

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL & REGIONAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ISSUES

1. Previous Issues

This relates to previous Issues where it is felt if the LAFs were involved from conception the outcome would have been more beneficial to countryside access

- a) Paths for Communities - It is recognised that Natural England had a very short timescale to create the rules for this project
- b) Permissive Access - Announcing End of Funding
- c) HS2
- d) De regulation bill
- e) Lost Ways

2. Current Issues

- a) Permissive Access – Maintaining funding on routes which impact on Health and wellbeing.
- b) De regulation Bill – Ensuring guidelines are clear and are produced in a timely manner
- c) Lost Ways – Encourage Natural England to provide adequate training for all LAFs
- d) European Union – Nature Reserve Directives
- e) Green Bridges - Advise Government to create legislation on ensuring Green Bridges are included over new roads, major road improvements and railways.
- f) Countryside For All – Create a “one Stop” web site for all Countryside For All routes throughout England, create a national approved method of measuring and displaying routes and standardise route symbols.

3. Future Known Issues

- a) Permissive Access funding - Dependant on the outcome of the referendum through CAP or UK Government policy.
- b) Major transport schemes effecting a number of highway authorities

4. Possible Future Issues

- a) Lost Ways – Probability of further action taking place by Government if by 2026 there is a large number of Lost Ways registered with highway authorities but due to their reduced resources they are unable to process the claims even after the improvements due to the Deregulation Bill.
- b) Forestry Commission – Further attempts to sell off Forestry Commission land.
- c) UK Government or CAP policy changes affecting PROW, open access land or countryside access