

LLAF POLICY ON UNRECORDED WAYS

The Access Forum in line with its aims of protecting and enhancing the rights of way network intends to work towards the protection of all routes before the probable 2026 cut off date for claims based on historic evidence. In doing so we seek to assist and advise the Local Authority and provide some co-ordination of the efforts of other organisations working to the same aim.

To this end our Network Opportunities Committee will maintain a sub group working on this project, reporting back to the forum on a regular basis. We envisage that this group will co-opt people from outside the Forum membership who are working on the same project.

Work will cover a number of issues—

- A) Collect and combine all existing available records to establish the present situation.
- B) Circulate reports to other interested parties as to the areas of work being pursued and progress being made to avoid duplication of efforts.
- C) To receive and pass on reports from other parties similarly employed.
- D) Identify routes in use but not presently protected, seeking their addition to the definitive map or adoption as highways
- E) Identify routes maintained at public expense and establish whether these are deemed to be 'protected' without further designation.
- F) Where routes are on gazetteers or list of streets but not maintainable at public expense seek to get them given protected status
- G) Where there is an indication that a route may have had a higher status than at present, to seek historic evidence to support a claim.
- H) Where obvious gaps occur in the existing rights of way network and the link has real benefit or strong potential benefit, seek historic evidence to enable a claim to be made. To approach any landowner in such cases prior to any claim to see what can be agreed on a voluntary basis and explore any concerns.

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