

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)
Joint Local Access Forum (DLAF)
Time: 10:00 - 13:00
Date: Thursday 27th November 2025
Venue: Hybrid meeting (Dorset Council Offices Committee Room 2 and Microsoft Teams)
Recording : <https://youtu.be/zTeVInMed7o>

Invitees:**DLAF Members**

Philip Hackett (PH) (chair)
Janet Davis (JD) (vice chair)
Chris Slade (CS)
Nathan McCormick (NM)
Paul Tomlinson (PT)
Christopher Tucker (CT)
Mandy Willis (MW)
Nicola Harper (NH)

Local Authority Officers

Russell Goff DC (RG) (Greenspace Manager)
Graham Stanley DC (GS) (Senior Ranger)
Vanessa Penny DC (VP) (Definitive Map Manager)
Philip Elias BCP (PE) (Senior PRoW Officer)
Kirsty Tyre BCP (KT) (PRoW Officer)

Local authority appointees

Cllr Alex Brenton DC (AB)
Cllr Andy Hadley BCP (AH)

Items:

1. Welcome and introductions, apologies, declaration of interests – Chair

Graham Stanley advised that Susan Phillips from the Definitive Maps Team was attending the meeting in place of Vanessa Penny.

2. Public questions – Chair

No public questions had been received.

3. Minutes of the last meeting, actions & matters arising not covered elsewhere – Chair

- (3) A35 Bridleway Organford issue PH to follow up

27/11 – Leave open. Graham Stanley to speak with Highways.

AB - Bridleway from Sharns Gate to Winterborne Muston was very overgrown.

Action – Graham Stanley to check open Dorset Council jobs for bridleways.
No live jobs for Bridleway crossing in the Organford area. PT has forwarded details of DLAF conversations from 2018. For adding to agenda of next meeting

- (3) Stats – RG

From January 1 2025 to date – 4,072 reports received and 4,122 reports resolved. There are currently 2,034 open jobs on the system, 852 are awaiting works, 145 further investigations, 678 under investigation. 239 jobs on the project work category, sourcing funding for surfacing works, bridges awaiting replacement.

- Central – 1,343 jobs completed
- North – 762 jobs completed
- East – 513 jobs completed
- Purbeck – 464 jobs completed
- West – 1,040 jobs completed

Action – Graham Stanley to circulate Dorset Council job stats. Appended

- (7) Binnegar Quarry - GS / VP

GS looked at the bridleway dedications at Binnegar, the dedication agreement needs signing by one of the quarry partners which DC's Legal team are chasing up.

NH - Concerns about the common land which has no access – no signage, no path, no biodiversity improvements. There is no memorandum of understanding regarding the common. They wish to submit another planning application.

Action – Nicola Harper and Graham Stanley to discuss issues with the common land at Binnegar Quarry. Date requested from NH

GS – The bridleways need to be entered onto the definitive map when the dedication agreement has been signed by both parties.

- (9) North Dorset Trailway – GS

GS - North Dorset Trailway AGM was held on 25 November 2025. Looking at getting more parts of the North Dorset Trailway on the definitive map. The Trailways Group has completed a survey.

PT - Shillingstone Station – Aspirations of North Dorset Railway Group are incompatible with the creation of a trailway route through the station. DC is the landowner.



GS – They have extended north under lease agreements with DC, heading towards Sturminster Newton and Lamb House Bridge. A railway has been built to the side. There are aspirations to head south in a cutting.

PT – There isn't enough room alongside the two tracks for a railway.

GS – They are looking at a single track. They have recently changed to Network Railway status and are allowed to take paying customers.

PT – We want to be convinced there will be a useable railway along the railway.

PH – We need to have a conversation with the railway company.

Action – Graham Stanley to arrange a site visit to the North Dorset Trailway and provide an overview of the trailway route. Appended. Save Wed 25th March in Diaries invite to follow. Propose to present overview at next DLAF mtg in April '26

- (9) Loders to Bradpole route. A letter was sent to Cllr. Andrews but no reply had been received. The need for this route was mentioned in the LAF response to the Local Plan and to the LTP.

27 /11 – No updates.

- (10) APPG for Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature. We responded to their call for information. There is a link to their very helpful report [here](#). There is a quote from us on p.8.

27/11 – Close - JD thanked everyone for their contributions.

- (12.2) Withdrawal of access at Bridehead. A press report indicates that the new landowners may restore the permissive access following a safety review.

27/11 – Close - There is a possibility the landowners will restore access to the permissive land.

- (13) Natural England (NE) consultations on access rights reviews (13):
 - (i) Bramblecombe Farm
 - (ii) Holton HeathWe did not respond to either of these consultations. NE subsequently confirmed that the access restriction at Bramblecombe Farm is to continue until August 2031.

27/11 – No decision made on Holton Heath. The access on Bramblecombe Farm has been extended for a further six years.

4. LAF recruitment plan - Graham Stanley

The link to the application form has been circulated. There have been three applications to date. Suggest a meeting is held in three weeks' time with to review applications. It is suggested the application form is left open permanently. A member of DC's Comms Team is available after this meeting to take a photo of the group. Members were asked to circulate the link to the application form to anyone who may be interested.

Action – Graham Stanley, Kirsty Tyre, Philip Hackett and Janet Davis to meet to review applications to join the DLAF group. Done

5. The Great Chalk Way - Presentation from Tom Chavalier, Central Bedfordshire LAF.

The Great Chalk Way is a family of routes from the Dorset coast to the Norfolk coast, running along the chalk down land across central England. It is a family of existing routes including the Wessex Ridgeway Trail which runs through Dorset and Wiltshire.

The Icknield Way runs from Buckinghamshire to the Norfolk / Suffolk border. It is a long-distance route, not a national trail. The aim of the Icknield Way Association is to promote the Icknield Way as a national trail and give it greater status to promote tourism. A MP is actively pursuing national trail status for the Icknield Way. A briefing paper is being prepared for government.

The Great Chalk Way – Considering national status for the whole route. The Wessex Ridgeway does not have any champions. There is a very good guide from 2009. The Great Chalk Way promoters would like to see an organisation to promote the Wessex Ridgeway. It would be interesting to promote the Great Chalk Way as a coast-to-coast national trail. We need a few people who can champion the Wessex Ridgeway and move it forward. The Wessex Ridgeway and Great Chalk Way are primarily a walking route but also have a historical background.

Action – Graham Stanley to ask for the Wessex Ridgeway / the Great Chalk Way to be included in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Requested

Action – Nicola Harper to speak to the Cranborne Chase Association about promoting the Wessex Ridgeway.

Action - Janet Davis to ensure the Wessex Ridgeway is on the Ramblers Association's next Area Footpath Committee agenda.

Action – Philip Hackett, Janet Davis and Tom Chavalier to discuss the Wessex Ridgeway following the meeting.

Action – Graham Stanley to ask Stuart to review the Wessex Ridgeway guide.
Done

6. Dorset Council Greenspace Management & Maintenance – Russell Goff (Greenspace Manager) and Graham Stanley (Senior Ranger)
The ROWIP timetable is confirmed as being:
- Public consult on draft February 2026
 - Feedback by May 2026
 - Launch June / July 2026

AB – Will DC councillors have sight of the RoWIP before the consultation?

PH – A members group of interested parties could review the RoWIP before the consultation.

Action – Philip Hackett and Janet Davis to request the LAF has sight of the RoWIP before the public consultation.

North & Purbeck – Built five new bridges, one is the Jubilee Bridge at Bere Regis, two outside Wool. Three bridges on the South West Coast Path. 160-metre section of recycled plastic board walk outside Wareham. Replaced 10 styles with gates. Replacing some bridleway gates outside Melcombe Bingham.

East – Works on heathland restoration in Verwood, Ferndown and on the edge of Upton. Has involved the felling of trees. Working with landowners for more gates in Alton and Alderholt. New SANG transferred to Dorset Council in Wimborne. Planning to plant poplars on the SANG in Wimborne. Completed a new path alongside the River Stour.

South - Some of the KCIII Coast Path is being worked on from Lyme Regis to Hive Beach. In receipt of some mitigation money from Natural England, part of the money is being used on S36 in Portland to reinstate the bridge and resurface the path. A bridge needs replacing and 40m of board walk at Moonfleet. Footpath at Ferrybridge has been reinstated.

West Dorset – Built six bridges. Waiting for approval from the Environment Agency to build another bridge in Haye Lane, Lyme Regis.

Central – Two bridges build by contractors in Broadmayne. Involved with the Tincton gates project, six gates have been installed to replace styles. One gate installed in Winterborne Abbas. Two bridleway gates installed in Trent. Buckland Newton have

made an application to the FiPL Fund to install gates in Buckland Newton. Cows back at Blackdown, and rhododendron is being cleared.

Claire O'Reilly is due to be starting as Senior Ranger for the Central Team in February.

PT – Is the Definitive Map being updated when stiles are replaced with gates?

GS – Applications are sent to the Definitive Map Team when landowners apply for a gate. The council's countryside database is updated when gates are installed by the council.

PT – The Definitive Map Statement needs keeping up to date.

SP – There is not a facility for the public to access the Definitive Map Statement online.

Action – Susan Philips to check with Vanessa Penny about the recording of Definite Map statements for a particular route where work is taking place, e.g. stiles replaced with gates.

7. BCP Council Greenspace Management & Maintenance – Philip Elias (Senior Rights of Way Officer) Presentation. PE update on the Stour Valley Way through Canford Park.

Kirsty Tyre started work on rights of way at BCP in August.

Canford School - Section 119B diversion. A special diversion order for the protection of schools from crime or ASB. People regularly walk off the footpath surrounding the school, there is also some ASB occurring. The proposal will go to the Planning Inspectorate for a decision.

Sandbanks beach fence – The fence appears to obstruct a piece of land which has been accessed historically. The public right of way was a diversion. The matter of a claim was tested at a public inquiry in 2013. If people can get onto the foreshore, do they have a right of access? Most of the foreshore is owned by The Crown. There is no clear right of access to the public to gain access from the foreshore.

Registration of Happy Bottom DMMO – The land has changed hands and barbed wire fences mounted where a path was previously accessible, this has triggered the submission of a DMMO claim. Philip Elias and Susan Philips visited the site.

King Charles III England Coast Path – Fiona Anderson in BCP has been looking at the style of the signage.

Unprotected path closure near Tesco in the Iford area, in particular Riverside Avenue – The landlord has closed access to a footpath, this would create unwanted additional vehicle movements at the Castle Lane East / hospital junction. The Rights of Way Team are looking into it.

Capital programme – Some capital on improving public footpath K5 between Bournemouth School and Bishop of Winchester Academy. The work will consist of surfacing works and signage.

Burton and Winkton – Work taking place on the rights of way.

AB – What links do the Rights of Way Team have with planners?

GS – Links are established in Dorset Council.

KT – Progress is being made on filming walks through the rights of way routes.

8. Legal Record Team - Definitive Map & Statement – Susan Philips (Definitive Map Manager). Presentation (latest DMMO and path order statistics).

Two confirmed modification orders - One on Bridleway 8 at Turnworth, and one at Staunton Caundle, a drafting error correction to record the full length of Bridleway 33.

Two confirmations for public path orders – Footpath 13 at Stoke Abbot, and Footpath 11 at Compton Abbas across the airfield.

Modification Orders – 239 modification order cases yet to be started, includes 214 applications from the BHS – 25 on the active waiting list.

48 cases in progress, includes those with or waiting to go to PIMS.

Two cases with PINS – One in Mill Lane, Chideock which will go to public inquiry next year. One is a footpath in Weston, Portland.

28 active cases are waiting to be submitted to PINS, nine are with DC's Legal team.

Public Path Orders – Nine cases not started, 39 in progress. One is with PINS – Chantry Farm, Beaminster.

There has been an increase in the number of applications received - 14 Town & Country Planning Act applications, one rail crossing and one special order. Received five Town & Country Planning Act applications since the last meeting in July, compared to three in the previous 12 months.

Action – Vanessa Penny to circulate the dates of the public inquiries.

PT – Is there a process where footpaths are upgraded to bridleways?

PH – Need to submit claims and user evidence.

SP – There have been conversations about a project to address this issue on Portland. An additional bridleway has been confirmed on Portland.

9. Progress with KCIII ECP

- Response made to the Lulworth to Kimmeridge stretch consultation (see item 11 below).
- Response from NE to our query about the Kimmeridge to South Haven stretch.
- Secretary of State's decision to approve the path between Lyme Regis and Hive Beach (LRR1-4)

JD and PT made a site visit to Lulworth to look at the proposals and compiled a response which was circulated and sent to Natural England.

Kimmeridge to South Haven – Natural England have confirmed the signage and path is in place.

Lyme Regis to Rufus Castle – Natural England shares frustrations in delays to move forward.

Path between Lyme Regis and Hive Beach – Approved by the Secretary of State and DC is carrying out work on it.

The section of the coast path between Hive Beach and Portland has yet to be approved.

10. Member feedback from associated groups/meetings
Dorset National Landscape – oral report (JD)

Dorset National Landscape Management Plan 2026-2031 was to be approved at last week's meeting.

Cranborne Chase National Landscape – oral report (NH)

NH is attending the forum in January. They have a National Lottery grant for a period of five years, 20 different projects were carried out, including repairs on ancient ways. Training was carried out on walking activities, walking festivals set up, held over 100 events. There are 60 new circular walks, around half in the Dorset area. Over 12 cycle routes. Access to All grant money has been used for the Springhead Trust. Walking festival coming up in May 2026.

Local Nature Partnership – No representative at present

JD will circulate the Local Nature Partnership's annual report.

NH volunteered to act as a DLAF representative to the Local Nature Partnership in the interim.

11. Ratification of responses made since last meeting:

- Response on the Dorset National Landscape Management Plan
- Response on the Lulworth to Kimmeridge stretch of the KCIII ECP
- Response on the Minerals and Waste Plan

The above responses were submitted on behalf of DLAF.

12. Response to Local Transport Plan (JD)

PT – It is difficult to make a meaningful response on behalf of an organisation. They need more than multiple choice answers.

JD - It is the same survey for an individual or an organisation. Comments were submitted in the free text field.

Action – Cllr Brenton to speak with Catherine Howe and Cllr Wilson re: the format of Dorset Council consultations.

13. AOB

None

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28 April, 10:00 – 13:00, Committee Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ.