

**Gloucestershire Local Access Forum
MINUTES/NOTES/ACTIONS**

**Thursday 20th August 2026
Kemble Village Hall Kemble
Cirencester, GL7 6AP**

Formal Meeting
1.00pm to 4pm

**Preceded by site visit at 10.30 am
Proposals for Kemble to Cirencester cycle/walkway**

Agenda		
Item	Topic	Action
1.	Present; Alison Williamson, Richard Holmes, Jacky German, Sarah Macaulay-Lowe, Andy Stott, Cllr John Patient GCC, Chas Townley, Maggie Beggs, Charlie Morriss, John Shaw, Nicola Chidley. Visitors: Mark Holland, Daniel Demain Kemble & Ewen PC, Phillip Hackett BHS Apologies for absence Paul Lockley; Absent Cllr Dr Ian Cameron; GWT Rep	
2.	Declarations of Interest - None	
3.	Minutes & Notes of meeting on 26 th February - accuracy and matters arising not covered in the agenda below None. Matters not covered:- Nicola Chidley will be leaving GCC in November. Nicola is sad to go but it's been lovely to work with you all and appreciate your input. Alison appreciates input and thanks from group. NC will attend Oct 15 th meeting and update the group regarding recruitment to GLAF Officer.	
4.	Review of Notices and Consultations received by GLAF and Membership Those circulated to members include ROWIP Consultation, Cotswold Way diversion during A417 works; Definition of BOAT paper from MH; Impact report from Green Lane Association; (Not circulated as previously requested as specific to Areas)- notification of felling licence Latest to be circulated – National Planning Policy Framework released – TR8 relates to PROW in development consultations. Link to be shared round. CT – seems clearer and positively received.	NC
5.	Update on the Walk – Kemble to Cirencester Way It was a challenging site visit with the tramper due to some gates being narrow, steps and surface. Noted it took a long time to cross main road for tramper while walkers/horse riders can cross easier – highlight this in ROWIP (NC) . The speed of traffic is high at the crossing – signage needed warning of users crossing. Good visibility splays needed. The Proposed route connects to the station NC to circulate the plan . It will connect Kemble to Cirencester for cycles and pedestrians. Request that this include horseriders. Noted that the station carpark is busy at times – should this be considered. Further discussion on voluntary landowner engagement where creations are concerned CT – can't we use statutory powers to create routes – can we add this in ROWIP – should this be more proactive in using HA powers. AW – but is this a power not a duty – lack of resources. Road traffic has priority, but vulnerable users should have this priority. NC - Planning apps – we can use pressure in our responses. But with creation orders its Public benefit v cost of compensation. As its public money we can only consider creation orders where the costs are underwritten. Including horses in schemes:- PH – cost – where is additional cost coming from to include horses – where permissive its up to landowner as in this case.	NC

	CT - Can we find out what Cotswold Way compensation costs were involved in their Creation Orders and improvements. Creation orders and use of should be included in ROWIP MB – In new development – say an existing BOAT – does developer have to include this Interested in the quiet lanes where people used to hack and now they are busy roads. PROW are material consideration in Planning proposals CT – examples of landowners putting up fences where development links end. CT – Even though people may object to development proposals its worth including mitigation for routes if the planning application is permitted. AW – there was a GCC action a few years ago where PROW was asked to ensure they comment on consultations. NC - Yes robust alert system now in place to most planning applications where PROW are involved. CM – get Parish Council's involved at early stage – can be opposed but make sure they request improvements. NC –General principles and what a good path looks like to include in ROWIP – protect existing and and improve PROW network eg , improve boggy clay bridleways, connections to local PROW. See NPPF TR8. All discussed - Enhance local network. Keep green, green if reasonably possible bearing in mind a development will bring extra use. The Flexi pave is favoured above tarmac where a surface is required. If route diverted, then avoid estate roads as within P7 Circular 1/09 – but also try to ensure developers don't route roads along existing prow. Avoid tarmac bridleways – get developers to understand this. Swindon Village – green route. Non motorised, 5m, surface critical – sealed surface – flexi pave, put into CIL pavements and Local Plans, Active Travel guidance - rural active travel – can we promote this. PH – doesn't like segregation on 5m path – encourages people speeding on bikes – leave it out so doubt in peoples minds and they slow down. NC – LTN 1/20 Cycle design guidance is mostly promoted as tarmac and segregation. See the new Rural active travel guidance Designing accessible rural active travel - GOV.UK	
6.	Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2027 – 2032 Engagement and Update NC has shared a very draft initial stab please don't share further. Wants to make it punchy and concise. Any priorities and themes will be dependent on resources and opportunities. Standards – include this – good practice. It will include some Case studies – routes for all users with John Shaw. Development case study – examples of this. Livestock and public access. Make sure not just footpaths. Engagement and consultations carried out – summary will be included. It will Identify key messages – maintain and improve existing network. Improve signage/information. Improve accessibility. Health and wellbeing. To address landowner concerns some partnership on promoting responsible behavior. Eg Countryside Code. Ideas? PH – Dorset, Walking routes with camera. Disabled Ramblers YouTube channel. Outdoor Active – includes routes. MB – bridleways with steps – user access controlled – creates problems. Disconnected bridleways – main roads. AS – will feed back comments on plan and evidence review. Evidence not representative of public – just interested users. What do we want to see in 5 years time – we need to say what we want to achieve. Partners. Subgroup – not just accessibility. Should be partners too – opportunities – Forestry Commission. NB Partners were contacted as part of the engagement process. CT – review this for new unitary authority – with definitive map consolidation!! JG – connectivity. Money A417 mitigation – improved route Painswick Beacon and Watery Lane. This is the sort of thing we need to do – get landowners engaged. Concentrate on links. Also Leckhampton and near Icomb. There are many links not mapped. Field edges. Mapping permissive links – NC to update at next meeting	All
7.	a) Don't Lose Your Way/Restoring the Record – updates from Stakeholder reps Nothing to report. Take off agenda. 2031 to be repealed by current government. CT has definitive map anomalies report link. To share. b) Review of Definitive Map statistics CM and CT thank you to Karen for providing DMMO stats. No of Orders sent to SoS and well done for getting so many sent. But please get on with others. AW - PPO's long list – what's happened in terms on progress.....NC – some off waiting list due to landowners not wanting to proceed. Due to cost or widths. More progress than it	NC

	seems. 28 in progress and couple with PINs. Review of costs. £1100 for initial stage then Order making stage – NC will check if a pre consultation charge is made. AW – some authorities charge a lot of money so they can be self-funded. CT must be costs for recovery not cost for profit – this is true. But maybe GCC needs to charge more. Maybe GCC should charge for advice. NC - Unsurfaced unclassified roads – update. There are ongoing inspections to identify which need to be on annual checks and which on 5 year checks. CM – The 37 DMMOs Awaiting submissions some are over 28 years old. AW – note about definition of BOATS. MH - explained about his paper – being a byway doesn't depend on use by users, it's a right of way used by everyone but for recreation rather than travelling A to B like a surfaced road. Distinguish it from everyday road network – which means it isn't subject to speed limits etc. Language used by GCC to describe BOATS is misleading (used mainly by walkers/horse riders) –disagrees with this – it should be used by recreational users – use original description and don't specify users. WEBSITE needs to reflect accurately the definitions. To be continued as a discussion at the next meeting. Should GLAF recommend to GCC about the interpretation. NC to also share the definition of ORPA's. These are for the OS to define so will seek info from OS c) PROW report Happy about annual update report. Nothing specific. RH – HEB 31 – bridge gap between end of path and road. Anomaly? CT will send link about anomalies to Nic.	NC RH
8.	Accessibility Updates Some were Covered in Kemble walk item. JS attended the 'Access to Nature' at Berkeley Barnwood Trust Has funds and spends on improving access for individuals. JS has some papers which will be pass to NC on the meeting. JS has list of organisations to create an information hub to look at 'lived experience'. Good resource for partnering. JS will feed this back for inclusion in the ROWIP. Guidance By All Reasonable Means – not included in current draft of ROWIP but should be provided as link – what does equality mean when you apply it in the countryside. I am creating an experience – not just improving a 'fabric' - JS – keen on ensuring routes are improved so they are fully useable not just one gate on a difficult route – choose another path to make it worthwhile. Cots Way has been surveyed along its entire length for accessibility. RH has a copy of the feasibility study	JS
9.	Other updates a) Awre – There has been a pre-app but no full planning application as yet. There is a new Project manager appointed and Jeff (PROW rea officer) has seen a revised map of proposed PROW. b) Cotswold Trails and Access Partnership Meeting in June and another in Sept. No change in budget CNL. Focus on nature recovery. Road Crossings of CW in Pennslyvannia which are very fast and difficult crossing. Pylons Going underground - cables – been cancelled. Survey economic impact of walking. (<i>Conversation diverted off to LGR.... raised but clear GLOS PROW maynot be so badly affected as far as we can see. CT can DMMO integrate with PROW Team and planning issues. Should Mark Harris come and talk to GLAF.</i>) This should be reviewed at every meeting. c) Eleven Rivers Group - 3 ChoirsWay /Wysis Way & Gloucestershire Way Still surveying routes. Signed through Gloucester. Glos Way – new Cicerone guide published. d) Tetbury to Kemble Railway Path Paul will update at next meeting. MB has checked bridleway links to trail and can share this for next meeting. Take Tetbury to Kemble off agenda, keep Tetbury Trail on the agenda e) Kemble to Cirencester Railway Update See today's update above Kemble path item 5. Bathurst Estate not supportive of railway line being used plus its all privately owned now. f) Llanthony Swing Bridge Dan - highways infrastructure inspection complete. In very poor condition. With WSP for framework feasibility design - to prepare prelim design for repairs. GCC have taken responsibility but lots of constraints including access geometry to tie in it is difficult. Getting prices. Timescale is early Oct for next report. NC will update. Has Landownership issue on south side been resolved? g) Pilley Bridge S56 notice out of repair. Gone back, responsible only for surface but structure unsafe and structure with CBC. CBC spoken to leaseholder of alternative on southern side and will	JW RH

	meet in Sept. Poss consultation on diversion h) Stowfield bridge Lydbrook. Prices for repair. Excessive. Looking to properly repair. Put in grant bid (govt structures fund) and awaiting result. CT – Redbrook bridge – is this under threat of closure? NC to check but may also be within the grant bid } i) Nailsworth to Stroud Railway Path National cycle route at Woodchester – discussion next meeting about grants. Please call it ‘the railway path’ not cycle path. j) GLAF Annual Report PROW report sent round. Will Chas take on annual report? Yes but will do March 2027. Chase the response of the CROW Cttee – CT thought it was that Chairman to respond to GLAF...may have retired. Chas will send link to NC. k) Cotswold Way Association Martin Lovegrove poorly so missing him. The accessibility survey Chipping Campden to Crickley completed. Now Crickley Hill to Bath accessibility study. MB – this should be made available to horse riders too if made available for trampers – conversation about this. Voice should be made for horse riders. This is a walking route. RH – developing rest stops with benches and water fountains. Time limit funds from govt. Enhance website. Improve accessibility and circular routes. l) A417 missing link. Lengthy diversion in place whilst works to Cotswold Way overbridge are taking place. - legacy meeting planned to look at what can be placed on site eg balloon or notices. RH has been working with CM about routes including Issue from GLAF – improve access/paths. – interesting one the Air balloon to bottom – lots of paths get them linked but needs to go over 3rd Party land so Kier not able to provide as outside original DCO plan Keir will struggle to this implemented. CT– keir to do landscape for 5 years. Lots of maintenance by lots of groups – potential to get messy. CM - Info event Wednesday 2nd September 3-8pm. WCH Meeting on 8th Sept 12 pm to 1.30pm. m) Add Local Government review updates to Agenda	
10.	Any Other Business MB has identified links to Fosse Way nr Cotswold Airport & Tetbury Trail for horseriders. To share.	
	Date of Next Meeting: 15th October 2026 Tetbury Trail	
	Proposed 2027 Meeting dates – Thursday 25 th February 2027; Thursday 17 th June 2027; Thursday 14 th October 2027	

Summary of Actions

1. *Plan of the proposed cycle route from Station if available*
2. *MB hacking routes – how to pick them up for planning and to share her links to Tetbury Trail & Fosse Way*
3. *Link to CROW Cttee minute of previous GLAF Annual report*
4. *Links to Disabled Ramblers routes on CNL and JS Videos*
5. *[JS] to share papers with NC to share round*
6. *Identify where safer links would help vulnerable users (MB)*
7. *Mapping of permissive links NC at next meeting*
8. *Thanks KP for DMMO stats*
9. *Add links to Disabled ramblers videos to GLAF/GCC website*
10. *Fees for PPOs – pre consultation fee?*
11. *CT link to paper on Definitive Map anomalies*
12. *NC to get OS definition of ORPA.*
13. *Add LGR to agenda ongoing*