

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

Report to: **Mid Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forums**
Date: **9/22 July 2014**
Subject: **Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park – Public Rights of Way Survey**

Summary:

A report providing a summary of the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park Public Rights of Way Survey – February 2014.

Recommendation(s):

- i) That the forum notes the contents of the report.

1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council is working with its partners to develop the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park. The park is situated in an area between Sandilands and Chapel St. Leonards, covering approximately eight kilometres of coastline and 35 square kilometres of coastal hinterland.

The vision is to create a sustainable coastal environment providing high quality facilities for communities and visitors, improvements for wildlife and contributing to a healthy local economy.

The Coastal Country Park area contains an extensive network of public footpaths linking villages, nature reserves and the coastline. This network is considered essential in the development of the park and a number of improvements have already been implemented including the installation of bridges, kissing gates and over 70 timber fingerposts.

The public rights of way survey has been undertaken to provide a detailed assessment of the condition of the network and identify any potential improvements.

2. Summary

The Public Rights of Way Survey

Geographical Coverage - The coastal strip between Sandilands and Chapel Point and extending inland as far as Mumby, Hogsthorpe and Huttoft.

Routes surveyed – All public footpaths, permissive paths and unsurfaced unclassified county roads either wholly or partly within the coastal country park.

There are no public bridleways, restricted byways or byways in the coastal country park area.

Length of routes surveyed -

Public Footpaths	64,169m
Unsurfaced Unclassified County Roads	5,397m
Permissive Footpaths	615m

Survey Method – Lincolnshire County Council undertakes an annual survey to establish the overall accessibility, or ease of use, of the definitive public rights of way network in the County.

The Ease of Use Survey aims to establish – ‘The percentage of total length of public rights of way which are easy to use by members of the public.’

‘Easy to use’ means:

- i) signposted or waymarked where the path leaves a metalled road and to the extent necessary to allow users to follow the route,
- ii) free from unlawful obstructions and other interference,
- iii) surface and lawful barriers (e.g. stiles, gates) in good repair and to a standard necessary to enable the public to use the way without undue inconvenience.

The survey (formerly Government Best Value Performance Indicator 178 ‘Ease of Use survey’) has proved a useful tool in the management and improvement of Lincolnshire’s public rights of way network since its introduction in 2000. The information obtained from the survey has enabled the County Council to plan work programmes, develop policies and effectively target budgets.

The ‘Ease of Use’ Survey methodology has been used during the Coastal Country Park public rights of way survey.

Summary of Results

-Table indicating the length of routes surveyed and percentage of paths passing the ease of use test.

Parish or type of route surveyed	Length of route surveyed	% of routes easy to use
Anderby	12,540m	49.20%
Chapel St Leonards	8,160m	52.45%
Cumberworth	255m	0%
Hogsthorpe	2,755m	13.43%
Huttoft	13,721m	33.96%
Mumby	14,736m	24.52%

Sutton on Sea	5,990m	75.95%
Unsurfaced unclassified County Roads	5,397m	100%
Permissive Paths	615m	100%
Overall pass rate for Coastal Country Park survey		46.22%
Overall pass rate for the 2013 countywide survey		71.98%

-Table indicating reasons for failing the ease of use test.

The majority of routes failed for more than one reason.

Reason for Failure	Total
Missing fingerpost/ signage	38
Overgrowth	12
Missing bridge	23
Surface condition	0
Infrastructure	0
Obstruction	22
Ploughing/ cropping	33
Other	1

3. Consultation

Scrutiny Comments

n/a

Executive Councillor Comments

n/a

Local Member Comments

n/a

Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	The Coastal Country Park Countryside Access Network
Appendix B	Map indicating routes available during the survey

5. Background papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Andy Savage - Senior Countryside Access Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or andrew.savage@lincolnshire.gov.uk

