

## **Laura Crawford**

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**From:** Save Benbradagh  
**Sent:** 03 November 2025 14:39  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Brishey Right of Way - Objection  
**Attachments:** Brishey Right of Way 3 Nov 2025.docx

Dear Laura,

Please find attached an objection to the application **LA01/2023/0008/F Brishey**.

Kind regards,  
Save Benbradagh Group

3 November, 2025

**Application Reference: LA01/2023/0008/F Brishey**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We wish to inform you that we have requested that the path over Benbradagh, a route of vital importance to the local community and visitors is formally recorded as a matter of priority by the Council. The pathway is a public right of way and constitutes a permanent legal entity. As a group of members of the local community, we have formally invoked this right.

It is vital that this public right of way and the defined destinations are kept clear and protected from *any* nuisance, obstruction or interruption.

In terms of the ***Ad Quem*** or terminus there are two destinations:

**1) Place of historic interest - the US Communications Base.**

The American base (which gave its name to the ‘the American Road’) attracts tourists from the USA and connects the mountain with **Dungiven Castle** where soldiers were billeted.

Indeed, a novel published in 2024 entitled the “Yankee in Benbradagh” is a love story set during the time of the Cold War. The focus is the US army’s naval communications base at the summit of Benbradagh. The base impacts the community but also has a, *“life-changing effect on a local lady after an accidental meeting with the handsome US army’s Naval Commander.”*

This general area has also been used for customary sports by local clubs including the local hurling club for the annual ‘Poc Fada’ competition over the mountain. The base also affords views of Binevenagh, Lough Foyle, the hills of Donegal and ‘the snout’ at Carn Tóchair.

**2) Access over Benbradagh mountain between the Curragh Road and the Gelvin Road (pedestrians/ cyclists).**

The general public has enjoyed use of this path over many decades.

The walkway is important for the health and well-being of the community and our right to a healthy environment and access to an important heritage site.

The walkway is an important tourist attraction for this part of the Sperrins and is of particular significance for Dungiven. Benbradagh will be central to regeneration and tourist architecture within the Sperrins Management Plan.

The right of way has not been formally recorded despite the duties placed on the Council in respect of asserting and protecting public rights of way. Causeway Coast and Glens Council must enforce the public’s common law rights of passage and assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction any public right of way. Under Article 3 of the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 the Council had a statutory duty to keep it open. The Council must fulfill its statutory duty to protect this public right of way and ensure continued and unimpeded access.

Causeway Coast & Glens has only conducted a partial survey of paths in the area and that the right of way over Benbradagh mountain has not yet been formally recorded. The view of the relevant Department (DAERA), documented in guidance published by the Environment and Heritage Service

in 2022, is that given the clear duty to assert all public rights of way in the countryside, priority should be given to routes based on the following factors:

- Length of route
- Scenic attractiveness
- Links of sites of tourist interest
- Likely levels of usage
- Inclusion within a network of Paths or long-distance route

Notably the Council has committed to the international Appalachian way and committed funding for upgrades to the trail: <https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/news/celebrating-the-international-appalachian-trail-in-causeway-coast-and-glens>

The route is acknowledged by Causeway Coast & Glens Council as it is clearly marked in tourist maps in the public domain - the Ulster Way, the International Appalachian way and North Sperrins Way:

Ulster Way: <https://www.theirelandway.ie/ulsterway.html>

International Appalachian Way: <https://iatulsterireland.com/short-walks/>

North Sperrins Way: <https://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/things-to-do/north-sperrins-way-p794361>

Benbradagh was also promoted by the Council as part of the Walking Festival in January 2025:

<https://www.derryjournal.com/news/environment/benbradagh-among-spectacular-locations-featuring-in-causeway-coast-and-glens-walking-festival-4948994>

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Save Benbradagh

**Laura Crawford**

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**From:** Save Benbradagh  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 14:13  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** For urgent attention of Elaine Olphert - re. Brishey Windfarm, Application Ref: LA01/2023/0008/F  
**Attachments:** 11 Nov 2025\_ Email from Pat Mulvenna\_PROW at Brishey.pdf

Dear Ms Olphert,

Re. Brishey Windfarm, Application Ref: LA01/2023/0008/F

We note that the above planning application has been listed for determination by the Planning Committee on Wednesday 26 November 2025.

With regards to Item 1.10 of Addendum 2 to the Planning Committee Report, uploaded to the Planning portal yesterday, we would highlight that Save Benbradagh Group have formally asserted public rights of way to the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens Council on 29th October 2025. The matter is currently being investigated and progressed with Pat Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development, (see copy of correspondence dated 11 November attached).

Under no circumstances should this planning application be determined or approved while this matter is still ongoing.

Yours sincerely,  
Save Benbradagh Group



Save Benbradagh

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## PROW at Brishey

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Pat Mulvenna

Tue, Nov 11, 2025 at  
12:02 PM

To: "savebenbradagh@gmail.com"

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence relating to the Assertion of a Public Right of Way at Brishey, Benbradagh Mountain and to apologise for the delay in confirming this with you.

Your letter raises many issues which Council need to consider. I have scheduled a meeting to discuss the matter in detail with a number of officers and I shall be in a position to update you on those discussions, towards the end of this month.

Regards,

Pat

**Pat Mulvenna**

Director of Leisure & Development  
Tel. 028 7034 7200 /

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

**[www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](http://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)**

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