

Public Document Pack

NOTE – At the commencement of the meeting there will be a public forum for up to 15 minutes which will offer members of the public the opportunity to make statements or ask questions.



A statutory advisory body to Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and other providers of outdoor recreational access

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

30 May 2023

Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum Meeting

A meeting of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum will be held on **Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 2.00 pm** in the **Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Barnes".

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum

Councillor Ian Carrington, Lincolnshire County Council
Councillor Richard James Cleaver, Lincolnshire County Council
Councillor James Cairns, North East Lincolnshire Council
John Beaven, Users of Local Rights of Way
Peter McKenzie-Brown, Users of Local Rights of Way
Sheila Brookes, Users of Local Rights of Way
Chris Padley, Users of Local Rights of Way (Chairman)
Sharon Hayes, Users of Local Rights of Way (Vice-Chairman)
Angie Tomlin, Users of Local Rights of Way
Peter Hinton JP MBA, Users of Local Rights of Way
Nick Tomlin, Users of Local Rights of Way
Sandra Harrison, Landowners
Jon Thornes MBE, Landowners
Victor Clark, Other Interests
John Law, Other Interests
David Salkeld, Other Interests
Erica Spurrier, Other Interests

**LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 2023**

Item	Title	Report Reference
1	Election of Chairman for 2023/24	
2	Election of Vice-Chairman for 2023/24	
3	Public Questions	
4	Apologies for Absence	
5	Declarations of Interest	
6	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 June 2022	(Pages 5 - 10)
7	Update on the Deregulation Act 2015 <i>(To receive an update on the Deregulation Act 2015)</i>	(Verbal Report)
8	England Coast Path Establishment <i>(To receive an update on the England Coast Path Establishment)</i>	(Verbal Report)
9	North Hykeham Relief Road Access Proposals <i>(To receive an update on the North Hykeham Relief Road Access Proposals)</i>	(Verbal Report)
10	PROW Section Changes <i>(To receive an update on PROW Section Changes)</i>	(Verbal Report)
11	Horse and Rider Safety <i>(To receive an update by Angela Coulson which invites the Forum to consider what actions could be taken to aid equestrians on the issue of horse and rider safety)</i>	(Verbal Report)
12	Countryside for All <i>(To receive an update from Angie Tomlin, which details the latest situation for Countryside for All)</i>	(Pages 11 - 16)
13	Forward Work Programme <i>(To discuss items for future agendas of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum)</i>	(Pages 17 - 18)

14 Future Meeting Dates

The Forum are requested to consider the proposed dates for future meetings:

- 14 September 2023
- 18 January 2024
- 16 May 2024
- 19 September 2024
- 23 January 2025

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

Name: **Emily Wilcox**
Direct Dial **07557 486687**
E Mail Address emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please Note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by visiting [Agenda for Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum on Wednesday, 7th June, 2023, 2.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>

Agenda Item 6



A statutory advisory body to Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and other providers of outdoor recreational access

LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 30 JUNE 2022

PRESENT: CHRIS PADLEY (CHAIRMAN)

Representing Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Representing Independent Members: Sid Mill, Angie Tomlin, Peter Hinton JP MBA, Nick Tomlin, Sandra Harrison, Victor Clark, John Law and David Salkeld

Officers:

Rob Close (Democratic Services Officer) and Chris Miller (Head of Environment)

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor I Carrington, Councillor R Cleaver, James Cairns, Sheila Brookes, Sharon Hayes and Jon Thornes MBE.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There had been no questions received from members of the public. It was clarified that members of the public could observe the meeting online but would be required to notify Democratic Services ahead of the meeting if they wished to ask a question.

46 MINUTES OF THE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING HELD 24 MARCH 2022

The Acting Head of Environment provided an update on the England Coast Path which advised that the section of the path from Sutton Bridge to Skegness had been approved by the Secretary of State, leaving only a small stretch of land from Mablethorpe to Humber Bridge awaiting approval. It was hoped that approval could be granted soon which would enable establishment works to commence. A trail officer representing Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire would likely be employed onto the project.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47 RESPONSE TO FORMAL ADVICE RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

There had been no formal advice received.

48 DEREGULATION ACT. 2015

The Acting Head of Environment provided an update on the Deregulation Act 2015. The combined package for the Deregulation Act proposed that the definitive map be closed for pre-applications for routes that existed before 1939 by the 1st January 2026. Changes were proposed within the government repeal and the right to apply for a public path order.

A stakeholder working group had responded to DEFRA opposing some of the proposals made.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that despite indication that Government departments were facing resourcing challenges, that there was stability within department managing rights of way.

It was confirmed that changes to policy had been discussed at a ministerial level.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

49 PROCESSING OF DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDERS (DMMOS)

Consideration was given to a report by Peter Hinton, which highlighted his concerns over the processing of DMMO's. The length of time taken to implement DMMOs was seen as a deterrent to people making applications. The importance of proper regulation and for public path orders to take account of land usage for both land users and landowners benefit was highlighted.

In response to the report, the following points were noted:

- The Acting Head of Environment advised that the rights of way reform package considered the right to apply for public path orders. A change in legislation would require political will and significant funding.
- It was acknowledged that there was often little consideration of the location of public footpaths across large roads when they were developed.
- Lack of resource within local authority planning and rights of way teams was also acknowledged. The number of DMMO's received had increased and officer resource was limited.

- It was suggested that communication between residents and developers on the location of public footpaths at the initial stages of development would be beneficial in avoiding DMMO's.
- Local authorities had 12 months to make a decision whether to accept a DMMO request and there was no time limit to implement any changes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

50 FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST

Consideration was given to an update by Sid Mill, *which sought clarification on the priority list for footpath repairs*. The report questioned whether copping could be given a higher priority as it made some footpaths inaccessible.

The Acting Head of Environment confirmed that under the rights of way act, obstructions made by crops would fall under priority one or two of the public network area. There was a statutory requirement to allow landowners to respond to requests which could cause delays. Assurance was provided that policies allowed for constructive enforcement to repeat offenders and could be escalated to prosecution if necessary. Repeat offenders could also be reported to the rural payments agency could result in a reduction in financial packages to landowners.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

51 COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Consideration was given to a report by John Law, which provided an update on the Countryside for All promotion opportunities.

The Forum was advised that the Spalding Guardian had expressed an interest in writing an article on countryside and walking after reading a set of minutes of the Forum.

It was highlighted that there was a shortage of Countryside For All ambassadors in North Lincolnshire, applications were encouraged for those interested.

In response to questions raised, the following points were noted:

- It was unlikely that a Countryside Access Management system would be invested in by the local authority, however there was potential to develop something in house.
- Assurance was provided that all Parish Council's were consulted on any updates made to coastal paths in their area.

**LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
30 JUNE 2022**

- The local authority did not currently have access to a mapping system that would show obstacles on public footpaths. The difficulties of creating such document were acknowledged
- The Forum approved the circulation of letters from Countryside for All to be sent to businesses on Local Access Forum (LAF) headed paper with the LAF Chairman's signature included.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted;
2. That approval be given for the circulation of letters to business on LAF Headed Paper with the LAF Chairman's signature included.

52 PERMISSIVE ACCESS

Consideration was given to a report by John Law, which provided an update on permissive access arrangements, which sought to get funded permissive access outside of national parks and areas of outstanding national beauty.

It was proposed that John Law draft a letter for circulation expressing the LAF's view's and proposals on permissive access, and once agreed, the letter be signed by the Chairman and sent to the relevant DEFRA minister and Joint LAF area Members of Parliament.

The Acting Head of Environment confirmed that the environmental land managed scheme had closed and the Government were looking for opportunities for a new scheme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted;
2. That approval be given for a letter to be sent to the relevant DEFRA minister and Members of Parliament on behalf of the LAF expressing the views of the LAF on permissive access arrangements.

53 HUDDLE

It was noted that the HUDDLE was no longer used by DEFRA as a communication tool.

54 FORWARD AGENDA PROGRAMME AND DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Suggestions were sought for future agenda items to be considered by the Forum.

In response to questions, the following points were also noted:

- The local authority did not use the STRAVA application for monitoring activities across the county. If it was ever used for future analysis, it would be used on the basis that it did not account for horse riding and carriages.

- The planning of large solar farms in the county was a government decision, however they were not able to obstruct a right of way and enforcement action could be taken if necessary. The Forum was assured that information would be provided on the location of public rights of way and suggestions for more convenient routes would be suggested if appropriate. The formal response from the council to consultations on solar farms would take into consideration all elements of the council, including public rights of way.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum be scheduled for the afternoon of 13th October 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Committee be scheduled for 13 October 2022.

The meeting closed at 16:10

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COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Report for LAF meeting

07/06/23

1. Countryside For All Route leaflets

We were fortunate to win £934 of funding from Natural England in February. This was for revising 12 leaflets and printing 6250 copies. There was a tight deadline on this and thanks to the work of the site Ambassadors this was achieved. Without this funding we would not have been able to satisfy the orders placed by the Social Prescribing Team, libraries, Tourist Information Centres and Museums etc.

8448 Lincolnshire Countryside For All leaflets have been ordered and distributed so far this year. 900 of these leaflets have been ordered for the East Coast Celebrations. So if we exclude the East Coast Celebration order, this means 7558 leaflets have been distributed so far this year. Last year in total 5813 leaflets were distributed. So for this year we have an increase in demand of 30%.

The sub group also has despatched 5495 of the LCC walks leaflets so far this year.

We will be contacting the distributors in July this year, to see if they wish to place a further order for delivery in August. This will be for both the LCC walks leaflets and the Countryside For All leaflets. The next order will take place in February 2024.

2. Funding for leaflets in 2023 and 2024

In 2022 we were hoping to attract funding from private businesses. However, so far this has been unsuccessful. So for our bulk print runs we will be looking at funding organisations such as the Lottery to obtain the finances we require.

As we are hoping to create leaflets for a number of new sites plus replenishing more of our stock, we will be obtaining two quotes from our printers. One will be for a print run in 2023 and another in 2024. This will help our workload and storage costs.

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3. Countryside For All leaflets on hold

3.1. Ashing Land Nature Reserve

Further work is taking place at the Nature Reserve to bring it back to the standard that was in place when the leaflet was first produced. Once this work has been completed the site will be resurveyed and a new leaflet produced. The survey and production of a new leaflet for this site is planned for 2024 and this will be included in the 2024 bulk print run.

3.2. Hartsholme Country Park

Work has been carried out over the winter on this site and due to this a part of the site wants resurveying. We are currently actively looking for funding of this leaflet from private businesses and the Lincolnshire Coop.

4. South Thoresby Warren (East Lindsey)

In 2021 we applied to the Lottery for £10,000 of funding for printing of some Countryside For All leaflets and improving one of the paths at South Thoresby Warren. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful. As the site has more than one path that needs improving we really need to look for a funding source that will make this site suitable for a Countryside For All leaflet standard again. We are currently exploring our options on this and have requested the help of Sandra Harrison, from East Lindsey District Council.

5. Rimac Nature Reserve, Saltfleetby (East Lindsey)

Natural England has asked the Disability Sub Group to provide a Countryside For All leaflet for this site. Natural England have agreed to pay for the design and printing of this leaflet. We have a new ambassador for this site, who will receive the training on the 7th June. The ambassador works for Linkage College, at Toynton All Saints. Linkage College is a college of further education for young people with learning difficulties. Our ambassador will be involving the students of the college with the auditing and surveying of the site.

6. South Holland Health and Wellbeing Network

One of our members attended the South Holland Health and Wellbeing meeting to help promote the Countryside For All walks. We are very aware that we do not have a Countryside For All leaflet for a route in the South Holland District. So we have asked the question from those that attend the meeting to provide feedback on any route they feel may fit the criteria. To ensure we have a leaflet for the people who

live in South Holland, we may have to look at the most accessible route in South Holland, rather than the most accessible Countryside For All routes in Lincolnshire.

By attending the network meeting we were made aware of 5 community libraries in South Holland that we have not included in our distribution of leaflets. We will now be adding these to our distribution list. We hope to be checking with other districts and the City Council to see if there are any other community libraries we are not aware of. It would be helpful if a member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group, can volunteer to do this for us.

We intend to ask the people of South Holland, to tell us where the most accessible countryside route is in South Holland. This will be done through the libraries and the South Holland Health and Wellbeing Network. We also hope the Spalding Guardian will help with this. However, we do not want to use our individual email addresses as contact points. It would be helpful if Lincolnshire County Council can provide a generic email address for this purpose and forward the emails on to the person collecting the data. Again it would be helpful if a member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group can volunteer to create a poster for this.

Can LCC provide a generic email address to go on a poster?

Is any member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group, willing to volunteer to collate information on community libraries?

Is any member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group, willing to volunteer to create a poster, requesting members of the public to let us know where the most accessible routes are in South Holland?

7. Planned new Countryside For All leaflets for 2023 and 2024

Apart from the Rimac nature reserve, provided we get funding the following sites will be surveyed and have leaflets created:

Owlet Wood, Blyton	Woodland Trust
Sandilands	National Trust
Queen Elizabeth Park, Grantham	South Kesteven
Doddington Hall – Skellingthorpe	SUSTRANS

8. Vacancies

Unfortunately Sam Tate has had to retire due to ill health. Sam has been on the LAF and also been a countryside access volunteer for many years. He has helped the

Disability Sub Group with the Countryside For All leaflets. Sam was the site ambassador for both of the Boston Woods Trust sites and the RSPB sites at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore. We will be advertising this as two vacancies. One ambassador for the Boston Woods Trust sites and another ambassador for the two RSPB sites.

We also have a vacancy for an ambassador for Deeping Lakes, Market Deeping.

Prior to advertising externally we would like to hear from any member of the LAF, who is not currently on the Disability Sub Group who would like to take on either of these roles.

Is any member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group, willing to volunteer to be an ambassador for the Boston Woods Trust sites?

Is any member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group, willing to volunteer to be an ambassador for the RSPB sites at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore?

Is any member of the LAF who is not on the Disability Sub Group, willing to volunteer to be an ambassador for Deeping Lakes?

9. New structure

Due to the increasing workload of the Disability Sub Group we are looking at how we need to change, to ensure we can continue to grow the Countryside For All sites and the work that is related to this project, plus any new relevant projects which come under the remit of the Disability Sub Group.

In the past we obtained funding for employees of the districts and the City who led health walks to lead dementia friendly walks. We also obtained funding to deliver training to organisations to make the countryside more accessible. These organisations included the RSPB, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and the Woodland Trust.

The new projects that are currently on the horizon are Miles Without Barriers and how we help the representatives of the national organisations we work with in Lincolnshire, to promote Countryside For All leaflets outside the County. Helping to promote Countryside For All leaflets outside the County has been promoted both at the LAF conference, some year ago and at a meeting with Natural England and other organisations in London. Nothing appears to have moved forward in this area and we are still getting members of the public and organisations asking for this facility in other counties.

The structure of the Disability Sub Group that we are aiming for but is dependent on volunteers, is displayed below:

Chair	LAF member
Deputy Chair	LAF member
Fund Raiser	LAF member
Stock controller	Countryside Access Volunteer or LAF member
Coordinator	Countryside Access Volunteer or LAF member
Ambassador	Countryside Access Volunteer or LAF member

Discussions will take place in the Disability Sub Group with its members to firm up these positions and any other ideas. A comprehensive report on the proposed new structure will be presented to the LAF at its next meeting for approval.

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A statutory advisory body to Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and other providers of outdoor recreational access

Report to:	Lincolnshire Local Access Forum
Date:	7 June 2023
Subject:	Forward Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Forum to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

Recommendation(s):

Members of the Forum are invited to highlight any additional items which could be included for consideration at future meetings of the Forum.

Background

All members of Local Access Forum are encouraged to bring forward important items of interest to the Forum for the meetings proposed.

The following dates are proposed for future meetings:

- 14 September 2023
- 18 January 2024
- 16 May 2024
- 19 September 2024
- 23 January 2025

Conclusion

Items proposed will formulate a forward work programme for the Forum.

This report was written by Emily Wilcox, Democratic Services Officer who can be contacted via Emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk