

AGENDA: Tuesday 19 June 2018

VENUE: Empire Room, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey SO31 5GA

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

1.	Apologies	<i>Admin</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
2.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	<i>Information / Discussion</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
10.05			
3.	Review of Forward Plan – Forum to review draft and approve	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>15 mins</i>
10.15			
4.	HCC draft Enforcement Policy – update on review (Jonathan Woods)	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
10.30			
5.	Revised letter to P&TCS (Rachel Bryan) – agree final draft	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
10.40			
6.	Health & Harmony/Brexit – next steps?	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
10.45			
7.	Bird Aware Solent Access Management Assessments (Rachel Bryan) – report from RB, then Forum to agree a response to consultation (due 20 June)	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>15 mins</i>
10.50			
8.	Refurbishment of the Chapel at RVCP (Lauren Rhodes)	<i>Information</i>	<i>15 mins</i>
11.05			
9.	Forum Officer's report (Petronella Natrass)	<i>Information / Discussion</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
11.20			
10.	Project/sub-group updates (reports anticipated from those groups in bold)		
11.30			
	a) Byways Management sub-group		<i>5 mins</i>
	b) Coastal Access	<i>Information/ Discussion</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
	c) Equestrian Guidance (meeting on 18 May)		<i>10 mins</i>
	d) List of Streets		<i>10 mins</i>
	e) MOD Liaison Group (next meeting ?)		<i>10mins</i>
	f) Multi-user routes		<i>5 mins</i>
	g) PATHH		<i>5 mins</i>
	h) Planning sub-group		
11.	Sub-groups – (Petronella Natrass) Forum to review output from March workshop and confirm	<i>Discussion/ Decision</i>	<i>15 mins</i>
12.20			
12.	Reports from other Forums	<i>Information</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
12.35	a) Hampshire Rural Forum (Paul Knipe); b) New Forest LAF ; c) South Downs LAF (Graham Flatt); d) Wiltshire CAF ; e) Surrey LAF ; f) Bracknell Forest LAF ; g) Other		
12.55	LUNCH		<i>45 mins</i>
13.40	Visit to newly-restored Chapel at RVCP		<i>60 mins</i>
14.40	FINISH		

Contact: Petronella Natrass; 01962 845326; petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk

Future meetings: 11 September (Winchester)

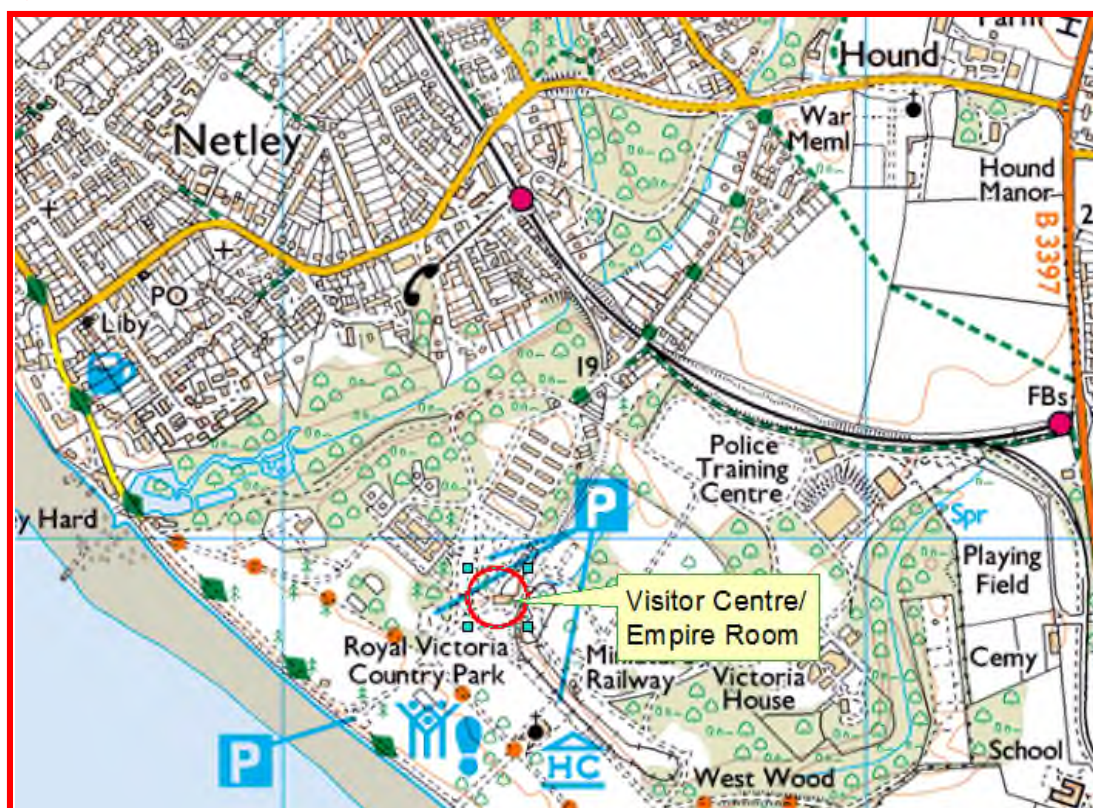
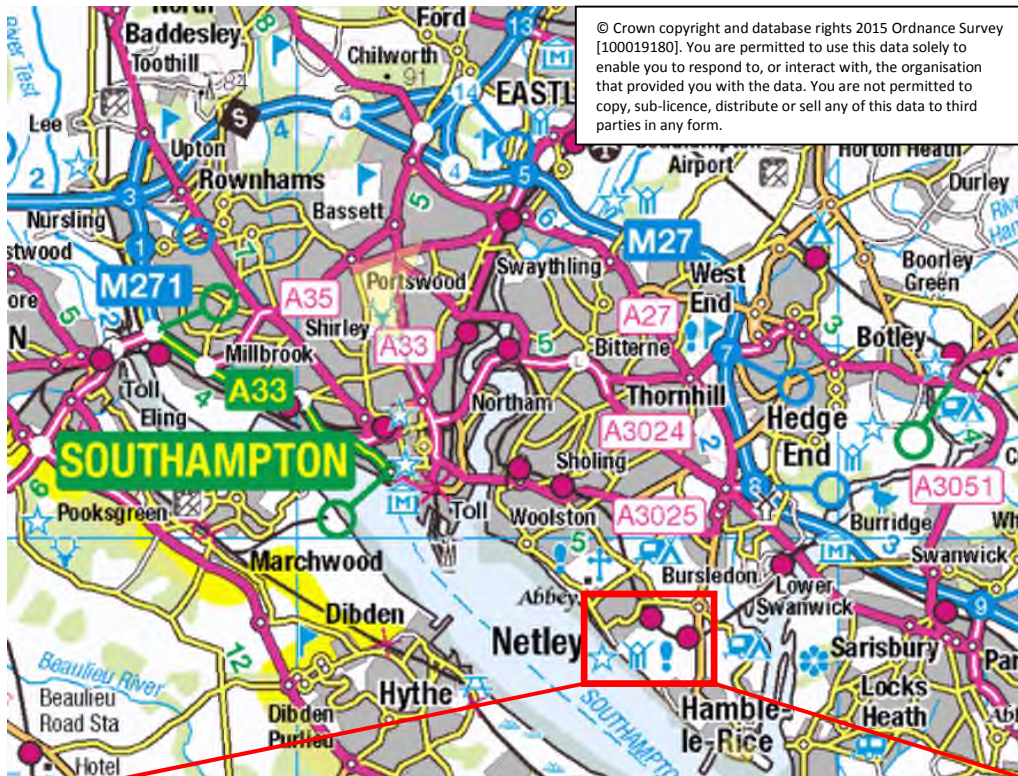
11 December (AGM – Winchester)

Directions: Empire Room, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey SO31 5GA

BY ROAD: M27 Exit 8, follow signs for Bursledon and Netley, then brown signs for Royal Victoria Country Park.

NB: Parking charges – *there is a new charging system in place at the country Park. Provided you have given your vehicle registration number to the Forum Officer in advance of the meeting, you will not be charged for parking.*

BY RAIL: to Netley rail station, on arrival turn Left out of the station and follow the footway to the south of the Railway into the park.



HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 2: *Matters arising*

Actions of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum meeting, 20 March 2018

Reference	Action	Status
2 – Matters arising	Rachel/Petronella to update RB's draft letter to Parishes/LPAs etc in line with comments and circulate to whole Forum in time to be signed-off at the June meeting.	Item 5
3 – Work Programme	Petronella to update the Work Programme and re-circulate	Item 3
3 – Forward Plan	There have been significant changes (e.g. Brexit) since the 3-5 year Forward Plan was last updated. Rachel and Alan T to review/update and circulate for comment before the June meeting	Item 3
5 – Equestrian Guidance	SC to email Forum with her thoughts on nuance within the document.	
	PN to email all Forum (for benefit of those who were absent from the meeting) to inform of agreement in principle and check whether other members wish to be involved.	Email sent round by GP
	GP to coordinate a meeting to agree/progress process for finalising the guidance.	GJ, GP, SC and AW meeting on 18 May
	AT suggested that in principle HCAF should produce such guidance only where there was a need to 'fill a hole', rather than as a matter of routine. AWh proposed that there should be provision within the Forward Plan for similar 'plugging of gaps'. RB/AT to include this in their review of the Forward Plan.	Item 3
7 – response to DEFRA consultation	Alan T to prepare a first draft response to the DEFRA consultation on 'Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit' and circulate to Forum with a 2 week deadline for comments. (NB Responses are due by 8 May)	Completed – response sent to DEFRA on 3 May and receipt acknowledged.
8 – England Coast Path	RB to arrange a meeting of the Coastal Access sub-group	RB and AW have met with John Truswell – update under item 12(b)
9 – Engagement with Highways	PN to contact Graham Wright for update on progress following the workshop and options to develop earlier/more effective consultation.	PN met with GW on 24 May – report to follow

10 – Rural Communities Fund	ALL to review what improvements this scheme has delivered in a year's time (March 2019).	PN to prepare a report for the September meeting, when new CERs in post
11a) – Byways Management	Assessment form and guidance to be updated by Countryside Service and discussed at the next meeting in June	Item 10a)
11d) – List of Streets	PN to follow-up and report back on actions from the meeting on 7 February with Jonathan Woods, Harry Goodchild and Mark Housby.	Item 10d)
11e) – MoD Liaison Group	Alan T to finalise draft and coordinate sign-up from other LAFs.	Letter finalised, awaiting response from Surrey, S Downs and Kent LAFs
11g) – PATHH	SC to identify what surplus funds are to be spent on and how this fits with HLF agreed terms	Item 10g)
	Sub-group to bring a recommendation to Forum for decision on 19 June.	
Sub-groups Workshop	<p><u>Multi-user sub-group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PN to recirculate the Remit for Multi-user routes sub-group to Forum. • Forum to consider whether to revive this sub-group <p><u>Summary table of sub-groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PN to update table and re-circulate to Forum for final comment, along with output from workshop. 	<p>Done, but circulate again with Agenda/papers for 19/6</p> <p>Done</p>

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (HCAF): 3-5 YEAR FORWARD PLAN
DRAFT: To be agreed by the Forum in June 2018

Topic & level of Forum involvement
1. Countryside Access Plan (CAP) review and implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on the CAP 2015-2025 implementation process • Contribute to the development of the Strategic Network • Provide representatives to working groups where appropriate • Review progress of implementation (at least 1x per year) • Advise on potential partners and/or funding for implementation projects • Contribute to specific/pilot projects
2. Compliance with statutory responsibilities (e.g. ROW, Open Access, and highway issues affecting non-motorised users) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor compliance with statutory responsibilities • Provide advice and guidance on compliance with statutory responsibilities
3. Influence national and local government policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to statutory consultations and selected consultations as agreed by HCAF members • Engage with and provide advice to those developing new and revised countryside policies (e.g. multi-user routes, all ability routes, permissive routes, unclassified county roads) • Engage with Natural England on specific topics; including Coastal Access • Engage with planning authorities on securing improvements to access through the planning system • Provide advice and guidance to HCC/SCC/PCC, District Councils and Highways England on the implementation of policies affecting access • Engage with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards • Liaise with the NF LAF and SD LAF on issues affecting the National Parks in Hampshire, as appropriate • Monitor commencement of those provisions of the Deregulation Act 2015 which relate to public rights of way
4. Promote opportunities to improve access through local initiatives, Trusts and other organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with HALC, Town and Parish Councils and other bodies supporting local and voluntary action • Engage with the voluntary sector e.g. through Action Hampshire, conservation bodies and others • Promote, monitor and review HCC Rural Communities Fund (countryside access) schemes • Engage with the Hampshire Local Nature Partnership
5. Education/awareness raising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to influence behaviour in the countryside and provide appropriate advice and guidance to access providers and users • Engage with educational establishments and young person's organisations • Address any 'gaps' in existing guidance, strategies etc
6. Engaging with land owners (public and private), managers and tenants on access issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to engage with private and public landowners • Work with public landowners (e.g. Forestry Commission, National Trust), particularly HCC to ensure that it leads by example • Engage with MoD through the HCAF/MoD Liaison Group
7. Seek out/sponsor opportunities to improve access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclude current phase of PATHH project and decide future action with regard to output • Consider opportunities presented by grant schemes • Work with Natural England and HCC to advise on the implementation of the coastal access stretches within Hampshire (outside the New Forest National Park)
8. Budget for Countryside Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive briefings on budgets for countryside access and provide advice as appropriate • Identify additional funding sources and advise as appropriate
9. Training and engagement with other LAFs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify training opportunities for HCAF members on relevant topics • Liaise with NFAF and SDLAF • Liaise with members of other LAFs, including use of the Huddle network

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 5: *Letter to Parish & Town Councils (final version)*

A final draft of this letter to remind Parish and Town Councils of the Forum's role is attached with the papers, after taking on comments from the Forum meeting in March.

Members are asked to comment on and add to the Annex to the letter, which sets out details of the Forum's current and recent work.

Petronella Natrass
June 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 7: *Walk Unlimited/Bird Aware Solent Access Management Assessments (Rachel Bryan)*

A. Report on consultative meeting on 12 April 2018 at Portsmouth City Council

This meeting led by Walk Unlimited was very interesting. Walk Unlimited have been commissioned by Bird Aware Solent to produce reports on 3 areas along the Solent coast giving recommendations for access improvements that would lessen disturbance for overwintering birds. This was particularly focused on disturbance caused by dogs.

The meeting was attended by Bird Aware Solent, County Council, Borough councils, Natural England and myself.

Walk Unlimited were asked to look at the 3 most difficult sites. These are:

- **Ryde beach** on the Isle of Wight;
- **Bunny Meadows** which is the causeway along the eastern side of the Hamble River from the A27 south towards the mouth of the river; and
- **Emsworth** from the Ship Inn at Langstone to Emsworth town centre.

1. Recommendations for Ryde

Decluttering of existing signage & replacing with fewer more effective signs

Zoning of the beach. Most popular suggestion is Zone 1 with no dog access as this is the most popular area of birds & Zone 2 year round access for dogs.

The recommendation of zoning at this location would be good as some seasonal zoning already exists. I suggested that for whichever zoning scenario they implement they would need to ensure that access along the coastal path, and to and from the beach, was suitable for all users, especially those with restricted mobility

2. Recommendations for Bunny Meadows

Decluttering of existing signage & replacing with fewer more effective signs

Low level planting (or using Rip Rap which is uneven concrete blocks) on the seaward side of the path to screen dogs from the birds

Breaking through the path from the main causeway onto a spit which would create a small island.

Creating circular paths off of the causeway to lessen the number of people walking one way and then walking back exactly the same way.

The low level planting would be hedge species tolerant of the coastal conditions that would be kept cut to knee height. I raised the question of long term management and if these planting areas were not managed then they could grow out over the footpath and restrict access. And that we would want to see any circular paths created accessible for all users.

3. Recommendations for Emsworth

Decluttering of existing signage & replacing with fewer more effective signs

Low level planting (or using Rip Rap which is uneven concrete blocks) on the seaward side of the path to screen dogs from the birds

There was a lot of discussion on this section about Coniger Point. Currently many people walk along here on informal paths. Some people were recommending improving this path but others were worried this would increase footfall into an area that is identified as a core area in the Brent Goose & Waders strategy and also contains marshy areas which would pose health and safety risks.

The comments from yesterday will be included in the reports which should be finished by the end of July. At the moment these reports are draft and not for public perusal. Any improvements recommended are likely to take place if/when funding becomes available.

Further reports for other sections will be done in future years. They have 94 more sections.

Rachel Bryan (Chair, HCAF)
April 2018

B. Draft response to Bird Aware Solent

Since the meeting in April, Bird Aware Solent has distributed draft Access Management Assessments for Emsworth and Bunny Meadows for consultation. Copies of these documents were circulated to HCAF members on 31 May. The response deadline of 15 June has been extended to the 20th to allow Forum to agree and approve a response; Rachel has prepared the attached draft for the Forum to discuss and amend as required.

Petronella Natrass (Forum Officer)
June 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 9: *Forum Officer's report*

1. HCC Countryside Service

- **Staffing update**

Central/East Area: Elliott Rowe (formerly Senior Countryside Access Ranger for Central/East) has taken over as Area Countryside Access (ACAM) following James Emmett's transfer to the North Area. Abby Sullivan (formerly Community Engagement Ranger) has been appointed as SCAR in Elliott's place.

South/West Area: Alison Perry has been appointed as ACAM.

Community Engagement Rangers: applications for the South/West and Central/East vacancies have now closed and appointments will be announced shortly.

- **Byways Management**

The form/guidance has been circulated to New Forest Access Forum for comment. James Emmett has asked me to pass on his thanks to all those from HCAF and NFAF who have provided comments and feedback. It has also been sent to the South Downs LAF and was on the agenda for their rescheduled meeting on 15 May; we are still awaiting formal feedback on this, but early informal feedback is supportive.

Hampshire County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have been working together to develop signage to interpret responsible use of byways, voluntary restrictions etc. The National Park Authority is supportive of the approach, and it is hoped to progress formal endorsement as soon as possible. The next step will be to identify an area in the South Downs in which to pilot the new signage

- **Executive Member appointments** – Cllr Edward Heron has been appointed as Executive Member for Countryside & Rural Affairs and Cllr Seán Woodward as the Executive Member for Culture & Recreation, Cllr Andrew Gibson having stood down for health reasons from his appointment as Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.

2. Rural Communities Fund (Formerly Small Grants Scheme) Countryside Access

2017-18 summary: in the year to 31 March 2018 a total of £36,697 was awarded for access improvement projects across Hampshire: £9,076 in the first quarter to 9 projects under the Small Grants Scheme; £17,246 from HCC under the Rural Communities Fund (15 projects), and an additional £375 from the New Forest National Park Authority, being 25% towards a scheme within the New Forest National Park. There were no applications from urban councils; approval was therefore given for the £10,000 set aside for 'non-rural' schemes to fund a new boardwalk in Damerham.

The 24 schemes involved £20,170 of match funding plus £3,911 in volunteer hours.

There will be a full report on the first year of the RCF for the September meeting

2018-19: since 1 April 2018 one application has been approved, for £500 to replace 2 stiles with kissing gates on East Dean footpath 6 (total project cost £1,018). The area teams report that a number of other applications are being prepared for the next bi-monthly decision date in July.

3. Portsmouth City Council ROWIP

Nick Scott is due to leave Portsmouth City Council on 22 June and move to a new job back at West Sussex county Council. This will affect the timescales for completion of the Portsmouth RoWIP – at this stage there is a draft awaiting approval by his assistant director, but he has said that this is unlikely to happen before he leaves.

Nick will brief his manager as part of his handover and will provide him with my contact details so that his replacement can make contact with HCAF once they are in post.

4. Ordnance Survey Review of ORPAs

As part of its commitment to up-to-date information relating to access and safety, the OS has advised that it will be reviewing the mapping and status of ORPAs later on this year. This has come about partly because there is uncertainty as to whether there is an accurate way to keep them up to date. There is no official framework for this review as yet but the officer at OS who is responsible for the project has added the Forum to the list of bodies to contact when the work starts (currently scheduled for August).

5. LAF news

- **National LAF conference** – a number of people have asked if this is taking place this year. Natural England are waiting to hear whether this is to be funded and will issue an update as soon as the position becomes clearer.

Petronella Natrass, Forum Officer
June 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 10(d): *Equestrian Guidance*

Notes of Equestrian Guidance Meeting, Friday 18th May

Gail Johnson, Sue Coles, Gill Plumbley

Apologies- Andy Whincup, Alan Marlow

The acceptance of ownership of the Guidance document by HCAF was welcomed with the expectation that this could raise awareness of HCAF in the county.

The main issue was to include recommendations in the guidance document that reflected use by all non-motorised users. It was recognised that walkers and cyclists already have a national strategy where equestrians have no such recognition despite being a vulnerable user group. However, it was agreed that multi-user routes needed surfaces that were fit for purpose and were of adequate width.

Flexipave was suggested as it is widely used around the country. Although it is sometimes seen as a relatively expensive solution the actual cost of using this surface is comparable when taking into consideration the extra work when laying tarmac – ie curbing which is not required for a Flexipave type surface. Flexipave is also more environmentally friendly. However, it was queried whether the Ramblers agreed with this as a surface? (Check with Alan)

The Cycle Tracks Act has not been successfully used in Hampshire as it excluded equestrian use and there was a concern that it might impact on the underlying footpath if a cycle track were added to an existing footpath. Utility routes to and from work need a bound surface. However, in Hampshire, the tendency is to use a "bridleways" label as it gives entitlement to the three categories of walkers, cyclists and equestrians, it was easier to create legally and was cheaper because of a less demanding specification. ,e.g. width and surface.

A dual path was also therefore recommended where possible, with a hard surface for cyclists, if its primary use is utility and a soft verge for equestrians alongside the cycle path (eg QE Country Park to Buriton) The BHS has information on surfaces suitable for equestrians and Cycling UK has a similar document for cyclists. This link is given in the Guidance.

Actions:

- Minor amendments to the Equestrian Guidance document to incorporate some of the issues and recommendations discussed.(Action Gail)
- Multi user group to meet and prepare recommendation on the surfacing and width of multi-user routes for HCC (action SC) and
- encourage district green infrastructure plans to include horse riders (eg Basingstoke and Cambridge)- (Gail and Gill -HCAF Equestrian Guidance document)
- Check with Ramblers regarding suitability of Flexi Pave (action - Gill)
- Final version of Equestrian Guidance (minus graphics) to be distributed to HCAF members in time for June meeting(Action Gail/Petronella)

Sue Coles
May 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: Tuesday 19 June 2018

Agenda item 10(d): List of Streets

Update on Actions from the meeting on 7 February

Present:

Gail Johnson	Jonathan Woods
Sue Coles	Mark Housby
Gill Plumbley	Harry Goodchild
Alan Marlow	Petronella Natrass

Action	Status/update
<p>1. Adding ORPAs to the OS Map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARRY to contact Jo Lines at Ordnance Survey to find out <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. how ORPAs get onto OS mapping b. how/by whom were the new ORPAs at Hurstbourne Tarrant recorded? <p>Depending on what Harry discovers from Jo Lines, Alan's identifications of missing ORPAs need to be checked and a decision taken, by someone, (presumably in Highways?) about adding them to the OS map.</p>	<p>a) From Ordnance Survey (OS) With regard to how ORPAs were added to OS maps in the first instance:</p> <p>In the mid-1990s it was noted that there were examples where RoWs appeared as 'cul-de-sacs' in some rural areas but there was topographic evidence of a ground feature which continued though the RoW stopped. Similarly, sometimes there were roads nearby to RoWs where there were again topo features to suggest a link between them, but nothing was shown to indicate it. It seemed sensible to try and join these together for the map user - especially at 1:25000 which are primarily walking maps - providing that there were public routes to use. These 'links' were shown as ORPAs from 1995 on 1:25000 and 1:50000 scale mapping.</p> <p>A Small Scales Field Reviser visited every Highway Authority in England & Wales, visiting each respective highways department to view what they had on their 'list of streets'. The quality of this information varied considerably. At each visit a subjective decision was made as to which of any available routes were suitable for OS to show to serve the purpose of the exercise. The only documentation used was a current 1:50000 map (Landranger) for each area on which the extent of each ORPA was marked. Once this information was transferred into our MIGIS database, these maps were thrown away.</p> <p>There were 2 rounds of visits made, approximately 1995-97 and 2000-01, when funding allowed. Collection was only subjective and never fully comprehensive and there is no formal update mechanism in place to maintain currency. OS has final editorial control over the ORPAs that are published.</p> <p>b) We have been unable to establish how the Hurstbourne Tarrant ORPAs were recorded.</p>

<p>2. <u>Deleting routes from the List of Streets</u> Routes are taken off the LoS in respect of a legal Order, either through s247 Town & Country Planning Act (direct application to Secretary of State) or through s.116 Highways Act (HCC is required to post Notices on site and send them out at least 28 days beforehand any decision to: District and parish councils, London Gazette and Hampshire Chronicle and immediate neighbours. At present these Notices are not included on the HCC Public Notices web page.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARK agreed to arrange to have Notices put onto HCC Public Notices web page 	<p>Mark Housby has confirmed that new S116 notices will be published on the public notices web page.</p>
<p>3. <u>Management/maintenance of class 'T' routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARK and JONATHAN to consider safety implications/liabilities for local users/volunteers clearing vegetation from T-class roads, given that this would be classified as being 'Work on a Highway'. This may take some time. • For the time being, ALL USERS should continue to report issues on T-class roads via Highways, providing examples and photographs when possible. 	<p>Mark Housby felt this would be beyond his remit and so copied this proposal to highway managers, inviting them to consider what would be required to permit users and volunteers to work on the highway.</p> <p>A manager has since responded that this is not something that would be decided at area level, although those parishes with Lengthsmen could use them if they wished to.</p>
<p>4. <u>Implications of the 2026 cut-off date for unrecorded rights</u> The 'safest' option would be simply to put in claims for all the routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALAN suggested that PATHH data (and possibly the remaining small cash reserve) should be migrated to support the Ramblers' 'Don't Lose Your Way' project – this would need to be approved and recorded at the next HCAF meeting on 20 March • HARRY took the paper maps that Alan had annotated and will arrange to get them scanned and electronic copies circulated. 	<p>Harry has held off scanning and circulating the maps until it is known what the OS are doing next with ORPAs (see Forum Officer's Report, section 4).</p>

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 10g): *PATHH*

Report form PATHH sub-group (Sue Coles, Alan Marlow, Nigel Wolstenholme) for HCAF meeting Tuesday 19th June 2018

We have a balance of £255.34 in the HCAF account holding money on behalf of the PATHH project. The funds for the project came from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work on the PATHH project was initially suspended pending new Regulations from the Deregulation Act. However, it is not clear when or even if the Regulations will be published. As time passes it will become increasingly difficult to engage with the previous volunteers on the PATHH project.

The deadline of 2026 is obviously getting nearer and other individuals are conducting similar work that will enable claims based on historic evidence to be submitted by the cut-off date.

The sub-group considers that it would make sense to use the remaining balance for similar research. It is not a large amount but in our view it should be used on PATHH or a related project.

For example, one of those doing research in Hampshire is a member of the Ramblers from Andover and he has already submitted claims for historic routes not on the definitive map to Hampshire County Council. Some of these claims were also on the PATHH list, eg. Barton Stacey/Longparish and Hurstbourne Tarrant. He is incurring costs at the Hampshire Record Office for digital photography, travel to HRO. Work is also being done by members of other groups.

Any reimbursements would be direct to the individuals concerned and would need to be supported by written evidence. No payment would be made to the user groups direct.

Contact has been made with the Grants Officer responsible for the PATHH project at HLF. He is still with HLF but is no longer in the same team. Whilst expressing satisfaction that work is continuing he obviously cannot give authority to spend the money in this way and he has passed on the request to the South East Team. I have yet to hear from them. We will see whether we can expedite a reply but it is possible that it will not be available until after the HCAF meeting.

The sub-group would like to suggest the following action:

HCAF gives authority to the PATHH sub-group to pay expenses as identified above subject to consent being received by HLF.

If HLF gives its consent, this would allow us to pay expenses sooner rather than waiting for the next HCAF meeting.

If HLF does not give consent, the issue will be brought back to HCAF as that will obviously raise the question of what should be done with the remaining balance.

Sue Coles
on behalf of the PATHH sub-group

HCAF 20 March 2018 – Summary of output from Sub-groups workshop

Sub-group	Members	Key Purpose	Current Work	Next Steps	Lifespan	Priority: 1 (low) to 5 (high)
1. <u>Byways Management</u>	Melanie F Sue C Gail J Aileen W Gill P Andy W Jim M (?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer backup to countryside Services as and when needed Input into management to minimise closures, and maintain highest user access Engage users for reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Ops procedures, advise on process Management of BOATs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working with Countryside Service to offer advice on access issues and promote multi-user paths (link) Feedback from HCC on adoption of new processes Education of user groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year end with annual monitor and review 	5
2. <u>Coastal Access</u>	Aileen W Alan M Graham F Rachel B Robin E + representatives from Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the work undertaken by Natural England on the Coastal Path through Hampshire Provide comments and suggestions where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Await Reports Have meeting with Natural England – May/June 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Reports Submit Representations on the various stages If we thought route didn't go the best route – could we signpost an alternative? Review how/if any infrastructure or surface improvements are progressing Review how and who is undertaking the ongoing management of the route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Till 2020 – or until completion of England Coast Path 	5
3. <u>Equestrian Guidance</u>	Sue C Gail J Gill P Aileen W Andy W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of equestrian access with developers and planners Create Guidance that facilitates equestrians in a way that works for all users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing Equestrian Guidance document – ownership acknowledged by HCAF – now need to finalise input from all user groups concerned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise guidance document HCAF to endorse guidance by reflecting wider issues Possible informal meeting with other users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopefully document to be completed by June for final ratification 	5
4. <u>List of Streets</u>	Alan M Andy W Gail J Gill P Melanie F Rachel B Sue C Jim M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to T routes and improve maintenance of them Ensure that no routes fall off the list of accessible routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify current situation and add ORPAS to OS mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends upon outcome of current work Restoring the Record research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium term 2026 	4 / 4 / 5 / 5 (Ave: 4.5)
5. <u>MoD Liaison Group</u>	Mark L Graham F Alan M Alan T Gill P Andy W Nigel W Sue C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to MoD land for non-motorised users and reduce conflict situations Continuing to develop access to MoD estates, with particular regard to safety Work with MoD/DIO to create improved access to Defence Estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of new permissive routes Chilcomb ranges Input to Bylaw Review Agree specific routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further route exploration and negotiation regarding arising issues Continue existing work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing as issues come and go Continuing advice to MoD on consultation interests; user issues etc. 	5 / 5 / 4

Sub-group	Members	Key Purpose	Current Work	Next Steps	Lifespan	Priority: 1 (low) to 5 (high)
6. <u>Multi-user routes</u>	Sue Coles <u>Gail Johnson</u> Jim M (?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear: too many overlaps Work together to create routes / Guidance that work for all users, beyond RoW Encourage creation of multi user routes Agree spec that meets the needs of walkers, equestrians and cyclists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In abeyance but probably worth re-convening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene meeting and agree if worth continuing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Ongoing 	4 / 5 / 5 (Ave: 4.7)
7. <u>PATHH</u>	Sue C Alan M Nigel W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the HLF project and submit priority claims to HCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In abeyance pending publication of Dereg Regulations. If delayed indefinitely, change to process may be required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with documents and finance. Make recommendations to HCAF. Wind-up Consider future of existing PATHH project and possibly migrate to Don't Lose Your Ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short In theory limited to 2026 but in reality much shorter 	3
8. <u>Planning</u>	Alan M Alan T Andy W Gail J Gill P Graham F Jim M Nigel W Sue C Rachel B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise planners on access related issues arising from the Planning Process To work with Planners/Highways to ensure that provision for users is appropriate for their needs Create general guidance for planers on multi-user access ? Engage with detail of major planning applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree generic guidance Create Guidance for planners endorsed by Users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider input to Major Development areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indefinite, although could be in abeyance some of time Ongoing 	5 / 4 (Ave: 4.5)
9. <u>Strategic Transport ('Highways') Liaison Group</u>	Sue Coles Alan Marlow Gail Johnson Jim M Alan Taylor Melanie F Gill Plumbley ????	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early liaison with Highways on major infrastructure projects Take holistic approach to building/maintaining access for both utility and leisure purposes Raising awareness of importance of roads/lanes for walkers/ equestrians/ cyclists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Highways to identify process opportunities Review current schemes (inc. developer schemes and public transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and formalise HCAF engagement Improve education and understanding amongst highways / transport professionals To ensure existing policies and guidance supporting access is recognised and acted on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	4 / 5 / 5 (Ave: 4.7)
10. <u>Brexit</u>	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify access related issues and ways of improving countryside access Make representations to DEFRA (and others?) as Brexit goes forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to Defra consultation Advise on successive proposals on agricultural policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on successive proposals on agricultural policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown Post Brexit or post transitional arrangements 	3 / 5 (Ave 4)

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 19 June 2018*

Agenda item 12a): *Hampshire Rural Forum 'Hot Topic' meeting on 13 March 2018 (Paul Knipe)*

THE FUTURE FOR HAMPSHIRE'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Presentations were made by three organisations representing some of the largest landowners in the county, the country Landowners Association, HCC Countryside Services and Hants and IOW Wildlife Trust.

Robin Edwards spoke for the CLA.

He described how wide ranging the proposals are, covering issues such as habitat protection and reinstatement, recycling waste and fly-tipping.

Agriculture and Land Management is a business and for a policy to work must remain profitable.

He pointed to addressing three major factors, the increase in human population, Globalisation and Climate Change. Other current issues include local food production and the need to trade on provenance and the importance of soil, nitrification and erosion.

The uncertainties of Brexit lie in the lack of supply of Labour, the effect on Trade, Regulation, and change in Agricultural Policy.

The Timetable is as follows:-

Up to 2019 continue with the Common Agricultural Policy

From 2019 to 2022 there will be a UK Agricultural Policy of £3.2 Billion

From 2022 a new unknown Policy

The ultimate aims are to simplify the system and to help rural communities prosper

There will be a Land Management Contract which will include Public benefit covering access, Improved Water management and support to farming businesses.

The key issues for farmers are :-

A Rigid Timetable

Secure Funding

Design and Implementation with the emphasis on simplification

A reasonable Transition Period

Jo Heath spoke for Hampshire Countryside Services

HCC have already faced cutbacks and there is a £700K saving required this year so income has to be increased.

This has to be seen to be an opportunity to refresh Capital Plans such as visitor centres with an eye to long-term income.

The Broad Aims of the Service are threefold

1. Connecting People
2. Sustainable Land Use
3. Recovering Nature and Enhancing Landscapes

There is an initiative to encourage Local Nature Partnerships.

With over 750 staff and over 1,500 volunteers HCC are well placed to deliver.

Dave Rumble spoke for Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust

He highlighted the importance of improvements to three environments in particular-

The Chalk

There is a need to protect the overused resource of water in the chalk aquifer. This needs to be covered by a Catchment Plan which manages high and low water flows and arable reversion to reduce nutrient, herbicide and insecticide pollution.

The New Forest

Management relies on the Verderers a specialised and fragile type of agriculture based on the grazing of cattle, pigs and ponies and would require bespoke funding.

This would also apply to rare breeds, water meadow and hay meadow management.

The Solent Coast

There are major pressures of development on this geographical area with the shrinkage of huge areas of mudflats and salt marsh with the loss of rare flora innumerable invertebrates and the more obvious loss or displacement of bird populations such as

Brent Geese. Ironically payments are currently paid for crop damage from this displacement.

There was also a call for joined up habitats, working on broad areas such as river valleys, Heathland and the New Forest and the Forest of Bere.

Issues Arising in General Discussion

The consensus was that the document was surprisingly positive and full of fine words, however, it would be the deeds that count.

Access to the Countryside is mentioned for both Health and Education. Despite it being the Statutory Duty for Landowners to maintain paths and furniture there should be an argument for activities such as hedge laying and planting, encouraging 'Green Lanes' and management of Linear and Edge Habitats such as chalk grassland and scrub margins.

This is an area that I am sure Highways and Parish Councils can latch onto, under Habitat Restoration with Hay meadow mowing regimes and management of Open Access Space that they are in ownership.

My experience in these situations is that the time to strike is while those in charge are as unsure of how the new system works as the rest of us.

Michael Gove has suggested a budget of £1.5M for Pilot Schemes, thought to be funded by capping the larger estates, those over 1,200 acres. This does not seem fair if they are delivering.

There was dismay in the announcement of the Rural Payments Agency overseeing payments; they appear not to understand the concept of Trust.

The consensus was that each landowner forms a piece in the larger Jigsaw and we need to act together.

PG Knipe 8th March 2018