

Shropshire Local Access Forum 13 July 2011 10.00 a.m.	<u>Item</u> 5	<u>Paper</u> C
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Report of Sale of the Public Forest LAF Working Group

Responsible Officer: Jim Stabler, Countryside Access Development Officer Tel (01743 255067)

Recommendation: Members are asked to consider the proposed statement for presentation to the Independent Panel for Forestry.

Shropshire LAF consider the following actions should be implemented before the selling of any Forestry Commission land:

1. There should be no change in open access status of forests.
2. All existing permissive routes should be dedicated as public rights of way.
3. All existing higher level access should be retained/ dedicated.
4. Car parks must be brought up to an acceptable standard and be retained in perpetuity.
5. Existing “lost ways” and claimed routes need to be recognised and protected until their status is resolved.
6. Before any sale the strategic and commercial importance to the local community should be investigated and considered.
7. Where rights of way end at wood edges then a right of way should be dedicated through that wood.
8. The following forests are too valuable to local people and economies to sell off:
 - Haughmond Hill
 - Eastridge
 - Longmynd
 - Bury Ditches
 - Blakeridge
 - Hopton Titterhill
 - Bucknell Wood – Hill
9. All existing tracks in forests should be dedicated as restricted byways.
10. The relevant Local Access Forum should be consulted before any Forestry Commission land is sold or leases closed.