

Meeting: Leicestershire Local Access Forum

Date/Time: Wednesday, 14 January 2015 at 5.30 pm

Location: Guthlaxton Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield

Contact: Mr. B. Holihead (Tel. 0116 305 6339)

Email: ben.holihead@leics.gov.uk

Item

1. Welcome by Committee Officer and apologies.
2. Election of Chairperson.
3. Election of Vice Chairperson.
4. Membership.
 - a) Acceptance of continuation as members of the Forum.
 - b) Committees required.
 - c) Formal acceptance of positions on committees.
 - d) Ratification of committee chairmanships.
 - e) Appointments as representatives/observers on outside bodies.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting. (Pages 3 - 10)
6. Matters arising.
7. Urgent items.
8. Declarations of interest.
9. Items of correspondence. (Pages 11 - 42)
 - a) Access Newsletter
 - b) LAF News
 - c) National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014
10. Updates from committees. (Pages 43 - 46)
 - a) Planning and Travel Committee
 - b) Network Opportunities Committee
 - c) Verges Committee (verbal)

11. Reports from representatives on outside bodies. (Pages 47 - 50)
 - a) National Forest Access and Recreation Group (Roy Denney)
 - b) Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Group (Vicky Allen)
 - c) Canals and Waterways (Herbert Eppell)
 - d) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Group (Steven Palmer - verbal)
12. Advice given and consultation responses.
13. Orders update. (Pages 51 - 64)
14. Survey of Open Access Land report. (Pages 65 - 68)
15. Shared Routes. (Pages 69 - 72)
16. Accessible Public Open Space.
17. Commons Registration Regulations. (Pages 73 - 74)
18. Unrecorded Ways policy. (Pages 75 - 76)
19. Station Road, Great Dalby. (Pages 77 - 80)
20. Agenda items, guest speakers and forward programme.
21. Dates and venues of future meetings. (Pages 81 - 82)



Notes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on 11 November 2014.

Present

Mr. R. Denney (Chair), Mr. B. Sutton, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. J. Bullock, Mr. C. Faircliffe, Mr. J. Law, Mr. J. Howells, Mr. T. Kirby, Ms. H. Brown, Mr. S. Warren, Ms. A. Pyper, Dr. G. Mason, Ms. V. Allen, Mr. S. Salmor, Ms. L. Forman, Mr. P. Tame, Mr. A. Hillier-Fry.

Officers in Attendance

Mr. E. McWilliam and Mr. B. Holihead

99. Welcome/Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. H. Eppel. No other apologies were received.

100. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2014

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2014 be approved subject to the following changes:

Minute 91: Membership of Committees.

That Mr. J. Law be written as Chairing and co-ordinating the Network Opportunities Committee.

Minute 97: Open Access Land Surveys.

That "Alter stones" should spell "Altar Stones".

101. Matters arising from those minutes not otherwise on the agenda.

There were no matters arising.

102. To advise of any late items which the Chairman agrees are urgent.

The Chairman agreed to take the following two items as urgent:-

- (a) Renewal of Membership
- (b) Public spaces protection orders

103. Declarations of Interest.

Mrs Camamile CC declared an interest in the item entitled 'Barrow Rail Crossing' which might lead to bias as a member of the County Council's Development Control and Regulatory Board. She undertook to leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

104. Items of correspondence.

The Forum considered an item of correspondence regarding support for the Black to Green Project, a copy of which is filed with these minutes marked 'Item 6'. In addition to this, officers also presented a verbal update regarding consultations and orders under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). Whilst it was not a legal obligation to provide consultation on Section 116 orders, the local Parish or Town Council, District Council and statutory undertakers were always consulted prior to the making of an application to the court, with the application not progressing until a 'no objection' had been received from all parties;
- (ii). It was reported that notification of an application made to the court was always displayed in the local newspaper, and on-site for a considerable period of time prior to the court hearing. There was also an intention to publish notification of applications made to the court on the County Council's website in future;
- (iii). Following disappointment in the consultation process expressed by some members, the Forum requested that in future it be notified of any relevant orders.

AGREED:

- a) That the items of correspondence be noted;
- b) That LCC be requested that the list of consultees for S116 Orders should include the LLAF and appropriate users groups.

105. Updates from Committees and Working Parties.

The Forum received reports on the work undertaken by each of the subgroups. A copy of the written reports are filed with these minutes marked 'Item 8.A', 'Item 8.C', and 'Item 8.D'.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). In regards to the Watermead pilot project, members expressed that their disappointment in the County Council for not co-ordinating the

production of literature. It was reported that they were in discussions with district councils and would report back on any progress made;

- (ii). It was raised that Mr. J. Law took part in a walk arranged by Dementia Adventure at Abbey Park, accompanied by Mr. S. Warren. It was noted that the idea was to encourage dementia sufferers to walk and that they were supported by carers during the walk. Mr Law cited an instance where the support of carers was particularly useful, and showed that the guides would be able to provide these walks based on how dementia sufferers reacted to the environment. It was reported that these walks would be highly beneficial to dementia sufferers. The Forum commended the work of Mr Law and offered its assistance where possible.

AGREED:

- a) The Forum noted the updates;
- b) Members requested that their disappointment in the County Council not developing the literature requested by Mr Law.

106. Reports from representatives on outside bodies.

The Forum received various updates which summarised the work undertaken by a number of the sub groups. A copy of the briefing notes received in writing are filed with these minutes marked 'Item 9.A', 'Item 9.E', 'Item 9.F', 'Item 9.G', and 'Item 9.I'. The remainder of the reports were given verbally.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). It was reported that a meeting of the National Forest Access and Recreation Group had been arranged with the new Chief Executive of the National Forest due to attend;
- (ii). It was expressed that National Forest sites could potentially be other locations for Dementia Adventure to carry out walks.

AGREED:

That the reports be noted.

107. Advices given and consultation responses.

Members discussed the advice they had provided to organisations through formal correspondence and consultation responses.

Gratitude was expressed by some members that the comments regarding the solar panel farm in North West Leicestershire were toned down so that the Forum did not give the impression of being anti-renewable energy, but had raised concerns entirely on an access basis.

AGREED:

That the advices provided by the Forum be noted.

108. Barrow Rail Crossing.

(Mrs. Camamile CC, having declared a personal interest which might lead to bias, left the meeting during consideration of this item).

Members discussed the proposal by Network Rail to extinguish the Barrow Rail Crossing. A response was provided to Network Rail outlining the Forum's opposition to this proposal on 14 October 2014.

Following discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). Members queried the premise of Network Rail in closing the crossing due to lack of cost-effectiveness. They also commented on the lack of explicit figures of any of the potential options for the crossing. However it was advised that there was no necessity at this point to provide detailed figures on the proposals, however Network Rail would have to provide more detailed information once they had made a decision;
- (ii). Officers advised that the Network Rail had carried out a preliminary consultation process and that Network Rail had paused in taking any action at the request of the County Council in order to consider the views of interested parties. Some members also expressed their satisfaction at the public meeting held by Network Rail;
- (iii). The Forum requested to be copied in to any consultation that takes place on the issue.

AGREED:

The Forum agreed to send the advice it provided to Network Rail to the County Council so they had a record of correspondence.

109. Cycling guidance.

The Forum discussed concerns around the behaviour of cyclists and guidance that had been published in regard to their behaviour. A report is filed with these minutes marked 'Item 12'.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). Concerns were raised that guidance for cyclists was not being followed (examples were cited such as cycling on the left and unnecessarily cycling on pavements). Members queried how much guidance was handed out at cycle hire locations, citing families hiring bikes as an example of groups not necessarily following guidance. The Forum

noted that there were multiple areas from which information could be disseminated (Hicks Lodge, local bike shops etc);

- (ii). Some members expressed that it was a perception issue and that the 'good' cyclists were never remembered. However it was recognised that there were issues regarding cyclist behaviour, clothing and that some cyclists did not know where they could and could not cycle;
- (iii). It was noted that Leicestershire County Council supported cycle training initiatives, particularly in schools. The Forum queried if symbols could be placed on signs to indicate if cycling was allowed on that path or road;

AGREED:

That the East Midlands Local Access Forum Chairman be asked to consider the issue of cyclist behaviour and that we would consider the issue further at the next meeting.

110. Orders update.

The Forum considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport on the Public Rights of Way Legal Orders and Other Ongoing Cases. The report is filed with these minutes marked 'Item 13'. Mr McWilliam also presented a verbal report on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). The Provision of Anti-Social Behaviour Powers were largely focused to urban issues, however they could have an effect on public access. The power to apply Public Space Protection Orders would fall with district councils and not Leicestershire County Council, and any breach of order would be dealt with as a criminal offence;
- (ii). It was advised that where a local authority may be considering issuing an order, it could also hold a public meeting as to why the order could be put in place. Leicestershire County Council could request all district councils to consult on any PSPOs;
- (iii). A PSPO could be in place for three years with the only form of appeal being through the High Court. It was advised that there was no formal local appeals procedure;
- (iv). It was advised that this was significantly different to previous gating legislation which was very prescriptive. In response to queries regarding how long it takes for a PSPO to be implemented officers stated that it would have to be in relation to ongoing incidents rather than a single event. However there was no set time period for this but was at the discretion of local authorities;

- (v). Members discussed the current positions of various Public Path and Modification Orders (attached as appendixes 13.1 – 13.16 with these minutes).
- (vi). Concern was raised over the alternative paths on Appendix 9;
- (vii). The new paths being laid out as part of the Bardon quarry extension were brought up. Members were concerned if there was adequate signage in place. Officers responded that they would follow this up.

AGREED:

- a) That the Orders be noted;
- b) That the Forum writes to each Chief Executive of the district councils to request the LLAF be consulted on PSPOs.

111. Access Land Surveys.

The Forum considered the surveys of four open access areas. The report and appendices is filed with these minutes marked as 'Item 14'. The four locations considered in this report were Loughborough Meadows, Charnwood Lodge, Billa Barra Local Nature Reserve, and Altar Stones.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). A concern was raised that not all the paths on Loughborough Meadows were where they were indicated. Members expressed an awareness that as it was farmed land, the public were not sure where they could walk;
- (ii). It was reported that the Charnwood Lodge survey indicated that it was not clear that users were on a Public Open Access Site and there was a significant lack of signage;
- (iii). It was advised that the Billa Barra Local Nature Reserve had changed significantly due to re-fencing that had been undertaken. The Forum expressed regret that it had not been consulted on the re-fencing which a significant amount of money had been invested into. It was reported that a Leicestershire County Council maintained stile at the end of a path had not been maintained properly. Members advised that there was a large equestrian centre at Billa Barra and requested that its informal access to Billa Barra land be retained. A meeting had been arranged on site with Hinckley & Bosworth to discuss the issues and suggestions;
- (iv). It was reported that the Altar Stones reserve had been well maintained and signposted. It was reported that when concerns were raised regarding barbed wire above a stile, the Leicestershire & Rutland

Wildlife Trust fitted piping to the barbed wire so that it could be crossed safely. Further discussions with the Trust were in hand about all three of their locations that had been inspected;

- (v). Concerns were raised regarding Rawnscliffe common land which was entirely closed to the public despite its status as common land. It was reported that Markfield Parish Council had been written to but no response had been received.

AGREED:

That the Access Land Surveys be noted.

112. Annual Public Report.

AGREED:

That the Annual Public Report be noted and distributed to parish and district councils and libraries.

113. Delegation.

The Forum expressed a desire for a better way to work between meetings particularly in regards to correspondence being sent on behalf of the Forum and its committees and sub-groups.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:-

- (i). That there may be occasion for a response to consultation be made on behalf of the Forum without having to consult the Forum at a formal meeting. It was expressed that trust be placed in the Chairman of the committees to take such decisions when necessary in consultation with the Forum Chairman;
- (ii). It was noted that it would be necessary to ensure a balanced view in line with the principles of the Forum if powers to respond to consultation were given to Chairman of the committees

AGREED:

The Forum noted its ambition to delegate responsibilities to Chairman of the committees, subject to a response from officers regarding how this would fit with the Forum's terms of reference.

114. Unrecorded Ways Policies.

AGREED:

The Forum moved that the item be deferred until the next meeting to allow further consideration.

115. Generic Planning Advice.

The Forum considered an update of the generic planning advice regarding footpaths, cycleways, bridleways and access land, which was issued by the Forum to local authorities and developers. A copy of the advice is filed with these minutes marked as 'Item 18'.

Subject to corrections to spelling and grammar, the Forum noted the updated planning advice.

116. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.

There were no other items.

117. Future meetings and programme.

The Forum considered the proposed meeting dates of the Forum in 2015. Arising from discussion the Forum amended the proposed start time of 6.00pm to 5.30pm to ensure adequate time to discuss items. The Forum also agreed to an informal meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month where there was no formal Forum meeting arranged.

Members were informed that they would be contacted via email regarding their continued membership of the Forum and were asked to reply to the email to indicate their intentions.

6.00pm – 8.17pm
11 November 2014

CHAIRMAN

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 66

December 2014

Autumn Statement – coastal access

The Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced in the Autumn Statement on 3 December 2014 that additional funding would be made available to complete the English coastal path by 2020.

On the following day the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg issued a press release on the funding for 2014/15 and 2015/16. A copy of the press release is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deputy-pm-commits-millions-to-speed-up-completion-of-coastal-paths>

Access open on coastal stretch in Norfolk

The new right of coastal access was opened on a stretch of the coast between Sea Palling and Weybourne, Norfolk on Friday 12 December 2014.

An Order - the Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (Sea Palling to Weybourne) Order 2014 No. 3128 - was made to bring the rights into force. It is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3128/contents/made>

Paths for Communities

Paths for Communities (P4C) was a funding scheme set up to develop and enhance the network of public rights of way in England in order to give benefits to rural areas. Local community partnerships were eligible to bid to Natural England for funds.

The scheme closed in September 2013 and Natural England's final report is now available together with supporting documents of lessons learnt in running the scheme and details of the projects that have been funded. The report is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/paths-for-communities-p4c-scheme-final-report>

Common land registration

The Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2014 came into force on 15 December 2015. From that date it will be possible for people to make:

- any type of application allowed under Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 in the areas of Cumbria County Council and North Yorkshire County Council. (Part 1 continues to apply to the seven pioneer areas as normal: Blackburn with Darwen, Cornwall, Devon, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Kent and Lancashire); and
- five types of 'corrective applications' in all other remaining registration authorities in England.

The Regulations are available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3038/made>

The application forms and guidance to commons registration authorities and the Planning Inspectorate have been published at: <http://www.gov.uk/common-land-management-protection-and-registering-to-use#commons-registration>

The guidance to applicants has been published in four parts but there will be a single link to those pages from the main commons registration page (i.e. from the link above):

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-how-to-apply-to-make-changes>

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-apply-to-record-new-events>

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-apply-to-record-historic-events>

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-apply-to-rectify-them>

If you have any queries about the above, please email us at:

coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Public
Footpath

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Item 9.B

LAF NEWS

Quarter 3 - 2014/15

Issue 5

Welcome

You never know what to expect from a LAF newsletter, and that's down to the interesting mix of articles we receive from the LAF family. So thank you to all who have contributed. In this our 5th edition you can read how local LAF knowledge has helped to shape stretches of the England Coast Path in Cumbria, developed a Canoe trail in the Broads and created a 26km bridleway in Milton Keynes. There's also advice on how to engage with Health & Wellbeing Boards, and getting involved in Open Access Restriction Reviews. We all know that having the evidence to support the case for access is important. In this edition we look at making use of MENE data and the opportunities that the new National Character Areas offer. There's also an interesting article on the challenges and opportunities for Urban LAFs.

It's important to share experiences of how LAFs have found ways and means to move their local access agenda forward, and this newsletter provides one vehicle to do that, so if there's anything you would like to see or good practice you'd like to share, please let us know.

Martin Shaw
Senior Advisor, Natural England

In this issue...

[England coast path in Cumbria](#)

[Urban LAFs](#)

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[Canoe Access](#)

[The Bedford - Milton Keynes waterway proposal](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Boards](#)

[South Pennines LNP & MENE data](#)

[The new NCA and what it means for LAFs](#)

[Huddle](#)

LAF News

LAF Advice to England Coast Path in Cumbria

By Eve Borrino - Countryside Ranger/LAF Secretary and Charles Ecroyd - Cumbria LAF Chair



The Chairman (Charles Ecroyd) and Vice Chairman (Jim McQueen) of the Cumbria LAF with Natural England staff at the opening of the path.

New coastal access rights enabling people to enjoy 36km of coastline between Allonby and Whitehaven have come into force. This is the first stretch of the [England Coast Path National Trail](#) in Cumbria. The new trail, funded by Natural England, will eventually take in the whole coast of England and create a route around the country.

It was officially opened at a ceremony in Maryport on 11 April attended by Cumbria County Council's Chairman, Councillor Alan Barry, with representatives and dignitaries from Natural England, Cumbria Local Access Forum, and Allerdale and Copeland Councils.

LAF members provided personal views and feedback from their own experiences of walking along that section of coast at the start of the process, which helped Natural England identify specific issues and opportunities. During the planning process LAF members helped to identify landowners when more information was needed and continued to advise on progress in advance of the report to the Secretary of State.



CLAF members take a blustery walk along the England Coast Path at Maryport.

The Council's Countryside Access team have implemented the new access, working with local contractors to install new signage, bridges and gates to open up this section of the route to the public. The Allonby to Whitehaven is one of 3 stretches of the England Coast Path now open.

Work on additional sections in Cumbria is already underway including a 70km stretch from Whitehaven to Silecroft and a 100km stretch from Gretna to Allonby.

Links

[England Coast Path: improving public access to the coast Trail](#)

Contact us

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LAF News

Urban LAFs

By Kevin Haugh - Lead Adviser, Natural England

LAFs that cover predominantly urban areas often face different challenges to their rural counterparts. Urban authorities are unlikely to have access and public rights of way (PROW) high on their agenda and they are much more likely to be focused on issues such as reducing road congestion, improving health and wellbeing, anti-social behaviour and social inclusion. By showing how PROW and access to green space can help resolve some of these problems, LAFs are much more likely to receive interest and support from the authority.

Natural England's national survey on visits to the natural environment ([Monitoring of Engagement with the natural Environment - MENE](#)) is a good way of providing evidence based advice on why people value access and recreation - and where they go. The survey tells us that around 66% of all visits to the natural environment are within 2 miles of home and many of these are to urban greenspace.

Recruiting the right number and type of members is a common issue for all LAFs. However, with urban LAFs landowner representation can be particularly difficult, especially when much non-developed land is owned by the local authority. Urban LAFs also need to work with a range of communities and will benefit from attracting younger people and those from minority ethnic backgrounds. Identifying and contacting suitable candidates may not succeed through traditional routes such as adverts in the local press and some creative thinking might be required to attract new members.

Dwindling support and resources from appointing authorities is experienced by most LAFs but this can be even more of an issue in urban areas. This is because rights of way sections are typically very small, often subsumed within other departments, and given low priority. Many urban LAFs cover areas that were initially excluded from the requirement to prepare a definitive map and statement of PROW and therefore have limited or no recorded rights of way.

If all else fails, the 'better together' maxim can apply. It can seem lonely as an urban LAF with few resources available to do a challenging job; and joining with another LAF can be a solution. The 2007 LAF regulations allow LAFs to reform if they wish and joining up with one or more neighbouring urban LAFs, or a rural LAF, can often bring mutual benefits – including combined and more effective support.

Links

[Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: survey purpose and results](#)

Contact us

LAF@naturalengland.org.uk

LAF News

Many urban LAFs have risen to these challenges and there are good examples of this on the LAF Huddle workspace.

Open Access Restriction Reviews How can LAFs be effective and make a difference?

By Kevin Vigers - Lead Adviser on Statutory Access, Coastal Access, Open Access and National Trails, Natural England

Open Access Land, designated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW), can be subject to closure or restricted access for a variety of reasons. Natural England, the National Parks and the Forestry Commission, as 'relevant authorities' under CROW, have a statutory responsibility to manage requests from land owners to restrict access to their land. Some of these are long-term restrictions and need to be reviewed every five years. A timetable of when reviews will be undertaken by Natural England can be found on huddle.

LAFs are statutory consultees on these reviews and can play a key role in helping to ensure the least restrictive option is considered whilst having regard to the interests of land managers, nature conservation and the public.

In undertaking this role LAFs can make a difference by:

- Providing a balanced view representing all perspectives including the public using the access, land management and nature conservation interests;
- Providing evidence about levels and patterns of use of the land in particular any relevant new research or other information that has become available since the relevant authority issued the last direction;
- Providing information and knowledge about any changes to the land or its management.

Reviews focus on whether there are changes in circumstances which may affect previous decisions and it is important that LAFs provide the relevant authority with as much information as possible in any responses.



Links

Huddle specific links

[Timetable of the Natural England Open Access Statutory Reviews](#)

Contact us

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LAF News

Broads Canoe Trails

By Adrian Clarke - Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer and Lottie Carlton - Administrative Officer (Strategy and Projects), Broads Authority

The Broads LAF has been instrumental in the development and publication of eight canoe trails by the Broads Authority. The trails are aimed at everyone from children to pensioners and were designed to capture the beauty and tranquillity of the Broads.

The trails have been carefully worked out by the Broads Authority in consultation with the Broads LAF. Colourful maps, complete with estimated timings for completing the trails, and bright illustrations of wildlife you might meet along the way are downloadable from the [Broads Authority's visitor website](#).

Adrian Clarke, Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer at the Broads Authority, said: "LAF advice on access to water is very welcome and this is particularly important to the Broads where paddling the rivers and shallow lakes by canoe is one of the best ways to experience this part of the National Parks family."

The trails cover the more tranquil reaches of the river system



Canoeing on the Broads - Tom Mackie

including the upper reaches of the River Ant, the scenic North Walsham and Dilham canal; a quiet loop around Bungay and the stretch of the River Waveney from Geldeston to Beccles. The project was funded by a sustainable tourism grant of nearly £6,000 from the EU.

Adrian said: "The popularity of canoeing is increasing in the Broads

Links

[Broads Authority Website](#)

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LAF News

and the Broads LAF, recognising that canoeing contributes greatly to the area's £400m-plus tourism economy, is keen to promote the Broads as a family friendly canoeing destination.”

The Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Proposal

By Dana Green - Milton Keynes Local Access Forum

Milton Keynes LAF and Bedford and Luton JLAF are working together to make sure that a bridleway is created along-side Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway. The opportunity to achieve this was nearly lost but thanks to one LAF member, the local horse-riding community will benefit from a new bridleway running next to the foot and cycle paths.

The proposed new 26km Waterway link between the River Great Ouse at Kempston in Bedford and the Grand Union Canal at Newlands in Milton Keynes will create Britain's first major waterway in a century. It is expected to be used by a wide variety of the community and bring huge benefits across the region.

The Waterway had originally been considered primarily for water based users. However, following an informative presentation to the LAFs by the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust it was widely recognised that the majority of users would be walkers, cyclists and horse-riders on the adjacent path and that their needs had to be taken into consideration.

The focus is now on a park with water - as the land sections are likely to be delivered before the water sections. In the long term the project will provide attractive waterside locations for new homes and businesses, as well as new wildlife habitats.

Much foresight has gone into the project including the provision of passage under the M1 and the A421 - two very busy roads in this built up area of the country. The M1 issue was resolved by accessing the former cattle 'underpass' on the Woburn estate, which is large enough to accommodate a waterway with a multiuse route. The A421, built in 2011 incorporated an underpass for both the Sustrans Cycle Route 51 and the waterway.

The project was first launched over 200 years ago at the height of canal construction; however, opposition from local landowners halted the scheme and the original route was used to create the Bletchley to Bedford Railway Line. The scheme was resurrected in 1995 and supported by British Waterways until their government grant was cut. Since then the project has been led by the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterways Trust.

Dana said “In our modern age of usually short-term gains, how fortunate that Bedford and Milton Keynes communities stand to benefit from such far-sighted proposals resulting from communications between LAFs and other groups - whose time is so freely given.

For once it would seem that we really have had an input”.

Links

[The Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust presentation](#)

Contact us

LAF@naturalengland.org.uk

LAF News

Health and Wellbeing Boards - Getting Involved

By Ruth Killen - Wigan Local Access Forum

The Wigan LAF is working with it's Adult Social Care & Health department and the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that the role of green open space and outdoor recreation is incorporated into the development of health strategies.

Public health is now a key responsibility for local authorities. Health and Wellbeing Boards are tasked with protecting and improving the health of local populations; however, areas of poor health have tended to lose out more through local authority budget cuts. Life expectancy is adversely affected by poor diet, alcohol and lack of exercise and reliance on public transport to access health care makes these problems worse. The ROW network can provide a healthy alternative for all non-motorised users and save money at the same time.

Careful budget management can help the co-ordinated care strategy achieve it's key aim of keeping people healthy and avoiding expensive hospital visits. Mental health, for example, is known to be improved by physical activity.

The aim of the Wigan H&WB board is to improve health outcomes for local people, improve people's experience of health and social care across the borough, and reduce the demands on local services through prevention. The Board is looking at incorporating these changes so that local health services take into account recreational and leisure facilities that can be enjoyed by local residents and visitors.

Stuart Cowley: Director for Adult Social Care & Health in Wigan suggested that the local Health and Wellbeing Board could link in with the Greenheart initiative: an extensive network of high quality landscapes and open spaces which provide an attractive countryside setting for Wigan Borough. By working with the LAF on the "Live Well - Age Well" strategy the Board would be able to monitor the extent to which behavioural change can save money.

The Wigan LAF is encouraging dialogue with local communities to find out what is wanted regarding access – especially for mothers with prams and for people who are disabled. Physical interventions in the public health arena can lead to healthier lifestyles and it is hoped that LAF involvement will result in an environmentally sustainable future where the potential of green open spaces is maximised and the quality of the local street scene improved

Stuart Cowley's advised the LAF to contact the local Community Voluntary Services who could help increase the LAF's youth, black, minority and ethnic membership - and also assist with funding and commissioning opportunities.

LAFs can help Health and Wellbeing Boards shape local planning policies and influence integrated care plans for improving health delivery in the local area. By working with partners and developing useful contacts in the community LAFs can help to deliver the health message and have an influence on future health behaviours.

Links

[Wigan Local Access Forum website](#)

Contact us

LAF@naturalengland.org.uk

LAF News

MENE survey helping Local Nature Partnerships

By the Outdoors for All team, Natural England

Natural England, in partnership with Pennine Prospects, have analysed the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE) data on behalf of the South Pennines Local Nature Partnership (LNP) to help them shape their public engagement work. The South Pennines (National Character Area 36) is the distinctive area of uplands between the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Pennine Lancashire.

Mark Turner, Programme & Operations Director at Pennine Prospects said: "The analysis of the MENE data is helping the South Pennines LNP to move away from its comfort zone and to develop projects that engage new audiences. Many of the people who stand to benefit most from the South Pennines currently do not come to our area but are on the doorstep. The MENE report is a really valuable tool to help address that challenge and in particular our plans to increase social inclusion".

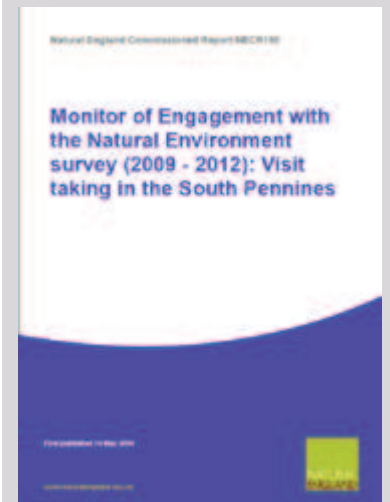
The analysis showed that between 2009 and 2012, an average of 20 million visits were taken per year to places within the South Pennines, however it also showed that the South Pennines is visited by three distinct groups:

- Residents of the South Pennines: 7.1 million visits (36%), equating to an average of 35 visits per year by each of the c.0.2 million adults who live in this area.
- Residents of the former industrial towns around the South Pennines (Catchment Area): 3.6 million visits (18%) equating to an average of around 3 visits per year by each of the c.1.4m adults who live in this area.
- Residents of more remote areas: 9 million visits (46%) originate from further afield with large volumes from cities such as Leeds and Manchester.

The analysis highlighted some interesting differences between these population groups which include:

- Residents of the South Pennines are more likely than residents of the surrounding Catchment Area to be in the most affluent socio-economic groups while, by contrast, residents of the Catchment Area are more likely to be in the least affluent socio-economic groups, to be members of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population and to live in urban and deprived areas.
- On average 27% of people from the least affluent DE socio-economic groups had taken a visit to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview, a much lower proportion compared to the most affluent ABs socio-economic groups (48%).
- Furthermore, over half the visits to the natural environment taken by DE residents of the Catchment Area involved a journey of less than a mile, and 79% were taken on foot. Just 12% of visits involved a journey of over 5 miles.

Links



[Outdoors for All - reports](#)

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- Nearly all of the BAME population from the Catchment Area lived in urban areas (99%) and nearly half (48%) lived in areas classified as deprived.
- On average 24% of people in the BAME population had taken a visit to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview, compared to 38% for the rest of the English population. Furthermore, 69% of these visits were to places within 2 miles of home most commonly urban parks.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012, gives local authorities a duty to reduce health inequalities and increasing the use of the natural environment close to where people live can be a tool for local authorities to deliver these responsibilities. MENE tells us that diverse communities access the natural environment the least, but these communities suffer the greatest inequalities and so have the potential to gain the most from increased use.

South Pennines LNP are now using the information in this report to develop better targeted outreach projects so that the opportunities to benefit from spending time in the natural environment are open to a wider range of individuals; helping to deliver a series of outcomes including higher levels of health and reduced inequalities.

Accessing England's Landscapes

By Cara Courage - National Character Areas, Natural England

Natural England's National Character Area project, defining all of England's 159 major landscape areas, was completed in June.

This means wherever we want to walk, ride or cycle in England, there is a description of that landscape, making trips out and about much more fascinating and exciting.

These landscape profiles provide a unique, free and highly accessible information resource, highlighting how England's varied landscapes function and how they can be cared for. They can provide useful background information, all in one place, when planning guided walks and tours across England.



Burrs Country Park - NCA 54 - Manchester Pennine Fringe

[National Character Areas \(NCAs\)](#) integrate a wide range of environmental information to create a 'profile' for each of England's 159 major landscape areas, exploring the characteristic landscape, wildlife, cultural, geological features and access to be found, and providing information on how the landscape is changing, how it supports economic activity, and what are the local environmental opportunities for the future. Access data is a fundamental data set within each profile allowing national data to be compared between areas. Access data can be found in the 'key facts' for each NCA and is carried forward in to the Statements of Opportunity. Almost every NCA has a Statement of Opportunity which focuses on people and place, including access. This may help to support local

Links

[National Character Area profiles: data for local decision making](#)

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access initiatives and other projects to take an integrated approach.

Jim Smyllie, Natural England Executive Director said: "NCA profiles talk about places which people can relate to very personally. They explore what makes those places distinctive, and explain how they function. I'm delighted that the complete set of these profiles is now available to help decision making at a really local level".



NCA's are already being used for a wide range of purposes which include:

- Providing local context and a sense of place to support local tourism marketing.
- A resource for schools and students.
- Providing a local context for Rights of Way Improvement plan reviews and updates, and for a local cycling and riding strategies.
- A local evidence base supporting applications to Heritage Lottery funded landscape projects - £20 million this year alone.
- Environmental information and opportunities for Local Nature Partnerships and Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- Providing land use planning authorities with the natural environment context necessary for local development strategies.
- A geographical framework for the new Countryside Stewardship scheme.
- Information support for development and land management plans and strategic environmental assessments.
- Information to support local environmental protection initiatives and action plans.
- Support for national policy development and implementation.



Walkers above Borrowdale - NCA 8 - Cumbria High Fells

Richard Rampton, a consultant with Rural Advice Ltd said: "The NCA profiles are being very useful, not to say essential, in providing background for what will become Local Development Strategies and bids to Defra for funding the two LEADER areas proposed for Suffolk and North Essex: the Heritage Coast and the Wool Towns. The Character

Links

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Area profiles have provided us with really thorough descriptions and pointers to opportunities for the Local Area Groups to pursue.”

Awarded ‘Highly Commended’ in the Landscape Institute Awards 2013, the profiles are set out in an accessible tabbed format, creating an easy to use, one stop shop, and designed to help equip local communities with the tools needed to understand and shape their natural surroundings.

What’s Hot on Huddle

By Rob Leek - Lead Adviser, Natural England

A whiteboard was recently created on the LAF Huddle workspace with information and links regarding the Department for Transport Cycling Delivery Plan consultation (which closed on the 27th November) and all Huddle members were sent an email alert about it to make LAFs aware in case they wanted to respond. A number of Huddle members have started discussing the consultation and related matters in the comments section underneath the whiteboard.

Links

Huddle specific links

[Department for Transport Cycling Delivery Plan Consultation Whiteboard](#)

Comments and suggestions on how Huddle could be improved are welcomed – please contact

[Rob Leek](#)

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National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

Foreword by Natural England

I am delighted to introduce Natural England's third annual report to Defra on the work that Local Access Forums achieved during the year ending 31st March 2014. Once again there are many examples of how LAFs are advising their appointing authorities, and other bodies with responsibility for public access, on improving the opportunities for outdoor recreation whilst taking into account the needs of land management and nature conservation.

In selecting activities to add to this national annual report we sought examples where LAFs demonstrated how they had made a difference to the access provided in practical ways. The report below summarises many of these examples such as identifying specific places where the Public Rights of Way network could be improved for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders as well as for those with limited mobility. One LAF had directly influenced the removal of stiles and gates where not required for land management and one had managed a grant scheme to support improvements to the network. Others had supported funding bids such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and Natural England's Paths for Communities scheme. Some LAFs have monitored the standard of maintenance of routes and one had developed a volunteering programme to help look after local paths.

LAFs have also contributed to a wide range of public consultations seeking to reduce impacts on existing public access whilst maximising improvements. They have raised awareness of disability needs, opened dialogue with landowners and sought to increase land manager representation on LAFs, and they have brought together diverse views to seek solutions to issues such as vehicular use of Public Rights of Way and the behaviour of dog owners and their pets.

Many LAFs have begun to consider the ten year review of their Rights of Way Improvement Plan and have advised their local authority on future priorities. Some have sought to link with other local networks such as Health and Wellbeing Boards and Local Enterprise Partnerships to demonstrate the importance of good public access to health and to tourism. All important if LAFs are to be effective at showing the relevance of public access to the issues that are high on local agendas. Success has varied and where progress has been made we encourage LAFs to share this so that other LAFs may benefit from the experience.

This annual report combines the headlines from the LAF annual reports along with results from the annual survey of LAF Chairs and Secretaries. The survey informs Natural England and Defra on the type of support LAFs seek and influences the way that we provide that support. Many of the themes and issues emerging from the LAF survey and cited in this annual report will be the topics of discussion in the regular LAF Newsletter, on Huddle and at the annual conference to be held in 2015.

This report will be used to raise the awareness of the LAF collective contribution to public access and comes with great appreciation for the voluntary contribution that individual members make. The report will be used to raise the profile of this contribution with Ministers, government departments, local authorities, and all organisations involved in the delivery of public access to the natural environment.

Wendy Thompson
Natural England Principal Adviser, Access and Engagement
October 2014

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

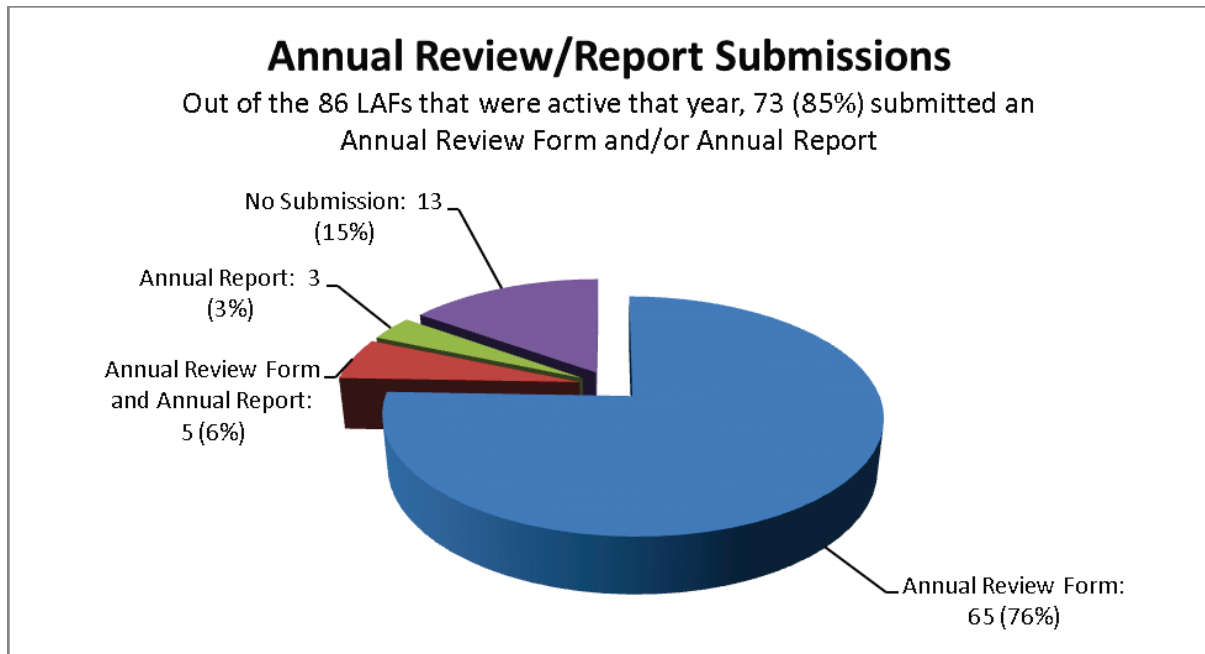
1. Introduction

Natural England has responsibilities set out in the CROW Act (section 19 of the 2007 regulations for Local Access Forums) to receive annual reports from all LAFs. This report summarises all of the LAF annual reports received covering the period April 2013 to March 2014. The report highlights some of the achievements reported, provides statistics on LAFs and the activities they have undertaken, identifies issues and makes recommendations on improvements that could be made.

LAFs were asked to submit an annual report to Natural England, by the 30th June 2014. The LAF Regional Coordinators produced summary reports for their region which have also been used to inform this report. In addition we conducted an online survey between 13th March and 4th April 2014 amongst LAF Chairs and Secretaries. The results have also been fed into this report. All of the charts in this report are prepared from data submitted on the Annual Review Form or to the Annual Survey.

Last year's report was published in February 2014. For this report we have brought the publication date to October 2014 and our thanks go to the LAFs and Regional Coordinators for bringing their respective submissions forward to enable us to produce a more timely report.

The final submission results are as follows:

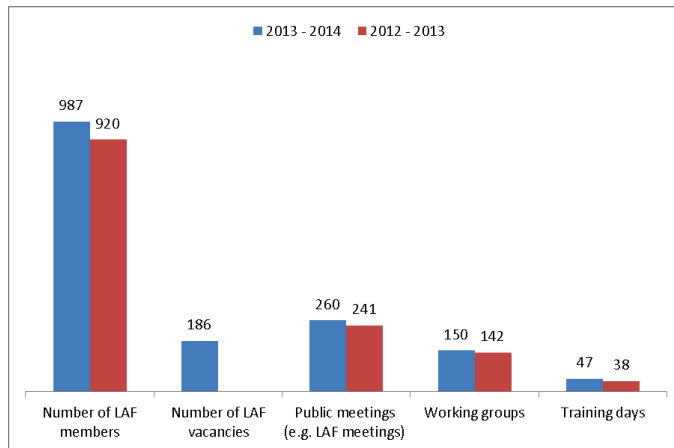


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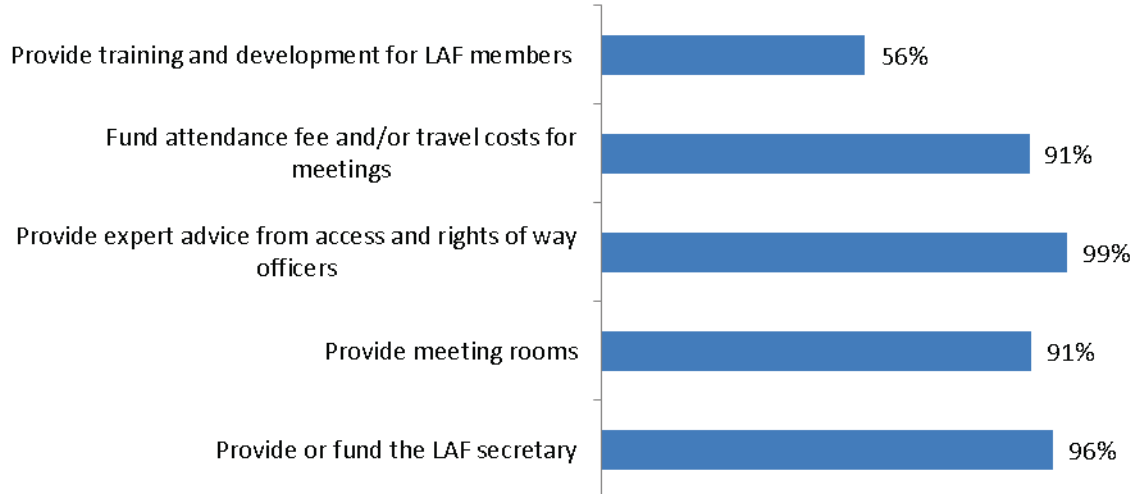
2. How LAFs operate

Over the last 12 months most LAFs (59%) retained the same number of members; 17% had increased and 23% had decreased.

Most LAFs (57%) met more than 3 times a year and only 14% met less than twice during the previous year, 94% of meetings had more than half of their members attending.



In general LAFs received good support from their appointing authority but notably a small minority are not employing a secretary, or funding member expenses, contrary to the legislation that established LAFs and supporting regulations (The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007).



Over half of LAFs (57%) operated sub groups, who met at variable intervals throughout the year. These groups covered a wide range of topics from practical matters relating to routes and open spaces, partnership working to develop new approaches as well as the preparation of plans and strategies. Sub-groups reported back to their LAF in a variety of different ways.

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

3. LAF achievements

3.1 LAF activities

Examples of LAF activities in their annual reports are wide-ranging. The following is a selection of achievements that have helped to secure access benefits for local communities. More details about the achievements of the LAFs are available from the 2013 – 2014 Regional Reports on the LAF Huddle workspace.

Bury LAF held its first meeting on 11th September 2013 and began by setting out the four priority issues for members:

1. Misuse of the countryside by off road vehicles;
2. The condition of the Public Rights of Way Network;
3. The lack of implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with particular regard to bridleways;
4. The protection of open spaces from proposed development, including wind turbines and wind farms.

During the first three meetings there was much discussion relating to these issues and other topics including:

- The Definitive Map and Statement - The LAF expressed a desire for the Authority's definitive rights of way records to be reviewed and updated. The last review was carried out by Greater Manchester Council in 1984.
- Identification of horse riding routes around Ainsworth and Elton Reservoir. - Some members had researched the demand for horse riding routes in the west of the borough and suggested possible routes.
- Greenmount Village Hiking Group proposal to create a West Pennine Moors Way, including a link to the Pennine Way. Members of the group offered support and advice as to how best to take this forward.
- The creation of a circular walk linking the rural communities in the north of the borough. Almost all of the work on this "Village Link" has been the responsibility of one of the LAF members through her role in the Bury Rural Inequalities Forum. The LAF provided and support and advice to this initiative.

Central Bedfordshire and Luton JLAF worked closely with Central Bedfordshire Council Officers on the review of the Outdoor Access Improvement Plan (OAIP). Following adoption of the plan, the LAFs focus moved to agreeing the annual action plan and monitoring progress against the agreed actions at six monthly intervals. The LAF also provided support for a Paths for Communities project to create a new cycle path to the West of Biggleswade and provided input to the proposed level crossing closures on the East Coast Main Line.

Cheshire East LAF members used their local knowledge to advise on five major road schemes that all had implications for non-motorised users, and required comment from the LAF. The LAF contributed to the pre-submission consultation on the local authority's Core Strategy, emphasising (among other points) the importance of access and rights of way to tourism and the rural economy, and the LAF's views were incorporated into the finished version. The LAF was also active in surveying routes for Cheshire East's booklet "Walks for All 2" and emphasised walks which can be reached without a car, and which are located on urban fringes.

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

Cumbria LAF advised Natural England on the roll-out of the England Coast Path and attended the opening of the first stretch in Cumbria in April 2014 (Allonby to Whitehaven – 35km). The Cumbria LAF (along with the Lake District National Park LAF) has also been involved in several meetings and discussions with Natural England on the proposals for the second stretch between Whitehaven and Silecroft (55km) which were published in October 2014. Both LAFs provided local advice and information on specific access challenges on the proposed route. More recently, the Cumbria LAF provided information on existing access opportunities and issues on the third stretch of coast, where work began in September 2014.

Natural England staff reported that Cumbria LAF were particularly keen to get involved in the planning of Coastal Access. They welcomed regular briefings from Natural England at their meetings, and were proactive in providing advice and support.

Devon Countryside Access Forum's Chairman initiated a meeting with the local authority lead on the Local Nature Partnership and the Head of Health Improvement for South and West Devon. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss shared objectives and the development of a Naturally Healthy Task and Finish Group. This group was set up and included representatives from a number of organisations and further information on its outputs will be available for the 2014-15 annual report. The Devon Local Nature Partnership launched its 5 year prospectus early in 2014. Being naturally healthy is one of the seven priority themes underpinning the three aims to:

1. Protect and improve Devon's natural environment
2. Grow Devon's green economy
3. Reconnect Devon's people with nature.

Dudley LAF developed and launched a volunteering programme in conjunction with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Countryside Service. Volunteering focussed mainly on the Coombeswood Green Wedge site that the LAF had been very interested in for the last few years. The programme was beneficial in getting members of the LAF out working with local Friends groups to help maintain some important parts of the path network in the borough. It has allowed members to have greater variety in terms of their involvement beyond just attending meetings.

The LAF also provided training for local authority staff and members on the Equalities Act, 2010 and how this applies to public access. The Equalities courses were run by Access in Dudley which is the organisation headed up by the current LAF chair, Tina Boothroyd. It was an opportunity to educate Council Officers and LAF members regarding disability awareness issues in the outdoors and utilised a nature reserve site (Wren's Nest). The site had recently benefitted from investment through the Heritage lottery Fund so parts of the site had been upgraded specifically to improve disabled access whilst other parts remain inaccessible to some people with special access requirements owing to the topography of the site. The LAF advised that the site provided a good test case to show what improvements can be made to support accessibility at natural sites (not just steps and gradients but also raising awareness about other issues such as colour contrasts, vegetation management and textures.).

East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint LAF. Members of the JLAF worked with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other organisations such as GLASS (representing the protection of Green Lanes) and LARA (representing responsible motorised recreation) to help with the development of a Policy for the Management of Unmetalled Highways and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). The Policy which has now been formally adopted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council shows how positive engagement between the Council, the JLAF, and in particular GLASS and

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

LARA has led to a workable and sustainable way forward for these valuable countryside assets, and for everyone that uses "green lanes" for access and recreation.

Two farming JLAF members were actively involved in promoting the ideas of positive access and have opened up dialogue between landowners for the benefit of all who use the countryside for access and recreation. Drawing on their keen interest in conservation as well as their extensive farming and land management knowledge, an article was published, and well received, in the national Country Land and Business Association Magazine. This was an excellent way of promoting the role of LAFs to the land-owning community.

East Sussex LAF provided advice on the management of public vehicle access along Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). This involved making recommendations regarding seasonal traffic regulation orders and input into a 'byway user' leaflet. The Forum provided guidance regarding two contentious path diversions (to Network Rail and Southern Water respectively). The LAF also reviewed and investigated specific ROWIP aims and provided advice to the Access Authority on priorities. The LAF provided advice to Natural England and Defra regarding decadal reviews of open access land as there is a specific issue about missing detail in the Sussex area.

Essex LAF had significant input into Essex highway authority proposal to close byways and to their proposed hierarchy for Public Rights of Way maintenance due to budget reductions, with proposals being amended in response to LAF comments. Essex Highways proposed a blanket closure of all byways in Braintree District from October to April with no consultation and the LAF wrote a comprehensive letter formally objecting. Now only 5 Byways across the County are subject to a temporary closure order from November to March

Exmoor LAF is helping to monitor delivery of the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17. In particular, the LAF has strategic responsibility for Priority B2 of the Partnership Plan: *Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park.*

JLAF (Joint Local Access Forum for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire) continued to work with the Ramblers Association to finance and staff a team of volunteers to maintain rights of way. The JLAF also participated in a working group to develop the Walkers Are Welcome initiative in the area. The respective local authorities feel that the JLAF have made a positive contribution to outdoor access in the area and can see a great deal of potential with the Walkers Are Welcome schemes being established by local communities in partnership with the JLAF.

Leicestershire LAF created a sub group to investigate the opportunities to create new Public Rights of Way to improve the existing network. The sub group examined plans of farmland due for tenancy renewal during the following year, and formulated recommendations to discuss with the County Council Operational Real Estate Manager. The outcome of these discussions included the dedication of a public footpath, joint investigation into a route suitable for people with disabilities and families with pushchairs and highlighted other routes that may be useful that could be negotiated prior to other tenancies being renewed.

Mid-Lincolnshire LAF and South Lincolnshire & Rutland LAF created a sub-group to investigate how to provide more opportunities for disabled people to enjoy the countryside. The sub group:

- Invited, listened to and has worked with a range of disability groups to identify issues which created barriers to accessing the countryside;

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

- Jointly with the disability groups, agreed that the Countryside For All format previously used by Lincolnshire County Council provided the best solution;
- Received training from Lincolnshire County Council in creating route information;
- Audited and surveyed individual routes;
- Assisted Lincolnshire and Rutland County Council in the design of the route literature.

Four route leaflets have been produced to download from the council website or pick up from centres. The number of routes will grow annually bringing benefits to people with disabilities as well as young families with pushchairs and others who wish to enjoy the countryside.

Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum focused on advising Oxfordshire County Council on preparing their second ROWIP (called the Rights of Way Management Plan), including examining national and local user research, understanding the use and demands on the network, and considering the management and maintenance by the County Council and others. A workshop enabled LAF members to scrutinise and contribute to the emerging ROWIP2 prior to the 12 week statutory consultation in January. Members highlighted the need to provide better access for people with disabilities and more provision for cyclists. The LAF also considered the responses to the consultation and the changes proposed in response before the ROWIP was adopted. Members praised highway authority officers for the production of a very comprehensive response and actions document which showed how each comment was considered by the authority and how the final ROWIP2 would change as a result. Once ROWIP2 is adopted LAF members will be fully involved in working with the authority to prepare their bi-annual rights of way business/delivery plan.

Peak District LAF attended a cycling summit, which was an opportunity to meet with individuals across the National Park and its environs to agree on priorities for a co-ordinated system of cycle routes for the wider Peak District. To assist with the development of the funding bid for this substantial project, the Peak District LAF contacted the 6 LAFs in the surrounding areas to ask them to offer their support. All the LAFs sent letters supporting the approach and fundraising bid. The partnership bid was successful and work is now taking place on the key link routes and a funding scheme for cycle hubs.

The LAF had been calling for a Cycling Strategy for the Peak District for some time. The above project means that the strategy has now been developed and approved by the National Park Authority. The LAF pressed for the inclusion of mountain biking within the strategy, and this advice is in the action plan. The LAF will be represented on the resulting mountain-biking focus group.

The LAF members also contributed to Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service Volunteer Policy which was developed during the year. The Council sought advice from both this LAF and the Derby & Derbyshire LAF at their meetings. Both responded with specific suggestions and much of the advice has appeared in the policy published on the County Council's website.

The LAF responded to consultations on potential traffic regulation orders on routes in the National Park. The LAF has also been working with officers of the National Park Authority and Highway Authorities over a number of years to identify actions to improve the management of Green Lanes in the National Park, and to advise on the implementation of these actions.

Rotherham LAF prepared a paper aimed at encouraging farmers and landowners to become LAF members and have recruited additional members including landowners and disability access representatives. They also had meetings with MPs, Area Assembly councillors, and senior managers in key related organisations to encourage greater awareness of the LAF's role. The LAF allocated £1,500 to improve Public Rights of Way and agreed a priority weighting matrix to advise the access

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authority on its approach to the review of its Definitive Map. They advised the authority on a number of access improvement proposals in country parks and woodlands including extensions to existing multi-user trails.

South Downs LAF was instrumental in shaping some key behaviour change messages for dog walkers in a farmed landscape and is now acting as a 'critical friend' on the South Downs Way National Trail Partnership. During the year the LAF tackled significant local rights of way issues including diversion of a footpath proposed by Network Rail and improvements to access along a missing section of otherwise accessible coast. The LAF also supported and advised on improvements to a dangerous road crossing on the Downs Link and on a new multi-user path linking Brighton with the National Park.

Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum continued to provide financial support to practical, 'grassroots' access improvements through the annual Paths Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) operated in conjunction with Wiltshire Council. Match funding was provided to nine PIGS projects across the county ranging from surface and furniture improvements to permissive routes to link up the rights of way network. Through the scheme, forum representatives were able to offer advice on how individual projects might be improved and developed to add further value to the network. The PIGS scheme will run again this year and has already attracted a number of strong applications from Parish Councils. The scheme is attracting other sources of community funding to invest in the Public Rights of Way network.

One PIGS initiative is to replace stiles with gates on a substantial scale throughout the Southern Area district. To date 60 kissing gates have been installed

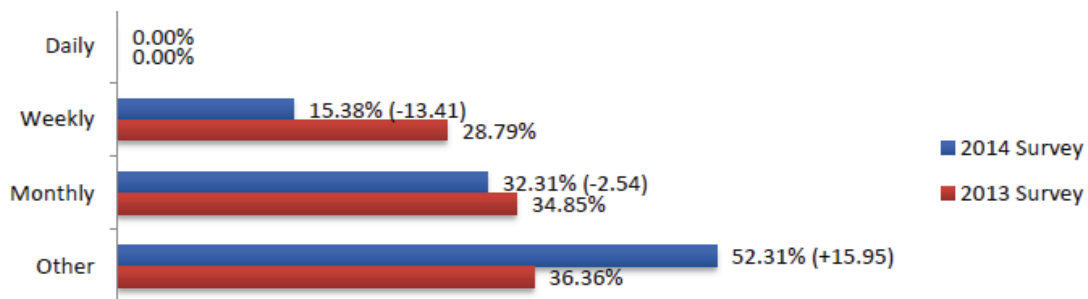
National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

4. LAF communications and events

4.1 Huddle: internet based network to share information

The LAF workspace on Huddle was set up and managed by Natural England to help LAFs to work together and share good practice, as well as to facilitate communication with Natural England and Defra. The annual survey of LAF Chairs and Secretaries confirmed that Huddle continues to provide an important mechanism for supporting the LAFs. Throughout the year the number of LAF members using Huddle increased to 280 (244 reported last year) with 98% (95% last year) of LAFs represented. On average each LAF had 3 representatives using the LAF Huddle workspace.

Most respondents rated Huddle's ease of use as being very good to satisfactory (72%) although there was a 10% movement down from very good to very poor. LAF Chairs and Secretaries reported that they mainly accessed Huddle monthly (32%) with 15% checking the site weekly and 52% less than monthly or never.



Most (42%) feed information from Huddle to their LAF at meetings. There was a 16% drop from last year's results in confidence to join in on Huddle discussions and also a 13% drop in confidence to upload files or amend whiteboards. However, the individual sections on Huddle were mostly rated very good to satisfactory.

During 2013 Natural England provided guidance and information on Huddle covering a series of topics. The aim was to update the guidance currently in the LAF Handbook and to prompt discussion about examples of good practice. These Best Practice Guides were mostly rated very good to satisfactory (79%). In response to feedback from the annual survey Natural England will produce the guides as PDF documents, as well as content on Huddle, for email circulation to non-Huddle LAF members.

The results of the survey indicate that although the Huddle workspace is increasingly used by LAF members who are feeding information from Huddle to their LAFs, more work needs to be done to improve the confidence of users to make best use of the facility.

4.2 LAF conference

Natural England organised a national LAF conference for 2014. In order to keep travel costs to a minimum, two conferences were arranged in Bristol and Durham on 4th February 2014 and 7th March 2014 respectively. Three quarters of LAFs were represented with 111 delegates in total attending both conferences.

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

The conference programme was based on topics suggested by LAF members, with a range of speakers and workshop facilitators from the LAFs, Defra, Natural England and other organisations with an interest in public access. The presentations included:

- an update from Defra on the Deregulation Bill and how this is likely to impact on the recording of Public Rights of Way.
- briefings from two of the main lottery funding bodies, providing information on how LAFs can access lottery grants.
- presentations by National Rail on rail crossings, the Ramblers, the CLA and the NFU.
- workshops on Local Enterprise Partnerships, dogs in the countryside, access for all and LAF effectiveness.

The lively discussions within workshops and informally in the margins of the conferences, along with positive feedback from delegates, clearly demonstrated that the events were worthwhile and appreciated. Feedback from those attending revealed that whilst 100% said the content met with their objectives, overall satisfaction with the organisation and logistics was slightly lower than the previous year. One local authority commented that the conference was extremely valuable to LAF members adding, "We value the publication of the national conference proceedings, and the national report on Local Access Forums prepared by Natural England, as these help to keep secretaries/appointing authorities in the wider picture."

Materials from the conference, including workshop notes and feedback from delegates, are available to download from the LAF Huddle Workspace and the LAF page on gov.uk.

4.3 LAF Newsletter

During 2012/13 Natural England produced a new quarterly newsletter (LAF News) and issued three editions. This was in response to feedback received from LAFs that they would value more regular direct communication from Natural England. The newsletters included articles on Paths for Communities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, information from the conferences, examples of LAF good practice and details about Natural England staff whose work involves LAFs.

5. Engagement with other bodies

LAFs have been encouraged to develop wider partnerships with Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs), Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB). Working with other local partnerships was a theme of a workshop at the 2014 LAF and efforts have continued beyond that reported in this report. Results from the LAF survey showed that roughly half (51%) of the survey respondents reported that their LAF had written to their LNP with 43% reporting a follow-up meeting and only 5% stating that they had worked on a joint project with an LNP. Just 13% reported that their LAF had had written communication or a meeting with a LEADER LAG and only 5% reported any joint working with them.

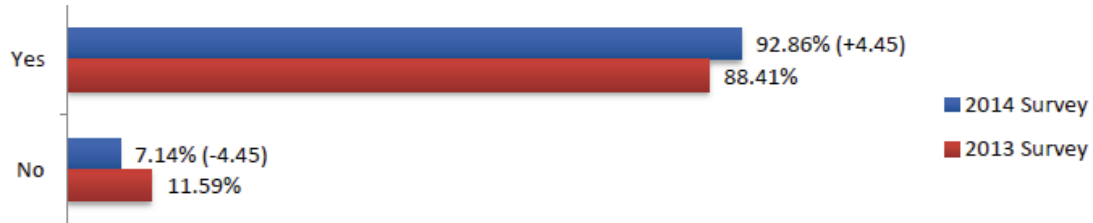
Written communication with LEPs was reported to be higher (17%) than with LEADER groups though only 5% reported any meetings and only 2% reported joint working with LEPs.

Roughly a quarter (27%) of LAFs had engaged with Health and Wellbeing boards through written communication, 20% reported meetings and 12% reported joint working.

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

6. Links with Natural England

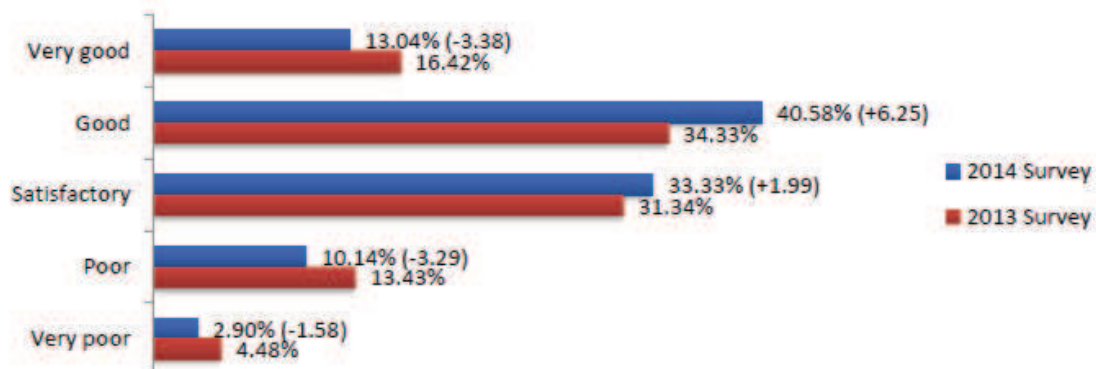
The vast majority of the LAF survey respondents reported that they knew their local Natural England contact (93% - an increase of 4% from last year's survey)



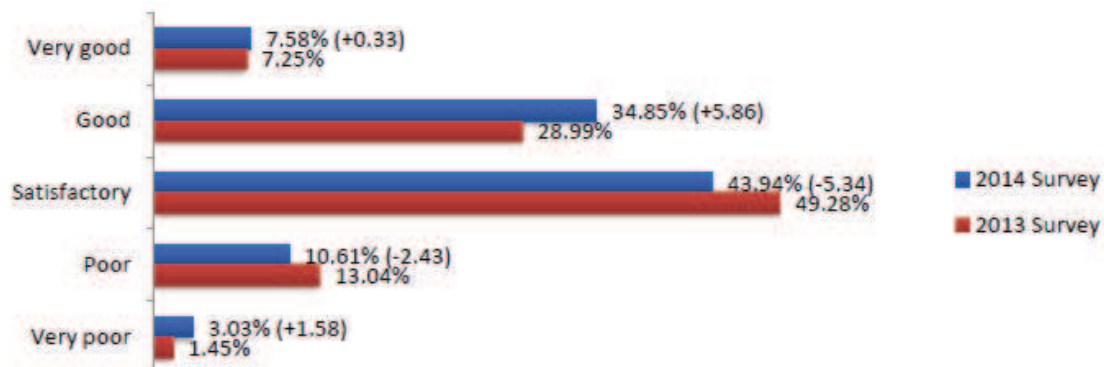
and just over half of respondents (54%) were satisfied with the ease of access to Natural England with 8% dissatisfied.

The majority of respondents said that both the local and national support they received from Natural England was very good to satisfactory (87%/86% respectively):

Local Support



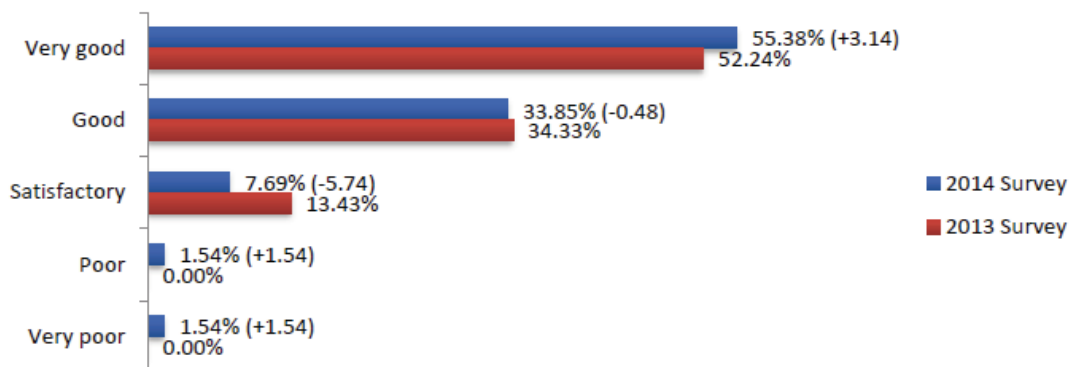
National Support



Suggestions to improve this support included that Natural England should improve communication with LAFs, develop mechanisms for raising awareness of consultations and produce more guidance and information on who does what in all relevant Natural England teams.

The work of the Regional Coordinators was rated very similar to last year's survey with the vast majority (97%) saying that the support they received was very good to satisfactory.

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014



A suggestion to improve the regional support for LAFs was that the Regional Coordinators organise LAF Secretaries meetings in addition to regional Chairs meetings and conferences.

7. Advice and guidance

The majority of LAF Chairs and Secretaries were aware of the Defra guidance (97%, up 12% on last year's survey results) and use it (89%, up 19%). Most (59%) reported that they feel it doesn't need to be revised but a significant 41% say it does need to be revised to reflect:

- How sub-groups operate;
- How members vote;
- More clarity on budgets and on the level of support from local authorities;
- Changes in policy and legislation.

The majority (88%) know of the LAF handbook, though down 6% from last year's survey results and most (57%) use it.

The number of LAFs receiving training by their local authority remains low at 40% which is similar to the previous year's survey results. The training was rated mainly good to satisfactory. The results also show that most appointing authorities (78%) paid for a LAF member to attend the national LAF conference. The majority (76%) responded to say that Natural England should organise more face to face training for LAFs with most (81%) suggesting that the Regional Coordinators could run it if appropriate. The type of training required ranged from details on Public Rights of Way legislation and the List of Streets, to lots of suggestions for training in running an effective LAF, recruiting members and working with Councillors.

8. Reporting process

The clarity and ease of use of the annual reporting guidance and Annual Review Form produced by Natural England was rated at very good to satisfactory by 95% of respondents to the LAF survey and most (78%) saw the benefit in using the Annual Review Form, an 18% increase from last year. Most (91%) rated the annual reporting process overall to be very good to satisfactory. Respondents suggested that Natural England should continue to develop and improve the Annual Review Form in consultation with the Regional Coordinators and the LAFs.

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

9. Issues and challenges identified by LAFs

The Annual Review Form provided LAFs with an opportunity to list some of the challenges they have faced over the year along with their suggestions and ideas to help with these in the future.

The challenges faced included:

- Problems in recruiting, being quorate and retaining sufficient members and members that represent a diverse range of interests. Some LAFs had addressed this by raising the profile of their work and running recruitment campaigns to attract new members;
- Reduced local authority resources leading to fewer meetings and reduced administrative support;
- Reduced budgets for the local authority to undertake rights of way duties and inability to act on advice provided by LAFs;
- Lack of understanding and awareness of the role of LAFs with the Appointing Authority, planners and generally;
- Difficulties in responding to planning consultations due to lack of notification and insufficient time for LAFs to respond;
- Consultation formats increasingly do not allow for collective sharing of initial responses prior to sending;
- Lack of clarity about terms of reference and meeting protocol;
- Poor attendance from local authority staff, elected members and LAF members;
- Difficulties creating and developing successful partnerships (e.g. with Local Enterprise Partnerships/Local Nature Partnerships/Health and Wellbeing Boards);
- Working practices restricted by those adopted by democratic/committee services which reduce the flexibility of LAFs to operate in a more independent manner;
- The complexity of the P4C application process resulting in limited take up in some areas;
- Geographic size of the area has led to discussions by email, and those issues not included on formal agenda;
- Meeting times insufficient in order to achieve the work programme.

Opportunities and suggestions included:

- More guidance and evidence from central government on the inherent value of access to well-being, would strengthen the arguments to support public access and the role of LAFs;
- More visible support from Natural England to help reinforce the role of LAFs on Health Boards would be welcome;

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

- Request that Natural England monitor consultations and ensure questionnaires are in a format that would allow sharing of drafts prior to submission from a LAF.

Natural England and Defra are responding to these issues where possible, for example by continuing the production and circulation of the LAF newsletter to celebrate the successes and raise the profile of LAFs with a wider group of bodies, and through arranging LAF run workshops on recruiting members to LAFs at the 2014 LAF conferences. Natural England is also supporting LAFs to share good practice through Huddle and at regular meetings and events.

10. Appointing authority feedback

Despite the many issues and challenges faced by the LAFs over the year, particularly regarding frustration due to diminishing local authority resources, many of the LAF appointing authorities had positive comments to make about their work.

Many local authorities acknowledged the commitment of LAF members despite ongoing staff changes and budget reductions in many appointing authorities. There was high praise for the work of the LAFs and the commitment and passion of the members. Their continued support, time and effort was valued.

Several authorities welcomed the clear, independent and considered advice received by LAFs with some recognising that this work is something the authority would be unable to do itself. Having an independent viewpoint on access proved to be of great assistance, particularly when dealing with developers. A number of excellent enhancements had resulted from the LAFs working with developers and officers.

The experience and advice given by forums was highly valued along with the enthusiasm and determination to deliver results and secure achievements. LAFs were a welcome consultee, especially on ROWIPs and other strategies which could deliver or impact on access. The LAF was described by one authority as an “invaluable critical friend”. Another authority said LAF’s worked well as a team and were not afraid to challenge authority.

Some authorities commented on the skills, knowledge and diplomacy within LAFs to successfully resolve local issues. The dedicated, constructive way the LAFs tackled important themes or topics was noted along with the initiative many LAFs took to put forward suggestions and to organise their own pro-active work programmes. One authority specifically commended the LAF involvement with the Local Nature Partnership and with health issues.

In addition some authorities noted that many LAF members had increased their involvement in Public Rights of Way work outside of meetings including volunteer days and organising meetings with their user groups on specific issues to develop and support the Public Rights of Way team. One authority added that the benefits and cost savings being achieved by LAFs continue to play an important role in service delivery.

The Appointing Authorities also noted some challenges and difficulties in working with LAFs and in particular the difficulties in combining the various views present into clear and coherent advice.

Feedback from the Appointing Authorities included ideas and suggestions for actions that could help develop and improve LAFs and the work they do. They noted the importance of continuing to raise

National LAF Report - April 2013 to March 2014

the profile of LAFs at all levels and with a wide range of organisations. Many of the suggestions focused on streamlining and prioritising work areas to reduce agenda size and the volume of meeting papers, as well as ordering the business dealt with at the meetings so that important matters were dealt with first. One authority suggested that it would be useful for the secretaries of LAFs to network to help develop the effectiveness of the LAFs.

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Planning and Travel Committee

After a flurry of very demanding applications etc., during the autumn things have quietened down a little. We still await a response from Network Rail in respect of their proposals for the Barrow on Soar crossing. We have given advice to NW Leicestershire D C in respect of two medium sized housing development pushing Whitwick out towards Mt St Bernard Abbey. These were just in our generic form as appropriate but with suggestions for links in the rights of way network

We have been invited to the hearings on the proposed Freight Gateway near to East Midlands Airport but the first hearings are just procedural and we will not be attending.

Network Opportunities Committee

1. UNRECORDED WAYS

Stan continues to add records to the master spreadsheet, which will be the foundation for our research work. Jim Storer has joined the subgroup from the Ramblers. As well as developing the way we manage the data, Jim has also volunteered to add grid references to the master spreadsheet.

It has been confirmed that the parish returns held in room 700 are now being scanned by the LCC. This will be a great help when working on the project.

Roy has emailed the Charnwood Roots Project, stating that we will be using similar records and suggesting that we should explore how we can work together to help each other.

Stan has invited the two members of the Leicestershire Footpaths Association to join our subgroup at the next meeting, as they have a wealth of knowledge which could help the project going forward.

2. OPEN ACCESS LAND

The Access Land surveys team have approached all the land owners involved in the sites visited during 2014 with some success. We have written to both the Clerk and the Chairman of Markfield Parish Council and have not even had the courtesy of an acknowledgement. It has been heard via a third party that they are to put a stile in to afford public access to their at present completely closed 'Access Land'.

We have had a detailed response from the Leicestershire Wildlife Trust which is attached to this report. They explain their difficulties and problems and do invite us to put up signage and indeed imply that furniture at somebody else's expense would be acceptable. The group need to meet to digest and discuss the issues raised some of which require a dialogue with the Access Authority. Some of their points invite further comment from us. (Sites: Altar Stones, Loughborough Meadows, Charnwood Lodge) We have met on site with a representative of Hinckley and Bosworth at Billa Barra- We walked over some adjacent land we think should be brought formally into the park although not of course part of the Official 'access land'. This land to the south of Billa Barra Hill, is neglected scrub land owned as a residue by a quarry company and is well walked by locals and has a right of way through it. It could be used to make really good new links to the footpath network.

H&B initial thoughts are that even if they could get this land for nothing, there would obviously be certain costs that would need to be met for the ongoing maintenance of the area as well as public liability issues etc, and they would have reservations about taking on further areas of land with the limited resources they currently have. Their Green Spaces team will forward the details to their Asset Management team to enquire what their policies are for taking on additional areas of land. On the strength of this response we have raised the possibility with the National Forest and their funds are committed for next year if their ambitions come off. They might be interested in the future if there is capacity on this sizeable plot to plant more trees which we feel there is. The last possibility is that when we talk to the LRWT further we explore any interest there.

Paul Scragg from Hinckley & Bosworth is to organise some new information boards and to look at better signage within the park. Some now unnecessary barbed wire fencing can be removed and the line of the right of way mown out. He is also to replace a brand new kissing gate which has 'gone missing'. He is to consider an extra gate into the summit area where we suggested. We showed him the two entrances to the wider park which seem to have been forgotten and are certainly neglected. He is happy we put up 'Access Land' notices when LCC as the Access Authority can produce some.

The roadside verges common land is still being checked by Vicky Allen. Burrough Hill and Burbage Common will be checked early next year.

3. COUNTY FARMS

Possible route for the disabled at Quorn:-

The cost estimate for the route should be available within the next three months. A follow up meeting will be arranged after the cost estimate has been determined to identify funding streams.

Plans for tenancies due to end in 2015:-

These included farmland at Mowsely, Broughton Astley and Husbands Bosworth. The subgroup recommended a PRoW on the land at Mowsely, but felt there were no opportunities of enhancing the PRoW network on the other farmland.

Hall Farm Blaby:-

With the planning permission rejected it was felt that it was an ideal time to re-examine the holding and to identify a suitable PRoW. The subgroup has recommended a number of PRoWs on this land which includes dedication of the permissive path.

4. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Leicestershire and Rutland Community Forum:-

This is a forum run by the Leicester-Shire & Rutland Inclusive Sports Association (LARISA) which is the support structure for disability sport and physical activity throughout Leicestershire and Rutland. Whilst there was a very poor attendance in terms of numbers, all appeared to be very keen on Countryside For All route literature being created for Leicestershire. The members of the Forum that were present thought that promoting Countryside For All routes at health centres where there is a visual display calling system, incorporating health promotion topics would be useful.

Leicestershire Physical Activity Development Officers:-

A presentation was given to the Physical Activity Development Officers in relation to the "Countryside For All" routes.

Brocks Hill Country Park:-

Brocks Hill Country Park are running a training session for those who wish to create "Countryside For All" routes in April 2015

National Forest Company Access and Recreation Working Group:-

Discussions were held relating to the Countryside For All route literature being created for the National Forest and the Woodland Trust sites within the National Forest. The members of the working group appeared to be keen to adopt the Countryside For All route literature for the National Forest.

Heart of the Forest Forum (Meeting due to take place):-

Countryside for All routes and the opportunities to make the countryside routes more enjoyable for the blind will be discussed.

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Item 11.A

National Forest Access & Recreation Group

I reported to the group on our activities over the last six months, mentioning District and Local Plans and the many major development proposals we had advised on. I also explained that as farm tenancies on County Council land become due for renewal the Forum is advising on possible creation of new rights of way and that we were carrying out a detailed review of all open access land in the county.

I advised of our detailed submission into the consultation on the new East Midlands Freight Interchange by the airport.

This year they are concentrating on promoting the use of and visits to the Forest and there are only three new schemes. Of these the only big one is near Burton on Trent and is about 120 acres but as that is in Staffs it is not within our area.

They have a new CEO taking over in Jan and they have poached John Everett from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. This may mean a change of emphasis for wildlife considerations but is being balanced by the fact that they are recruiting somebody for a post promoting sport and activity within the Forest.

There is a complete set of guides to the new National Forest Way on a new dedicated web site - www.nationalforestway.co.uk

John Law gave them a presentation on the Access for all project which was enthusiastically received and highly complimented.

Roy Denney

Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces & Countryside Network

The meeting on 11 December was my first attendance at this Network which seems to consist of officers from the City, Districts and County. Although previously meeting 3 or 4 times a year, it has not met since Jan 2014 due to the many staff changes in authorities and agreed to meet twice p.a. in future. It is now chaired by Samantha Village (of Stepping Stones).

There were representatives from Melton, Harborough, Oadby & Wigston as well as the City and County. LLAF was the only 'outside' body present. I introduced myself as the LLAF rep, 'chair' of its Verges Group and also chair of LRBA. I don't think some of them had thought much about verges before!

The main, illustrated, presentation was from Penny Brown of City Parks about their *Britain in Bloom* and its not so competitive sibling *It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)*. Penny is still able to spend about half her time on these, particularly on encouraging and supporting IYN groups, the number of which is growing by about 5 a year, currently c.30. These also need support with organisational matters e.g. constitutions, bank a/cs, that are common to many voluntary groups. Obviously the schemes are very successful with good *Bloom* awards and significant community involvement in IYN.

In the discussion about sharing training and courses (for staff & volunteers), alongside hedge laying, basic map reading, safe use of tools, pruning etc, the Oadby ranger said in March 2015 they were having an *Access for All* training course provided by John Law's group via Lincs Co Council at a cost of £30-£50 per person. It was agreed that the Stepping Stones website would be the vehicle for publicising any courses on offer.

In the round table update, apart from frequent mention of recent and upcoming budget cuts, it was clear that authorities took different views on *Bloom* etc participation and that probably the City benefitted from being a large unitary authority. Several seem to be stepping back both physically and financially. One officer talked of 'too many boxes' to be ticked in relation to informal activities by groups, including the need for £10M Public Liability insurance which means the group must have a formal structure. It was suggested Voluntary Action Leics could help. The need for groups to involve the highest possible *political* level was emphasised. Oadby/Wigston has a baling machine for cutting some verges and park areas in August in partnership with a farmer, which could be hired out. City Parks is starting a review in January. Harborough(?) is to review its Walking & Cycling Strategy.

Next meeting will probably be on 25 June 2015 looking at the re-greening of the Welland in/near Mkt Harborough followed by a brief meeting.

Vicky Allen

Canals and Waterways

The only thing to report from the Canals & Waterways Trust is a safety campaign reflecting the increase in deaths during festive seasons. Overall, deaths are decreasing on our waterways but towpaths, bridges and lock-sides can become slippery at this time of year and snow can conceal boat mooring rings and ropes which, unless people are paying attention, can be easy to trip over. Frozen canals look beautiful but no-one should ever attempt to walk on or test the thickness of the ice. Each year around 400 people drown in the UK, according to the Royal Life Saving Society UK, with children and young adults and people under the influence of alcohol among the highest risk groups. Statistics reveal that young people, especially men, are most likely to have an accident, usually after a night on the tiles.

The Trust have now finished the dredging of the Grantham Canal.

Nothing particularly LLAF-specific from River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership from the October meeting, and the minutes haven't been circulated yet. Next meeting is on 21 January

Herbert Eppel

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LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – JANUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LEGAL ORDERS AND OTHER ONGOING CASES

Purpose of Report

1. To update Forum members on the current position with regard to various Public Path and Modification Orders.

Public Footpath Orders which have been confirmed since the last report

2. The following Public Path Orders have recently been confirmed:-

Order Number

2327 – Proposed Diversion of Footpaths M72 (Part) and M59 (Part) Extinguishment of Footpaths M47A (Part), M52 (Part), M54 and M71 (Part) and Creation of Footpath M54 - Ginn Stables Farm, Coleorton.

The re-routing of these public rights of way was sought to improve privacy and security of buildings at Ginn Stables Farm, which are currently being converted into new dwellings. (See Appendix 1; Proposal plan showing the diversions, creation and extinguishments on one plan).

Public Path Order Applications

3. The following applications for public path orders have recently been received:-

Order Number

2381 – Proposed Diversion of Footpath Q69 (Part) at Ibstock. North West Leicestershire District Council is processing an application for a Diversion Order under the provisions of the Town & Country Planning Act, to enable a planning permission to be implemented for a large housing development. Part of the diversion will be on an estate road footway and part through public open space. (See Appendix 2).

2383 – Proposed Dedication of Bridleway Q45 (Part) and Footpath Q65 (Part) off Normanton Lane, Heather. In order to comply with a condition of the Section 106 Agreement associated with planning permission Ref. 2003/1790/07 relating to the Longmoor Opencast Coal Site at Ravenstone, the new owner of the land concerned is required formally to dedicate these routes across the restored land.

The additional public access was offered by the new landowner as an alternative to planting trees on the land. (See Appendix 3).

2384 - Proposed Dedication of Public Footpaths O105 and 0106 at Ravenstone with Snibston. In order to comply with a condition of the Section 106 Agreement associated with planning permission Ref. 2003/1790/07 relating to the Longmoor Open-cast Coal Site at Ravenstone, the new owner of the land concerned is required formally to dedicate these routes across the restored land.

The additional public access was offered by the new landowner as an alternative to planting trees on the land. (See Appendix 4).

2385 – Proposed Diversion of Public Footpaths W67 (Part) and W68 (Part) at Leire. This diversion is sought by the landowner to enable better, more effective management of his agricultural land. It will also rectify a very long standing Definitive Map anomaly by re-routing part of Footpath W68 from its route across a mill race where there is no recent record of there ever having been a footbridge, to an alternative route over an existing concrete footbridge already being used by the public. (See Appendix 5).

Confirmed Modification Orders (Evidential)

4. There have been no Definitive Map Modification Orders (other than “past event” orders) confirmed since my report in November 2014

New Applications for Modification Orders (Evidential)

5. The following applications have recently been received:-

M1022 – Proposed Deletion of Public Footpath C50A at Houghton on the Hill. This application has been made by the landowner on the basis that the path was claimed in error by Houghton on the Hill Parish Council, that it has never actually existed on the ground, it does not connect to nearby Public Footpath C50 and that it goes to no other place of public resort. The landowner’s agent has carried out pre-application consultations with the Ramblers Association, the Leicestershire Footpath Association, the Parish Council, the adjacent landowner; the Leicester Diocese and its tenant. (See Appendix 6).

Forthcoming Referrals to the Planning Inspectorate, Public Hearings & Inquiries

6. The following cases are expected to be referred to the Planning Inspectorate as opposed orders in the next three months :-

2026 - Diversion of Public Bridleway K57 (Part) Pocket Gate Cottage, Swithland, Loughborough. The applicant in this case is seeking to divert a bridleway from the track immediately adjacent to his garden to a route between an outbuilding and a nearby brook. The Order has received objections and has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate which will be determining it by means of written representations. (See Appendix 7).

M919 – Addition of Public Footpaths H108 and H108a at Frisby Lakes, in the Parish of Asfordby - Definitive Map Modification Order. An Order has been made the effect of which will be to add two footpaths to the Definitive Map; one running around the perimeter of Frisby Lakes and the other cutting across the middle of the site. Based on user evidence from local people the Order has been

objected to and is now in the process of being referred to the Secretary of State for determination (see Appendix 8).

Matters Referred to Regulatory Board

7. The following case is to be placed before the Development Control & Regulatory Board on 8th January 2015.

M919 – Addition of Footpaths J62 (Part) and J66 (Part) and the Deletion of Footpath J62 (Part) off Station Road, Cropston. An application was made for this Modification by Cropston & Thurstaston Parish Council and relates to a disagreement about the correct line of the footpath where it leaves Station Road and passes between house boundaries. The application will go to Regulatory Board on 8th January for determination as to whether or not a Modification Order should be made (see Appendix 9)

Decisions Awaited

8. There are no outstanding decisions awaited from the Planning Inspectorate:-

Recommendation

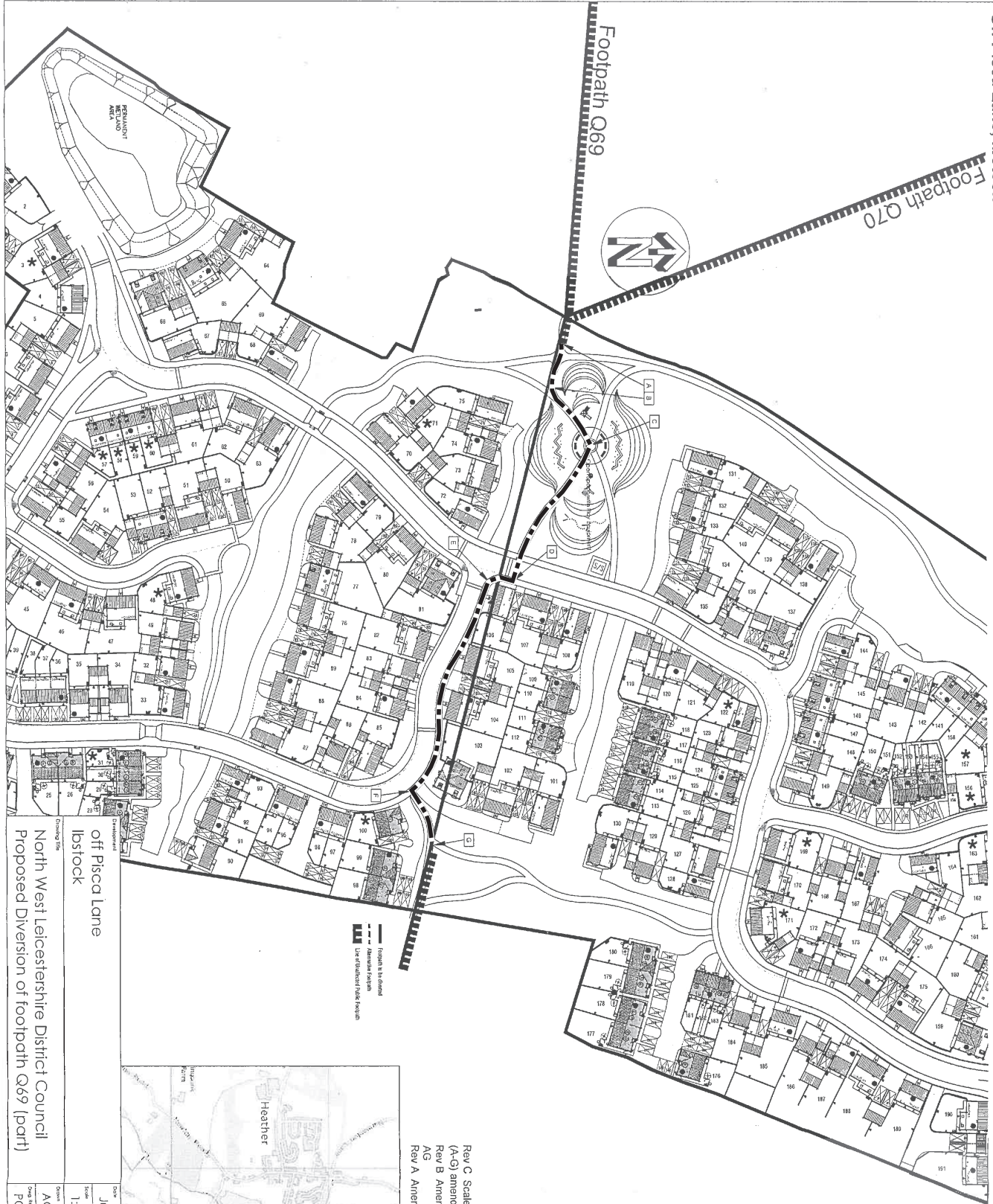
9. The Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

Officers to Contact

Piers Lindley
Senior Access & Development Officer
piers.lindley@leics.gov.uk

Edwin McWilliam,
Access Manager
edwin.mcwilliam@leics.gov.uk

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Rev C Scale, page size, drawing title, and 'change of direction' markers 28.10.2014
 (A-G) amended AG
 Rev B Amended in-line with Julia Harvey's comments dated 01.10.14. 14.10.2014
 AG
 Rev A Amended in-line NWLDC PROW footpath diversion form. AG 24.09.2014

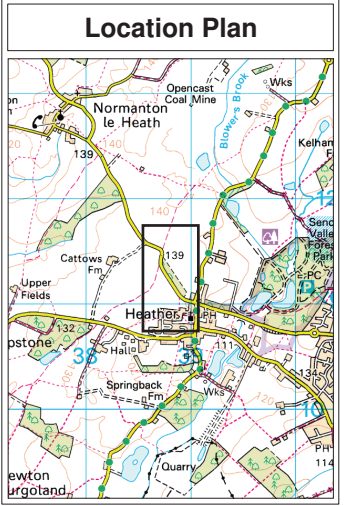
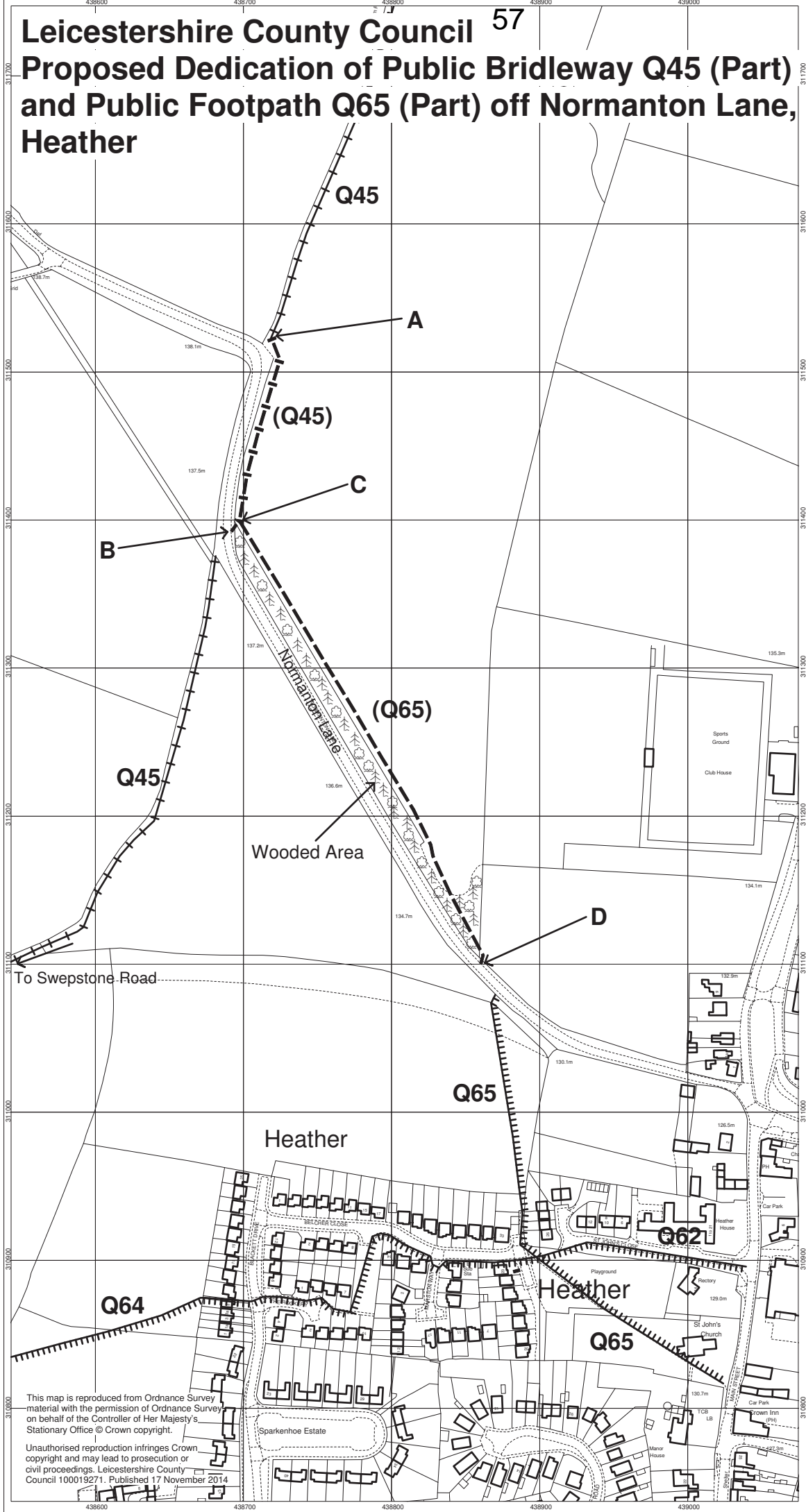
off Pisca Lane
 Ibstock
 North West Leicestershire District Council
 Proposed Diversion of Footpath Q69 (part)

Date: June 2014
 Scale: 1:1250@A3
 Project: AG
 Drawing No: FC0276_ID_001



Leicestershire County Council 57

Proposed Dedication of Public Bridleway Q45 (Part) and Public Footpath Q65 (Part) off Normanton Lane, Heather



- ### Key
- Public Bridleway to be dedicated (A - B)
 - Public Footpath to be dedicated (C - D)
 - Existing public bridleways
 - Existing public footpaths

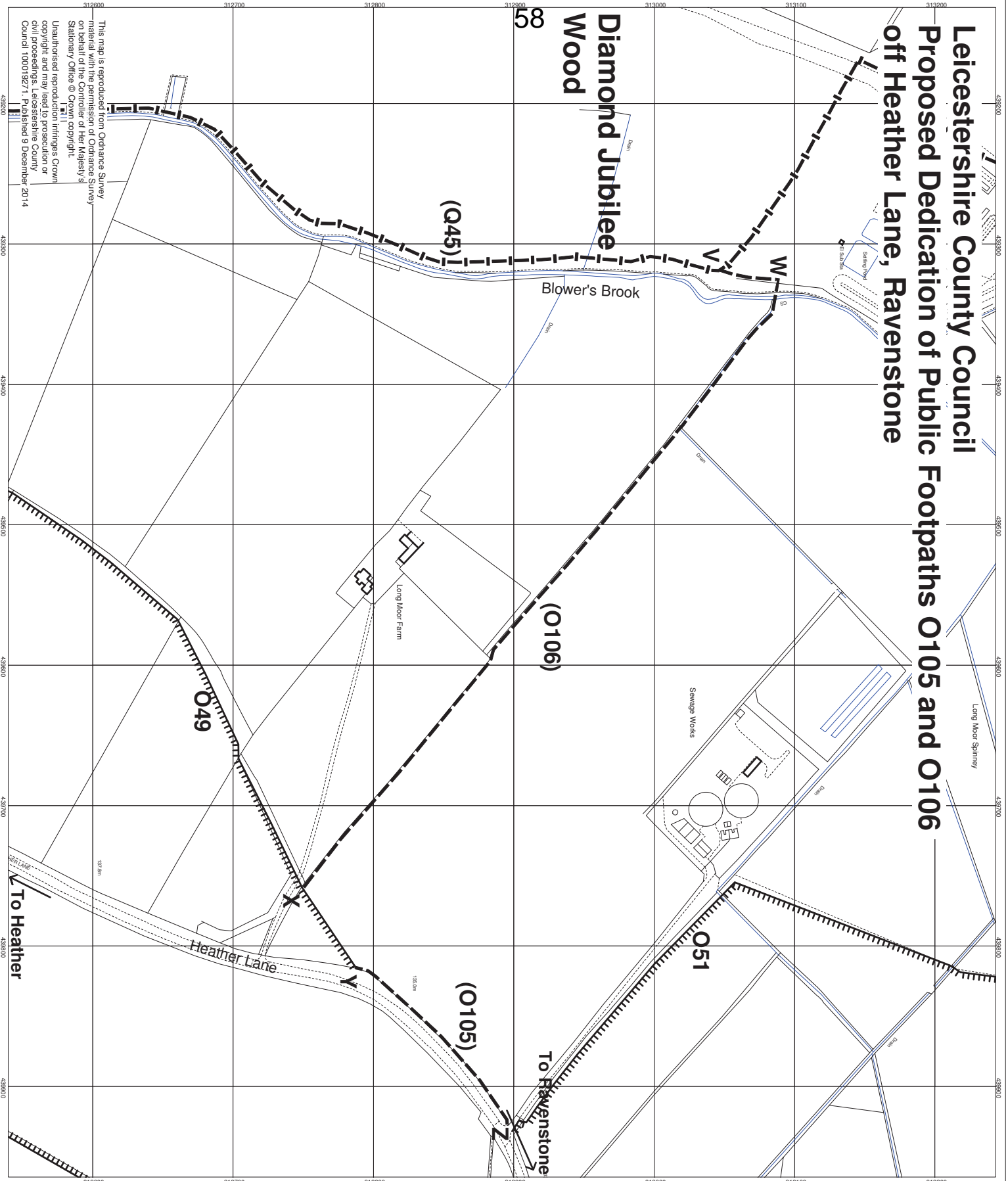
Environment & Transport Department,
 County Hall, Glenfield,
 Leicestershire LE3 8RJ
 email footpaths@leics.gov.uk
 Phil Crossland, Director



Plan No.2383
 Scale 1:2500

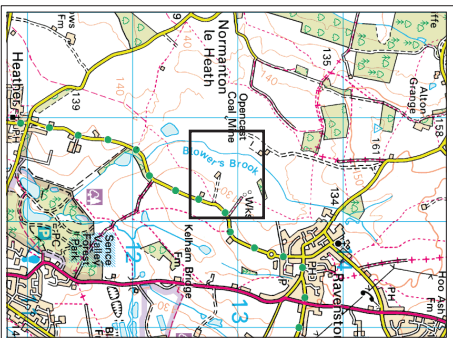
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Leicestershire County Council Proposed Dedication of Public Footpaths O105 and O106 off Heather Lane, Ravenstone



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Location Plan



Key

Public Footpaths to be dedicated (V - W - X, Y - Z)

Public Bridleway to be dedicated separately

Existing public footpaths



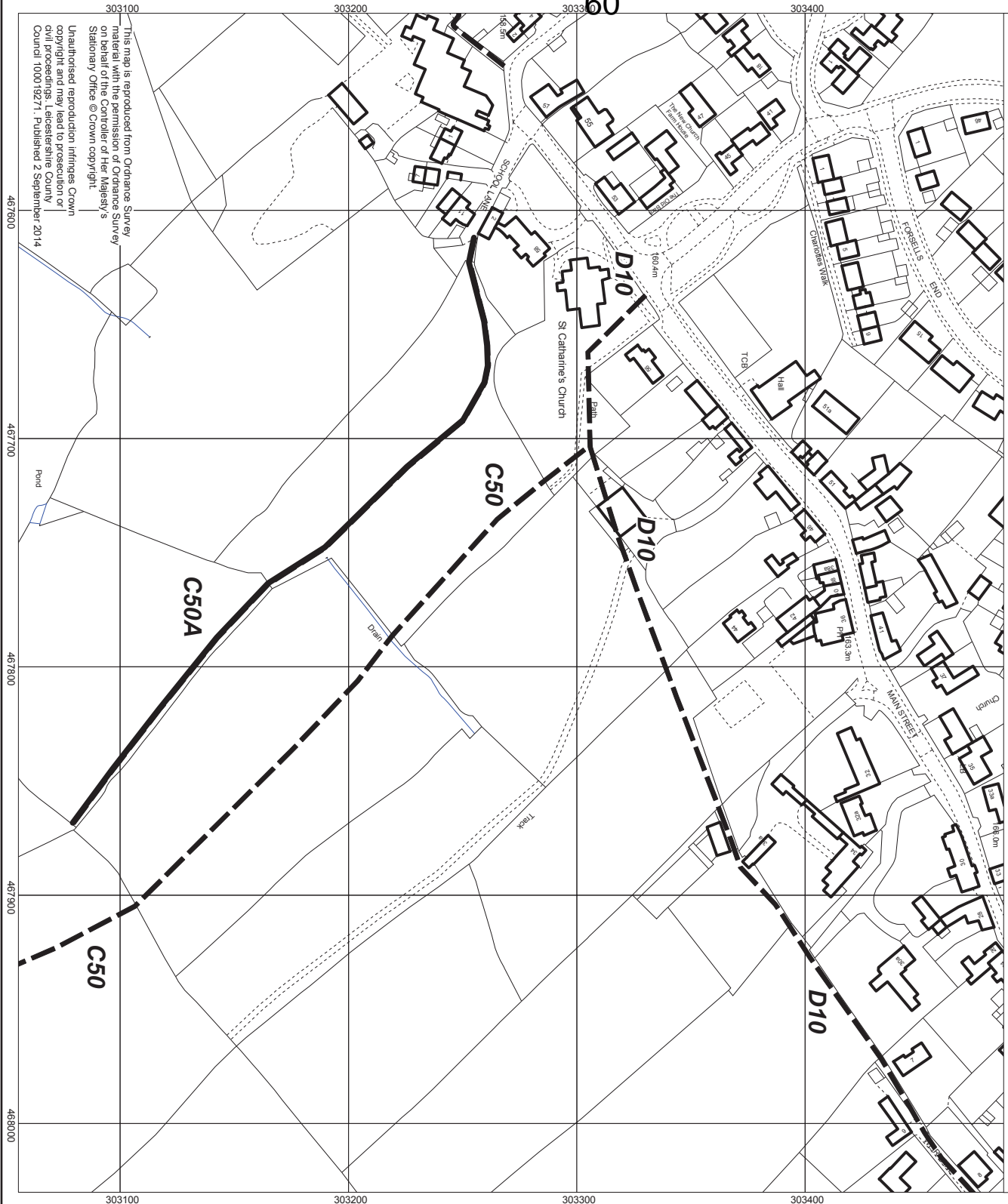
**Leicestershire
County Council**

Environment & Transport Department,
County Hall, Glenfield,
Leicestershire LE3 8RJ
email: footpaths@leics.gov.uk
Phil Crossland, Director

Plan No. 2384

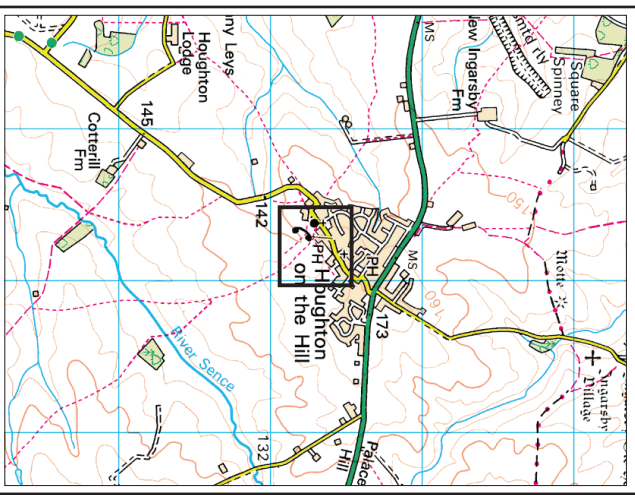
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Leicestershire County Council - Proposed Definitive Map Modification Order - Application for Deletion of Footpath C50A at Houghton on the Hill



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Location Plan



Key

-  Footpath to be deleted
-  Footpaths unaffected

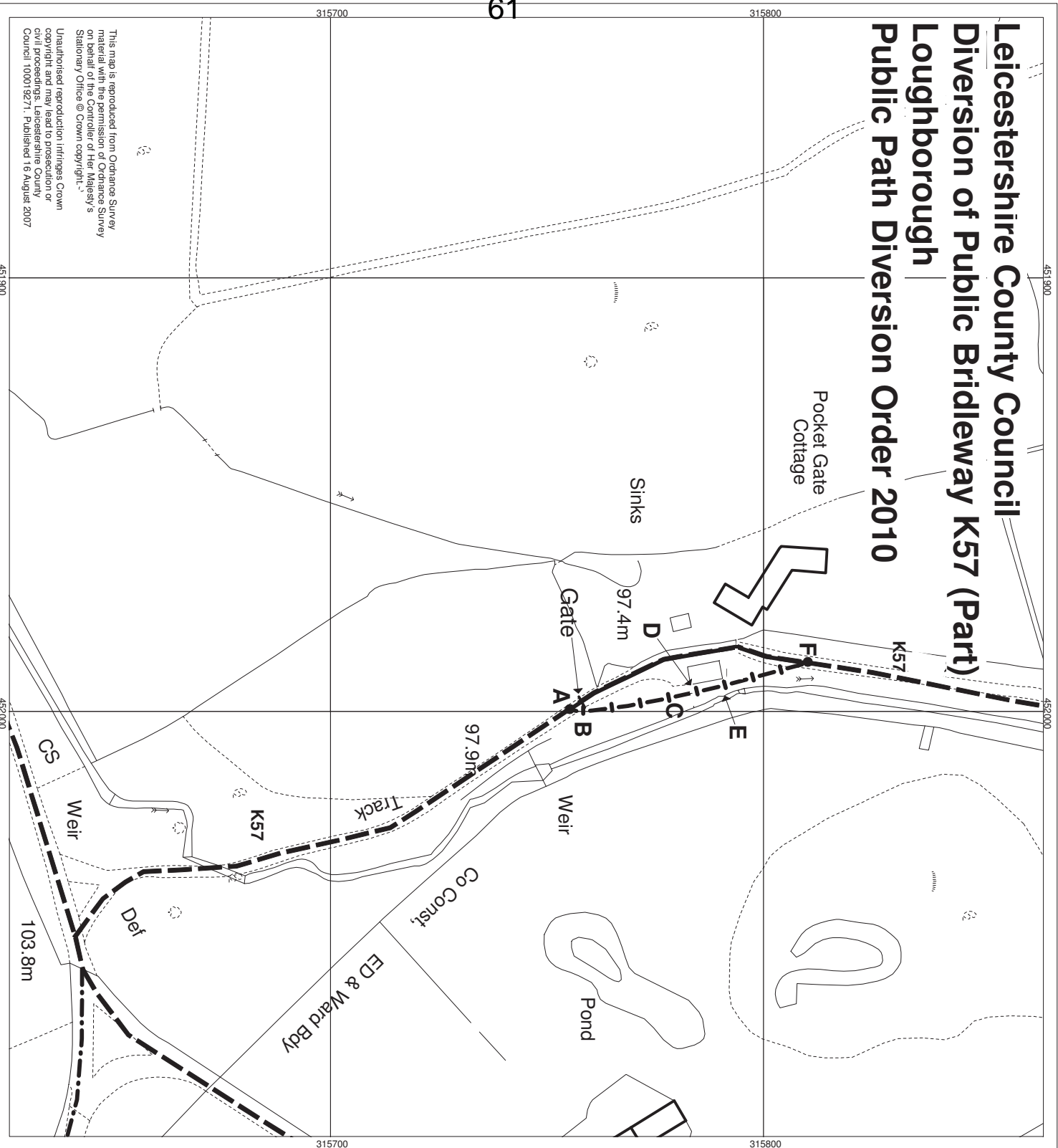
Environment & Transport Department,
County Hall, Glenfield,
Leicestershire LE3 8RJ
email footpaths@leics.gov.uk
Phil Crossland, Director



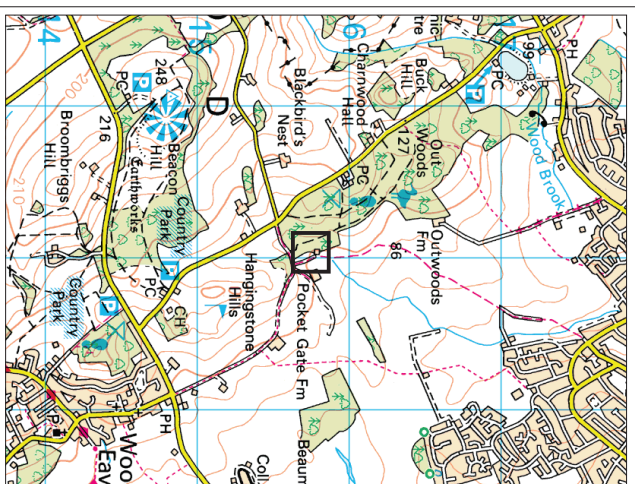
Proposal Plan

Scale 1:2500

Leicestershire County Council Diversion of Public Bridleway K57 (Part) Loughborough Public Path Diversion Order 2010



Location Plan



Key

- Bridleway to be Diverted
- Proposed Alternative Route
- Unaffected Bridleways
- Unaffected Footpaths

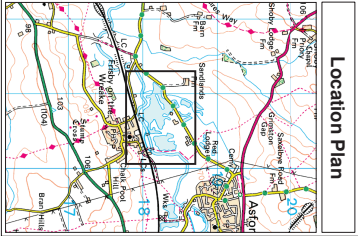
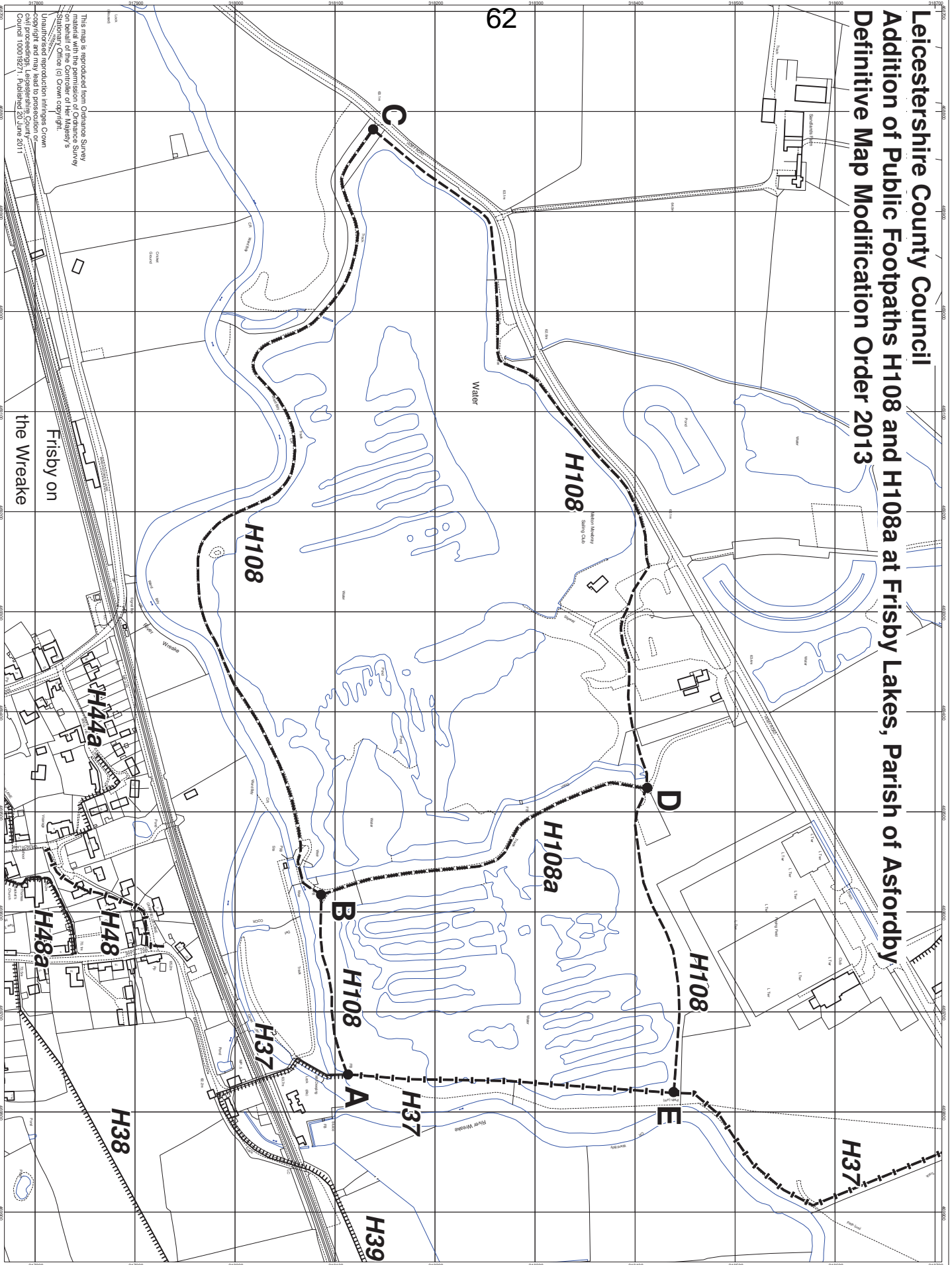
Produced By The Rights of Way Team
Environment and Heritage Services
Community Services Department
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire LE3 8TE (0116 265 7083)



Plan No.2026/a
Scale 1:1250

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Leicestershire County Council Addition of Public Footpaths H108 and H108a at Frisby Lakes, Parish of Asfordby Definitive Map Modification Order 2013



- Key**
- Footpaths to be added
A-B-C-D-E and B-D
 - Existing Public Footpaths
 - Existing Public Bridleways

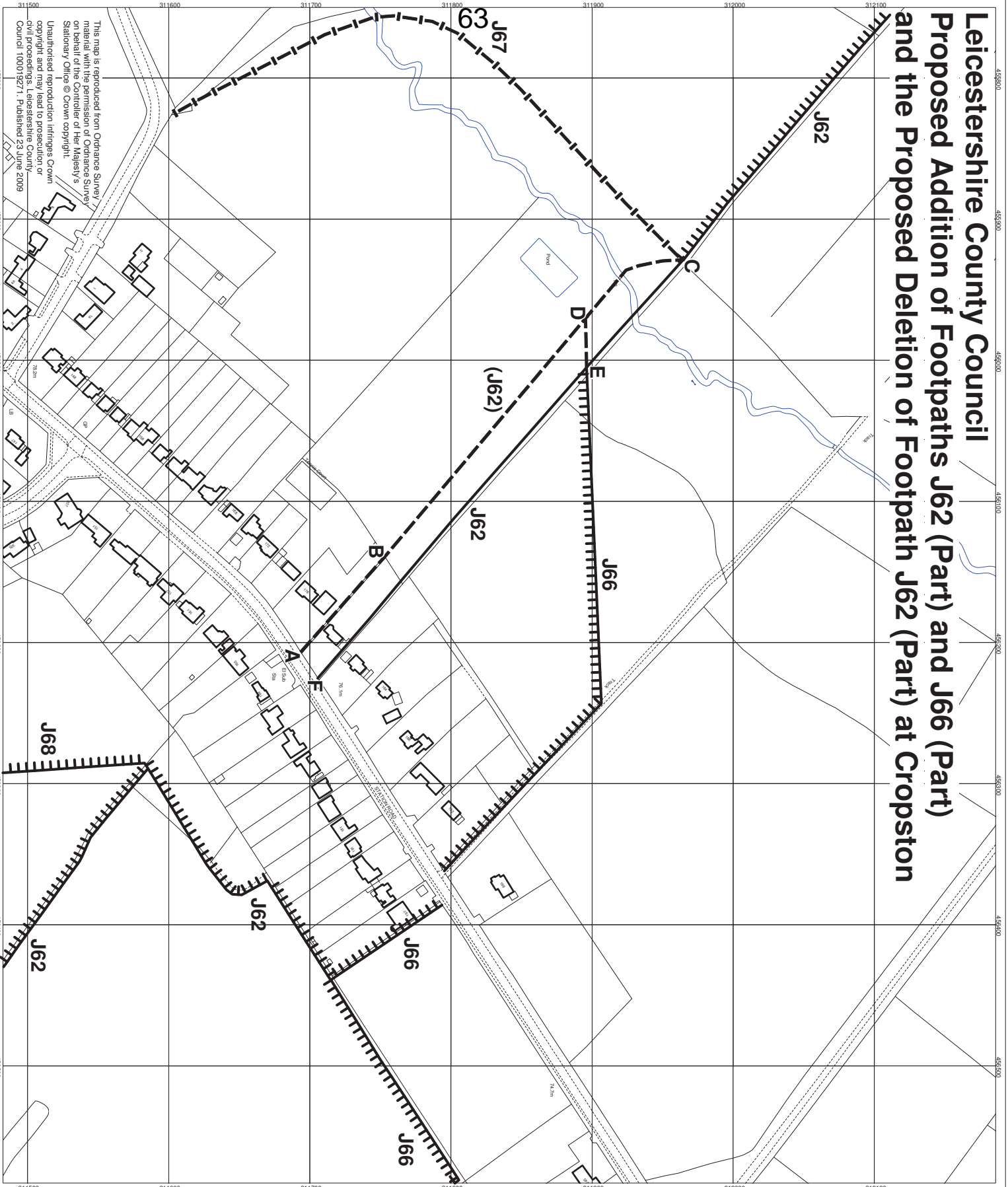
Environment and Transport Department
County Hall, Leicestershire
Leicester, Leicestershire
Director: Phil Crossland
Tel: 0116 305 7085
Email: footpaths@leics.gov.uk

Leicestershire County Council

Plan No. M919
Scale 1:2500 at A2

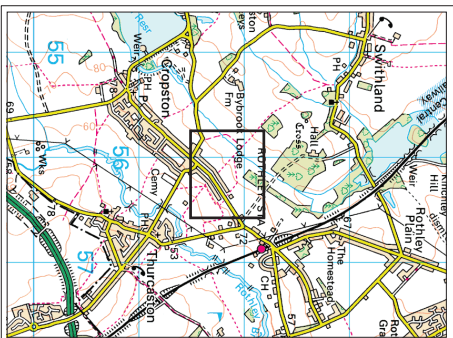
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Leicestershire County Council Proposed Addition of Footpaths J62 (Part) and J66 (Part) and the Proposed Deletion of Footpath J62 (Part) at Cropston



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Location Plan



Key

- Footpaths Proposed to be Added (A-B-D-C) and (D-E)
- Footpath Proposed to be Deleted (C-E-F)
- Unaffected Public Footpaths
- Unaffected Public Bridleways



**Leicestershire
County Council**

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Matthew Lugg, Director
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Plan No. M710
Scale 1:2500

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Survey of Open Access Land report

General comments

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is the largest non-governmental organisation dedicated to nature conservation in the two counties. It currently has 26 nature reserves in Leicestershire covering about 757.5 hectares (1871 acres). The Trust has a positive policy towards access and we try to do as much as we can to encourage it while striving to maintain and enhance the nature conservation value of our estate to the highest possible standards. In recent years we have purposefully replaced nearly all of the stiles on Trust land with gates, to make access for the less able easier. We also maintain miles of paths and woodland rides, and numerous boardwalks, steps, information boards and other features. Clearly this is a massive job and we are sure that there is always room for improvement. However, it should be noted that the Trust has limited resources and cannot always do everything that it would wish to.

The nature reserves are managed on a day to day basis by just five members of staff, based in the Trust's Leicester offices. None of the reserves are visited as often as they really need to be. Loughborough Big Meadow, for example, is visited on average about once a week. Staff work hard to deal with issues other than habitat management ones, such as sadly increasing unsociable behaviour by a minority of people, e.g. removal of signs; loose dogs worrying wildlife, stock and other visitors; excessive dog mess; travellers' ponies; fly tipping; unauthorized access by horses, motor cycles and mountain bikes; glued up locks; damaged fences; people not keeping to paths (other than on Access land); damage to buildings.

Parts of three of the reserves were, of course, declared Open Access Land through the CRoW Act. Soon after the Act came in we worked with Leicestershire County Council to put up Open Access signs on Trust (and indeed other) sites. We also proposed new permissive paths at Charnwood Lodge to link up the separated parcels of Access Land, but it was accepted that there would be no direct link between the Warren Hills and The Rough. Since then we have received very little comment from the County Council, the public or others on the arrangements. They seem to have worked well.

We have read the reports you sent us on and discussed them with relevant staff. They contain much useful information, but we would have found it easier to respond if there had been numbered suggestions. Nevertheless, we offer our comments below and hope that we have addressed the main points:

Altar Stones

1. We obviously have no objection to the installation of more Access signs.
2. We have tried to negotiate a lease on the Common Land owned by Markfield Parish Council, but they do not appear to want to proceed with that idea.
3. We will have another look at the stile mentioned, but we would have no objection to it being replaced.
4. Similarly, we would have no objection to the installation of a gate for the less able, provided that it did not admit horses or unauthorized vehicles.

Charnwood Lodge

1. As the report indicates, this property was bequeathed to the Trust on the condition that it should be maintained with minimal disturbance, which has proved to be a challenge given the desire to promote access. In recent years the Trust's approach to access at Charnwood Lodge has become much more positive and relaxed. In practice there are few restrictions, but we obviously encourage people to keep to the paths to minimize disturbance to wildlife. We also ask people to keep dogs on leads during the bird breeding season, but you should be aware that loose dogs are a significant concern on the Warren Hills. Not only do they disturb wildlife, but they have led to the farmer withdrawing his stock at times. It is important that we confine this problem to as small an area as possible.
2. The barbed wire enclosure on the Warren Hills surrounds the covered reservoir owned by Severn Trent Water. The company insisted that the reservoir be fenced to prevent cattle from getting onto it. STW have also locked the gate and the Trust has no control over this situation.
3. As stated above, the issue of a link between the Warren Hills and The Rough was discussed when the CRoW Act was first introduced. Although the report author believes that only responsible people would walk to The Rough from the Warren Hills, we believe that the proposed link would be risky given the current level of anti-social behaviour on the Warren Hills. Furthermore, the field between is tenanted farmland and we know that the farmer would be against an access route through it. A route along the adjacent track would take people uncomfortably close to the farmyard, introducing a potential security threat.
4. We are not in favour of another access point through Bower Wood because it would result in more work for our hard-pressed staff.
5. The wall at point 1 has already been set back to provide a refuge for pedestrians. We recognize that the road is a hazard, however, and we suggest that the highways authority put up warning signs to alert motorists to the presence of pedestrians. We would be happy to contact them.
6. We will look at the Trust's website entry for Charnwood Lodge, but we have not said that CRoW Access degrades the NNR. The website is primarily aimed at Trust members and is not there to provide information on Open Access.
7. We recognize that the original way-marked path is not maintained as well as it ideally should be, but this is simply because of limited resources. We will consider whether we can improve the situation.
8. We do not have a policy of minimal signage. The original Access signs were removed by persons unknown quite quickly after installation. We would certainly not object to them being replaced.
9. Note that the less able are welcome to apply to have a permit so that they can park near the Bomb Rocks. We have recently put in a gate there suitable for wheelchair users. Similar gates have also been put in elsewhere, the cost having been borne by the Trust.

Loughborough Big Meadow

1. Note that the suggested access point opposite point 7 is not on Wildlife Trust owned land.
2. The detached land at point 6 has only been purchased by the Trust quite recently. The gate there now was present when we purchased the land. We are aware that it is not ideal, but visitors can squeeze by it. Unfortunately we have been experiencing real problems on this land through unauthorized mini-motor cycle access, which we have notified the Police, Leicestershire County Council and Natural England of. The mini motor cycles are able to get

through kissing gates. This is a matter that could be resolved by installing more secure access structures by the road, that do not allow access by mini-motor cycles, but that is on land that the Trust has no control over. Note that it is also possible for these vehicles to gain access through the flimsy fence on this side of the road.

3. Car parking is an issue that we struggle with on a number of nature reserves. The benefits are clear, but car parks invite all sorts of problems such as fly-tipping, which we are unable to deal with. Their construction is often likely to necessitate the loss of valuable habitat, in this case legally protected SSSI land. We have considered the idea of constructing a car park at Loughborough Big Meadow ourselves, but we came to the conclusion that unfortunately it was not possible. Having said that, visitors can usually park on the side of the road where the fence is set back a little.
4. Some of the Access Land signs on this site have disappeared, but the Trust maintains the information boards on its land to the west of Meadow Lane.
5. A kissing gate at point 4 is no longer necessary following a recent land acquisition by the Trust which enabled us to remove the fence.
6. The shaded land on Map 2B is not Registered Common Land, which explains why it was not included in the Access Land designation. We cannot see any advantage to be gained from extending the designation.

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SAFETY AND BEHAVIOUR ON SHARED ROUTES

Leicestershire Local Access Forum Review

The forum is to look further into this issue and first must identify whether there is a problem and if so the nature and extent of it.

People walk on private land

Speeding cyclists are a danger to others

Horses churn up the surface of paths

Cyclists ride where they are not allowed to

Roads are becoming too dangerous for non motorised users

Mobility scooters can be a nuisance or worse to the users of paths.



All these statements are true to an extent but do not tell the whole story. There have been a number of reports, especially about cycling, which will help our considerations.

Beyond that we must determine how much of this and associated issues fall within our remit. Whilst all roads are rights of way, traffic as such and public transport are only within our brief in as far as they interfere with walkers and riders or impact on peoples abilities to get out to enjoy the wider network of rights of way and public open spaces.

Members in initial discussions provided numerous examples of where problems have been seen, many on the road itself and that is not really within our scope. Riders two abreast and in large formations are perceived as a nuisance to other traffic. People using bikes to zip about in city centres have been seen ignore red lights and to collide with pedestrians but more often than not they are probably more of a risk to themselves than anybody else.

As with all such perceived problems the reputations of the great majority of riders and walkers are tarnished by the memorable nuisance and bad behaviour of a few.

There is wanton disobedience of rules but also a lot of ignorance as to what people are allowed to do where.

Particular areas of concern flagged up in early consideration are cycle hire centres providing bikes to complete novices without any instructions and people riding bikes on footpaths.

We must then consider what we can in effect do about it.

We feel the lack of education is a major factor but enforcement or the lack of it is also a problem

Can signage be improved or added to?

Can we suggest how people can be educated and trained so that they know what and where they can go and how to behave when they are there?

Can we design any literature to be offered to outlets and schools etc.?

Can we suggest straplines which could be added to websites to the same end?

To whom and where should we be addressing our efforts?

As a national problem or perceived problem should we be making recommendations to DeFRA via the Regional Access Forums Meetings?

Footpaths

This public right of way is meant for pedestrians only. You are allowed to walk your dog as long as it is under your close control. When walking a dog, you must ensure that it keeps to the public footpath and does not trespass into nearby properties. Prams, pushchair or wheelchairs can also be used on a footpath.

Bridleways

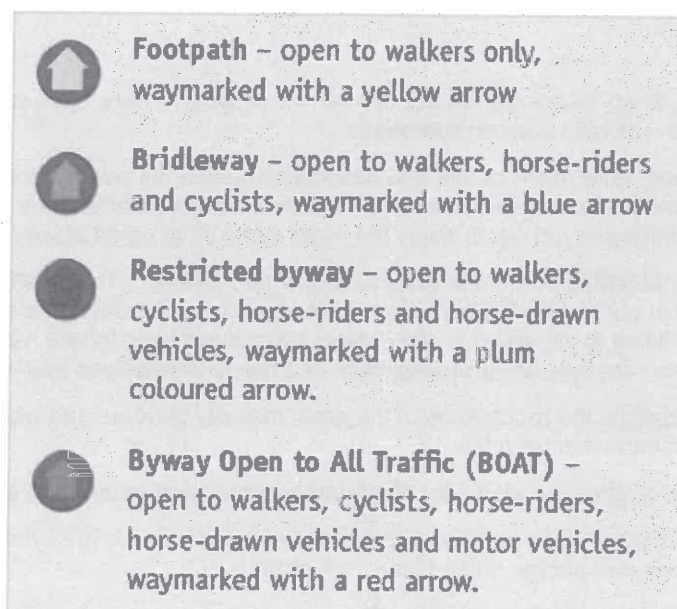
These are meant for walkers, horseriders and bycyclists. Bicyclists are expected to give way to walkers and horseriders.

Byways Open To All Traffic (BOAT)

These byways are normally marked "byways" and are open to motorists, bicyclists, horseriders, motorcyclists and pedestrians. As with public tarmac road networks, motorists must ensure that they are legally authorised to use BOATs (i.e. registered, taxed, insured and MoT'd).

Restricted Byways

Restricted Byways are created under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. They are open to the traffic mentioned above in BOATs, but exclude motor vehicles and motorcycles.



DON'Ts

Footpaths

Footpaths on edge of a field must not be ploughed. Footpaths can be ploughed, if they cross fields. However, a minimum width of 1 metres must be made available within 14 days of ploughing. Landowners must also ensure that they restore footpaths after ploughing.

If you are walking a dog, you must make sure that it does not stray off legal lines of a public footpath as this may constitute an act of trespass. Also ensure that you clean up your dog mess, if your dog fouls up on a footpath.

Bridleways

Bridleways on the edge of a field must also not be ploughed except they cross over fields. Like footpaths, landowners must also give a minimum width of 2 metres within 14 days of commencing ploughing. Landowners must also ensure that they restore bridleways after ploughing.

Motor cars, mini motors and motorcyclists are not allowed on bridleways.

Byways Open To All Traffic (BOAT)

Under-age or banned drivers, quad bikes, mini-motos, non-road-legal scramblers & quad bikes are not allowed on BOATs.

BOATs must not be ploughed or obstructed to prevent public use.

Restricted Byways

Motorcyclists, motorists in motorcars, mini motors, quad bikes, non-road legal scramblers are not allowed on restricted by ways.

Restricted byways must also not be ploughed or obstructed to prevent public use.

Other don'ts for landowners

- You cannot grow crops on a public right of way, however grass can be grown for hay and silage.
- Dairy bulls over 10 months are not allowed to cross over a field with a right of way.
- You cannot put up stiles or gates without the permission of your local authority.
- You cannot put up misleading signs to prevent people from using a public right of way.
- You are not allowed to harass, intimidate (e.g. placing a fierce dog on public right of way) or prevent members of the public from using a public right of way.
- It is an offence under the Highways Act 1980 to put up barbed wires, electric fences or exposed barb wire that prevents or obstructs a public right of way.

Other don'ts for users of public rights of way.

- You are not allowed to disturb or harm any wildlife found on a public right of way.
- You should not drop or leave litter on a public right of way.
- You should not trespass on neighbouring lands to public rights of way. At all times keep to the legal limits!

In addition to public rights of way people may use open access land



Open access land – 865,000 hectares of mountain, moorland, heathland, down land and registered common land (mapped under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) is available to people to walk, run, explore, climb and watch wildlife, without having to stay on paths. Similar rights will be extended in stages on coastal land (identified under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009). Check the Open Access pages at www.naturalengland.org.uk for maps, information and any current restrictions in place.



A 'negative' access symbol – may be used to mark the end of area-wide access although other access rights may exist, for example public rights of way.

WHAT CAN WE AND SHOULD WE DO

Education is the one area where we should most be able to help. No amount of rules such as speed limits on shared routes etc., can really help unless they can be enforced. We can advise authorities on guidelines to be added to their publications and could assist in a printed version if the County was prepared to fund its production or other funding sources could be found.

The two primary classes of user which we feel we need to target are the novice cyclists and those people we encourage to start walking for their health and well-being. In the latter case the Countryside Code probably provides what is needed and we perhaps should just encourage this to be made more available and for walking-promoting web sites to have a strong link to it. Experienced and regular horse riders and cyclists should and probably do know where they can go and their own organisations do a good job of reinforcing this. The very nature of horse riding means that there are no true novices as they have to be taught but almost anyone can pick up a bike and have a go.

It seems therefore that to have the maximum impact we need to get to these people; the question is how?

The first step is surely to consult local partners to see who else is trying to work on these issues to prevent duplication of efforts and try to have uniform approach. The work done by the Peak District National Park is a good starting point.

If we can agree some form of guidance we would wish to try and get them into the hands of all cycle hire outlets, possibly cycle sales outlets and to bodies doing cycling proficiency tests at schools.

We will be returning to these ideas early in 2015 but in the meantime will take soundings of others users.

We must not lose track of the fact that we wish to encourage more people to use the rights of way and open access areas for recreation, exercise, and general and mental health. They must however know where they can go and when there what they can and cannot do. They must show respect for other users and the owners of land they may be crossing.

We have previously discussed the legal situation in respect of mobility scooters on footpaths and have issued guidance on the control of dogs when in pasture with cattle present.

We must continue to work to promote the creation of more routes for people to enjoy either riding or on foot, and for more informative signage as to where routes go and what class of user may use them..

We have just responded to the Department of Transport's consultation on Cycling and Walking.

The Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF) is an independent statutory body, set up as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, and exists to represent the interests of everyone concerned with access to the countryside and the public rights of way network including footpaths, bridleways and byways, cycleways and areas of open access.

It is a statutory function of the LLAF to give advice to a range of bodies, including local authorities, on access issues in respect of land use planning matters. The Secretary of State has advised that in particular, forums were to focus on the impact and options for minimising possible adverse effects of planning policies and development proposals, in respect of future public access to land. Forums are tasked with identifying and expressing support for opportunities to improve public access, associated infrastructure and the rights of way network which might be delivered through planning policies or new developments.

If you have specific questions, or wish to raise any other issue with the Forum please email: information@leicslaf.org.uk

Leicestershire Local Access Forum,
c/o Room 700, County Hall, Leicester, LE3 8RJ
(www.leics.gov.uk/laf)
Telephone - County Hall 0116 305 7086

Commons Registration Regulations

The Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2014 came into force on 15 December 2015. From that date five types of 'corrective applications' are available to registration authorities in England.

The Regulations are available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3038/made>

The application forms and guidance to commons registration authorities and the Planning Inspectorate have been published at:

<http://www.gov.uk/common-land-management-protection-and-registering-to-use#commons-registration>

The guidance to applicants has been published in four parts but there will be a single link to those pages from the main commons registration page (i.e. from the link above):

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-how-to-apply-to-make-changes>

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-apply-to-record-new-events>

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-apply-to-record-historic-events>

<http://www.gov.uk/commons-registers-apply-to-rectify-them>

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LLAF POLICY ON UNRECORDED WAYS

The Access Forum in line with its aims of protecting and enhancing the rights of way network intends to work towards the protection of all routes before the probable 2026 cut off date for claims based on historic evidence. In doing so we seek to assist and advise the Local Authority and provide some co-ordination of the efforts of other organisations working to the same aim.

To this end our Network Opportunities Committee will maintain a sub group working on this project, reporting back to the forum on a regular basis. We envisage that this group will co-opt people from outside the Forum membership who are working on the same project.

Work will cover a number of issues—

- A) Collect and combine all existing available records to establish the present situation.
- B) Circulate reports to other interested parties as to the areas of work being pursued and progress being made to avoid duplication of efforts.
- C) To receive and pass on reports from other parties similarly employed.
- D) Identify routes in use but not presently protected, seeking their addition to the definitive map or adoption as highways
- E) Identify routes maintained at public expense and establish whether these are deemed to be 'protected' without further designation.
- F) Where routes are on gazetteers or list of streets but not maintainable at public expense seek to get them given protected status
- G) Where there is an indication that a route may have had a higher status than at present, to seek historic evidence to support a claim.
- H) Where obvious gaps occur in the existing rights of way network and the link has real benefit or strong potential benefit, seek historic evidence to enable a claim to be made. To approach any landowner in such cases prior to any claim to see what can be agreed on a voluntary basis and explore any concerns.

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Station Road to D94

A question was raised about the route from Station Road, Great Dalby (SK7266 1409) NE to meet D94 after crossing the road by March House. This used to run all the way across to Dalby Road before the airfield was built.

There is a yellow post under the railway bridge but no other markings. Its official status was unclear as it is not apparently a footpath nor a County Road. Either way it is restricted by a few locked gates.

The route was diverted rather than stopped up by the construction of the airfield although this was only discovered relatively recently when looking amongst the old airfield orders. Consequently the route was "lost" for many years and has only recently been recognised again, it cropped up when various planning applications were put in for development on the airfield.

The waymark post by the railway bridge was probably put in by a rights of way contract a number of years ago when we did start to mark "other highways" that seemed to be well used especially by horse riders and were in need of some attention.

Unfortunately this route comes into the group that it is difficult to know what to do with - it is unfortunate that it is not already a byway on the Definitive Map. If it is claimed now it would be difficult if not impossible (because of the NERC Act) to show that it has vehicular rights and therefore would most likely be classified as a restricted byway or worse case scenario open up a can of worms that could not be closed amicably. In the meantime it is a legitimate public highway of unspecified classification.

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Definitive Map Extract Of Public Rights Of Way 79

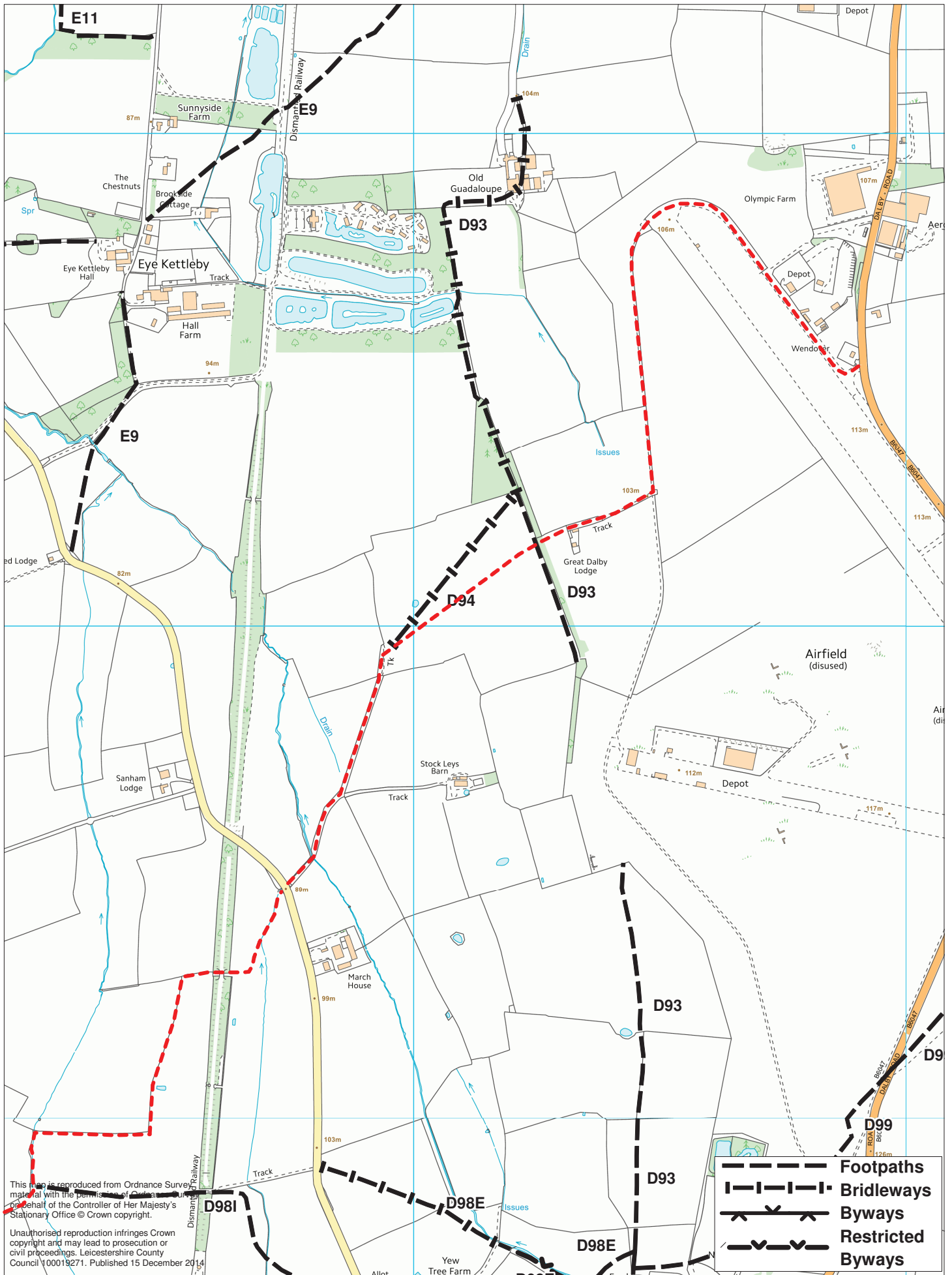
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**Leicestershire
 County Council**

Scale 1:10000

Compiled by Ellen Senior (Tel. 0116 308 7085) on 15 December 2014



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LLAF DIARY 2015

January	Wednesday 14th	Formal Forum 5.00 for 5.30, County Hall Preceded by workshop 3.30 and / or site visit
February	Tuesday 24th	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel (Network Opportunities, unrecorded ways)
March	Tuesday 24th	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel or site visit (Burrough Hill 11.00 ?)
April	Thursday 16th	Formal Forum 5.00 for 5.30, County Hall - Preceded by workshop 3.30 and/or site visit (Burbage Common 11.30 ?)
May	Tuesday 26th	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel (Network Opportunities, unrecorded ways)
June	Tuesday 23rd	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel or site visit
July	Thursday 2nd	Formal Forum 5.00 for 5.30, County Hall Preceded by workshop 3.30 and / or site visit
August	Tuesday 25th	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel (Network Opportunities, unrecorded ways)
September	Tuesday 22nd	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel or site visit
October	Tuesday 6th	Formal Forum 5.00 for 5.30, County Hall Preceded by workshop 3.30 and / or site visit
November	Tuesday 24th	Working group interim meeting 3.00-5.00 Railway Hotel (Network Opportunities, unrecorded ways)
December	If required	

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