

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Report Proforma

* Reporting year	April 2011 - March 2012
* Name of LAF	Joint Local Access Forum for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire
* Name of LAF secretary	Chris Hogg

Review of Current reporting year

Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your Annual Report or LAF work programme? Please provide supporting information.

The last JLAF work programme was produced in Autumn 2010, within the most recent JLAF Annual Report and Newsletter. This is included at Appendix 2.

That Newsletter referred to the statutory functions of the JLAF as the forward programme, i.e., responding to Access Land restriction notices and Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultations.

In fact, the JLAF achieved much more in 2011/12. Highlights include:

Chairmanship

The JLAF had been Chaired from November 2006 to November 2011 by Ray Newbigin, assisted by Robin Winfield and Ron Phelps. In 2011 they retired from their positions with thanks for their long service from the membership. From the meeting in March 2012 the JLAF has been Chaired by David Waterstone; the Vice Chairman is Robert Killen.

OutdoorsWest

Working with the Councils on the OutdoorsWest programme, to publish the website at www.OutdoorsWest.org.uk as a first stop for information on the outdoors in the area. This is designed to be an attractive approachable website with mapping and information that people want, with the main aim to increase use of public rights of way. The website also holds background information and advice on public rights of way, access to mapping of furniture (stiles, gates, signs) on routes, and a system to allow online reporting of problems on the path network.

A JLAF working group has been helping the councils with this website, advising on content and approach. Their main role however is on a routes database, with JLAF members compiling published routes, surveying them, writing directions and plotting maps. This section of the website is still under construction, but will be a valuable database of attractive, reliable routes for people to explore the area. Other organisations such as the Cotswold AONB, National Trust, Health Walks and Museums are also involved in providing routes for this.

Volunteers

The Cotswolds AONB have a long established Voluntary Wardens setup, which covers the

Cotswold AONB in the JLAF area, but not the remainder of the area.

Proposed by the current JLAF chairman during a consultation for the Joint ROWIP, the Ramblers Association Avon area, working closely with the councils, have set up volunteer teams who carry out on-site tasks such as vegetation clearance, kissing gate installation, as well as step and surface repair and installation. There is now full coverage of the JLAF area by volunteer teams.

*** How many Open Access Restriction cases have you been informed about/involved with?**

There is **one** long term Access Land restriction in the JLAF area, near Batheaston, and the JLAF were consulted and responded when this was reviewed.

There are very few (<5) notifications of temporary restrictions in the JLAF area, though they are considered and a response prepared if there is a need for representations.

*** Give up to three examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:**

JLAF response to 'Moving inland waterways into a new charity in England and Wales'

JLAF response to Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Consultation

JLAF response to the Independent Panel on Forestry

JLAF Letter to Defra: A Monarch's Way National Trail

JLAF Letter to Councils: Investment in Public Rights of Way and Outdoors Access

Give up to three examples where you have encountered difficulties; explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate this issue:

The JLAF works closely with three Public Rights of Way sections in three councils, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Councils. Particularly over the past three years, staffing in these teams has been reduced by over a third, and therefore the time available to support the JLAF and its projects by the councils has reduced.

The JLAF has pressed for improved resources for Outdoors Access and public rights of way: though this is during a period where the Public Rights of Way teams have had their manpower reduced by over 1/3.

Do you have any issues with recruitment of members from particular interest groups? Does this hinder your work in any way?

We believe that the JLAF membership as a whole is generally representative of the interests in the area. This might not always mean that numbers of member classes (landowners, users, other) are equal, but that their interests are represented and considered in meetings and in the advice that the JLAF delivers.

There is a good representation of members from land managers and users on the JLAF and the JLAF ensures both are included in the Chairmanship of the JLAF and in any working group.

Three Councils are involved in the JLAF: Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. We usually have fewer applications from potential members in Bristol, the most populous council area. We also receive very few applications from young people or those who have a professional interest in young people.

The membership as a whole is generally aware of these gaps in representation and tries to raise and address issues accordingly.

Comments from appointing authority

The JLAF has made a positive contribution to outdoors access across the three Council areas and their work has significant potential, particularly in relation to volunteering. The three Councils are very grateful to David Waterstone, Robert Killen and the other JLAF members for their constructive engagement.

Forward Look

What are your priorities for next year (list up to 3)

Priorities for the JLAF are now outlined in the JLAF Business Plan, included at Appendix 1.

*** What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities?**

New members are introduced to the JLAF with an introductory pack, which includes a descriptive guide to the JLAF, Terms of Reference, Government Guidance and the National LAF Best Practice Guide.

One to one introductions with the Secretary are offered, and all members are invited to a training course run with members of Regulatory Committees on Rights of Way and Access.

JLAF members are also briefed in meetings and papers by officers or invited speakers.

JLAF members are encouraged to approach the Councils and Secretary if they have any queries, and these relationships prove very positive. Also, the members form their own contacts with fellow members for informal support and advice between meetings.

Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities?

The resources for public rights of way and access have diminished, as has the time available for officers to support the work of the JLAF.

The JLAF wishes to identify targeted improvements that can be supported by the councils, and will assist local councils, volunteer groups and others with advice where it can.

Any other comments

In order to streamline the work of the JLAF, and to tie into the Annual Report Proforma issued by Natural England and Defra, the JLAF intends to summarise its actions in a concise JLAF Business Plan (or work programme), as shown at Appendix 1, and the Appointing Councils will submit this completed Proforma to meet its statutory obligations.

Appendix 1



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

JLAF Business Plan

July 2012 – June 2013

Introduction

This is a JLAF business plan, which intends to concisely lay out the subjects that the JLAF wishes to consider – both items for discussion and action. This document serves as the 'work programme' of the JLAF referred to in regulations.

JLAF Members:

Current Membership until 30/06/2012

Chris Bloor, Jill Britten, Bill Dawson, Ann Fay, John Gunnery, Bernadette Macey, Andrew Short, Adam Stratton, Adam Stratton, David Waterstone

Current Membership until 30/06/2014

Chris Barrable, Peter Gould, Robert Killen, Colette Linehan, Chris Simpson, Sheena Stephenson, Rachael Whitlock, Michael Youe, Vacancy

Councillors:

Nicholas Coombes (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Howard Gawler (South Gloucestershire Council), Kevin Quartley (Bristol City Council)

Proposed Actions/ Subjects:

Where appropriate each working group should involve both User and Landowner interests.

This is a list of proposed actions for the JLAF - the resource to deliver these should be realistically identified, and must not proceed as a JLAF action without the consensus agreed at a full meeting of the JLAF.

Volunteering: Ramblers Voluntary Wardens, Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Continuing to liaise with this scheme, and considering how other groups may wish to adopt its principles.

Paths for Communities (P4C)

Natural England grant scheme for improving and creating new routes in rural areas. JLAF members might be able to coordinate an application, or advise others locally on the scheme and their applications to it, for work to be delivered by local user or community groups. This might be most appropriate for bridleway users to consider, but relevant to all users, and of interest to land managing and other interests. Such a group should consider working with landowners to create new access.

Walkers are Welcome

To establish a JLAF working group to investigate and promote Walkers are Welcome status to town/parish councils.

Dogs

To consider the subject of dogs and access, identifying the importance of dog walking, the problems associated with dogs associated with outdoors access, and propose improvements.

Equestrians and horses on Public Rights of Way

To review improvements to bridleways and for horse riders, with a presentation from Ann Fay, JLAF Member, with her perspective as a horse rider.

OutdoorsWest

Continuing to advise councils, surveying and collating routes, promoting OutdoorsWest, working with the Councils and other partners on further developing OutdoorsWest as a resource, for instance, to encourage links to health interests, to pitch OutdoorsWest as a health improvement resource.

OutdoorsWest Information for landowners

Landowner interests to lead on preparing information that could be published on OutdoorsWest to assist other landowners, including template signs to download (for uses such as addressing dogs in the countryside or general interest information, or information about safety whilst on a farm)

Disabled Access

Work with others (i.e. non-JLAF organisations such as RNIB) to survey routes for disabled users, with OutdoorsWest and perhaps a provider such as phototrails.org

Liaison with other groups/ organisations

Council PROW teams, other Council Departments including Health Walk providers, PROW Liaison Groups, Local Economic Partnership, other Access Providers (eg National Trust, AONBs, Wildlife Trusts etc), Avon Frome Partnership.

Local Nature Partnership

Work with partnership members to advise on outdoors access, and collaborate/ match-make on projects. Propose that the JLAF have a seat on the Local Nature Partnership body.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

Advise on the renewal of the ROWIP and projects/ practice resulting from it

Resources

Identify resources for outdoors access.

Access Land

The JLAF is a statutory consultee for access land, for instance when Access Land restrictions are applied for or renewed, or when Access Land is mapped.

Council and other Strategies

Respond to consultations on the Local Transport Plan, Transport Schemes, Planning documents, Green Infrastructure Strategies, major planning applications and masterplans.

Respond to consultations '*as and when*' such as:

B&NES Green Infrastructure Strategy

Defra Consultation on changes to Public Rights of Way.

Planning matters

Note on S94(4) bodies who have a duty to consider the advice of the JLAF.

The JLAF's main consultative bodies are "S94(4) bodies": Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Councils; the Secretary of State (in effect this means any Government Department with a Secretary of State, e.g. Defra and MOD, as well as "executive agencies" such as the Planning Inspectorate and the Highways Agency); Natural England; the Forestry Commission; English Heritage; Sport England (the English Sports Council); Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Boards; Parish and town councils.

Meetings

All meetings will include:

- Administrative items such as Introductions, Apologies, Declaration of Interests, Draft Minutes, Next meeting
- News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams
- Items to report/ for information, Items for ratification

Event/Meeting	Date	Proposed Agenda Items
JLAF27 Main Meeting	FR 06JUL12	Presentation by CLA Business Plan
JLAF28 Main Meeting	FR 09NOV12	Presentation on Walkers are Welcome by existing WrW town Dogs and Outdoors Access
JLAF29 Main Meeting	FR 01MAR13	Equestrians and horses on Public Rights of Way

Reporting

In order to streamline the work of the JLAF, and to tie into the Annual Report Proforma issued by Natural England and Defra, the JLAF intends to summarise its actions in this concise JLAF Business Plan. The Appointing Councils intend to submit to Natural England a completed Annual Report Proforma to meet its statutory obligations.

Appendix 2

Previous JLAF Annual Report and Newsletter

In the past, the JLAF has produced a long and detailed report, in the form of a newsletter that incorporated the statutory obligations for an Annual Report.

The JLAF now wishes to streamline this reporting, so has now replaced the Annual Newsletter with it's Business Plan, which focuses on the actions of the JLAF. The Appointing Councils will submit a completed Proforma to meet its statutory obligations.

This following Annual Newsletter is included to show actions proposed at the time of publication in Autumn 2010.



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

Annual Newsletter

Incorporating Annual Report

2009 – 2010

Chairmen's Report

The Joint Local Access Forum for Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire (widely known as the JLAF) was set up under the terms of the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* and held its first meeting in July 2003. Its statutory role is to advise its Councils and other specified organisations on access to and enjoyment of the countryside. Additionally it advises and comments on all other matters relating to the public's enjoyment of open air activities.

Membership

Membership criteria are set out in the Act: One Councillor from each of the Councils and a further 19 members drawn from the general public who have a particular area of expertise and are committed to furthering the aim of access to the countryside. Appointments are made by the Local Authorities. We are pleased to be able to report that we have a full complement of members. Currently 7 represent land owning interests (rural and urban fringe farming, estate management and those with a knowledge of farming and land owning representative bodies), 10 representing user interests (including horse riding, cycling, walking, carriage driving, trail riding, off-road running and open spaces) while 2 fall in the "other" category. During the past year the three year

tenure of membership expired for eight members. Five were re-appointed and four new members joined to bring the total to the full twenty two. We were sorry to lose our member who had a special knowledge of disabled matters but are confident that we continue to keep those issues firmly in mind in our deliberations.

Meetings and Working Methods

The JLAF meets three times a year, a decision made by its members – in the past year on 7th November 2008, 6th March and 3rd July 2009. We consider that this allows time for meetings to be properly prepared and appropriate follow-up action to be taken. This should, in theory, allow time for all members to contribute to the various Consultations to which we respond but often timescales are unrealistically short. To cover this eventuality we have a small number of “position statements” which guide the Officers in making decisions which are then taken to the next meeting of the JLAF for ratification. All our members are now on email which makes informing and consulting with them that much easier.

JLAF meetings are held at the Frys Club and Conference Centre, Somerdale, Keynsham, a venue which is central to the area and has good public transport links. Attendance during the past year has averaged 15 members. We are disappointed that we have normally only had one Councillor out of three at meetings. We value Councillors attending to get the benefit of a two-way exchange of information. The other side of the coin, though, is that we have had the regular attendance of Public Rights of Way Officers and their staff.

Serving, as we do, three Unitary Authorities we find that there is a considerable workload for the voluntary Officers. To help overcome this, in addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman we have made a “non-statutory” appointment of a Deputy Chairman. The three Chairmen, along with the JLAF Secretary, meet before each full JLAF meeting to agree the agenda and meet two weeks after the full meeting to agree the draft minutes and actions. In addition, the three Chairmen meet at an “interim meeting” to discuss general matters without an agenda.

Having three Chairmen enables each of the Chairmen to lead with one of our three Councils. We find this is particularly useful in representing the JLAF on Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups (PROWLG). We are fortunate that **two of the three Councils** (each of our Councils) has a PROWLG, an informal group that meets three times a year to discuss the detail of the public rights of way networks. This enables the JLAF to perform a more strategic and wide-ranging role. We are fortunate in that each Chairman represents a different strand – one “User”, one “Land interest” and one “Other”. This year our Chairman, Vice Chairman and Deputy Chairman were each re-elected for another two year term.

The JLAF is supported by its Secretary, appointed and paid for jointly by the three Councils. The Secretary has an additional role as “Access Improvement Officer” for the three Councils. The JLAF Secretary has developed an outstanding website which we believe is used by other professionals. During the year the website has been re-vamped and is constantly updated. Readers of this Annual Report will find further information on www.jlf.org.uk on all of the issues reported on below.

What We Did Last Year

1) Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The JLAF has always been closely involved with the Councils' Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIPs) having contributed substantially to their development. We monitor and encourage implementation by the Councils and receive regular updates on progress.

1a) The Rights of Way Network

The year has seen the installation of the "CAMS" (Countryside Access Management System) computer system by the Councils. This is a public rights of way mapping database which records photographically both routes and "furniture" – stiles, gates etc. Associated with this has been a full network survey logging the state of the network. This should make it easier to identify and deal with problems. We are assured that a joint standards scheme will be adopted across the area. From an administrative point of view the JLAF has been kept informed of the introduction of common Path Order Policies which will give the public a clear route through the legalities of proposed changes to the network.

1b) A Database of Local Walks and Rides

The RoWIP suggestion of an on-line database that will make it easier for the public to access the countryside has taken a big step forward this year. The Councils asked the JLAF to set up a working group to advise how this can be done. With the help of the JLAF Secretary work is well advanced on a template to record walks and equestrian rides. Other information and links to user groups will be included and it is planned that the service will be launched with the public in March 2011 under the domain name www.outdoorswest.org.uk.

2 Projects of Special Interest to the JLAF

The JLAF has been encouraging progress by Councils on a number of projects which it deems to be of importance to enjoyment of the outdoors. Such projects while not necessarily particularly expensive can be complex and depend for their success on a drive to overcome the difficulties.

2a) Riverside Paths in Bristol

We understand that progress is being made on firmly re-establishing the link from Bristol to the Severn Way which has fallen into disrepair. This requires works on the ground and the co-operation of Network Rail and the National Trust. Further to the east the JLAF is keen to see the status of the Monarch's Way through St Philip's Marsh legally established. This requires the co-operation of three commercial landowners, once again Network Rail are involved. Like British Rail we think that Bristol Council "are getting there". While Council staff have been patiently working away at these issues, yet further to the east the heavily promoted River Avon Trail at Conham has been falling into disrepair. We hope to see work on the strengthening of the river banks start soon.

2b) Lansdown near Bath

Longstanding issues over the use of a footpath and more recently of access land on Lansdown north of Bath have been resolved by path diversion and creation orders. Stirling work by the volunteers of the Cotswold Wardens have helped to produce a really excellent route along the ridge which links with the wider network. While thanks are due to Council staff and others, the JLAF believes it was itself instrumental in driving this issue to resolution.

2c) Path round Chew Valley Lake

Long standing efforts to extend and improve the paths on the north side of Chew Valley Lake have been mired in the complexity of the task. Bath and North East Somerset Council are responsible for granting planning permission and at least some of the financing. Sustrans have taken the lead in applying for planning permission and arranging the works. Natural England are concerned that the various habitats, especially grass lands and birds are protected. Last (but not least!) the landowners, Bristol Water, are supportive but need to protect water quality. During the year the JLAF has been liaising endlessly with the various players. Progress has been made but there is a fear that success is too late to avoid being affected by Local Authority expenditure cuts.

3 Consultations

The JLAF makes a point of responding to all public consultations within its remit despite the difficulties often experienced by short lead times. Such consultations fall within two categories, national and local. All our responses are viewable on the JLAF's website.

3a) Marine and Coastal Access Act

The final version of Natural England's Scheme for implementation of access to the coast was published during the year. This is a long document and there are many possible areas of contention.

The JLAF's working group strove for consensus. The document talks repeatedly of the need for Natural England to consider the fair balance of the interests. This will be achieved locally rather than by fine words. The JLAF have an ongoing interest in coastal access. We have a small amount of coast, albeit on the Severn Estuary. Many of our members are keen that coastal access should continue as far as the Severn Bridge. This is not a foregone conclusion.

3b) The Long Term Role of the Public Forest Estate

The Forestry Commission were asking for views on the management of public forests including the cost, income generation, recreational use, planting types. We responded to those issues within our remit.

3c) Discovering Lost Ways

The Stakeholders Working Group on Public Rights of Way was rather oddly constituted by Defra. Its aim was to try to resolve issues regarding the twenty five year cut-off in CRoW 2000 for new claims for rights of way on grounds of historic usage. We had a limited opportunity to contribute before the final take-it-or-leave-it document was produced. We are disappointed that the final document is toothless.

3d) Ordnance Survey Free

This was a daunting technical document from Ordnance Survey as they tried to establish how they should establish free on-line access to various forms of mapping.

3e) Housing Development on the Urban Fringe

Many members of the JLAF have been concerned at the plans for housing development throughout the area, much of it on the green belt. The JLAF does not think it feasible, even if it were desirable, to comment on each of the local issues. However we do have a position statement on the importance of "green infrastructure" to any proposed developments. This was submitted to South Gloucestershire as part of their consultation.

3f) Bristol Walking Strategy

JLAF representatives attended consultation meetings held by Bristol City Council to help develop its Walking Strategy. Our input was made informally on those occasions.

4) Gating of Neighbourhood Paths

Under the Gating Orders of the Highways Act 1980 Local Authorities have the power to erect gates across public rights of way on grounds of anti-social behaviour or the fear of anti-social behaviour. Local Access Forums have to be informed of any such proposals. The JLAF accepts that there is a balance to be struck between the concerns of residents and the loss of amenity by the general public wishing to use such paths. We have produced a twelve point statement so that our Council's know what information we can reasonably expect to support a gating proposal. During the past year we have advised both South Gloucestershire and Bristol Councils against a gating order. We were disappointed that Bristol Council chose not to take our advice. In so doing we believe that they lost sight of the need for a fair balance in that particular case.

5) Joint Local Transport Plan

The Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3) is in the process of being re-written for implementation from April 2011. ROWIPs will be integrated into the new plan. Our Chairman asked questions at the public meeting of the Joint Transport Executive in February and was subsequently invited to sit on the West of England Transport Plan Commission. The JLAF is strongly making the point that in the context of the Transport Plan, walking and cycling projects are cheap, efficient and sustainable and should therefore be given the highest priority. As budgets are squeezed by the economic situation this is exactly the right time for a change of direction.

6) Beyond the JLAF

Local Access Forums, including the JLAF were set up without an overarching organisation. Our Chairman has been instrumental in helping to set up a small body known as the England Access Forum that can talk directly to Natural England and Government at a national level. So far this has highlighted issues but the constant and continuing turmoil in Natural England does not augur well. Some support for LAFs has been forthcoming through Natural England at a Regional level. In the South West we have attended meetings of Chairmen and Secretaries and members have taken advantage of a conference/training event.

7) Access Land Restrictions

The JLAF has a statutory consultation role regarding restrictions that may be placed on access land. We have one such restriction in our area due to possible aggression from a specific breed of cattle when with calf. This was due for renewal during the year. We remain convinced of the need for this partial restriction.

8) Speakers at JLAF Meetings

We endeavour to get a short presentation by speakers at our meetings. We regard these talks as educational and informative as well as allowing for an exchange of views between members and our guest. This year we have been pleased to welcome:

Amanda Grundy of Natural England explaining the role of NE regarding all aspects of access to the outdoors.

James White from the West of England Partnership who told us about the background to and considerations guiding JLTP3 and

Andrew Green of South Gloucestershire Council who dealt with the issues of building green infrastructure into the Council's Core Development Strategy.

9) Liaison with the Public Rights of Way Teams

The JLAF is pleased that members of the Councils' Public Rights of Way Teams continue to attend our meetings. While this is not the place for the detail of network management we can discuss wider issues with them. In return the JLAF sends a representative to the quarterly meetings of the Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups which keep open the lines of communication with all the user groups. In this respect we are greatly disappointed that Bath and North East Somerset has temporarily discontinued its Liaison Group due to a 35% cut in PROW staffing. We note that all the Public Rights of Way Departments are likely to come under increasing budgetary restraints.

The Future

As we present this Annual Report and Newsletter we are conscious that it will be read as national and local public expenditure is being cut. We would make the following points:

We are here to champion access to the outdoors. In a time of stringency the public should be encouraged to take advantage of such access which is cheap, sustainable and supports mental and physical well-being in what might otherwise be a less uplifting time.

The nineteen lay members of the JLAF are all volunteers. We think we represent the sort of community spirit now being called the "Big Society". We believe that sort of spirit is widespread but it needs to be tapped and in the early stages guided if it is partially to replace what Local Authorities might otherwise do.

Secretary's Report

JLAF Members	Interest Category	Description	Attendance at Meetings		
			18	19	20
Ray Newbiggin	Other	Chairman of the JLAF (Vice Chair 2003-2006, Chairman NOV06-JUL12) Keen to increase the demand for outdoor recreation and is now Chairman of the JLAF.			
Robin Winfield	User	Vice Chairman of the JLAF (NOV06-JUL08, JUL08-JUL12) Previously NFU Group Secretary and sat on the South Gloucestershire ROW Liaison Group and now Vice Chairman of the JLAF.			
Ron Phelps	Landowning	Deputy Chairman of the JLAF (NOV06-JUL08, JUL08-JUL12)Avon Area Access Officer for the local Ramblers' Association and is now the Deputy Chairman of the JLAF.			
Councillor Chris Cray	Nominated as a JLAF Member by Bath & North East Somerset Council.				
Councillor Trevor Blythe	Nominated as a JLAF Member by Bristol City Council.				
Councillor Malcolm Bridge	Nominated as a JLAF Member by South Gloucestershire Council.				
Janine Averis	Landowning	A landowner, keen horse rider and dog walker who wants quality, accessible routes away from roads.			
Chris Bloor	User	A walker and runner, enthusiastic about leisure pedestrian routes and has published books of circular routes linking to the Community Forest Path. South Gloucestershire Local Correspondent to the Open Spaces Society.			
Jill Britten	Landowning	Has farmed countryside on the southern edge of Bristol for 40 years, enjoys seeing responsible users and encourages the conservation of nature.			
Bill Dawson	User	Drives a pony and trap and participates in Driving for the Disabled.			
Ann Fay	User	The local British Horse Society (BHS) Access and Bridleways Officer for South Gloucestershire and Bristol and works with people with disabilities.			
Anna Ferguson	Other	Passionate about encouraging access to the outdoors for health and to socially excluded groups. An interest in the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, and Chair of Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group.			
Roger Fowler	User	User in most categories, landowner with Public Rights of Way on his land and a member of the TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship).			
Peter Gould	User	Bristol Area Footpath Secretary for the Ramblers' Association and author of publications about exploring the countryside.			
John Gunnery	Landowning	Landowner, farmer who provides Toll Rides for horses and member of the CLA (Country, Land and Business Association).			
Robert Killen	Landowning	A Chartered Surveyor and Land Agent for two estates in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.			
Colette Linehan	User	A regular commuting & leisure walker and cyclist who would like to make these activities more accessible: "many youngsters especially, do not have the freedom to explore their world that even my generation benefited from and I passionately believe that this is a trend that rapidly needs reversing".			
Bernadette Macey	User	A volunteer Health Walk leader in Bath. Enjoys walking for pleasure and to get around.			
Andrew Short	User	Active cyclist and walker. Interested in promoting commuting and leisure cycling and related safety issues.			
Adam Stratton	Landowning	A farmer with land in the Forest of Avon and much of this land is in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.			
David Waterstone	Other	The Chairman for the Avon Area of the Ramblers Association, active with the Cotswold AONB Voluntary Wardens.			
Margaret Wilson	Landowning	A farmer and founder member of the Chew Valley Recreational Trail Association.			

JLAF Observers

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

JLAF Website

A JLAF website has been maintained at www.jlaf.org.uk, now with frequent updates of news of interest to members and others. Papers for all of the meetings of the JLAF are available from the secretary and on the JLAF website. The website includes all meeting papers of the JLAF, documents produced by the JLAF and other information that relates to the work of the JLAF.

JLAF Work Programme 2010/11

The JLAF has a statutory interest in the following areas of work:

Access Land

Following the new right coming into force in December 2004, the JLAF maintains a statutory interest, for example in considering applications for restrictions on access land. The JLAF will wish to review work on access land in its area as the 10 year review of access land mapping approaches, and the implementation of coastal access rights introduced by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs)

The JLAF is a statutory consultee for Rights of Way Improvement Plans. The JLAF has an interest in ensuring the Councils implement this plan effectively. The JLAF wishes to ensure that the Councils increase demand for use of Public Rights of Way, so increasing the number of people using the network. The JLAF expect to be very involved in the OutdoorsWest project, including advising on contents and the inclusion of routes on the website. The JLAF would also like to see the information held on the website distributed to those without access to the internet.

In addition, the JLAF is keen to liaise closely with authorities, ensuring effective management and promotion of Public Rights of Way and any related subjects, including planning, stimulating demand and to promote the significant benefits that this can bring. The three Councils are currently developing Core Strategies under the Local Development Frameworks, and Green Infrastructure Policies, which are key to the improvement of outdoors access in this area.

JLAF Forward Programme 2010 / 2011

The table on the following page shows meetings proposed for 2010-11. This does not include any additional meetings including sub-groups that might be arranged.

Meeting	Date
JLAF22 Main Meeting	FR 05NOV10
JLAF23 Main Meeting	FR 04MAR11
JLAF24 Main Meeting	FR 04JUL11

This is a report on the seventh year of the Joint Local Access Forum for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire (the JLAF). This report fulfils the requirements of paragraph 13 of The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.

Further information about the JLAF is available on the JLAF website at:

www.jlaf.org.uk

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