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Your ref:



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Dear Mr Graham

National Access Forum

Thank you for your letter of 18 April. As you quite rightly say, my Executive Board will be discussing the future of the National Countryside Access Forum at our meeting at the end of June. Without pre-empting that discussion, I think it would be fair to say that our presumption has always been that we would want to support a continuation of NCAF in some form. Clearly, it's original purpose as a forum to debate issues arising from the implementation of the Right to Roam introduced by the CROW Act is no longer relevant. But I see a continuing need for a forum of this sort to take an overview of the whole range of access issues, not least our proposals for Coastal Access of which I'm sure you are aware.

I agree that such a forum needs to adequately represent the views of Local Access Forum's and we will want to consider how this can best be achieved. I have asked Andrew Wood, our Executive Director for Evidence and Policy, to get in touch with you to establish how we can secure the collective input of LAFs on this issue. Andrew will also discuss the issue of guidance with you. I will ensure that those views are considered at the time that we look at the whole issue of a successor for NCAF.

We will of course advise you of the outcome of our discussions, and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship between Natural England and all Local Access Forums.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular box.

Dr Helen Phillips
Chief Executive

(By email)