

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Report for LAF meeting 24/03/22

1. Countryside For All Route leaflet stock status

The orders for Countryside For All leaflets placed by libraries, tourist information centres and other bodies amounted to 13,802 in 2020. This year, the orders for the 20 leaflets, has dropped significantly to 4094. This is due to:

- a. Folders of leaflets not being available to order, as we are stripping the folders to have leaflets available to send out. This equated to 3762 leaflets in 2020.
- b. The three East Lindsey TICs at Louth, Skegness and Mablethorpe closing down. This equated to 1850 leaflets in 2020.
- c. Changing from the Central Library ordering for all the GLL Lincolnshire libraries, to asking individual libraries to place orders. This should ensure the right number of leaflets go to the right libraries.
- d. Some TICs still having stock available from 2020 and not being open during the lockdown.

With our current stock, LCC and Boston Woods Trust funding their leaflets, the RSPB returning their supply of leaflets which the LAF funded through grants and removing leaflets from folders, we should be able to satisfy this year's orders. The exceptions being Gibraltar Point (7 leaflets short of the 315 ordered). The process of collating these orders is being undertaken by the subgroup.

2. Countryside For All leaflets required for 2023

We are waiting to hear the outcome of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's decision on whether they will fund the seven leaflets relating to their sites. Further discussions will take place with Forestry England in relation to the leaflets to three of their sites.

We are also looking to apply to the Lottery for funding with a different proposal. One thought is to include a leaflet of the Coastal Path. If anyone has any other ideas to enable us to fund the Countryside For All route leaflets please contact John Law john.law_32@yahoo.co.uk.

This year we have taken orders from one of the Social Prescribing Teams. We will be asking for feedback later in the year from the team, to see the interest and assess future orders. If it is a positive response and the Social Prescribing Team want further orders, we will promote the leaflets to other Social Prescribing Teams provided we have enough leaflets available.

3. Lincolnshire County Council Walk Leaflets

At the events we have attended for the disabled and elderly there has been a great interest shown the LCC walk leaflets. So this year we have also requested orders from the TIC's, libraries and other organisations for LCC walk leaflets. From the 40 different leaflets there was a request for 5627 leaflets. These orders are being collated with the Countryside For All leaflet orders by the sub group and being delivered by the LCC processes.

It is apparent that the LCC walk leaflets help people enjoy the countryside and are an asset to people's health and wellbeing. It is clear that we need to provide these leaflets in future years. To enable the LAF to do this, it is necessary to replenish the stock of the Lincolnshire County Council Walk Leaflets.

Recommendation: The sub group recommends that the LCC spend if possible approximately £2000 annually on replenishment of the LCC walk leaflets.

Recommendation: The LAF sub group process the LCC walk leaflet orders at the same time they process the Countryside For All leaflets.

4. Sandilands

Last year John Law attended a virtual meeting called the Listening Group with the National Trust, along with a few others who had an interest in the Sandilands project. Clearly the purpose of attending was to ensure the National Trust would adopt the C4A approach in the development of Sandilands for its visitors. At that meeting it was clear that the National Trust embraced the C4A approach.

The update from the Rachel Marriott of the National Trust in relation to Sandilands as at 3rd March 2022 is displayed below:

"We have developed a ten year masterplan for Sandilands, and are now looking at which sections of that plan will be included in phase one. We were lucky enough to secure £2million worth of funding from the Townsfund, and this will really help us to kickstart the project. The first phase will include the improvement of the existing car park – we will be taking over the existing ELDC car park and creating one car park with designated spaces. It will also include the refurbishment of the former club house, which will hopefully look completely different when we've finished! This space will include a food and beverage offer, a flexible space, offices and toilets. It will also, perhaps more importantly, allow us to create the new habitats for wildlife – increasing plant biodiversity and providing the ideal stop over point for migrating birds. The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have already seen some fantastic

successes, including bittern staying over at Huttoft Pit, and together as part of the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park partnership we will extend the corridor for wildlife along the Lincolnshire Coast.

The aims of our project remain the same – to create a nature reserve where everyone can enjoy being outdoors and reconnecting with nature. We will make the site as accessible as possible, including changing places toilets and a network of accessible paths, which we will gradually add to as the site evolves. We're also looking to make this project as environmentally friendly as possible and are looking at options for renewable energy sources, such as air source heat pumps and solar panels, and will be installing electric car charging points in the car park. We will have a number of trampers available to hire too and all of our buildings will have level access.

In the short term, we're ready to have a presence on site. Throughout last summer and autumn, myself and my colleagues were out on site carrying out visitor engagement surveys to learn what it is that both locals and holiday makers would like to see on the site and what would make them use the site. The feedback was really positive, and everyone has enjoyed having open access to the former golf course and having somewhere safe and off the road to walk, and more often than not, walk their dogs too! We're in the process of working out how we can have an office base on site, so we're more available for people to come and chat to about the project, and a kiosk providing hot drinks and ice creams. Almost everyone we spoke to on site said somewhere to get out the wind and have a hot drink was essential!

We're carrying on our community engagement work while our designers and project team are working hard behind the scenes. We have a new team of volunteer photographers who are already providing us with some great shots of the wildlife that is making Sandilands its home already.

I had hoped for us to have come back to the listening group to talk about creating great access to the site sooner, but our design team aren't quite ready yet. We'd still love to be in touch, either with the group or on an individual basis, which ever works best for people, so we can learn more about how we can adapt our plans to be inclusive of those with different needs. The feedback we had from the first session was invaluable and certainly opened my eyes to some of the changes we can make, which are often quite simple, particularly if we can include them right from the beginning!"

5. Miles Without Barriers

One of the major issues people with limited mobility have in terms of using PROW, is not knowing how accessible a route is for them. Lincolnshire County Council previously used ExeGesIS Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). However, the LCC does not have a countryside access management system anymore.

There is now a version of CAMS which provides an asset management tool linked to public facing mapping and enquiry/reporting modules. This system would deliver the following opportunities:

- a. Provide a database listing all PROWs, permissive routes, structures, details of structures, restrictions due to any barriers/structures, temporary closures, diversions and displaying all on an Electronic Working Copy Definitive Map (EWCDM). The proposed new database and EWCDM should deliver a fully interactive map displaying access width restrictions due to barriers etc. This should enable PROW and potential PROW users with limited mobility to find a route suitable for them.
- b. The database would become the asset register for PROWs
- c. The details of barriers/structures should include:
 - I. The dimensions of the minimum access width of the barriers.
 - II. The coral access widths, depths and other access measurements due to the swing of the gate.
 - III. Steps including dimensions, number of steps, whether there is a handrail on one or both sides.
 - IV. The opportunity of identifying route surfaces
 - V. Date of latest PROW survey
 - VI. Date all barriers on a specific PROW identified and fully entered onto database.
- d. The facility to provide information through queries on all aspects of the information held.
- f. The facility for the public to report problems on a specific location on the map
- g. The opportunity to identify places on the PROW which are in need of repair and grade them in terms of urgency together with approximate cost.
- h. Whilst LCC would be able to run a variety of queries on the EWCDM the public would also be able to access and interrogate the EWCDM through a set of enquiry options. These enquiries would provide information on PROW and PROW Routes. The definition of a PROW Route being: a PROW Route is accessed from a LCC road; or pavement off a LCC surfaced road. The PROW Route may consist of just one or many PROWs and used to provide and display route information in accordance with the following set of questions for the public to enquire about:
 - I. Stile free routes

- II. Kissing gate free route
- III. Stile and kissing gate free route
- IV. Minimum width of route. This is where the person who submits the query is given preset options to enter.
- V. Minimum size of kissing gate access. This is where the person who submits the query is given preset options to enter in relation to the length and width of the coral, the minimum width to access through the gate and the amount of room inside the coral due to the gate swing.

Other information required for the public is to display : PROW reference, type of PROW, length of PROW

Clearly obtaining the information above will take a number of years and there will need to be an indication from the map of routes awaiting surveying.

The PROW countryside officers may have knowledge of many of the assets on the PROWs in their patch. With training, Countryside Access Volunteers could survey the PROWs identified by the officers, to obtain the relevant information to be entered into the database. Updating of the database could initially be carried out by work experience personnel or a temporary member of staff.

Recommendation: The LAF advise the Chief Executive and relevant Director/s to fund the relevant version of ExeGesIS Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). This will improve information for the public to enable them to find suitable routes to use, improve fault reporting, improve the knowledge of what structures are located and where on the PROW, improve the knowledge of where to fund improvements to maximise value for money and reduce physical barriers for members of the public with limited mobility.

This page is intentionally left blank