

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum

Coastal Access Working Group

Report for 25th January 2023 Meeting

Updates for 4th May 2023 Meeting

The Coastal Access Working Group has met and considered the following items since the last CCAF meeting:-

1. Possible Improvements to Coast Path route

Some of the recommendations made by the Forum to Natural England for improvements in Cornwall to be made to the route of the Coast Path under NE's national Coast Path proposals were not taken up. The Working Group has identified some of these as worth re-examining and will be liaising with Cornwall Council officers to discuss further.

The Working Group is awaiting a response from Cornwall Council for a date to discuss these issues after three requests.

2. Links to the Coast

Appropriate links to the coast from inland towns, villages, bus stops, car parks, etc need to be in place and well maintained. Some ideas are being collected from local representatives for further discussion with Cornwall Council officers.

The Working Group is awaiting a response from Cornwall Council for a date to discuss these issues after three requests.

3. Place Ferry/Percuil

In the absence of a year-round ferry across the Percuil at Place the Forum had suggested to NE that a route around that river be established. NE's response was that this would not be necessary as there was an intention to establish a year-round crossing here. NE have now been approached for clarification as there has been no indication of such a facility to date and have replied that discussions are under way with a local landowner to establish a year-round water taxi service. Progress on this to be monitored.

There is no known progress. Natural England have been contacted for an update.

4. Website

The Working Group would like to investigate the possibility of using the CCAF website to promote walking routes on the coast (and, indeed, elsewhere), perhaps by directing site visitors to other appropriate sites. The future of the website is currently being discussed and the Working Group has asked that such use be included in these discussions.

The Working Group is awaiting a response.

5. Planning Applications

The Working Group has enquired whether it would be possible for the Group/Forum to be informed of planning applications which could have an impact on the Coast Path (and, indeed, other strategic routes). The initial response has been that this is not possible, which the Group has found disappointing.

No change.

6. Neighbourhood Plans

An ideal situation would be to get the Forum's requirements for countryside access included in all Neighbourhood Plans at the drafting stage. The Group has been informed that there are Cornwall Council advisory officers who help local groups in their drafting of these Plans and it might be worth contacting these appropriate officers to ensure that their advice

includes reference to countryside access and the Forum. Although raised by the Coastal Access Working Group this is actually a Forum-wide issue and should probably be taken forward accordingly.

The Working Group has discussed this briefly with the Chair and it is provisionally agreed that this needs an approach at Forum level.

Steve Church

April 2023.