



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Floor 1
Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2AA

Tel: 01752 307990

Fax: 01752 304819

Email: laf@plymouth.gov.uk

Web: www.plymouth.gov.uk/laf

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Sent via email.

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**

To whom it may concern,

The Plymouth Local Access Forum is a statutory forum established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Its specific remit is to advise "on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Members of the Forum are volunteers who represent the interests of landowners and land managers, access users and other interests".

This Access Forum cannot and does not intend to comment in any detail about particular statutes which may be relevant to the Forum's role and remit. To do so would be unduly onerous. The current consultation is of such large scale that it is for Government Departments, Executive Agencies and Local Authorities to identify which of their statutory duties are no longer extant or relevant. Those Departments are best placed to do so.

We will comment only that where legislation, for example, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Highways Act 1980, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Commons Act 2006 imposes duties on local authorities those duties are paramount, amongst many other things, to the recording and preservation of rights of way, access to the countryside and countryside conservation. As such those duties must remain with local authorities as hitherto; any dramatic alteration or diminution of these statutory duties would be detrimental to public access and enjoyment of the countryside and elsewhere. Any change to existing legislation would require further primary legislation and we would respond, if the opportunity arises, to any further consultation specific to such change at the appropriate time.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum