

# **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020/2021**

#### **1. Introduction**

This report represents the annual report of the North Lincolnshire Local Access Forum. The period covered by this report coincided with the Covid pandemic, which has affected the activities of the Forum. Despite this, the fruits of earlier work by the Forum and the North Lincolnshire Council Public Rights of Way team have proved valuable to many local residents, as well as creating new opportunities to residents and visitors alike.

#### **2. Membership**

The role of forum members is to attend forum meetings and to contribute constructively to the advisory role of the forum by: -

- sharing (and developing) experience, knowledge, skills, and opinions.
- valuing the contribution of other forum members, respecting minority views, engaging in constructive debate and seeking consensus where possible.
- adopting an inclusive approach to improvement of access, which reflects local circumstances and the needs of all sections of society.
- taking account of the needs of integrated land management, and of environmental, social, economic, and educational interests.
- engaging with the interests which they represent (and others) to explain and
- promote the work of the forum.
- operating within the requirements of the law (e.g. section 94 of the CROW Act and the Regulations) and locally-set conditions of appointment or Standing Orders; and
- having regard to Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

The members of the Local Access Forum are.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Richard Alderson	Chair – Local Access Forum
Frances Ross	Vice Chair – Local Access Forum Chair – Ironstone Sub Committee
Jean Ingall	Member of Ironstone Walk Sub Committee
Hazel Armstrong	
Dennis Oliver	Member of Lost Way Committee
Steve Ball	
Ralph Day	
David Dramsfield	
Nick Harland	Land Manager
Peter McKenzie-Brown	
Pam Cook	
Mark Summers	
Lorna Fillingham	
Cllr Helen Rowson	Ward Member/Land Manager
Cllr Ralph Ogg	Ward Member/Land Manager
Cllr Mashook Ali	Ward Member
Cllr Margaret Armiger	Ward Member
Colin Wilkinson	Environment Officer, Operations (service lead)
Vikki Oxley	Democratic Services Officer (secretary)

### **3. Role of the Local Access Forum**

The statutory role of a Local Access Forum is to advise decision making organisations (including local authorities) about making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel.

Local Access Forums were established under section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and operate in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Local Access Forum (England) Regulations 2007. There are approximately 80 Local Access Forums in England.

#### 4. Forum Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Numbers of forum members attending
Thursday, 16 Jan 2020	S01e Church Square House	1pm till 3pm	13
Wednesday, 29 September 2021	Conference Room, Church Square House	2pm till 4pm	

(Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the July and October 2020 meetings were postponed.)

#### 5. Key issues discussed

Historic Rights of Way and the 2026 cut off for registering these. Establish a group to research these with a view of raising public awareness.

1. Disabled Access.
2. Bottesford Beck extension.
3. Viking Way.
4. Ancholme Way completion progress.

#### 6. Positive Stories and outcomes

The lockdowns during the Covid crisis of the past year and a half have seen public rights of way and access land used and appreciated on possibly an unprecedented scale, a vivid demonstration of their intrinsic value – and, moreover, latent potential. The all-weather Ancholme Valley Way cycle-cum-footpath along the eastern bank of the River Ancholme between Brigg and South Ferriby (save pro tem a short stretch largely in Horkstow parish south of Horkstow Bridge) has proved particularly popular with all ages, including families. Furthermore, the approximately ten-mile circular

Ironstone Walk – established in 2018 under the auspices of the North Lincolnshire local access forum itself no less – continues to ensure access for all, urban as well as rural.

Meanwhile over on the Isle of Axholme, the focus is on the multi-user Greenway, and how this might be extended north from Belton to Crowle, and the missing link made good between Low Burnham and Epworth. Mostly following as it does the course of the former light railway, this is an excellent motor-traffic-free alternative to the ever-busier arterial A161. If the Crowle connection is eventually realised, end route it will intersect too with the Greenway's east-to-west arm at Ealand, a further multi-user surfaced path connecting Keadby with Maud's bridge over the border close to Thorne via the bank of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal.

Creating new paths and ways per se, and especially for equestrians and cyclists, was a cornerstone of North Lincolnshire Council's rights of way improvement plan at publication back in 2008. Given the popularity of what has been created since, the aspiration was not only vindicated, but remains as relevant now as it did then. So avanti fellow travellers, the work goes on.

## **7. Suggested Priorities for 2021-2022**

- Historic Rights of Way Subgroup
- Extension of existing rights of way network and public access.
- Planning applications in relation to rights of way. With the urgent need to build more houses in North Lincolnshire it is important to retain existing rights of way and create new points of access within and from larger new developments. Given the timeframe in which planning applications must be determined by the local authority, it is difficult for the Forum to contribute to the existing consultation process that all applications are scrutinised. The Forum could consider future strategic plans introduced by North Lincolnshire Council to make formal recommendations when planning policies are being reviewed. This could apply to all development plans, domestic, commercial, and local authority.
- North Lincolnshire Local Access Forum webpage