

Workshop notes

National LAF Conference (South) 23rd February 2016, Bristol
National LAF Conference (North) 1st March 2016, Leeds

2026

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Workshop Outputs

Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks led a workshop at each of the two National LAF Conferences regarding the need to get paths recorded accurately on the definitive map of rights of way by 2026. After a short presentation detailing the rules about the cut-off date as currently known, and the sources of evidence that can be used in an application, the LAF delegates split into groups to consider what LAFs could do to help get valid applications made by 2026 for the unrecorded and under-recorded paths.

This note records the outputs of the groups. They were asked to pick out up to three their priority items, and these are shown in **bold**.

Group 1 (Leeds)

- **Training session for LAF and volunteers**
- Office Space
- **Shared area on web for digitised maps**
- **Co-ordination of effort**
- Finding volunteers
- Getting resources
- Communication

Group 2 (Leeds)

- **Liaison with parishes, user groups, history groups**
- Get members of the LAF to volunteer
- Identify target parishes (such as those with less than 30% higher rights)
- Identify gaps in the network
- **Catalogue serial records**

Group 3 (Bristol)

- **Parish councils sharing knowledge**
- LAF subgroups
- Use information from groups
- Photographing evidence, photographing paths
- Environment Agency LIDAR map
- **Old RDC [Rural District Council] records – get access to these**
- Slipways, Jetties, and landing stages

Group 4 (Bristol)

- History groups involvement
 - Schools?
 - Universities
 - Local history groups
- **'LAF guidance document'**
 - "How to" guide i.e. what to collect
 - Take photos
 - Researcher
 - Consistency
 - Central repository
- Look at anomalies e.g. BW to FP to BW, or FP to nothing to FP
- **Ask for List of Streets to be made available for easy access**
- Building blocks – e.g. OS square or parish?
- Put DMMO applications onto a map of existing ROW so

Group 5 (Bristol)

- Divide up areas
- Divide tasks
- **Ask County Council to release highways records**
- **Get people together**
- Digitise the definitive map
- FOI National organisations to send out consistent requests to local authorities

Summary

Across the two conferences and five flipchart outputs, the main outputs came out as

- **The LAF could help co-ordinate research efforts in the county**, so as to help ensure each area was looked at rather than three people looking at one area and nobody another.

- **The LAF could ask the council to help make research information it holds more readily available**, where it isn't already. This ranged from records of former rural district councils (and presumably urban district councils too), to having easy access to the List of Streets, so that applications aren't made unnecessarily, or making available the definitive map on line to save travel to the council offices.
- **Having on line access to records** as they get digitised (photographed) would help people work from home to make applications to record paths.

What can LAF's can do to be involved:

- **Plenty of routes to be found, many evidence sources need to be checked , building a research library is essential, everyone can try and more volunteers are needed!**
- **How LAFs can help:**
 - **Influence:** i.e. Local Authorities and policy makers
 - **Encourage** those involved e.g. PROW departments as they tackle backlogs and process new applications.
 - **Assist the recording process:** Voluntary help is key to getting as many routes as possible onto the Definitive Map and LAFs are a great repository of expert knowledge and enthusiasm. LAFs could have sub-groups looking at different parts of their areas and/or co-operating between different LAF areas.
 - **Liaison** with councils, parish councils, user groups and landowners, many of whom will already be on the forums.. ISD which ones need more help