



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS
FORUM**

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2 March 2012

When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Mr Ross Johnston**

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: MONDAY 12 MARCH 2012

TIME: 10.30 AM

PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH (NEXT TO CIVIC CENTRE)

Committee Members–

Mr Fairchild, Chair

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair

Mr Attrill, Councillor Churchill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Mr Harvey, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart and Councillor Wheeler.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf

Members are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Forum Members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this Agenda.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

The Forum will be asked to confirm the minutes of the 12 December 2011.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS (Pages 9 - 10)

To monitor progress on previous resolutions.

6. SOUTH WEST COAST PATH BROCHURE

Members will discuss the draft South West Coast Path brochure.

7. STATUTORY LAND TRANSFER UPDATE (Pages 11 - 12)

Members will receive a written update on the Statutory Land Transfers of Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School.

8. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (Pages 13 - 26)

Members will receive a written update on the Definitive Map.

9. POSITION STATEMENTS

Members will be invited to discuss potential position statements.

10. PLANNING AUTHORITY UPDATE

A senior officer from the Planning Department will provide members with a presentation giving an overview of the planning application process.

11. LAF REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED TO OTHER BODIES (Pages 27 - 28)

Members will receive a report about Local Access Forum representatives nominated to other bodies.

12. CONSULTATIONS:

- (a.) Derriford Community Park Masterplan

To respond to the consultation at:

http://plymouth.consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/delivery/dcp/dcp_1

13. WORKING GROUPS

To agree any working groups for items on this agenda.

- (a.) Annual Report Working Group (Pages 29 - 32)

To receive a copy of the Annual Report agreed by the working group.

14. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 33 - 34)

To receive the Forum's Work Programme for 2011 - 2012.

15. CORRESPONDENCE (Pages 35 - 44)

To consider any correspondence received and note any correspondence sent by the Forum.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To agree meeting dates for the next municipal year as follows:

- 18 June 2012 at 10:30am;
- 17 September 2012 at 10:30am;
- 17 December 2012 at 10:30am;
- 18 March 2013 at 10:30am.

17. ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS

To discuss any issues brought forward by members of the Forum.

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Plymouth Local Access Forum**Monday 12 December 2011****PRESENT:**

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Councillor Churchill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mrs Roberts.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.25 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

34. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Mr Skinner	Item 39. Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order	Member of the Ramblers and Open Spaces Society.	Personal
Mr Emery	Item 39. Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order	Member of the Ramblers and Open Spaces Society.	Personal
Councillor Wheeler	Item 39. Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Wheeler	Item 45. Planning Consultation – Barrier Busting	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Wheeler	Item 48. Working Groups	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Churchill	Item 39. Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Churchill	Item 45. Barrier Busting	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Churchill	Item 48. Working Groups	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Mr Pawley	Item 43. Public	Secretary of Mayflower	Personal

	Slipways Update	Boat Owner Association and the local representative for the South West Coast Path	
Mr Pawley	Item 44. South West Coast Path Update	Secretary of Mayflower Boat Owner Association and the local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal
Mr Curno	Item 43. Public Slipways Update	Representative of the Royal Yachting Association	Personal
Mrs Rodgers	Item 48. Working Groups	Employed by the National Trust	Personal

35. MINUTES

With regard to the minutes of 12 September 2011 it was commented that at the end of minute 20 it should state in brackets that 'Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Churchill declared an interest in this item and as such took no part in the discussion'.

Agreed that subject to the inclusion of the above amendment the minutes of 12 September 2011 are approved as a correct record.

36. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Ray Fairchild, Chair of the LAF informed members that he had recently received an email regarding Mary Creagh MP submitting a question to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what progress was being made on recording historic rights of way.

Members acknowledged that it was pleasing to see such issues being discussed in the House of Commons and they looked forward to responding to the potential consultation on streamlining the processes for recording potential rights of way.

Agreed that a copy of the email be circulated to all members.

37. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

The Forum noted the tracking resolutions document. Following comments made by members it was agreed that in response to –

- (1) 28.03.11- minute 67 position statements would be included as an agenda item for discussion at the Forum meeting on 12 March 2011;
- (2) 12.09.11 – minute 30 a site visit would be arranged for the

afternoon of the next Forum meeting on 12 March 2011.

38. **NATURAL ENGLAND UPDATE**

Dot Isgrove, Natural England representative provided members with an update on Natural England. Members were informed that –

- (a) the National LAF meeting would be held in Bristol on 6 March 2012 with one member from each LAF invited to attend;
- (b) it was hoped that a new national co-ordinator would be appointed by Natural England in January 2012;
- (c) Huddle was a new user friendly network website for LAF's to use, although at present there was only enough funding available to have three members from each LAF licensed to use the site. The licences would be reviewed in the future with the aim of having all LAF members licensed to use the site;
- (d) there was a new requirement on LAF's to produce an annual report in an approved pro-forma to enable DEFRA to collate and compare data more efficiently;
- (e) Plymouth had recently been successful in acquiring funding to develop a Local Nature Partnership and this should provide an exciting opportunity for LAF's to have a positive and influential role in getting involved in the future of nature within the local area;
- (f) a new government scheme was being developed called 'Paths for Communities' which would provide grants to landowners to work with local communities on improving access and public rights of way.

Agreed that –

- (1) a letter is sent to Colin Jones, former national co-ordinator for Natural England, thanking him for his service and contribution to the LAF in the past;
- (2) Dot Isgrove, Natural England, would provide an email on the new 'Paths for Communities' scheme to be distributed to all members;
- (3) Ray Fairchild, Chair will attend the National LAF Conference on 6 March 2012 and John Skinner will be the first choice reserve member;
- (4) Dot Isgrove is thanked for her attendance.

39. **RIDGEWAY SCHOOL EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer provided members with an update on the Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order. Members were informed that –

- (a) there was an administrative error in the Order which had meant that the order had to be quashed and a new Order made;
- (b) following the advertisement period a decision would be taken by Plymouth City Council legal officers as to whether the order would need to be re-submitted to the Planning Committee.

Mr Emery and Mr Skinner raised concerns about potentially not re-submitting the extinguishment order to Planning Committee as they felt that this was a new order and as such should be re-determined by Planning Committee members.

Agreed that the forum make no comments on the extinguishment order and conclude that its original resolution as was stated at the 13 July 2011 meeting still stands.

(Mr Skinner and Mr Emery declared a personal interest in the above item.)

(Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Churchill declared an interest in this item and as such took no part in the discussion.)

40. **WHITLEIGH: SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL PROJECT UPDATE**

Rosie Dale, Major Schemes Officer (Sustainable Transport Team) provided an update on the Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel project. Members were informed that –

- (a) the LAF members' contribution to the project through information provided on walks in and around Whitleigh was much appreciated;
- (b) the project, which aimed to improve travel in Whitleigh by making it safer and more sustainable, had focused on three main themes walking, cycling and public opinion;
- (c) public opinion had been gathered through leaflet responses and from public engagement sessions in school play-grounds and doctor surgeries;
- (d) the main concerns raised by the public regarded high traffic speeds and children's safety;
- (e) improvements to be implemented in Whitleigh included –
 - 'welcome to Whitleigh' signage;

- '20 is plenty' signage to encourage motorists to drive slower;
 - improvements to bus stop accessibility on Taunton Avenue;
 - improvements to school crossing patrols and re-inforcing school keep clear zones;
- (f) in order to deliver the improvements the Sustainable Transport Team would work with the local community, the Police, access to nature projects and local public transport providers;
- (g) the Sustainable Transport Team were also working with the Road Safety Team to improve local children's education on road safety throughout all local schools;
- (h) to promote walking in the Whitleigh area a number of local footpaths had been identified to be defined as public rights of way and to be improved with maintenance and signage;
- (i) the main improvements in the area were behavioural or cultural rather than engineering changes and as such it was hoped that these would all be implemented in the 2011 – 2012 financial year.

Rosie Dale, Major Schemes Officer (Sustainable Transport Team) was thanked for her attendance.

41. **LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIPS**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer presented a report on Local Nature Partnerships and informed members that –

- (a) a Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was being developed in Plymouth and a group of consultants had been tasked with appointing to the LNP;
- (b) Plymouth LAF was a nominated body for the consultants to approach when appointing members to the LNP;
- (c) the LNP was a separate entity to the Nature Improvement Area (NIA).

Agreed that nominations to the LNP be conducted by the LAF Secretary in consultation with Ray Fairchild, Chair of the LAF.

42. **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FUNDING**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer provided an update on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding. Members were informed that –

- (a) the initial investment of £10k had been increased to £17k and there

was a possibility that a further £16k could be added to the funding as other transport initiatives were unlikely to spend allocated monies; this money would continue to be spent on the republication of the South West Coast Path booklet and improvements to the historic trails;

- (b) the republication of the South West Coast Path booklet was progressing well with local historian Chris Robinson and a local design firm commissioned to design and print the booklet;
- (c) the South West Coast Path booklet was hoped to be launched in March 2012 with the forum being provided with an opportunity to review the booklet before publication;
- (d) five historic city centre footpaths were being improved through increased and re-designed signage;
- (e) it was hoped that if further money was received then another five historic footpaths in the city would be created.

43. **PUBLIC SLIPWAYS UPDATE**

Pauline Burrows, Parking Systems Manager provided a verbal update on public slipways. Members were informed that –

- (a) a number of improvements to the public slipways website were being undertaken following suggestions from Dave Pawley and Dave Curno, LAF Members;
- (b) the Parking Department had been working with the Cattewater Harbour Commission to deliver improvements to signage at a number of public slipways.

It was commented by members that maintenance of public slipways had been significantly improved.

Agreed that Dave Pawley, Dave Curno and all Parking department staff involved in improving public slipways are thanked for all their efforts.

(Mr Pawley and Mr Curno declared a personal interest in the above item.)

44. **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer provided an update on the South West Coast Path. Members were informed that –

- (a) new signage at Breakwater Road had now been fully erected;
- (b) improvements and engineering works would be undertaken at the currently closed Jennicliffe section of the South West Coast Path in

early 2012 and it was hoped that the path would be open to the public by the end of February 2012.

The report was noted.

(Mr Pawley declared a personal interest in the above item.)

45. **PLANNING CONSULTATION - BARRIER BUSTING**

John Emery submitted a proposed response to the Barrier Busting consultation.

Agreed that the proposed response is formally submitted to the planning department from the LAF in response to the Barrier Busting consultation.

(Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Churchill declared an interest in this item and as such took no part in the discussion.)

46. **HUDDLE**

Ray Fairchild, Chair provided an update on a new network tool for LAF's called Huddle. Members were informed that –

- (a) Natural England had purchased licenses for only three LAF members to access Huddle, however, it was hoped that all LAF members would receive access in the future;
- (b) there was a concern that the Huddle site could lead to the loss of the Regional Co-ordinator;
- (c) there was a request from Natural England for the LAF to nominate three members to be users of Huddle and for one member to be nominated as LAF Champion.

Agreed that –

- (1) Ray Fairchild, Chair is nominated as the LAF Huddle Champion;
- (2) Dave Curno and Ross Johnston, LAF Secretary are nominated as the two other licence holders to access Huddle.

47. **ANNUAL REPORTING 2011 - 2012**

Ross Johnston, LAF Secretary informed members that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) required LAF Annual Reports to be submitted in a new format.

Agreed that a working group is initiated in January 2012 to consider and agree the wording for the new annual report.

48. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **PLYM VALLEY CYCLE TRAIL WORKING GROUP**

Ray Fairchild, Chair informed members that –

- (a) a group of LAF members met with Jim Pascoe, National Trust, to have a tour and discussion on the proposed Plym Valley Cycle Trail. Following this meeting the members agreed that the LAF would make no formal objection to the planning application;
- (b) since this meeting the Plym Valley Cycle Trail planning application had been withdrawn.

Members were further informed by Steph Rodgers, National Trust, that –

- (c) the application had been withdrawn following a legal covenant being discovered in the area that the café was proposed to be sited;
- (d) the whole application was being reviewed and as such a public consultation programme would be undertaken for a period of approximately six months;
- (e) in order to collate the consultation information received a key stakeholder group would be set up in January 2012.

(Mrs Rodgers declared a personal interest in the above item.)

(Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Churchill declared an interest in this item and as such took no part in the discussion.)

49. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted their work programme and agreed that an update on the Definitive Map be added to the meeting on 12 March 2012.

50. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted its correspondence.

51. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum is held at 10.30am on Monday 12 March 2012.

52. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

A member of the Forum commented positively on the erection of public rights of way signage at the bottom of Novorossiysk Road, Plymouth.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
28.03.11 Minute 67	that the creation of position statements are approved;	This was discussed and agreed as part of the LAF development item.	The Forum	Has been included on 12 March 2012 agenda for discussion.	July/August 2011
12.09.11 Minute 26	a list of Forum Members nominated to sit out on other bodies is provided at a future meeting.	John Emery raised that he wished to see a list of which members had been nominated by the LAF to sit on other bodies.	Ross Johnston	This information has been included on the agenda for 12 March 2012.	12 March 2012
12.09.11 Minute 28	a letter be written by Ray Fairchild, Chair, in consultation with the LAF Secretary and PROW Officer, to the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council identifying the need for the recruitment of a University Intern at the earliest opportunity;	Following the update on recruitment to the PROW department members felt that they should write a formal letter stating the need to recruit to the department.	Ray Fairchild	Letter sent to Barry Keel on 19 January 2012. Letter attached to the correspondence item on the agenda.	End of September
12.09.11 Minute 30	a site visit be organised within the next six weeks to look at three separate woodland sites that have had significant improvements made to them through the Stepping Stones to Nature project;	Members wished to see some recent improvements that happened within the city's green spaces.	Robin Pearce	Due to there not being enough confirmations for the site visit proposed on 12 March 2012 it has not been financially viable for us to run this site visit on this occasion. A further site visit will be suggested in the future.	End of October
12.12.11	a letter is sent to Colin Jones,	Members wished to express	Ray	A letter was sent to Colin	12 March 2012

Minute 38	former national co-ordinator for Natural England, thanking him for his service and contribution to the LAF in the past;	their gratitude for the dedication and hard work Colin Jones had given to LAFs regionally.	Fairchild	Jones c/o Dot Isgrove, Natural England on 14 February 2012.	
12.12.11 Minute 38	Dot Isgrove, Natural England, would provide an email on the new 'Paths for Communities' scheme to be distributed to all members;	Members were keen to be kept informed on the new scheme that was discussed by Dot Isgrove.	Dot Isgrove	Confirmed on 9 January 2012 that once more information on the scheme became available she would send an email to be distributed to all members.	N/A
12.12.11 Minute 45	<u>Agreed</u> that the proposed response is formally submitted to the planning department from the LAF in response to the Barrier Busting consultation.	Members were keen to respond to the consultation and agreed to use the proposed response from John Emery.	Ross Johnston	Consultation response was submitted on 23 December 2011.	1 January 2012
12.12.11 Minute 47	<u>Agreed</u> that a working group is initiated in January 2012 to consider and agree the wording for the new annual report.	Members wished to meet formally to discuss and write the next annual report.	Ross Johnston	This was arranged for 24 January 2012.	End of January 2012



= Complete resolution



= Outstanding resolution

BEST ACHIEVING
COUNCIL OF THE YEAR



Mr R Johnson
Secretary to Plymouth Access Forum
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Plymouth
PL1 2AA

Finance, Assets and Efficiencies
Department for Corporate Support

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

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E ian.gillhespy@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk

Please ask for: Ian Gillhespy

Date 1 March 2012

My Ref IG02let

Your Ref

Dear Mr Johnston

Re: Notices of Statutory Land Transfer for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School

I write by way of update to the Plymouth Local Access Forum in relation to the above matters.

Ridgeway School

The Ridgeway Academy Trust have been granted a Tenancy at Will of the School site pending completion of the long term lease both of which exclude Geasons Lane and Footpath No. 2 from Moorland Road to Geasons Lane.

Coombe Dean School

The Coombe Dean Academy Trust have been granted a Tenancy at Will of the School site pending completion of the long term lease both of which exclude the land to the north east corner of that School site which provides a footpath linking Charnhill Way to Furzehatt Avenue.

Yours sincerely



Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate Estates Team)
Corporate Property

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PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

12 March 2012 – Definitive Map Update



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with a general update on matters relating to the Definitive Map and Statement as requested in the Forums Forward work Programme.

2. Definitive Map Modification Orders

- 2.1 A Modification Order is a legal means of making some form of change to the Definitive Map and Statement. It is used to correct an error which could be any of a range of things but is most commonly used because a person feels that a way that should be shown as a public right of way is not. Other uses include altering the status of a way (i.e. from a footpath to a bridleway or vice-versa), removing a path or altering the width or other information contained within the statement. This is a very different process from a Public Path Order which can only be used to divert or extinguish an existing public right of way. A person making an application for a Modification Order must apply to the local highway authority for an Order to be made and they must include evidence to support their views so that we might be convinced that an Order is required.
- 2.2 The Modification Order process is extremely slow, resource intensive and very expensive. Each application might also result in some form of public examination via the Planning Inspectorate which increases timescales and cost significantly. Our current resourcing levels allow us to progress a maximum of 2 applications a year. There is no formal system of prioritisation, all applications are dealt with in strict date order of receipt and as of February 2012 there were 8 outstanding Modification Order Applications awaiting determination.

2.3 Details of active applications are listed below. To aid Members closed files have also been listed and draft Order plans are included in appendix I to this briefing note.

2.4 The list of applications is as follows: -

- **WCA.000** – The Gap – Resolved by Public Inquiry February 2009 – Order Not Confirmed (although PCC took a neutral stance)
- **WCA.001** – Winston Ave – Resolved by Written Reps August 2010 – Order Confirmed
- **WCA.002** – Ham Drive – Resolved by Public Inquiry May 2011 – Order Confirmed
- **WCA.003** – Lister Close – Resolved by Landowner Dedication March 2007
- **WCA.004** – Hooe Lake Slipway
- **WCA.005** – Hooe Road
- **WCA.006** – Widewell School
- **WCA.007** – Stamford Lane
- **WCA.008** – Elizabeth Cottage
- **WCA.009** – The Kloof
- **WCA.010** – Chaddlewood
- **WCA.011** – Plymstock School

3. **Stepping Stones Access 2 Nature Project**

3.1 As Members will be aware the Stepping Stones Project is continuing to deliver new and improved public rights of way within the city primarily within designated Local Nature Reserves (LNR's). In the 2010/12 financial year the project saw the creation of new public paths with the Forder Valley and Woodland Woods LNR's as well as additional paths in the Efford Valley. In 2011/12 the focus will be on Southway Valley and Ham Wood LNR's. There has already been a considerable amount of accommodation works within both sites and signage is currently being manufactured ready for installation in February/March 2012. Plans showing the PRow to be designated are shown below for Members information.



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Southway Valley LNR

Proposed Public Rights of Way

Scale 1:6417



Ham Woods

PRoW Routes and Signage

4. Staffing Levels

- 4.1 The response to the Forum's letter to Barry Keel regarding staffing levels sets out 2 options for the use of University student placements. At the current time it is not felt that either option provides a sustainable solution to address the problems at hand. A short term placement would clearly not aid the long term situation and a longer term placement, which is limited to a maximum of 1 year, must be funded by the hosting team absorbing approximately 50% of existing revenue budgets. This level of budget reduction would require us to actually suspend all work on progressing claims as well as impacting upon our existing maintenance commitments.
- 4.2 The government's Penfold Review has clarified that the recent "Red-Tape Challenge" might well reduce some of the legislative burdens placed on local authorities in a wide range of areas. Details of changes to Traffic Regulation Orders and planning issues relating to the historic environment which are already out for public consultation clearly state that large scale legislative changes relating to public rights of way are due to be consulted on in the near future and it is hoped that some relief might be found within these proposals.

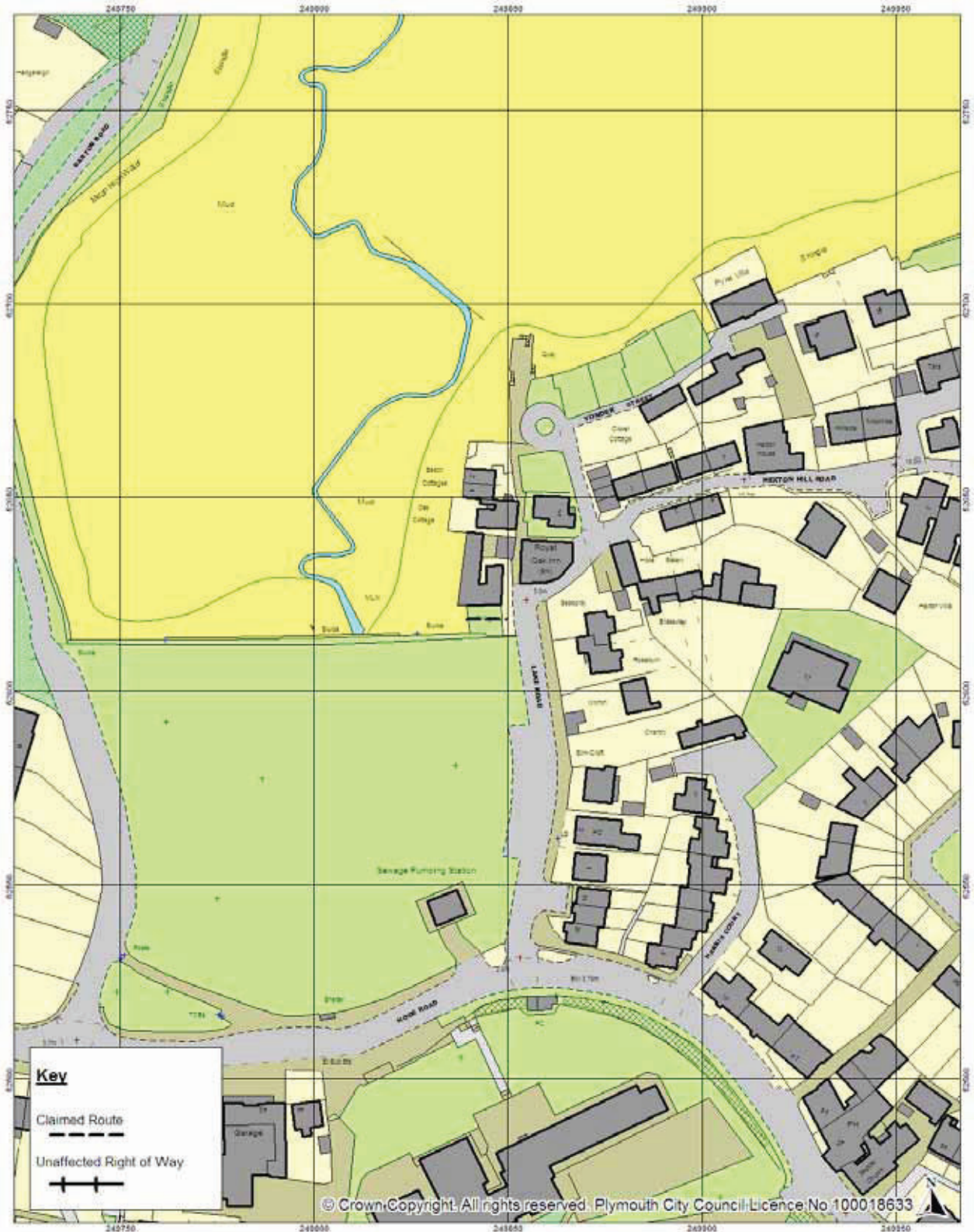
5.0 Definitive Map and Statement Republication

- 5.1 Finally Members may be interested to know that due to the large number of changes to the rights of way network in recent years the Definitive Map and Statement will be republished in the near future. The map was last published in 2006.

Appendix I

Modification Order Application Claimed Routes

WCA.004 – Hooe Lake Slipway



WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

Hooe Lake Slipway

Scale 1:1250



WCA.005 - Hooe Road



Key

- Claimed Route
- Unaffected Right of Way

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.005 - Hooe Road

Scale 1:1250



WCA.006 – Widewell School



Key

Claimed Route

Unaffected Right of Way
+ + + +

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.006 - Widewell School

Scale 1:2500



WCA.007 – Stamford Lane



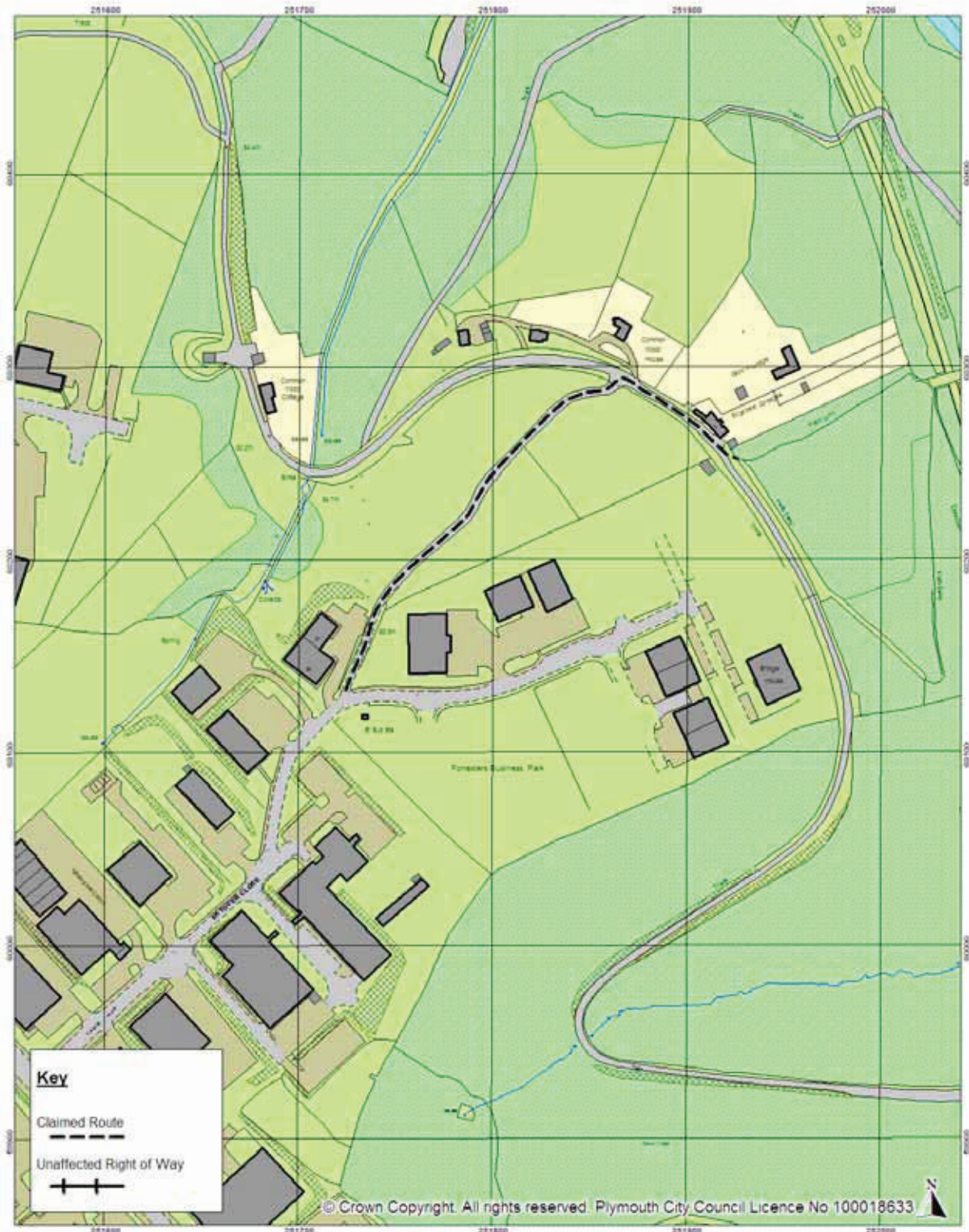
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.007 - Stamford Lane

Scale 1:2500



WCA.008 – Elizabeth Cottage



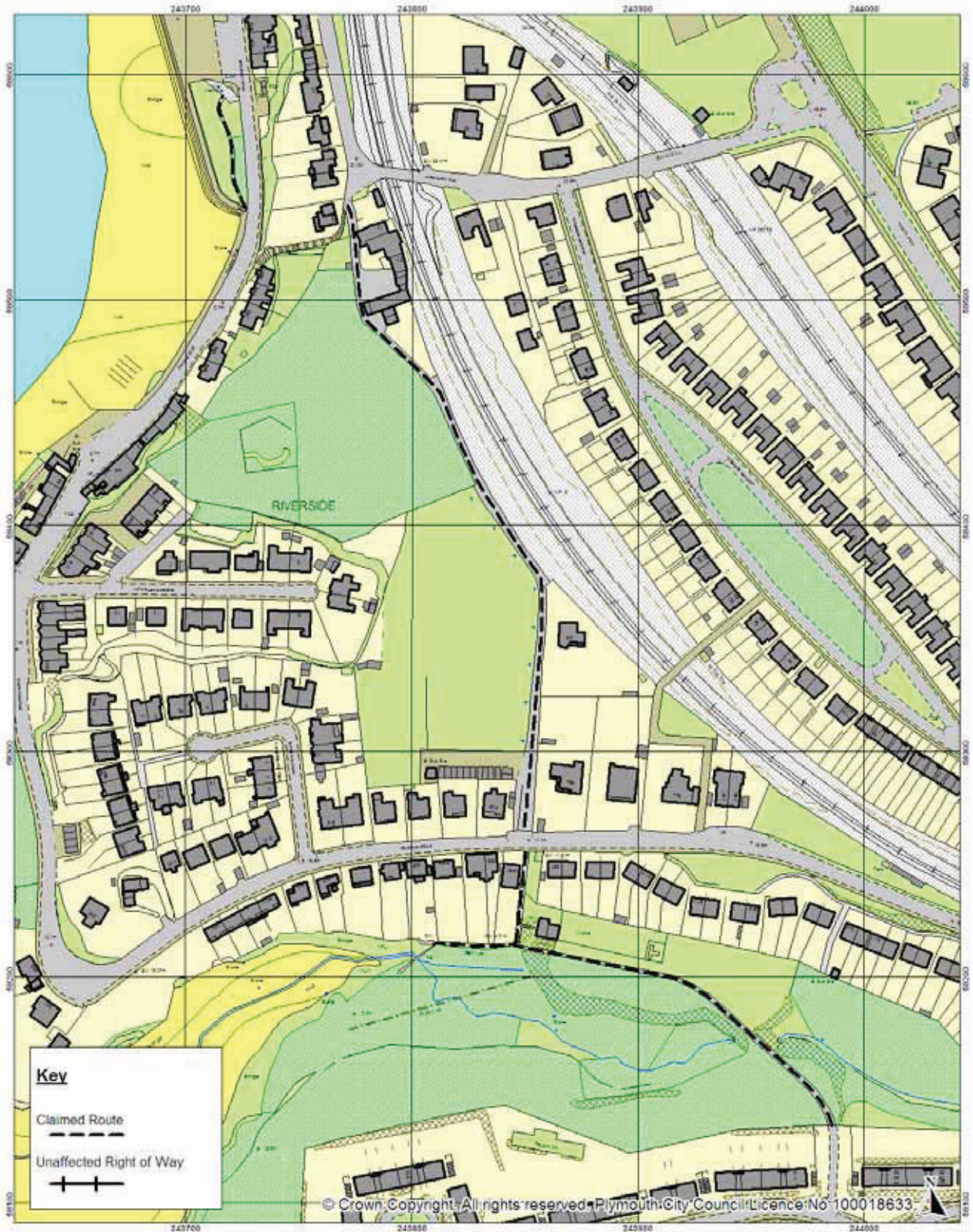
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.008 - Elizabeth Cottage

Scale 1:2500



WCA.009 – The Kloof



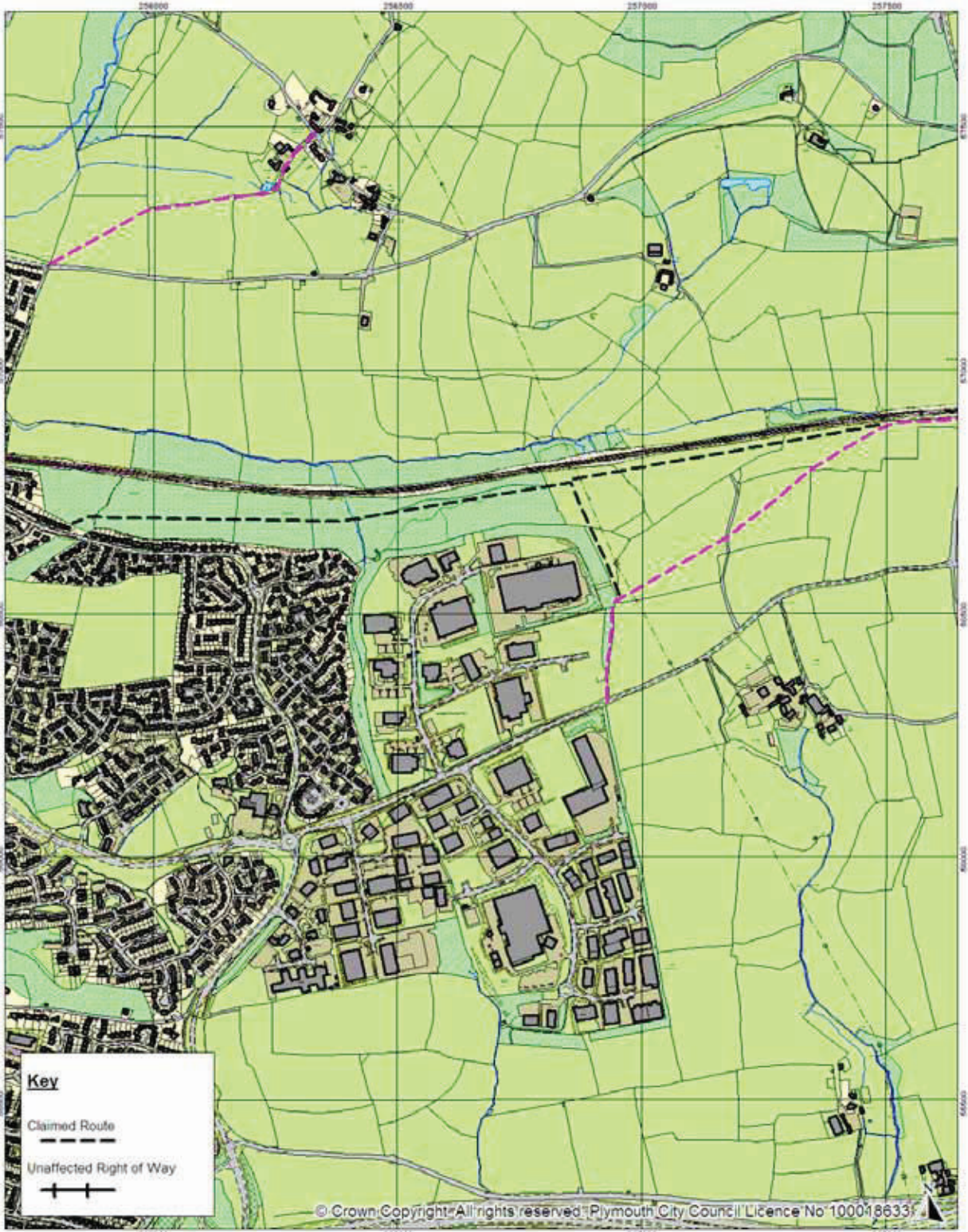
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.009 - The Kloof

Scale 1:2142



WCA.010 - Chaddlewood



WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.010 - Chaddlewood

Scale 1:10000



WCA.011 - Plymstock School



WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

WCA.011 - Plymstock School

Scale 1:2500



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

NOMINATIONS TO OTHER BODIES



1. Introduction

1.1 This report provides the Plymouth Local Access Forum with an update on Forum Members that have been nominated to sit on other bodies since March 2010.

1.2 This report has been produced following a resolution agreed at the meeting on 12 September 2011 that a list of Forum Members nominated to sit out on other bodies is provided at a future meeting.

2. Nominations

2.1 Since March 2010 the Plymouth Local Access Forum have nominated members to attend or sit on the following outside bodies:

2.2 At its meeting on 9 August 2010 Ray Fairchild, Chair and Ian Stewart, Vice Chair were nominated to represent the PLAF and attend the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Workshop.

2.3 At its meeting on 12 September 2011 Ray Fairchild, Chair, Ian Stewart, Vice Chair and John Skinner were nominated to represent the PLAF and attend the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum.

2.4 On 14 February 2012 John Skinner was nominated to represent the PLAF on the Plym Valley Advisory Group following a request from Gerard Couper an independent facilitator engaged by the National Trust to set up the Plym Valley Advisory Group.

2.5 Table of nominations:

Other Body	Nomination	Nomination	Nomination
Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Workshop	Ray Fairchild, Chair	Ian Stewart, Vice Chair	N/A
Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum	Ray Fairchild, Chair	Ian Stewart, Vice Chair	John Skinner
Plym Valley Advisory Group	John Skinner		

3. Future Nominations

3.1 In the future it is likely that the PLAF will be invited to nominate Forum Members to attend workshops or sit on other bodies and when these requests are received they will be added to the PLAF agenda.

3.2 A potential future request is likely to be received from the newly created Local Nature Partnership which was discussed at the PLAF meeting on 12 December 2011 and agreed that nominations to the LNP be conducted by the LAF Secretary in consultation with Ray Fairchild, Chair of the LAF.

3.3 Other future requests are likely to be forthcoming from other bodies such as the Derriford Countryside Park Masterplan, a similar project to that of the Saltram Countryside Park Masterplan.

Ross Johnston
Secretary to the Plymouth Local Access Forum

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Report Proforma

* Reporting year	2011
* Name of LAF	Plymouth Local Access Forum
* Name of LAF secretary	Ross Johnston

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.

A formal work programme was introduced in January 2011 to enable the PLAF to monitor its success against objectives in a more effective manner.

With regard to objectives for 2011 the forum have had success in:

1. The Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 – 2016) – received presentations, responded to consultation requests and had an input in developing the plan.
2. Coastal Access – received presentations, responded to national consultations and developed local authority's website.
3. Saltram Countryside Park – responded to consultation and nominated members to attend workshops and now three members form part of the Saltram Countryside Masterplan Workshop Forum. The PLAF got involved in this topic via the Green Infrastructure Plan.

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

The PLAF have dealt with no open access restrictions however they have been involved in a number of access cases in 2011 including:

1. Statutory Land Transfers for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School
2. Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order – Gleason's Lane
3. Royal William Yard South West Coast Path extension
4. Access to water sites – slipways
5. Public Path Diversion Order application on Hooe Lane, Plymstock
6. South West Coast Path – Jennicliffe Landslip Diversion
7. Carnock Road – establishment of a PROW

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

The Forum has given some very comprehensive advice in 2011 including, but not limited to:

1. Plymouth's Local Transport Plan 3 – as mentioned above.
2. Access Whitleigh – provided formal advice from a working group on delivering sustainable transport improvements in Whitleigh (a local Plymouth neighbourhood).
3. Rights of Way Improvement Plan – responded to the PROW Officer in response to a consultation request at a formal LAF meeting.

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

The forum have encountered a few issues in 2011 including:

1. Slow movement of defining paths on the Definite Map.
This has been attempted to be alleviated by requesting that the CEX of Plymouth City Council to consider employing an intern from the University of Plymouth to assist the PROW Officer in speeding up the process of adding footpaths to the definitive map.
2. Interaction with PCC Planning Department regarding applications which have implications for footpaths:
This has been attempted to be alleviated by responding to a Barrier Busting consultation, meeting with Senior Planning Officers and a request for a Senior Planning Officer to attend a future meeting in 2012.
3. Responding to consultation deadlines that fall in between LAF meetings:
This has been attempted to be alleviated by discussing position statements that will be agreed at a future LAF meeting in 2012.

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

Landowners.

They are seen as an important group whose views have been missed and has perhaps made the PLAF a slightly biased forum. However, the PLAF have recently appointed a new Landowner and now have three landowners out of its 16 Forum members.

Comments from appointing authority

This has been a very positive year for the PLAF where it has met on five occasions, arranged three separate working groups and appointed three new members.

The success of the PLAF over the past year has been founded on significant change resulting in more structured and formal meetings, clear and direct chairmanship and a more effective administration set up.

It is hoped that this success will be built on in 2012 with the PLAF taking a lead role in the development of a Local Nature Partnership in Plymouth and also through having a continued role in the promotion of sustainable neighbourhoods throughout the city.

Forward Look

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

The PLAF have many priorities in 2012 with the most important considered to include:

1. Closer dialogue and improved relations with the City Planning Department – improved information on footpaths that should be on the Definitive Map.
2. Implementation of Local Nature Partnerships.
3. Examination of local schemes - Plym Valley Cycle Track and South West Coast Path development

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

The PLAF feel that training in 2012 should be delivered on the following topics:

1. HUDDLE
2. Definitive Map Modification Orders
3. PROW in Plymouth
4. Public Access legislation
5. Procedure for the creation/extinguishment of public paths

Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities?

The PLAF feel that a lack of resources in developing the Definitive Map presents a significant barrier to improvements with footpaths being acknowledged in Planning Applications, as well as a barrier for footpaths more generally across Plymouth.

The PLAF have a concern about the future of regional co-ordination.

Any other comments

Documents that are produced by national bodies such as Natural England and DEFRA would be more easily understandable if they were written more concisely and in plainer English.

Proposed work programme	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Consultations (final date)											
National Planning Policy Framework Consultation					17						
Barrier Busting consultation								31			
Derriford Community Park Masterplan										20	
Potential Site Visits											
Local Nature Reserves										12	
Working Group Issues											
Access Whitleigh	13										
Rights of Way Improvement Plan – work programme priorities				12							
Plym Valley Cycle Trail							12				
LAF Annual Report										12	
Planning Application responses											
Plym Valley Cycle Trail				28							

**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**Floor 1
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19 January 2012

Mr Barry Keel
Chief Executive
Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2AA

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Plymouth Local Access Forum. Plymouth City Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Mr Ross Johnston**

Dear Mr Keel,

The Plymouth Local Access Forum (PLAF) is a statutory advisory body set up by DEFRA to advise local authorities on the promotion, protection and enhancement of recreational public access to green spaces. The member base of the Forum is made up of 3 of your elected Members along with a mix of local people who have interests relevant to Plymouth - the idea is to make the views of the PLAF representative of the local populace. The statutory framework the PLAF operate within mean that the advice we give has legal weight and so must be sincerely considered. We have been a key stakeholder for a number of successful projects which have made significant improvements to green spaces in the city including the Stepping Stones Access2Nature Big Lottery funding bid and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid both of which attracted significant investment in public access to green spaces, sustainable transport initiatives and promoting health and well-being through walking and cycling schemes.

We regularly work very closely with a number of your officers, either on specific projects or over longer periods in terms of "business as usual" activities with which we are involved. For a long time now we have been concerned about the level of resourcing allocated to public rights of way which is an area of work which is subject to some rather unique legislative pressures. The short version of these pressures is that in 2020 any footpath, bridleway or byway not properly recorded will be extinguished and lost to the city forever - this could potentially result in the loss of around 800 potential public rights of way and the main issue as we see it is that the legal processes your officers are obliged to follow are both extremely long and very expensive making progress slow. They quite rightly prioritise their work where they can make the most improvements and they do so very effectively.

I won't ask you to consider allocating more resources to that particular work area, I have no doubt this is a common scenario for every area of the council. However, it does strike the Forum that the sort of work that needs doing is well suited for a young person trying to gain experience to support longer term career goals. We feel that a series of quite clear task and finish projects could be put together by

your officers which would perfectly compliment graduates from a range of subjects. Your Officers in Transport and Highways agree however they are currently subject to a departmental reorganisation with a council wide reorganisation beginning next year and so do not feel they are able to make decisions about student or work placements until a number of key decisions have been made.

So our request to you is that we ask you to consider if there is a way that the layers of bureaucracy can be stripped away and a 12 month work placement be arranged, working with us, to support the valuable work of your public rights of way officer. We feel the costs to the Council are minimal but the benefit to the people of Plymouth is potentially extraordinary and of course a young person has the opportunity to gain real life work experience which in the current climate can make a huge difference to their employability.

We are well aware of the views of your officers and their managers however we would be grateful to hear your personal opinions on this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Ray Fairchild
Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

BEST ACHIEVING
COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2010

Mr Ray Fairchild
Chair, Plymouth Local Access Forum
Floor 1
Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2AA



Barry Keel
Chief Executive

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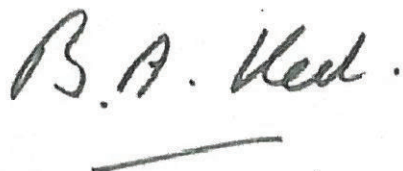
23 January 2012

Dear Mr Fairchild

I am writing to confirm receipt of your letter dated 19 January 2012 re level of resourcing allocated to public rights of way.

I have asked Anthony Payne, Director for Place to respond to you direct on my behalf and this response will follow shortly.

Yours sincerely



B A Keel
Chief Executive

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TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK/HIGHWAYS

Plymouth Transport and Highways

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Mr. Ross Johnston
Secretary to the Plymouth Local Access Forum
Democratic Support
Floor 1
Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2AA

Please ask for: Adrian Trim

Date 10 February 2012

My Ref:

Your Ref

Dear Mr Fairchild,

University Student Placements

Thank you for your letter dated 19 January 2012 regarding the above.

As you have quite rightly stated the Council is going through a period of significant change and the demands on our resources are greater than ever. You will no doubt be aware that we have embarked upon a significant re-organisation which has seen the number of council departments reduce to 3 directorates and we are in the process of cascading that change down through our management structure. We therefore need to be cautious about making decisions today when the structure of individual teams may be very different tomorrow.

However, as a key employer in the city we recognise that we have an important role to play in promoting and delivering growth and there are benefits to all involved if we put ourselves in a position to offer placements along the lines you suggest.

Working with Plymouth University we have developed an online process whereby university students may register their interest in an unpaid work placement with us. We are currently working on a way to allow individual service areas to express an interest in such a placement setting out a basic job specification so that we can match students with potential placements. This programme is ideal for students who perhaps wish to spend their summer or Easter holidays gaining valuable work experience. It is however limited in that it can only ever be short term and as we cannot offer any payment we cannot oblige attendance.

We are therefore also working with the university to develop a more formal arrangement where students can take year long paid work placements as a part of their university undergraduate degree. As we are paying a wage for the duration of the placement attendance is a requirement and this would seem the more appropriate avenue in the specific example you provide. I have every confidence that when this programme is fully developed my officers will be keen to explore it but it

Plymouth Transport and Highways is a partnership between Plymouth City Council and Amey

Director of Development (Plymouth City Council) - Anthony Payne
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will be for them to determine the benefits to be gained from doing so against the financial implications to the individual work area.

I would also add that we have recently teamed up with Jobcentre Plus to create a separate initiative, called "Skills 4 21", which is designed to increase the employability of those between the ages of 16 and 24 who

receive Jobseeker's Allowance. Those on the programme will get guidance on personal skills such as timekeeping, workplace behaviour, appropriate dress, team working, business-based interpersonal skills and telephone manner. Skills 4 21 has been implemented in a number of local businesses throughout the city as well as within the council.

I trust that this information is of interest to you and should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Adrian Trim
Plymouth Transport & Highways



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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14 February 2012

Mr C Jones
C/O Dot Isgrove
Natural England
Riverside Chambers
Castle Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA21 9DY

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Plymouth Local Access Forum. Plymouth City Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Mr Ross Johnston**

Dear Colin,

At the Plymouth Local Access Forum on the 12 December 2011 it was agreed by all members that a letter is sent to you thanking you for your service and dedication to Local Access Forums in the South West.

On behalf of the Plymouth LAF I am writing to thank you for your help and guidance to the Plymouth Local Access Forum and your assistance in enabling us to carry out our duties.

I hope you will have a long and happy retirement and perhaps we shall see you wandering along some footpaths within Devon or Dartmoor!

Once again thanks for all your help.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Ray Fairchild
Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

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All Local Access Forum (LAF) Chairs
[By email]

14 February 2012

From Richard Benyon MP
Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries

Dear Chairs

On 5 April 2011 I wrote to all Local Access Forums setting out 4 proposals for the improvement of information flow between Forums, Natural England and Defra. I asked Forums to consider and comment on the proposals I put forward – it is pleasing to find that all 4 suggestions were broadly supported, with two of the proposals proving significantly popular with respondents.

The proposals were:

An annual training event probably run regionally rather than nationally - This proposal was positively received. It is good to see that Forums recognise the value of networking outside regional boundaries and appreciate opportunities to learn from each other, share good practice and discuss common issues. I understand there are two events now planned for February and March and I look forward to hearing how they go.

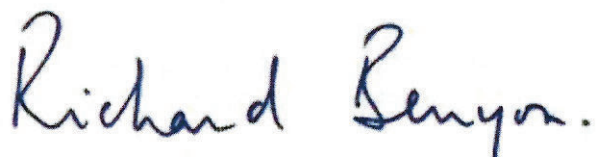
A virtual forum for LAF members - The idea of an on-line networking site for Forums was positively received. Some Forums expressed a desire to follow a hierarchical system of information flow and engagement rather than a cross-region, cross-issue method of working and reporting. There were concerns with the practicalities of on-line working. However, a pilot scheme using 'Huddle' technology is already underway, and proving popular – it's good to see Forums keen to work together and to explore new ways to communicate between Natural England and Defra. Huddle offers effective ways of supporting Forums into the future that Forums are welcome to take up, but also can abstain from.

A Memorandum of Understanding style agreement between Defra Natural England and Forums - Support for this idea was more muted than for other proposals. This seems to be, in part, because it wasn't clear to Forums what form the agreement would take or how it would be agreed. The role of Forums is set out in statute, and the understanding Forums have of their statutory basis varies. However, the role Defra and Natural England play in supporting Forums is not prescribed and a formal agreement may help all parties know what they should expect from each other.

A seat on the Rights of Way Review Committee - Some LAFs expressed doubts about Forums as local, independent bodies, being represented by ordinary Forum members, although Forum members have shown they are keen to have the opportunity to attend higher level meetings. There is no single national 'LAF view' and Forums should focus on the issues affecting their own areas, but Forum members being able to see policy making at a national level and feed back their experiences I think is very useful.

I am aware of how successful Forums are in carrying out their duties and in involving themselves in improving local quality of life. I put forward these proposals because I see them as key ways to help Local Access Forums continue to be effective and valuable players in the access agenda. Defra has tasked Natural England with improving the way Forums are supported and I am pleased to say that Natural England has committed resources to both improving communication and support. There is great deal of important work for Local Access Forums to be involved in and I want to help that happen.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Benyon." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RICHARD BENYON MP