



Devon Countryside Access Forum

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Partnership Plan Consultation
Jurassic Coast Trust
Mounfield
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2 October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership Plan: 2020-2025

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...” It has a statutory function to give advice to specified bodies, including county councils, AONBs and Natural England, who are represented on the Jurassic Coast Partnership Advisory Committee.

The DCAF currently has fifteen 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.

Members of the Devon Countryside Access Forum considered the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership Plan at its meeting held on 19 September. Deliberations focussed on strategic aims 3, 4 and 5 which directly relate to the Forum’s remit.

Members agreed that the Plan policies and priority actions and/or aspirations are well-written and precise, and the Forum would support these as part of the Partnership Plan.

A few specific comments were raised and the Forum would welcome further consideration of these points.

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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1) Interpretation and learning

The Plan states that Jurassic Coast content aimed at primary or secondary schools should respond to relevant elements of the National Curriculum. The Forum advises that the Plan should seek to include additional and inspiring ways of engaging with young people (13+) that is different to 'the school experience' yet promotes the value of learning from the Jurassic Coast.

2) Well-being

The Forum welcomes policy W1 referring to sustainable means of accessing the coast. As the Jurassic Coast is a linear experience, the Forum would encourage improvements to public transport which would allow more people to explore sections of the coast and return to their starting point.

3) Well-being

The action to undertake an accessibility audit is noted and the Forum advises that contact should be made with relevant groups to explore this in more detail. Information about the provision of parking and public conveniences should be readily available in printed material and on websites/social media as such facilities encourage people to explore the area. Closures of public conveniences have taken place, but parishes should be encouraged to see the economic benefits of retaining these.

The Forum would welcome feedback on its comments.

Yours faithfully



Hilary Winter
Forum Officer

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum.

Chair: Sarah Slade

Vice Chair: Chris Cole