

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy**

Report to:	<b>Environmental Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>31<sup>st</sup> July 2015</b>
Subject:	<b>Countryside Access</b>

**Summary:** A report to outline the role and duties of Lincolnshire County Council in Countryside Access Work.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is asked to comment on the issues detailed in the report.

## 1. Background

Countryside Access includes all County Council involvement in public rights of way (PROW) work inclusive of, maintenance, enforcement and the custodianship and maintenance of the Definitive Map & Statement as well as leading on access to open countryside and acting as the appointing authority for Local Access Forums.

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- **Maintenance & Enforcement of Public Rights of Way (PROW)**

- Public Footpath (PF) – Pedestrian only (with natural accompaniment such as a dog, pushchair etc.)
- Public Bridleway (PB) – Pedestrian, Equestrian and Cyclists
- Restricted Byway (RB) – As Bridleway but also with horse drawn carriages.
- Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) – All classes of vehicles

All PROW are public highways and in its capacity as highway authority the County Council has a duty to sign, maintain, assert and protect public rights of way.

Enforcement of PROW is undertaken by officers based locally around the County and will normally include ensuring routes are reinstated after ploughing, that they remain unobstructed by crops or by structures such as fences, barbed wire or

locked gates. LCC has a specific Enforcement Policy to deal with the most common forms of action required.

Grass Cutting is undertaken on a selection of paths twice a year and on an ad hoc basis for other paths as time and resources allow.

Bridges are generally the responsibility of the authority. This is a significant cost pressure as many bridges were installed in a period 20-40 years ago and, as a consequence of being predominantly of a timber construction, are beginning to fail. There are approximately 900 bridges over 5m in length across the County.

Gates and stiles are usually the responsibility of the owner / occupier of a field. The County Council cannot authorise new stiles or gates unless they are required for the control of animals on agricultural land. We are responsible for 25% of the cost of installation and maintenance and policy for many years is that we will provide the materials as our one-off contribution in this regard.

To enable appropriate management of resources the Council operates a priority policy for reports of required maintenance or enforcement on PROW. A copy of the scheme is shown in Appendix A.

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- **The Definitive Map & Statement**

These two documents form the legal record of public rights of way in the County and routes shown upon it provides legally conclusive evidence of the existence of those rights.

Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) - In its role as Surveying Authority the County Council must keep the Map & Statement under continuous review either following the submission of an application and evidence from the public that:

- 1) There is a route not depicted that should be, or
- 2) There is a route depicted that shouldn't be, or
- 3) A route that is depicted is shown at the wrong status, or
- 4) There is an error in the Statement accompanying the Map that requires amending (e.g. wrong width recorded)

Following analysis of evidence and consultation the Council believes the Map and / or Statement requires amending then a DMMO is made. Evidence could include historic documentation and maps and / or sufficient evidence that the public have been using a route for a period of 20 or more years.

Similarly should the County Council itself discover evidence that the map requires correcting then a DMMO should be made.

Should an order be unopposed following public consultation the requisite alterations to the Definitive Map & Statement are made. If objections are submitted then the Council is obliged to send the order to the Secretary of State who will, in most cases, require a public inquiry prior to issuing a determination on the order.

Public Path Orders (PPOs) – This is the collective name for a range of orders to alter the map.

- 1) Diversion Orders - Including special orders for land used for Railways, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Schools and where planning permission has been sought / granted.
- 2) Extinguishment Orders - Can only be made where it is demonstrated that a right of way is no longer necessary.
- 3) Creation Orders – Where a need can be demonstrated and usually used where there is no known landowner. Can be used to create routes against a landowners will if it is deemed necessary.
- 4) Creation / Dedication Agreements – Where a landowner specifically dedicates a route for public use.

Similarly to DMMOs if a PPO is objected to during statutory consultation it can only be then confirmed by the Secretary of State. Unlike DMMOs however the County Council are not obliged to submit them.

Statutory Declarations – A landowner can protect themselves against a claim for presumed dedication over a 20 yr period by filing a Statutory Declaration with the authority. The Countryside Access team processes these at a rechargeable cost.

Permissive Paths – Whilst the Council has no obligations or control over such paths they can have a significant benefit in connecting legal rights of way to form recreational routes.

Deregulation Act 2015 – The County Council faces a significant change in the way that definitive map work is undertaken following the recent passing of legislation. As yet the associated regulations have not been written and the Act has not come into force. Some of the stipulations of the Act (concerning PROW) are listed as:

- Drawing to close the opportunity to apply to have routes added to the Definitive Map and Statement based purely on historical documentation – This may see a significant spike in applications between now and the given cut-off date of 2026.
- A new system of processing DMMOs to assist in making them less adversarial – This will require extra input from the authority however there should be a saving by allowing authorities to disregard "irrelevant objections" (i.e. those that do not challenge the evidence but concern security, need and amenity).

- A "right to apply" for a PPO – Currently the authority is not obliged to accept applications to divert or extinguish PROW and has no need to provide reasons why an order will not be pursued. It should be remembered that this new legislation will be a right to apply but not a right to have an order or for any order to be confirmed.
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- **The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)**

The ROWIP is a statutory document prepared by each highway authority across England & Wales. It is designed to act as a business plan policy document for a period of no more than 10 years prior to review.

Lincolnshire won the national award for the authority conducting the best community engagement during the period of assessing the existing PROW network and public "need".

The ROWIP guides what improvements LCC would like to make to the network in terms of route alignment, maintenance, promotion and access to the network itself. It is written under 5 policy areas:

- Core Tasks
- Sustainable Transport
- Health & Wellbeing
- Rural Economy & Tourism
- Social Issues

Lincolnshire's ROWIP was published in 2007 and was designed to be reviewed in 2012. Due to the ongoing uncertainty this has been extended and a document based on a more limited needs and network assessment will be submitted to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee for adoption as ROWIP2 later in 2015.

A recent report as to the progress of works and projects contributing to the ROWIP can be found in Appendix B.

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- **Open Access Land**

This is often mis-named the "Right to Roam" whereas in fact the legislation actually grants access on foot to specifically mapped areas of mountain, moorland, downland and heath as well as any land subsequently dedicated as access land and Registered Common Land.

For a County with the geographic size of Lincolnshire there is actually very little Open Access Land with the full list of areas being small in size:

Mountain, Moorland, Downland, Heath

- Alma Park
- Ancaster Valley
- Scotton Common
- Greetwell Hollow
- Kirkby Moor
- Red Hill
- Scotton Beck Fields
- Swinstead Valley
- Woodnook Valley

#### Subsequently Dedicated Land

- The Forestry Commission Estate in Lincolnshire

#### Registered Common Land

- Many small pockets of land in villages across the County
- Cow Paddle – Lincoln
- Lincoln South Common
- Lincoln West Common

The County Council has an Open Access Land Management Plan which outlines our responsibilities to provide signage for the areas and what works we will do to ensure the public can access the land.

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#### • **Coastal Access Land**

Following the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a further element of Open Access Land was added to the list to include an around England right of way on foot with associated "spreading room" This is commonly known as the English Coastal Path.

The Countryside Access section will be working with Natural England on the implementation of the path in Lincolnshire. Following the then Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's announcement in 2014 that the implementation programme was to be accelerated, the initial start-up meeting with Natural England for the stretches from the Norfolk county boundary to Skegness and from Skegness to Donna Nook took place on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

Once finalised and having worked through the statutory process the route will become Lincolnshire's only National Trail.

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#### • **Picnic Sites & Coastal Access Sites**

The Countryside Access Section also manages specific areas of land given over to be picnic sites (with our without an associated concession for selling food and drink) and areas that serve as access onto the coastline, usually small car parking areas.

## Picnic Sites

- Willingham Woods (With Toilets & Concessions)
- Tattershall (With Toilets & Concessions)
- Legbourne (With Toilets)
- Stickney
- Sutton Bridge
- Scampton Viewpoint

## Coastal Access Sites

- Anderby Creek Car Park and Toilets
- Chapel St Leonards Car Park, Picnic Area and Toilets
- Freiston Shore Car Park
- Huttoft Car Parks & Toilets
- Huttoft Mogg`s Eye Car Park
- Marsh Yard Car Park,
- Theddlethorpe St Helen, Crook Bank Car Park

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### • **Local Access Forums**

The Countryside Access Forum is also responsible for the administration, organisation and appointments to the County's two joint local access forums (JLAFs):

- Mid-Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum (with Northeast Lincolnshire Council)
- South Lincolnshire and Rutland Joint Local Access Forum (with Rutland County Council)

The County Council has a statutory duty to consider the opinions of the JLAFS when undertaking projects or other access related work. The JLAFs meet quarterly and LCC is represented by two councillors on each forum. Cllrs McNally and Hoyes on the Mid-Lincs JLAF and Cllrs Wootton and Brailsford on the South Lincs and Rutland JLAF.

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### • **Volunteer Management**

Following a reduction in resources following the previous "Core Offer" for Highways work it became more important to "work differently".

As a consequence we now engage with volunteers in three specific areas:

- Ramblers – The County Council now uses the Ramblers to undertake the "snapshot survey" of 10% of the County's network which used to be carried

out as a national Best Value Performance Indicator as to the state of the network. The most recent results are shown in the table below:

Rights Of Way - LTP 16 Indicator (BVP1178 until 2008/2009)										
<i>Definition: Percentage, by length, of the ROW network that is easy to use.</i>										
Last Updated: 20/07/2015										
Month of Survey	Year of Survey									
	2001/2002 5% by length	2002/2003 5% by length	2003/2004 5% by length	2004/2005 5% by length	2005/2006 10% by length	2006/2007 10% by length	2007/2008 10% by length	2008/2009 10% by length	2009/2010 10% by length	2010/2011 10% by length
May	No Survey (foot & month)	52.16	54.48	62.82	74.45	82.07	63.91	68.73	74.72	72.6
November	59.06	64.18	74.68	56.25	75.59	63.94	75.25	68.64	74.14	76.41
<b>Overall Annual Spot Score</b>	<b>59.06</b>	<b>57.80</b>	<b>64.50</b>	<b>59.82</b>	<b>75.02</b>	<b>73.01</b>	<b>69.65</b>	<b>68.68</b>	<b>74.43</b>	<b>74.51</b>
<b>4 yr Average Score</b>				<b>60.30</b>	<b>64.29</b>	<b>68.08</b>	<b>69.45</b>	<b>71.59</b>	<b>71.44</b>	<b>71.82</b>
<b>P.S.A Target</b>		<b>Baseline</b>	<b>64.40%</b>	<b>70.80%</b>	<b>77.80%</b>					
<b>LTP2 Local Indicator Target</b>	spot score					<b>76.00%</b>	<b>77.00%</b>	<b>77.00%</b>		
<b>Spot Score Required to meet 4yr Ave. Target</b>									<b>72.66</b>	<b>71.24</b>
<b>LTP2 Local Indicator Target</b>	4yr average								<b>71%</b>	<b>71%</b>

  

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<i>Definition: Percentage, by length, of the ROW network that is easy to use.</i>										
Last Updated: 20/07/2015										
Month of Survey	Year of Survey									
			2011/2012 10% by length	2012/2013 10% by length	2013/2014 10% by length	2014/2015 10% by length	2015/2016 10% by length	2016/2017 10% by length	2017/2018 10% by length	2018/2019 10% by length
May			82.76	62.21	73.88	59.59	69.01			
November			71.73	60.8	70.09	67.69				
<b>Overall Annual</b>			<b>77.25</b>	<b>61.51</b>	<b>71.99</b>	<b>63.64</b>	<b>34.51</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>4 yr Average Score</b>			<b>73.72</b>	<b>71.93</b>	<b>71.32</b>	<b>68.60</b>	<b>57.91</b>	<b>42.53</b>	<b>24.54</b>	<b>8.63</b>
<b>Spot Score Required to meet 4yr Ave. Target</b>			<b>66.38%</b>	<b>61.81%</b>						
<b>LTP2 Local Indicator</b>	4yr average		<b>71%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>72%</b>					

- Parish Paths Partnership (P3) – Since 1995 The County Council has run a parish assistance scheme whereby parish councils can bid for grant money to enable them to take greater ownership of their PROW networks. Works undertaken vary from minor improvements to structures such as stiles and gates to the provision of map boards and promotional literature.

Countryside Commission (now Natural England) funding ceased in 2000 and the Council has been the sole funder for the grants since. Officers are increasingly finding that the annual grant requests are predominantly for grass cutting in the summer months.

- County Volunteers – In addition to the work done with Ramblers the Council also has a scheme for individual members of the public where inspections are undertaken on an annual basis around the County by a group of dedicated volunteers. There is now just over 100 registered volunteers who will inspect routes for faults and, if possible, undertake minor works such as waymarking and small scale vegetation clearance themselves.

MONTH	VOLUNTEER HOURS
January	92.75
February	89.25
March	105
April	88.25
May	133.25
June	107.5

Total for 6 months	616 hours
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## 2. Conclusion

## 3. Consultation

### a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	PROW – Path Priority Scheme
Appendix B	PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

## 5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed

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**PATH PRIORITY**

<b>Priority 1</b>	Routes actively promoted by Lincolnshire County Council (e.g. Viking Way, Bridle Trails, Recreational Walk Routes)
<b>Priority 2</b>	Routes that are known to be well used, predominantly close to settlements <u>or</u> routes promoted by other bodies and specifically endorsed by Lincolnshire County Council
<b>Priority 3</b>	All other available routes.
<b>Priority 4</b>	Routes that could only be made available by the significant investment of capital resources or requiring extensive legal work to resolve alignments and obstructions.

**SERVICE STANDARDS – TIMESCALES FOR RESOLUTION**

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Rights of Way Act Infringements (Ploughing &amp; Cropping)</b>	<b>Grass Cutting &amp; Vegetation Clearance (Subject to cyclical programme)</b>	<b>Path Furniture Repair and Minor Obstructions</b>	<b>New or Replacement Bridges</b>	<b>Essential Surfacing Works</b>
<b>1</b>	3 Months	2 Months	3 Months	Subject to size, location and resource availability	Works Subject to Finance and Availability of Workforce
<b>2</b>	4 Months	2 Months	6 Months		
<b>3</b>	Works Subject to Finance and Availability of Workforce				
<b>4</b>	Works only to be undertaken when major issues are resolved.				
<b>Any report which is a Health and Safety consideration will be dealt with in a timescale dependent on an appropriate risk analysis</b>					

## **Progress Report**

**Network Management-** The highway divisions have continued to make general improvements through improved maintenance and enforcement works. In the period April 2007 to March 2015 these have included;

- 1,031 stiles provided or repaired,
- 1,889 new roadside signs,
- 2,297 routes waymarked,
- 651 gates provided or repaired,
- 424 new or improved bridges,
- 333 stiles replaced with kissing gates,
- 260 stiles removed.

**Improvement Schemes** – Work has now commenced of the 2015/16 improvement programme. Schemes have again been focussed on routes in urban areas and on the urban fringe, routes in the region of countryside heritage sites and promoted routes. This year improvement works will also target the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park area.

Improvement schemes are currently being prepared at Market Deeping, Foston, Legsby and Chapel St Leonards.

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

**Review of Statement of Action**

**Core Tasks**

Ref	Action	Target date	Work Undertaken	Level of Completion
CT1	Review the Definitive Map Modification Order Priorities Policy and Public Path Order Policies in line with the RoWIP, to give a potentially higher priority to key routes that will improve or increase access.	2008	-Comprehensive review of DMMO policy completed in 2010. -PPO policy reviewed 2010.	Completed
CT2	Review the current Path Priority System for the maintenance and enforcement of PROW	2008	Path Priority System maintained under review.	Completed
CT3	Review Maintenance and Enforcement Policies for PROW and publicise to farmers, landowners and the public	2008 – 2009	Draft Enforcement Manual completed.	Partially Complete
CT4	Review current Parish Paths Partnership scheme and explore new ways to increase community involvement	2008	Review of parish paths partnership scheme completed in autumn 2009.	Completed
CT5	Undertake whole network condition survey	Complete by 2010	Survey complete – undertaken through the proactive inspection regime which ensures all paths receive an inspection at least once in a three year period.	Completed
CT6	Seek opportunities to reduce the number of unnecessary stiles and barriers on the PROW network	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	260 unnecessary stiles and barriers removed and 333 stiles replaced with kissing gates.  Promoted routes surveyed to identify unnecessary stiles and barriers.	Completed
CT7	Continue to fully sign and waymark the PROW network	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	1,889 new roadside fingerposts installed either in new locations or to replace those in poor condition in addition 2,297 paths waymarked.	Completed

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

			Promoted routes surveyed to identify routes requiring signing or waymarking.	
CT8	Continue the annual programme of vegetation clearance on PROW	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Additional paths added to the schedule during ROWIP implementation years 1 - 4 as necessary and in line with improvement schemes and the development of new promoted routes. Austerity measures resulted in the re-examination of vegetation cutting schedule during implementation year 5.	Completed
CT9	Continue to ensure that the public has access to designated areas of Open Country and Registered Common Land under CROW Act 2000	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Access Land Management Plan reviewed.</li> <li>-Access land inspection regime introduced.</li> <li>-Interpretative panels installed at South and West Commons in Lincoln.</li> <li>-Woodnook Valley, Grantham – Access controls and signage installed.</li> <li>-Lincoln Commons leaflets published.</li> </ul>	Completed
CT10	Continue to provide information and promote wider use of the PROW Network	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Promotion of the network through various media including the LCC website, County News, local and national press and GP and community magazines.</p> <p>Searchable database of leaflets now available on the LCC Countryside website.</p> <p>46 Lincolnshire Walks Leaflets have been published (since Apr 07)</p> <p>8 Lincolnshire Cycling Leaflets have been published (since Apr 07)</p>	Completed

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

			<p>Outdoor Guide produced (Lincolnshire Tourism)</p> <p>Visitor Guide produced (Lincolnshire Tourism)</p> <p>15 walking discovery packs produced with Lincs Tourism - 2009</p> <p>12 'Countryside for All' walks produced.</p> <p>'Walk more in Lincolnshire' produced in association with stakeholder groups.</p> <p>'Countryside Access' education pack produced.</p> <p>LCC Countryside microsite redesigned.</p> <p>Revised Countryside Code promoted on LCC web site.</p> <p>Walks Leaflets produced for the Poacher Line.</p> <p>4 Bus Walks produced for the Lincoln area.</p>	
CT11	Develop longer distance routes and trails	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Viking Way – Review provisionally planned for 2015.</p> <p>Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 given Royal Assent. No further action required at this time.</p> <p>Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spires &amp; Steeples Trail now launched.</li> <li>• Lindsey Trail –completed.</li> </ul>	Partially Complete

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

			<p>Macmillan Way – Programme of infrastructure improvements undertaken around Boston and Surfleet.</p> <p>Save the Children walk – Assistance provided in route development.</p>	
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**Sustainable Transport**

Ref	Action	Target date	Work Undertaken	Level of Completion
SOA1	Identify and improve off road routes linking communities with schools, employment centres and local services	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Comments submitted regarding reviews of Community Travel Zones for Lincoln and Louth.</p> <p>Targeted improvements implemented on the following routes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Claxby BOAT 753 – Improvement works</li> <li>2. Lincoln PF No. 3 – Improvement works to increase accessibility to pushchairs.</li> <li>3. Louth PF No. 11 – Improvement works to increase accessibility to school.</li> <li>4. Crowland PF No. 6 – Surface improvement works undertaken at Wheatsheaf Yard.</li> <li>5. North Somercotes PF No. 30 – Surface improvements works undertaken on village path.</li> <li>6. Goulceby PF No. 25 – Surface improvement works undertaken on village path.</li> <li>7. Wainfleet St Mary PF No. 323 – Access improvement works undertaken on village path</li> </ol>	Completed

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

		<p>in conjunction with parish council.</p> <p>8. Branston PF No. 14 – Seating installed on village path.</p> <p>9. Tattershall PF Nos. 222 and 225 – Footpath connecting Tattershall village and Tattershall castle upgraded to full accessibility standard.</p> <p>10. Market Rasen PF No. 167 – Surface improvements.</p> <p>11. Doddington PF No. 8 – Surface improvements.</p> <p>12. Skellingthorpe PB No. 3a – Surface improvements.</p> <p>13. Skegness PF 297 (Vine Walk) – Surface Improvements.</p> <p>14. Horncastle PF 76 - Surface Improvements.</p> <p>15. Lincoln PF 60 – Surface improvement works undertaken between Doddington Road and Hartsholme Country Park.</p> <p>16. Saxilby PF 204 – Surface improvements.</p> <p>17. Holton le Clay PF 1 – Surface improvements.</p> <p>18. North Somercotes PF 32 – Surface improvement works School Lane to Warren Road.</p> <p>19. Scotton PF 4 – Surface improvements.</p> <p>20. Quadring PF 5 – Bridge upgraded between village and primary school.</p> <p>21. Boston PF1 – Bridge upgrading works.</p> <p>22. Horncastle PF80 – Resurfacing works.</p> <p>23. Glentham PF 844 – Resurfacing and revetment works.</p> <p>24. Market Rasen PF 162 – Resurfacing works.</p> <p>25. Conningsby PF 224 – Resurfacing works.</p> <p>26. Skegness PF 307 – Surfacing works.</p>	
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Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

		<p>27. Upton PF 50 – Surfacing works.                  28. Gedney PF 15 – Surfacing and revetment works.                  29. Sleaford PF 17 – Surface improvements                  30. Skellingthorpe PF No. 15 –Surface improvements                  31. Wellingore PF 5 – Surface Improvements                  32. Nocton PF 10 – Surface Improvements                  33. Reepham PF 131 – Culvert Improvements                  34. Waddingham PF 72 – Surface Improvements                  35. Walesby Byway 524 – Surface Improvements                  36. Lincoln PF 11 – Surface Improvements                  37. Bourne PF 1 – Surface Improvements                  38. Saxby PF 9 – Bridge Upgrading                  39. Market Rasen PF 163 – Surface Improvements                  40. Grasby PF 49 - Surface Improvements                  41. Trusthorpe PF 863 – Surface Improvements                  42. Trusthorpe PF 816 – Surface Improvements                  43. Sleaford PF 948 – Surface Improvements                  44. Lincoln PF60 – Surface Improvements                  45. Skellingthorpe PB 3 – Surface Improvements                  46. Waddington PF 3– Surface Improvements                  47. Claxby PF 107 - Surface Improvements                  48. Barrowby PF 7 - Surface Improvements                  49. Grantham PF 12 - Surface Improvements                  50. Mablethorpe PF 317 - Surface Improvements                  51. Grantham PF 18 - Surface Improvements</p>	
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Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

			<p>52. Colsterworth PF 20 – Surface Improvements                      53. Welton PF 169 – Surface Improvements                      54. Scothern PF 153 – Surface Improvements                      55. Skegness PF 318 – Surface Improvements                      56. Folkingham PF 17 –Surface Improvements                      57. M Deeping PF 2 –Surface Improvements                      58. Nettleham PF 145 –Surface Improvements                      59. Lincoln PF 62 – Surface Improvements</p> <p>Additional small scale works undertaken at various locations by LCC highway divisions.</p>	
SOA2	Improve enforcement and management of urban rights of way to combat litter, fly tipping and dog fouling	2011	<p>LCC Divisions and Borough Councils contacted regarding issues of flytipping on public rights of way to highlight areas experiencing excessive flytipping.</p> <p>Borough Councils contacted to clarify protocols for dealing with dog fouling on public rights of way</p>	Completed
SOA3	Seek improvements for non-motorised travel in proposals for new developments. Schemes funded through developer contributions	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Regular liaison takes place with planning authorities to ensure that maximum public benefits are realised.</p> <p>Comments are submitted on planning applications as they arise.</p> <p>Comments submitted to:                      -Stamford – Newstead Development Proposals consultation.                      -Lincoln Eastern Bypass                      -Grantham Southern Quadrant Relief Road</p>	Completed

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

SOA4	Develop walking and cycling from public transport interchanges	2011	<p>Railway walks leaflets produced from Poacher Line stations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Heckington to Sleaford</li> <li>2. Ancaster to Sleaford.</li> <li>3. Skegness to Wainfleet.</li> <li>4. Metheringham</li> </ol> <p>Information included in Getting Around Lincolnshire (Lincs CC)</p> <p>Walking and cycling details included on all new (LCC) bus and train guides.</p> <p>Lincolnshire Walks information displayed at selected bus stops locations.</p>	Completed
SOA5	Promote use of public transport on leaflets and website	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Public transport promoted on publications and web site.</p> <p>Information is added to promotional material (ie Lincolnshire Walks.</p> <p>Lincolnshire walks information included in Area Bus Guides.</p> <p>Lincolnshire walks information now displayed at selected bus stop locations.</p> <p>Bus stop information displayed on the revised CAMs Web system.</p>	Completed

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

			ADT participation in the Lincolnshire County Council 'Walk, Bike and Share ...' event.  Development of 2 walks from Lincoln bus routes.	
SOA6	Public rights of way guidance for planning authorities and developers	2008	Meetings held with planning authorities to standardise the format and promotion of orders. Specific guidance to developers and district councils to be undertaken in 2012.	Completed

**Health and Well Being**

Ref	Action	Target date	Works Undertaken	Level of Completion
SOA7	Improve infrastructure on paths used for health walks initiatives	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Improvement of health walking network undertaken with £110,000 of Lincolnshire PCT funding. 496 miles of health walking routes surveyed for improvements and programme of improvement works devised.  The programme of improvement works included surface improvements, bridge upgrading and improvements to path infrastructure.	Completed
SOA8	Reduce number of unnecessary barriers on PROW	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Unnecessary stiles and barriers identified during routine maintenance works removed on identification of funding.  260 stiles were removed as unnecessary and 333 stiles were replaced with gates.	Completed

Appendix B – PROW – Rights of Way Improvement Plan Achievements 2007+

SOA9	Ensure cross field paths are reinstated after ploughing	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Enforcement Policy Manual completed.	Partially Completed
SOA10	Improve routes in areas of highest health deprivation in Lincolnshire.	2012	<p>Areas of highest health deprivation identified and mapped - information sent to LCC highways divisions with recommendation of targeted improvements in highlighted areas.</p> <p>Walking and cycling information distributed to 18 health centres in highlighted areas (March 10).</p> <p>Walking and cycling information offered to all health centres (2011).</p>	Completed
SOA11	Undertake accessibility audit of the network	2011	<p>Following consideration full network accessibility survey considered impossible to undertake. Full network condition survey therefore used to obtain accessibility information.</p> <p>Accessibility audit undertaken of all Lincolnshire Walks during 2010.</p>	Partially Completed
SOA12	Develop a range of key routes in conjunction with disability groups.	2012	<p>5 Countryside for all routes published using Aggregate Levy Sustainability Funding (2010)</p> <p>7 Countryside for all routes published in association with the Lincolnshire LAFs using LCC Public Health funding – spring 2014.</p>	Completed
SOA13	Promote health walking schemes and help partners with development of new schemes.	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Promotional links established and support mechanisms in place.	Completed

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			<p>Ongoing. PCT funding enabled expansion of health walks schemes and GP referrals. Funding secured through “Choosing Health”.</p> <p>Support given to Boston leisure and health walks to produce 6 walks leaflets.</p> <p>Attendance at the ‘Getting out There’ event.</p> <p>‘Explore the Lincolnshire Countryside’ – Posters published July 10.</p> <p>Funding provided in association with Lincolnshire PCT to enable the creation of additional access in the Westgate Wood extension at Boston.</p> <p>Anderby health walking group established. 2 bridges installed at Anderby.</p> <p>Support given to Sustrans in East Lindsey to produce health walks leaflets.</p> <p>Attendance at Lincs Walks forum.</p> <p>Annual advert placed in GP and community magazines.</p>	
SOA14	Promote benefits of rights of way to wider range of potential users	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Assistance provided in the Wolds Walking Festival, LCCP, Countryside Events Programme and Wash week.</p> <p>Attendance at the ‘Sustainable Schools Showcase’ to promote countryside access to</p>	Completed.

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			<p>young people (2010).</p> <p>Attendance at 'Walk it, Bike it, Share it'.</p> <p>'Walk more in Lincolnshire' leaflet produced in association with stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Lincolnshire articles published in the East Midlands LAF newsletter.</p> <p>'Countryside Access' education pack published.</p> <p>Countryside for all pack produced (2010)</p> <p>Adverts placed in GP and community magazines.</p> <p>Attendance at 'Get out There' events (2009).</p> <p>Articles in County News.</p> <p>Attendance at Lincolnshire Show.</p> <p>Attendance at Heckington Show (2011)</p>	
SOA15	Produce targeted information for doctors surgeries, health centres in areas of highest health deprivation	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>8 Adverts and editorial articles featured in various editions of the 'Lincolnshire New GP Community Health Care Magazine'.</p> <p>Leaflets sent to health centres (2010).</p> <p>Information sent to all health centres (2011).</p>	Completed

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SOA16	Publicise barrier free routes	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Audit undertaken of all routes included in Lincolnshire Walks series of leaflets.</p> <p>12 Countryside for all routes promoted.</p> <p>Infrastructure information displayed on the Cams Web Map.</p>	Completed
SOA17	Promote responsible countryside access	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Responsible countryside access promoted through various media including the LCC website, County News, Agenda magazine and local and national press.</p> <p>Countryside Code promoted on the Countryside web site.</p> <p>Attendance at 'Get out there' event (2009).</p> <p>Attendance at 'Sustainable Schools Showcase' (2009).</p> <p>'Countryside Access' education pack published.</p> <p>Attendance at local shows (Lincolnshire and Heckington shows).</p>	Completed

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Ref	Action	Target date	Works Undertaken	Level of Completion
SOA18	Identify and develop circular and linear recreational routes to and from countryside / heritage tourism sites	2011	<p>Improvement works undertaken in the influence of tourism sites as required.</p> <p>6 Limewoods walks leaflets published.</p> <p>2 Limewoods cycling leaflets published.</p> <p>2 Walks leaflets produced for the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park.</p> <p>1 Walk leaflet produced for the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes project</p> <p>Most walks/cycle designed to include connections with local heritage.</p> <p>Limewoods Signage – Public rights of way signage in the Limewoods area replaced with oak finger posts extending from Bardney to Wragby, Fiskerton and Faldingworth.</p> <p>Missing link dedicated to create circular walking route at Bassingham.</p> <p>North Willingham No. 523 – Surface improvement works undertaken through Willingham Woods.</p> <p>Tattershall Public Footpath Nos. 222 and 225 – Footpath connecting Tattershall village and Tattershall castle upgraded to full accessibility standard.</p>	Completed



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		<p>Horncastle PF 76 - Surface Improvement works.</p> <p>Lincoln PF 60 – Surface improvement works undertaken between Doddington Road and Hartsholme Country Park.</p> <p>Scotton PF 4 – Surface improvement works.</p> <p>Anderby PF 16 and 22 – 2 new bridges to be provided on existing footpaths in the LCCP area.</p> <p>Middle Rasen BW 514 – surface improvement works.</p> <p>Claxby with Moorby BW 194 – surface improvement works.</p> <p>Fiskerton Public Bridleway No. 221 – bridge improvements.</p> <p>Skegness PF 307 – surface improvement works.</p> <p>Viking Way – Installation of benches.</p> <p>Gedney PF 15 – Surface Improvement works.</p> <p>Sleaford PF No. 17 – Surface improvement works adjacent to the River Slea.</p> <p>Fiskerton PF No. 116 – Access Improvement</p>	
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			<p>Works.</p> <p>Walesby Byway No. 524 – Surface Improvement Works</p> <p>Bourne PF 1 – Surface Improvement Works</p> <p>Muckton PB 307 – Surface Improvement Works</p>	
SOA19	<p>Improve the maintenance and management of routes close to popular areas of the county and key tourist attractions.</p>	2011	<p>Routes identified in the influence of tourism sites and designated areas and implement improvement works as required.</p> <p>See SOA 18</p> <p>Gedney access improvements. Infrastructure improvements on Gedney ‘Lincolnshire walk’ undertaken.</p> <p>North Willingham Byway 523 – Surface Improvements.</p> <p>Linwood Byway 764 – Surface Improvements</p> <p>Lindsey Trail Surface Improvements – Winceby High Barn to Ashby Puerorum UCR and Ranby Restricted Byway No. 61.</p> <p>Viking Way Surface Improvements - Somerby PF49 and Waddington PF No. 3</p> <p>Ingoldsby PB 14 – Surface Improvements</p>	Completed

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			<p>Chapel St Leonards PF 21 – Surface Improvements</p> <p>Brinkhill BW 119 – Surface Improvements</p>	
SOA20	Improve maintenance and promotion of promoted routes and county trails	2011	Audit of Lincolnshire Walks routes undertaken to identify infrastructure and waymarking/ signage improvements and improvements to vegetation cutting regime.	Completed
SOA21	Support and encourage new tourist attractions to include walking and cycling through the planning consultation process.	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Highways divisional staff comment on planning applications as they arise and suggest recommendations for improved walking and cycling provision during the planning consultation process.	Completed
SOA22	Support partners with development of new trails	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Partners supported with the development of new trails.</p> <p>-Spires and Steeples Trail launched 3 May 2008.</p> <p>-Spa Trail works completed.</p> <p>-Support given to South Holland Borough Council to develop a series of walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>-6 Limewoods walks leaflets published.</p> <p>-2 Limewoods cycling leaflets published.</p> <p>-Nottinghamshire Strategic Cycle Network – Support given to the provision of a strategic</p>	Completed

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		<p>cycle path between Sherwood Forest and Lincoln city centre.</p> <p>-Support and advice provided to ASR- Leisure in the development of Cycle Touring Routes in the Northern Wolds.</p> <p>-Save the Children route. Support provided to initial route development.</p> <p>-Macmillan Way – Infrastructure improvements undertaken between Boston and Surfleet in conjunction with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>-Viking Way – benches installed at Walesby and to the south of Lincoln.</p> <p>-The Lindsey Trail carriage driving route opened in spring 2012.</p> <p>-Support given to Boston BC in the development of the health walks network.</p> <p>-Supports given to Sustrans in the development of the health walks network.</p> <p>-Support provided for the re development of the Trent Valley Way.</p> <p>-Support given to the LCCP for the production of the walks leaflets.</p> <p>-Access advice provided for the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes project.</p>	
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SOA23	Develop a Lincolnshire Coastal trail	2012	Marine and Coastal Access Act provided Royal Assent in November 2009. No further action required at this time.	Partially Complete
SOA24	Provide public transport information at key sites and promoted routes	Ongoing	<p>Travel Line and LCC public transport information published on walking and cycling leaflets.</p> <p>Lincolnshire walks information now displayed at selected bus stop locations.</p> <p>Lincolnshire walks information included in the LCC area bus guides.</p>	Completed
SOA25	Produce walking, cycling and riding information in a variety of formats and for holiday accommodation providers	Ongoing	<p>Lincolnshire Tourism produced 15 Walking Discovery Packs as part of the 2008 marketing campaign promoting Lincolnshire as a short break destination for walking, cycling and golf. Packs made available to accommodation providers.</p> <p>Outdoor Guide produced (Lincolnshire Tourism).</p> <p>Lincolnshire Outdoor Guide distributed to TICs in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk and South Yorkshire.</p> <p>12 Countryside for all routes published.</p> <p>Searchable database of Lincolnshire Walks</p>	Completed

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			<p>produced.</p> <p>46 Lincolnshire Walks Leaflets produced.</p> <p>8 Lincolnshire Cycling Leaflets produced.</p>	
SOA26	Develop website to include interactive web walks with links to local services and tourist attractions	2007	<p>Searchable walks database published in 2010.</p> <p>LCC Countryside micro site redesigned in 2011.</p> <p>Revised Countryside Access Map published in 2011.</p>	Completed
SOA27	Develop a range of information panels at gateways sites/ villages to promote access opportunities and local services available	2012	<p>Consideration given to installing interpretation panels in P3 parishes. Austerity measures prevent full implementation. PRow plans provided for P3 groups for display on parish notice boards.</p> <p>Interpretation panels installed on South and West Commons in Lincoln.</p>	Partially Complete

**Social Issues**

Ref	Action	Target date	Works Undertaken	Level of Completion
SOA28	Improve quality of waymarking to increase user confidence and assist land managers	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>1,889 new roadside fingerposts installed either in new locations or to replace those in poor condition in addition 2,297 paths waymarked.</p> <p>Limewoods Signage – Public rights of way signage in the Limewoods area replaced with oak fingerposts with some containing</p>	Completed.

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			<p>destination and distance information.</p> <p>Promoted route survey completed.</p> <p>Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park Signage – Public rights of way signage in the LCCP area replaced with oak fingerposts with some containing destination and distance information.</p>	
SOA29	Identify all missing bridges on key network routes, develop and implement a work programme	2010	Missing bridges identified. Capital bridges programme commenced, reduced funding prevents further action at this time.	Partially Completed
SOA30	Implement programme of signing selected unsurfaced unclassified county roads	2011	Officer time spent identifying UCRs and gap analysis using GIS of PROW network and other access. Programme of signage based on demand and necessity nearing completion.	Partially Completed
SOA31	Clarify who can use which route through better signage.	2007	<p>Officer time spent to identify UCRs and gap analysis undertaken using GIS of PROW network and other access.</p> <p>Alternative formats of signage considered by LAF and highway divisions. Signage for restricted byways produced 2008.</p>	Completed
SOA32	Develop a programme of improved vegetation cutting on key routes close to settlements with parish councils	2009	Programme of improved vegetation cutting in place on key routes. Additional paths added to the schedule during ROWIP implementation years 1 - 4. Austerity measures resulted in re-examination of vegetation cutting schedule during implementation year 5.	Partially Complete

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			P3 scheme review currently underway.	
SOA33	Complete audit of busy road crossings and implement prioritised programme of improvements	2011	Audit of road and rail crossings now complete. Short list of most 'hazardous' crossings forwarded to LCC Divisions, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, Highways Agency and Network Rail. Austerity measures prevent any further action at this time.	Partially Complete
SOA34	Improve management of existing routes available for motorised users and carriage drivers.	2011	Audit of unsurfaced UCRs completed. Production of management plan underway.	Partially Complete
SOA35	Identify all cross boundary links with neighbouring authorities to ensure consistency of maintenance and promotion.	2011	Identification of cross boundary links and issues yet to commence.	No action taken
SOA36	Pilot a project to prepare signage incorporating distance and destination information to key routes.	2012	Limewoods Signage – Public rights of way signage in the Limewoods area replaced with oak fingerposts.	Completed
SOA37	Support highway divisions with the implementation of Quiet Lanes.	2012	Funds no longer available to undertake Quiet Lanes project in North Division pilot area.	No action taken
SOA38	Develop a range of circular routes for cyclists and equestrians in areas of highest demand. Identify suitable roadside verges and "behind the hedge" links to create safer links between existing routes and improve management of those links identified. Support DEFRA schemes that increase access and link PRow.	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Officer time spent on ROWIP area priorities mapping.  8 Lincolnshire cycling leaflets produced.  Lindsey Trail – route opened spring 2012.  Consultation responses provided to Natural England in response to Higher Level Stewardship Applications.	Partially Completed
SOA39	Identify areas deficient in access where access	2007	Discussions have taken place with Natural	Completed



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	proposals would benefit the rights of way network.		England and LAFs were briefed in October 2007 in relation to HLS access. ROWIP implementation priorities overview mapping completed for transport and health.	
SOA40	Review current Definitive Map Modifications Order priority system to give priority to key cases that will improve connectivity of the existing network of users.	2007	New priority system introduced in 2006. Review undertaken in 2010.	Completed
SOA41	Establish a priority system for Public Path Orders giving higher priority to cases that will improve connectivity on the existing network of users	2007	Public Path Order Priority System maintained under review.	Completed
SOA42	Implement programme of staff training to raise awareness of diversity issues relating to countryside access	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Disabled Access Audit training event held for LCC PROW staff in November 09. Relevant information disseminated to staff as required.	Completed
SOA43	Identify existing routes that meet needs of restricted mobility users and publicise	2011	12 Countryside for All routes published.  Promoted routes surveyed to identify unnecessary stiles and barriers.  PROW infrastructure details displayed on the countryside access map.	Completed
SOA44	Develop and implement an accessibility policy in conjunction with disability groups	2009	Accessibility Guidance produced.	Completed
SOA45	Develop links with organisations to implement a programme of themed guided walks, rides and events	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Continuing to build on existing contacts and partnerships. Funding required to implement countryside access projects.  Involvement in the Wolds Walking Festival, Spires and Steeples Trail events, Wash Week, LCCP programme of events and Boston Community weekend.	Completed

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SOA46	Develop policies and guidance which explain how the authority manages PROW and access	2011	<p>Policy areas identified and included in officer work programmes.</p> <p>Work undertaken to produce;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Path priority system,</li> <li>-Accessibility Guidance,</li> <li>-DMMO policy,</li> <li>-PPO policy,</li> <li>-Enforcement Manual.</li> </ul>	Completed
SOA47	Promote leaflets and access information to increase confidence and take up by none users.	2007	<p>Natural England produced leaflet for the revised Countryside Code. Information also displayed on the LCC Countryside micro site.</p> <p>Searchable database of Lincolnshire Walks produced for LCC website.</p> <p>46 Lincolnshire Walks Leaflets produced.</p> <p>8 Lincolnshire Cycling Leaflets produced.</p> <p>12 Countryside for all routes published.</p>	Completed
SOA48	Improve driver awareness of equestrians	2011	Equestrian leaflets distributed through Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership as part of Driver Improvement Programme.	Completed
SOA49	Produce Countryside Access newsletter	2011	Publication of newsletter to commence in 2012.	No action taken



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