



**Devon Countryside Access Forum  
c/o Public Rights of Way team  
Great Moor House  
Bittern Road  
Sowton  
EXETER EX2 7NL**

**Tel: 07837 171000  
01392 382771**

[devoncaf@devon.gov.uk](mailto:devoncaf@devon.gov.uk)

[www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf](http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf)

Mr M Owen  
Countryside Recreation Services  
c/o Tamar Valley AONB  
Tamar Valley Centre,  
Drakewalls,  
Gunnislake,  
Cornwall  
PL18 9FE

29 April 2022

Dear Mark

### **Proposal to create the Tamara Coast to Coast walking route**

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 county and district councils 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 project at the meeting held on 25 April.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum welcomes the initiative for a coast to coast walk and the proposals included in the comprehensive consultation paper.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum agrees that the principles included in the report are sound. Value for money, maintenance consistency and considerations and attractiveness are key issues in securing a good, useable route.

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.

The Forum notes that the overall Tamara Landscape Partnership includes a number of key partners that have or include a Devon focus, for example Devon County Council; the Environment Agency; Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership; the Environment Agency; Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group; the Forestry Commission; Historic England; Natural England; National Trust; South West Coast Path Association; Visit Tamar Valley; the Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Woodland Trust and, of course, the Tamar Valley AONB itself. This suggests that although the project has evolved with a strong Cornish identity, it should also include a greater synergy and identity with Devon to increase usage and marketing/ promotional strength.

Working closely with those partners could also serve to improve overall access through negotiation with landowners.

Where routes are dependent on permissive access, we expect account to be taken of the landowner's wishes in this respect, and similarly, that if improvements are sought, that they should be done both in consultation and with the agreement of the landowners involved.

The Forum's position statement on disability access is attached. It is important that the new trail improves access for those with disabilities wherever possible, in considering routes, any surface improvements and path furniture. The Forum also advises that discussions should take place with businesses such as cafes and pubs at the outset to encourage the provision of wheelchair accessible toilets, often a limiting factor for disabled users.

The importance of regular, all-year round ferries was much to the fore in Forum discussions around the England Coast Path. If the Calstock ferry could be reinstated as part of the overall scheme, it is likely that the momentum of the project will bring economic and other benefits to the area.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum would welcome updates on the walking route and would be pleased to give additional comments as the scheme develops.

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*