

# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday, 18 April 2018**

Time: **10:30**

Venue: **Edwards Room, County Hall,  
Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2DH**

**Persons attending the meeting are requested to turn off mobile phones.**

## **Membership**

Martin Sullivan (Chairman)

Chris Allhusen (Vice-Chairman)      Seamus Elliot

David Ansell      Ken Hawkins

Tim Bennett      David Hissey

Julie Brociek-Coulton      Pat Holtom

Helen Chester      Kate Mackenzie

Victor Cocker      Ann Melhuish

Geoff Doggett      Paul Rudkin

Fabian Eagle      George Saunders

Mike Edwards      Jean Stratford

## **Ex-Officio Member (Non-Voting):**

Simon Eyre: Norfolk County Council Cycling and Walking Member Champion

**For further details and general enquiries about this Agenda  
please contact the Committee Officer:**

Nicola LeDain on 01603 223053 or email [committees@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:committees@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Under the Council's protocol on the use of media equipment at meetings held in public, this meeting may be filmed, recorded or photographed. Anyone who wishes to do so must inform the Chairman and ensure that it is done in a manner clearly visible to anyone present. The wishes of any individual not to be recorded or filmed must be appropriately respected.**

## A g e n d a

1. **To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending**

2. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2018**

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3. **Declarations of Interest**

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is on your Register of Interests you must not speak or vote on the matter.

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is not on your Register of Interests you must declare that interest at the meeting and not speak or vote on the matter

In either case you may remain in the room where the meeting is taking place. If you consider that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to remain in the room, you may leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

If you do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you may nevertheless have an **Other Interest** in a matter to be discussed if it affects

- your well being or financial position
- that of your family or close friends
- that of a club or society in which you have a management role
- that of another public body of which you are a member to a greater extent than others in your ward.

If that is the case then you must declare such an interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

4. **Any items of business the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency**

5. **Public QuestionTime**

Fifteen minutes for questions from members of the public of which due notice has been given.

Please note that all questions must be received by the Committee Team ([committees@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:committees@norfolk.gov.uk)) by **5pm Friday 13th April 2018**. For guidance on submitting public question, please view the Consitution at [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk).

6. **NLAF Subgroups' updated Terms of Reference**  
Report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture

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7. **NLAF response to Defra Consultation**  
Report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture

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<b>8. Countryside access arrangements update</b>	<b>Page 29</b>
Report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture	
<b>9. Community Friends' Walks</b>	<b>Page 33</b>
Report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture	
<b>10. England Coast Path – Weybourne to Hunstanton</b>	<b>Page 49</b>
Report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture	
<b>11. Recycling the Railways</b>	<b>Page 55</b>
Report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture	

**Chris Walton**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
 County Hall  
 Martineau Lane  
 Norwich  
 NR1 2DH

Date Agenda Published: 09 April 2018



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**Norfolk Local Access Forum**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on 07 February 2018**  
**at 10.30am in the Edwards Room, County Hall**

**Member:**

Martin Sullivan - Chairman  
Chris Allhusen – vice-Chairman  
Tim Bennett  
Julie Brociek-Coulton  
Victor Cocker  
Mike Edwards  
Seamus Elliott  
Ken Hawkins  
David Hissey  
Kate MacKenzie  
Paul Rudkin  
George Saunders  
Jean Stratford

**Representing:**

Motorised vehicle access / cycling  
Land ownership / management / farming  
Walking / Conservation  
NCC  
Walking  
GI and planning / conservation / sustainability  
Sport and outdoor recreation / cycling  
Walking / cycling  
Cycling / public transport  
Voluntary sector / walking  
Walking / GI and planning  
All-ability access / health & wellbeing / voluntary sector  
Youth and education / walking / voluntary sector

**Officers Present:**

Andrew Hutcheson  
Su Waldron  
Matt Worden  
Rachel Stewart  
Emily Capps

Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects)  
Project Officer Environment Team  
Area Manager (South)  
Waste Reduction Officer, NCC  
Senior Community Protection Officer, SNC

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from David Ansell, Helen Chester, Geoff Doggett, Cllr Fabian Eagle, Pat Holtom, Ann Melhuish and Cllr Simon Eyre.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

- 2.2a 4.2.2 The Forum expressed that they would not want to lose track of adding pressure onto Westminster and other LAFs had exchanged plans and concerns. External organisations had also circulated joint documents. The Chairman was meeting his MP before the next meeting. The NLAF had received an unsatisfactory response from the minister to their enquiry about permissive access. The NLAF agreed that it would continue to pursue a more satisfactory response through the office of Mr George Freeman, MP.
- 2.2b 4.4.1 It was reported that further information on the Community Infrastructure Levy had not yet been made available but would still be reported to a future meeting.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no interests declared.

### **4. Items received as urgent business**

- 4.1 The Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects) announced that at the recent Policy and Resources meeting, a proposal had been passed to undertake a feasibility study for unused railways to potentially become cycling, walking and equestrian routes. A significant proportion of these railways were owned by the Council. Initially £350k capital funding had been invested.

### **5. Public Question Time**

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

### **6. Remit and Relationship between the NLAF (Norfolk Local Access Forum) and Pathmakers**

- 6.1 The NLAF received the report which outlined the ways that there would be a closer working relationship between Pathmakers and the NLAF subgroups going forwards, in order to take full advantage of proactive opportunities offered by Pathmakers.
- 6.2 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- The revised membership of the subgroups as outlined in the report and that in future any changes to their membership would be delegated to the Chairman and reported back to the NLAF at the next following meeting.
  - That the NLAF requests that each subgroup reviews its Terms of Reference.
  - That each subgroup had a standing agenda item at NLAF meetings.
  - That trustees engage directly with relevant members of the NLAF to strengthen the relationship between the two groups taking account of NLAF members' areas on interest of particular relevance to Pathmakers.
  - That the NLAF organises an 'away day' for Pathmakers trustees and NLAF members to launch the new way of engagement between the 2 groups.
- 6.3 In addition to the membership changes outlined in the report, it was **AGREED that** Victor Cocker join the PROW subgroup.

### **7. Building Resilience for Pathmakers**

- 7.1 The NLAF received the report which updated them on continuing work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk through the Charitable arm of the Local Access Forum, identified as Pathmakers.
- 7.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

### **8. Joint Action to Tackle Fly-Tipping (illegal dumping of waste, IDOW)**

- 8.1. The NLAF received a presentation from the Waste Reduction Officer, NCC and the Senior Community Protection Officer from South Norfolk Council (members of the Norfolk Waste Enforcement Group (NWE)), to update the NLAF on work being carried out in Norfolk to prevent illegal fly-tipping on private (and public) land.
- 8.2. Members expressed concern that the current system of making landowners pay for the removal of fly-tipping on their land was unfair for landowners and was a disincentive to dispose of the waste in the correct manner. If, for example, the fly-tipping occurred on a restricted byway within their land they had a duty to keep it open for users and therefore clear it. It is known that some landowners move fly-tipping to the highway so it has to be picked up by the Local Authority. It was suggested by members that there could be a form of licensing introduced for landowners.
- 8.3. It is vitally important for fly-tipping to be reported so that data can be collated and used. However, it is known that not all fly-tipping is reported and landowners often undertake their own research to detect who is responsible rather than report it. Touching such waste is discouraged by the Local Authorities on health and safety grounds, and because the evidence is then 'tampered with'. Original evidence is needed for a successful prosecution. Large quantities of, or hazardous, fly-tipping should be reported to the Environment Agency.
- 8.4. It was highlighted that there is a current consultation by Defra looking at ways to tackle waste crime.
- 8.5. NWE has a new workplan to educate and inform people as to how to dispose of rubbish in the correct manner and not leave it for someone else to deal with. The biggest way to reduce fly-tipping would be to prevent it, and ways to do this will be promoted by all Local Authorities working together with the Environment Agency and other partners, including NLAF. As there are limited resources, it is important that NWE targets these where they would be most effective.
- 8.6. Members suggested that campaigns should be aimed at visitors to the area as well as residents.
- 8.7. The NLAF **AGREED**:
- To note the report and presentation
  - To actively contribute to tackling the problem of fly-tipping on private land through online reporting and the use of any resources shared by NWE.

## **9. PROW Sub-group Report – Definitive Map Modification Orders**

- 9.1. The NLAF received the report
- 9.2. The NLAF felt that some analysis needed to be carried out so that when the deadline date was reached, quick wins hadn't been missed.
- 9.3. It was agreed that some analysis should be carried out to ensure that nothing had been missed.
- 9.4. The NLAF **AGREED**:

- To ask the County to review its policy of taking a neutral stance on the majority of definitive map modification orders;
- To indicate the criteria by which it decides which orders it would promote;
- To provide statistical information since the change of policy in 2011 to show how many orders have been made, how many promoted, how many opposed and on how many it had taken a neutral stance.

## **10. PROW Sub-Group – Parish Council Seminars**

- 10.1 The NLAF received the report which updated the NLAF on the Parish Council seminars.
- 10.2. It was reported that a proposal to combine the seminars with the consultation process for the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan had been decided against and the Parish seminars would now be arranged for later in the year.
- 10.3 The NLAF **AGREED**:
- The approach taken by the sub-group that there would be three parish seminars, each held at a location within each of the three Countryside Access Officers' areas, rather than one countywide seminar.

## **11. Countryside Access Arrangements Update**

- 11.1 The NLAF received the report which addressed the concerns raised by the NLAF with regards to Public Rights of Way Management. The report highlighted the work in terms of the volume of customer queries received and responded to and other key areas of work.
- 11.2. The NLAF asked if eventually names of staff could be added to the positions. This would be possible once the current review was completed.
- 11.3 The trails team would include work on rights of way.
- 11.4 The NLAF;
- **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

## **12. Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2018-2028 Consultation**

- 12.1 The NLAF received the report which included the draft Norfolk Access Improvement Plan.
- 12.2 It was noted that any comments regarding the content could be addressed in the meeting of the NAIP sub-group following the NLAF meeting, and the NLAF accepted that as a result content could alter slightly.
- 12.3 It was suggested that the consultation could be advertised in 'Your Norfolk' and as many other places as possible to enable as many people as possible to comment on the consultation. All Parish Councils would receive the document via email but it would be necessary to emphasise the importance of the document as it could easily be dismissed.

- 12.4 The author of the executive summary and the foreword was to be confirmed.
- 12.5 It was noted that the questionnaire associated with the plan assumed that the whole plan had been read which might pose some difficulties.
- 12.6 It was suggested that there could be scope to use the plan to help re-introduce permissive rights of way as it touches on the loss of connectivity of the network.
- 12.7 The NLAFF **AGREED**;
- That the NAIP document and supporting statement of Actions and Delivery Plan was ready for consultation with stakeholders.
  - That the revised timetable for the consultation shall run between 1 March 2018 and 31 May 2018.
  - That public consultation will be via a 'Citizen Space' with one structured stakeholder event (invitees only) for stakeholders and organisations not members of the NLAFF taking place at County Hall during mid to late April 2018. NAIP subgroup members to assist with the stakeholder event and with the collation of survey responses. Posters to be sent to all parish councils with paper copies of the report and notices will be placed in the press to promote the public consultation.
  - The questions that will be used in the survey.
  - That Keith Bacon (Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum) is co-opted onto the NAIP subgroup.

**Dates of future meetings:**

18 April 2018	10:30	Edwards Room, County Hall
18 July 2018	10:30	Cranworth Room, County Hall
24 October 2018	10:30	Edwards Room, County Hall

The Meeting closed at 12:25pm

**Martin Sullivan, Chairman,  
Norfolk Local Access Forum**



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>NLAF Subgroups' updated Terms of Reference</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> Closer working between the NLAF and its charitable arm, Pathmakers, will lead to greater opportunities for proactive countryside access improvements.	

## Executive summary

At the last meeting of the NLAF on 7 February 2018, the NLAF agreed that each NLAF subgroup (PRoW subgroup; NAIP subgroup; Permissive Access subgroup) would review their Terms of Reference and membership to reflect a closer working relationship between Pathmakers (CIO) and the NLAF.

### Recommendation:

**The NLAF agree the Terms of Reference for each of its sub-groups and notes Pathmakers Terms of Reference.**

### 1. Proposal (or options)

That the NLAF agrees the revised Terms of Reference for each subgroup.

### 2. Evidence

Revised Terms of Reference for each subgroup are attached (Appendix 1: PROW subgroup; Appendix 2: NAIP subgroup; Appendix 3: Permissive Access subgroup). Appendix 4 contains Pathmakers Terms of Reference.

### 3. Financial Implications

nil

### 4. Issues, risks and innovation

nil

### 5. Background

Minutes from NLAF meeting held on 7 February 2018

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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Ken Hawkins  
Chris Allhusen

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<b>Terms of Reference: PROW subgroup (of NLAF)</b>	
<b>Date of revision</b>	March 2018
<b>Purpose of group</b>	<p>To collect and provide informed user comment on policies and procedures affecting the PROW network and associated routes (eg Trails), avoiding close focus on particular path problems except as illustrations of overall issues, with the aim of agreeing changes which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the usable network mileage, and/or</li> <li>• improve the condition of the network, and/or</li> <li>• promote the use of the network, and/or</li> <li>• enable the network to be maintained more effectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda</b>	<p><b>Monitor NAIP</b>  <b>Monitor progress to log lost paths (2026)</b>  <b>Standing items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC's enforcement policy and procedure,</li> <li>• practical implications of the Cycling and Walking Action Plan,</li> <li>• links with parish councils,</li> <li>• social and economic benefits from PROW network usage, and</li> <li>• financial and other benefits from PROW network usage, including priority hierarchy in resource allocation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other issues</b> referred from LAF, generated from PROW Sub Group members, or brought by staff</p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>Designated LAF and Pathmakers members, plus representation from Broads LAF, CPRE, OSS, The Ramblers and U3A (reflecting the fact that most concerns centre around footpath use).</p> <p>Additional input to be sought from cycling, horse riding, carriage driving and mpv use (1) as needed for specific issues, and (2) to the extent that such expertise is not available from LAF members of the Group.</p> <p>Current members:</p> <p>Ann Melhuish  Helen Chester  Helen Leith  Ian Mitchell  Ian Witham</p>

	Jean Stratford Keith Bacon Ken Hawkins (Chair) Martin Sullivan Neil Cliff
<b>Support</b>	NCC staff from Norfolk Trails and Highways to attend as needed to enable fruitful discussion to take place:  Sarah Abercrombie Andy Hutcheson Russell Wilson Matt Worden Su Waldron

<b>Terms of Reference: NAIP subgroup (of NLAF)</b>	
<b>Date of revision</b>	March 2018
<b>Purpose of group</b>	<p>1. To act as a 'task and finish' group to advise Norfolk County Council on the production and delivery of the new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP), effective from 2018.</p> <p>The NAIP is a statutory document that each Highway and National Park Authority has a duty to produce according to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).</p> <p>2. To assist with the launch event of the consultation</p> <p>3. To review remarks and comments raised following the consultation period, and where necessary, incorporate into the final version.</p> <p>4. Work with officers to agree annual delivery plans and monitor the progress of the NAIP over its 10 year lifetime.</p> <p>Statement of Actions themes are to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well-managed access network;</li> <li>• A well-connected access network</li> <li>• A well-protected natural and historic environment</li> <li>• A well-promoted access network</li> <li>• A well-informed access network</li> <li>• A community-led access network</li> <li>• A healthy access network</li> <li>• A valuable access network</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda</b>	<p>Monitor NAIP</p> <p>Monitor Annual Delivery Plan</p> <p>Create future Delivery Plans</p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>Martin Sullivan (Chair)</p> <p>Ken Hawkins</p> <p>Pat Holtom</p> <p>Paul Rudkin</p> <p>Seamus Elliott</p> <p>David Hissey</p> <p>Geoff Doggett</p> <p>Helen Chester</p> <p>Vic Cocker</p> <p>Keith Bacon</p>

<b>Support</b>	<p>NCC staff from Norfolk Trails and Highways to attend as needed to enable fruitful discussion to take place</p> <p>Sarah Abercrombie</p> <p>Russell Wilson</p> <p>Andy Hutcheson</p> <p>Matt Worden</p> <p>David White</p> <p>Su Waldron</p>

## Appendix 3

<b>Terms of Reference: Permissive Access subgroup (of NLAF)</b>	
Date of revision	March 2018
Purpose of group	1. To act as a 'task and finish' group to retain as much of Norfolk's permissive network as possible through liaising with landowners whose permissive access agreements are coming to an end.
Agenda/responsibilities	<p>The working group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take a 'task and finish' approach;</li> <li>• continue to address those routes whose agreements are due to end imminently and in particular, those routes identified as a priority for the local access network;</li> <li>• operate until liaison with all landowners is complete and a suitable permissive access network is established;</li> <li>• endeavour to use the FWAG/NLAF model to persuade landowners and parish councils to retain or open new permissive paths;</li> <li>• continue to press Government to include payments for permissive access in future stewardship schemes;</li> <li>• (the Chairman) will act as a point of contact for landowners with regards to their permissive access routes.</li> </ul> <p>Correspondence to landowners will be signed by the Chair of the NLAF.</p>
Membership	<p>Chris Allhusen (Chair)</p> <p>Vic Cocker</p> <p>Mike Edwards</p> <p>Kate MacKenzie</p> <p>Helen Chester</p> <p>Ann Melhuish</p>
Support	<p>Sarah Abercrombie</p> <p>Russell Wilson</p> <p>Andy Hutcheson</p> <p>Su Waldron</p>



## Appendix 4

<b>Terms of Reference: Pathmakers (CIO)</b>	
Date of revision	March 2018
Purpose of group	<p>Pathmakers Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), charity registration number: 1161475. Charitable purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the public benefit, the advancement of health of residents of, and visitors to, Norfolk by promoting, raising awareness of, improving and creating countryside access for outdoor recreation in the area of Norfolk.</li> <li>2. For the public benefit, the advancement of improvement to the environment in the Norfolk countryside for the benefit of residents of, and visitor to, Norfolk by the promotion of, assisting and organising projects to conserve and improve the areas of countryside the public can access.</li> </ol>
Agenda	Seek funding opportunities and projects meeting the charity's objectives
Membership	<p>Martin Sullivan (Chair)</p> <p>Ann Melhuish</p> <p>John Jones (NCC)</p> <p>Seamus Elliott</p> <p>Pat Holtom</p> <p>Kate MacKenzie</p> <p>George Saunders</p> <p>Jenni Turner (UEA)</p>
Support	<p>NCC staff from Norfolk Trails and Highways to attend as needed to enable fruitful discussion to take place</p> <p>Sarah Abercrombie</p> <p>Russell Wilson</p> <p>Andy Hutcheson</p> <p>Su Waldron</p> <p>Sophie Cabot</p>





# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>NLAF response to Defra Consultation</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage</b>

## **Strategic impact**

Defra has issued a consultation paper *Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit* seeking views on its plans to reform agriculture so as “to change the way we use the land, so as better to promote health and harmony.” The proposals “set out a range of possible paths to a brighter future for farming. They are the beginning of a conversation, not a conclusion and we want everyone who cares about the food we eat and the environment around us to contribute.” Access issues are among those covered in the paper, and are particularly significant in Norfolk (and other East Anglia counties) because of the ongoing loss of permissive routes previously support through Stewardship schemes funded by the EU.

## **Executive summary**

A draft response has been prepared, and was circulated to LAF members on 20 March. The draft attached (see Appendix 1) has been updated in light of the sole comment received, and is now offered for approval by the LAF for submission. The closing date for receipt of comments is 8 May 2018.

### **Recommendation:**

**The LAF approves Appendix 1 as its response to the DEFRA Consultation.**

### **1. Proposal (or options)**

It is proposed that the LAF approves the attached paper (Appendix 1) as the basis for responding to Defra’s consultation.

### **2. Evidence**

The Defra report is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>. A first draft response was circulated to all members on 20 March.

### **3. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for the process of making a representation, other than the modest staff time required.

### **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

Failure to make a representation could lead to the Government pursuing a course less beneficial for access issues.

### **5. Background**

Please refer to the ‘Evidence’ section of this report.

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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**Email address :** ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk



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Comments on behalf of Norfolk Local Access Forum - revised draft

Consultation closes on 8 May <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>

1	These comments are limited to questions of public access.
2	Norfolk Local Access Forum welcomes the inclusion of public access as a 'public good' to be considered alongside other identified public goods (p35), but believes that the value and benefits of access have not been fully recognised. We believe that public access should be included as a public good on p6 (§6), p8 (§16), p12 (3rd paragraph), p15 (§ii), p33 (§vi) and p34 (last paragraph). We are strengthened in this view by noting that the recently published report from the Select Committee on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, <i>The countryside at a crossroads: Is the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 still fit for purpose?</i> concluded (§24): "The Government is consulting upon a new system of farm and environmental payments to be applied following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and the cessation of Common Agricultural Policy payments. We recommend that the Government should include payments for maintenance and enhancement of public access within this new system of public funding ...". The report is available at <a href="https://www.parliament.uk/nerc-act-committee">https://www.parliament.uk/nerc-act-committee</a> .
3	The LAF is therefore disappointed that, in spite of many recent mentions by Michael Gove of the importance of access for the public to the countryside, within the document itself, significant mention of public access is limited to p35. Even on this page, the wide range of benefits is barely touched on, in spite of the mention of over 100 million visitor days and spending of £2.2 billion in the National Parks alone, and 8 years ago; the very substantial income generated through public access receives no other mention. We also note that the inclusion of public access in the consultation question on p35 is framed so that information about its importance to consultees will be lost unless it is in the top three.
4	We welcome the intention to make public access one of the subjects of new schemes about which legislation will be framed (p64), but the effect of the consistent lack of recognition of its importance and value in the rest of the document causes us to doubt how seriously this aspect is being taken. We would press for additional thoroughgoing consideration of the benefits of public access to the health and wealth of the nation: there is already substantial and regularly increasing evidence of the welfare benefits of being and exercising outdoors and especially in the countryside - which requires access.
5	We would also request attention to the importance and value of permissive access. Too often, access is seen to be given only through the rights of way network. As legislation stands, changes to this network (including additions) are made only by a slow and cumbersome process. Proposals for change to this process were enacted through the Deregulation Act 2015, but 3 years on there is still no sign of the Regulations necessary to implement them.
6	In addition to these concerns, we have an additional issue in Norfolk (which

## Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit

	we believe also affects Suffolk and other East Anglian areas). Under previous Stewardship schemes, farmers have been able to receive funding when providing public access through permissive routes (mainly footpaths but also some bridleways). As these schemes come to an end, in most cases there is no funding to replace that provided, and in the absence of funding, the majority of farmers are ending access. In parts of the county, these routes provided the main off road walking routes and their absence represents a significant loss to those communities. We would hope to see encouragement and support from the government to provide such routes in the future.
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**The extracts below from the source document are provided for ease of reference and should be deleted from the final submission**

	p6: 6. We will incentivise methods of farming that create new habitats for wildlife, increase biodiversity, reduce flood risk, better mitigate climate change and improve air quality by reducing agricultural emissions. We will achieve this by ensuring that public money is spent on public goods, such as restoring peat bog and measures which sequester carbon from the atmosphere; protecting dry stone walls and other iconic aspects of our heritage; and reducing disease through new initiatives that better monitor animal health and welfare.
	p8: 16. Our new environmental land management system will be underpinned by natural capital principles, so that the benefits the natural environment provides for people and wildlife are properly valued and used to inform decisions on future land management. The new system aims to deliver benefits such as improved air, water and soil quality; increased biodiversity; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and cultural benefits that improve our mental and physical well-being, while protecting our historic environment.
	p10: 24. Agriculture exists within broader rural communities and economies. We recognise that businesses in rural areas (including farms) face particular challenges, which include reduced physical and digital connectivity; and we will be working closely with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on improving rural broadband and 4G. Those who live and work in the countryside should have the same opportunities as those in urban areas. We will work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as part of delivering the government's Industrial Strategy, to support rural businesses.
	p12: A number of public goods arise from farming and forestry. This includes contributing to the protection and enhancement of the character of our historic landscapes; biodiversity and environmental provision; climate change mitigation [EC:56]; innovation and development which provide consumers with better, safer, cheaper food; and animal disease surveillance and control. Outside of the EU, we have an opportunity to support farmers and landowners better to deliver these public benefits.
	P15: ii. Rewarding farmers and land managers to deliver environmental goods that benefit all  Our aim is for public money to buy public goods. In 25 years' time, we want cleaner air and water, richer habitats for more wildlife and an approach to agriculture and land use which puts the environment first. From 2022 onwards,

## Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit

	<p>a new environmental land management system will be the cornerstone of our agricultural policy, achieving improved biodiversity, water, air quality, climate change mitigation, and the safeguarding of our historic landscapes. This will allow us to fulfil our manifesto commitment to become the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.</p>
	<p>p33: vi. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment</p> <p>Agriculture and farming practices shape our rural historic environment, our distinctive landscape features and our historical monuments [EC:55-6]. The conservation and enhancement of our cultural heritage contributes directly to a healthier environment, benefitting people, offering support to thriving rural economies and national prosperity.</p> <p>Woods and forests offer many benefits to society and the economy. They offer the potential for very significant benefits in carbon sequestration; provide outdoor spaces for exercise and recreation; and also contribute to improving agricultural productivity and rural business diversification.</p>
	<p>p34: Areas such as the uplands deliver many public goods that are worthy of public investment: not only are they a beautiful and rich part of our heritage, they can encourage biodiversity, protect water quality and store carbon. Farm businesses and communities in rural areas can face particular challenges, including physical and digital connectivity. Improved connectivity increases innovation and productivity across the economy, bringing significant economic rewards.</p>
	<p>p35: Public access to the countryside</p> <p>With agriculture accounting for more than 70% of land use in the UK, farmland forms an important amenity value for those who are accessing it and farmers and land managers can have a vital part to play in facilitating a deeper connection with the countryside. This may be through the maintenance of public rights of way, which can improve public health through access to clean air and exercise, for instance horse riding or providing opportunities for recreation and tourism. In 2010, England's National Parks accumulated 104.2 million visitor days and attracted spending of £2.2 billion.</p> <p>The UK's unique landscape also makes it a widely sought after location for film and television, thus providing an important advantage for the UK's creative arts industry over its international competitors. Initiatives such as Open Farm Sunday can also act as an important vehicle to educate the general public about where their food comes from and the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Consultation questions</b>  <b>Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? Please rank your top three options by order of importance:</b>  <b>a) Improved soil health</b>  <b>b) Improved water quality</b>  <b>c) Better air quality</b>  <b>d) Increased biodiversity</b></p>

## Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit

	<p>e) Climate change mitigation f) Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment</p> <p>Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? Please rank your top three options by order of importance:</p> <p>a) World-class animal welfare b) High animal health standards c) Protection of crops, tree, plant and bee health d) Improved productivity and competitiveness e) Preserving rural resilience and traditional farming and landscapes in the uplands f) Public access to the countryside</p> <p>Are there any other public goods which you think the government should support?</p>
	<p>p47: Rural businesses</p> <p>It is important for rural communities to be sustainable and multi-generational, providing employment opportunities for the young and not forcing people out due to a lack of suitable housing. We want to raise the productivity of rural businesses to improve growth and prosperity across rural communities. We will work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as part of delivering the government's Industrial Strategy, to support rural businesses.</p> <p>We recognise that businesses and communities in rural areas face particular challenges, including physical and digital connectivity. Alongside the significant public investment being made, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is working to make improvements to digital connectivity, including in rural areas. Improved connectivity also increases innovation and productivity across the economy, bringing significant economic rewards. In agriculture, improved connectivity can support precision farming, including environmental sensing systems.</p>
	<p>P64: 15. Legislation: the Agriculture Bill</p> <p>We will introduce an Agriculture Bill that breaks from the CAP, providing the United Kingdom with the ability to set out a domestic policy that will stand the test of time.</p> <p>We will make sure that Parliament has due scrutiny of our agriculture legislative programme, we will seek consent from the devolved legislatures where relevant and ensure that farmers and land managers have time to prepare and adjust.</p> <p>To meet the policy ambition set out in this consultation paper, the Agriculture Bill could provide legislative powers, including:</p> <p>i. to continue making payments to farmers and land managers, with power to</p>

## Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit

	<p>amend eligibility criteria for payments</p> <p>ii. measures to strip out unnecessary bureaucracy and strengthen the delivery landscape</p> <p>iii. to create new schemes for one or more of the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• promoting and increasing agricultural productivity and resilience</li><li>• preserving, protecting and enhancing the environment</li><li>• providing support to rural communities</li><li>• animal and plant health and animal welfare</li><li>• public access</li></ul> <p>iv. to establish a new basic compliance or inspection regime</p> <p>v. to take emergency measures to provide aid in extreme events</p> <p>vi. to retain UK-wide frameworks where we need commonality</p> <p>vii. to provide for continuity during the 'agricultural transition' period for some elements of the current CAP</p>
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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Countryside Access arrangements update</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> To address the concerns raised by the Local Access Forum with regards to Public Rights of Way Management and delivering the service in an economic and cost effective way.	

## Executive summary

At the July 2017 Local Access Forum (NLAF), it was agreed that at each future meeting, a summary of the work the Countryside Access Officers and Environment teams would be provided. At the October 2017 NLAF it was agreed that this report should be presented to the PROW sub-group prior to being brought to NLAF.

This paper highlights this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlights other key areas of work.

### Recommendations:

**That the Local Access Forum note the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Since 1 April 2017, there is a single point of contact within each Highways Area office being responsible for their local rights of way issues. By having the officer within the Area office they are more “on the ground” and better placed to deal with the operational reactive issues that occur when managing rights of way. They are supported by the wider Highways Area team staff. In addition, the Norfolk Trails team sits within the Environment Service at County Hall and carries out strategic and developmental aspects of developing the countryside access network.

## 2. Performance

- 2.1. The information below summarises the performance information available for the complete months between April 2017 and 23 March 2018.

The new CRM defect reporting system went live 22 Thursday March. Additional notes are being made visible to the public in the automatic update emails sent when third party defects have been inspected and more status options are available on tablets under the ‘No Defect’ category:

- Duplicate (after the upgrade duplicate is available under No Defect category rather than using the Cancelled function within Mayrise).
- Resolved on site
- Letter sent to landowner
- Notice served on landowner

This is in addition to the statuses already available on tablets:

- Found – No action (defect doesn’t meet intervention criteria)
- Found and forwarded (to relevant authority)

- Confirmed (we'll take action)

	Actual defect showing on systems as of 25/03/18 @ 14:30	
Area	Mayrise defects Active	CRM's
North (SP)	93	14
South (JT)	105	5
West (DM)	14	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>24</b>

The total number of enquiries we have had reported since April 2017 is 2427.

- North - 1006
- South - 976
- West – 346
- Trails - 99

By 26 March 2018, 54% of the 2427 queries had been resolved.

The majority of enquiries received were regarding damaged signs, non-reinstatement, obstructions, overgrown surface, overgrown hedges/ trees and surface condition.

2.2. In addition to the numbers above, there have been a number of enforcement notices sent out to landowners. The following have been issued:

- 136 number Section 131A, 134-137 Non-reinstatement Notices sent
- 15 number Section 143 Removal Obstruction Notices sent
- 20 Section 130's received and issued (enforcement against NCC)

To date 130 Non-reinstatements (S.131a, 134 & 137), all removal of obstructions (S.143) and 13 of the S.130's have been resolved. The remaining are ongoing and being actively monitored and pursued with landowners.

2.3. In terms of other progress, key highlights include:

- Cutting contract has been updated and is being sent out to the contractors for the start of April (2018-19 financial year). Instruction to start first cut will be reviewed nearer to the time but expect to begin cutting again in May/ June.
- Still awaiting data from The Rural Payments Agency (RPA). RPA have advised they currently have a back log but should be able to share the information shortly. They are happy with our submitted data agreement and request we have put forward. This will map based data, only accessible by the Countryside Access Officers. This will show all landowners which claim for having a Right of Way over their land. This data is hoped to strength the enforcement process and will be updated annually.
- £119K of the £200k for PRoW capital improvement work for the next three years has been allocate to the attached list of jobs. Discussions continue on the remaining budget of £81k.

Area	Project Code	Highway Engineer	District	Parish	PROW number	Location	Description (from-to)	Type of works Summary	Type of works Detail	Context reasoning for priority	fee cost	works cost	Total Cost	Priority	Funded	Source	Year
North	PFA013	N2	Broadland	S. Walsingham	FP1	Rural	From jct Fleet Lane to edge of Fleet Dyke 60m2	Surface (Boardwalk)	Surface/Resurface to match path alongside dyke	Well used path by tourists and locals. Parish council interest	3,000	6,000	9,000	Medium	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
West	PFA014	W1	KL&WN	Hunstanton	FP10	Rural	Narrow riverside footpath linking Old Hunstanton to Holme		Repair improvement to riverbank to prevent loss of FP	Popular path close to beach. Ongoing issue. H&S issue arising. 'Old' route of National Trail.	3,000	30,000	33,000	High	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
North	PFA015	N1	N Norfolk	Cromer	FP6	Urban	Surrey Street to Red Lion Hotel (approx.)	Surface	Improve existing asphalt surface	Heavily used urban link path. Path surface breaking up and needs replacing to avoid slips, trips and falls.	3,000	5,000	8,000	High	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
North	PFA016	N2	N Norfolk	Horning	FP7	Urban	From Lower Street to River	Surface (Unbound)	Raised stone path.	There is a capital drainage scheme in the 2018-19 programme to replace a section of drainage along this FP. PRow investment toward raised stone path as part of the finished drainage scheme with to allow access at all states of tidal flooding.	3,000	4,000	7,000	Low	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
North	PFA017	N1	N Norfolk	Blakeney	BR7	Urban	Route between boundary walls leading to High Street	Surface (Slurry)	Slurry seal 120m x 2m	Always high on parish agenda. Well used route tourists and locals.	1,000	3,000	4,000	Medium	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
South	PFA018		South Norfolk	Denton	FP21	Rural	Footbridge replacement Carries FP21 over a tributary of the River Waveney	Footbridge	The existing bridge has the same form of construction (post tensioned segmental concrete beams) as the bridge that collapsed into the Waveney and is exhibiting the same seepage problems. We are currently planning to close the bridge on safety grounds and install a temporary Youngmans board bridge as a temporary measure pending permanent replacement of the bridge	In view of the lower estimated costs. This may be a good candidate to fund in 2018/19.	5,000	35,000	40,000	4	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-20
South	PFA019		South Norfolk	Diss	FP14	Urban	From Mount Street north around St Mary's Church to Church Street	Surface	Re-surfacing	Footpath is well used in the centre of Diss. It is surfaced already but this is in a poor state of repair and requires resurfacing. Approx 130m x 2m	3,000	15,000	18,000	High	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19

## Norfolk Trails team Countryside Access arrangements update

Norfolk trails have procured a cutting contract which ensures the management of the long distance routes across Norfolk. These routes are cut three times annually with each cut totalling 393,794m. In addition to this additional works are carried out by the contractors as required which has added an additional 5,488m to the cutting contract. The additional cuts are in direct response to customer comments and feedback thereby ensuring the overall quality of our routes are improved or maintained

Highlights from the past 3 months include:

- Surface improvement project at Beeston Bump, Sheringham which improves access to the SSSI as well as replacing a number of steps to improve their safety and longevity. Work was also carried out on Sheringham FP10 to improve access and rectify damage by vehicular access
- Marriott's Way associated circular walks signage started
- Workhouse Walks project completed and signage installed
- Boudicca Way signage installed from Tyrell's Wood to Diss, with 8 kissing gates installed in Scole to improve access
- Disabled Access Audits carried out and created in to publications ready for publishing
- Little Ouse Path resurfacing at Santon Downham to give access to a bridleway along the riverbank

The next three month work programme includes work on the Marriott's Way as part of the HLF project to install signage on the 6 associated circular walks and a surface improvement project at Hellesdon station. Signage will also be completed on the remaining section of the Boudicca Way and signage on the Angles Way. Nar Valley Way and Norfolk Coast Path circular audits will be carried out for disabled access.

Row Labels	Count of Status detail (Object) (Highways Defect)
Already reported and fix planned	2
Enquiry was cancelled in CRM	
No action has been taken at this time but we will continue to monitor the problem.	3

We are investigating the problem	10
We could not find the problem and so have not taken any action at this time.	
We have resolved the problem	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21</b>

The above issues relate to issues on the Norfolk Coast Path and Peddar's Way (National Trail) and the Marriott's Way that come in to the CRM as a Highways issue. However a number of issues are reported externally via volunteers who report in problems. For example a volunteer report on the Norfolk Coast path reported a number of issues. Following this we carried out a number of signage installations which would not be recorded using the CRM system. Similarly reports of damage to the steps on Beeston Bump were rectified in addition to the resurfacing project to make the site safer.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1. None arising from this report

### **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

4.1. Nothing to report.

### **5. Background**

5.1. The background information to this paper is covered by the preceding paper on Public Rights of Way Maintenance, presented to this Committee.

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

**Officer name :** Matt Worden  
Russell Wilson

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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Community Friends' Walks</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> NCC and trust/charity working strengthens partnerships. As an independent charity, Pathmakers can raise income, allowing the NLAF to be more proactive in its approach to countryside access improvements.	

## Executive summary

Pathmakers, the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum has been awarded £10,000 through the Ordnance Survey's 'Geovation' Fund, to develop a business idea to develop an innovative pilot walking scheme referred to as "Community Friends' Walks".

### Recommendation:

**The proposal/recommendation is that the Norfolk Local Access Forum offers continuing support for Pathmakers as it continues to develop "Community Friends Walks".**

## 1. Proposal (or options)

- 1.1. Pathmakers – the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum - participated in an all-expenses paid event in London from 14 to 16 February, called 'Camp Geovation', organised by the Ordnance Survey, winning £10,000 to develop an innovative pilot walking scheme in Norfolk.

The Pathmakers team of 4 (all trustees or volunteers at the charity) included John Jones; Sophie Cabot (Marriott's Way Heritage Project) at Environment Team; Martin Sullivan (Chair of Pathmakers) and Kate MacKenzie (Pathmakers trustee).

Over an intense 3 days, Pathmakers developed their pitch for "Community Friends' Walks" (a walking scheme that matches people with local knowledge with those that have inactive lifestyles) in competition with other entrepreneurs all vying to solve sustainability problems in the UK. See Appendix 1 for winning pitch and Appendix 2 for winning certificate.

Judges awarded funds for seven out of 10 ideas, which they believed had the most potential to success as a sustainable business model.

Pathmakers can now call upon the support of a network of experience software developers, Ordnance Survey geospatial experts, Land Registry experts and Geovation mentors to accelerate and scale their project.

The £10,000 prize money will allow Pathmakers to pilot the Community Friends' Walks model on the northern edge of Norwich, where the Marriott's Way long distance trail passes through the Mile Cross and Drayton communities. The pilot, which aims to bring a whole new group of users out to enjoy the benefits of the trail and improve their health, will help build partnership working and will be developed with Active Norfolk with support from Sport England. If successful,

the pilot might attract further funding to enable Pathmakers roll it out to more users across Norfolk.

Geovation is an Ordnance Survey initiative in association with HM Land Registry, which supports innovation and collaboration using location and property data. <https://geovation.uk/>

The Community Friends' Walks idea was suggested by Sarah Abercrombie at Environment Team.

The proposal/recommendation is that the Norfolk Local Access Forum offers continuing support for Pathmakers as it continues to develop "Community Friends Walks".

## **2. Evidence**

- 2.1. The Geovation Challenge from Ordnance Survey is to promote, encourage and support the development of innovative applications, products and services that use geographical information to create social, educational, economic and environmental benefit. The Geovation Camp and Conference equips winners with the tools to turn an idea into a sustainable business model and learn how to pitch this in a way to increase chances of gaining funding.

Pathmakers was a winner of the 'How can we make greener, smarter communities in Britain' Geovation Challenge Theme.

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1. The £10,000 prize money will be used by Pathmakers on developing the "Community Friends' Walks" model. No match funding is required.

## **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

- 4.1. The Community Friends' Walks model was deemed innovative and not currently available in the market as part of the judging process at Camp Geovation.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1 Pathmakers (CIO) – the NLAF's charitable arm - is continuing to work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk. Pathmakers can bridge the gap between the NLAF's aims for improvements to access and what is feasible (given restricted capacity in local communities and the limitations of the public sector to make improvements on the ground). For example, Pathmakers will seek to make the countryside more accessible to benefit rural communities by securing resources to make this possible.

## **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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## **05. Community Friends Walks**



Pathmakers the *unique* charity arm of Norfolk  
Local Access Forum\*

For the public benefit for the improvement of  
the health and the environment for Norfolk's  
residents and visitors

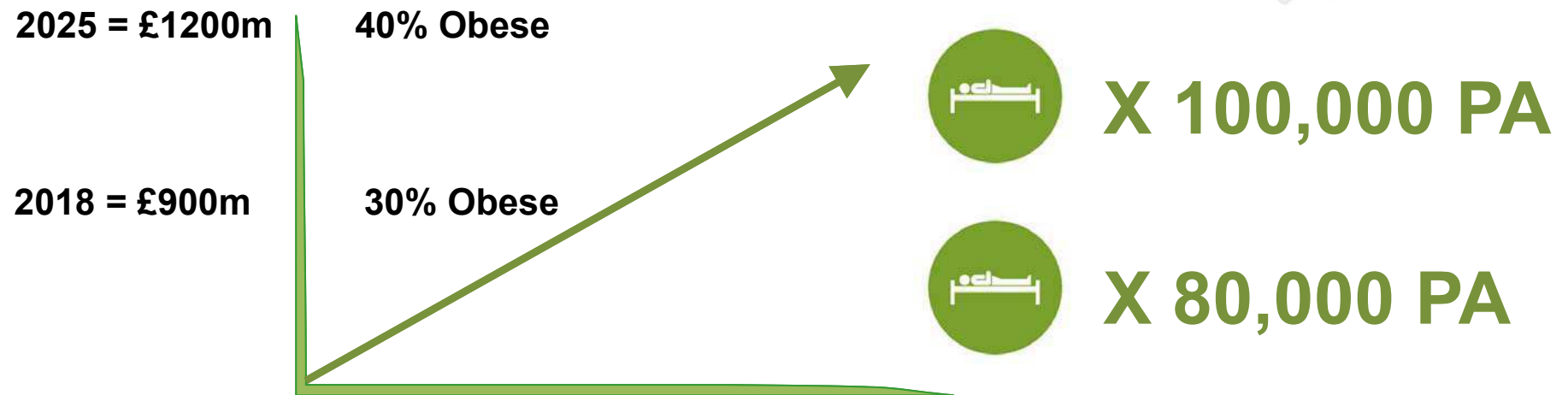
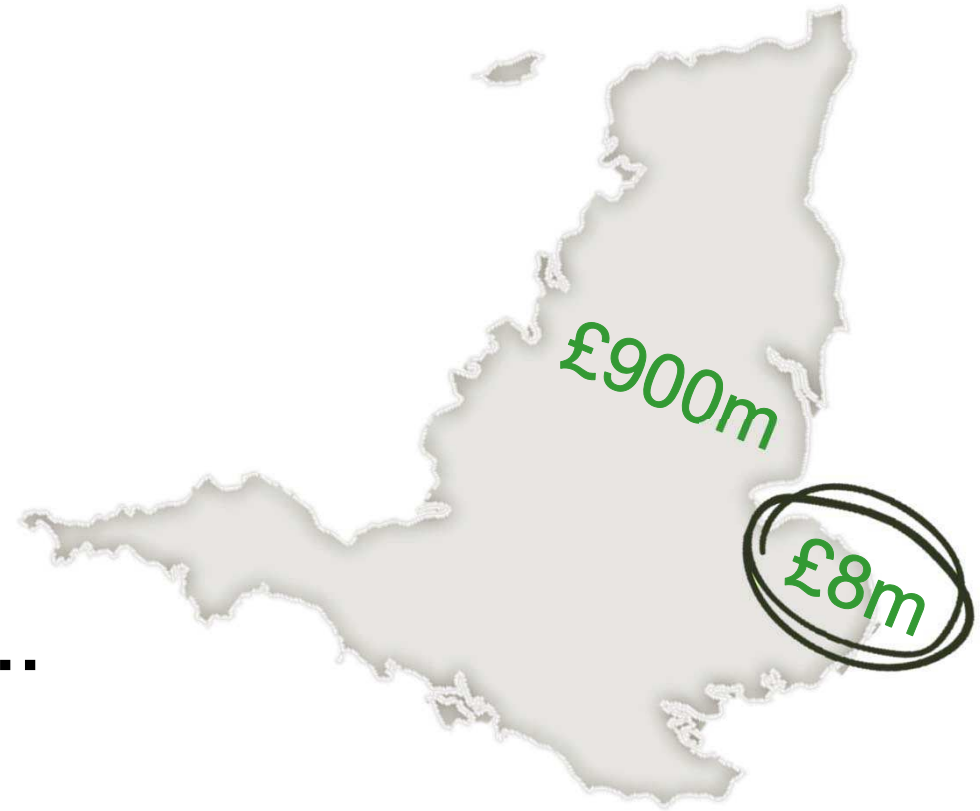
(\* A statutory body which advises Local Authorities on countryside access)

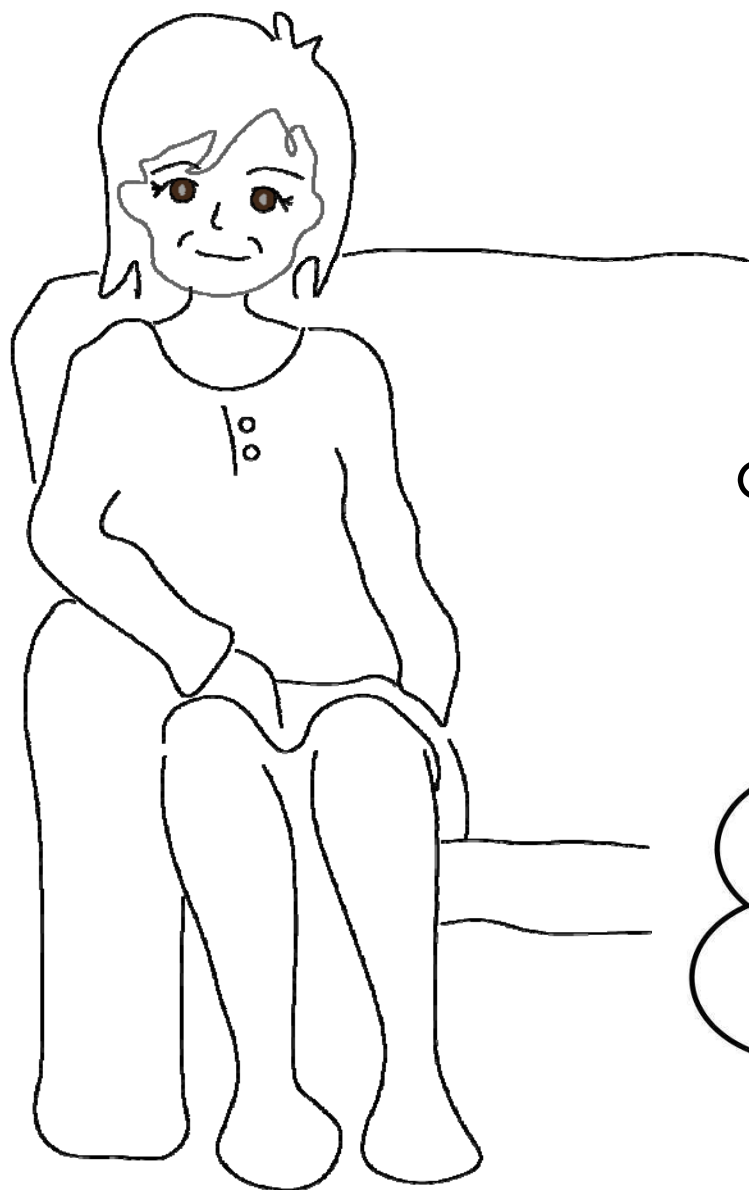


# The problem:

## The human and financial cost of inactivity

And it's getting worse...





I'm Sue. I live alone and have multiple health issues. I know that walking is good for me but I am not confident to walk on my own.

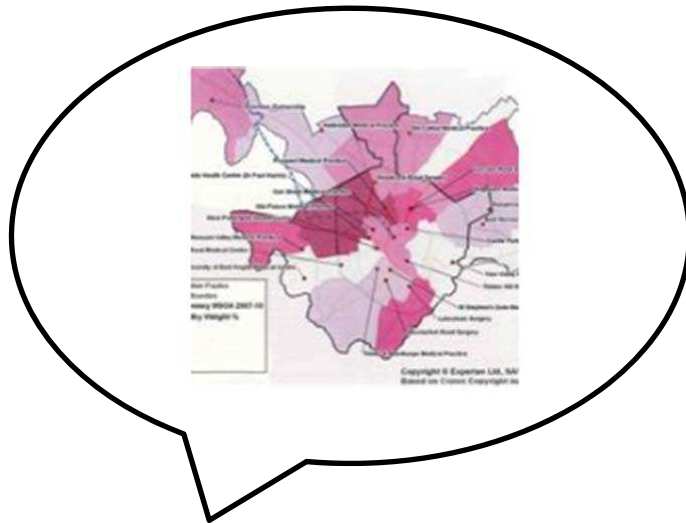
But I'd love to do this...



# What do we need to do?

## Break down the barriers...

### Health Mapping



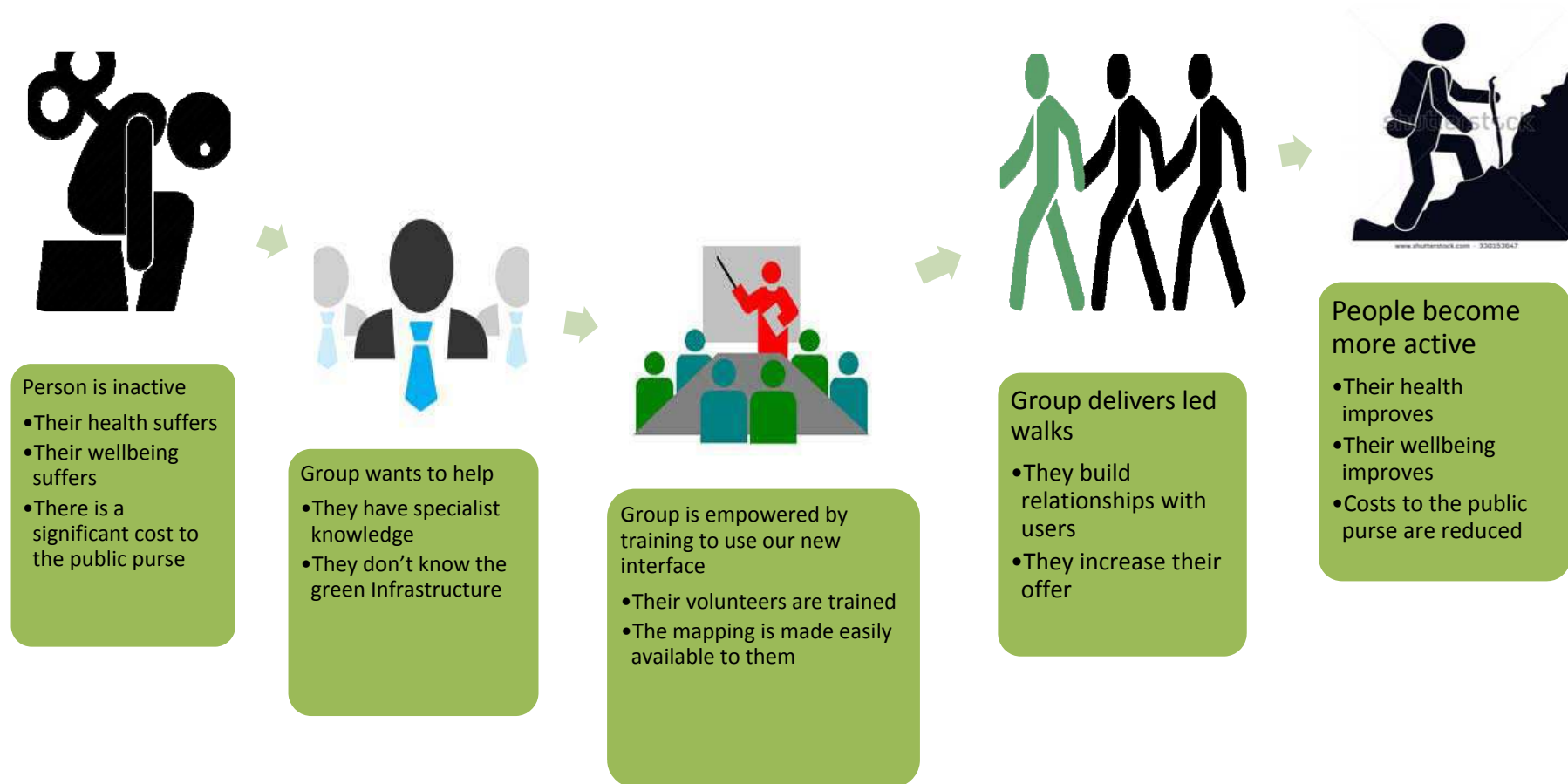
### GI Mapping



# Potential Friends



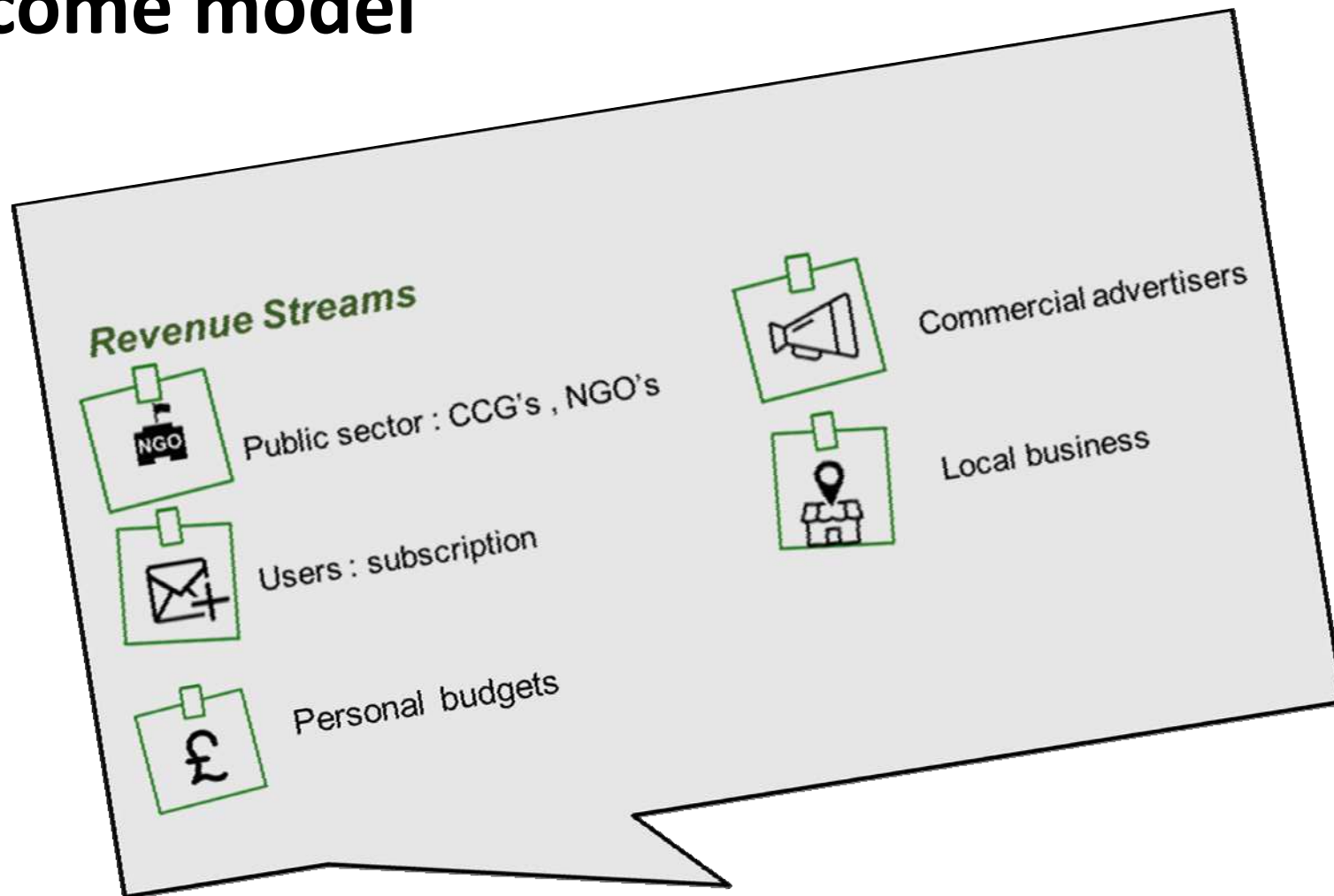
# User Journey







# Income model



## What we want to do now...

- Pilot in a limited geographical area, already identified
- Identify and recruit 'Friends' organisations
- Review and tailor NCC accredited walk leader training
- Create a new, user friendly digital interface
- Work on NHS metrics/value demonstration in detail
- Develop a referral mechanism for Friends

## We Need...

Total project 34K - Secured 10K = *Unsecured 24K*



# Questions



This is to certify that

# Community Friends Walks

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has been awarded funding at

**GEOVATE 2018**

Building Greener  
Smarter Communities



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Judging panel chair

An OS initiative



In association with



**Innovate UK**



# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>England Coast Path - Weybourne to Hunstanton</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> The County Council is a consultee on the route of the England Coast Path. Once finally agreed, responsibility for its maintenance and promotion will pass from Natural England to the County. The report from Natural England provides the formal opportunity to comment on the proposed route and associated arrangements.	

## Executive summary

The report covers the third of four stretches of England Coast Path in Norfolk. The first two (Hopton on Sea to Sea Palling and Sea Palling to Weybourne) have been open for some time. The fourth stretch (Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge) is still under consideration by Natural England. Representations are invited by the closing date of 16 May 2018.

### Recommendation:

**That the LAF invites its members to submit comments on the report by 1 May (or some other agreed date), to be consolidated and circulated by 7 May, for final approval by 14 May in time for submission by the deadline of 16 May.**

## 1. Proposal (or options)

It is proposed that the LAF invites its members to submit comments on the report by 1 May (or some other agreed date), to be consolidated and circulated by 7 May, for final approval by 14 May in time for submission by the deadline of 16 May.

## 2. Evidence

Links to the Natural England report were circulated to all members on 21 March, the day they were published - [www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-weybourne-to-hunstanton](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-weybourne-to-hunstanton). The proposals are available to download at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-weybourne-to-hunstanton-comment-on-proposals>. Information about this process is given in the letter sent to Martin Sullivan, attached see Appendix 1.

## 3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the process of making a representation, other than the modest staff time required.

## 4. Issues, risks and innovation

Failure to make a representation could lead to the County having to accept a less than optimal route and/or associated arrangements.

## 5. Background

Please refer to the 'Evidence' section of this report.

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

**Officer name :** Ken Hawkins

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Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018



Martin Sullivan  
Norfolk Local Access Forum  
Norfolk County Council  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2DH

England Coast Path Team  
Suite D, Unex House  
Bourges Boulevard  
Peterborough PE1 1NG  
eastcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk  
0208 026 1753  
Your ref: WBH0795

Dear Martin Sullivan,

**England Coast Path Proposals Final Report – Weybourne to Hunstanton**

I am writing to inform you that on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**, Natural England submits its report to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs setting out our proposals for improved access to the coast between **Weybourne** and **Hunstanton**. These proposals form part of a programme to establish a continuous walking route around England's coastline, under the provisions of Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

We are now starting an eight week period during which owners, tenants or occupiers of any land affected by the proposed path and/or spreading room can make an objection about the proposals. As an organisation or an individual with a particular interest in public access and who is specified in the regulations to the MCA, you now have an opportunity to consider these proposals and make a representation. This letter provides further details about how to do this. Any objections and representations will be sent to the Secretary of State and be used in the decision-making process.

We have already discussed the proposal with landowners and we will be informing them, along with people who live nearby, and a range of organisations.

**We would like to emphasise that all representations and objections about the report must be received by Natural England no later than midnight on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

The report consists of an Overview of the proposals together with six chapters and maps relating to the proposed route, and the Access & Sensitive Features Appraisals. There are also relevant forms to be completed if people wish to make a representation or objection, along with some guidance notes to help with completing the forms. The report can be viewed online at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-veybourne-to-hunstanton](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-veybourne-to-hunstanton)

However, if you are unable to access the report online you can view a paper copy at the locations given below, or request a paper copy of all, or part of the report through the contact details at the top of this letter. We also recommend that people read Defra's detailed guidance notes on making representations and objections about the report, which are also available online at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/england-coast-path-comment-on-a-proposed-new-stretch](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-coast-path-comment-on-a-proposed-new-stretch)

If after reading the guidance notes you have any further queries regarding the process or require further copies of either of the forms, please call us or send us an email.

The Secretary of State will make a decision about the proposals when all representations and objections have been considered. Only when the proposals are approved (either initially or following amendments decided by the Secretary of State) would work start to establish the new path.

Yours sincerely

*Diana Curtis*

Diana Curtis, Lead Advisor, England Coast Path Team

Location	Address	Telephone	Opening hours
Hunstanton Library	Westgate Hunstanton PE36 5AL	01485 532280	Monday: 10am-5pm Tuesday: 10am-5pm Wednesday: 10am-7pm Thursday: 10am-1pm Friday: 10am-5pm Saturday: 10am-1pm
Holt Library	9 Church Street Holt NR25 6BB	01263 712202	Monday: 9.30am-1pm Tuesday: 9.30am-1pm Wednesday: 9.30am-1pm Thursday: Closed Friday: 9.30am-6pm Saturday: 9.30am-1pm
Sheringham Library	New Road Sheringham NR26 8EB	01263 822874	Monday: 10am-5pm Tuesday: 10am-5pm Wednesday: 10am-1pm Thursday: 10am-7pm Friday: 10am-5pm Saturday: 9.30am-1pm
Wells Library	Station Road Wells-next- the-Sea NR23 1EA	01328 710467	Monday: 2pm-7pm Tuesday: 9am-1pm Wednesday: 9am-5.30pm Thursday: Closed Friday: 9am-5.30pm Saturday: 9am-1pm
Norfolk County Council	Reception County Hall Martineau Lane Norwich NR1 2DH	0344 800 8020	Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm



## **Notice of Natural England's Coastal Access Report: Other interested persons**

On **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018** Natural England submitted a coastal access report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under section 51 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 pursuant to its duty under section 296(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The report relates to the Norfolk coast between **Weybourne and Hunstanton**.

This notice is being given to you as a person or body listed in paragraph 2(2)(b) to (e) of Schedule 1A to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, or as a person or body listed in Schedule 1 to the Coastal Access Reports (Consideration and Modification Procedure) (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1976).

If the proposals in the report are approved in their current form by the Secretary of State, the public will be able to exercise rights of access under section 2(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for open-air recreation on foot along the English coastal route as set out in the report and over the area of associated coastal margin. These rights are subject to any exceptions (for example gardens) or restrictions set out in that Act or proposed in the report (once approved).

You are invited to make representations about the report which must be made on the appropriate form which accompanies this notice, and must be received by Natural England no later than **midnight on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018**.

Copies of the report and all the forms are available at the locations listed on the enclosed letter and online at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-weybourne-to-hunstanton](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-weybourne-to-hunstanton) or by contacting Natural England by email, post or phone.

Representations should be sent to Natural England by post or email to:

England Coast Path Team, Natural England, Suite D, Unex House, Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough, PE1 1NG  
Email: [eastcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:eastcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Telephone: 0208 026 1753

Date of notice: **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**



# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Recycling the Railways</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> At the recent Policy and Resources Committee (29 January 2018) the Environment Team at NCC secured £350,000 of funding for a feasibility study on recycling disused railways for walking and cycling.  Bringing disused railways, and other under-used parts of the transport network, back into full-use as cycling and walking routes will have significant benefits. Health, the rural economy, the environment and traffic congestion could all be improved through this action.	

## Executive summary

The [Norfolk Cycling & Walking Strategy](#) establishes the target of quadrupling the level of cycling and walking to work in Norfolk market towns by 2025 and sets out to make Norfolk a top cycling and walking destination for leisure and tourism by 2025. These ambitious targets will facilitate economic growth and will protect Norfolk's natural beauty. Cycling walking and horse riding routes have multiple benefits including health, mental-wellbeing, economy, increased biodiversity, alleviation of congestion and air quality improvements.

Disused railways and under-used parts of the road and public rights of way network exist in various locations across Norfolk. The proposal is to investigate, through an appropriately aimed feasibility exercise, the likely costs, timescales, land ownership issues, the business case and overall deliverability of bringing this disused railway infrastructure back into intensive use as an integrated cycling and walking network. Priority will be given to maximising opportunities to link existing and proposed residential areas with places of employment, education, retail and leisure. Such a network will be a significant selling point for Norfolk as a visitor destination.

Norfolk County Council is ideally placed to take this work forward having recently produced a Cycling & Walking Strategy. We have also appointed a Cycling & Walking Champion, and were successful in securing £1.5m of central government funding to promote walking and cycling in key growth areas of Norwich and Great Yarmouth. Norfolk is required by central government to produce a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan and £65k has been secured from the DfT to achieve this. Disused railways are a key element in delivering good cycling and walking infrastructure for Norfolk.

A feasibility study will be undertaken to examine how best to make use of disused railways in Norfolk for non-motorised users.

See appendix 1 for more detail and maps of the planned feasibility areas.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

**The Norfolk Local Access Forum endorse this feasibility project and that members take up opportunities to become involved with the project as it progresses.**

## 1. **Proposal (or options)**

Undertaking a feasibility study into creating a better off-road network available for cyclists, walkers and horse riders by utilising disused railways and other under-used parts of the public rights of way and unclassified roads has approved capital funding within Norfolk County Council.

Three routes will be looked at in detail:

- **Weaver's Way – the section from Aylsham to Stalham consisting of a disused railway**
- **King's Lynn to Fakenham**
- **King's Lynn to Hunstanton**

Also key to the feasibility is understanding how the various components will form a better off-road network for the county. Looking at key challenges and making a business case for investment will be the focus of this work.

It is proposed that the LAF both endorses the feasibility study and provides its expertise to achieve the project's key aims. Disused railways being returned to use as paths is the headline aim but the project will also be able to think around how to make better use of public rights of way and unclassified roads.

## 2. **Evidence**

### **Previous Experience on Marriotts Way**

Marriott's Way is a disused railway owned by Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council and Broadland District Council. Recent work on the Marriott's Way demonstrates the potential for upgrading former railways as cycling and walking routes. The experience from Marriott's Way of carrying out the feasibility, bidding for, and obtaining funding is directly transferrable to this work. Work on the Marriott's Way included exploration of economic and social benefits, what consents would be required, value for money and sought the approval of the local community regarding the proposals. The number of Marriott's Way users has gone up as a result of the improvements. Marriott's Way counter data shows a recent trajectory of use, with almost 500,000 people per annum now using the Marriott's Way as a cycling and walking route. It is used for leisure cycling, with many families, in particular, choosing to cycle it due to the absence of traffic.

#### Health benefits

Particularly notable in the analysis of this data is the Health Economic Impact Tools (HEAT) results. This analysis shows a total health economic benefit over ten years of £46m. The total investment in the Marriott's Way over the last decade is estimated at £3M, with the bulk of that in the last three years mainly from CIL funding and through the construction of a green bridge built as mitigation for the Northern Distributer Road severing the route just to the north of Taverham. This gives a benefit to cost ratio (BCR) of 15:1.

#### Economic benefits

The direct economic benefit of the Marriott's Way can be determined through statistical methods based on survey and movement counters. An analysis has been undertaken using Natural England's Measure of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) baseline economic estimate. MENE includes all visits to green space, including urban parks. It further includes visits of very short duration, such as dog walking, which are both numerous and unlikely to include

an economic transaction. That gives a baseline figure of £6 per visit to the countryside. Using this as the measure the direct economic benefit of the Marriott's Way can be estimated as £2.9m per annum. This gives a further BCR of 9.7:1. Norfolk Trails are currently working on a more refined methodology for understanding the direct economic benefit of visits to the countryside. That work, still in its early stages, indicates a more significant baseline figure. In some cases that figure is as high as £33 per visit.

Additional evidence regarding the rural economy in Norfolk, public health, the countryside, green corridors, schools and funding can be found in the full report, accessed [here](#) or alternatively at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/councillors-meetings-decisions-and-elections/committees-agendas-and-recent-decisions/policy-and-resources-committee>; page 344 onwards.

### **3. Financial Implications**

None of this body.

### **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

A once in a generation opportunity for the Local Access Forum to help the County Council create a better off-road cycling, walking and horse riding network.

### **5. Background**

The National Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy>

Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy:  
<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/alternative-ways-to-travel/cycling>

## **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

**Officer name :** Dr Andrew Hutcheson **Tel No. :** 01603 222767

**Email address :** [Andrew.hutcheson@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.hutcheson@norfolk.gov.uk)



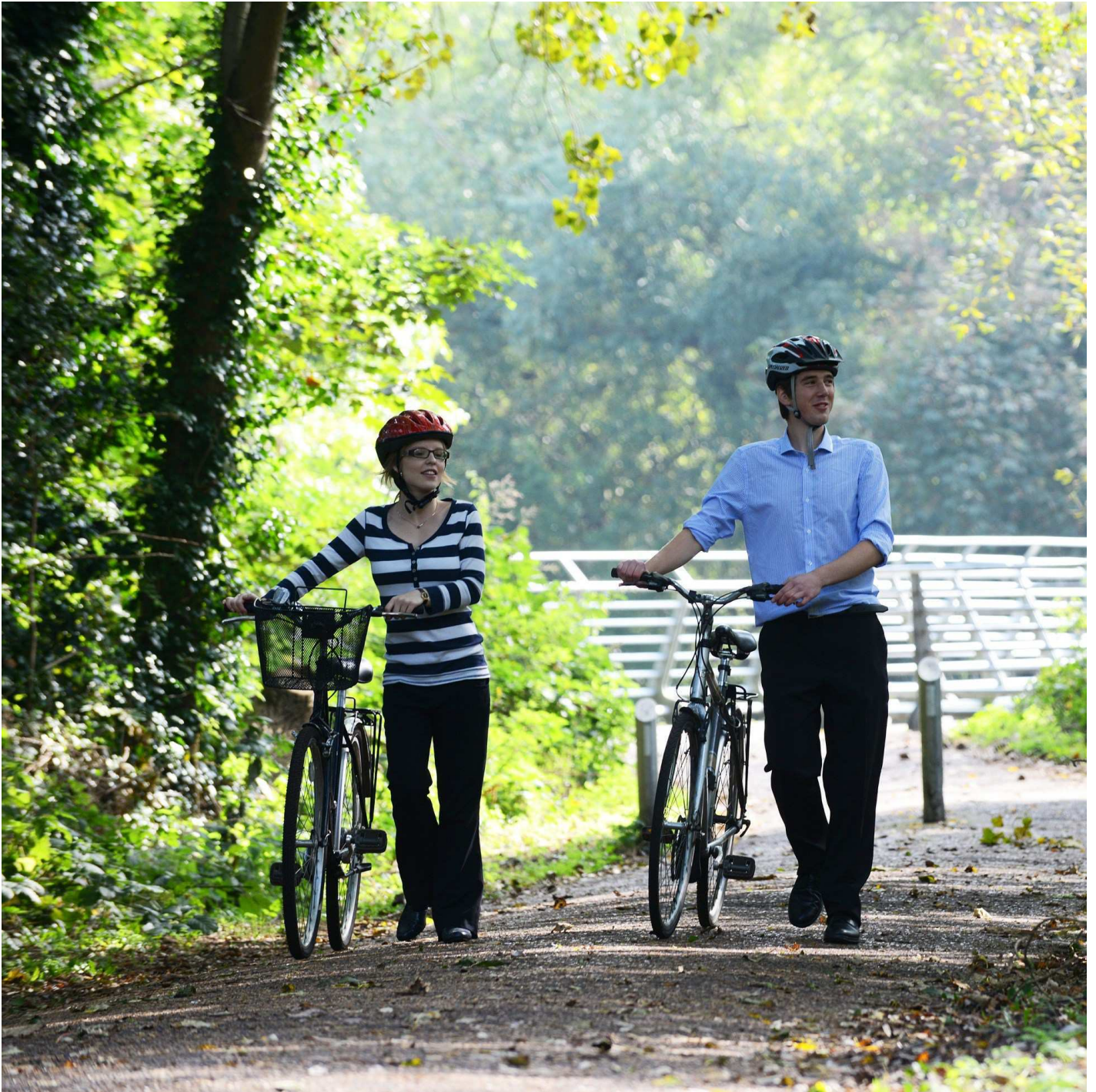
If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.





# Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways

A vision for a cycling and walking network for the county



**Norfolk** County Council







## Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways

### Summary

Bringing disused railways, and other under-used parts of the transport network, back into full-use as cycling and walking routes will have significant benefits, for example in the areas of:

- Health
- Rural economy
- Tourism
- Environment
- Transport and traffic congestion
- Mental well being
- Disabled access to the countryside
- Equestrian use

Norfolk County Council has a target of quadrupling the level of cycling and walking to work in Norfolk market towns by 2025.

We are also setting out to make Norfolk a top cycling and walking destination for leisure and tourism by 2025.

These ambitious targets will facilitate economic growth and will protect Norfolk's natural beauty.

Cycling and walking routes have multiple benefits including health, mental-wellbeing, economy, increased biodiversity, alleviation of congestion and air quality improvements.

Disused railways and under-used parts of the road and public rights of way network exist in a wide variety of locations across Norfolk. The proposal is to investigate, through a well aimed feasibility exercise, the likely costs, timescales, land ownership issues.

This will form the basis of a business case and a view of the overall deliverability of bringing this disused railway infrastructure back into intensive use as an integrated cycling and walking network, with equestrian use also built in.

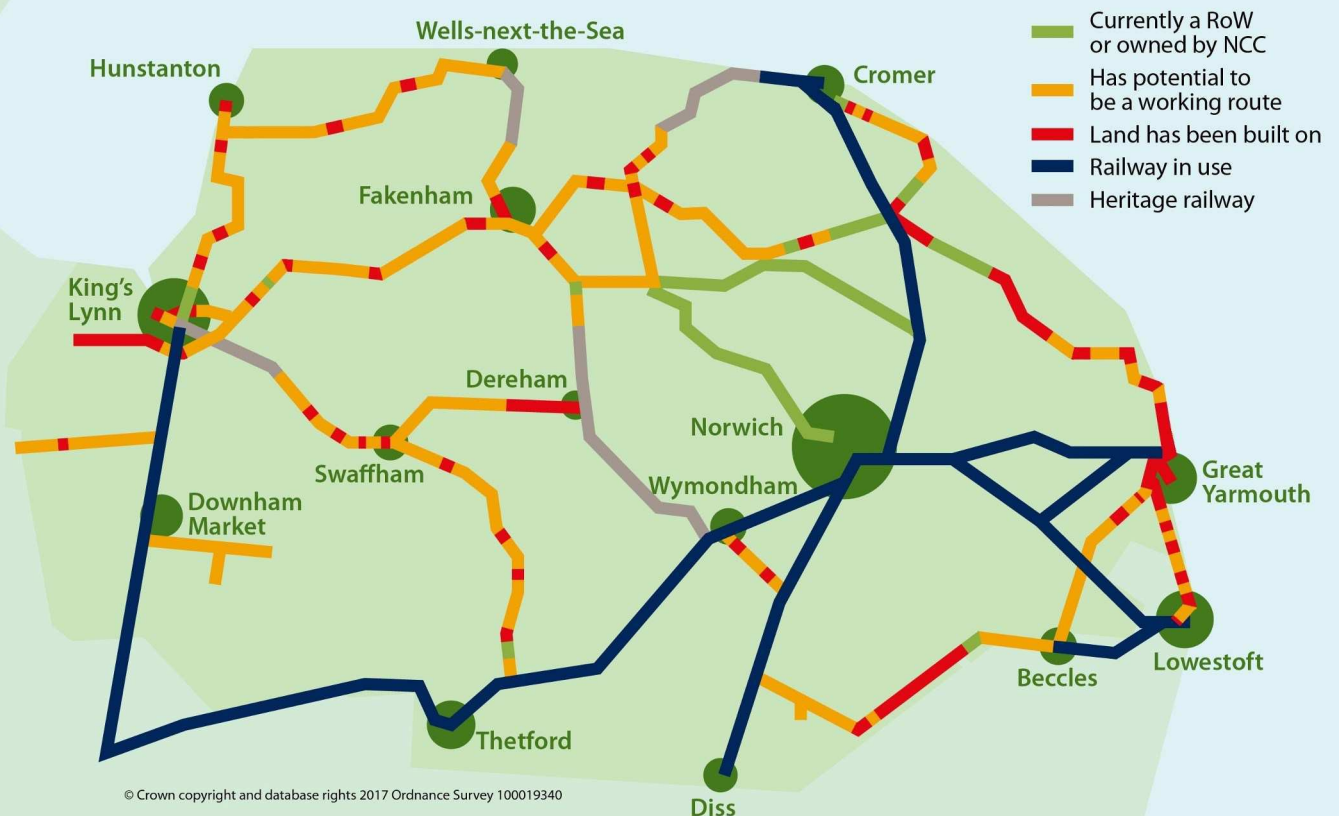
Priority will be given to maximising opportunities to link existing and proposed residential areas with places of employment, education, retail and leisure. Such a

network will be a significant selling point for Norfolk as a visitor destination.

Norfolk County Council is ideally placed to take this work forward having recently produced the [Norfolk Cycling & Walking Strategy](#).

It is proposed that feasibility work will focus on three disused railways, Weaver's Way (owned in part by Norfolk County Council), King's Lynn to Fakenham and King's Lynn to Hunstanton. We will also consider the small section between Fakenham and Walsingham, in addition to a general feasibility study of the whole of the network which will also be undertaken in parallel with this detailed work.

*Simon Eyre, Norfolk County Council Cycling & Walking Champion*









## Recycling the Railways

King's Lynn to Hunstanton

Scale 1:77046.5

Compiled by Chris Brough

Norfolk County Council  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2SG  
Tel: 01603 222143  
Fax: 01603 223219





## Recycling the Railways

### King's Lynn to Hunstanton

Scale 1:80789

Compiled by Chris Brough

Norfolk County Council  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2SG  
Tel: 01603 222143  
Fax: 01603 223219





## Recycling the Railways

### Weavers' Way

Scale 1:149073

Compiled by Chris Brough

Norfolk County Council  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2SG  
Tel: 01603 222143  
Fax: 01603 223219





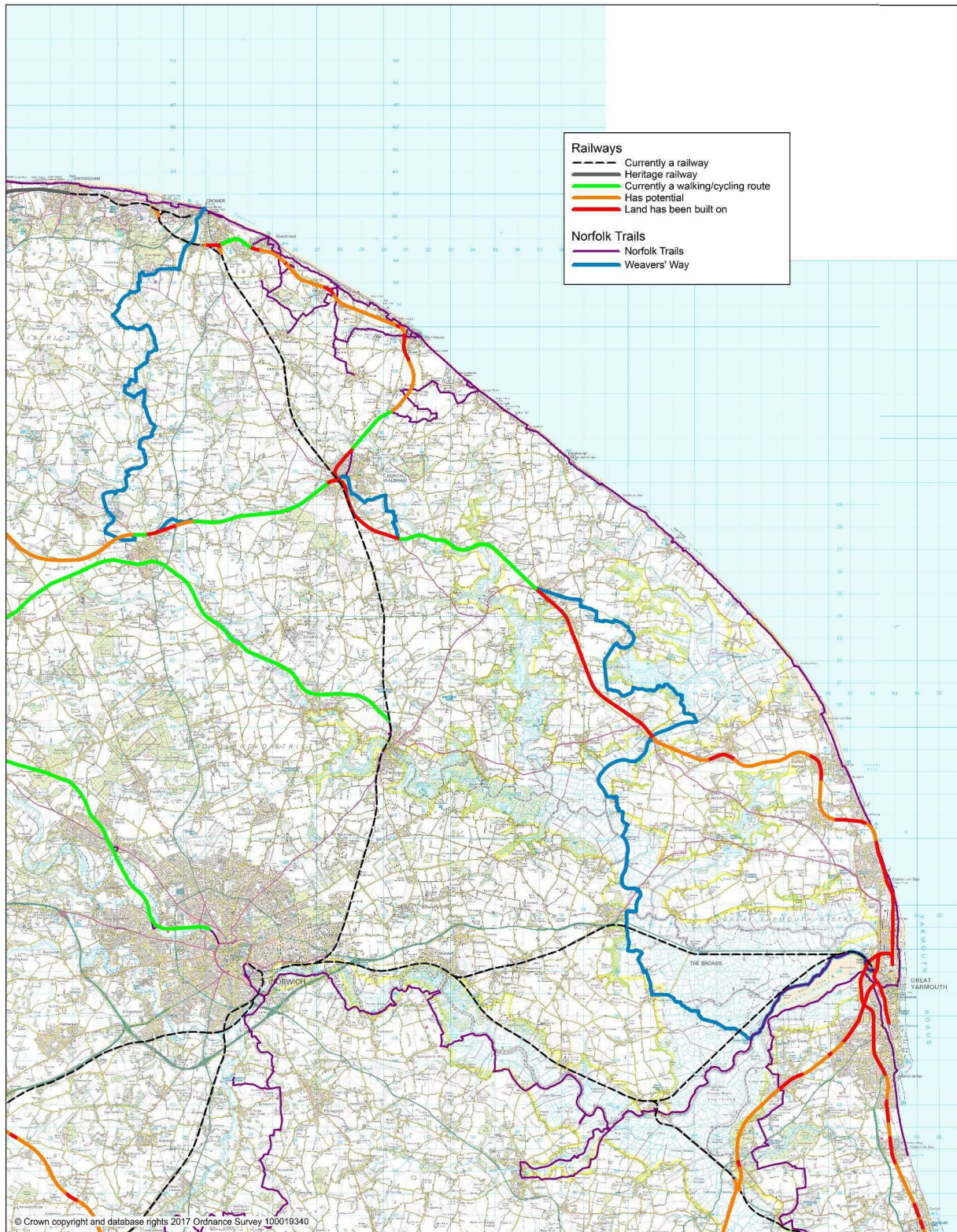
## Recycling the Railways

### Weavers' Way

Scale 1:161227

Compiled by Chris Brough

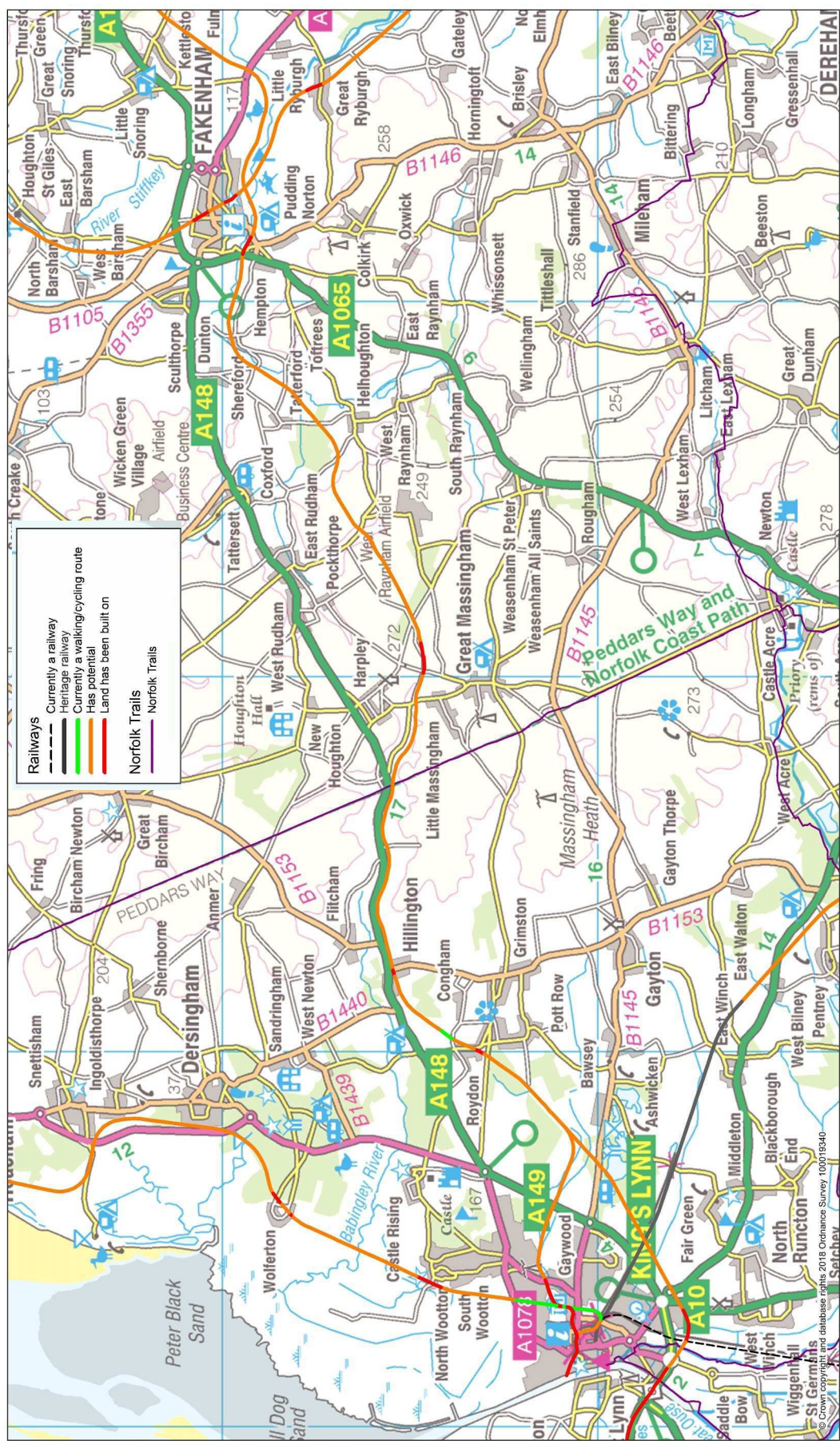
Norfolk County Council  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2SG  
Tel: 01603 222143  
Fax: 01603 223219





## Scale 1:96513

Compiled by Chris Brough





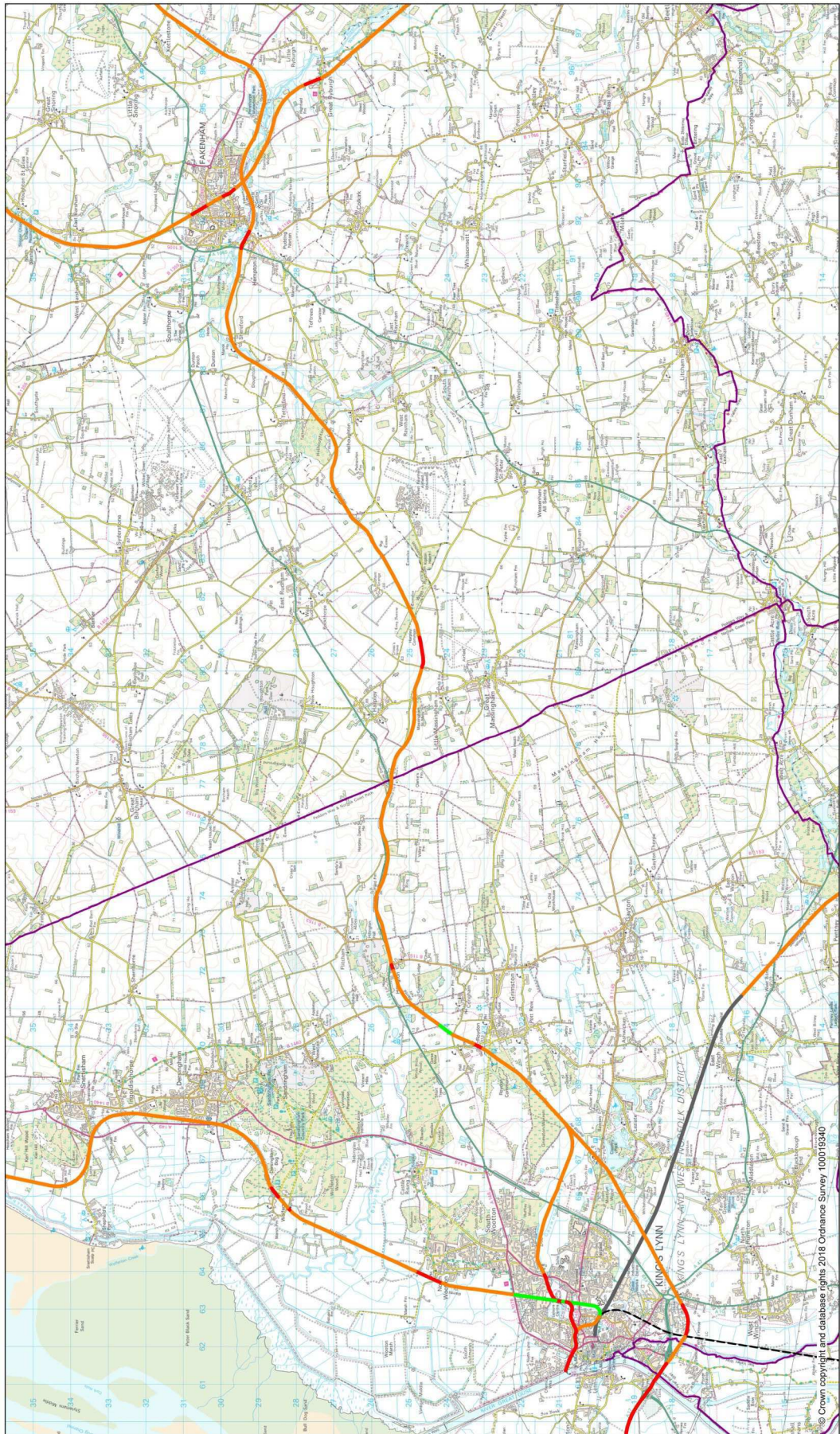
## Recycling the Railways

King's Lynn to Fakenham (including north to Walsingham)

Scale 1:96513

Compiled by Chris Brough

Norfolk County Council  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2SG  
Tel: 01603 222143  
Fax: 01603 223219







For more information about Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways, please contact: Dr Andy Hutcheson, Environmental Manager (Green Infrastructure, Strategy and Advice) Community and Environmental Services, Norfolk County Council. [Andrew.hutcheson@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.hutcheson@norfolk.gov.uk)