

Countryside for all

For those who enjoy the countryside but have limited mobility, a set of leaflets has been produced, featuring all the information you need.

Volunteers have been researching specially selected routes across Lincolnshire, suitable for most abilities to walk or use with wheelchairs or pushchairs.

So far, 16 Countryside for All routes have been published, with a further four in the pipeline. They take in attractive nature reserves and parks, including Bourne Wood, Deeping Lakes, Gibraltar Point and Hubbards Hills. Each leaflet provides information on path surfaces and gradients, as well as the location of seats, steps and gates.

The volunteers are from the Mid Lincolnshire, South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forums (LAFs). They aim to improve access to the countryside and are supported by the council.

Volunteer John Law says: “We aim to highlight routes that are accessible and enjoyable for people with different abilities. We choose the places we’re going to feature, and talk to many people, including disability groups, to make the most of local knowledge.

“Research includes detailed measuring of gradients and the width of paths. Other useful information is included to enable people to plan a successful day out.”

Could you help?

People who are disabled or carers are being invited to become “accessibility ambassadors”. They will liaise with local authorities and voluntary organisations that manage parks, countryside and green spaces, and advise how to improve accessibility for everyone.

Training will be available to support volunteers. To find out more, please contact cheryl.hall@lincolnshire.gov.uk. Also, in East Lindsey, volunteers are being sought to assist on dementia friendly strolls for people with dementia and their carers. Email tracey.wilkinson@mvtlc.org.

Routes for riders

For those who like to explore the countryside using horsepower, volunteer John Presgrave has produced a set of circular riding trails in the Lincolnshire Wolds. They range from seven to 18 miles, mainly on bridleways and quiet county lanes, and the maps highlight any roads that need crossing, gates, parking, and pubs! John said: “This area of the Wolds has delightful countryside, and really benefits from some well-researched routes for horse riders. Through liaising with the council and the British Horse Society, I was able to ensure the routes follow well-maintained tracks that riders can use with confidence.”

A special 40th!

The 147-mile Viking Way marked its 40th anniversary in September. It runs from the Humber to Oakham, passing through the Lincolnshire Wolds, the Limewoods and the rolling countryside of South Kesteven.

More information

The Countryside for All leaflets, Lincolnshire Wolds Riding Trails and Viking Way information are all available at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside or from 01522 782070.

New leaflets are making it easier for everyone to enjoy Lincolnshire’s great outdoors

FOR ALL: Volunteer Brian Smith, right, leads a group at Whisby Nature Park.

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