



Devon Countryside Access Forum

Lucombe House
County Hall
Topsham Road
EXETER EX2 4QD

Tel: 07837 171000
01392 382084

hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/devon_countryside_access_forum

Planning Policy Team
North Devon Council
Lynton House
Commercial Road
Barnstaple
EX31 1DG

8 February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Revised draft Charging Schedule and Regulation 123 List consultation

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a statutory local access forum established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act 2000). Its specific remit is to provide independent advice on the “improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.”

The Forum has sixteen voluntary members, appointed by Devon County Council, who represent the interests of land owners/managers, access users and other relevant concerns such as health and tourism.

At its recent public meeting, the DCAF supported the sections of the Regulation 123 list which would provide additional recreational access and greenspace and in particular:

- Transport infrastructure projects which would support the “provision/ enhancement of footpath and cycleway linkages between existing settlements and strategic green space/Tarka Trail” and “pedestrian/cycle bridges over River Taw and railway line at Seven Brethren / Anchorwood Bank.”
- Strategic greenspace improvements which would potentially provide a “Country Park north of Barnstaple (to provide alternative accessible natural green space).”

The Devon Countryside Access Forum, is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 (Local Access Forums), to advise on the improvement of public access to the countryside.

supported by
Devon
County Council



The Forum is encouraged that these have been included in the Regulation 123 list and is pleased the economic and health benefits of the Tarka Trail are recognised. The Forum advises that landowners and land managers are consulted at the earliest stage on any proposals which might affect their land and is attaching its position statement on liaison with land managers. A position statement on disability access is being prepared and will be forwarded when available.

The DCAF notes that the Regulation 123 list does not allow for “footpath/cycleway linkages required to link new developments with strategic green space/Tarka Trail.” The Forum trusts that these could be funded through section 106 contributions although the notes/observations do not say so. It would be helpful if you could provide feedback on this point.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

Forum Officer
Devon Countryside Access Forum

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum

*Chair: Laura Leigh
Vice Chair: Chris Britton*