

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

Name of LAF	<b>CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM</b>
Name of LAF Chair	Mr N.K.Jeans, FRICS
Name of LAF Secretary	Mr Richard Williams

Total number of LAF members	18
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	7
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	6
Number of members representing other interests	5 [2 lay members + 3 Councillors]

**1. LAF achievements?** (Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area)

Given the current expenditure restrictions, scope for improvements is very limited. However, the Forum has supported two projects; one, a an access iomprovement scheme carried out under the Paths 4 Communities programme by the National Trust at Penrose ERstate, near Helston; and one, through the good offices of the Vice Chairman for a new footpath link established by the Partish Council on th Anthony Estate in South Esat Cornwall.

**2. What are the main challenges affecting your LAF's ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?**

of resources, particulary:-

1. Inadequate staffing level to deal effectively and on an up-to-date basis with Definitive map and other statutory and associated matters.
2. Insuffivient funding due to budgetary constraints to properly maintain the PROW network.  
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**3. What are your top three priorities for the year ahead?**

1. To hold the Council to account as to the effectiove application of it's policies relevant to access and rights of way.
2. To support and encourage the Council in it's role in coastal access, particularly with the work on the South West Coast path in Cornwall.
3. To support and encoursgre the Council in seeking alternative sources of funding to facilitate both maintenance & improvement work to the PROW network.

**4. Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities?**

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Advice & guidance on alternative funding sources.

### LAF activity in 2014/15

Number of full LAF meetings held	4	Number of sub-group meetings held	5
Number of working groups led by others	4	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	1

**Partners the LAF worked with during 2014/15** (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice
Green Infrastructure strategies	1	
Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)		
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)		
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)		
Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)		
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	1	
Planning applications		
Housing development schemes		
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	2	
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	1	
Right of Way Improvement Plan review		
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	1	
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area		
Definitive map and recording PROW	1	
Parish Council or other grant schemes	1	
Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?		
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	1	
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)		
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)		
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves		
Open Access land restrictions	6	
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	
NNR dedication	3	
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.		

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Forestry and woodland		
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Any other LAF activity (please specify)

Advice to the Council to help formulate a Policy for dealing with Open Access
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### 5. Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>1</sup>

Section 94(4) Bodies show a marked reluctance to respond to CCAF consultations etc. We have though received useful feedback from the Forestry Commission (on the shortcomings of NE's maps attached to access restriction notices) and on requested modification of access restrictions (to reduce inconvenience to the public). We received limited response from NE in respect of their consultation on NRR management. We are currently waiting a response from Cornwall Council on an LTP consultation.

### 6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

The Cornwall Countryside Access Forum has struggled to make an impact over the last year in the context of continuing cuts to local authority budgets. Nevertheless the Council welcomes the support, advice, inspiration and enthusiasm that members of the Forum bring to meetings. The problem for the Forum and for the Council is how to turn all of that enthusiasm into improvements to countryside access in Cornwall. By waving the flag for countryside access, maintaining their strategic approach and by working with other groups engaged in the same dilemma of how to deliver improved outcomes with shrinking budgets, the Forum can continue to have a significant impact on how countryside access changes in Cornwall in the future.

### 7. Comments from LAF Chair

As long as the current financial restrictions apply, it is difficult to see how the Forum or the appointing authority, its main Section 94(4) "correspondent, can do other than make the best of a bad job. Countryside access generally, and the rights of way network in particular, are vital to the wellbeing of both the local population and to the tourist industry in Cornwall. In spite of the gloomy outlook, we are determined to positively support the Council and to look for ways in which matters might be improved.

### 8. Any important information to bring to the attention of Natural England

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<sup>1</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.

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**9. Any other comments**

None