

## ENGLAND TREE STRATEGY – Defra (August 2020)

### Response from the Devon Countryside Access Forum

**36. Which actions by government would be most effective in addressing barriers to peoples' access to trees and woodlands? (rank the following options in order of preference)**

| ACTION  | PRIORITY |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 1        | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| a) Supporting woodland access through existing incentives and rights of way   | 1        | 1 |   | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| b) Offering more generous woodland management incentives for those woodlands with public access                         | 2        | 3 | 1 |   | 3 | 2 |   |
| c) Creating new accessible woodlands in and around towns and cities   | 3        | 2 | 3 | 2 |   | 1 |   |
| d) Supporting woodland access with bespoke incentives, simply to allow access   | 1        | 3 | 3 | 2 |   | 1 | 1 |
| e) Improving the quality of access by investing in infrastructure (car parks, trails, path surfacing, signage, seating) | 2        | 1 | 3 | 3 |   | 1 | 1 |
| f) Regulating to maintain access rights when creating new woodland  | 1        |   |   | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| g) Supporting people to become trained/accredited to better facilitate contact (learning and health) with nature.       | 1        | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. 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 Secretary of State for Defra.