



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

Report to:	Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum
Date:	3 October 2023
Subject:	Construction Sites in the Countryside

Summary:

This report invites the Forum to consider the report on construction sites in the countryside.

Recommendation(s):

Members of the Forum are asked to:

- 1) Agree whether John Law should work on the project set out below, on behalf of the LAF
- 2) Agree on the initial steps of the project.

Background

In February this year Natural England released their Guidance to help towns and cities turn greener with their websites: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>. Whilst this is a step in the right direction for towns and cities, it does not appear to help rural areas. Our concern as a LAF should include Solar Farms, Distribution Centres and other building construction that takes up a significant area of farmland. Another major concern is Public Rights Of Way (PROW) being converted to roads/pavements in building developments.

We need to have legislation in place before large areas of farmland get swallowed up by large construction development sites. Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum on its own will not be able to exert much pressure, if any, on Government. However, if we work with other local access forums we may be able to persuade Government to listen to our concerns. With the LAF agreement I will pursue this matter with the Rutland Countryside Access Forum and the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum and the Disability Sub Group. I will be asking for input from members as the need arises and these maybe between Forum meetings. The

answers to these questions will help to construct a document stating what we require in the legislation, before opening the debate up to other LAFs. The final document will be submitted to the Lincolnshire and Rutland Forum meetings for approval before circulating to other LAFs for their input.

Conclusion

The Forum are asked to vote on the recommendations set out above.

This report was written by John Law (Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum)