



**Devon Countryside Access Forum
c/o Public Rights of Way team
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Planning Team
East Devon District Council
Blackdown House
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Heathpark Industrial Estate
Honiton
EX14 1EJ

5 May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning application 22/0711/FUL
Car park improvements at Estuary View, The Warren and Woodbury Castle**

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 district councils, Natural England and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The DCAF currently has nineteen 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.

Devon Countryside Access Forum members discussed the proposed car park improvements at the meeting held on 25 April.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum appreciates the surfacing improvements that will encourage more people to park in the formal car parks. However, given the number of new housing developments in the wider area, increasing dog ownership and greater use of the Pebblebed Heaths it is noted that there is no appreciable net increase in car parking spaces. Across the three car parks there are only two additional spaces. This

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.

may need to be kept under review. The provision of dedicated disabled spaces is welcome.

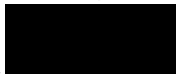
The Forum notes that bunds will be erected on the edge of some car parks to maintain car park boundaries. The Forum advises that it is vital that there are gaps in the bunds to access heathland paths to ensure mobility access is not impeded.

While welcoming the all-ability access path at the Estuary View car park, it is disappointing that the viewpoint parking zone will be limited and opening managed by the Pebblebed Heaths Land Management team. This car park currently provides an enjoyable scenic experience/picnic area for many people, particularly the elderly and those with limited mobility.

As previously mentioned, the use of height barriers may restrict adapted vehicles used by some people with a disability. Height barriers may also restrict horse box use and it is therefore important that provision for horses is made within one of the car parks.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum would welcome feedback and updates on the development of this project.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact 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