

To the Editor / Parish Council Chairman

Dated

## News Release and Advice Note

### **Possible end of public access to grant-aided permissive paths**

The South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum is alerting the public and Parish Councils to grant-aided walking and riding routes which may be withdrawn as Government funding for them comes to an end. The Forum is urging people to enjoy these opportunities while they can and encouraging parish councils to take an active interest in their future. If landowners see people using them responsibly they are more likely to keep them open.

There are over XX of these time-limited extra paths or access areas in the county. Full details are on the web at: <http://cwr.defra.gov.uk>

Landowners have created these permissive routes in exchange for public money via various agri-environment schemes, such as Higher Level Stewardship. On-going funding for access schemes has now ended. Some sites have already expired but others will last until various dates up to 2020. Most sites last only 10 years so are not on Ordnance Survey maps. Some are widely publicised but others are little known.

The Access Forum is suggesting that, where landowners have permissive access schemes which are due to end, local Parish Councils might talk with them about on-going informal access or even possibly enter into a permissive path agreement.

### **For further information on this issue**

All the permissive access sites are listed on the following page of this Advice Note.

For more information on agri-environment schemes contact the Natural England Permissive Access Team in Cambridge. Telephone customer services helpline: 0300 060 1114

For more information on this issue contact: XXXX, a member of the Access Forum  
Telephone: XXXX Email: XXXX

### **For more information on the Access Forum**

Access Forums were set up by Government to represent all the different groups with interests in countryside access, including farmers and landowners, and users such as walkers and riders. The Forum is an independent body although the County Council provides administrative support.

For other enquiries about the Forum contact:

Telephone: XXXX

Email: XXXX