

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY****4 FEBRUARY 2003****EXMOOR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM****Report of the Head of Recreation and Tourism**

**Purpose of Report:** To provide an update on progress towards establishing the Exmoor Local Access Forum

**Legal Implications including Human Rights Act 1998:**

Duty under Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for appointing authorities (National Parks and Local Highway Authorities) to establish Local Access Forums.

**Financial Implications:**

Establishing the Local Access Forum will result in additional costs to the Authority which will be met from funding provided by the Government for the purpose.

**National Park Purposes:**

Objective 13/3: To encourage and enable the public to enjoy access to open country for quiet enjoyment (and where possible to extend such opportunities), while having due regard to the interests of nature conservation and farming.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To NOTE the report, and;
- (ii) To APPOINT a further member of the National Park Authority to the Exmoor Local Access Forum in order to maintain the Authority's representation at two members.

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At its meeting on 19 November 2002 the Authority considered a report setting out the function and purpose of Access Forums. The Authority agreed to establish a Local Access Forum for Exmoor and approved its terms of reference. Members agreed that the Local Access Forum would have between 14 and 18 members, of whom 2 were to be drawn from the National Park Authority, in accordance with the relevant Regulations. The National Park Authority delegated to the National Park Officer, in consultation with the Authority members appointed to the Forum (Mrs Ann Foxhuntley and Mr John Dyke), the task of selecting the remaining members of the Local Access Forum.

1.2 The process for selecting members of the Local Access Forum is now complete. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers and applications were invited from those with a known interest in rights of way, access and other relevant matters (for example in the interests of disabled people). Applicants were asked to provide information about the range of interests they could represent and their experience in matters relating to access and rights

of way. A total of 30 people applied within the required time period and members were selected from this group according to pre-determined criteria. The Local Access Forum will comprise 18 members in total. There are 16 members representing the 3 main interest groups as follows:

Representing landowners and managers

Mr William Geen	Mrs Berit Floyd	Mr Robin Milton
Mr John Blackband	Mr Richard Peek	

Representing recreational users

Mr Simon Thomas	Mrs Joan Long	Mr William Balance
Mr Alan Harding	Mr Francis Pulvermacher	

Representing Other Interests

Mr Jeremy Holtom	Mrs Linda Hendrie	Mr Michael Hankin
Mr Stephen Crossman	Ms Judy Carless	Mr Timothy Williams

- 1.4 Since the November meeting, Mrs Foxhuntley has left the National Park Authority following changes at West Somerset District Council and it will be necessary to appoint another member to represent the Authority on the Forum in her place.
- 1.5 The Exmoor Local Access Forum will receive an informal ‘training session’ before the end of January, which will allow members to become acquainted with each other and provide information about the purpose, function, conduct and administrative arrangements of the Forum. The date of the first formal meeting of the Forum will be set shortly.
- 1.6 The draft map of access land is expected to be published in March of this year, and the Forum will be asked to consider it.

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**Date of Report**    **23 January 2003**

**Background papers on which this report, or an important part of it are based, constitute the list of background papers required by Section 100 D (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to be open to members of the public comprise:-**

**DEFRA Guidance Note on Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Published 26/07/02**  
**Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002 (Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1836)**