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NOTE – At the commencement of the meeting there will be a public forum for up to 15 minutes which will offer members of the public the opportunity to make statements or ask questions.



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

11 January 2016

Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum Meeting

A meeting of the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum will be held on **Tuesday, 19 January 2016 at 2.00 pm** in **Committee Room Three, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

Tony McArdle
Chief Executive

Membership of the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum

Chris Padley, (Users of Local Rights of Way) (Chairman)
Dr Chris Allison, (Users of Local Rights of Way) (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Denis Colin Hoyes MBE, (Lincolnshire County Council)
Councillor Daniel McNally, (Lincolnshire County Council)
Councillor Iain Colquhoun, North East Lincolnshire Council
Sandra Harrison, (Landowners)
Ray Shipley, (Landowners)
Sheila Brookes, (Users of Local Rights of Way)
Deborah North, (Users of Local Rights of Way)
Colin Smith, (Users of Local Rights of Way)
Richard Graham, (Other Interests)
David Mills, (Other Interests)
Katherine Mills, (Other Interests)
3 Vacancies (Land Owners)
2 Vacancies (Other Interests)

**MID-LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM AGENDA
TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2016**

Item	Title	Report Reference
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Minutes of previous meetings of Local Access Forums as follows:-	
2a	Minutes of the previous meeting of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum held on 21 July 2015	(Pages 7 - 16)
2b	Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Mid-Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire Local Access Forums held on 20 October 2015	(Pages 17 - 22)
3	Actions Arising from the meeting held on 21 July 2015 (if not already on the agenda)	
3a	Use of Parish Council Notice Boards to advertise vacancies on the Forums (minute 10 (c)) <i>(Chris Miller, Countryside Access Manager, will provide an update on this item since the previous meeting)</i>	(Verbal Report)
3b	Obstruction of Route from Saltfleet Paradise (Blackridge) to Seaview Access (minute 15) <i>(Chris Miller, Countryside Access Manager, will provide an update on this item since the previous meeting)</i>	(Verbal Report)
4	A representative from Humber Nature Partnership will attend the meeting to discuss Coastal Access <i>(Alan Jones, from the Humber Partnership, will give a representation)</i>	(Verbal Report)
5	The County Council's Budget Proposals for 2016/17 <i>(Chris Miller, Countryside Access Manager, will update the Forum on the latest situation in connection with the County Council's budget for 2016/17)</i>	(Verbal Report)
6	Changes to priorities, resolution of timescales and proactive inspection regimes <i>(A report by Chris Miller, Countryside Access Officer, which seeks the views of the Forums before a report is submitted to a meeting of the County Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee)</i>	(To Follow)
7	Development Consultation Processes of Planning Authorities with particular reference to Louth Flood Alleviation Scheme <i>(Chris Padley will speak on this matter)</i>	(Verbal Report)

- 8 **Offer from Network Rail to talk to Local Access Forums about Network Rail's Level Crossing Strategy** (Verbal Report)
(Chris Padley will talk on this item. He has been asked by Network Rail if the Local Access Forums would be interested in receiving a presentation on their Level Crossing Strategy)
- 9 **To consider the effect of Public Space Protection Orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** (Verbal Report)
(Chris Padley has raised this item. The issue has come to his notice because one is being made in Gainsborough which appears to be intended to have the same effect as a Gating Order, but this new legislation contains no requirement to consult Local Access Forums, or anyone else for that matter. It appears to enable local authorities to ban anything they want anywhere, anytime)
- 10 **Making our needs known and influencing decision makers - consultation** (Pages 23 - 32)
(A report by John Law, a representative on the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum, which seeks the views of this Forum)
- 11 **A proposal for future Permissive Access in Stewardship Schemes - consultation** (Pages 33 - 40)
(A report by John Law, a representative on the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum, which seeks the views of this Forum)
- 12 **Lost Ways** (Pages 41 - 42)
(A report by John Law, a representative of the South Lincolnshire Access Forum, which provides an update of the work of the Sub Group)
- 13 **Countryside for All** (Pages 43 - 54)
(A report by John Law, a representative on the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum, which provides an update on the survey of seven Rights of Way)
- 14 **Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Update** (To Follow)
(A report by Chris Miller, Countryside Access Manager. Please note only those issues which have changed since the previous meeting are included in the report. Members can view previous action by clicking on to the link detailed in the report)
- 15 **North East Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan** (Pages 55 - 56)
(A report by Nicola Hardy, Public Rights of Way Mapping Officer)
- 16 **Lincolnshire County Council Progress of Definitive Map Modification Orders Work** (To Follow)
(A report by Chris Miller, Countryside Access Manager, which examines the latest cases only)

- 17 North East Lincolnshire Progress of Definitive Map Modification Orders** (Pages 57 - 58)
(A report by Nicola Hardy, Public Rights of Way Mapping Officer)
- 18 Lincolnshire County Council Progress of Public Path Orders** (Verbal Report)
(A report by Chris Miller, Countryside Access Manager, which examines the latest cases only)
- 19 North East Lincolnshire Progress of Public Path Orders** (Pages 59 - 60)
(A report by Nicola Hardy, Public Rights of Way Mapping Officer)
- 20 Dates and Times of Future Meetings**
(There are normally four meetings of the Forum arranged in each year – January, April, July (AGM) and October. The meetings in April and July are normally arranged in the evening. The views of the Forum are sought)

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

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Please Note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

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**MID-LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS
FORUM
21 JULY 2015**

PRESENT:

Representing Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors D McNally

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council: Councillor Iain Colquhoun

Representing Independent Members: Dr Chris Allison, Sheila Brookes,
Deborah North, Chris Padley, Colin Smith, Richard Graham and Peter Skipworth

Officers: Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Chris Miller (Countryside Access
Manager) and Andrew Savage (Senior Countryside Access Officer)

1 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Officers in response to questions from members of the public stated that the County Council were examining opportunities to link rights of way in the Coastal Country Park and because of limited financial resources it was currently only possible to cut the grass twice a year on the rights of way network.

With regard to proposals for a coastal footpath around the shoreline of the UK officers were discussing proposals with Natural England for that part of the coastal route along the Lincolnshire coast line. The expected completion date for the Lincolnshire route was early 2018.

With regard to the creation of a right of way on the former railway line which ran along the coast to Mablethorpe, this was being examined by officers in consultation with the Wildlife Trust and Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Councils.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Chris Padley be elected Chairman of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum until the AGM of the Forum in 2016.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Dr Chris Allison be elected Vice-Chairman of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum until the AGM of the Forum in 2016.

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4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Sandra Harrison, Councillor Denis Hoyes MBE and Ray Shipley.

5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE MID LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON 28 APRIL 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum held on 28 April 2015, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (IF NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA)

6a De-Regulation Bill (Minute 63(b))

Officers stated that there was nothing significant to add in connection with the implementation of the Deregulation Act 2015, since the previous meeting of the Forum. Officers gave a brief explanation of the effects of the Act which included the following:-

1. The ending of the opportunity to apply to have routes added to the Definitive Map and Statement based purely on historical information.
2. A new system of processing Definitive Map Modification Orders to make them less adversarial.
3. A "right to apply" for a Public Path Order (currently the Council was not obliged to accept applications to divert or extinguish public rights of way and had no need to provide reasons why an order would not be pursued.

Officers stated that they were uncertain about the certain aspects of the Act particularly affecting Public Path Orders because Regulations were still awaited from Defra in connection with the implementation of the Act.

Officers responded to comments including the opportunity to extend the cut-off date from 2026 to 2031 to have routes added to the Definitive Map and Statement although Defra was not keen on this extension.

RESOLVED

That officers submit a report on the effects of the Deregulation Act 2015 to the next meeting.

7 ALISON HEALEY - RETIRING MEMBER AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER - DEBORAH NORTH

The Chairman welcomed Deborah North, representing disabled interests on the Forum, to her first meeting of the Forum.

The Chairman referred to the Alison Healey's retirement from the Forum adding that Alison had been the first Chairman of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum.

RESOLVED

That Deborah North's appointment to the Forum be noted and that the Chairman write a letter to Alison Healey to thank her for her service to the Forum.

8 PAST CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman stated that he had not prepared a "Past Chairman's" report and referred members to his statement in the "Chairman's Introduction" in the report at minute 9. NOTED.

9 JOINT ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Officers presented the Joint Annual Report 2014/15 in connection with the work of both the Mid Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire Local Access Forums.

Officers drew attention to certain aspects of the report including the preparation of leaflets on rights of way for the disabled; the installation of Interpretation Panels to provide information on places of interest for the public on a right of way; a request for members to ask people if they were interested in becoming a member of the Forum; that Natural England no longer supported the work of Forums on a daily basis and the need for both Forums to provide their views to the County Council on three priorities for access for the year ahead.

Comments made by the Forum in connection with the three priorities for the year ahead included:-

1. The need for public bridleways in the SixHills/Hainton area of the Wolds.
2. The need for induction training on the role and responsibilities of the Forum to enable the Forum to respond to consultation from Natural England about the coastal footpath.
3. The identification of Lost Ways before the cut-off date of 2026.
4. The need to avoid the loss any rights of way through either financial constraints or the cut-off date for Lost Ways in 2026.
5. The need to provide training for new members on the role and responsibilities of Local Access Forums.
6. Some rights of way could be improved if the missing links were found.
7. The need to use Parish Council notice boards to publicise vacancies on the Forums.

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8. The need to establish a data base so that the public could access information about Lost Ways.

The Forum agreed its three priorities as follows:-

1. Training on the processes involved for a coastal footpath so that the Forum was able to advise the County Council.
2. To ensure that the County Council understood the processes involved in finding Lost Ways and missing links to those Lost Ways before the cut-off date of 2026 and that the Forum provides guidance to the Council on this matter. The Council should ensure that the Forums were aware of the implications of the Deregulation Act on this matter.
3. The processes involved in the restoration of the rights of way network in the coastal area.

RESOLVED

(a) That the Joint Annual Report 2014/15 be noted.

(b) That the three priorities agreed by the Forum for inclusion in ROWIP 2 be sent to the County Council.

(c) That officers investigate the use of Parish Council notice boards to advertise vacancies on the Forums.

(NOTE: Councillor Daniel McNally left the meeting at 7.05pm and left photographs for tabling in connection with minute 15).

10 PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE PERMISSIVE ACCESS IN STEWARDSHIP
SCHEMES - CONSULTATION

The Forum considered draft reports in connection with permissive access received from John Law, a member of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum. John Law, by his reports, hoped to influence both Natural England and Defra on the importance of retaining permissive access. John Law hoped to obtain the support of other Local Access Forums on this matter and to raise the matter nationally because of its national importance.

Officers stated that landowners would no longer be paid by Defra for Higher Level Stewardship schemes.

RESOLVED

That John Law's reports be supported.

11 ORDNANCE SURVEY - THE RECORDING OF "ROUTES WITH OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS" (ORPA)

The Forum received a report in connection with the recording of "Routes with Other Public Access" (ORPA).

Officers stated that ORPA were shown by the Ordnance Survey on their commercially available mapping as either green or pink dots depending on which series of maps were being used. The notation on the maps did not inform the public what rights of way might apply for these routes but there appeared to be a general presumption that vehicle routes would apply.

The history of how ORPA came to be mapped by Ordnance Survey was explained. Officers stated that the recording of an ORPA conferred no status to the highway because the information was taken from the List of Streets which only recorded whether a route was maintainable at the public's expense and the only safe assumption that could be made for routes on the List of Streets was that public footpath rights applied. The routes on the List of Streets carried motor vehicular rights although this was subject to potential extinguishment following the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Officers in response to comments made by the Forum stated that it was at the discretion of Ordnance Survey's which Listed Streets were added.

The Forum noted the effects of the Deregulation Act 2015 on unrecorded highway rights which would be extinguished if they existed before 1949 and noted that the regulations would have "savings" for routes already shown on List of Streets but any higher rights on the bridleway sections would be lost.

The Forum agreed that it was important that research was carried out and an application to amend the Definitive Map and Statement was made to ensure that rights were preserved.

RESOLVED

That the comments made by the Forum in connection with ORPA be forwarded to the Council.

12 BIG PATHWATCH ON 13 JULY 2015 - ORGANISED BY THE RAMBLERS

The Forum was provided with details of an initiative from the Ramblers called the "Big Pathwatch" aimed at motivating the public to survey the rights of way network in England and Wales and then to report their findings to the Ramblers website or apt.

The public was required to respond to three questions being asked by the Ramblers and these were outlined in the report.

The Forum gave its support to the Ramblers' initiative and members were asked to disseminate the information to the public wherever possible.

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RESOLVED

That the Ramblers' "Big Pathwatch" initiative be supported and that Forum members disseminate the information to the public.

13 HAUGH RIGHTS OF WAY - FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The Forum considered an item by Pete Skipworth in connection with rights of way at Haugh and the clearance of rights of way generally.

Pete Skipworth stated that he had undertaken to do some research on rights of way at Haugh and stated that he had received a letter from East Lindsey District Council in connection with the non-compliance of a planning application by a local farmer in connection with a footpath which had been enclosed. He stated that the enclosure had been granted by East Lindsey District Council at the same time as the footpath had disappeared. He asked whether there was a requirement that District Planning Officers (DPAs) should examine the Definitive Map and Statement when considering planning applications. He stated that he had also received a reply from Merton College, Oxford, who owned the affected land at Haugh, and they had stated that they would investigate the blockage of footpaths in the area.

Comments made by the Forum included:-

1. It was the responsibility of DPAs, not the County Council, to examine the Definitive Map and Statement where planning was likely to affect a PROW.
2. The increased threat to footpaths from development.
3. Some DPAs were better than others in sending planning applications to bodies like the Ramblers.
4. North East Lincolnshire Council sent information about planning applications to its Councillors as did Lincolnshire County Council.
5. There was an obligation on landowners to clear obstructions and to ensure rights of way were maintained on their land.

Officers' responses included:-

1. They agreed to remind District Planning Authorities Group of their responsibility to examine the effect of planning applications on rights of way.
2. They agreed that some District Planning Authorities were better than others in investigating the effects of planning applications on rights of way.
3. Merton College, Oxford was one of the largest landowners in Lincolnshire.
4. Resource issues affected the ability of the County Council to examine all blockages of rights of way.
5. Officers agreed to discuss the legal options available to Pete Skipworth outside of this meeting.

RESOLVED

That officers remind the District Planning Authorities Group of its responsibility to examine the effects of planning applications on rights of way.

14 LINCOLNSHIRE COASTAL COUNTRY PARK ACCESS AND RECREATION GROUP UPDATE

The Forum received a report from Richard Graham in connection with progress of the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park (LCCP) Access and Recreation Group. Richard Graham stated that there was still a lot of work to do in consulting various bodies in the area, e.g. landowners and Parish Councils about rights of way issues and the coastal access path which would run through the Coastal Country Park area. Richard Graham stated that it was good news to hear that a landowner had agreed to an extension of the rights of way on the former railway line in the area.

Officers stated that Robin Carr's (appointed by Lincolnshire County Council to examine, amongst other issues, rights of way in the area) report was imminent.

RESOLVED

That the progress report submitted by Richard Graham on the work of the LCCP Access and Recreation Sub-Group, be noted.

15 OBSTRUCTION OF ROUTE FROM SALTFLEET PARADISE (BLACKBRIDGE) TO SEAVIEW ACCESS

The Forum considered a request from Sandra Harrison to examine the lack of consultation by the Environment Agency to their obstruction of a well known route from Saltfleet Paradise (Blackridge) along the foot of the Seaside dunes through to Seaview access. Councillor Daniel McNally had previously tabled some photographs which showed the problems being encountered.

Comments by the Forum included that the Environment Agency had a public duty to inform and consult the public before any erecting any signage on a right of way.

Officers agreed to investigate this matter and report to the next meeting of the Forum.

RESOLVED

That officers investigate the issues and report to the next meeting of the Forum.

16 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - UPDATE

The Forum received a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Lincolnshire Countryside and Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Officers stated that this year's programme aimed to make the footpaths more accessible. Officers stated that ROWIP2 was delayed due to organisational changes within the County Council and that it would be presented to the Forum in due course.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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17 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND RIGHTS
OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Forum received a report from North East Lincolnshire Council in connection with the progress made in the implementation of their Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Councillor I Colquhoun stated that the Council was trying to move matters forward in connection with footpaths and officers had been asked to bring any problems to the attention of members one at a time so that they could be resolved. With regard to the reinstatement of footpath 72 a report had been requested in September and that if it was not possible to get agreement amongst all of the parties concerned then the original proposals for this footpath would be enforced by the Council.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

18 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS OF DEFINITIVE MAP
MODIFICATION ORDERS WORK

The Forum received a report from Lincolnshire County Council in connection with the progress of the Definitive Map Modification Orders work since the inception of the current prioritisation policy and current caseloads.

Officers stated that it had not been possible to address all of the enquiries which had been received due to the on-going changes to the structure of the Countryside and Access department and the shortage of administrative support.

Officers stated that for future reports they would produce a link to all past cases of Definitive Map Orders to reduce the amount of paperwork issued to the Forum.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE PROGRESS OF DEFINITIVE MAP
MODIFICATION ORDERS

The Forum received a report from North East Lincolnshire Council in connection with the progress of Definitive Map Modification Orders. The Forum did not have any comments on the report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS OF PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

The Forum received a report from Lincolnshire County Council in connection with the progress of Public Path Orders. Officers agreed that there it had not been possible to make any improvements to the rights of way network since the report to the last meeting on this matter apart from tidying up various legal issues. In response to a comment officers stated that Ordnance Survey was informed very quickly of any changes to the rights of way network.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

21 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE PROGRESS OF PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

The Forum received a report from North East Lincolnshire Council in connection with the progress of its Public Path Orders.

In response to a comment Councillor I Colquhoun stated that the Variation Order to correct a mapping discrepancy for the public footpath at Ashby Cum Fenby the Order had been resubmitted to the Secretary of State and a reply awaited. He stated that there was a need to follow procedure and the public were able to object again to the Variation Order even though the Secretary of State had approved the original Diversion Order.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

22 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for 2.00pm on Tuesday 20 October 2015 at the County Offices, Newland, Lincoln.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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Agenda Item 2b

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN MID-COLNSHIRE AND SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE & RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS 20 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT:

Representing Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors D McNally and R Wootten

Representing other Councils: Councillor Iain Colquhoun (North East Lincolnshire Council) and Councillor William Cross (Rutland County Council)

Representing Independent Members: Chris Padley, Colin Smith, Sandra Harrison, Ray Shipley, Richard Graham, David Mills, Katherine Mills, Alec Hill, Sam Tate, Rosemary Harris, Ian Cox, John Law, Paul Marshall and Barbara Smitheringale

Officers: Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Chris Miller (Environmental Services Team Leader (Countryside Services)) and Stuart Crook (Public Footpaths Officer, Rutland County Council)

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Following consultations between the Chairmen of both the South Lincolnshire and Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forums before the meeting it was agreed that Chris Padley would chair this meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Chris Allison (Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum (MLAF), Councillor D Brailsford (Lincolnshire County Council, South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum (SLAF), Bryan Bowles (SLAF), Sheila Brookes (MLAF), Dr Rebecca Johnson (SLAF), Audrey Morley (SLAF), Deborah North (MLAF), Pete Skipworth (MLAF) and John Williams (SLAF).

3 PRESENTATION BY NATURAL ENGLAND ON PROPOSALS FOR THE ENGLAND COAST PATH IN LINCOLNSHIRE

The Chairman welcomed Roger Gerry, Lucy Heath, Emily Ledder and Tracy O'Shea, from Natural England, to the meeting.

A presentation was made by Natural England in connection with their proposals to install the England Coast Path in Lincolnshire. The presentation included details of the national context, background and legislation, coastal access rights in detail and coastal access on the Lincolnshire coast.

Comments made by the Forums and responses given by Natural England included:-

1. What was the legal status of the path?

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Natural England (NE) stated that the legal status of the path was a unique right of way on the coast and from a legal perspective it was covered by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Some sections of the path were on current rights of way but not all would appear on the Definitive Map. The legal process for any realignment of the route was laid out in legislation and involved consultations with the local authority and landowners. Confirmation of the final route required the approval of the Secretary of State.

2. Was there any compensation package for landowners affected by the proposals?

NE stated that there was no compensation available for landowners affected by the proposals for the path.

3. Was there a limit on how far the path could be realigned in the event of a problem?

NE stated that there was no limit on how far the path could be realigned in the event of a problem. NE was currently planning on the path lasting fifteen years on current proposals for its alignment. NE stated that some foreshore sections of the path in East Yorkshire were moving two metres a year and that the eroded deposits were ending up in Lincolnshire. In the event of a landslide or some similar incident it would be necessary to talk to landowners to find an alternative route.

4. Problems of access for wheelchair/pushchairs in the Skegness area in the vicinity of the golf course.

NE stated that this matter would be examined. NE would liaise with the golf club and the local community about this issue. Money would also be made available to the local authority for maintenance of the path.

5. What was the annual maintenance cost of the path and what help would local authorities receive?

NE stated that they would fund 75% of the maintenance costs with the local authority expected to meet the remaining 25%. The precise details would be set out in an Agreement. There was a funding formula but the actual cost would not be known until the completion of the path. The local authority would have responsibility on how any funding for maintenance was spent once the path was handed over to them by NE.

6. What precautions were in place to protect nesting birds?

NE stated that an assessment of nesting sites would be undertaken by NE during the planning stage of the path to ensure that the necessary protection was in place.

NE gave a presentation of the proposed route between Sutton Bridge and Mablethorpe and the expected completion date was 2018.

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Comments made by the Forums and responses given by NE included:-

1. What enforcement measures were in place in the event of the path being blocked?

NE stated that this would be the responsibility of the local authority once the path had been handed over. Legally, no one could obstruct the path's route and the local authority was required to give notice if the path was not cleared with the costs being met by the landowner.

2. What was the situation if an existing Right of Way passed through an industrial complex?

NE stated that each aspect of the route of the path was considered on its merits.

3. Was the landowner responsible for the removal of any styles or gates along an existing Right of Way proposed for the path?

NE would be responsible for the initial costs of bringing the path in line with "England Coast Path (ECP) standard" and this included replacing existing styles with more accessible gates. Once the path was open it would be the access authority's responsibility to maintain the infrastructure of the ECP. The landowner would only be responsible if they deliberately did something that would cause damage to the ECP.

4. The project was excellent but how was the local authority expected to meet its 25% of the maintenance cost when local government was already experiencing severe funding reductions and with further cutbacks expected?

NE stated that in the preparation arrangements an assessment would be made of the costs involved. NE would fund 75% of the long term maintenance costs.

The Chairman stated that the local authority would examine the implications of the maintenance of the path cost in due course.

Volunteers were a great resource, there were people such as ramblers who want to maintain a good standard and were willing to volunteer their time to maintain the ECP.

Also, organised fun runs/marathons where people involved agreed to pick-up the litter before and after the event and the money raised donated to maintaining the path.

Natural England stated that for the new path in Norfolk new circular routes had been installed to link in with the coastal path. The footfall had increased significantly which had generated income for local businesses some of which could be used to maintain the coastal path, this was a possibility for Lincolnshire.

Using these previously successful methods on other stretches the council can encourage local management and maintenance at a low cost.

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It was agreed to send the presentations by Natural England to Forum members.

The meeting noted that following a restructuring of the Countryside Services area Andrew Savage, Senior Countryside Officer, had taken up a new position within the Countryside Services area and would no longer be attending Forum meetings. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to him, to thank him for his service and support to the Forums.

RESOLVED

(a) That the presentation by Natural England on proposals by Natural England to install the England Coast Path in Lincolnshire be noted.

(b) That the presentations made by Natural England be sent to the Forums.

(c) That a letter be sent to Andrew Savage, Senior Countryside Officer, to thank him for his support to both Forums and to wish well in his new position.

4 THE PROPOSED EFFECTS OF THE DE-REGULATION ACT 2015

The Forums received a report on the provisions affecting public rights of way work in the De-regulation Act 2015 and the likely consequences.

Officers stated that the Act had been given Royal Assent in March 2015 and contained within it a number of provisions based on a "rights of way reform package" based on the deliberations of a stakeholder working group made up of people representing users, landowners and local authorities. Officers outlined the various changes under three major headings – Changes to the procedures for Definitive Map and Modification Orders; the introduction of the Definitive Map "cut off" provisions from the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the the Right to apply for a Public Path Order (PPOs diversions/extinguishments).

Officers responded to comments from the Forums as follows:-

1. The local authority was able to dismiss "irrelevant" objections to make an order but must have regard to the advice of the Secretary of State which as yet was unavailable.

2. With regard to modifications to the Definitive Map and Statement it was possible to change the status of a route from a Bridleway to a footpath and a landowner was able to ask questions of the local authority in this respect.

3. In connection with a local authority making a Definitive Map and Modification Order the balance of probabilities test was preferable to the previous "reasonably alleged test".

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4. With regard to the position in connection with a right of way which was not recorded but which had been in use since 1949 the regulations would address this matter.

5. All streets on the Exemption Street List were required to be shown on the List by 2026. However, it was not possible to add a Byway Open to Traffic after 2026.

On this matter, a member of the public was permitted to ask a question.

Officers responded to a member of the British Horse Society about the classification of routes and it was stated that these routes appeared on both the official List of Streets and the Definitive Map and Statement. The Lost Ways Sub Group might examine the anomalies to try to establish exactly what rights existed. The member of the public expressed concern about the quality of the List of Streets and officers agreed that, whilst the legislation was not the same as for Definitive Maps, the County Council had in-house protocols to ensure that the List was properly maintained.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and that a further report be presented to both Forums when the regulations are known.

5 LOST WAYS SUB-GROUP - REMIT

The Forums received a report from John Law which sought the approval of both Forums to the remit of the Lost Ways Sub-Group. John Law stated that the Sub-Group sought to advise and assist the local authorities with the aim of protecting and enhancing the rights of way network before the 2026 cut-off date for claims based on historic evidence.

John Law stated that it might be necessary to come back to the Forums with more details on the remit and that in Rutland someone had offered to volunteer to assist in the mapping of the routes.

RESOLVED

That the Forums give their approval to the remit of the Lost Ways Sub-Group as detailed in John Law's paper.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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MAKING OUR NEEDS KNOWN AND INFLUENCING DECISION MAKERS

REPORT BY JOHN LAW

1. INTRODUCTION

England is a different place since the creation Local Access Forums and the UK economy has changed significantly. Highway authority budgets have been reduced, which is having an effect on PRoW and countryside access. Natural England's resources have also been reduced which is affecting the support they provide to LAFs. However the LAFs workload continues to grow. LAFs continue to advise decision making bodies on local countryside access issues. Issues have arisen where a number of LAFs have raised their concerns relating to the same subject, often of national importance to countryside access, independently or at their Regional Chairs meeting. Unfortunately Natural England, in some cases has not recognised these issues should be considered as matters of major importance. An example of this is permissive access in stewardship schemes, where the announcement of the ending of funding was made in 2010. LAFs were not given the opportunity to advise on this or have an input on examining alternative options. This report examines how LAFs could ensure future matters raised as issues which effect national countryside access, do not go unnoticed and are treated as important matters by Natural England and DEFRA.

2. GUIDANCE FOR LAFs IN ENGLAND

The extracts below, from the "Guidance on the roles of Local Access Forums in England" issued by the Secretary of State in 2007, support the need to pull together the views of all LAFs on issues of national significance.

In 3.4 Advising and influencing decision makers it is stated in 3.4.1 *"In giving advice, forums should aim to **influence** section 94(4) bodies and thereby contribute effectively to the quality and robustness of decision-making. Influence will be enhanced where a forum provides **independent, constructive, relevant, inclusive, incisive and informed** advice which takes account of a broad range and balance of local interests and which assists section 94(4) bodies in carrying out their functions. Forums should consider other ways to maximise the usefulness (and therefore impact) of their advice. For example, advice should be delivered at the optimum point in the decision-making cycle and in ways which recognise and take account of the decision-makers needs, objectives, constraints and role."*

In Annex C it provides examples of national, Section 94 bodies which include DEFRA, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Ministry of Defence, English Heritage and Sport England. Clearly although 3.4.1 specifies "local interests" the Guidance recognises that LAFs will be involved in and expected to advise on national access issues.

In 3.5.3 The guidance recognises *“Whilst all section 94(4) bodies are strongly encouraged to give feedback, forums should appreciate that these bodies will sometimes be constrained in providing detailed feedback. Also, for national bodies, there is the challenge of having to deal with over 80 forums throughout England, which means that they will need to be selective in accepting requests to attend forum meetings and may not have the capacity to enter into detailed correspondence, or to respond to requests for information on specific local issues. This is an inevitable reflection of the number of forums which the national bodies have to deal with, and does not mean that they give less weight to the advice received from a forum.”*

In order to alleviate this issue one voice from all interested Access Forums would benefit recipients as well as promote the view of the Forums on national issues

In 3.6.1 Proactively advising, it is stated *“Much forum work will inevitably be reactive and dependent on the timing of various initiatives or consultations. However, forums should adopt a proactive approach in setting their priorities and giving advice. Situations where a proactive approach can assist a section 94(4) body include giving “early warning” of a potential problem or identifying possible solutions to an issue from a novel or fresh perspective. A proactive approach can also increase a forum’s influence by enabling it to advise at an earlier stage in the decision-making process, before the options are narrowed down.”*

Thus, to enable the forums to proactively advise Section 94 bodies on national issues, the Guidance to LAFs supports the need to pull together the views of all forums in order to present as a single piece of advice to the relevant body. This should see the forums influence national policy development in relation to countryside access at the start and ensure that more workable and practical solutions are developed for a broad range of issues.

3. THE PROPOSAL

3.1. It is apparent that, when a matter is the concern of the majority of the LAFs, there is a need for a louder voice rather than a number of different LAFs saying the same thing to different people. With the loss of the LAF co-ordinators, Natural England’s reduced staffing levels and redefined role in the support of LAFs, it is necessary to look at how the LAFs can get their message over when it affects national policy. Examples of what could be considered national issues past, existing and future can be seen in appendix A. With 86 LAFs split into 8 regions it is difficult to have one voice (see Appendix B).

3.2. The way forward may be to reinstate a modified form of the England Access Forum (EAF) to work on specific national and regional issues as the need arises. This may need a permanent administrative team to pull together a team to work on specific issues as they arise. A method of undertaking this task is displayed in appendix C. The method of funding the EAF is displayed in Appendix D.

3.3. To ensure the LAFs have one voice on national and regional issues, it is important that a robust process is in place. This report describes one example of how this can be achieved. Other processes could be developed which are more

effective. The South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF together with its partner the Mid and West Berkshire LAF, are investigating whether other LAFs feel there is a need for “One Voice” and whether the process indicated is one which other LAFs support. It is felt that if this issue is left until another national or regional issue arises it will be too late to tackle it with a single voice. It is recognised that this report does not contain the detail required to adopt this process, as it is felt that if there is no interest in creating a “One Voice” approach for national and regional countryside issues there is no need for this process.

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL & REGIONAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ISSUES

1. Previous Issues

This relates to previous Issues where it is felt if the LAFs were involved from conception the outcome would have been more beneficial to countryside access:

- a) Paths for Communities - It is recognised that Natural England had a very short timescale to create the rules for this project.
- b) Permissive Access - Announcing End of Funding.
- c) HS2
- d) De regulation bill
- e) Lost Ways

2. Current Issues

- a) Permissive Access – Maintaining funding on routes which impact on Health and wellbeing.
- b) De regulation Bill – Ensuring guidelines are clear and are produced in a timely manner.
- c) Lost Ways – Encourage Natural England to provide adequate training for all LAFs.
- d) European Union – Nature Reserve Directives.
- e) Green Bridges - Advise Government to create legislation on ensuring Green Bridges are included over new roads, major road improvements and railways.
- f) Countryside For All – Create a “one Stop” web site for all Countryside For All routes throughout England, create a national approved method of measuring and displaying routes and standardise route symbols.

3. Future Known Issues

- a) Permissive Access funding - Dependant on the outcome of the referendum, through CAP or UK Government policy.
- b) Major transport schemes effecting a number of highway authorities

4. Possible Future Issues

- a) Lost Ways – Probability of further action taking place by Government if by 2026 there is a large number of Lost Ways registered with highway authorities but due to their reduced resources they are unable to process the claims, even after the improvements due to the Deregulation Bill.

- b) Forestry Commission – Further attempts to sell off Forestry Commission land.
- c) UK Government or CAP policy changes affecting PROW, open access land, countryside access or coastal access.

BREAKDOWN OF LAFs BY REGION

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number of LAFs</u>
East Mid's	9
East of England	10
North East	5
North West	10
South East	17
South West	12
West Mid's	10
York's and Humber	13

Information from Natural England national List of LAFs held on HUDDLE last updated 8th May 2015

SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING A NATIONAL ISSUE

CREATING A TEAM TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON THE ISSUE

A permanent team of three people (LAF members) are responsible for the England Access Forum administrative duties. They will only be expected to undertake tasks, if the Regional LAFs identify an issue, which they believe is potentially a national issue.

The duties of the EAF administrative team, upon notification from a Regional chair of a potential national issue, are:

1. Email all LAFs of the issue ask whether they agree that the issue is of national importance. If it is an issue that only affects a number of LAFs such as coastal access it would be just the coastal LAFs who would be contacted.
2. Analyse the results of the responses
3. If the majority response was negative, meaning the subject was not of national importance, the result would be communicated to all LAFs and the subject would be closed.
4. If the majority response indicated the subject was of national importance the result would be communicated back to the LAFs and:
 - a. The LAFs would be asked to put forward a candidate to lead the project team.
 - b. The candidates would provide a document on why they should lead the project
 - c. The LAFs would vote to select the project leader
 - d. The LAFs would be asked to put forward a candidate to be included in the team
 - e. The project leader would select the team
5. The project team would be responsible for producing the project proposal for the work to be undertaken. This would be sent to the LAFs Regional Chairs.
6. The Regional Chairs would seek the views of the LAF Chairs on the proposal and put forward any recommendations for alterations
7. On completion of the project the final report displaying the recommendations would be presented to the Regional chairs meeting to discuss and identify the way forward.

METHOD OF FUNDING ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM

The England Access Forum will only be assembled once a national issue has been recognised and all LAFs have confirmed by voting that this issue should be investigated and reported on by the England Access Forum (EAF). The England Access Forum will comprise of a small team of between five to eight people who have an interest and a good knowledge of the specific project .

The majority of communication between the EAF members will be by email. It is recognised in some instance the group may need to meet and also meet with representatives of other organisations related to the specific national project. Therefore it is reasonable to expect travel and other relevant expenses to be subsidised. It is unreasonable to expect highway authorities to fund these costs when they are in relation to national issues. It is reasonable for Natural England to set aside an annual budget for these costs. The EAF members should provide a summary of the expense claims to LAFs on a three monthly basis together with a progress report on the project.

MAKING OUR NEEDS KNOWN AND INFLUENCING DECISION MAKERS

CONSULTATION

1. Do you believe the LAFs require one body to provide advice on National issues?

If “yes” please answer the questions below:

2. Do you agree that a body similar to that suggested in the report is the way forward?

3. Do you believe there is a better process to create a single body to provide advice on National issues?

If “yes” please provide details of the process on an additional document.

4. If you feel there are other examples of national importance to countryside access, in addition to those listed in appendix A, please state below:

Additional current issues

Additional future known issues

5. Do you believe the suggested process for identifying a national issue (appendix C) is the best method?

If “No” please provide details of the process on an additional document.

6. Do you believe the suggested process for creating a team as suggested in appendix C, for investigating and reporting on the issue is the best process?

If “No” please provide details of the process on an additional document.

7. Do you agree with the method of funding the EAF identified in appendix D?

If “No” please provide details of the process on an additional document.

8. What other questions should be on this consultation form? Please state how you would answer the additional questions.

Please complete the following:

LAF:

Region:

Name:

Position:

Date completed:

Please email the completed document to: john.law_32@yahoo.co.uk

Should you have any queries please email them to the above email address

Thanks for completing the consultation document.

A PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE PERMISSIVE ACCESS IN STEWARDSHIP SCHEMES

REPORT BY JOHN LAW

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF previously placed the report “The Future of Higher Level Stewardship Permissive Access” on HUDDLE. Since the report has been on HUDDLE the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF have been made aware of other LAFs concerned with the loss of all permissive access funding by the end of 2020. The current permissive access sites receiving funding are displayed in Appendix A. This report has been drawn up in consultation with the Mid and West Berkshire LAF.
- 1.2. Provision of permissive access is one of the few ways of improving the connectivity of the definitive rights of way network. Behind the hedge or fence paths could be created which improve safety and sometimes make a difference between using, or not using, the definitive path network. The aim is to create a joint report covering all our interests. It is felt important to get this right, as it may be the last opportunity local access forums have to make a change in Government and CAP policy in relation to funding permissive access.
- 1.3. The report and consultation document can then be dispersed through the regions of those LAFs which have shown an interest in this subject (East Mid’s, West Mids and South East regions). The responses from the consultations coming back to the South Linc’s and Rutland LAF for summarising. Following analysis of the consultation document the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF will make the decision on how to take the project forward. One option which will be investigated is whether the report and consultation document should be sent to all LAFs, so all can have a say on the subject.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1. Create a body representing local access forums on this matter of National interest, as proposed in the report “Making our needs known and influencing decision makers”, which recommends creating England Access Forum (EAF) for issues of national importance.
- 2.2. The EAF or a similar body representing all LAFs interests to:
 - 2.2.1. Influence Government and CAP, to include funding permissive access on 10 year agreements for perpetuity to be bound into the 2021 CAP agreement and all the following CAP agreements, provided we are still part of the EEC. To ensure the LAFs have the best chance of success in this matter, it will be necessary to start working on this action in 2016.
 - 2.2.2. Influence Government to create a reasonable size pot of money, for funding permissive access. Urban LAFs may not have any HLS sites so they should have the option where they can then donate their funding to their neighbouring LAF. However the urban LAF should have a say in where the money is spent. This is to ensure people in their area benefit from the permissive route, as it would be one of the routes their users would be most likely to use e.g. close to the urban area as a link to the PRoW network.
 - 2.2.3. Influence Government to allocate the pot of money available in accordance with the highway authority’s area of land. With the highway authorities with the lowest land area being provided with a reasonable sum to ensure they can provide a reasonable amount of permissive routes.

- 2.2.4. Influence Government to announce the allocation percentage for each LAF by 2019, the minimum funds for small (by area) highway authorities and maximum funds for large (by area) highway authorities.
- 2.2.5. Influence Government to pass the responsibility for awarding permissive access funding to the LAFs. This is due to the LAFs having the knowledge of the access requirements of the locality. Hence the LAF will be responsible for the proportion of types of permissive routes in their LAF area. DEFRA would still be responsible for actual payment to landowners/farmers.
- 2.2.6. Influence Government to create a permissive access rate for restricted byways.
- 2.2.7. Influence Government to maintain a web site for all permissive routes in a format similar to the current permissive access web site <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/walk-ride.aspx>
- 2.2.8. Influence Government to create the option of the opportunity to upgrade PRoW to a higher level status through permissive access payments, whilst protecting its PRoW status, see Appendix B.
- 2.2.9. Influence Government to provide immediate funding for “easy access” routes, as it is recognised that there are very few opportunities for countryside access for the disabled. Details for this proposal can be found in Appendix C.

3. **FUNDING**

We are fully aware of the current financial climate and the reduction in Government and local authority budgets but by the Government’s own admission, an improvement in public health would reduce the costs to the NHS by having a healthier population. There is now overwhelming evidence that accessing the countryside helps improve individual’s general health and wellbeing. Natural England in their presentation “The benefits of Nature for Health and Wellbeing” (<http://letnaturefeedyoursenses.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf-downloads/NE-HealthWellbeing-SarahPreston.pdf>) displays the need for more access to the countryside. So with these issues in mind this report is designed to provide recommendations which can be delivered in our current financial climate and plan for what should happen in the future whether we are still in EEC or not.

Whilst the current financial climate exists it is understood that DEFRA will find it difficult to fund further routes until the CAP agreement 2021. In order for LAFs to fund further permissive routes prior to the new CAP agreement, Natural England should provide training and assistance for LAFs to access suitable funding streams, such as LEADER funding through Local Action Groups, to enable them to offer payments for permissive access.

FUNDED PERMISSIVE ACCESS ROUTES

DATA FROM NATURAL ENGLAND WEB SITE AS AT 06/06/15

Location	Number of routes
Bath & NE Somerset	7
Bedfordshire	32
Berkshire	6
Buckinghamshire	20
Cambridgeshire	52
Cheshire	26
City of Bristol	0
Cleveland & Teesside	6
Cornwall	36
Cumbria	75
Derbyshire	24
Devon	52
Dorset	25
Durham	17
East Riding & Humber	20
East Sussex	32
Essex	29
Gloucestershire	13
Greater Manchester	0
Hampshire	62
Herefordshire	38
Hertfordshire	21
Isle of Wight	22
Isle of Scilly	0
Kent	36
Lancashire	23
Leicestershire & Rutland	69
Lincolnshire	124

Location	Number of routes
London	1
Merseyside	2
Norfolk	107
North Somerset	2
North Yorkshire	58
Northamptonshire	47
Northumberland	72
Nottinghamshire	33
Oxfordshire	30
Shropshire	65
Somerset	40
South Gloucestershire	5
South Yorkshire	5
Staffordshire	35
Suffolk	85
Surrey	13
Tyne & Wear	5
Warwickshire	11
West Midlands	1
West Sussex	38
West Yorkshire	12
Wiltshire	37
Worcestershire	25
TOTAL	1596

UPGRADING PRoW BY USING PERMISSIVE ACCESS

This appendix describes a possible process to upgrade PRoW to a higher level status through permissive access funding, whilst protecting its PRoW status

Examples displayed below (note HN references relate to the references in the Higher Level Stewardship: Environmental Stewardship handbook , third edition):

a) PRoW – Public Footpath upgrade to permissive bridlepath

Current payment for Footpath £0.45 per mtr

Current payment for Bridlepath (HN4 & HN6) £0.90 per mtr

Payment made for upgrade £0.45 per mtr

Responsibility for maintenance = 50% of route length highway authority

50% of route length recipient of permissive access payment.

b) PRoW – Public Footpath upgrade to Access for people with reduced mobility (HN5)

Current payment for Footpath £0.45 per mtr

Current payment for HN5 £1.00 per mtr

Payment made for upgrade £0.55 per mtr

Responsibility for maintenance = 45% of route length highway authority

55% of route length recipient of permissive access payment.

c) PRoW – Public Footpath upgrade to Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act access for people with reduced mobility (HN7)

Current payment for Footpath £0.45 per mtr

Current payment for HN7 £1.05 per mtr

Payment made for upgrade £0.60 per mtr

Responsibility for maintenance = 43% of route length highway authority

57% of route length recipient of permissive access payment.

d) PRoW – Public Bridlepath upgrade to Access for people with reduced mobility (HN5)

Horses and cyclists still allowed to use the route

Minimum width still 3mts

Current payment for Bridlepath (HN4 & HN6) £0.90 per mtr

Current payment for HN5 £1.00 per mtr

Payment made for upgrade using the previous formula would equate to £0.10 per mtr. As more access to the countryside is required for people with disabilities maybe this amount should be re examined to encourage farmers/landowners to offer this upgrade.

Responsibility for maintenance = 90% of route length highway authority. The cost of maintenance is significantly higher than a bridlepath, maybe a Government subsidy should be provided to the Highway Authority for these type of upgrades.

10% of route length recipient of permissive access payment.

- e) PRoW – Public Bridlepath upgrade to Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act access for people with reduced mobility (HN7)

Horses and cyclists still allowed to use the route

Minimum width still 3mts

Current payment for Bridlepath (HN4 & HN6) £0.90 per mtr

Current payment for HN7 £1.05 per metre

Payment made for upgrade using the previous formula would equate to £0.15 per mtr. As more access to the countryside is required for people with disabilities maybe this amount should be re examined to encourage farmers/landowners to offer this upgrade.

Responsibility for maintenance = 86% of route length highway authority

14% of route length recipient of permissive access payment.

- f) PRoW – Restricted byway to allow for carriage driving. Upgrades from PRoW Public Footpath or Public Bridlepath should follow the same logic as identified in a and b above. Restricted byways have a minimum width of 3 metres and a maximum width of 5 metres. Where there is a lack of carriage driving opportunities, the LAF may choose to accept a 3metre wide carriage way. To encourage farmers/landowners to agree to an upgrade to a 3metre bridleway a different payment may need to be made.

EASY ACCESS ROUTES

1. There are 56 Easy Access sites remaining (April 2015), as shown in the table displaying HLS sites suitable for wheelchairs. Both the LAFs and Natural England recognise the lack of opportunities for the disabled to access the countryside. It is therefore essential that funding is found, possibly from Public Health England to continue to provide good quality permissive “easy access” routes in the countryside. It is important that funding is provided to every Highway Authority for permissive “easy access” routes, again the pot should be split amongst the Highway Authorities in accordance to area (square miles).
2. Whilst the aim is to obtain funding for permissive access in stewardship schemes, there is a current example of funding being provided where the route is adjacent to a childrens hospice, this is land which is in a HLS scheme. It is considered that if there is farmland adjacent to a similar establishment and the owner/farmer is prepared to provide a suitable route, funding would be considered, even if the land was not in a stewardship scheme.
3. All highway authorities, even the smallest in terms or area should be provided with a reasonable sum of money to enable them to create an easy access permissive route of at least 1000 metres. The easy access site permissive agreement should run for 10 years . The route literature provided for these routes should be in accordance with Countryside for All standards. The LAFs should be responsible for awarding permissive route status. The Highway authority should assist in promoting the routes. DEFRA/Natural England should make the payments to the farmers/landowners for these routes.

NATURAL ENGLAND LIST OF HLS SITES
SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Location	Number of Sites in 2012	Number of Sites in 2013	YEAR GRANT SUBSIDY ENDS							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bath & NE Somerset	0	0								
Bedfordshire	0	0								
Berkshire	0	0								
Buckinghamshire	0	0								
Cambridgeshire	0	0								
Cheshire	3	3	1							2
City of Bristol	0	0								
Cleveland	0	0								
Cornwall	1	1						1		
Cumbria	6	5	1	1		2			1	
Derbyshire	0	0								
Devon	4	3		1		1				1
Dorset	0	0								
Durham	4	3					2		1	
East Riding	0	0								
East Sussex	1	1								1
Essex *	1	1								1
Gloucestershire	0	0								
Greater Manchester	0	0								
Hampshire	0	0								
Herefordshire	2	0								
Hertfordshire	6	6						6		
Isle of Wight	0	0								
Isle of Scilly	0	0								
Kent	3	2				1	1			
Lancashire	5	5	1	1		1	1			1
Leicestershire & Rutland	0	0								
Lincolnshire	6	6	1			1	1	1	2	
London	0	0								
Merseyside	0	0								
Norfolk	4	4		1		1		2		
North Somerset	1	1		1						
North Yorkshire	8	6					1	1	1	3
Northamptonshire	1	1					1			
Northumberland	5	5		2			1		1	1
Nottinghamshire	2	2		1						1
Oxfordshire	1	0								
Shropshire	2	2							1	1
Somerset	2	2	1							1
South Gloucestershire	0	0								
South Yorkshire	2	2		2						
Staffordshire	2	2	1							1

continued

HLS SITES SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Location	Number of Sites in 2012	Number of Sites in 2013	YEAR GRANT SUBSIDY ENDS							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Suffolk	1	1								1
Surrey	3	2				2				
Tyne & Wear	2	2		1					1	
Warwickshire	1	1		1						
West Midlands	1	1								1
West Sussex	0	0								
West Yorkshire	2	2								1
Wiltshire	1	1	1							
Worcestershire	2	2						1		1
TOTAL	85	75	7	12	0	9	9	12	8	18

* Essex previously had a site categorised incorrectly in 2012

LOST WAYS SUB-GROUP

Report by John Law for the Mid Lincs and South Lincs Local Access Forums (LAFs) Meetings on 19 and 20 January 2016

1. The Sub Group's Remit

Now the remit has been approved by both LAFs the Lost Ways Sub Group has a clear project definition.

2. The Process

The Sub Group has agreed on the checklist for researchers to follow. The method of prioritising routes to research has also been agreed and is displayed below:

- a. Possible Lost Ways
- b. Believed County Roads not identified as ORPAs on current OS mapping
- c. Dead-end routes on current definitive map
- d. Mixed-status routes on current definitive map
- e. Any other routes not publicly maintained.
- f. CSS Permissive Routes which would enhance the network Other Permissive Routes.
- g. Cycleways and ORPAs
- h. Existing DMMO Applications.
- i. Any route which is currently in public use, or of perceived public benefit which is threatened as a result of development of any type should be given a priority irrespective of its category as soon as the threat is apparent.

2. Lincolnshire Unrecorded Ways

Miriam (Mid Linc's) is in the process of pulling together data on anomalies, missing links, mapping errors and critical gaps for Lincolnshire. We are still hoping we can get someone interest in compiling all the Lincolnshire data into spreadsheet and mapping format as we have in Rutland.

3. Training

The British Horse Society (BHS) has provided training in lost ways. However the closest training was held at Kenilworth and this was not convenient for people living in Lincolnshire. The BHS appears to be prepared to deliver the training close to us but we do need to find a suitable free venue.

DOES THE LAF HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS WHERE THIS TRAINING COULD BE PROVIDED?

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Countryside For All

Report from John Law for the Mid-Lincs and South Lincs Local Access Forum meetings on 19 and 20 January 2016

Countryside For All routes

We are surveying 10 routes this financial year, six of the original routes and four new routes. Please see below for the current status of our progress:

4 Original routes available for artwork and printers

1 Original route (Chambers Farm Wood) deteriorated and requires funding to bring it up to standard. We are investigating funding opportunities, to bring the route back up to standard. If no funding is available this route will be excluded from the countryside for all pack.

1 Original route, Chapel Six Marshes, to be completed and available for artwork and printers January.

3 New routes, the Spa Trail Horncastle, Frampton Marsh and Hubbards Hills available for artwork and printers.

1 New route, Ashing Lane Nature Reserve, Nettleham, hoping to have available for artwork and the printers by the end of January.

Bourne Wood is one of the original routes which has been surveyed. Both Bourne Wood and Chambers Farm Wood are owned by the Forestry Commission.

Discussions will take place later in the year to ensure the Bourne Wood route is maintained to the correct standard.

Dementia Friendly Walks

The programme of walks is growing. There is an issue at Mablethorpe where there is a lack of attendance. A meeting is taking place with the Clinical Commissioning Group, the GP practice, the Patient Participation Group, Age UK, Magna Vitae, Alzheimer's Society and ourselves, to resolve this problem.

Choice Unlimited Event

Lincolnshire:

Choice Unlimited is an event which will help promote our countryside for all routes and the dementia friendly walks/strolls. We have organised a meeting with the CEO of LCiL which delivers the Choice Unlimited event. The meeting is to ensure the Lincoln event happens this year and to look at the possibility of launching other events around the County.

Current Funding Bids

Lincolnshire:

The Bromhead Medical funding application is attached to this report. The application included funding for:

- a) An Inclusive Countryside Access course for external organisations.
- b) Artwork and printing of four more countryside for All routes for 2016
- c) Fourteen walk leader training places. Of which seven are for East Lindsey and seven for West Lindsey.

Do we agree to allow the sub group to apply to other funding bodies for the dementia friendly walk leader training places?

Future Funding Bids

As funding is tight and getting tighter, with many chasing a smaller pot of money, the sub group need to look at other ways of attracting funding. The sub group requires clarification of whether they can draft speculative letters, for the LAF's approval, to be sent to businesses requesting funding. In some cases it may also be beneficial to write joint applications with other organisations which require funding for the same project. We need to know if this is permissible and if so whether the LAF is in agreement for the sub group to operate in this manner. If the above complies with the regulations the following votes are to take place:

Do we agree to allow the sub group to draft speculative letters for funding, for the LAF's approval and Chair's signature?

Do we agree to allow the sub group to write joint applications with other organisations to funders?

Budget implications on Health Walks and Dementia Friendly Walks

The Walks Forum meeting will have taken place 7th January. At this meeting it is expected we may know more about how the budget implications will affect the Health Walks and Dementia Friendly Strolls/Walks. A verbal update will be provided on the outcome of this meeting.

LAF Conference

Natural England has requested that we deliver a presentation/workshop on countryside for all at both the Leeds and Bristol event. We have declined this offer, but arranged with Natural England for Dementia Adventure to provide a half hour slot at both venues. Dementia Adventure is the organisation which provides the training for our dementia friendly strolls/walks.

2016 Lincolnshire Wolds Walking festival

The Wolds Walking Festival organisers have asked for a dementia friendly walk and a walk for the disabled to be included in the festival. Magna Vitae for East Lindsey are going to provide a dementia Friendly stroll/walk at Hubbards Hills. The disability sub group are organising the walk for the disabled at Chambers Farm Wood. This walk is suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooter and will start at 2pm Tuesday 31st May. Any additional help from members of the LAF will be greatly appreciated. Please let John Law know if you will be able to assist at this event.

Clinical Commissioning Groups

A meeting has been arranged with the East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG to explain what we are doing in terms of countryside for all routes and dementia friendly walks. The CCG will also be asked about funding streams for both of these projects.

Dementia Action Alliance

A presentation will be delivered by the sub group in February to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Dementia Action Alliance. This will focus on how we are delivering the dementia friendly walks in Lincolnshire and how we aim to increase the walks programme in Lincolnshire and develop a programme for Rutland. The aim is to see if we can discover any other funding streams for ourselves and also encourage Leicester and Leicestershire to create a dementia friendly walks programme.

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**BROMHEAD
MEDICAL CHARITY**

**Application Form for
Bromhead Lincolnshire Healthcare Fund 2016**

Applicants should read "Bromhead Lincolnshire Healthcare Fund 2016, Guidance notes" to assist in the completion of this application.

Name of Organisation : South Lincolnshire & Rutland Local Access Forum (LAF)

Name of Applicant : John Law

Role in Organisation : Vice Chairman

Address for Correspondence : 35 The Leys
Countesthorpe
Leicester
LE8 5PJ

Telephone number : 0116 2477176

Email : john.law_32@yahoo.co.uk

Status of Organisation

(eg Registered Charity, Unincorporated Association, Friendly Society) : The LAF is an independent statutory body, set up as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 and exists to represent the interests of everyone concerned with access to the countryside.

Have you applied elsewhere for funding for this same project? (give details) :

NO

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Information about the Proposed Project/Spending

Title : Inclusive countryside access for all

What sum are you requesting?

£ (Max £5,000)
3953.10 inc. VAT

What is the total cost of the Project/Activity?

3953.10 inc. VAT

Further Financial details should be included in the following section.

Please describe the Project or Group for which you are requesting a grant. (include as much information as possible, including any financial information, business plans, etc – existing documents can be appended to this application form)

South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF have created a disability sub group with the Mid Lincolnshire LAF. The aim is to improve access to the countryside for the disabled. We have undertaken a number of successful projects which include:

- a) Obtaining funding to deliver an inclusive countryside access course.
- b) Auditing accessible countryside routes and obtaining funding for design and printing of the routes.
- c) Obtaining funding to deliver dementia friendly walk leader training in Lincolnshire.

We are now looking for further funding to help improve the lives of the people in Lincolnshire with disabilities and their carers. Following feedback from our completed projects, it is clear that we need to provide more choices and more walks from different locations. If this application is successful we will be able to achieve this. This project uses the projects displayed above to deliver a better Lincolnshire for people with disabilities and their carers as identified below.

Inclusive countryside access course.

This was previously delivered to a number of external organisations. The result of this is the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust has audited a route for inclusive access at their Rutland Water Nature Reserve. The Woodland Trust is also planning to carry out similar audits for routes in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland in the future. We now have had further interest from the RSPB in Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Boston Woods Trust and the Forestry Commission in Lincolnshire. Providing these organisations with training should ensure more accessible countryside for all routes are developed and route literature provided in the countryside for all format. This is a one day course delivered by a professional trainer. The total cost of this course is £446.70 (see appendix A for details).

Auditing accessible countryside routes and obtaining funding for design and printing of the routes.

The route literature provides factual information to enable people with disabilities to make a judgement on whether the route is suitable for them. Current routes in Lincolnshire are displayed at <http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside/visiting-the-countryside/countryside-for-all/> if you click on the location on the map you will see an example of a route. There are a further four routes being prepared which will be completed and printed March 2016. We require funding to produce route literature for a further four routes by the end of 2016. The total cost of four routes including VAT is £1574.40 (see appendix A for details).

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Dementia friendly walks in Lincolnshire.

Natural England's Greening Dementia Project displays positive outcomes from people with dementia experiencing the Natural Environment (as shown in appendix A attached). This is proof that dementia friendly walks are beneficial to people with dementia and their carers. We previously obtained funding to deliver dementia friendly walk leader training in Lincolnshire. The training was provided by Dementia Adventure. We now have approximately 50 walk leaders trained. The walk leaders are providing regular sensory strolls for people with dementia and their carers from 10 locations across Lincolnshire. Examples of what we are trying to achieve can be seen in the following clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9-LiP66tl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2U3aahx5nE>

East Lindsey district through Magna Vitae provide three walks per week from different locations in the district. West Lindsey district launched a monthly dementia friendly stroll 1st December at Gainsborough and wish to increase the frequency of these strolls. They also are aiming to provide a programme of dementia friendly strolls from Market Rasen. Both East and West Lindsey require additional walk leaders to be trained. Fourteen trained walk leaders will enable both districts to deliver these improvements. The districts will be supplying match funding by providing the walk leader training aspect of the dementia friendly walk leader training and the training venue free of charge. The total cost of the training including VAT is £1932.00 (see appendix A for details).

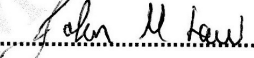
Summary

All aspects of this project are aimed at improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and their carers.

What are the likely timescales of the Project/Activity? : Dementia friendly walk leader training completed by May 2016, inclusive countryside access course completed by June 2016, countryside for all routes printed by December 2016.

Please indicate how your proposed Project/Activity meets the Objects of Bromhead Medical Charity : The inclusive countryside access course and creation of countryside for all route literature will enable more people with disabilities to access the countryside. Natural England has provided evidence that access to the countryside improves peoples health and general well being. Increasing the number of dementia friendly strolls will help not only those with dementia but their carers as well. The Natural England Greening Dementia project displays positive outcomes from people with dementia experiencing the Natural Environment as shown in Appendix A attached.

I/We apply to the Bromhead Medical Charity for funds to be used only for the Project/Activity detailed above and will be spent in 2016. To the best of my/our knowledge and belief all information provided in this application is true and accurate.

Signed 

Date 24 / 12 / 15

Name in block capitals: JOHN M LAW

For and on behalf of:

Councillor Ray Wootten, Chairman of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum

Please return completed form to:
Bromhead Medical Charity, 20 Craypool Lane, Scothern, Lincoln, LN2 2UU
Telephone: 01673 861412 Email: bromheadmedical@aol.com
Charity Registration No 511893 Company Registration No 1566912

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APPENDIX A

EXTRACT FROM NATURAL ENGLAND'S GREENING DEMENTIA PROJECT

The Natural England's Greening Dementia Project displays a collection of evidence, showing positive outcomes from people with dementia experiencing the Natural Environment which include:

- Improved emotional state: reduced stress, agitation, anger, apathy and depression
- Improved physical health: skin health, fitness, sleeping patterns, eating patterns
- Improved verbal expression
- Improved memory and attention
- Improved awareness: multi-sensory engagement and joy
- Improved sense of well-being, independence, self-esteem and control
- Improved social interaction and a sense of belonging

Carers of people with dementia suffer from stress and isolation. Providing the sensory strolls also delivers respite for the carers and enables them to socialise with people.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

	£
<u>Inclusive countryside access course.</u>	
One days training	300.00
Travelling and Admin Time (3.5 hours at £25 per hour)	87.50
Travel expenses (148 miles at £0.40 per mile)	59.20
<u>Auditing accessible countryside routes and obtaining funding for design and printing of the routes.</u>	
Art and design work	625.00
Printing 3000 leaflets	687.00
VAT @ 20%	262.40
<u>Dementia friendly walks in Lincolnshire.</u>	
One days training for 14 delegates (£ 115 per person)	1610.00
VAT @ 20%	322.00
Total funding required inclusive of VAT £3953.10	
Total VAT included above £ 584.40	

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North East Lincolnshire ROWIP Objectives

NELC ROWIP Key Action	Project Details	Comments	Update
KA08, KA11 & KA13	Safer Road Crossings	Joint partnership project with road safety team to improve exit points onto busy A road and installation of information promotional boards.	Work is continuing in partnership with colleagues in our Road Safety team to look at solutions regarding FP21 Stallingborough which currently requires users to cross a busy interchange, particularly having regard to the increased traffic flows that will occur on completion of the new A18/A180 link road scheme. Furthermore, the determination of the Variation Order affecting BW91 Ashby Cum Fenby will hopefully provide a positive outcome to relocate the exit/entry point of this bridleway onto the A18 Barton Street.
KA5, KA9, KA11 & KA13	Strategic Urban Path Improvement Plan	Project to deliver surface upgrades to existing well used paths in the urban area.	Path surface improvements have been undertaken to FP90 Ashby Cum Fenby and to Bradley BW165 to address issues of surface erosion. Plans are now underway to address BW80 Brigsley, Stallingborough FP21 and East Ravendale BW168 for improvements relating to similar issues
KA01 & KA03	Reinstatement of FP72	Ongoing legal issues to determine accurate line of FP72 requiring amendment to Definitive Map and reinstatement of path on the ground.	Planning Committee have recently approved officers recommendation to enforce the line of FP72.
KA1, KA2, KA3 & KA4	Definitive Map Issues	Address legal deficiencies with a view to eventually producing an up to date Consolidation Map.	Process to produce new Consolidated Definitive Map for the North East Lincolnshire area is currently underway. Current Definitive Map has a relevant date of June 1953. Consolidating the Def Map will take into account recent resolution of over 110 Legal Orders during the last year.
KA4 & KA5	Policy Development	Produce & develop policies under which the Authority will deal with specific issues.	'Gaps, gates and stiles' protocol has now been approved and adopted to address unnecessary limitations upon the network and formalise the application process for landowners for new furniture.
	Grimsby Bridleway Project	Scheme to address lack of bridle links from rural villages to urban area.	A project has recently commenced that is looking to create a bridle link to the urban area, using publicly accessible land alongside the River Freshney.

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North East Lincolnshire DMMO's (Definitive Map Modification Orders)

Ref Number	Parish	Location	Effect of Application	Date of Application	Progress Notes
DMMO 3	Grimsby	Humberston Road to Weelsby Woods	Claimed Footpath	20/10/03	Discussions with the developer of this land have been positive and an outline Planning application has recently been submitted that will provide for the claimed route within the site.
DMMO 6	Cleethorpes	New Clee Sidings (Fuller Street Bridge to Salvesen Road)	Footpath and Restricted Byway	20/03/08	A new DMMO was made and advertised during November/December, resulting in one objection from ABP which was to be expected. The opposed Order will now be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.
DMMO 7	Grimsby	Vicarage Gardens/Compton Drive to Bargate	Claimed Footpath	18/03/08	Original claim submitted after landowner planned to lock Kissing Gate at centre of path to restrict access and improve security of Vicarage Gardens. Elderly Vicarage Gardens residents objected due to length of alternative route. Have written to certain providers of evidence forms to arrange meeting to take witness statements. No responses received.
DMMO 8	Grimsby	Macaulay Lane to Newhaven Terrace	Claimed Footpath	17/04/08	Development of the Country Park has almost completed, which includes the provision of a footpath along claimed line. Legal dedication of the path will be arranged in due course to legalise path as Public Footpath which will resolve claim.
DMMO 9	Grimsby	Ferriby Lane to Bradley	Claimed Bridleway	17/05/08	Discussions have commenced with landowners and developers to arrange Dedication agreements to legalise the claimed route, which has been accepted by and provided for by them on the ground during the ongoing Scartho Top development.

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North East Lincolnshire Public Path Orders

Ref No.	Location & Path No.	Type of Order	Self Initiated or Application	Progress Notes
PPO 4	Waltham FP72	HA s119	Self initiated	Planning Committee have recently approved officers recommendation to enforce the line of FP72.
PPO 14	Ashby Cum Fenby BW91	HA s119	Self initiated	The opposed variation Order currently rests with the Secretary of State who has instructed a hearing to take place on 9th February 2016.
PPO 15	Stallingborough FP21	HA s118 & s26	Self initiated	The Orders have been referred back to Committee to be formally withdrawn following the discovery of a technical error in the wording. Officers are now considering possible alternatives to the diversion route in light of the number of objections received during the consultation period.
PPO 16	Humberston FP52	HA s119	Self initiated	Diversion order to be made to relocate and reinstate this path which has been unavailable for some time.
PPO17	South Killingholme FP94	HA s119	Initiated by North Lincs Council	Application made by landowner to divert most of FP94 over the County Boundary into North East Lincolnshire on the grounds that it is necessary to combat issues of crime and antisocial behaviour.

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