

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2016 to March 2017

Appendix A

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Name of LAF           | Norfolk Local Access Forum                                      |
| Name of LAF Chair     | Martin Sullivan   |
| Name of LAF Secretary | Hollie Adams (Minute Secretary) Sarah Abercrombie (Coordinator) |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Total number of LAF members  | 22 |
| Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land                        | 9  |
| Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist | 1  |
| Number of members representing other interests   | 12 |

|  |   |  |         |
|--|---|--|---------|
| Number of full LAF meetings held   | 4 | Number of sub-group meetings held                            | 12      |
| Number of working groups led by others   | 0 | Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority | 0       |
| How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?   | 0 | How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?  | £48,496 |
| How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)? |   |  | 120     |

**Partners your LAF worked with during 2016/17** (click on a box or type 'x')

|                             |                          |                                    |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Local Nature Partnerships   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Enterprise Partnerships      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health and Wellbeing Boards | <input type="checkbox"/> | LEADER funding Local Action Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**LAF achievements/making a difference?**<sup>1</sup> Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

The Norfolk LAF's charity arm Pathmakers first project to add 600m of raised boardwalk at Burgh Castle was completed. This boardwalk also enabled wheelchair users to complete a circular route around the Roman Castle site, as well as adding an all seasons section to the long-distance path Angles Way.

The LAF continues to work closely with both the Highways and PROW departments. The Norfolk Trails team has continued its excellent work, making improvements in signage and maintenance of their trails.

The LAF has major concerns on the continuing loss of permissive paths and formed a sub-group with the intention of attempting to encourage our Parish Councils to look at taking on the responsibility of encouraging land owners to keep their permissive paths after the funding has been withdrawn. Unfortunately, this has in most cases this has not been taken up. The group continues to look for solutions and seeking possible funding, and are working with FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Action Group)

The Chair and Vice-chair have expressed concerns about the increase in fly-tipping in the countryside and has met separately with Norfolk's waste reduction officer. This is ongoing but the district councils have expressed interest in looking at a coordinated approach. Land owners are particularly concerned as tipping let on their land becomes their responsibility and this can be very costly for something that is not of their doing.

We began the consultation and production of the new Countryside Access Improvement Plan (CAIP) for 2017 -2027.

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Opening of the second stretch of the Norfolk Coast Path between Sea Palling and Hopton-on-Sea; plus advising on stretch 3 between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge. Pathmakers continues to look for appropriate opportunities to improve public access and consider effective ways to generate funding. Set up of Pathmakers Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Pathmakers - Branding

Following meetings of Walking and Cycling Group a PROW Sub-Group was Set up with CPRE, Ramblers, U3A and OSS

### What activity did your LAF undertake to help record historical PROW before 2026?

Public Rights of Way Sub-Group put 2026 onto the LAF agenda  
The NCC Senior Officer responsible for recording rights on the Definitive Map kept the LAF informed about the new Deregulation Act 2015 - although it will not take effect until the regulations have been published.  
Parish Paths Conference - NLAF member gave a presentation on applications for recording historical rights of way.

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

|   | Consultations | Advice | Optional Detail  |
|---|---------------|--------|--|
| Green Infrastructure strategies   |               |        |  |
| Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)                       | 1             | 1      | Cycling and Walking – Active Travel Strategy                           |
| Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)                                |               |        |  |
| Public open space (public space protection orders)                                    |               | 1      | Fly tipping meeting  |
| Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders   |               |        |  |
| Planning applications /Housing development schemes                                    |               |        |  |
| Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)              |               |        |  |
| Local development frameworks and planning strategies                                  |               |        |  |
| PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each                                  |               |        |  |
| Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off              |               | 1      | Deregulation Act 2015  |
| Right of Way Improvement Plan review  |               | 1      | Sub-Group helped Review  |
| Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes) |               | 2      | Pathmakers improvement<br>Burgh Castle<br>Whitwell Station – Marriotts |
| Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area                |               |        |  |

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|   |  |   |  |
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| Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW   |  |   |  |
| Parish Council or other grant schemes   |  |   |  |
| Access for people with reduced mobility   |  | 1 | Audit for boardwalk                        |
| Commons, village greens   |  |   |  |
| Open Access land restrictions   |  |   |  |
| Coastal Access/National Trails  |  |   |  |
| NNR dedication  |  |   |  |
| Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves  |  |   |  |
| Nature conservation (including SSSIs)   |  |   |  |
| Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc. |  | 1 | Sub-Group – permissive paths scheme set up |
| Forestry and woodland   |  |   |  |

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

### What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

To organise further Parish Paths Conferences, but to hold smaller events based on the district council areas

To continue to look for schemes that may support alternative approaches to management of Permissive Paths

To develop a business plan and resources for Pathmakers projects

### Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAFs operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?

We have major concerns about the National Government support for access to the countryside as a result of Brexit.

### Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work program for next year?

A course was held on the Responsibilities of Trustees and managing our CIO - Pathmakers, and we continue to look for other opportunities for training.

### Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>2</sup>

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### Comments from the Appointing Authority

We value the input from LAF members, providing help and advice on a range of topics. Despite the frustration of LAF members about the savings the Council has been required to make impacting on the delivery of the Public Rights of Way maintenance, they continue to contribute constructive suggestions and offers of help. Their help advising on the development of the new 10 year Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Norfolk Access Improvement Plan) has been particularly welcome in the past year. The members who have become trustees have also put aside time and energy supporting the development of Pathmakers – the new Charitable Organisation - and without their contribution it would not be possible to take this initiative forward.

### Comments from LAF Chair

As this is my second year as Chairman I feel we have made some significant steps towards our aims. The establishment of our charity arm, the two subgroups looking into permissive paths and the PRow sub group have helped with managing the main meetings.

Our intention to have a forward plan aimed at specific themes for each meeting which we hope will enable those members that have difficulty in attending the daytime meeting to plan accordingly.

### Any other comments

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<sup>2</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.