperienced.

Be aware of 'political' influence/interference.

Time scales (and 'interested' LAF members) may necessitate delegated authority and sub group working.

No public enquiry so LAF's have key role in advising Councils.

Dave Brookshaw & Pru Gridley

GATING ORDERS

1. In April 2006, under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2006 (through inserting addition clauses into the Highways Act 1980) local highway authorities were given the power to restrict access to alley ways with a highway classification through the application of a '**Gating Order**' (G.O.) - a mechanism which allows for alleyways to be closed 24/7 or for certain times based upon the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.

1.1 Regulations 4 and 10 require a council to give notice to any LAF's through whose area the relevant highway passes before making, varying or revoking a gating order.

1.2 A G.O. Order should be seen as 'temporary' in that it does not permanently affect the highway status of the alleyway and that an Order can be revoked or amended at any time. No upper time limit has been set for the life of an Order; however G.O.'s should be reviewed annually to ensure that they continue to be justified as a useful crime reduction intervention.

1.3 Although originally intended for use in urban settings, there is nothing to stop G.O.'s being used in rural locations. They may be imposed despite opposition and without the need for a public inquiry to be held. LAF's therefore have a particular role in advising local authorities on how best to devise gating order policies and on the periodic review of G.O.'s.

1.4 There is potential for LAF's to be proactive and vocal on G.O.'s
Think strategically and how to approach the issues.

2. Organisations such as the Ramblers Association (RA) and Open Spaces Society have concerns over G.O.'s and the RA is campaigning to curb 'alleygators'. They are not against G.O.'s – only those which gate paths that provide a public benefit e.g. they lead to a shop, a school, a Doctors surgery, a park, or provide a safe route away from busy roads.

3. Further information can be found has follows:

Natural England 'Handbook for LAF Members'. Section 2 chapter 15, pages 211-3 deals with G.O.'s and provides further references.

(www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/accessforums/laf)

Ramblers Association: (www.unlockingpaths.org.uk)

B&H Council has drawn up its own 'Gating Order protocol'
(www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1164845)

Dave Brookshaw

GATING ORDERS THE B&H LAF EXPERIENCE

1. In 2007 two Gating Order proposals were referred to the Brighton & Hove LAF. At a quarterly meeting B&H LAF felt that the forming of a sub group of three people was the best method for them to consider Gating Orders due in part to the complexity of Gating Orders and reporting time scale

2.1 Brunswick Row a short little-used pedestrian link between two major thoroughfares. By day few if any cases of anti social behaviour had been recorded. However during the evening & early hours of the morning it became a meeting place for youths from outside of the area who had no where to go. Although underage, drinking alcohol was the highlight of their evening. This lead onto harassing the residents and targeting their properties with missiles such as eggs and paint etc.
LAF supported, Gating.Order in place, now due for review

2.2 Farman Street by contrast was a very popular & well-used pedestrian link for residents from neighbouring streets to their local shops some of which are open 24/7 selling alcohol. Farman Street is in a part of 'old Hove' to which preservation orders apply. Historically there had been an unusual decision to build 'bin cupboards' in the middle of the street. It is a mixture of properties, residential houses, second homes, social housing and a single business unit. Residents claim to have been reporting incidents of criminal/anti social behaviour to the police for a number of years.LAF did not support either proposal to Gate. Gating Orders cancelled until building work done without planning consent has been resolved.The Farman Street Gating Order may go to a third report once this issue has been resolved. **NB. In 2008 Farman Street won the Brighton in Bloom Most Florally Attractive Area Competition (Street Category)**

3. How the sub group set about their task (listed in no particular order):-

Each member of the sub group had a copy of the proposal.
Thoroughly read & understand the proposal.
Arranged site meeting(s) with the council's case officer(s)
Checked & analysed the facts presented to them.
Made more site visits on different days & at different times.
Observed activities – made notes – took photos.
We held Email conferences between ourselves.
Used public records to confirm information & facts.
Searched the Internet for more information.
Checked for information & facts not included in the proposal.
Remained in communication with Council's case officer.
Requested more information from the case officer.
Wrote their report.
Submitted their report to the LAF Secretary.
Made their recommendation to the LAF's next quarterly meeting.

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