



**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)

Adam Baldwin, MEng, CEng MICE  
Senior Engineer (Bridges & Structures)  
Engineering Design Group  
Devon County Council  
County Hall  
Matford Offices  
Topsham Road  
Exeter EX2 4QD

1 November 2022

Dear Mr Baldwin

### **A379 bridge**

Thank you for consulting the Devon Countryside Access Forum on the bridge design for the proposed structure over the A379.

Forum members discussed this at the meeting held on 20 October. It was agreed that the dedicated areas with seating would be a useful addition to the bridge landing areas, allowing people to rest and socialise.

It is noted that you will be sharing further information on the landing areas, but the Forum was of the opinion that any rest areas on the pull up to the bridge need to be fully accessible in line with guidance, allowing people with mobility scooters, reclining cycles and pushchairs to stop, particularly as a 1 in 12 gradient is proposed. The width and length therefore need to be wide enough to accommodate such users. It is assumed that the gradient and available land does not permit full level stages on the approach.

The bridge is likely to serve an ever-increasing number of people as the new developments progress and is likely to be an increasingly important traffic free link for this side of Exeter so needs to reach the highest accessibility standards possible. This is an expensive project, and it is therefore important to ensure the design is suitable for purpose from the outset.

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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County Council

Gordon Guest, a mobility scooter user on the Devon Countryside Access Forum, and possibly one other member would be pleased to assist with an access audit which can inform your equality impact assessment.

The Forum would welcome feedback.

Yours sincerely



Forum Officer

*Letter sent on behalf of 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 councils.

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.