



**Devon Countryside Access Forum
c/o Public Rights of Way team
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[REDACTED]
Operations Admin Officer
Forestry Commission England
Operational Delivery Team
Bullers Hill Hub
Kennford
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13 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Felling Licence Application ref 018/3858/2023
Little Bray Farm Forestry**

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). Its statutory remit is to give independent advice “as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area...” Section 94(4) of the Act specifies bodies to whom the Forum has a statutory function to give advice, and this includes the Forestry Commission.

The DCAF currently has seventeen members, appointed by Devon County Council, who represent the interests of landowners/managers, access users and other relevant areas of expertise such as conservation and tourism.

In line with previous advice, the Devon Countryside Access Forum wishes to make the following comments. This response will be on the agenda for formal approval at the next meeting on 22 January.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum recognises the necessity of felling and thinning for effective woodland management. Although no public rights of way cross the forestry affected by this application, Wort Wood is access land so members of the public may

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a local access forum. It is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

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well explore the extensive tracks and access other parts of the wood including those by the river.

It would be helpful if you could confirm what measures are in place to ensure the safety of the public during felling operations and whether a direction will be sought to prohibit access during this period.

The Forum would welcome clarification on how and when details about felling will be communicated to the public. It would be beneficial for the Brayford Parish Council and local access organisations, such as the North Devon Group of the Ramblers, to know the timing of works so that potential access users could be informed through appropriate channels, in addition to works notices on site.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Hilary Winter.

Hilary Winter
Forum Officer

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum

Chair: Sarah Slade

Vice Chair: Chris Cole