



**Devon Countryside Access Forum
c/o Public Rights of Way team
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Mr T Taylor
Site Manager
RSPB
Hawkerland Brake Barn
Exmouth Road
Aylesbeare
EX5 2JS

26 October 2022

Dear Mr Taylor

Fire Beacon Hill – Landscape Enhancement Initiative
Undergrounding 33Kv powerline proposal (1.3km/12 poles overhead line removal)

The Devon Countryside Access Forum held its meeting on 20 October, postponed from 19 September. Therefore its comments on the above consultation are being submitted later than would have been the case and the Forum hopes its views can still be taken into account.

Fire Beacon Hill is a prominent site with outstanding views over the East Devon AONB. Undergrounding the current overhead lines would result in a landscape enhancement which would add to people's recreational access enjoyment of the Hill and adjacent woodland.

It is vital that any public rights of way and road closures during works, in addition to any restrictions on access to common land, are well-signed and managed. It would be very helpful for dates to be put on closures so that people can plan visits, with notices removed as soon as works are complete.

There will inevitably be disruption on the ground so ensuring that the ground is made good properly is important.

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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It would be appreciated if you could advise the Forum of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Winter
Forum Officer

cc. Chris Woodruff, East Devon AONB Manager

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum

Chair: Sarah Slade

Vice Chair: Chris Cole

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, the Forestry Commission 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.