

Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director for Communities

Report to:	South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum
Date:	18 April 2012
Subject:	Implementation Review of the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2012

Summary:

A review of the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-12.

Recommendation:

That the forum notes the contents of the report.

1. Background

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) placed a statutory duty on Highway Authorities to prepare and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

The first Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan was published in April 2007 and runs until 2012. The plan is a strategic document which sets out how the County Council intends to improve the management, provision and promotion of the County's public rights of way network.

The plan has been implemented under four themes, each with a strategic aim and supporting the wider social objectives of the County Council including the aims of the LTP2:

- Sustainable Transport – Strategic Aim to increase the use of the network for sustainable transport and utility trips
- Health and Well-being – Strategic Aim to make it easier for people to incorporate exercise into their daily lives and lead healthier lifestyles
- Rural Economy and Tourism – Strategic Aim to support local businesses and tourism through access improvements
- Social Issues – Strategic Aim to enable more people to enjoy walking and riding

The County Council has now started to prepare the second ROWIP. A great deal has changed since the publication of the first ROWIP and ROWIP2 will have to take account of significant changes in National policy and the current economic climate.

2. Review of Statement of Action

Since the publication of the first ROWIP in 2007, we consider that we have implemented as much of the action plan as possible. Whilst it is a requirement to prepare and publish a ROWIP, there is no statutory requirement to implement the plan. Improvement works have been implemented by utilising existing internal budgets and, where possible, other external budgets have been used to translate the ROWIP in to actions on the ground.

The diverse range of statements of action has allowed us the flexibility in what we were able to deliver as it was not prescriptive, or reliant on funding for a few specific projects, instead it covered a wide range of actions which we were able to prioritise and act on when funding became available.

This section of the report explores the achievements of implementation against the ROWIP Statement of Action.

A full list of implementation works are displayed in Appendix A.

2.1 Policy Development – One of the main themes of the ROWIP has been the development and review of policies and this has enabled a more planned and strategic approach to be adopted in the management of the public rights of way network.

During the life of the plan 5 policies have been published;

- Definitive Map Modification Order Priority Policy
- Public Path Order Policy
- Path Priority System Review
- Draft Enforcement Policy Manual
- Countryside Accessibility Guidance

2.2 Network Management - A wide variety of improvements have been undertaken throughout the life of the plan which have mainly focussed on the existing network.

Path Infrastructure - Considerable progress has been made in the improvement of path infrastructure which has greatly improved the accessibility of the network.

- 746 stiles provided or repaired,
- 1378 new roadside signs,
- 1577 routes waymarked,
- 433 gates provided or repaired,
- 306 new bridges,
- 266 stiles replaced with kissing gates,

- 215 stiles removed.

Figures reflect progress at 31 Dec 2011.

Vegetation Clearance - The annual programme of vegetation cutting increased steadily from years 1 to 4 to incorporate additional routes close to population centres and sections of newly promoted routes. Unfortunately the austerity measures in year 5 led to a reduction in the overall length of vegetation clearance as the frequency of cuts was reduced from three to two cuts per season.

Walking for Health Network - Strong links have continued with the Lincolnshire Walking for Health groups. The Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust provided £110,000 to enable the development of the walking for health network.

496 miles of walking for health routes were surveyed during the summer and autumn of 2008 and over 600 issues recorded. A programme of improvement works commenced in spring 2009 aimed at improving the accessibility of the health walking network. A variety of improvements have been undertaken including;

- 52 stiles replaced with kissing gates,
- 1km of surface improvement works undertaken,
- 4 bridges replaced,
- 3 bridges upgraded,
- 2 boardwalks installed,
- Funding provided to the Boston Woods Trust to enable improved access to the Westgate Wood extension.

Surface Improvements - An extensive programme of surface improvement works has been undertaken on routes linking communities with schools, employment centres and local services and routes in the region of countryside heritage sites. A total of 5.4km of paths have been improved during the implementation period.

Road and Rail Crossings Audit - An audit over 400 busy road and rail crossings was undertaken in 2009. The road crossing locations considered to be the most hazardous were referred to the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership for further assessment. The remaining crossing locations affecting the A1 and the railway network were referred to the Highways Agency and Network Rail respectively for further consideration.

Unclassified County Roads (UCR) – The UCR network was identified during the ROWIP assessment as an important part of the countryside access network. An audit of 368 UCRs has been undertaken to record the condition of each green lane and identify any maintenance and enforcement issues. A final management plan is currently under preparation.

The ROWIP consultation also revealed that users often have difficulty identifying UCRs and are unsure who is able to use restricted byways. To address these issues the County Council has worked in conjunction with the Lincolnshire LAFs to produce UCR signage and restricted byway plaques to clarify the type of usage permitted on each type of route.

2.3 Publicity and Promoted Routes - Promotion and publicity featured heavily in the first ROWIP and is considered to be the most successful area of implementation.

During the course of ROWIP implementation a wide variety of walking and cycling leaflets have been published including;

- 42 Lincolnshire Walks leaflets
- 8 Lincolnshire Cycling leaflets
- 4 Railway walks leaflets from Poacher Line stations
- 6 Limewoods walks leaflets
- 2 Limewoods cycling leaflets

Walking for Health – Promotion and publicity has featured heavily during the implementation of the Health and Well Being theme. Walking and cycling information has been distributed to 18 health centres in the areas of highest health deprivation with publications also being offered to health centres in other areas of the County.

Assistance has been provided to the Boston leisure and health walks group to produce walk leaflets. In addition 6 advertisements and editorial articles have been published in various editions of the 'Lincolnshire New GP Community Health Care Magazine'.

Web based information - The Countryside Section of the Lincolnshire County Council website was redesigned in 2011. The revised microsite now contains a number of new features including a searchable walks database and interactive countryside access map.

Long Distance Trails - Support has been provided to partner organisations to enable the development of three new trails.

- The Spires and Steeple Trail is an arts and heritage trail for walkers extending from Lincoln to Sleaford.
- The Spa Trail is a multi user trail along a former disused railway from the Water Rail Way at Woodhall Spa to Horncastle.
- The Lindsey Trail is a 69 mile long distance multi user route through the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The trail, which will be one of the only circular long distance carriage driving routes in the country, has been funded by the County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Wolds Countryside Service, British Horse Society and the British Driving Society.

Infrastructure improvements have also been undertaken on the Macmillan Way at Boston and Surfleet and assistance has been provided in the initial development of the Save the Children Walk.

The English Coast Path - The first stretch of the English Coast Path at Weymouth Bay will open in time for the Olympic in July 2012 and progress is continuing on an additional 5 sections at Durham, Norfolk, Kent, Somerset and Cumbria.

Plans to roll out additional sections of coastal path were not included in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 and it is unlikely that the Lincolnshire section of the trail will be implemented in the foreseeable future.

Sustainable Transport - A number of walks have been developed which start and finish at bus routes and public transport information is now displayed on all Lincolnshire Walks leaflets. Walking details are also included in all new Lincolnshire County Council bus and train guides and Lincolnshire Walks information is displayed at selected bus stop locations. All bus stop locations are also included on the revised Countryside Access map.

Tourism - Improved access to the countryside can benefit tourism and the local economy. The ROWIP assessment recognised that the potential benefits to tourism from the rights of way network had not been fully exploited and that the marketing and promotion of Lincolnshire's countryside needed to be improved.

The Countryside Access Team has worked in partnership with a number of organisations including Lincolnshire Tourism to improve the promotion of the County's countryside.

15 Walking Discovery Packs have been produced as part of Lincolnshire Tourism's marketing campaign to promote Lincolnshire as a short break destination for walking and cycling. The packs have been made available to accommodation providers and distributed to tourist information centres in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire.

In addition efforts have been made to improve the maintenance and management of routes close to tourist attractions, providing additional information for tourists on the Countryside web page and encouraging new tourist attractions to include walking and cycling facilities.

Easy Access - The Countryside and Rights of Way Act requires local authorities to take into account the needs of people with visual impairment and mobility problems. It is well known that disabled people encounter a range of barriers and constraints and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 places a duty on service providers to make 'reasonable adjustments' to the way in which services are delivered to those with a disability.

A disability access audit of all the routes included in the Lincolnshire walks series of leaflets was undertaken during years 4 and 5 of ROWIP implementation. The survey has been used to identify unnecessary stiles and barriers and improvements which would increase accessibility. All path infrastructure items are now shown on the Countryside access map which enables path users to make informed decisions about the suitability of a route whilst planning a journey.

A pack of Countryside for all routes was published in 2010 containing five routes at Bourne Woods, Chambers Farm Wood, Deeping Lakes, South Thoresby Warren and Whisby Nature Park. The leaflets provide detailed site information including path surfaces, path gradients and cross slopes, as well as the location of seats, gates, parking and other on site facilities.

Promoting benefits to a wider range of potential users - Certain groups including people with disabilities and young people are underrepresented visitors in the countryside. Efforts have been made throughout the life of the plan to promote the use of the countryside to a wider range of potential users through various media including County News, local and national press, attendance at shows and the publication of a leaflet in association with stakeholder groups 'Walk more in Lincolnshire'.

An educational pack has also been produced in association with the Lincolnshire CC geography and outdoor education curriculum advisors. The pack entitled 'Countryside Access –getting to know your local public rights of way and beyond' has been distributed to all primary and secondary schools in the county and some youth groups.

2.4 Community Involvement - A full review of the Parish Partnerships Partnership (P3) scheme was undertaken in 2009 in conjunction with participating parish councils. 82% of the responding parishes considered the current scheme to be a success and offered suggestions for improvements including the publication of a P3 newsletter and the formation of community working groups.

Further amendments to the P3 scheme will be considered in 2012 as a part of the expansion of community involvement in public rights of way work. Additional developments will also include an adopt-a-leaflet scheme, the establishment of volunteer working groups and the continuation of volunteer involvement in the ease of use survey.

2.5 Access Land - The Countryside and Rights of way Act 2000 created a new right of access on foot to areas of countryside mapped as mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. As the access authority the County Council has worked with the affected landowners and those with an interest in land management and nature conservation issues to make sites accessible to the public.

Work has continued throughout the plan to develop the areas of designated open country. Access controls and signage were installed at Woodnook Valley, Grantham in 2009. Funds from Natural England's Access Management Grant Scheme have been utilised to produce interpretation panels and an interpretative leaflet for South and West Commons in Lincoln. The Access Land Management Plan was also reviewed during year 3 of implementation and an inspection regime introduced.

2.6 Affect of Austerity Measures - On 13th December 2010 the Government announced that the main general revenue grant funding for Lincolnshire County Council would be reduced by £26.7m, with a further reduction of £16.1m in the following year. The reduction equated to 18% over the two years.

The reduction in funding led to significant cuts in the PRow and countryside access service and in particular the County Council's ability to implement the Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The following areas of ROWIP implementation were scaled back or discontinued altogether.

<i>Core Task / Statement of Action Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Revised Outcome</i>
CT6, SOA8	Seek opportunities to reduce the number of unnecessary barriers.	Reduced level of implementation.
CT9	Undertake an annual inspection of open access land.	Inspection frequency reduced to once every 2 years.
CT11	Review of Viking Way	No further action taken.
CT11, SOA23	Develop the Lincolnshire section of the English Coastal Trail.	Natural England unable to proceed at this time.
SOA14	Translate 1 Lincolnshire walk title into an additional language.	No further action taken.
SOA16	Publicise barrier free routes.	No further action taken.
SOA27	Develop a range of information panels at gateway sites and villages.	No further action taken.
SOA29	Identify all missing bridges. Implement programme of replacements.	Capital bridges programme cancelled.
SOA33	Complete audit of busy road and rail crossings and implement prioritised programme of improvements.	Audit completed. Lack of funding prevents further action.
SOA38	Support DEFRA schemes that increase access and link PRow.	Public Access element of DEFRA's Higher Level Stewardship scheme abandoned.
SOA37	Support highways divisions with the implementation of Quiet Lanes.	No further action taken.
SOA42	Implement programme of staff training to raise awareness of diversity issues in the countryside.	No further action taken.

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 Countryside Access & Rights of Way Improvement Plan Year Action Plan

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.

APPENDIX A

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	215 unnecessary stiles and barriers removed and 266 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	1378 new roadside fingerposts installed either in new locations or to replace those in poor condition in addition 1577 paths waymarked. Promoted routes surveyed to identify routes requiring signing or waymarking.	Completed
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	-Access Land Management Plan reviewed. -Access land inspection regime introduced. -Interpretative panels installed at South and West Commons in Lincoln. -Woodnook Valley, Grantham – Access controls and signage installed. -Lincoln Commons leaflets published.	Completed
CT10	Continue to provide information and promote wider use of the PRow Network	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Promotion of the network through various media including the LCC website, County News, local and national press and GP and community magazines. Searchable database of leaflets now available on the LCC Countryside website. 42 Lincolnshire Walks Leaflets have been published (since Apr 07)	Completed

			<p>8 Lincolnshire Cycling Leaflets have been published (since Apr 07)</p> <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>'Countryside for All' pack 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>	
CT11	Develop longer distance routes and trails	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	<p>Viking Way – no review undertaken as originally proposed.</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"> • Spires & Steeples Trail now launched. • Lindsey Trail –completed. 	Partially Complete

			<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"> 1. Claxby BOAT 753 – Improvement works 2. Lincoln Footpath No. 3 – Improvement works to increase accessibility to pushchairs. 3. Louth Public Footpath No. 11 – Improvement works to increase accessibility to school. 4. Crowland Public footpath No. 6 – Surface improvement works undertaken at Wheatsheaf Yard. 5. North Somercotes Public Footpath No. 30 – Surface improvements works undertaken on village path. 6. Goulceby Public Footpath No. 25 – Surface improvement works undertaken on village path. 7. Wainfleet St Mary Public Footpath No. 323 – Access improvement works undertaken on 	Completed

		<p>village path in conjunction with parish council.</p> <p>8. Branston Public Footpath No. 14 – Seating installed on village path.</p> <p>9. Tattershall Public Footpath Nos. 222 and 225 – Footpath connecting Tattershall village and Tattershall castle upgraded to full accessibility standard.</p> <p>10. River Glen Access Improvement works – Works undertaken in conjunction with the Environment Agency to replace all stiles with kissing gates on the public footpath beside the River Glen.</p> <p>11. Market Rasen No. 167 – Surface improvement works.</p> <p>12. Doddington No. 8 – Surface improvement works.</p> <p>13. Skellingthorpe No. 3a – Surface improvement works.</p> <p>14. Skegness PF 297 (Vine Walk) – Surface Improvement Works.</p> <p>15. Horncastle PF 76 - Surface Improvement works.</p> <p>16. Lincoln PF 60 – Surface improvement works undertaken between Doddington Road and Hartsholme Country Park.</p> <p>17. Saxilby PF 204 – Surface improvement works.</p> <p>18. Holton le Clay PF 1 – Surface improvement works.</p> <p>19. North Somercotes PF 32 – Surface improvement works School Lane to Warren Road.</p> <p>20. Scotton PF 4 – Surface improvement works.</p>	
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			<p>21. Quadring PF 5 – Bridge upgraded between village and primary school.</p> <p>22. Boston PF1 – Bridge upgrading works.</p> <p>23. Horncastle PF80 – Resurfacing works.</p> <p>24. Glentham PF 844 – Resurfacing and revetment works.</p> <p>25. Market Rasen PF 162 – Resurfacing works.</p> <p>26. Conningsby PF 224 – Resurfacing works.</p> <p>27. Skegness PF 307 – Surfacing works.</p> <p>28. Upton PF 50 – Surfacing works.</p> <p>29. Gedney PF No. 15 – Surfacing and revetment works.</p> <p>30. Sleaford Public Footpath No. 17 – Surface improvements</p> <p>31. Skellingthorpe Public Footpath No. 15 – 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	Regular liaison takes place with planning authorities to ensure that maximum public benefits are realised.	Completed

			<p>Comments are submitted on planning applications as they arise.</p> <p>Comments submitted to: -Stamford – Newstead Development Proposals consultation. -Lincoln Eastern Bypass</p>	
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"> 1. Heckington to Sleaford 2. Ancaster to Sleaford. 3. Skegness to Wainfleet. 4. Metheringham <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>	Completed

			<p>Lincolnshire walks information now displayed at selected bus stop locations.</p> <p>Bus stop information displayed on the revised CAMs Web system.</p> <p>ADT participation in the Lincolnshire County Council 'Walk, Bike and Share ...' event.</p>	
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	<p>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.</p> <p>The programme of improvement works included surface improvements, bridge upgrading and improvements to path infrastructure.</p>	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.	Completed

			215 stiles were removed as unnecessary and 266 stiles were replaced with gates.	
SOA9	Ensure cross field paths are reinstated after ploughing	Throughout Plan life 2007-2012	Draft 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	5 Countryside for all routes published using Aggregate Levy Sustainability Funding (2010)	Partially 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

			<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	Assistance provided in the Wolds Walking Festival, LCCP, Countryside Events Programme and Wash week.	Completed.

			<p>Attendance at the 'Sustainable Schools Showcase' to promote countryside access to 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>6 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>	Completed

			Information sent to all health centres (2011).	
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>5 Countryside for all routes promoted using Aggregate Levy Sustainability Funding.</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

Rural Economy and Tourism

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>Walks leaflets produced for the LCCP.</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

		<p>River Glen Access Improvement works – Works have been undertaken in conjunction with the Environment Agency to replace all stiles with kissing gates on the public footpath beside the River Glen.</p> <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>	
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			Sleaford Public Footpath No. 17 – Surface improvement works adjacent to the River Slea.	
SOA19	Improve the maintenance and management of routes close to popular areas of the county and key tourist attractions.	2011	Routes identified in the influence of tourism sites and designated areas and implement improvement works as required. See SOA 18 Gedney access improvements. Infrastructure improvements on Gedney 'Lincolnshire walk' undertaken.	Completed
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	Partners supported with the development of new trails. -Spires and Steeples Trail launched 3 May 2008. -Spa Trail works completed.	Completed

			<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 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>	
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			<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>	
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	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.	Completed

			<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>5 Countryside for all routes published.</p> <p>Searchable database of Lincolnshire Walks produced.</p> <p>42 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>	Partially Complete

			Interpretation panels installed on South and West Commons in Lincoln.	
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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	1378 new roadside fingerposts installed either in new locations or to replace those in poor condition in addition 1577 path waymarked. Limewoods Signage – Public rights of way signage in the Limewoods area replaced with oak fingerposts with some containing destination and distance information. Promoted route survey completed.	Completed.
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	Officer time spent to identify UCRs and gap analysis undertaken using GIS of PROW network and other access.	Completed

			Alternative formats of signage considered by LAF and highway divisions. Signage for restricted byways produced 2008.	
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. P3 scheme review currently underway.	Partially Complete
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 Greater Lincoln and Gainsborough 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 proposals would benefit the rights of way network.	2007	Discussions have taken place with Natural England and LAFs were briefed in October 2007 in relation to HLS access. ROWIP implementation priorities overview mapping completed for transport and health.	Completed
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	5 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
SOA46	Develop policies and guidance which explain how the authority manages PROW and access	2011	Policy areas identified and included in officer work programmes. Work undertaken to produce; -Path priority system, -Accessibility Guidance, -DMMO policy, -PPO policy, -Draft Enforcement Manual.	Completed
SOA47	Promote leaflets and access information to increase confidence and take up by none users.	2007	Natural England produced leaflet for the revised Countryside Code. Information also displayed on the LCC Countryside micro site. Searchable database of Lincolnshire Walks produced for LCC website. 42 Lincolnshire Walks Leaflets produced. 8 Lincolnshire Cycling Leaflets produced.	Completed

			5 Countryside for all routes published.	
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