

DEEP LANE JUNCTION A38 Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge

Devon County Council consultation

Devon Countryside Access Forum response submitted online.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum considered this consultation at its meeting on 18 January 2022.

All options have positive and negative aspects but on balance the Forum would support Option A. This would appear to provide the safest solution. The difference in height between Wolverwood Lane and the A38 and the potential impact on house occupiers was raised and all efforts should be made to mitigate this.

The Forum advises that design elements of Option A should be re-considered to determine whether widening or better lighting could reduce the potential feeling of isolation on some sections.

There was widespread concern about Option B due to the requirement to have signalised crossings over both the on and off slip roads. Whilst a useful and direct route, this is likely to markedly exacerbate traffic congestion on the A38 as it becomes well-used.

There was general agreement that Option C is the least preferred route due to isolation, safety and design reasons.

Members noted the good design of the multi-use bridge over the A38 on the roundabout between Newton Abbot and Bovey Tracey.

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 County Council.

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.