

AGENDA: Tuesday 28 March 2017

VENUE: Shawford Parish Hall, Pearson Lane, Compton, Winchester SO21 2AA

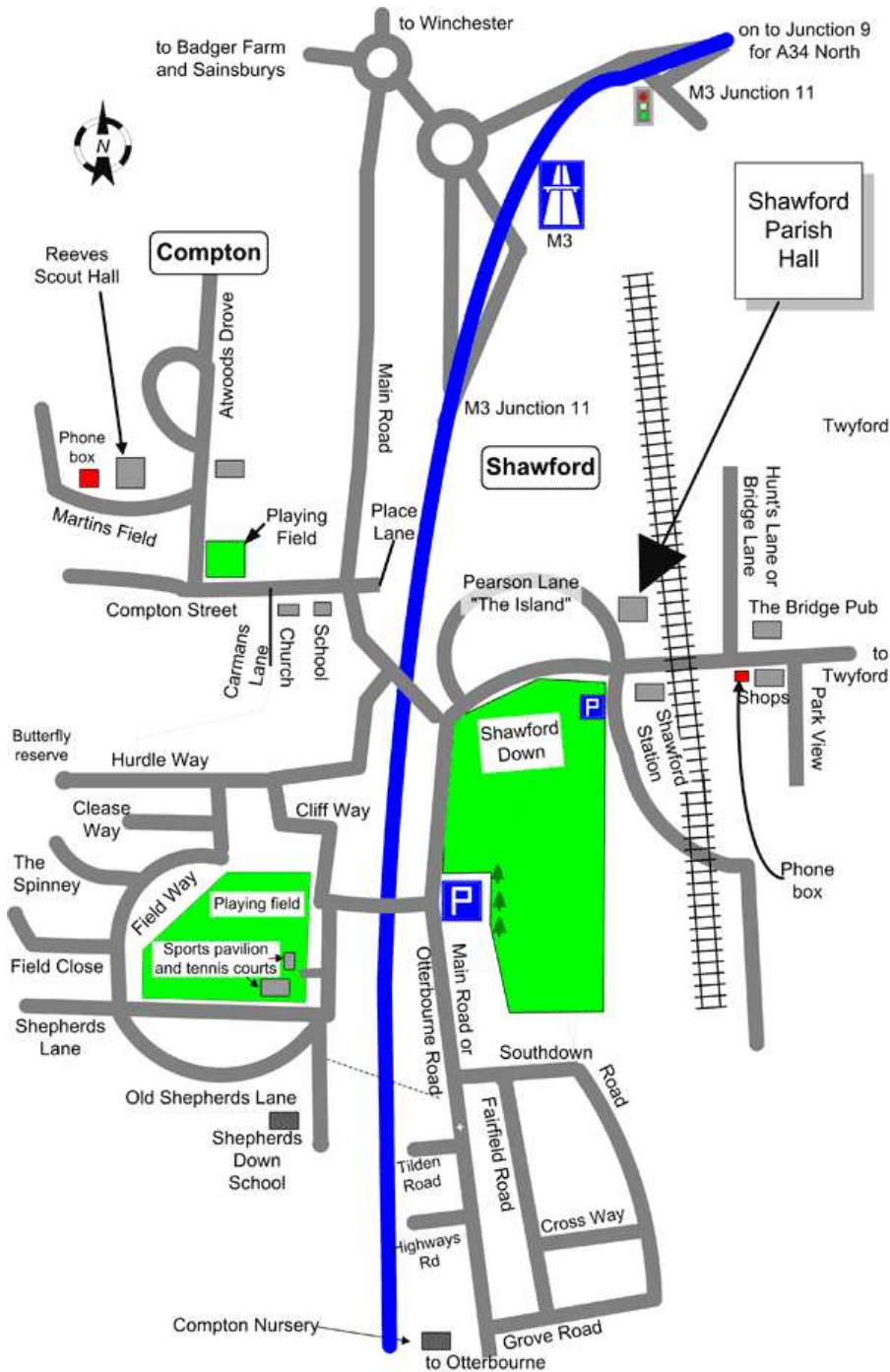
10:00 MEETING COMMENCES (Tea/Coffee available from 09:45)

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Apologies, welcome and introductions to new members | <i>Admin</i> | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 2.
10.10 | Minutes of last meeting and matters arising including review/approval of Work Programme for 2017 | <i>Information / Decision</i> | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 3.
10.30 | Planning (Jonathan Woods/Planning sub-group) – next steps following Workshop in December | <i>Discussion / Decision</i> | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 4.
10.50 | Access in the Forestry Commission Estate (presentation by Tim Oliver, Head of Recreation and Public Affairs, Forestry Commission) | <i>Information/ Discussion</i> | <i>30 mins</i> |
| 5.
11.20 | Update on Countryside Access Plan implementation (Jonathan Woods) | <i>Information / Discussion</i> | <i>30 mins</i> |
| 6.
11.50 | Community Engagement (Emma Broadbent) report on first year of the Community Engagement Rangers | <i>Information / Discussion</i> | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 7.
12.10 | Equestrian Guidance – first draft (Gail Johnson/Jonathan Woods/Petronella Natrass) | <i>Discussion/ Decision</i> | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 12.30 | LUNCH | | <i>45 mins</i> |
| 8.
13.15 | North Area Access Team (Jim Adkins) Update on work of the North Area team | <i>Information / Discussion</i> | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 9.
13.35 | Access Team update (Jonathan Woods) | | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 10.
13.55 | Forum Officer's report (Petronella Natrass) | <i>Information</i> | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 11.
14.05 | Review of access restriction at former MoD Marshalling Yard, East Dean (Petronella Natrass) Forum to review/approve draft response to Natural England | <i>Discussion/ Decision</i> | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 12.
14.15 | Project/sub-group updates
a) Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage (PATHH); b) MOD Liaison Group; c) Multi-user routes; d) Coastal access; e) List of Streets | <i>Information/ Discussion</i> | <i>25 mins</i> |
| 13.
14.40 | Reports from other LAFs
a) New Forest LAF; b) South Downs LAF (Alan Marlow); c) Wiltshire CAF (Aileen Wood); d) Surrey LAF; e) West Berks LAF; f) Other | <i>Information</i> | <i>20 mins</i> |

15.00 FINISH

Contact: Petronella Natrass; 01962 845326; petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk
Future meetings: 20 June, 12 September, 12 December (AGM)

Directions: Shawford Parish Hall



Access

For those coming by rail, the Hall is very close to Shawford Station, with an hourly service in each direction throughout the day.

Bus passengers can use the excellent Bluestar No 1 Southampton to Winchester service, 15 minutes during the working day, which stops at the top of the Shawford Hill a few minutes' steep walk away.

Access by road is also good. For long distance travellers, the hall is well-placed for Junction 11 of the M3, and it has its own car park.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 28 March 2107*

Agenda item 2: *Matters arising*

Actions of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum meeting, 13 December 2016

Reference	Action	Status
2.2 Watercress Way	PN to amend the draft letter re access on HCC land and send it to County Estates.	Completed/awaiting response
2.2 Forestry Commission	PN to contact Bruce Rothnie about attending the March meeting.	Done – Tim Oliver (Head of Recreation and Public Affairs) to attend
2.2 Access on MoD land	Mark Sumner to set a date for the next meeting and ensure the Byelaw review is included for discussion.	Meeting took place on 15 February at QECP
3.2 Southampton City Council	PN to contact Southampton CC about Member representative for HCAF and send Cllr Alicia Denny dates of Coastal Access sub-group meeting.	Done, but no Southampton CC Member representative identified as yet.
3.2 Rural Crime Conferences	PN to circulate amended date/venue to all members.	Completed
4.2 Access on MoD land	ALL: forward to Mark Sumner any emails sent to Mark Ludlow in the last month (ML leave until end Jan 17)	
	PN to circulate Mark Sumner's email address to the Forum.	Completed
Item 4 c) Coastal Access	PN to circulate minutes of last meeting of the Coastal Access sub-group.	Completed
6.1 Countryside Service update	PN to circulate Jo Heath's infographic and presentation slides to Forum.	Completed
9 a) Equestrian Needs – the	GJ and PN to prepare paper for March meeting	In progress

way forward		
9 b) List of Streets	List of Streets sub-group to reconvene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/AM to provide PN with a paragraph outlining objectives, • PN to draft letter to NFAF and SDLAF to invite membership of a joint subgroup. 	Completed - SC/AM drafted a letter which has been approved by RB and AT and was sent to NFAF and SDLAF on 11/1/17
10 HCC Enforcement Policy	ALL to send any comments on the draft Policy to jonathan.woods@hants.gov.uk by first week of January	No comments received
11 England Coast Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM to draft a letter to NE about the magenta wash • AW to provide a paragraph about the Hamble ferry. • PN to find out which NE officer to write to and circulate full draft to Forum for approval. 	In progress
13 Countywide Rights of Way Survey	AM/JW to circulate a written note regarding this initiative, as this item was deferred owing to lack of time.	
14 AGM	It was agreed to continue having full-day meetings. Chair/Vice-Chair/PN to schedule important business in the morning and cover other topics/workshop activities in the afternoon.	Noted
	PN to email Forum when preparing Agenda to ask if any member wants a specific item covered in the morning.	Completed
	Chair / Vice-Chair to draft a Work Programme for 2017 at their first Agenda-setting meeting	Completed – Forum to review under Matters Arising
	ALL to notify PN of those key points in the 2016 Work Programme that should be carried forward to 2017 (by Wed 1st February, please).	None received
15 Feedback from Planning workshop	PN to circulate transcript of output to all members, asking them to contribute any additional points (including any from those who were unable to attend the meeting)	Completed
	PN to check whether any further members would like to join the Planning sub-group (currently comprising GJ, GF, AM, AT, RB and NW).	Completed

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM: WORK PROGRAMME 2017

Meeting Dates: 28 March, 20 June, 12 September, 12 December (AGM)

Theme	What / How	When
CAP Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on potential partners and/or funding for implementing projects Contribute to specific/pilot projects Advise on the implementation process Implementation of Hampshire Cycling and Walking Strategies – timing tba Strategic Network – June/September 2017 	Ongoing. Access Team to provide Annual Report March 2017 , plus highlight ('interim') report in September 2017
Compliance with statutory responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand full range of statutory responsibilities Monitor compliance with statutory responsibilities Provide advice and guidance on compliance with statutory responsibilities Advise on mechanisms for delivery 	June meeting. Annual stats on compliance with statutory duties to be available in April . Possible item on claims prioritisation June 2017
Opportunities to improve access/ multi-user routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Grants Scheme going forward Identify additional funding sources for access improvement projects and advise Engage with Parish and Town Councils and with Local Planning Authorities Note: <i>what has changed since the last Parish Conference? Any value in another conference, and if not, how else might this happen? E.g. through Planning work, Neighbourhood Plans</i> Develop an agreed process for influencing and advising on the planning of access within and around Major Development Areas Engage with Hampshire Highways Engage with County Estates e.g. to understand how HCC policy is prioritised 	Ongoing SGS: March or June Highways: Preliminary discussions of to identify relevant areas of interest/concern (e.g. multi-user routes, planning, List of Streets) in June > invite Highways manager to September meeting for general discussion before focusing on specific topics. Estates: invite Josie Palmer to meet with Forum in June/September (pending response to HCAF letter re access on HCC land)
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to influence behaviour in the countryside and improve understanding – Identify and advise on the delivery of specific projects Engage with Hampshire Country Learning and other partners on specific projects as appropriate 	Forum to look at behaviours/ understanding in context of multi-user routes in June 2017 once new riding, off-road cycling and disability representatives appointed.

Other matters as they arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to statutory consultations and selected consultations as agreed by HCAF members • Provide advice and guidance to HCC/SCC/ PCC, District Councils and Highways Agency on the implementation of policies affecting access • Attend regional and national LAF conference • Liaise with NFAF and SDLAF on specific topics as appropriate • Liaise with members of other LAFs, including use of the Huddle network 	All ongoing
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RoW training • Other? – Forum to discuss under Matters Arising in March 2017 	RoW training for new members / revision for old in September or December

****NB The work of task groups must have full Forum support before advice is issued.***

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 28 March 2017*

Agenda item 3: *Planning – next steps following the workshop on 13 December*

At the last meeting in December 2016, the Forum considered the possible negative effects of new development on the countryside access network, mitigation for those effects and the opportunities that development might offer for improving access. The output from this workshop is attached as Appendix A.

Next Steps

The Forum may now wish to consider what its next actions should be in respect of influencing local planning authorities. The following options are offered for consideration:

1. That a letter be sent to all Local Planning Authorities to find out what stage they are at in their local plan review and in what way the Forum might support the review process (draft letter attached)
2. That the Planning sub-group work on adding supporting text, with examples, to illustrate the key points to come out of the workshop.

PN/JW
March 2017

Output from HCAF Planning Workshop – 13 December 2016 (verbatim)

1. What are the possible NEGATIVE EFFECTS of development on the Rights of Way network?

- Increase in traffic/use – need to surface? Need to maintain!
- Increased road traffic can fragment networks (horse riders, family cycling)
- Increased danger at crossing points
- Increase in traffic making it difficult/unsafe for community
- Road traffic (cars)
- Maintenance
- Car parking and wheelie bins affecting access and disabled access
- Right of way should not end at the estate entrance, especially onto a busy commuter route
- Managing connectivity of existing network
- Diverting route – must improve access – not be detrimental e.g. by road, pollution, safety
- Planning maps and documents don't show width of RoW
- Local Plan issue is subsequent development
- Negatives – failure to connect the existing RoW with other local RoWs
- Negatives – failure to integrate existing RoW into development
- How is existing FP to be accommodated?
- Existing Rights of Way need to be clearly shown & protected
- Extinguishment of RoW should be avoided
- Changes of route should not endanger users by leading directly to hazardous interchanges with road network i.e. busy junctions
- Planning Conditions are often not delivered or followed-up/enforced by Local Planning Authorities

Key points from review:

- Traffic flow, road safety
- Crossing points
- Integration of existing network – fragmentation / lack of connectivity
- Experience of using RoW e.g. pollution
- Density
- Increased maintenance

2. What should acceptable MITIGATION involve? (*key considerations/criteria*)

- ? Bridleway to NW only goes to FP. ? is 505 a bridleway?
- Funding of Countryside Access Team to review applications
- Good use of Rights of Way to local stations. Reduced commuter parking requirements
- Impact on local leisure activity =>Alternative options to be considered SANGs
- Speak to people. Taking with users – at early level/stage!
- Large scale and overview access planning to development in Growth Areas

- Mitigation – add/improve crossing across main Kingsclere Road (which will be busier due to development) so it can connect to other RoW
- Use of RoW during construction should be mitigated by high quality reinstatement and protection of users during construction
- Preserving or enhancing the experience of RoW network

Key points from review:

- New Paths and crossings of roads
- Strategic Overview of Access
- Consultation
- Sustainable travel links

3. What OPPORTUNITIES can development offer for improving the Rights of Way network?

- Access to East from NE corner
- Opportunities to use access network to support sustainable development
- If it is designed well there will be more opportunities to access the countryside
- Positive/opportunity – RoW is a sustainable transport route to the school and to the station
- Positives – development has allowed for green space alongside RoW
- Positives – lots of green space and permissive routes
- Opportunity to extend RoW into network should be discussed
- Thinking forward – what will access be like in the future?
- Paths into corridors with benefits wildlife
- Green areas as part of devt good wildlife corridor or haven
- New bridges and structures. Crossing should be future proofed to cope with traffic
- New routes and new Multi User Routes
- Create a New Network that benefits the local area
- Opportunity to make route multi user
- Positives – CIL or S106 money could be use to upgrade RoW. Connect RoW towards community infrastructure

Key points from review:

- New Network
- Multi User Routes
- Projects for CIL and Maintenance
- Green Spaces
- Wildlife Benefits
- Future-proof bridges (i.e. design to higher-rights where possible, e.g. bridleway spec even though currently only footpath)



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Hampshire's countryside and coast'***
www.hants.gov.uk/hcaf

Replies via: Petronella Natrass
Telephone: 01962 845326
E-mail: petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk
Reference:
Date: April 2017

Hampshire County Council
Countryside Service
Castle Avenue
Winchester
SO23 8UL

To: Head of Planning
[...Borough/District Council]

DRAFT

Dear Sir,

Re: Planning for Countryside Access

Hampshire Countryside Access Forum (HCAF) is the Local Access Forum (LAF) for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. LAFs are established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to advise organisations including county councils and other local authorities about making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel. HCAF is independent of any council or interest group. It is made up of local members of the public with wide-ranging experience in aspects of countryside recreation and rights of way, balanced between those who use paths (walkers, horse-riders, carriage drivers, cyclists, disabled users and vehicle users), those who provide that access (farmers, land managers etc) and other interests (e.g. conservation and education). It is this wide range of interests which enables the Forum to provide balanced advice.

HCAF has been considering the impacts of new development in Hampshire on the network of public rights of way, accessible greenspace and roads that together enable residents and visitors to explore and enjoy the countryside on foot, cycle, horseback etc. The Forum is currently preparing a statement for local planning authorities and developers that aims to provide clear, consistent guidance on minimizing and mitigating adverse effects of development on this important recreational network (which in many places also provides valuable sustainable transport links), from the perspective of both users and landowners.

The Forum is also keen to support local planning authorities in developing strong policies in line with the National Planning Policy Framework requirement ***'that public rights of way and access should be protected and enhanced with opportunities sought to provide better facilities for users, including by adding links to existing networks'*** ([NPPF](#) paragraph 75).

To that end, I should be grateful if you would let me know

1. what stage [*local authority name*] is at in its Local Plan Review, and
2. what support the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum might usefully contribute to the review process.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel Bryan

Rachel Bryan
Chair, Hampshire Countryside Access Forum

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 28 March 2017*

Agenda item 10: *Forum Officer's report*

1. Meeting dates for 2017

20 June – Wellington Room, Elizabeth II Court South, Winchester

12 September – Empire Room, Royal Victoria Country Park

12 December – Wellington Room, Elizabeth II Court South, Winchester

2. Small Grants Scheme Countryside Access – funding of around £17,000 was available for this 4th and final round for 2016-17. The Panel met on 7 February to consider 13 applications with a total value of £15,792. These included:

- £550 for replacing 4 stiles with gates at Hartley Wespall
- £110 to Nether Wallop to purchase a hedgecutter for use by volunteer footpath warden
- £1,000 for permissive access at Tangle
- £527 for a mapboard at Crondall
- £650 to replace a mapboard at Steep
- £370 for a new double handrail on steps at Swanmore
- £3,402 plus £1,701 from New Forest NPA for hedging, ditching and surfacing on Hordle BOAT 743
- £407 for replacing 2 stiles with gates at Overton
- £3,247 to resurface the first section of a historic route known as 'The Old Coffin Route' at Charlton
- £1,398 to fill potholes in a footpath at Hannington
- £1,929 to continue Chilbolton parish council's on-going effort to make access to West Down and Cow Common more wheelchair friendly. CPC have already installed 5 new gates over the last 2 years with the support of the HCC SGS Scheme
- £1,847 for 2 interpretation boards, waymarkers and a brushcutter for the Watercross Way
- £355 for a mapboard showing the Avon Valley footpath at Fordingbridge

The Tangle, Swanmore, Charlton and Hannington applications were all refused by the Panel. The remainder were all approved, with conditions at Nether Wallop at Crondall. At Chilbolton approval was given for only 4 out of the 5 gates.

In this round a total of £9,652 was awarded from HCC, plus £1,701 from the New Forest National Park Authority.

Summary for 2016-17:

Total HCC funding available: £47,550

Total funds applied for: £46,550

Total funding approved: £38,825

The following Panel dates have been set for 2017-18:

9 May 2017

8 August 2017

7 November 2017

6 February 2018

2. HCC update

- **Parish Lengthsman Scheme** – for a number of years HCC Highways has run a scheme that provides participating parishes with an annual grant to employ a Lengthsman to undertake highway maintenance tasks such as clearing drains, cutting hedges, cleaning signs and litter picking.
During 2016-17 additional funding has been provided to include rights of way maintenance in this scheme. Feedback from the 138 participating parishes indicates that the scheme is valued highly and it is likely that the contribution towards maintaining rights of way will be continued during the coming year.
- **Ease of Use** – survey data has been returned for 10 out of the 16 parishes that were due to be surveyed by the Ramblers in November and results will be published shortly, once all the data has been received and analysed.
- **Countywide Survey** – a number of the Ease of Use surveyors are gathering more detailed information towards the full network survey that the Ramblers are undertaking. The Countryside Service has invested in new software and tablets to facilitate data capture, which will be fully commissioned in the summer.

3. National LAF news

- The National LAF Conference that Natural England proposed to hold in Birmingham on 21 March 2017 has been postponed until June.

4. Consultation on existing direction restricting access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Marshalling Yard, East Dean: Case number 2006030177

Natural England is reviewing this access direction to determine whether the restriction is still necessary for its original purpose, and if so whether the extent and nature of the restriction is still appropriate. The Forum has been invited to comment via an email that was circulated to all members on 9 March. Three members responded that HCAF should reiterate its earlier position on this matter. A draft response is therefore attached for discussion under agenda item 11.

5. Members' expenses

Can Forum members please ensure that any travel or expenses claims for the year to 31 March are submitted to Petronella by 28 March at the latest. Forms will be available at the meeting on 28 March or in advance from petronella.nattrass@hants.gov.uk.

Petronella Nattrass, Forum Officer
March 2017



(to be sent by e-mail by 31st March 2017)

Kathryn.gregory@naturalengland.org.uk

'improving opportunities to enjoy

Hampshire's countryside and coast'

Replies to: Petronella Natrass

Telephone: 01962 847165

E-mail: petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk

Reference: Action – review of access restriction at former MoD marshalling yard, East Dean (2006030177)

Countryside Service
Hampshire County Council
Castle Avenue
High Street
Winchester
SO23 8UL

DRAFT

Dear Ms Gregory

REVIEW OF ACCESS RESTRICTION AT FORMER MOD MARSHALLING YARD, EAST DEAN

Thank you for consulting the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum (HCAF) on the review of the access restriction at the former MoD marshalling yard, East Dean. Forum members have submitted comments on the review, and I have been asked to respond as below.

The Forum has not changed its position in this matter since its original response to consultation in March 2012. HCAF does not support the continued restriction of access to the entire site without further investigation into the potential to appropriately manage access on the site.

The Forum supports the assessment of Test Valley Borough Council that there is a risk to 'human health' from the levels of contamination found on the site. It is acknowledged however that contamination on the site is very localised. The Forum would therefore urge Natural England that this case be approached with a view to managing access rather than imposing a whole-scale exclusion.

As suggested in its initial consultation response of 28th March 2011 and later response of 23 March 2012, the Forum would support the fencing of localised contaminated areas, if public access on 'safe' areas of the site is then permitted. In particular fencing may be considered for the areas in the Eastern Burning Ground, referred to on page 33 of the Land Quality Assessment report as being of 'HIGH' risk.

The Forum ask that the potential to deal with some of the discrete areas of contamination by provision of a capping layer, also be looked into. In particular this may be an appropriate solution for the areas in the Eastern Marshalling Yard, referred to on page 33 of the Land Quality Assessment report as being of 'MODERATE' risk.

The Forum would advise that any 'management', through fencing and/or capping should also be accompanied by appropriate signage.

If you have any queries arising from the comments made above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Petronella Natrass
Officer to Hampshire Countryside Access Forum**

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 28 March 2017*

Agenda item 12: *Reports from other LAFs*

a) New Forest Access Forum (*Petronella Natrass*)

At the meeting on 13 March 2017, NFAF welcomed new member Paul Brockman as representative for youth and education.

Minutes of the meeting will be found in due course on the website at www.hants.gov.uk/hcaf.

Key points:

- The New Forest Recreation Management Strategy is currently being reviewed and updated. The National Park Authority will be seeking input from NFAF before the RMS goes out for public consultation this summer. A sub-group is being formed to progress this.
- Planning and access – Owen Devine (HCC Countryside Planning) gave a presentation, and the Forum discussed a number of measures by which they could influence planning policy.
- England Coast Path – John Truswell is preparing his final report for the Highcliffe-Calshot stretch for consultation from 16 May.
- Local Plan Review – the New Forest NPA have acknowledged and taken on board the Forum's comments about reference to the England Coast Path within the Local Plan Review.

Future meeting dates:

Monday 12 June – Lymington Town Hall

Monday 4 September – Lyndhurst Community Centre

Monday 4 December – Lymington Town Hall

Shortly after the meeting the Forum received sad news that Sally Arnold, who had been the National Park Authority Member representative for just over a year, had died suddenly over the weekend 4/5 March.

b) South Downs LAF (*Alan Marlow*)

2017 meeting dates: 25 April, 26 July, 30 November

c) Wiltshire CAF (*Aileen Wood*)

Wiltshire Countryside Access Forum

25 January 2017, 13.00 at Westdown Camp, Tilshead, Wiltshire SP3 4RU

1. Introductions, welcome and apologies
2. Present 14 WCAF Members, 3 MOD staff, 5 Other CAF; 1 member of public
3. Minutes of previous meeting agreed. No matters arising
4. DMMO Highway Records – Search Engine. Report back from working party
 - a. Issues around scoring matrix, connectivity, backlog of c188 cases – user-based evidence case applications, historical based cases, may need to prioritise activities seeking clarity on timelines and implications therein, consequences of not completing the work; hoping project will be complete by end of the year; points raised to be put to Defra
5. BHS Access Initiative Project.
 - a. Clearance of bridleways; raising monies through fun rides; agreement on which bridleways should be cleared, which are vital routes? Looking at connectivity between paths; work appreciated by riders – giving back greater access to bridleways. Volunteers doing the work; question raised about authority's statutory duty to maintain routes (cash for clearance) and double taxation

6. Big Path Watch – report back.

a. Original survey completed 2015, follow-up launched November 2016; trying to get public (other than Ramblers) to report problems with paths. Idea of developing an App came to nothing. Need to spend more time getting landowners to fulfil obligations to maintain paths; issues raised about “feet under the ground” (i.e. badgers) and the effect on surfaces – e.g. holes on pathways, collapse into burrows, health and safety considerations. Application to authority to obtain necessary licences to deal with animal incursions

7. Swindon Borough Council Update

a. Many duties of Borough transferring to parishes, creation of 4 new urban parishes; taking on role to maintain footpaths; issues around precepts and double funding. Some problems with “persistent” landowners failing to maintain rights of ways. Working on definitive map updates or corrections; query on some RoW – many appear to have been adopted as part of highways during urban development.

8. Wiltshire County Council update

a. Brief overview of implementation of Deregulations Act

b. Changes of staff after retirement of member with 37 years’ service (loss of knowledge); restructuring with new team

c. Cost of social care – constant pressure on WCC for funding to provide social care service – affecting other departments – expenditure freeze

d. Budget – Council tax rising by 5%, but funding loss of £40million – looking across services for savings

e. Richard Broadhead (WCC Officer) on Defra RoW subgroup; working parties will make recommendations for good working practices (Defra will not legislate irrespective of outcome)

f. White Horse Trail – refurbishment of boards along trail

g. Various other items – interviews, diversion orders

9. Implementing the Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2015-2025 – brief update

a. Question asked about motorcycles have access to paths and countryside; dichotomy that 4x4 cars have access but not motorcycles. Motorcycles sales up by 10% including electric cycles; health benefits – physical sport. Decision to include as a topic for next meeting

b. Bids – applications submitted to council – appraisal of outcomes

10. Plan for 2017

a. WCAF may benefit from a forward plan but retaining flexibility; currently meets 2x p.a. suggested that written reports submitted and circulated in advance allowing for points raised to be debated – rather present system of oral report with questions and discussion

b. Creating a WCAF website – ensuring meets standard required by WCC

11. Housekeeping – date, venue, location, time – use Westdown as central to county and free – but may not always be accessible depending on Army manoeuvres

12. Date of Next Meeting – to be circulated

13. Meeting closed at 16.10

Aileen Wood Hampshire CAF Observer

d) Surrey CAF

Last meeting was on 16 January 2017, next meeting on 24 April. Minutes will be available in due course at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/countryside/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/surrey-countryside-access-forum>

Future meeting dates: 24 April, 17 July and 15 October

e) West Berks LAF (*Gail Johnson*)

The West Berkshire LAF has put together the attached statement because they were concerned that they were not hearing public access mentioned in discussions on future farm subsidies.

This document is being distributed it to whoever they think might listen or be interested, including MPs. It focuses on a problem many horse riders will recognize – the use of roads to link rights of way.

I would like to propose that this be included as an item for discussion paper at the HCAF meeting in June.