

If future funded permissive routes are time limited as previous, we would like to see the start of the time period for access be when the route is fully opened to users and not during the preparation for opening the route to the public.


We believe your access to woodland should ensure that walkers do not cause damage for ground nesting birds. We feel people accessing these woods should be encouraged to walk on paths which do not interfere with the fauna and flora. It is essential that if dogs are allowed in these woodlands they are kept on short leads.

We applaud your promotion of wheelchair friendly routes but feel that additional funding should be provided to motivate farmers/landowners to offer this. We recommend that there are three levels of funding for the route surface. The basic level (Level A) being a natural surface, Level B being an improved surface and Level C (the highest level) being suitable for wheelchairs. Level C payments should comply with the guidance published in the Fieldfare Trust Countryside For All, Good Practice Guide with regard to acceptable surfaces, gradients, cross slopes and passing places.

As mentioned earlier, we will be pleased to see additional routes in the countryside through funded permissive access and especially suitable routes for the disabled. We do wish to ensure the funded permissive routes are fit for purpose and I have attached a process which could assist in ensuring the routes funded are appropriate. The attached flow chart is from part of the 2013 Permissive Paths – The Future report, which was sent to Natural England by the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF some years ago. The flow chart outlines a process which could be used to involve LAFs in assessing the value of the application in relation to permissive access. It is also imperative that a web site is created to promote these routes, similar to the web site Natural England used to promote these routes in the past. Some Highway Authorities previously had a link to this site on their PROW web page and this helped people to be aware of the existence and location of these permissive access sites/routes.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Councillor Andrew Brown
Chair of the Rutland Countryside Access Forum

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