

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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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