

Lincolnshire Coastal County Park

Access, interpretation and community involvement summary and management actions

March 2018

This statement has been developed to accompany the Coastal Country Park NATURE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2020, which does to cover access, interpretation and community involvement.

Access

Countryside access is an important component of the Coastal Country Park and continues to be so moving forward. Below are details of specific work streams and projects that maintain, improve or promote access to the area.

Promoted Walking Routes - The Coastal Country Park circular routes use a combination of beach, sea wall and footpaths across working farmland. They each have a detailed route guide, highlighting interesting features along the way.

There are currently 3 promoted walk routes, starting from Sandilands, Anderby Creek and Chapel Point. All are available online and are distributed widely throughout the local area.

Rights of way network – The Coastal Country Park has seen significant capital investment in the rights of way network in recent years. Several significant new bridges have been built reopening key routes. In addition extra mower of routes provides a better experience for visitors.

England Coast Path - Work is well underway on the England Coast Path - a new National Trail around England's entire coast. For the first time people will have the right of access around our entire open coast. The first section of the England Coast Path in Lincolnshire, between Skegness and Mablethorpe is due to open in spring 2018. Work continues to identify the route along the rest of the County's coast

Car parks - The Coastal Country Park offers parking throughout the area, enabling people to access the beaches and the surrounding nature reserves. Significant Car parks are located at Chapel Six Marshes, Wolla Bank, Anderby Creek, Marsh Yard and Huttoft Car Terrace. Public toilets are located at Anderby Creek, Huttoft Car Terrace, and Marsh Yard.

All ability paths - There is a circular all ability route around Chapel Six Marshes of approximately 600m (0.4 mile). The path is over 1 m wide and hard surfaced. The route is either level or gently sloping. To aid visitors a specific visitor leaflet containing detailed information about the slopes and surfaces has been produced. It is available online and has been distributed widely throughout the local area.

- Management actions** –
- 1) Ensure promoted routes are maintained to a satisfactory standard, review leaflets and ensure they are distributed.
 - 2) ensure car parks are well maintained and clear of litter and fly tipping.
 - 3) ensure public toilets are well maintained and monitor antisocial behaviour of an adult nature

- 4) monitor the condition of all ability path and undertake repairs when necessary

Interpretation and information

Providing clear information to visitors about all aspects of the Coastal Country Park has been a key area of work and continues to be so moving forward. Below are details of specific work streams and projects to provide information to visitors.

Website – The Coastal Country Park has a comprehensive website containing information on visiting the area, things to do, wildlife, history, management, events and an interactive map. There are many downloads including walks and information leaflets and the annual events programme. www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/coastalcountrypark

General leaflet – A general leaflet has been produced about the Coastal Country Park that contains the key information to enable people to visit and enjoy the area. It is available online and has been distributed widely throughout the local area.

Site interpretation boards – There are themed interpretation boards at each of the car parks to help visitors enjoy the area.

Visitor hub – A visitor hub has been created at Farmer Browns Ice Cream Parlour. The hub contains a range of interpretation and leaflets to help people find out about and enjoy the Coastal Country Park

North Sea Observatory – A multi million pound café, visitor centre and exhibition space located at the southern end of the Coastal Country Park at Chapel Point is due to open during the summer of 2018.

- Management actions** –
- 1) Regularly review and update the website
 - 2) Review the general leaflet content every 2 years and ensure it is well distributed
 - 3) Clean interpretation boards every 3 months and review content every 5 years
 - 4) Ensure Visitor Hub and North Sea Observatory is regularly resupplied with leaflets and review content every 5 years

Community involvement

Engaging with the local community and visitors of the Coastal Country Park on a personal level is an important area of work and continues to be so moving forward. This is delivered by the Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Team, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Coastal Ranger (part funded by LCC) and other Trust staff. Below are details of specific work streams and projects that are currently being undertaken.

Events programme – An annual programme is produced which contains events such as guided walks, beach cleans, wildlife and children's activities and other local events in the surrounding area. These are led by the Coastal Country Park Team, Coastal Ranger or the local community.

Volunteer days – The Coastal Ranger runs a weekly volunteer day working in the Coastal Country Park and one off corporate volunteer days.

Environmental Education – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust regularly use the Coastal Country Park for environmental education as a satellite site for Gibraltar Point.

Parish Council's – The Coastal Country Park straddles four Parishes and with the exception of Anderby Creek all of other villages are some distance away. Regular communication takes place to keep Parishes updated and also for them to feed in issues or make suggestions. Anderby Parish Council and the residents of Anderby Creek take a great pride in the Creek and regularly undertake voluntary work to maintain and improve the area.

- Management actions** –
- 1) Produce, distribute, promote and deliver events programme
 - 2) Develop, promote and deliver volunteers days
 - 3) Deliver programme of environmental education
 - 4) Continue regular liaison with Parish Councils

Management of visitors and unwanted behaviour

The Coastal Country Park is a visitor magnet and receives thousands of visitors each year drawn largely by its unspoilt sandy beaches. Those numbers will naturally take their toll on an area, but when added to those whose actions are deliberately to the detriment of the area careful management is required.

The day to day management of Council land within the Coastal Country Park is overseen by the Councils Countryside Team who also steer the work of the Coastal Ranger and manage the grass cutting, bin emptying, litter picking and toilet cleaning contractors.

Litter and fly tipping – The main public areas of the Coastal Country Park are litter picked on a monthly basis by contractors. With regular beach cleans taking place throughout the year. The Coastal Ranger, general public and our contractors report fly tipping which is removed as soon as possible.

Vandalism – Due to the remoteness of the area vandalism is an ongoing issue. The public toilets, car parks, information boards and bins are regular targets. Every effort is made to repair or replace reported damage.

Unauthorised camping – Motorhomes parking overnight for extended periods has been an ongoing issue and draws complaints from the local residents. The installation of height barriers solved the problem at all sites except Huttoft Car Terrace, where they were cut down several times. The introduction of byelaws and subsequent prosecution of offenders in 2014 has reduced the problem to a tolerable level. Large groups of travellers descending on Marsh Yard one weekend each month during the summer has been a growing problem that is being monitored but is not easy to resolve as they move on again quickly.

Dog mess – This is a particular problem at Chapel Six Marshes, which is nearly impossible to resolve.

Unauthorised access – Generally people visitors stick to the paths and don't stray into the wetland areas, largely due to their inaccessibility.

- Management actions** –
- 1) Monitor and remove fly tipping when reported
 - 2) Monitor and repair vandalism when reported
 - 3) Monitor unauthorised camping and take action as necessary
 - 4) Continue to provide information to dog walkers and work with ELDC dog warden