

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday, 07 February 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)

David Ansell

Tim Bennett

Julie Brociek-Coulton

Helen Chester

Victor Cocker

Geoff Doggett

Fabian Eagle

Mike Edwards

Seamus Elliot

Ken Hawkins

David Hissey

Pat Holtom

Kate Mackenzie

Ann Melhuish

Paul Rudkin

George Saunders

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

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 11 October 2017

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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) by **5pm Friday 2nd February 2018**. For guidance on submitting public question, please view the Consitution at www.norfolk.gov.uk.

6. **Remit and relationship between the NLA and Pathmakers**

A report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture

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7. **Building Resilience for Pathmakers**

A report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture

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8. Joint action to tackle fly-tipping (illegal dumping of waste, IDOW)	Page
A report by the Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage.	
9. PROW subgroup report (Definitive Map Modification Orders)	Page 37
A report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture.	
10. PROW sub-group - Parish Council Seminars	Page 49
A report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture.	
11. Countryside access arrangements update	Page 53
A report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture.	
12. Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2018 -2028 Consultation	Page 63
A report by the Assistant Director, Heritage and Culture.	

Chris Walton
Head of Democratic Services
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Date Agenda Published: 30 January 2018



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Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11 October 2017
at 10.30am in the Cranworth Room, County Hall

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chairman
Tim Bennett
Victor Cocker
Geoff Doggett
Mike Edwards
Seamus Elliott
Ken Hawkins
David Hissey
Pat Holtom
Kate MacKenzie
Ann Melhuish
Paul Rudkin
George Saunders
Jean Stratford

Representing:

Motorised vehicle access / cycling
Walking / Conservation
Walking
Conservation / voluntary sector
GI and planning / conservation / sustainability
Sport and outdoor recreation / cycling
Walking / cycling
Cycling / public transport
Economic development / walking
Voluntary sector / walking
Equestrian / all-ability access
Walking / GI and planning
All-ability access / health & wellbeing / voluntary sector
Youth and education / walking / voluntary sector

Officers Present:

Sarah Abercrombie
Dr. Alice Dalton

Andrew Hutcheson
Su Waldron
Matt Worden

Acting Trails Development Officer
Senior Research Associate, Norwich Medical School,
University of East Anglia (UEA)
Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects)
Project Officer, Environment Team
Area Manager (South)

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Chris Allhusen, Cllr Brociek-Coulton and Cllr Eagle. Also absent were David Ansell, Rebecca Champion, Helen Chester, and Cllr Eyre.

2. Election of Chairman

- 2.1 Martin Sullivan was nominated by Tim Bennett, seconded by Ann Melhuish.
2.2 Martin Sullivan was **DULY APPOINTED** as Chairman for the ensuing Council year.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

- 3.1 The Chairman reported that Chris Allhusen was prepared to re-stand. Ann Melhuish nominated Chris Allhusen seconded by Paul Rudkin.
3.2 Chris Allhusen was **DULY APPOINTED** as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Council year.

4. Minutes of last meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 July 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to record attendance of Mr T Bennett.
- 4.2.1 The Chairman agreed to take Matters Arising from the Minutes:
- 4.2.2 At paragraph 3.2 a letter to Michael Gove was discussed. Mr Hawkins was disappointed with the response received. The Chairman had written back asking for matters in the initial letter to be addressed. Further replies would be circulated by email.
- 4.3 Pat Holtom and Geoff Doggett arrived at 10 38am.
- 4.4.1 A statement about the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had not yet been received. This was being discussed by the planning team and further information would be brought to a future meeting.
- 4.4.2 The Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects) reported that discussion about the River Wensum Strategy was ongoing regarding establishing CIL funded Public Rights of Way (PRoW) due to the issue of permanence of permissive routes. CIL funding was available in Kings Lynn and Greater Norwich only, and for the River Wensum Strategy due to land ownership.
- 4.4.3 A discussion was held over lack of attendance by County Councillors meetings since May 2017; Joint Committee members hoped they would attend future meetings. Cllr Brociek-Coulton's apologies due to the clash with Communities Committee were noted.
- 4.4.4 Legal staff had been unable to attend a PRoW sub-group to discuss enforcement as discussed at the previous meeting. The Area Manager (South) clarified that Norfolk County Council had an enforcement policy written by trading standards which included information about the enforcement process for PRoW and permissive access. The Area Manager (South) **agreed** to attend future PRoW sub-group meetings. It was noted that policy issues would be addressed by Members and the Environment Group, headed by the Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects).
- 4.5 George Saunders arrived at 10.47
- 4.6.1 Mr Hawkins mentioned the circulated statement about claims for lost paths and his disappointment that the team dealing with applications would not increase. A workshop had been arranged with the Record Office for volunteers interested in this type of work.

5. Declarations of Interest

- 5.1 No interests were declared

6. Items received as urgent business

- 6.1 There were no items received as urgent business

7. Public Question Time

- 7.1 No public questions were received.

8. Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018-2028

- 8.1.1 The Forum received the report outlining the approach and format of the draft Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) ahead of submission to Norfolk County Council.
- 8.1.2 The format of the NAIP would be changed to a more targeted document, with more detail included in appendices. The draft delivery plan was circulated; see appendix A.
- 8.1.3 The draft NAIP would be complete by mid-December and signed off by Environment, Development and Transport Committee in January 2018. This would be followed by 12 weeks of consultation, consultation feedback, and publication in circa July 2018.
- 8.2.1 It was suggested the plan should include intermediate quantification of output targets and deliverables such as “length of paths to improve” or “percentage value increase made”. The Acting Trails Development Officer **agreed** to bring the statement of actions to the next NAIP sub-group with quantification of actions for further discussion.
- 8.2.2 The Area Manager (South) confirmed a system was in place to send updated information to Ordnance Survey through the Council’s Geographic Information System team. The Acting Trails Development Officer **agreed** to include details in the NAIP.
- 8.2.3 It was suggested that Swaffham be added to the “walkers are welcome” list. Mr Hawkins noted that Swaffham and Aylsham were no longer fully accredited towns.
- 8.2.5 The Acting Trails Development Officer clarified that opportunities to create new public rights of way would come under “feasibility plans and costings”.
- 8.2.6 Mr Hawkins seconded by Mr Rudkin **proposed** that members accept the recommendations with the inclusion of the discussion in paragraph 8.2.1 (above).
- 8.3 The Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF) **AGREED**:
- The approach and format of the draft NAIP, and to submit individual comments, factual corrections and suggestions to Norfolk County Council by mid-November in advance of the publication of the consultation version in mid-December 2017;
 - That the statement of actions be referred back to NAIP sub-group with more quantification of actions for a detailed discussion;
 - The aims and objectives in the draft Statement of Actions, and that these be used to inform an Annual Delivery Plan Consultation Process;
 - The content and timetable of the consultation process.

9. The Health benefits of walking and cycling

- 9.1.1 The Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF) received the report outlining evaluation undertaken by the Medical School at the UEA (University of East Anglia) as part of the Pushing Ahead Programme, to evaluate the benefits of a range of travel activities.
- 9.1.2 NLAF heard a presentation by the Senior Research Associate, UEA (see appendix B):
- Investment in walking and cycling infrastructure by Norfolk County Council would support encouraging more people to be active;
 - Over the next few years there would be more focus on children and young people;
 - The University of East Anglia were evaluating the impact on people of increased walking, cycling and overall activity levels;
 - Outcomes to people, the environment and economy would be evaluated;

qualitative evidence would also be evaluated;

- More data was needed to identify the long term impact of the project;
- Space at bus stop signs was used for public health messaging; the experiment would be repeated with a unique image to research the impact of this.

- 9.2.1 The Senior Research Associate, UEA, clarified there was also a work strand looking at workplace health involved with organisations across Norwich. Part of Pushing Ahead's aim was to encourage work places to have a modal shift towards a more active workforce. The Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects) clarified that there were a number of incentives at Norfolk County Council to encourage cycling.
- 9.2.2 It was hoped that Pushing Ahead would become self-sustaining; the challenges due to the costs involved were noted. Work was underway with Children's Services and Norfolk Police for a bike loan referral scheme for voluntarily refurbished bikes with the aim of reducing criminal activity.
- 9.2.3 "Fun and Fit" were involved in the project, for example, providing adapted bikes for gyms for disabled users.
- 9.2.4 Discussions were underway with UEA to develop a memorandum of understanding for close working.
- 9.3 The Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF):
- **NOTED** the report and presentation;
 - **RECOMMENDED** the final results be taken into account in forward planning for walking and cycling and active travel initiatives in Norfolk

10. Countryside access arrangements update

- 10.1 The NLAF discussed the report summarising work carried out by Countryside Access Officers and Environment Teams requested at the meeting in July 2017.
- 10.2.1 It was suggested that information about routine management of rights of way be included in future reports including information on the budget, what distance of and how often footpaths and PRoW would be cut. The Area Manager (South) **agreed** to bring a further report with this information and information on trails from the Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects).
- 10.2.2 Mr Hawkins **suggested** that the next Countryside Access Arrangements Update report come through the PRoW sub-group prior to being brought to NLAF.
- 10.2.3 A discussion was held over amount of reports dealt with related to permissive access. The Area Manager (South) **agreed** to include information on prioritisation of enforcement procedures in the next report.
- 10.2.4 The Area Manager (South) **agreed** to look into how information in the report could be disseminated more widely.
- 10.2.5 Mr Hawkins updated the Joint Committee on work being done by PRoW sub group to link up with trails volunteers
- 10.3 The Local Access Forum (NLAF):
- **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts

were introduced.

- **AGREED** that the next Countryside access arrangements update report would be taken to the PRoW sub-group prior to being brought to the NLAF.

11. Pathmakers – building organisational capacity

- 11.1 The NLAF received the report from Pathmakers on work to improve access to the Countryside in Norfolk and improve organisational capacity through an application for a heritage lottery fund resilience grant.
- 11.2.1 Mr Doggett suggested the workshop be opened to the Joint Committee. Ms Holtom felt the size of the workshop group was sufficient and suggested NLAF members send ideas and feedback for consideration via the Project Officer or Acting Trails Development Officer. A discussion was held over this. The Chairman suggested that interested members be invited to attend based on capacity.
- 11.2.2 It was suggested that pumps and windmills be taken out of the grant application due to existing funding and projects; the Project Officer agreed that further work was needed to integrate with existing work related to windmills across Norfolk. It was suggested that other heritage buildings could be included such as churches.
- 11.2.3 It was suggested that projects should be linked to NAIP objectives in the future; the Acting Trails Development Officer **agreed** to bring this to the next NAIP sub-group meeting for discussion.
- 11.3 The Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF) **SUPPORTED** the Pathmakers' initiative to make a bid to the HLF (Resilient Heritage Lottery Fund).

12. Local Access Forum annual reviewed 2016/17

- 12.1 The NLAF received the report outlining the annual report for submission to Natural England for the period 2016-17, and the suggested priorities for 2017-18.
- 12.2.1 It was suggested aims in the NAIP should be based on those Natural England measured NLAF by.
- 12.2.3 It was noted that the walking and cycling group was previously an ad-hoc working group which was absorbed into the PRoW sub group.
- 12.3 The Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF):
- **NOTED** the Annual Report, April 2016 – March 2017, (Appendix A)
 - **AGREED** the priorities for 2017/18

13. Norfolk Local Access Forum procedures

- 13.1.1 The NLAF discussed the report proposing a forward planning procedure, a system for coordinating and responding to consultations and for dealing with other actions.
- 13.1.2 The Acting Trails Development Officer introduced the report and proposed forward plan which was a flexible, working document and could be uploaded online in advance.

- 13.2.1 A discussion was held over the procedure for responding to consultations; the Acting Trails Development Officer clarified that it was not necessary to respond to all consultations. The proposed procedure for responding shown in the report was noted.
- 13.2.2 Mr Hissey noted that some organisations accepted individual responses as “on behalf of NLAF”.
- 13.2.3 Mr Hawkins proposed accepting the recommendation including a description of the proposed process for responding to consultations.
- 13.2.4 The Chairman clarified that it was an individual’s choice whether to “reply all” or send a private email to the chairman with their response.
- 13.3 The Norfolk Local Access Forum:
1. **AGREED** that individual responses [to consultations] be sent by NLAF members to the NLAF Chair with a copy to the NLAF Coordinator a week prior to the deadline and the Chair/ Coordinator to compile a response;
 2. **AGREED** an annual forward planning procedure for agenda items;
 3. **AGREED** a system for coordinating and responding to consultations
 4. **AGREED** a system for further actions such as letters with advice, comments or requests.
- 13.4.1 The Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects) reported that Norfolk County Council had successfully applied for a grant to develop a Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Norwich. Over the next 8-10 months the Plan would be created in line with the Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan priorities. They aimed to identify barriers to active travel to school, focussing on walking infrastructure to increase walking stages in journeys. Existing cycling infrastructure plans would be re-examined to increase cyclist numbers and prioritise improvements based on the latest cycling safety information.
- 13.4.2 The draft plan would be brought to the NLAF and Cycling and Walking working group, then to the Environment, Development and Transport Committee for agreement. The Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects) confirmed it would link to current projects including Pushing Ahead and UEA’s evaluation. He confirmed that this focussed on walking and cycling as a means of transport rather than recreation.

Dates of future meetings:

7 February 2018	10:30	Edwards Room, County Hall
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 12:31

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



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Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2017-2018 - Example Delivery Plan

<i>Care for our roads and environment</i>
<i>i) A well-managed Access Network. We will develop a well-signed, maintained and network of routes accessible to all – both public rights of way and promoted trails - which provide access to coastal, rural and urban areas</i>
<i>ii) A well connected Access Network We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network that provides opportunities for all users; improve connectivity and accessibility of the network and develop opportunities</i>
<i>iii) A well-protected Environment – We will provide access to and understanding about protection of the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.</i>
<i>iv) A well promoted Access Network – We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users; and develop a communications plan identifying key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users)</i>
<i>v) A well informed Access Network We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies</i>
<i>Care for our community</i>
<i>vi) A Community Based Access Network. We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network and work with Parish Councils, volunteers and other community organisations</i>
<i>Care for our health</i>
<i>vii) A healthy Access Network We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network. We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network</i>
<i>Care for our economy</i>
<i>viii) A Valuable Access Network Maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network. Work with businesses, tourism agencies and DMOs (Destination Management Organisations) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy</i>

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
i) A well-managed Access Network. We will develop a well-signed, maintained and network of routes accessible to all – both public rights of way and promoted trails - which provide access to coastal, rural and urban areas					
managing and improving signage, furniture, bridges					
	Norfolk Trails	Work plan	Staff and budget		PROW/ Trails Annual report TAMP
	Highways/ PROW	Work plan	Landowners Staff and budget		PROW/ Trails Annual report TAMP
managing path surfaces/ and vegetation			Landowners		
	Norfolk Trails	Work plan/ Cutting contract	Staff and		PROW/ Trails Annual report TAMP
	Highways/ PROW	Work plan /Cutting contract	budget Staff and budget		PROW/ Trails Annual report TAMP
accessible routes without barriers			Landowners		
	Norfolk Trails	Plan for removal of barriers as opportunities arise			
reporting issues by volunteers and users					
	Norfolk Trails	Respond to issues on CRM, enforcement	Staff and	volunteers/	CRM
	Highways/ PROW	Respond to issues on CRM, enforcement	budget Staff and	users volunteers/	CRM
maintaining the definitive map for Norfolk			budget	users	
	Def Map Team	Definitive map upkeep in paper and on website	Staff and		Website
			Staff and budget		Website
recording and managing changes to the definitive map					
	Def Map Team	Respond to claims	Staff and budget		Website
monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the above		Objectives in Environment Team Business Plan PROW/ Highways Plan?		NLAF	PROW/ Trails Business Plan -targets/ achievements The National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) survey

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
<i>ii). A well connected Access Network We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network that provides</i>					
Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Plan	NCC Env Team				
Develop a new multi-use trail between Wroxham and Broadland Business Park (and from there to the Norwich Cycleway Pink Route and potentially to the Wherryman's Way) through the Broadland Growth Triangle.	Norfolk County Council	Develop detailed plans and costings for route			Feasibility complete
River Wensum Parkway Project - strategy and development	River Wensum Strategy Partnership	Develop Strategy for route		Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and other landowners	strategy published
Three Rivers Way	NCC Highways	Section 1 cycle route established Hoveton/Wroxham to Horning		Broads Authority	
Kings Lynn GI Plan	NCC Env Team				
Research potential for Green Pilgrimage route connecting Walsingham to other routes in Norfolk	NCC Env Team	Feasibility and detailed plans/ costings for short sections	Green Pilgrimage Project	Walsingham ?	Feasibility Plan
Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy	NCC Env Team	Draft Strategy written- ETD approval			Draft Strategy published
Pushing Ahead - Active Travel Planning for Norwich and Coastal Access	NCC Env Team	Project team set up and delivery started			Funding agreed
Stretches 1, 2 Weybourne to Hopton					
East Coast Path	NCC Env Team	to develop East Coast Path concept		Suffolk CC and Essex CC?	East Coast Plan concept Agreed
Circular paths for above	NCC Env Team				
Priorities for claiming/ recording historic routes prior to 2026	NLAF PROW sub- group	Workshop with Norfolk Record Office about researching historic paths		Ramblers, Open Spaces Society, British Horse Society	

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
iii) A well-protected Environment – We will provide access to and understanding about protection of the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.					
Growth and Planning	NCC/ Green Infrastructure Team	NDR Access Improvements		NCC and District Councils	Recreational impact project
Management Green Spaces - Special Sites eg Local Nature Reserves	NCC/ Biodiversity Team			NCC and District Councils	Access and Biodiversity plans
Management Historic Environment	NCC/ Historic Environment Team	Access to Norfolk Mills - Open Days		NCC and District Councils, Norfolk Windmills Trust	Access and Historic environment plans
Management North Norfolk AONB	Norfolk Coast Partnership			Norfolk Coast Partnership	AONB Management Plan
The Broads National Park	Broads Authority	Three Rivers Way - Section 1		Broads Authority	Broads Plan
Environment Education	NCC/ Trails	Schools activities - in school and out on route	Marriotts Way	Schools on Marriotts Way	Marriotts Way Report
Sustainable transport options	NCC	Active Travel Plans Norwich and Great Yarmouth Broads by Bike - 3 self-service Cycle points	Pushing Ahead/ AtoBetter	Norfolk Trails, Highways Passenger Transport	Pushing Ahead/ AtoBetter

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
iv) <i>A well promoted Access Network – We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users; and develop a communications plan identifying key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users)</i>					
o Communications Plan	NCC Env/ Comms Teams	Comms Plan	Users/ partners	NCC/ Trails	Annual review
o Website	NCC Env Team	Website	Projects	NCC/ Trails	No hits/ Usage/ annual review
o Print	NCC Env Team	Literature - Three Rivers Way leaflet - Junior Passport	Projects	NCC/ Trails	No booklets etc. Feedback/ annual review
o Press/ media	NCC Env Team	Media Releases - Lord Gardiners visit - Coastal Treasures funding	Projects	NCC/ Trails	No releases Response/ publication
o Social media	NCC Env Team	Trails Twitter and Facebook accounts	Projects	NCC/ Trails	Number Followers/ Twitter/ Facebook reports
o Photo/ video library	NCC Env Team	Photos/ videos	Projects	NCC/ Trails	Usage/ Review
o Newsletters		Volunteer newsletter		NCC/ Trails	Usage/ Review
o Events	NCC Env Team	Events - Marriotts Way Vintage Cycle event - Walking and Cycling festival	Projects	NCC/ Trails	Attendance/ feedback
o Accessible versions	NCC Env Team	Accessible publications/ Versions - Burgh Castle leaflet	Projects	NCC/ Trails	Usage/ Annual review

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
v) A well informed Access Network We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies					
Public information about PROW for users/ walkers	NCC Highways	o PROW interactive map showing where there is public access			Annual report usage
Public information about Norfolk Trails and Circular Walks for users/ walkers and local businesses	NCC Norfolk Trails	o Norfolk Trails interactive map showing promoted routes – long distance trails and circular routes			Annual report usage
	Norfolk Trails	o 360° views of Norfolk Trails using Googletrekker technology			No of photos uploaded onto Googlemaps
	NCC Trails	o PDF downloads of short and circular walks			Annual report usage
Public information about PROW for land-owners, developers and professionals	NCC Highways	o Definitive Map of PROW – showing the legal map base systems			Annual report usage
Information about health linked to Norfolk Trails	Active Norfolk	Active Norfolk map of health outcomes in Norfolk, with a layer for Norfolk Trails			Annual report usage
o Systems for measuring the benefit of access to the environment					
Information about the ways that people engage with the natural environment such as visiting the countryside, enjoying green spaces in towns and cities, watching wildlife and volunteering to help protect the natural environment.	Natural England	MENE - Natural England survey			Annual report usage
	Norfolk Trails	o Route counters on Norfolk Trails to measure the number of users			Insight Track Report
	Norfolk Trails	o Feedback Surveys to analyse the characteristics of users			Insight Track Report

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Own	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
vi. A Community Based Access Network. We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network and work with Parish Councils, volunteers and other community organisations					
o Support community network management	Norfolk Trails, Highways	Parish schemes	Annual report feedback	Norfolk Trails, Highways	Number of events for Parishes/ Parish schemes
o Develop ideas for projects benefitting the local area	NCC	Swaffham - trail connecting to Peddars Way	Annual report - feedback	NCC, Districts and Parishes	Number of project ideas
o Support volunteer networks	Norfolk Trails, Highways	Trails volunteer networks	Annual report - feedback	Norfolk Trails, Highways	Highways Rangers, Norfolk Trails Volunteers
o Develop other volunteer opportunities	NCC	Volunteer activities and days	Annual report - feedback	Norfolk Trails	Friends Schemes
o Include users, volunteers and communities in the governance of the Access Network through the Norfolk Local Access Forum	NCC	Volunteer rep on NLAF	Attendance and minutes of meetings	Democratic Services and Norfolk Trails	Norfolk Local Access Forum meetings
o Support an independent Charitable Organisation (Pathmakers) in developing and funding community projects	Norfolk Local Access Forum		Review of plan Meeting minutes	Norfolk Local Access Forum	Pathmakers Business Plan Meetings

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
vii) A healthy Access Network We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network. We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network					
People with physical disabilities	NCC	Improvements to routes - Burgh Castle, Access to Beach North Denes, Gt Yarmouth	Various projects		No routes completed + review
People with mild to moderate mental health issues including dementia	NCC	Dementia Walks - North and West Norfolk	SAIL		No walks available + review
The elderly	NCC	- North and West Norfolk Outdoor activities for older people	SAIL		No activities developed + review
Families with young children	NCC	Activities and events - Marriotts Way	Marriotts Way/ Pushing Ahead		No activities/ events + review
Schools	NCC	Activities and events - Marriotts Way and Pus	Marriotts Way/ Pushing Ahead		No activities/ events + review
Young people	NCC	Activities and events - Marriotts Way and Pus	Marriotts Way/ Pushing Ahead		No activities/ events + review
Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups	NCC				

Delivery Plans 2017-2018	Owner	Action	Resources/ Projects	Partners	Evidence completed
viii) A Valuable Access Network Maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network. Work with businesses, tourism agencies and DMOs (Destination Management Organisations) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy					
O Develop a supportive network of businesses linked to Norfolk Trails					
	Walkers are Welcome Towns	Cromer Walkers are Welcome			Website
	Walkers are Welcome Towns	Dereham Walkers Are Welcome			Website
	Walkers are Welcome Towns	Aylsham Walkers Are Welcome			website
	Norfolk Trails	National Trail Partnership and businesses			Publication of passport
o Website and walks showing links to businesses and other facilities	Norfolk Trails				
	Norfolk Trails	Businesses signed up to website	Explore More Coast, Marriotts Way	NCC website team	website
O Promote the network with partners as part of the Visit Norfolk offer					
	Visit Norfolk, Norfolk Trails	Businesses signed up to website			website

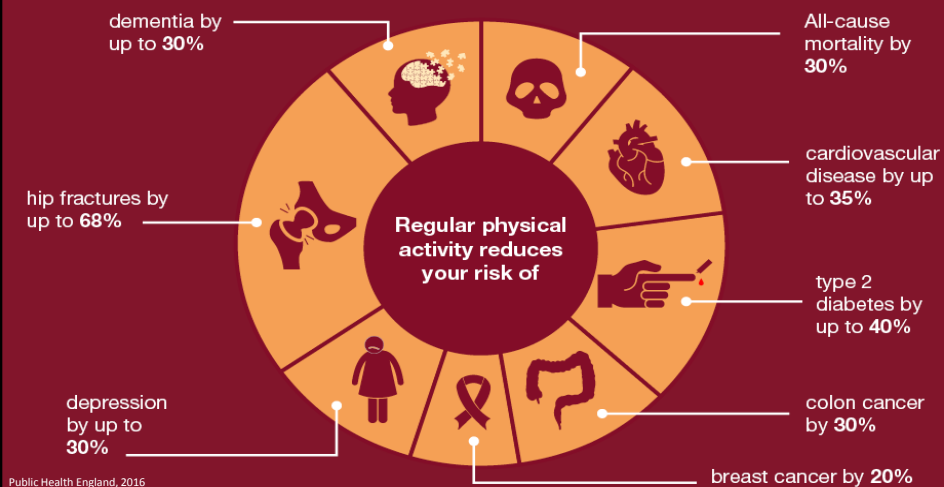
Why is Norwich Medical School interested in walking and cycling?

Alice Dalton, UEA



Why did we get involved?

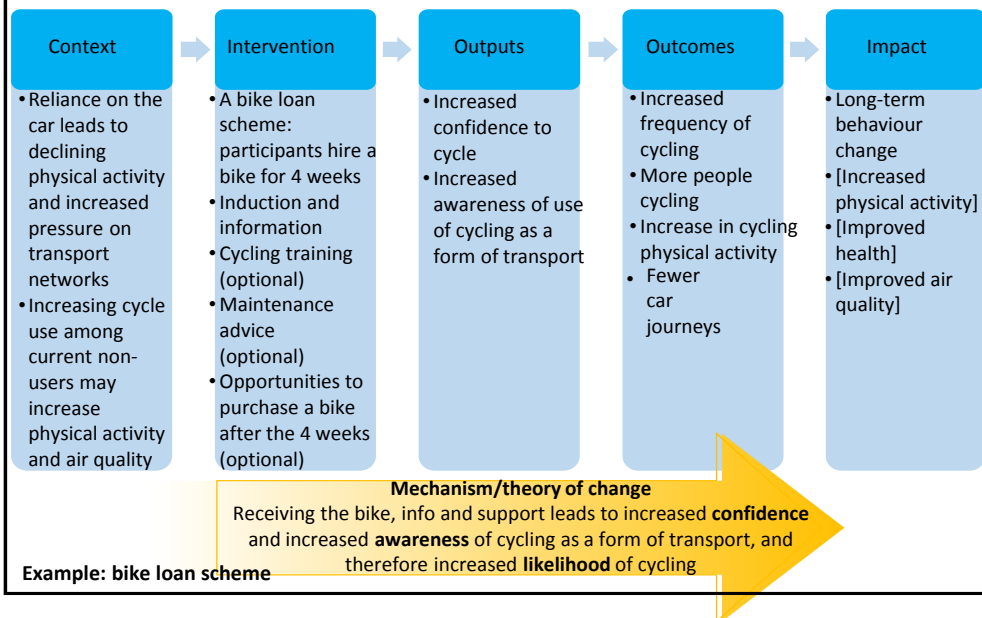
What are the health benefits of physical activity?



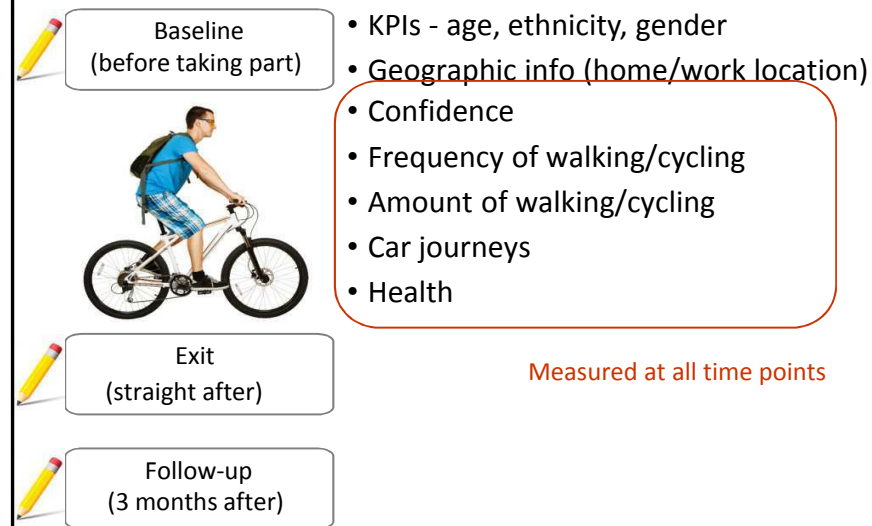
'Whole community', partnership approach to walking and cycling promotion

WHO
WHEN
WHERE
HOW
WHAT
WHY

Step 1. Logic model



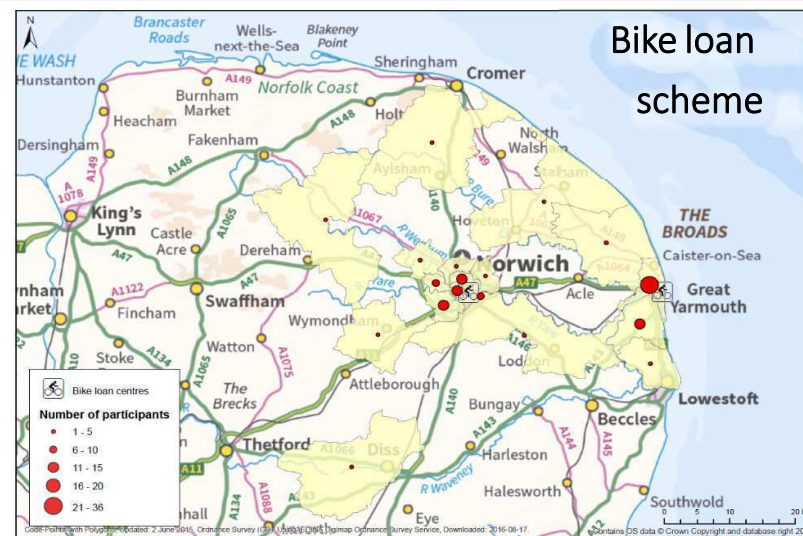
Step 2. Measuring outcomes



Step 3. Talking to the people involved

How did the programme work and what can we learn from it?

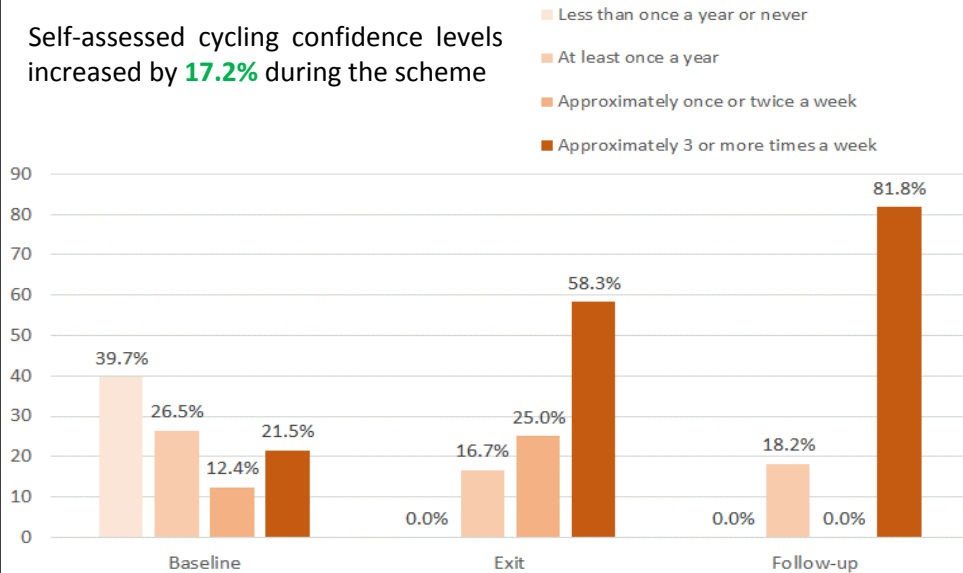
- Higher programme management
- Operational management
- Deliverers and providers
- Wider consultation/stakeholders
- Pushing Ahead steering group



Bikes loaned to 121 people, 55% of these from Norwich
 62% female, 46% were aged 30-44 years
 74% not regular cyclists
 35% participants resided in areas of highest deprivation (top 10% nationally)

Change in cycling confidence Change in cycling frequency

Self-assessed cycling confidence levels increased by **17.2%** during the scheme



Findings from the process evaluation

There are real people who've changed their lives and are now encompassing cycling into their daily lives as a result of this scheme.

There's one man who came to us via a homeless shelter. He got a bike and used it so much that he wore out some of the components. He received one of the free bikes at the end of the scheme. He uses the bike to visit family, someone who's ill and lives 5, 7 miles away. For him it's a real lifeline for maintaining contact with his family.

Casualty reduction campaign: experiment

Question: can **digital screens** at bus stops communicate **public health messaging**?

- Observe peoples' reactions to image (n=1060)
- Interview them about cyclist priorities before and after image displayed (n=244)
- See if image influences attitudes



People were **7 times** more likely to say 'giving space' was a priority for cyclists, if they were interviewed during experiment 1

People were **3.6 times** more likely to say 'giving space' was a priority if they were interviewed when a campaign image was being displayed

Yet, they were **less likely** to say 'giving space' if they said they had seen the image before



Why?

Process: Management & delivery

We need an evidence-based rather than 'shopping list' approach

Appropriate meetings and channels for reporting, that avoid duplication

Agree on the target group and aim

A really strong brand helps with the trust, uptake and engagement

An interactive website that is fun to look at and less corporate

You need a real willingness to work together, with conversations all the way down to officer level

Partnership working

Identify and utilise expertise and strengths of partners, across all project activities, from an early stage

Avoid duplication of resource in terms of people delivering quite similar things

Interact with residents and community groups, and hold a stakeholder mapping exercise

Work with a range of partners from the community, business, voluntary sector, disability groups, transport companies and academia

Targeting, engagement & advocacy

If blanket offering services only gets the already active involved, you may be broadening health inequalities

A Copenhagen 'Bicycle Account' or Sustrans 'Bike Life' model would be really good evidence for future bids and evidencing change

Having someone out there active in industry and the community is necessary to help recruit service users

Is the project aimed at modal shift or tackling disadvantage and inequality? The approach will depend on this

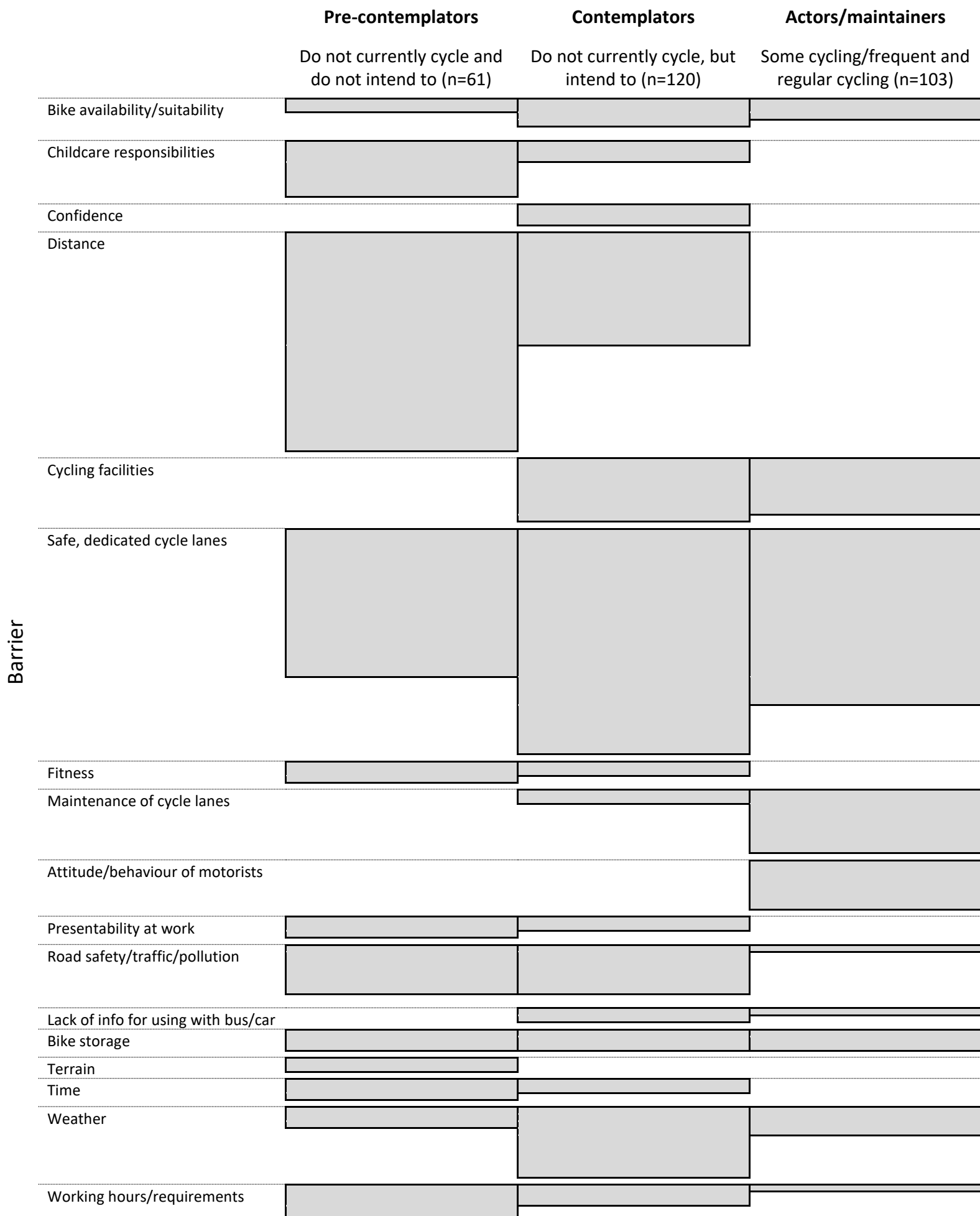
Other outputs

- Graphics for barriers to cycling (non-cyclists, potential cyclists & cyclists)
- Graphic for barriers to walking (people attending walking groups for the first time to regularly) & suggested techniques for walk leaders
- Sharing practice nationally & internationally

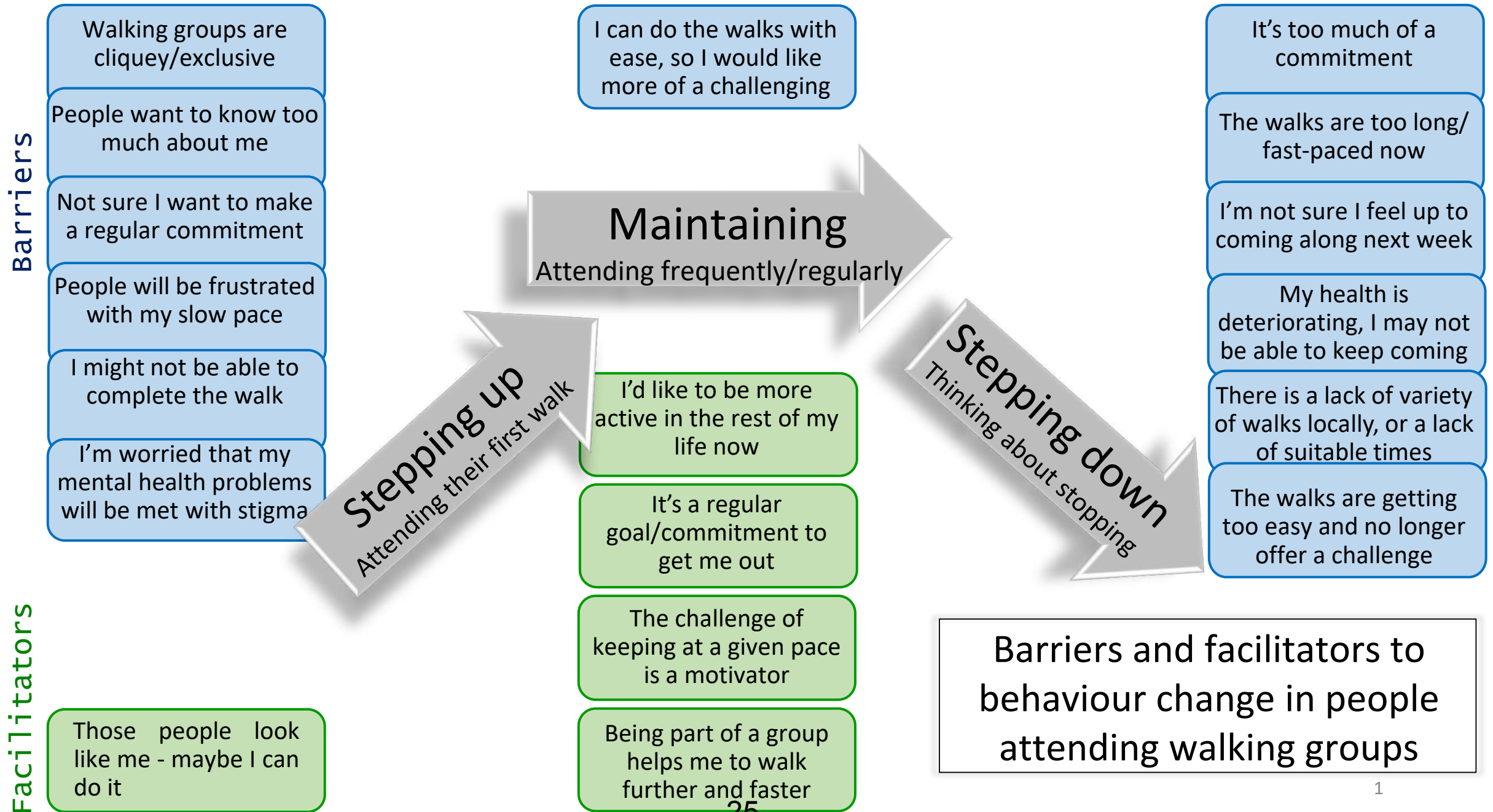


TPM
Transport Practitioners' Meeting

IMGS 2017
Angers France
12th International Physical Geography Symposium



Barriers to cycling according to the stage in the stages of behaviour change model, from responses to the Pink Pedalway employee survey (n=344, January 2017). Length of each column represents the number of responses, as a percentage of the people in each stage.



Techniques for walk leaders/volunteers

Walking groups are cliquey/exclusive

- Make new walkers feel welcome and included.
- Recruit volunteers who are keen to offer a befriending/peer support service, rather than as walk leaders.
- Encourage new walkers to bring a friend next time.
- Point out other groups that they might like to go along to.

People want to know too much about me

- Leaders and existing walkers should be sensitive to not ask too many questions too soon, otherwise walkers may feel a little interrogated.
- Enabling individuality within a structured format: build in natural pauses, breaks into single file, and low eye contact when appropriate.
- Let people know they should feel free to hang back and not walk with the group [1].

Not sure I want to make a regular commitment

- Emphasise the benefits that others have found: losing weight, feeling better, having lower blood pressure, taking pride in understanding and maintaining health and wellbeing, becoming more active, reduced breathlessness, being energised and emphasising the general impact on everyday living [1, 2].

People will be frustrated with my slow pace
or
I might not be able to complete the walk

- Motivational interviewing/brief advice (see Appendix A).
- Make sure new walkers complete a short and/or slower route if possible, to build confidence [3].
- Ensure appropriate pacing and accurate advertisement.
- Consider setting up new shorter walks or providing shorter options. For example, the 'striders' and 'strollers' approach at the Caythorpe Walking for Health group in Lincolnshire [4], where all walkers start at the same place, but some follow a shorter loop.
- Provide routes without barriers such as stiles for people with long term limiting conditions or more short term health needs [3].
- Recruit volunteers who are keen to offer a befriending/peer support service, rather than as walk leaders.
- Ensure backmarkers are willing and happy.
- Encourage them to come back again and continue to walk at their own pace ('it will get easier!').
- Refer participant to shorter walks.

I'm worried that my mental health problems will be met with stigma

- Encourage an awareness, recognition and discussion of mental health issues, particularly common conditions such as anxiety and depression, to enable a more open, stigma-free approach to mental health [3].
- Emphasise the benefits that others have found: feeling more relaxed, coping with stressors, and reducing social isolation.

Stepping up
Attending their first walk

Techniques for walk leaders/volunteers

Facilitators

Those people look like
me - maybe I can do it

- Motivational interviewing/brief advice.

Techniques for walk leaders/volunteers

Barriers

I can do the walks with ease, so I would like more of a challenging

- Transition walks to move walkers from the easiest level up to the next, as a form of coaching in small groups.
- Enabling individuality within a structured format: adding switch back routes or more difficult terrain to an existing walk for those who seek it.
- Recommend longer walks.
- Signpost to the Ramblers.

Facilitators

I'd like to be more active in the rest of my life now

- Motivational interviewing to suggest including more walking in daily life e.g. replace bus trips with walking; walk out, bus back.
- Encouragement to become a volunteer.

It's a regular goal/commitment to get me out

- Motivational interviewing/brief advice.

The challenge of keeping at a given pace is a motivator

- Motivational interviewing/brief advice.

Being part of a group helps me to walk further and faster

- Motivational interviewing/brief advice.

Techniques for walk leaders/volunteers

Barriers

It's too much of a commitment, it takes up too much time

- Motivational interviewing/brief advice.

The walks are too long/fast-paced now

- Recommend specific shorter walks.
- Refer to other social groups (eg. University of the Third Age 'U3A', a bowling club etc).

I'm not sure I'll feel like coming along next week

- Walk leaders to look out for vulnerable members of the community to identify potential cases of deteriorating physical health or depression.
- Post out cards reminding participants of local walks [5].

My health is deteriorating, I may not be able to keep coming

- Walk leaders to look out for vulnerable members of the community to identify potential cases of deteriorating physical health or depression.
- Recommend specific shorter walks.
- Refer to other social groups (eg. University of the Third Age 'U3A', a bowling club etc).

There is a lack of variety of walks locally, or a lack of variety in times

- Consider setting up new walks, or adding new options onto existing ones [1, 5].
- Refer to other sources of information regarding walking in their local area.
- Make sure all walks are advertised well [5].

The walks are getting too easy and no longer offer a challenge

- Transition walks to move walkers from the easiest level up to the next, as a form of coaching in small groups.
- Enabling individuality within a structured format: adding switch back routes or more difficult terrain to an existing walk for those who seek it [1].
- Recommend longer local walks.
- Signpost to the Ramblers.

Stepping down
Thinking about stopping

Techniques for walk leaders/volunteers

?

Facilitators

Appendix A: Motivational interviewing and brief advice

- Motivational interviewing (MI) follows three principles of collaboration (support rather than persuasion), evocation (identify personal motives to walk/increase activity) and autonomy (responsibility, ability and decision to make behavioural changes are entirely under the client's control) [6].
- Strategies to encourage behaviour change in those just starting walking might include: agenda setting, exploration of the pros and cons, exploring concerns, building confidence providing information, asking key questions.
- Strategies to encourage behaviour change in those maintaining might include: strengthening commitment to change and negotiating a change plan.
- The term brief advice is used to mean verbal advice, discussion, negotiation or encouragement, with or without written or other support or follow-up. It can vary from basic advice to a more extended, individually focused discussion [7].
- Advice should be tailored to the person's motivations and goals; current level of activity and ability; circumstances, preferences and barriers to being physically active; and health status (for example whether they have a medical condition or a disability) [8].
- The Royal Society for Public Health provides training in behaviour change (Level 2 Award in Understanding Behaviour Change), delivered online or at a centre [9]

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7. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (2013) Physical activity: brief advice for adults in primary care. Public Health Guidance PH44. London: NICE.
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9. The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) <https://www.rsph.org.uk/qualification/level-2-award-in-understanding-behaviour-change-health-wellbeing.html>

The barriers, facilitators and techniques outlined in the graphic are taken from the above sources.

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Building resilience for Pathmakers
Date of meeting:	7 February 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact 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 (CIO) is the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum and is continuing to work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk.

An Expression of Interest made by Pathmakers to the Heritage Lottery Fund (Resilient Heritage) to improve resilience for the organisation has received positive feedback from the HLF, and development of the full bid is now underway, using further ideas generated during a workshop held on 21st November 2018.

A successful application was made to the Geovation fund on behalf of Pathmakers ("Community Friends' Walks") which could develop into a business for Pathmakers.

1. Proposal (or options)

- 1.1. Work is ongoing by Pathmakers to develop a full bid to the HLF to improve organisational resilience.

The bid will draw upon 5 UEA undergraduate student projects arranged through Jenni Turner (a UEA lecturer in Environmental Sciences and Pathmakers trustee) to increase understanding of path useage, benefits and user need.

In the meantime, further funds for Pathmakers have been explored, resulting in a successful bid to the Geovation Fund (Ordnance Survey) by Sarah Abercrombie on behalf of Pathmakers.

The proposal/recommendation is that the Norfolk Local Access Forum offers continuing support for the Pathmakers bid to the HLF and supports the development of the Pathmakers "Community Friends" Geovation project.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. Pathmakers held a workshop on 21 November 2017 develop ideas in preparation for a full bid to the HLF.

An audit of trustee skills identified some skill gaps including campaigning, fund-raising and marketing which will feed into the training programme within the full bid.

Funds for Pathmakers were discussed at the workshop (Geovation; Bright ideas Fund; Parish Partnerships Fund; Place-based Social Action Fund. Sarah Abercrombie went on to develop a Geovation bid for Pathmakers.

Geovation Fund Bid “Community Friends’ Walks” was successfully submitted by Sarah Abercrombie for Pathmakers (subsequent to the workshop):

“Norfolk has some of the most lovely coast and countryside in Britain with fantastic wildlife and historic sites and is well used by confident active people. However, it also has many health challenges, particularly people from an increasing older population, deprived communities and those with mental health issues, many of whom are isolated and inactive. They need to get out more but are not confident, do not know where to go and have no-one to go with. Our idea is to set up a walking group scheme including dementia walks and companion walks and match people with local knowledge about where to walk and what to see with people who have inactive lifestyles using geographic information on populations, resources, mapping and availability. We would work with carers, gp surgeries, care homes, community groups, Age Concern and other to identify individuals and then offer support to get them out walking; train local people how to provide support for vulnerable people and match them with people in their area who need the service with geographic information on walks in their area. The scheme could be funded from social prescriptions, Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) or from individuals themselves.”

The prize is fully funded attendance at a 3 day “Camp Geovation” in London in February for up to 4 Pathmakers trustees to develop a business model from the idea with the opportunity to pitch for further funding and business partners.

The HLF bid to the Resilient Heritage Fund “Paving the Way for Pathmakers” focuses on the heritage of the Public Rights of Way (and Trails) network itself, and ensures that Pathmakers market niche is well understood by establishing user (and geographic location) need. Overall, the project will enable Pathmakers to develop long-term organisational resilience. The application will be made by Pathmakers to the HLF.

The Expression of Interest submitted in November received a positive response, and development of the full bid is now underway:

- (i) A part time staff co-ordinator will be recruited to manage activities within the project. Experts will be recruited for specific tasks
- (ii) A business plan will be developed which will include the design and costing of 5 case-study pilot projects which will help formulate the approach to project development.
- (iii) Feeding into the business plan will be the results of 5 UEA undergraduate student projects (running separately to the project) which are investigating the use of paths to deliver improved mental and physical health, improved awareness and appreciation of the landscape, safe and enjoyable access to the countryside and sustainable and healthy commutes to work, across 5 specific user classifications : classifications (peri-urban; ‘saga’; market towns; educational; recent housing). The students’ time has been arranged by Jenni Turner (UEA lecturer in Environmental Sciences and Pathmakers trustee).
- (iv) Pathmakers trustees will be upskilled through a mix of training, facilitated workshops and visits to local projects. Training will be staged so that it is appropriate to the stage of the project – for example, training in income generation will follow development of the business plan so that appropriate funding models can be used to tackle income needs of specific projects/areas
- (v) Stakeholder input to Pathmakers will be strengthened to improve governance

and widen reach through a facilitated workshop.

(vi) volunteer and user group input to Pathmakers planning and governance will be strengthened through a conference

(vii) further trustees will be recruited to address skills gaps

(viii) user need will be investigated through survey and workshop

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. There are opportunities for Pathmakers to develop an income stream through the Geovation 'Community Friends' project.

The Resilient Heritage project does not require any match funding (if under £100,000 is sought).

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. "Community Friends" (Geovation Fund project) is highly innovative, and if successful at the next stage (following the Geovation Camp event in February) could develop into a business for Pathmakers.

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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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.

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Definitive Map Modification Orders
Date of meeting:	7 February 2018
Responsible Chief Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact The County Council has a duty to make Definitive Map Modification Orders where appropriate. The deadline of 1 January 2026 for submitting Orders to recognise certain public rights of way before legislation closes a major route for applying for them is expected to generate considerable numbers of applications before this deadline (a process which the LAF is supporting). The LAF is asked to consider and advise the County whether the current approach to these applications should be reviewed.	

Executive summary

The current policy of the County, since 2011, has been to take a neutral stance on the majority of modification orders made by the Authority under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is questioned whether this policy (1) is fair to applicants, particularly when the Council makes an order at a higher level than that sought by the applicant; and (2) is consistent with the Council's duty (Highways Act 1980, s.130(1)) "to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway for which they are the highway authority ...".

1. Proposal (or options)

That the LAF asks the County (a) to review this policy; (b) to indicate the criteria by which it decides which orders it will promote; and (c) 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 has taken a neutral stance.

2. Evidence

The subgroup received a statement provided by John Shaw, Senior Engineer Highways Development Management (Appendix 1). This was discussed by the subgroup on 8 January, when views expressed (recorded in minute 3.5 – Minutes (Appendix 2). Since that time, a further statement has been received from the Legal Orders and Registers Team (Appendix 3).

3. Financial Implications

There could be financial implications with respect to staff time required. However the volume of work is difficult to assess at this time (it is reactive).

4. Issues, risks and innovation

There may be implications for staff time.

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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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.

Appendix 1

In 2011 Cabinet adopted (and full Council later endorsed) the policy to take a neutral stance on the majority of modification orders made by the Authority under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The report considered by Cabinet was entitled 'Public Inquiries regarding public rights of way'. I have set out below some background notes to the report which explain in greater detail past and present policy.

Background Notes

Previously at Public Inquiries, this Authority would act as 'lead party' and field an Advocate (Solicitor or Barrister) to explain the background to the case, to put forward witnesses to support the Authority's Order, to cross examine the objector's witnesses, to present the legal arguments and make a closing statement. Norfolk County Council followed this procedure in the past but changed, in 2011, to a system which encouraged applicants for these orders to take responsibility for their own applications and play a greater part in the proceedings. The County Council no longer automatically promotes orders at Inquiry and instead generally takes a neutral stance, leaving the applicant for these orders to play a far more active part. The County Councils Case Officers still attend Inquiries to set up the venue in accordance with guidelines, provide opening statements and assist the Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate and the general public, as required.

There is no legal requirement for an Authority to promote its own Order at a public inquiry. Mindful of the costs of sending an Advocate to a public inquiry (c£1500 per day) the Council chose only to promote future Orders if the circumstances of the case satisfied the policy criteria (see below). If cases did not, then a neutral position would be adopted at inquiry. Although Case Officers attend inquiries, the Council does not field a Council witness (or send an Advocate to conduct cross-examination). The Council does not answer questions on the evidence.

In deciding whether to promote the Order, the Council considers as 'policy criteria' firstly the significance and quality of the evidence received, secondly the extent of evidence to the contrary, thirdly the nature of objections received and fourthly the connectivity with the existing rights of way network. By making a case by case decision whether to actively promote the Order the Council will allow for situations where it would seem perverse or invidious of the Council not to actively promote the case beyond referral to the Planning Inspectorate. This individual case approach ensures that the Council does not fetter its discretion by the imposition of a blanket ban on promotion. It is already the case that if the Council has been directed to make an Order by the Secretary of State on appeal it usually takes a neutral stance at any public inquiry.

If an Authority does not promote its own Order there is an expectation from the Planning Inspectorate that someone else (ideally the applicant) will. Although this necessitates further work by the applicant, it encourages a greater participation in what is, to some extent, a free service and provides the applicant with a greater sense of responsibility. It is open to the applicant to adopt the Authority's Statement of Case as his/her own, which has been found to assist in terms of presentation of arguments.

The Council could also have chosen to continue to promote all Orders and field an Advocate and witnesses at every Public Inquiry. However the significant costs of continuing with this practice were considered to be unsustainable (estimated advocacy costs alone for preparation for and attendance at an average public inquiry (lasting between 1 and 2 days) range from £3,000 to £10,000. This was brought into sharp focus on cases where, although the lesser evidential legal test was met to justify the making of the Order (that the way 'is reasonably alleged to subsist') there was insufficient additional evidence to meet the higher ('that the way subsists') confirmation test. It should be remembered that the current statutory duty is to make an Order where the evidence shows that a way is reasonably alleged to subsist. The function of an inquiry however, in these situations, is to find out whether there is additional evidence to satisfy the higher confirmation test. It has been difficult for the Council in the past to promote Orders in such circumstances and was often seen as unduly favouring the applicant at the expense of the public purse. Such criticism was frequently and somewhat justifiably made at public inquiries.

The 2011 policy has been well received and is viewed as being an equitable process. Planning Inspectors expressed reservations at first but, mindful of the fact that there is no statutory duty to promote modification orders beyond referral to the Planning Inspectorate and their experience of handling inquiries under this system, have confirmed that it works and is fair to all parties.

Community and Environmental Services Minutes of Meeting

Local Access Forum Public Rights of Way subgroup.

Held on: Monday 12th June 2017 Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: Room 1, Floor 6, County Hall

Present		Post Title
Keith Bacon (KB)		CPRE Norfolk, Broads LAF
Neil Cliff (NC)		U3A
Ken Hawkins (KH)		Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ian Mitchell (IM)		The Ramblers
Jean Stratford (JS)		Norfolk Local Access Forum
Invited		
Vic Cocker (VC)		Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ann Melhuish (AM)		Norfolk Local Access Forum, Pathmakers
Andy Hutcheson (AH)		Norfolk County Council
Russell Wilson (RW)		Norfolk County Council
Su Waldron		Norfolk County Council

Item Minute

Action by

1.0 Introductions and apologies for absence

All present introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Ian Witham (IW) (Open Spaces Society); Sarah Abercrombie (NCC) (sick leave); Helen Chester (HC) (NLAF); Helen Leith (CPRE); Martin Sullivan [Su - did the Helens send in apologies?] VC and AM will be joining the subgroup: this will be proposed for agreement at the NLAF.

SW –
background on
Pathmakers

A recent Pathmakers workshop (21st November) proposed strengthening links between Pathmakers (the charitable arm of the NLAF) and NLAF subgroups (PROW; Permissive Access; NAIP). A further subgroup would be set up – but this would be a Pathmakers subgroup not an NLAF subgroup. Proposals have been agreed in principle by Chairs of subgroups/Pathmakers. Report will go to next NLAF to agree this, with the subsequent

need for the subgroups to review terms of reference and remit and each to include Pathmakers trustee membership.
NC asked for further information on Pathmakers and SW said she would supply it.

Minutes of the meeting on 12th June 2017

IM comment (3.2.2) should be included: For the minutes what I meant was that, having considered the evidence and made a Definitive Map order, if there are objections which cannot be resolved, the NCC Definitive Map team submit the whole file to the Planning Inspectorate to make a decision and apart from arranging a public inquiry if the Inspectorate want that, they take no part in the proceedings, except possibly to act as witnesses.

2.0

Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

3.0 Matters arising from the minutes

Re 3.2.4 Unresolved case closures. MW confirmed that all unresolved cases were being dealt as reflected by their individual history.

3.1

Re 4.1 Staff family tree. MW had appended a schematic to his report (Draft 20171228 Countryside Access arrangements update_Amended.docx) showing in outline the Highways staff hierarchy. KB requested that this was supplied with more detail (staff names) and also how Norfolk Trails and the Definitive Map Team fitted into the structure. AH said that a more detailed version could be supplied.

3.2

MW to Request that a more comprehensive staff structure is made available

Re 4.2 NAIP update. SW said that the timetable was as follows:

3.3

SW to send NAIP documents to KB (BLAF) at earliest opportunity

Date	What	Who
23/1/2018	NAIP consultation draft complete	NCC/NLAF
7/2/2018	NAIP consultation draft signed off (this meeting)	NLAF
1/3/2018 to 31/5/2018	NAIP consultation (stakeholders and the public) – Citizen Space	NCC/NLAF
Mid April 2018	NAIP stakeholder consultation events (4 in total – one for stakeholders at Norwich County Hall and 3 in countryside officer ‘patches’ in Norfolk for the public. Drop in format with appropriate officers and NLAF in attendance	NCC/NLAF
1/6/2018/-/30/6/2018	NAIP redrafted and completed	NCC/NLAF
18/7/2018	NAIP signed off	NLAF
7/9/2018	NAIP approved by EDT committee at NCC	EDT committee

KB asked when consultation with the Broads LAF would take place. RW said that the BLAF would be invited to the stakeholder consultation event (the one at County Hall). AH suggested that the draft NAIP, Statement of Action and Delivery Plans should all be sent to the BLAF at the earliest opportunity (ahead of the NLAF). Comments would feed in via the consultation period and structure. KB said the BLAF is preparing its own Improvement Plan.

VC said that he had some concerns over priorities going into the improvement programme – important to ensure that metrics reflect improvements accurately.

MW said the document would be in the public domain after the NLAF meeting.

3.4 Re 4.3 – Widening access to public paths. MS to advise at a future date.

MS to advise at future meeting

3.5 Re 3.2.2
KB said he was unhappy about current NCC representation (or lack of) when cases concerning public rights of way come to public enquiry. He felt that NCC didn't provide sufficient help to those proposing route modifications even when there was public support for the change. Reference was made to occasions when an individual or Parish Council applicant might face a barrister

MW – statistics on cases supported at public enquiry after 2011

MW to

opposing the order. IM noted that the Planning Inspectorate had apparently initially been surprised at the change of policy.

establish what
other councils
do

KH said he'd be interested to find out what other counties do.

MW said that all cases were viewed on their individual merits (case by case basis).

JS said she felt that there should be a clear policy on what cases would be supported. This led to a request to have information on the criteria used by the County in deciding whether to promote an order or take a neutral stance.

MW said that much information had already been provided in the note appended to the agenda (from John Shaw, regarding modification orders) including changes that had been made to procedure since 2011.

It was agreed to request that statistics be supplied on the County's actions after the change in policy, and on what other councils) do.

4 Maintenance and enforcement issues

The meeting discussed MW report.

Trails statistics not incorporated into reported problem figures – RW to supply.

Good news that NCC members have agreed £200k for PROW. MW is working on list of schemes that will deliver benefits.

Discussion on grass cutting. NC asked which paths were considered higher priority (point 2.4 of MW report). MW said those that had highest use and that the Countryside Officers considered highest priority. RW said that Trails cutting pattern is different (to PROW) and AH confirmed that NCC was looking into how the statistics could be integrated.

4.1,
4.2

Discussion on reinstatement of path following ploughing.

Discussion on loss of access (restricted byway) to some users posed by locked gate.

VC asked if mechanisms (and resources) are in place to ensure problems are dealt with.

RW said that Trails and circular public rights of way are an improving situation, with better signage and use (signs had been provided largely through external funding). Countryside Officers are also doing a lot to re-sign many PROW. Need a mechanism to capture miles of PROW where no problem is recorded.

- KH invited ideas on how we could all channel goodwill and work together better and achieve better outcomes for PROW. The PROW group is a good forum to channel ideas.
- 4.3 Online reporting system. The improvement in the system was noted – feed back good news to Maria Thurlow. MW to let Maria Thurlow know improvements have been noted
- 4.4 RW said he wanted one system of reporting for Trails and PROW so the figures could be amalgamated.
- 4.4 NHT survey (MW). Norfolk is 3 points below average
- 5.0 Parish Council seminars**
- Build on previous seminars. Suggestion to run NAIP area (Countryside Officer patch) events in conjunction with Parish seminars. Half event dedicated to each part. KH and RW to liaise
- KH felt the Parish seminar part should have the aim of building up a network of people interested in monitoring, maintaining paths etc to support local PROW.
- 5.1 SW said that the Pathmakers bid to the HLF (to build resilience for Pathmakers) will potentially include a public engagement event to build support and establish need (for Pathmakers interventions) – hopefully it would be possible to include within the seminar format.
- JS said there was a huge variation in levels of expertise at the previous event (some people didn't know what a PROW was).
- Need to have a format that avoids getting side-tracked by reporting of specific issues (could have a specific desk set aside for this).
- Use NALC to promote.
- 5.2 Timing and logistics: to take place mid April (one per week) – 3 in total in mid point within Countryside Officer patch, amending the format if necessary after the 1st one.
- 6.0 Claims for lost paths ('2026')**
- Deferred
- 7.0 Partnership and Community working**
- NC had expressed concern over apparent loss of path between Cley and Weybourne. RW said the path was always at the top of the shingle and that fencing was to protect nesting birds. Natural England determines line of the path.

8 Next meetings: 19 March, 18 June and 17 September, all at 1400

Copy for information:

The concerns of the LAF are understood in respect of the policy, endorsed by members in 2011, of restraint with regard to the previous practice of automatic general promotion of orders on behalf of applicants. The policy has been operating well since then and has gained support from Inspectors when the opportunity has arisen to discuss it with them at public inquiries. When this policy was first introduced Inspectors privately expressed reservations but have since reported, in conversation, that it actually works well, gives those involved a sense of responsibility for their own actions and is far more equitable for all parties involved. As members of the LAF will appreciate, Planning Inspectors are experts in rights of way legislation and are aware of the information and evidence they require to make a decision. They are very skilled in retrieving such material from witnesses. It would also be fair to say that the policy has yet to result in orders being lost due to applicants having to take on the role of 'applicant' at public inquiries and field their own witnesses. Not many of the orders the Council has made over that period have been lost. In fact, the last order which was not confirmed followed an appeal, which was upheld by the Planning Inspectorate, against the Council's decision not to make an order on the basis that there was insufficient evidence of public use of the claimed footpath. The Council was directed to make an order by the Planning Inspectorate which was then subsequently considered at a public inquiry. It became apparent that the evidence of use was not up to scratch and insufficient to meet the legislative tests. The Inspector declined to confirm the order.

It is not known specifically how many other councils are operating this policy, but enquiries were received from at least two other Councils last year as to the operation of the policy.

Unfortunately, we do not have the information to hand to answer the query with respect to how many orders have been actively promoted since 2011. Clearly, in what are called 'own motion cases' the Council would have to promote the order as the Council would in effect be the 'applicant'. Such cases tend to be those based on archive and documentary evidence which are normally determined by the Planning Inspectorate by way of an exchange of written representations. Cases based on user evidence are normally referred to public inquiries and hearings.

Highways and Legal Orders and Registers Team

12th January 2018

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Parish Council seminars
Date of meeting:	7 February 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact The overall intention is to support and build up a network of people interested in monitoring and maintaining public rights of way and other routes (as covered by the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan).	

Executive summary

The LAF has previously (5 July 2017) approved arrangements proposed by the subgroup for the planning and holding of seminars. It had recently been suggested that these might be combined with the consultation planned for the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan, though this is no longer being proposed. It is now proposed to plan on the original basis, but also including public engagement for the Pathmakers bid to the HLF.

1. Proposal

Circumstances have changed since the meeting of the subgroup, when it was thought that the seminars might also be used for consultation on the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan, but decisions have since been taken that precludes this. The LAF is therefore asked to revert to the arrangements previously agreed (see **Appendix 1** - Subgroup minute 4.4, 12 June 2017), with the addition of providing public engagement for the Pathmakers bid to the HLF.

2. Evidence

Please see proposal

3. Financial Implications

Staff time in arranging and running the seminars (in conjunction with LAF members and possibly other volunteers).

4. Issues, risks and innovation

No risks in meeting these recommendations.

5. Background

Please see proposal

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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Appendix 1

The meeting discussed the proposal to run a second Parish Council Seminar. RW suggested that rather than a county-wide conference, there could be three, each held at a location within each of the three Countryside Access Officers' areas.

- Each would be an NLAF led event to support local action for PROW (volunteer focus and support for volunteering)
- Information could be provided ahead of each meeting covering: definitions ('what are PROW'); the volunteer handbook (based on the Norfolk Trails volunteers' handbook); parish path partnerships; etc.
- Information would be sent to all parishes (via NALC to the Parish Council clerk)
- Approval for the approach would be sought from the NLAF (KH/RW?)
- Timing for the conferences was discussed. MS suggested that the 3 area events could be held at different times. The meeting agreed that the first one would be held in Spring 2018 to give time to work up the itinerary.
- JS suggested that it was important to fix the outputs required from the events at the next PROW subgroup meeting before any further logistics could take place – this was agreed. MS also said it was important for any system modifications (to CRM) to be in place beforehand also.

Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Countryside Access arrangements update
Date of meeting:	7 February 2017
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact 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 tables below summarise the performance information available for the complete months between April and 13th December 2017. As well as breaking down the information between Trails, North, South & West. The new CRM defect reporting system unfortunately still has some issues therefore the data provided for this report cannot be guaranteed to be accurate but is a good indication of the reported types of defect and numbers. General ‘Questions and Answers’ (non-defect queries) are currently not picked up in this report. The Highways System Support Team are aware of these issues and are working hard to improve the accuracy of the reporting.
From this information, it can be seen that the majority of reports relate to overgrown surfaces, overgrown hedges and trees, damaged and missing signs and ploughing and Cropping. In this more recent quarter from September to 13th December 2017

Defect Description	North	South	Trail s	West	Total
No Description	3	4			7
Debris	1	2			3
Fence	1				1
Illuminated road sign- Missing		1			1
Non-illuminated road sign - Missing		1			1
Other Damage - Footway or cycleway	1	1		1	3
Other Damage - Road	1				1
Overgrown Hedge	1			2	3
PROW - Animal(s)	5	3		8	16
PROW - Bridge	5	17		5	27
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath	77	86		20	183
PROW - Damaged or missing sign	84	128		26	238
PROW - Dirty sign		1			1
PROW - Flooded Path	6	13		1	20
PROW - Gate/Barrier	32	50		12	94
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use	11	8		6	25
PROW - Misleading sign	21	26		8	55
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	58	60		19	137
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	129	117		33	279
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	110	103		68	281
PROW - Steps damaged/other	10	8		2	20
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other	14	30		11	55
PROW - Surface condition	66	51		32	149
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen	25	30		3	58
Trail - Animal(s)			2		2
Trail - Bridge			3		3
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath			2		2
Trail - Damaged or missing sign	3	3	5		11
Trail - Dirty sign		1			1
Trail - Gate/Barrier		1	2		3
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use	1				1
Trail - Misleading sign	7		3	1	11
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree	1	1	6		8
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	14	2	26	5	47
Trail - Steps damaged/other	2		4	1	7
Trail - Surface condition	3	1	5		9
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	7	5	5	1	18
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		3	2	2	7
Trail- Stile damaged/too/high/other	1		1		2
Grand Total	700	757	66	267	1790
	39%	42%	4%	15%	

2.2. By 13th December 2017, 51% of the 1,790 queries had been resolved.

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

- 112 number Section 134-137 Non-reinstatement Notices sent
- 12 number Section 143 Removal Obstruction Notices sent

To date 90 of the 124 have resolved and the remaining are ongoing and being actively monitored and pursued with landowners.

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

- Grass cutting of the higher priority public rights of way network was completed in July 2017 with the second partial cut completed in September. The Cutting Contract will continue in 2018.
- A new land registry search process has been successfully implemented across Highways. This has meant an improved and more accurate identification of landowners, thus helping in enforcements and saving officer time.
- Following on from the above point, we have also been in contact with The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) with regard to them sharing landowner information. Due to Data Protection legislation, there are number of hoops that we are having to go through to comply with the legislation and the data, once received, will be only available to Countryside Access Officers.
- David Mills (West area Countryside Access Officer) attended the IPROW conference 2017. David shared the information with the other Countryside Access Officers. Topics included in the conference and that were found to be beneficial were TRO's, Working with Volunteers, Case Law and 'Making the case for a rights of way service'.
- Member have also agreed an additional £200K for PRow capital improvement work to be spent over the next four years. When a list of schemes has been agreed it will be shared with the LAF.

Norfolk Trails team Countryside Access arrangements update

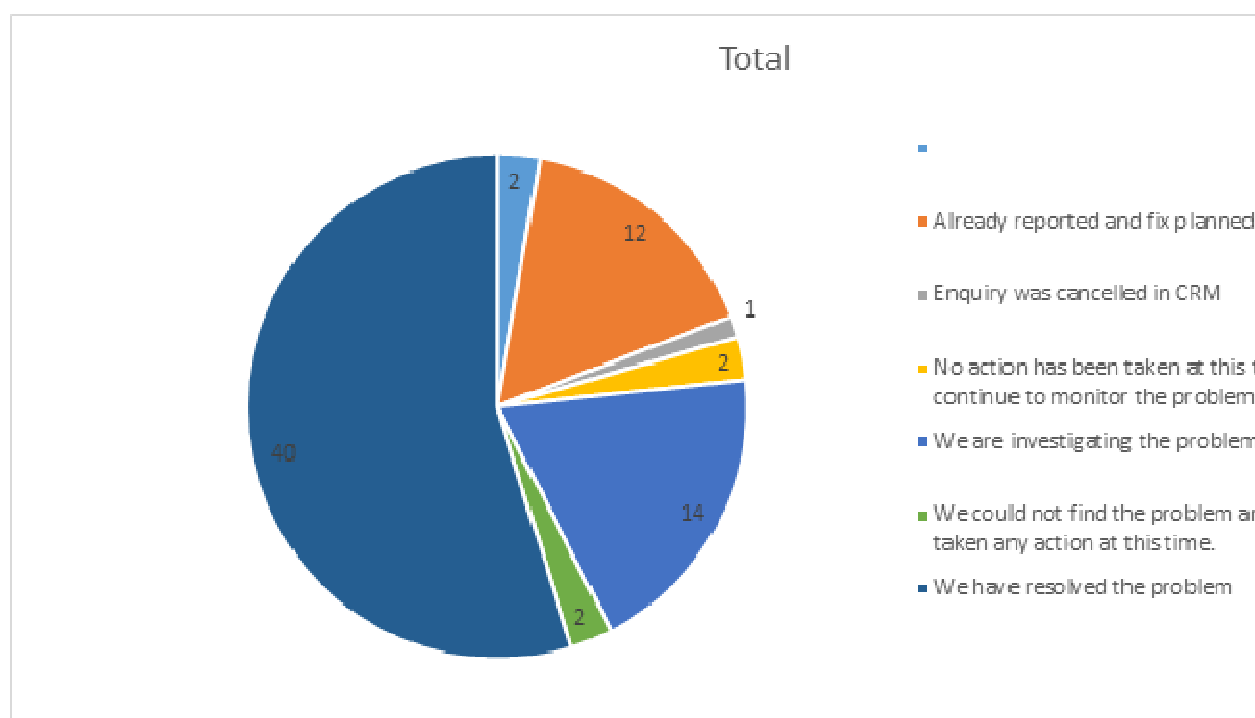
Norfolk trails have procured a cutting contract which ensures the management of the long distance routes across Norfolk. These routes are cut three time annually with each cut totalling 393,794m. In addition to this additional works are carried out by the contractors as required which has added an additional 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:

- the completion of the Coastal Access mitigation works on Stretch 2 at North Denes and Winterton-on-Sea,
- the Breaking New Ground Project was completed providing much improved access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders in the Brecks area
- significant amounts of tree works
- improvements to signage across the network
- access audited significant amount of routes and these access tested routes are being printed and promoted as a result of the trails team activities.

Row Labels	Count of Status detail (Object) (Highways Defect)
	2
Already reported and fix planned	12
Enquiry was cancelled in CRM	1
No action has been taken at this time but we will continue to monitor the problem.	2
We are investigating the problem	14

We could not find the problem and so have not taken any action at this time.	2
We have resolved the problem	40
Grand Total	73



The next three month work programme includes work on the Marriotts way as part of the HLF project looking at the railway infrastructure, work on the National Trail and also the improved signing of the Boudiccas way before access improvements are undertaken in the next financial year.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. None arising from this report

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1. Three additional issues were raised at the October 2017 NLAF:

- Staff “family tree”. See appendix 1
- Information on the budget including the lengths and frequency of grass cutting was asked to be included in the regular report. In 2017 820 km of PRoW were cut in June and July with a second cut of some of the routes (490 km) done in September and October.
- Clarification on the prioritisation of enforcement procedure. See Appendix 2

In addition to these items a request was made for an update on NCC’s customer relationship management system (CRM) particularly in relation to concerns raised about improvements.

Earlier this month we were invited to join colleagues from customer services and IMT for a week long workshop in the county hall bunker to address some of the feedback related to the online form to report defects. As mentioned below, the idea of this workshop was to deliver a series of previously defined actions.

I am pleased to say that the team managed to get quite a lot done and updates were

deployed early last week. Some of the updates that are now live are below:

- PROW and Trail names can now be seen on the map.
- You will be able to see more detail in your customer account about what had originally been reported. (useful if anyone had reported multiple defects)
- A photo upload facility is now available
- An extra field has been added to allow more detail about location to be provided.
- The automatic update emails have been changed to include more detail so it should be easier to establish what defect the update is about.
- More information presented on the summary page for customers to review before they submit.
- Character limit updated on free text field to prevent information being cut off.

It was also recognised that we will need to complete a similar exercise again as there are still further improvements we wish to make. As mentioned previously, we are hoping to be able to create additional defect statuses in our Mayrise and CRM systems so that the auto updates can be less generic and more meaningful. Our corporate web team are also developing graphics to be incorporated in the form to make it more user friendly. In addition we have asked to explore how the form can link into the existing highways prowl map so that users will not have to plot the location a second time if they have started here.

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:

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 Russell Wilson

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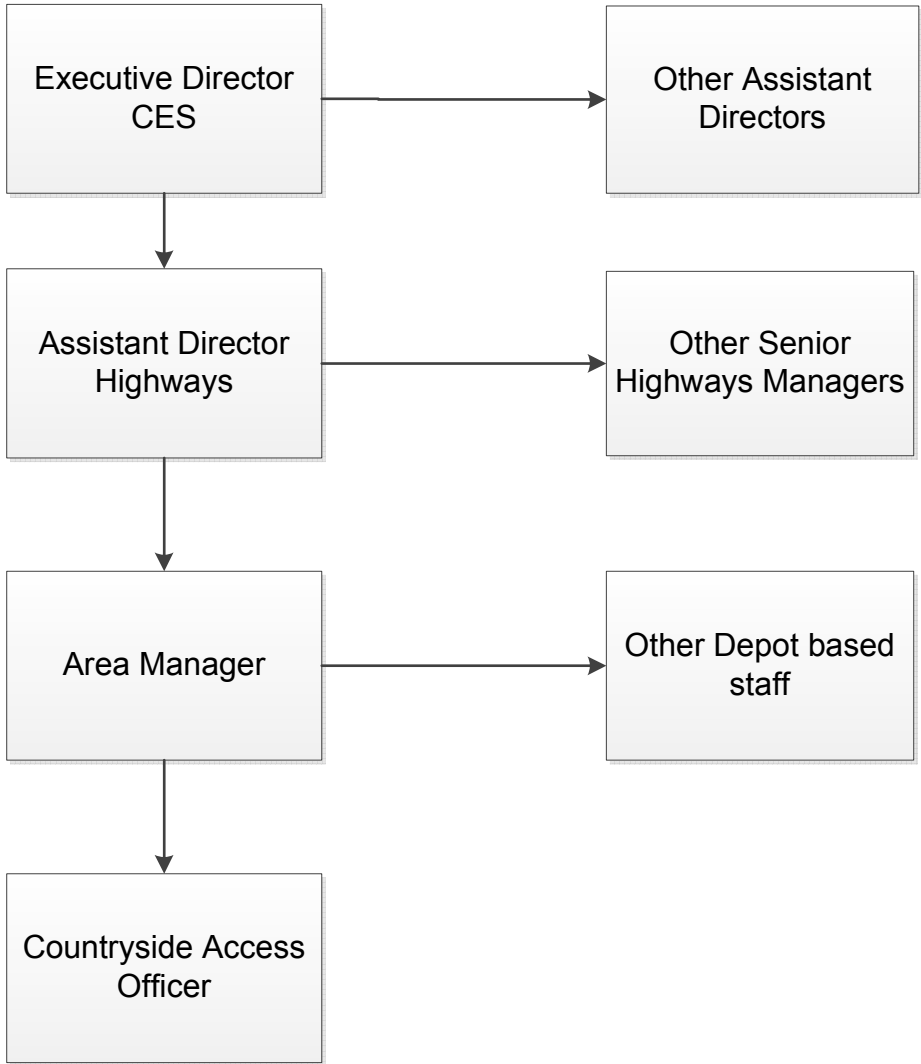
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Appendix 1

Highways PRow Structure



Environment Service Countryside Access Structure



Appendix 2

As a general principle we would consider any issue brought to our attention in accordance with the following

1. Is the situation an unacceptable risk to health and safety? This would be if there was a situation which if not attended to would be likely to be a major risk to the public.
2. Is the route well used and is obstructed to the extent that it is not passable and an alternative route is unavailable.
3. Issues not satisfying either of these criteria will be low priority.

The priority will be determined using the professional judgement of our experienced staff. This judgement will be made with reference to the County Council's Generic Risk Impact Criteria Model.

When a report is received it is logged in the CRM and added to a queue. There is a specific queue for PRoW. If an issue is reported again by another person it will affect the priority as it give an indication as to whether a path is well used or not. The growing season does not necessarily affect the priority however action may be taken if we have resources in the area and it is possible to add further work to their package.

With regard to your examples

- a report of heavy ploughing making walking difficult would not be a high priority although we would contact the landowner as soon as possible and ask them to reinstate the path.
- a report of low crop across footpath - walkable but not cleared – this would not be a high priority
- a report of grown crop blocking footpath – this could be a high priority however it is difficult to imagine a crop blocking a path if it was regularly used.
- long standing issues (eg Dereham RB3) – each long standing issue has its own history. Until the status of Cherry Tree Lane has been determined I do not see that the reinstatement of this restricted byway as a high priority.
- a gate on a Restricted Byway – again the priority would be dependent on the level of use.

Your request to see the Department's Enforcement Policy has been fulfilled. There is no further sub policy for PRoW.

From: Ken Hawkins [<mailto:ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk>]

Sent: 21 October 2017 16:38

To: Worden, Matt <matt.worden@norfolk.gov.uk>

Subject: Enforcement

You will have had my general email proposing dates for the PRoW subgroup, and I hope you will let me know of any dates which don't suit you.

I think you were copied in to the various exchanges between me and others, prior to the LAF meeting. The main concerns for me are questions about enforcement **policy** - how does NCC decide the stance it will take in any particular case? By what principles does it decide? What factors affect that decision making process? I'm sure that 'every case is decided on its own merits' - how could it be otherwise? - but evaluating those merits will require and/or generate general criteria and principles. And it is those criteria and principles with which the LAF is, or should be, concerned, if we are to discharge our functions effectively. Examples might be

- when a report is received, how is priority assigned?
- does timing alter in the growing season? does this warrant greater priority?

- what difference does it make if the issue is repeated?

What priority is given to

- a report of heavy ploughing making walking difficult
- a report of low crop across footpath - walkable but not cleared
- a report of grown crop blocking footpath
- long standing issues (eg Dereham RB3)
- a gate on a Restricted Byway

A second area of interest is the EDT's annually reviewed Enforcement Policy, a document which states that it "applies to the enforcement activities carried out by the Community and Environmental Services (CES) Directorate of Norfolk County Council (NCC); including Trading Standards, Highways, Planning and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (Fire Safety)." It has never been clear to me how this policy is applied to Highways, and I had assumed that NCC has a separate well developed public policy on PRow matters. Your report to the LAF meeting suggests that this is the document used, and I see that the version put to EDT last week now has an Annex 4, but the section on Public Footpaths (sic) is merely a report, not any sort of guidance. I would therefore hope to see some account of how the overall policy is applied to PRow matters.

I hope that you can provide us with enlightenment on these issues at the next meeting of the PRow subgroup.

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2018 - 2028 Consultation
Date of meeting:	7 February 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact <p>The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 – 2028 (NAIP) will replace the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 – 2017 fulfilling the statutory duty for Norfolk County Council as county Highway Authority, to review and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan every 10 years under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.</p>	

Executive summary

<p>The NAIP Sub-Group of the Local Access Forum is working with Norfolk County Council to develop a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for 2018-2028 when the current plan finishes (see minutes of last meeting – Appendix 6).</p> <p>The new plan is now completed in draft (Appendix 1) along with a draft Statement of Actions (Appendix 2) and draft Action Plan 2018 – 19 (Appendix 3). These documents are now ready for public consultation.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the NAIP document (Appendix 1) and supporting Statement of Actions (Appendix 2) and Delivery Plan 2018-19 (Appendix 3) are ready for consultation with stakeholders. 2. Agree that the revised timetable for the consultation shall run between 1 March 2018 and 31 May 2018 (12 weeks) 3. That public consultation will be via ‘Citizen Space’ with one structured stakeholder event (invitees only) for stakeholders and organisations not members of the NLAF 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. A stakeholder list is appended to this report (Appendix 4). Posters will be sent to all parish councils to promote the public consultation. A popup banner will ‘rove’ around libraries to promote the consultation. Paper copies of the report will be available in libraries. A notice will be placed in the press. 4. Agree questions that will be used in the survey (see Appendix 5) 5. Agree that Keith Bacon (Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum) is co-opted onto the NAIP subgroup.
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1. Proposal (or options)

1.1. NAIP documents

Draft timetable for consultation

The consultation period is at least 12 weeks (3 months). Both the Strategic elements and Statement of Actions will be consulted on.

Consultation

There will be two consultation mechanisms: a structured stakeholder event for invitees taking place mid to late April at County Hall; and a public consultation which will be managed by an online 'Citizen Survey' which will be supported by public displays (e.g. libraries and promoted by parish councils). Paper copies of the plan will be available in public libraries across the county. NAIP sub-group members have offered volunteer time to help collate responses to the consultations.

Stakeholder consultation event format

1. Takes place at County Hall in mid/late April. Two options over timing for the event: 1430 to 1700 or 1600 to 1900.
2. Includes breakout sessions to check objectives against the plan's 8 themes, and to seek help with the plan's delivery:

Time	What
1430 (or 1600)	Registration/ tea coffee
1500 - 1520 (or 1630 to 1650)	Introductory presentation
1520 – 1640 (or 1650 to 1710)	Breakout sessions (to check objectives and establish opportunities for input by stakeholders to delivery): 8 'stations', one for each of the plan's themes (well managed access network; well-connected access network; well protected natural and historic environment; well promoted access network; well informed access network; community access network; healthy access network; valuable access network). Capture via post-its. Attendees move around the stations, spending 10 minutes at each. NLAF support required at each station
1640 - 1655 (or 1710 - 1825)	Plan appearance and usability.
1700 (or 1900)	Conclusions and thanks

Revised timetable:

Date	What	Who
23/1/2018	NAIP consultation draft complete	NCC/NLAF
7/2/2018	NAIP consultation draft signed off (this meeting)	NLAF
1/3/2018 to 31/5/2018	NAIP consultation (stakeholders and the public) – Citizen Space	NCC/NLAF
Mid-April 2018	Structured NAIP stakeholder consultation event Appropriate officers and NLAF/NAIP in attendance	NCC/NLAF
1/6/2018/-/30/6/2018	NAIP redrafted and completed	NCC/NLAF
18/7/2018	NAIP signed off	NLAF

7/9/2018	NAIP approved by EDT committee at NCC	EDT committee
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Consultation questions

- The NAIP subgroup agreed that consultation questions should reflect the strategic nature of the plan

2. Evidence

2.1. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

[DEFRA guidance on local authority responsibilities for Rights of Way Improvement Plans](#)

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. Cost of consultation and publication – there will be a significant saving on the previous consultation which was wide reaching, involving many events and officer time as well as a large print run. The new version will use an online form for feedback and it will be published online as an interactive document. There will be a print version for people who do not have online access but with a small print run (available through libraries) and there will be a cost associated with this (and the production of a pop up display – several copies of pop-up required - and posters for parish councils).

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. Our public consultation process will use Citizen Space to capture comments via survey. See comments under ‘financial implications’

5. Background

- 5.1. The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018-2028: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 (or “NAIP”) sets out the priorities for improving our rural and urban access network for the benefit of people and wildlife. This includes public rights of way (PRoW), long-distance trails, other promoted routes such as circular walks/rides, quiet lanes, unclassified county roads (UCRs) and permissive paths.

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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Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2018 - 2028



Norfolk's Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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- 3 Future needs**
- 4 Gaps**
- 5 Network condition**
- 6 Crossover with other plans**
- 7 Statement of Actions 2018—2028**

Appendices

If you have any queries about this document, please contact:

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Please note, all weblinks within this document are annotated with a superscript number which references to a list of full website urls in the Appendix.

All photographs are credited to Norfolk County Council or the Norfolk Coast Partnership unless otherwise indicated.

Foreword

Executive Summary

1 Introduction: The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP)

1.1 The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018-2028: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 (or “NAIP”) sets out the priorities for improving our rural and urban access network for the benefit of people and wildlife. This includes public rights of way (PRoW), long-distance trails, other promoted routes such as circular walks/rides, quiet lanes, unclassified county roads (UCRs) and permissive paths.

[The Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act \(2000\)](#)¹ requires Highway and National Park Authorities to make a new assessment of specified matters in their original [Rights of Way Improvement Plans](#)² () and to review these, deciding whether they should be amended, not more than 10 years from the date of publication.

The strategic review of [Norfolk’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan \(2007-2017\)](#)³ considered the wider factors that influence both rural and urban access. Norfolk County Council produced a smarter live [Action Plan](#)⁴ which is being monitored by the [Norfolk Local Access Forum \(NLAFF\)](#)⁵ and recognises the current priorities for the access network.

The NAIP will link to the [Broads Integrated Access Strategy](#)⁶ which is monitored by the [Broads Local Access Forum](#)⁷ or BLAF, and will recognise shared goals for access improvement.

We aim for users to experience all that the network has to offer and to enjoy the many benefits that come with this. For example, better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians, drivers of motorised

vehicles and those with physical or mental disabilities and visual impairments. We also want to encourage more people currently not using the network to go out and enjoy the countryside.

In addition to the wide range of users, other beneficiaries include local businesses, landowners and the environment, all of which stand to gain from a high quality and better signed and promoted network.

The NAIP considers the benefits for [Norfolk County Council](#)⁸ and takes into account the Caring for Our County priorities and will contribute to caring for the environment and roads as well as caring for our money, the family, community, health and wellbeing and economy.



^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

1 Introduction: Refreshed aims and objectives

1.2 The new 10 year Statement of Actions has a refreshed set of aims and objectives with a structure for annual delivery plans.

We aim to create an easy to use, safe, healthy and sustainable way to enjoy the Norfolk coast and countryside. We will:

- manage the countryside access network so that it is better able to meet the varying demands placed upon it.
- increase public, economic and environmental benefit
- actively seek the involvement of communities
- take a collaborative and pragmatic approach to responsibilities and resources
- increase investment in the countryside access network

We will do this by delivering:

1. **A well-managed Access Network.** We will establish a well-signed, maintained and accessible network of routes enabling access for all to the countryside.
2. **A well connected Access Network.** We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network that provides opportunities for all users; improving connectivity and all abilities access to the countryside.
3. **A well-protected Natural and Historic Environment.** We will help protect the environment through managed access and improved understanding of Norfolk's landscape, natural and

built heritage.

4. **A well promoted Access Network.** We will improve promotion and increase use of the network through the delivery of a communication plan promoting all abilities access to Norfolk's outstanding countryside.
5. **A well informed Access Network.** We will keep up to date web-based spatial and database information making best use of new technologies for use by professionals, residents and visitors.
6. **A community Access Network.** We will increase the involvement of communities in the development and management of their local access network.
7. **A healthy Access Network.** We will improve the health and wellbeing of Norfolk residents and visitors encouraging active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network.
8. **A valuable Access Network.** We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk businesses that are generated by residents and visitors through enjoyment of the coast and countryside.



2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: Overview

2.1 Overview

[Strategic Review March 2015](#)¹

A review of the ROWIP 2007—2017 was undertaken in 2014/15 with the [Norfolk Local Access Forum \(NLAf\)](#)², as changes had happened which meant it was out of date. A new development framework was established with an updated action plan. It included public rights of way plus the wider countryside access network in its remit and was intended to form part of the preparation for the new 10 year plan in 2018.

There have been many changes in the way Rights of Way have been managed in Norfolk since 2007. Reduction in resources for local government has meant a change within Norfolk County Council, with a split in responsibilities as a Highway Authority – statutory maintenance going to [Highways Rangers Teams](#)³ and promotion remaining with the Environment Team and the rebranding of promoted routes under [Norfolk Trails](#)⁴. The County Council responsibilities as a Surveying Authority - keeping a record of all Rights of Way in Norfolk - have remained with the Definitive Mapping Team. [Permissive Access](#)⁵ has also seen changes with the ongoing closure of Countryside Stewardship schemes and a reduction in the number of permissive paths available for public use.

Changes in legislation include implementation of the [Marine and Coastal Act 2009](#)⁶ creating new access rights on the [England Coast](#)

[Path](#)⁷.

There have also been many changes in the way other relevant national and local strategies and plans are managed – for example:

- [New Anglia](#)⁸ – the Local Enterprise Partnership – has taken the lead on Economic Strategies and Planning;
- [Public Health](#)⁹ has been incorporated into the responsibilities of the County Council
- The East Anglia Tourist Board been replaced by [Visit East Anglia](#)¹⁰
- the Sports Partnership has created [Active Norfolk](#)¹¹
- the [National Planning Policy Framework](#)¹² has been introduced
- Parish Councils are now adopting [Neighbourhood Plans](#)¹³;

^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: strategic context

2.2 Strategic Context –who manages our countryside access network?

The Highway Authority (Norfolk County Council) manages and makes improvements to the public access network which comprises 3200 kms of public rights of way (PRoW), long-distance trails and associated promoted routes including circular walks, cycle and bridle routes. This also includes the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path National Trail and the new stretches of the England Coast Path. More information can be found at:

- www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Public_Rights_of_Way/index.htm
- www.norfolktrails.co.uk
- www.nationaltrail.co.uk/peddars-way-and-norfolk-coast-path

The Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF) provides strategic advice to the Highway Authority in terms of local access improvement priorities and projects. Find out more about the Local Access Forum at www.norfolk.gov.uk/nlaf

A right of way is usually maintained at public expense with responsibility for its surface lying with the Highway Authority and the underlying land owned by the adjoining landowner.

Landowners have a responsibility to ensure that public rights of

way are accessible and the Highway Authority has the responsibility to enforce this. Norfolk County Council can prosecute a landowner or occupier such as a tenant farmer who does not comply with the law.

The Broads National Park area is managed by the **Broads Authority** (www.broads-authority.gov.uk). The Broads Plan sets out a long term aim for the sensitive management of tourism and recreation. It identifies possible improvements that should be made to access routes and their connections to key tourist facilities and sustainable transport links.

The Integrated Access Strategy was developed in 2013 to deliver this element of the Broads Plan and the document serves a similar purpose to the NAIP. Shared aims and objectives will be identified and addressed within the thematic strands of this plan.

The Broads National Park area has its own **Local Access Forum** that advises the Broads Authority on access functions and who are consulted on applications. There is a dialogue between the two Forums and joint working undertaken to achieve joint goals.

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

2.3 Progress since publication OF THE ROWIP in 2007

2.3.1 Assessment of Needs

The needs of users remain broadly the same as described in the 2007—2017 ROWIP:

- good signage and waymarking;
- well drained, robust surfaces in all weather conditions; and
- good information about a route, both before a visit and en-route.

There are variations amongst user groups, but the needs have not changed significantly.

2.3.2 Assessment of the Network

The rights of way network is now 3000 miles in Norfolk and still remains largely available only to people on foot. Walkers are relatively well catered for with off-road cyclists, horse-riders, carriage drivers and motorists progressively less well supported. The reduction in resources for local authorities has meant that Norfolk County Council has had difficulty meeting the expectations of users and the common problems reported remain:

- Poor maintenance (vegetation not cut enough, uneven surface, muddy paths);
- Safety issues (primarily from motor traffic);
- Obstructions (locked gates, barbed wire fences);
- Poor continuity and connectivity of cycle and bridle routes;

- Poor signposting/ waymarking.

Considerable progress has however been made on promoted routes with a well signed network of long distance trails ([Norfolk Trails](#)¹) and circular routes. Norfolk has taken a lead on the implementation of the [England Coast Path](#)², with some of the first stretches in the country being opened between Weybourne and Hopton on the East Coast.

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

2.3.3 Assessment of Adequacy

Many of the key shortfalls identified in 2007 remain:

- Fragmented and uneven distribution of the network, particularly bridleways and byways;
- Limited opportunities for people with disabilities;
- Lack of good information for infrequent users to encourage them to go out onto the network.

Again however progress has been made in many areas and notable improvements include:

- The establishment of 11 Long Distance [Norfolk Trails](#)¹ maintained to a standard similar to the National Trails. Some, such as Marriott's Way and Peddars Way have good multi-user access.
- The establishment of Stretches 1 and 2 of the [England Coast Path](#)²
- The creation of many other circular walks linked to Norfolk Trails and public transport where available
- The creation of the [Norfolk Trails website](#)¹
- The creation of a series of [Access Tested](#)³ walks

^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

2.3.4 Processes and Practices

Norfolk County Council as the Highway Authority is responsible for managing the Access Network. This means:

- Maintaining the surfaces of Public Rights of Way including the control of natural vegetation
- Assisting farmers and landowners with the maintenance of approved structures
- Signposting Public Rights of Way where they leave a road (note that some tarmac PROW in urban areas may not be signed). We may also arrange for additional waymarking after consultation with landowners
- Maintaining most bridges crossed by Public Rights of Way over natural watercourses including farm ditches (as long as the ditch was there when the path was first recorded)

As Surveying Authority, NCC is responsible for:

- Maintaining and revising the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way
- Making the Definitive Map and Statement in County Council and District Council Offices available, and to supply relevant extracts to Parish Councils. The Definitive Map is available [online](#)¹ via the interactive map.

Landowners

Landowners have a responsibility to ensure that public rights of way are accessible and the Highway Authority has the responsibility to enforce this. Norfolk County Council can prosecute a landowner or occupier such as a tenant farmer who does not comply with the law.

Public Rights of Way

The County Council work programmes are based on a risk assessment of the severity of the problem and the likelihood of its affecting others. Issue logged for attention as follows:

- Immediate – if it has health and safety implications
- High – if it affects a nationally, or regionally, promoted route
- Medium – if it affects a well-connected or well used path
- Low – if it affects only an isolated generally unused path or one that runs alongside another path

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

2.3.5 Statement of Actions

The 2007-2017 ROWIP identified seven objectives, developed from the findings of the needs assessment and set out how Norfolk County Council planned to work with partners to achieve the objectives in the Statement of Actions. Each objective had aims, actions and an indication of resources required together with key partner organisations and performance measures.

Objective 1 – develop a well signed, maintained and easily accessible network. This objective was aimed at improving the management of the network.

The majority of measures within this objective were achieved – with a review of the priority system for footpaths prioritising greatest use and public benefit generating the ‘Norfolk Trails’ concept: as well as significant reductions in the number of stiles and barriers on PROW.

Objective 2 – Develop and maintain an integrated network that provides for the requirements of all users. This objective aimed to integrate the ROWIP into a wide range of associated plans and policies to provide transport, economic, health and social benefits. Again, much good work was done and many plans and policies do now refer to the ROWIP; work with Local Authorities to develop Green Space Strategies was achieved as well as easy access routes.

Objective 3 – Improve promotion, understanding and use of the network. This objective aimed to address the need for better coordinated, branded and targeted promotion of the network, increasing public use and economic benefits to rural areas. Much of this was achieved through the creation of the Norfolk Trails brand and website, funded projects, the establishment of a range of visitor counters on routes and the uploading of the Definitive Map onto the NCC website. Development projects included:

- Upgrading and promotion of: Angles Way, Boudicca Way, the Nar Valley Way and Weavers Way;
- Creation of a new trail—the Wensum Way— which connects up the Nar Valley Way with Marriott’s Way and Wherryman’s Way and allowed for a new 96 mile Cross Norfolk Trail from King’s Lynn to Great Yarmouth.

The work with the health sector was delivered by developing a series of over 100 health walks published as the Health Heritage and Biodiversity range of walks aimed at less frequent users and describing the suitability of routes for disabled users in attractive booklets which were very popular.

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

Objective 4 – Encourage community involvement in improving and maintaining PROW. This objective aimed to increase public involvement in the protection and maintenance of the network. The actions in this objective were limited in their ambitions, and the situation within NCC has changed considerably regarding the involvement of communities and volunteers – so a great deal more has been achieved by volunteers than originally envisaged. There has been less engagement however with landowners largely due to the reduction in PROW officer staff time.

Objective 5 – Develop a safe network of PROW. This action aimed to improve safety for walking, cycling and riding. Many initiatives have improved safety of routes crossing roads and railways and replacing and maintaining bridges.

The Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy has addressed safety issues for walking and cycling, and the [Pushing Ahead](#)¹ project has a funding stream for safety improvement on the Highway network.

Objective 6 – Prepare and make publicly available an up to date digitised Definitive Map.

The Definitive Map has been digitised and is now available on the NCC website. Procedures for dealing with claims to add historic paths to the definitive map are described within the current [NCC policy](#)² which deals with claims in the date order they are registered. This is significant in the context of the deadline to register

unrecorded rights to paths by 2026 – see Clauses 20 – 26 of the [Deregulation Act 2015](#)³ for latest information.

Objective 7 Protect and enhance biodiversity associated with the network of the PROW. This objective aims to ensure that the PROW management regime recognises, protects and promotes biodiversity.

Norfolk contains many sites designated under UK and European legislation (eg Natura 2000) for nature conservation value, some very large, and is among the most important counties in England for nature conservation. Sites may be vulnerable to change and/or development, either directly or indirectly. Recreation levels in the county continue to increase and the location of and scale of new development will continue to influence the level of visitor use. Increased recreation places increasing demands on the management of the protected sites and can cause impacts to the designated interest features. As such strategic planning for residential development needs to ensure these issues are adequately addressed and well signed. Maintained public access routes are key to achieving a good balance between public access and protection of sensitive sites.

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

The Review of the ROWIP in 2015 published a new [Statement of Action](#)⁴ under themes. Under these themed headings, notable and ongoing achievements include:

Green Infrastructure and Planning

The opportunity to develop ideas for projects funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL through the [Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan](#)⁵ (GNIP). [Marriott's Way](#)⁶ has received some funding for upgrading already.

Health and Wellbeing

- The [Staying Active and Independent for Longer \(SAIL\)](#)⁷ project, which has been funded through the 2 Seas Interreg Programme and is helping older people to remain active. SAIL is being delivered by Active Norfolk and Norfolk Trails.

Access for All

- An upgrade to the Angles Way which created a boardwalk with wheelchair access running alongside [Burgh Castle](#)⁸. The project was funded by the WREN Landfill Trust.

Community Engagement and Volunteering

- The establishment of Friends' Groups and Volunteering schemes on the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path National Trail, Angles Way and Marriott's Way.

Children, Young People and Education

- Working with schools to engage children and young people through projects including the Marriott's Way Heritage Project.

Economic Partnership and Business Engagement

- Promotion of the Weavers' Way and Paston Way through the Explore More Coast project; promotion of walking and cycling opportunities near the coast between King's Lynn and Hunstanton through the Coastal Treasures project.

Historic Environment

- Celebrating the railway heritage of the Marriott's Way through the HLF Marriott's Way Heritage project.

Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation

- Improving access to the natural environment in Thetford Forest through the creation of the Brecks Forest Way (Breaking New Ground project).

Coastal and Open Access

- Creation of stretches 1 and 2 of the England Coast Path from Weybourne in north Norfolk to Hopton, south of Great Yarmouth.

Cycling

- Encouraging walking and cycling in Norwich and Great Yarmouth through projects such as Pushing Ahead 1 and 2 and

^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

Active Travel; new off-road cycle access between Hoveton to Horning, the first section to open of the [Three Rivers Way](#)⁹ cycle path.

Horse Riding and Carriage Driving

- Significant improvements to signage and surfaces along the Peddars Way.

Mechanically Propelled Vehicles

-



2 Achievements of the ROWIP 2007—2017: progress

2.3.6 Broads Public Rights of Way and Open Access Plan

The Broads Authority managed their Broads Rights of Way and Open Access Improvement Plan as part of the Norfolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan. They reviewed it in 2013 and decided to develop a separate [Broads Integrated Access Strategy](#)¹ to deliver this element of the Broads Plan by better connecting moorings, nearby villages, facilities and tourist attractions.

The long-term aim is that by working with councils and other stakeholders new paths and moorings can be developed and existing ones improved. Extra signposts will be put up to direct holidaymakers to nearby facilities and the use of mobile app technology will be investigated.

The strategy's key objectives are to:

- Improve links between land and water and to the water's edge;
- Improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points;
- Encourage sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking, cycling and non-powered boating and improve links between public transport provision and visitor destination points and access routes;
- Provide appropriate information and interpretation on access to recreational opportunities;
- Work with partners and local communities towards the long-

term objectives of this strategy, seeking to make the best use of shared knowledge and resources;

- Produce an annual action plan and monitor this in line with the Broads Plan review process.



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^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

3 Future user needs: introduction

3.1 Future user needs

Natural England has established that local walkers want a dense network (on foot) close to where they live and cyclists and horse riders want safe, off road paths. Public Rights of Way in Norfolk provide 3200km of paths with 700 km on Norfolk Trails and a further 9000 hectares of land has Public Right of Open Access mapped as Open Country or Registered Common and dedicated land. However whilst the network is relatively dense in some districts such as South Norfolk, it is very sparse in others. The access for walkers is relatively good but only 1124 kms of this is accessible to horses and cycles and 54 kms open to all traffic. The connections between paths have often been lost for historical reasons and in many areas do not provide a coherent network.

We now have good evidence about the numbers and types of users on the 700 kms of Norfolk Trails using data collected from counters on the routes and analysed alongside national datasets. Fixed data counters were first installed on the Trails network in 2012. Additional counters have been added periodically to the network to increase our understanding visitor usage to each of the trails. As we have been collecting more and more data we are able to see trends within the data.

Norfolk Trails are working with an independent consultant, Insight Track, who are analysing our counter and survey data to calculate a

more local economic visitor spend to compare with the MENE national average.

Using MENE data for Norfolk (Natural England's Monitoring of Engagement with Natural Environment), which estimates visitor spend at £6 per visit to green space and £18 per visit to the coast, the total value of the Public Rights of Way network to Norfolk in 2016/17 was valued at: **£12,477,576**

Using Public Health data for Norfolk and the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) the health benefits of access to the environment including exercise, mental health and well-being for 2016/17 was **£170,350,000**.

Added together, this gives a total value of countryside access in Norfolk (2016/17) of £182,827,576

Feedback about use of the PROW network is available through the National Highways and Transport Network Survey and for Norfolk in 2016 showed a score of 57/100 against a national average score of 58/100 and a satisfaction score of 52/100 against a national average of 55/100.

3 Future user needs: user groups

3.2 User Groups

Natural England has identified the needs of user groups as follows:

Local Walker Needs

- Paths of about 1.4 to 1.8km length to complete a walk of 30 mins duration and meet the Government's target for minimum weekly activity of 150 minutes per week for adults.
- Research in Thames Basin Heaths shows that visitors to natural greenspace walk an average of 2.4km.

Recreational Walkers and Runners

- This user group covers a much greater distance than 2.4km in a typical walk but most require a circular route.
- The best provision enables users to adapt the length of circular routes to their needs. Linear routes that are well connected by public transport provision are also useful.

Needs of horse-riders and cyclists

- Horse riders need routes of about 11 to 12km to complete a typical daily ride of 60 mins duration, which would meet the Government's higher target for 300 minutes of activity per week (source BHS)
- Cyclists need routes of about 7 to 8 km for a 30 minute ride and 15.5 km for an hour's ride, (average speed of 15.5km/h) to meet the minimum and higher target respectively.

Non-Users or Infrequent Users

- The Sport England [Active People Survey](#)¹ results have consistently shown that some groups are under-represented in terms of participation. This includes women, disabled people, some black and minority ethnic (BAME) groups, those from lower socio-economic groups and older people (over 75).
- [MENE](#)² results show that those who are less likely to have taken a visit to the natural environment were those of BAME, those aged 65 and over, those with a long term illness or disability and those in DE social grades.

The Norfolk Local Access Forum has been working with user groups and other interests to get their views and suggestions for improvement which are reflected in this section of the plan.



3 Future user needs: user groups | walkers

3.2.1 Walkers, Walking

It is important to note that all policy areas involve walking as a basic means of accessing the countryside access network. Walking is therefore encapsulated within the overarching themes and objectives identified throughout this Plan. We are looking at those factors that affect people's ability to access the countryside and to enjoy an optimum experience when they do so; whether they relate to individuals, families and lifestyles or whether they relate to where people live and the opportunities they have to access and engage in activity on the network.

Walking is the most popular form of recreation associated with the countryside. It is a means of transport in its own right and usually accounts for at least part of journeys made by other means, for example walking to and from the bus, train or car.

Walking has health and recreational benefits as well as functional uses and yet many of us do not walk enough to gain these benefits. Walkers are possibly the most diverse group of users as they include everybody from the very young to the very old and those with a wide range of disabilities. They can also be separated into two distinct groups: those that walk for practical reasons (to get to work, school, shops, etc) and those that walk for pleasure, recreation or health. The latter may be further divided into groups such as dog walkers, casual walkers and ramblers.

There are no universal walkers' requirements, but frequent needs are for routes that are:

- a range of lengths from short to more challenging
- circular or linear where public or other transport connects the ends of the walk
- safe and free from obstructions
- appropriately surfaced
- easy to follow on-the-ground
- close to home
- shown in publicity material
- equipped with suitable infrastructure
- including seating

Priority Actions

- Create circular walks from the Norfolk Trails from the route linking business, heritage and cultural sites.
- Link with public transport and ensure information is provided on bus services to enable people to plan their trips using public transport.
- Continue the sub-group of the Local Access Forum including other relevant key stakeholders to address the use and promotion of PROW and other open access land and link more closely with open access land managers.



3 Future user needs: user groups | cyclists

3.2.2 Cyclists, Cycling

The public health related reasons for a cycling vision are hugely compelling. Equally persuasive are the potential economic and environmental rewards in pursuing an ambitious cycling vision for the county.

Using cycling as a way of ultimately defining Norfolk as a destination and as a place to live has real potential for marketing the county. Green infrastructure can help to deliver this vision, but it also requires that funding be sought from a wide variety of sources including the EU, central government, charities and district councils.

We will develop a coherent and attractive vision for cycling that is well integrated in policy and has wide political approval with an evidence base for the benefits.

Good practice elsewhere has demonstrated that implementing a range of positive cycling measures tends to obtain the best results.

A considerable obstacle to the take up of regular cycling activity is the perception of safety. Riding a bike is considered to be the least safest way to travel¹ yet UK fatality figures were lower for cyclists in 2015 than for pedestrians (100 vs 409), as were injuries (18745 vs 23664)².

Cities including Copenhagen and Amsterdam, where up to 63% of residents use their cycles on a daily basis, achieve the lowest accident figures due to extensive well designed and integrated

cycling infrastructure.

Existing mechanisms to improve provision for cycling and to encourage cycling include:

- Travel Planning as identified within Norfolk County Councils Cycling and Walking Action Plan
- Tax incentives such as the Governments 'Ride to Work' scheme
- Signed Sustrans routes and cycle ways

Priority Actions

- Increase the evidence base to attract funding to develop Norfolk's cycling offer including feasibility/ pilot studies for the use of disused railways for off-road cycling and the use of quiet/ green lanes for cycling to school, teaching children to ride bikes and cycling proficiency
- Promote the concept of the "green loop" linking Marriott's Way with the Bure Valley path and the planned multi-modal path between Thorpe St. Andrew in Norwich and Wroxham
- Promote cycling access to the Broads and the North Norfolk AONB as alternatives to car travel for leisure. Audit routes for suitability and improve access conditions where necessary.

¹ICM Bike Life Household Research 2015 on behalf of Sustrans

²Department of Transport, Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain 2015

3 Future user needs: user groups | equestrians

3.2.3 Equestrians, Horse Riding and Carriage Driving

Riding is a growth activity according to the Equestrian Access Forum's 2012 report "Making Ways for Horses – Off Road Equestrian Access in England". It states:

"Between 1999 and 2006 the number of riders in Britain increased by 44% to 4.3 million (i.e. people who had ridden at least once in the past 12 months) which works out at 7% of the total population".

The network of bridleways, restricted byways, byways open to all traffic and unclassified country roads (UCRs) across Norfolk is sparse and scattered with a minimal number of joined up circular routes compared to the network of footpaths.

Off-road access is important for equestrians i.e. riders and carriage drivers. On-road riding can be pressurised and dangerous not only on faster, bigger roads but on some smaller country 'rat runs' where the volume and speed of traffic are extremely off-putting for both horse and rider. There are many of these roads across the county and this can create potentially hazardous circumstances for both equestrians and vehicle users due to the unpredictable nature of horses. Many motorised vehicle users do not respect this fact and their driving behaviour around horses demonstrates this.

According to Making Ways for Horses (2012), horse riders and carriage drivers want a local network of rideable and driveable routes which gives a variety of local rides and links to wider

networks. Riders want to get off the roads away from tarmac and traffic.

Riders and carriage drivers want equality of access to the countryside, in line with other groups such as walkers and cyclists, providing safe, accessible off road access. Where practical to do so, we would like to see footpaths upgraded to enable wider access to the countryside.

Riders and carriage drivers need more head room than walkers and we would like this to be taken into consideration when vegetation clearance is undertaken. Most importantly, we want to be seen as an integral user group of the Rights of Way network and would like our voice to be heard and our needs to be taken into consideration in the creation of all new routes.

3 Future user needs: user groups | equestrians

Priority Actions

- Improve, develop and promote circular horse riding/carriage driving routes that minimise the risk to horse and rider/driver; upgrading routes to multipurpose function where appropriate.
- Evidence the need for improving equestrian access through consultation and auditing and use it to seek funding for projects allowing upgrade of routes to multi-use;
- Develop opportunities for cycling and horse riding, linking these with other routes including quiet lanes. Organise user focus groups to assess need.
- Provide education and raise awareness about equestrian use of the network amongst all user groups and develop a general toolkit for all users of the network which provides tips and “etiquette” on multi-use.



3 Future user needs: user groups | MPV



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Martin Sullivan

3.2.4 Drivers of Motorised Vehicles, Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (MPV)

Many people may use some form of mechanically propelled vehicle (MPV) to enjoy their chosen way of experiencing the countryside. Walkers. Cyclists and horse riders may use a vehicle for example to get to walks, rides and trails that are too far away to leave a vehicle behind. However, this section is directed toward the specific use of Norfolk's network of un-surfaced roads or green lanes by users of MPV's as a mean of accessing the countryside.

The driving of both vehicles and motorbikes on these routes is NOT off-road driving. Off-road driving means just that and can only take place on private land which is off public highways; but even then, there are rules in place that must be followed. The county's network of un-surfaced roads are public highways¹ and as such require vehicles to meet the same legal standards as they would on surfaced roads.

Norfolk is a popular tourist destination and this includes users of our network of green lanes. Although Norfolk has a small number of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)¹ it has many miles of Un-Surfaced Country Roads (UCRs) which make it an ideal destination for family breaks when using these can be combined with access to the coast and other tourist attractions.

Priority Actions

- Promote National Codes of Conduct for Green Lane driving e.g. LARA and demonstrate acceptable use of MPVs away from quiet lanes and UCRs through organised events at permanent or temporary sites. Involve local enthusiasts and members of clubs as volunteers and ambassadors for these events and activities.
- Waymarking UCRs in combination with policing and community monitoring of inappropriate use as well as highlighting UCRs on the interactive map
- Recruit members of clubs and associations to help with volunteer work, including maintenance of UCRs, local promotion, education and emergency response. Promote their involvement and seek external funding to maintain and promote UCRs as multi-user routes.

¹The public has the right to drive motor vehicles on Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) as well as on Norfolk's unclassified county roads (UCR's), which are typically shown on Ordnance Survey maps as Other Roads with Public Access.



3 Future user needs: user groups | All Abilities Access

3.2.5 People with Mobility or Visual Impairments Access for All

The network of public rights of way (PRoW) and trails should be, as far as possible, accessible to all types of user including the elderly, those with chronic health conditions including physical and mental disabilities, people with visual impairments and those with young families.

The physical needs of these groups of people in relation to the countryside access network are identified by the existing Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) and the action plan pledges to identify and develop accessible routes as well as promoting these with partners. The Norfolk Health, Heritage and Biodiversity Walks developed between 2008 and 2011 ensured that each town provided some routes accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users. However, developing these walks highlighted the lack of accessible routes in the more rural locations and an obvious need to address this situation. Other circular walks and long distance trails have been upgraded in places to improve accessibility to more users but there are still gaps in the network and this is a high priority for the new NAIP.

The new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) will explore the opportunities to promote the countryside access network to a wider range of users. For many, finding, accessing and understanding the information in front of them poses a challenge in the first instance

and then there are issues of confidence, self-esteem and familiarity in going outdoors and venturing into the countryside. We need to build relationships with carers, groups and organisations that help and support people with chronic conditions so that they are given the best opportunities to discover and enjoy the countryside. Similarly we will need to find the most effective means of promoting the countryside access network to the elderly or those with young families.

Priority actions

- Audit routes (PRoW and trails) to assess current provision for wider access such as surface condition and infrastructure suitability for wheelchairs and pushchairs or appropriateness of signage for users with visual impairments or mental health difficulties such as dementia.
- Conduct user needs assessments and undertake subsequent improvement of infrastructure and signage on trails and PRoW where needs are identified
- Develop promotional material suitable for a range of target users and ensure the website is accommodating for those who may have visual impairments.

3 Future user needs: user groups | Infrequent users

3.2.6 Infrequent Users – for example Minority Groups, Lower Socio-Economic Groups, older people and women

The Sports Council Active People Survey results have consistently shown that some groups are under-represented in terms of participation. This includes young people, disabled people, some black and minority ethnic (BAME) groups, those from lower socio-economic groups and older people.

Recommendations from Natural England for encouraging non-participants and infrequent users to become more active include:

Before people go:

- Good printed material with routes for easy walks near to where people live identified
- Good online information with downloadable maps of circular and short walks
- Wide use of social media with targeted information for specific audiences such as younger audiences or in other languages for people for whom English is not their first language
- Set up networks of carers and support organisations who are interested to find out about walks for their clients.

On the ground

- Good signposting

- Good surfaces
- Well maintained structures suitable for all users
- Welcoming signs

Promotional schemes

- Walking for Health programmes
- Volunteer led walks/rides
- Walkers are Welcome schemes
- Pub Walks/Rides
- Events - Sponsored Walks/Rides
- Passports/ awards

Priority Actions

- To develop appropriate material both in print and online for hard to reach audiences
- To develop project applications for funding targeting groups for whom increased physical activity would be beneficial

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Landowners

3.3 Findings from Other Sectors of the Community

3.3.1 Landholders Landownership and Management

The largest groups of landowners are farmers who need to balance the needs of their farm as a business and requirements farming the land at different times of the year with their responsibilities as land owners of Public Rights of Way. This means they must ensure that PROW crossing their land are accessible and not obstructed.

The Highway Authority (Norfolk County Council), District Councils and Parish Councils are all landowners and responsible for PROW and other public access over their land including Local Nature Reserves, Town and Village Greens.

Other organisations which own or manage land over which public access is permitted include:

- [RSPB](#)¹
- [Norfolk Wildlife Trust](#)²
- [County Wildlife Sites](#)³ (where publicly accessible)
- [Woodland Trust](#)⁴
- [National Trust](#)⁵
- [Forestry Commission](#)⁶
- [Thetford Forest Park](#)⁷
- [Natural England](#)⁸ (National Nature Reserves where accessible)

- [Ministry of Defence](#)⁹
- Private estates such as [Holkham](#)¹⁰

Priority Actions

- Permissive Access
- Permissions – natural and historic environment



^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Young people

3.3.2 Young People - education Children and Young People

In recent years, there has been a significant amount of research showing the value to the physical and emotional development of young people of having contact with the outdoor environment. Research also shows a decline in the amount of time that young people spend outdoors, with more time being spent indoors looking at computer screens.

Surveys of users of Norfolk's trails show that young people are under-represented in comparison to their proportion of the population. This under-representation is particularly pronounced amongst teenagers. For example a survey of users of the Angles Way in 2013 showed that only 13% of trail users are under 18 years of age whereas 24% of the total population fall into this age category.

Opportunities for development

- More young people could be encouraged to access Norfolk's paths and trails by tapping into their spirit of adventure and desire to play games and collect things.
- Working more closely with education providers could result in elements of the curriculum being delivered through visits to Norfolk's paths and trails. There are particular opportunities for teaching history and ecology in an exciting and memorable way where paths and trails link to heritage sites.
- Working more closely with uniformed groups with an interest in outdoor exploration.



3 Future user needs: other sectors | Young people

Priority actions

- Deliver bespoke projects in communities for families, children and young people to engage them in activity and in their surroundings (heritage and nature) on and around Norfolk's trails
- Work closely with education providers such as schools and outdoor learning programmes to design and deliver activities on trails and path networks that:
 - Raise awareness about the value of the environment;
 - Provide opportunities for those who find difficulty learning in a classroom environment;
 - Help develop confidence, self- esteem, team working and practical skills.
- Develop and promote trails and paths in a style appropriate to children and young people including
 - user-friendly website pages and resources appropriate for children and young people;
 - social media such as Facebook and Twitter to promote events and opportunities;
 - apps for tablets and smartphones to help young people engage more with the outdoor environment while using trails.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Health, mental illness, health and wellbeing

3.3.3 Health, Mental Illness Health and Wellbeing

Caring for Our Health and Wellbeing is a core theme embedded within the County Council's "Caring for Our County" priorities. Healthy and well communities will be stronger, more vibrant and aspirational with a greater sense of pride and value in themselves and in their surrounding environment. Feeling healthy and well in mind and body is more likely to lead to individuals and population groups who feel motivated, empowered and inspired to take a positive role within their community. This is something we can help address through improvement and promotion of countryside access.

The new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) will consider how countryside access contributes to public health outcomes and priority areas for action. The Department of Health Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-2016 includes "Utilisation of green space for exercise and health reasons" as an indicator for tackling the wider determinants of public health. In addition, the health improvement category (helping people to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities) includes:

- The proportion of physically active and inactive adults.
- Excess weight in 4-5 year olds.
- Excess weight in 10-11 year olds.
- Excess weight in adults.

Driving forward public health

With the support and guidance of Public Health England (an executive agency of the Department of Health) local authorities now have a responsibility for driving forward the public health agenda and have set up statutory health and wellbeing boards to oversee the development of joint strategic needs assessments (JSNA) and joint health and wellbeing strategies. They will adopt an integrated strategic approach to commissioning services and will ensure a local community-wide approach to improving and protecting the public's health and wellbeing.

Integration and partnership working are key mechanisms for ensuring countryside access can contribute to the priorities set out by Norfolk's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Health, mental illness, health and wellbeing

Priority actions

- Design bespoke projects and identify funding to engage those typically hard-to-reach inactive populations experiencing health issues in outdoor activity on trails and other PRow. These health issues/target groups will be consistent with those identified as priority action areas by the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (obesity, dementia and mental health and giving every child the best start in life);
- Support the Norfolk County Council 'Enabling Communities' work stream by increasing co-production across communities linked to trails and health and wellbeing;
- Develop partnerships between the environment and health sectors to deliver effective projects that connect people with nature and improve health as a result.
- Evaluate the use of PRow and the potential health and wellbeing benefits that they bring



3 Future user needs: other sectors | Business

3.3.4 Businesses, Economic Partnership and Business Engagement

The current situation

The new Countryside Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) must include information about the connections between countryside access and businesses. There are a number of important links.

- Tourism is one of the key sectors of Norfolk's economy. The visitor economy is worth £3.15bn and supports 63,515 jobs.
- The rural economy is made up almost exclusively of micro businesses (up to 3 employees) which include pubs, cafes, holiday accommodation providers, shops, garages, cycle and boat-hire providers. Through countryside recreation and access, the local rural economy is supported and enhanced by the use of these local services when people visit the countryside, the coastal area and historic sites.
- Norfolk's fine landscapes and the opportunities to enjoy them provided by its countryside access provision help to provide the quality of life that can encourage some businesses to relocate here – they know that in Norfolk they will be able to attract and retain high-calibre staff.

In recent years, some measures have been taken to help businesses take advantage of the opportunities provided by Norfolk's paths and trails.

- Relevant businesses can sign-up to be featured on the Norfolk Trails website's interactive map;
- Fingerposts on some trails let users know where there is a relevant business close to the trail but not visible from it;
- Training on how to make the best use of marketing tools such as social media has been offered to businesses within trail corridors through externally-funded projects;
- Business networks such as 'Walkers are Welcome' have been set up in some towns to help to market them as places to visit for a walk in the countryside.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Business

Priority actions

- Work with partners to develop and set up a web-based toolkit for businesses including a training package to assist with use and implementation and to help businesses better promote themselves.
- Develop and promote themed walks and trails linked to local businesses such as arts, food, landscape and history. Explore sponsorship opportunities which could help fund trail and path developments while providing businesses with publicity as a result of the partnership.
- Through the set up of "Friends of" groups for trails and parish path networks, encourage towns to apply for "Walkers are Welcome" accreditation. Facilitate and support this process with the aim of handing local management of the scheme to the "Friends of" groups; including attracting involvement from business and linking with Visit Norfolk.
- Find better ways to monitor PRow use and evaluate their economic benefit, investigating funding through departments such as Norfolk Trails, Public Health and Economic Development to carry out such work and to Economic Development to carry out such work and to feed in to the evidence base.
- Link up with the National Trust, the bird reserves, the Broads Authority, Norfolk Coast AONB and other organisations to develop linked trails and cycle routes to encourage tourists to come out of season.

© Photograph credited to the Norfolk Food and Drink Festival



3 Future user needs: other sectors | Active travel

3.3.5 Active Travel

Active travel means making journeys by physically active means, like walking or cycling. These are usually short journeys, like walking to the shops, walking the kids to school, cycling to work, or cycling to the station to catch a commuter train.

Walking and cycling are good for our physical and mental health. Switching more journeys to active travel will improve health, quality of life and the environment, and local productivity, while at the same time reducing costs to the public purse. These are substantial 'win-wins' that benefit individual people and the community as a whole.

Some key messages include:

- physical inactivity directly contributes to 1 in 6 deaths in the UK and costs £7.4 billion a year to business and wider society
- the growth in road transport has been a major factor in reducing levels of physical activity and increasing obesity
- building walking or cycling into daily routines are the most effective ways to increase physical activity
- short car trips (under 5 miles) are a prime area for switching to active travel and to public transport
- health-promoting transport systems are pro-business and support economic prosperity. They enable optimal travel to work with less congestion, collisions, pollution, and they support a healthier workforce.

The national [Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy](#)¹ (a requirement from the Infrastructure Act 2005) sets out actions to meet the government's ambition for walking and cycling to become the norm for short journeys, or as part of a longer journey, with places that are designed first and foremost for people on foot or bicycle. It provides local areas with a range of tools and support to develop and promote their own cycling and walking plans.

Norfolk County Council has its own Walking and Cycling Action Plan and is delivering it through the [Pushing Ahead](#)² project.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Active travel

Priority Actions

- Cycle and Walking Initiatives to include: Commuting cycle rides; walking and cycling festivals; walk leader training; a network of local champions; cycle loan schemes; providing electric and folding bikes for trial periods; Parkride events; fun and sociable cycle events; cycle maintenance and training; delivery of skills training to increase confidence and ability; awareness campaigns; social media campaigns and active social media presence.
- Personalised Journey Planning (PJP) and Promotional Activity to include: myPTP Community Transport; residential PJP - programme of engagement with local residents to provide travel advice; PJP for job seekers - tailored advice to help people find travel solutions and access work and education; education; digital PJP for medical appointments; Workplace Challenge - active travel challenge to increase activity; Fun & Fit for All - working with disability charities and community groups to deliver local events; parental awareness campaign - campaign to encourage parents, via schools, to support active travel choices.
- Multi-Modal Activities to include: Norfolk Car Club - expand and promote Car Club initiatives; Station travel plans; produce plans that seek to encourage more active and sustainable travel to and from stations; Holdall smartcard - promotion of integrated ticketing solutions.



3 Future user needs: other sectors | Planners, growth infrastructure

3.3.6 Planners – growth Infrastructure and Planning

The current situation

The 2007 Rights of Way Improvement Plan includes a section on green infrastructure. Green infrastructure¹ is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. Green infrastructure should be designed and managed:

- as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability;
- to respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

By 2007, Norwich, Thetford and King's Lynn had been identified as 'Growth Points' where significant amounts of new housing were to be located and a Green Infrastructure Strategy drawn up for the Greater Norwich area. Since then, a number of new developments have taken place to further green infrastructure planning in Norfolk:

- A Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan was produced for the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) area in 2009. This developed the green corridors of the GNDP Green Infrastructure Strategy into a series of green infrastructure priority areas that could be used in the prioritisation of

potential projects.

- The Joint Core Strategy for the Greater Norwich area was adopted in 2011. This document provides a strategy for development control planning in the Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council areas.
- A Green Infrastructure Plan for Thetford was produced in 2007.
- A Green Infrastructure Plan for King's Lynn was produced in 2010.
- Dereham Town Council produced its own Green Infrastructure Plan in 2008.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a locally set tariff charged to developers by local authorities and is used to fund new infrastructure such as roads, schools and green infrastructure related to the new developments.
- Parish and town councils have been given the power to draw up their own Neighbourhood Plans if there is sufficient local support. If approved by the government and accepted by local voters, this plan must be taken into account when planning decisions are reached. It also results in the parish or town council responsible for producing it receiving a significantly higher proportion of any Community Infrastructure Levy money collected by the planning authority than they otherwise would. A number of parish and town councils are currently drawing up Neighbourhood Plans or are considering doing so.
- The CROW Act (2000) sets out the requirement for all historical

¹ Natural England <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/94026>

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Planners, growth infrastructure

public rights of way to be officially recorded on the definitive map by 1st January 2026. This relates to those routes that existed pre- 1949.

Priority Actions

- Develop and promote the 'green loop' linking the Marriott's Way and Bure Valley Path with a new trail between Wroxham and Norwich (Thorpe St. Andrew) called The Broadland Way.
- Improve the Kett's Country Path to Norfolk Trails standard.
- Develop a new long distance path along the disused railway line between King's Lynn and Hunstanton
- Develop a new long distance path between King's Lynn and Fakenham/Wells
- Encourage user groups and communities to submit applications for unrecorded public rights of way. This is particularly important for routes that were established before 1949 because if these routes remain unrecorded by 1 January 2026 then they will be lost (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Environment

3.3.7 Environment organisations, sustainability, Biodiversity and Conservation

The Current Situation

The 2007-17 Rights of Way Improvement Plan includes as an objective the enhancement of biodiversity through the management of public rights of way (PRoW). A set of measures were included in the Action Plan in order to work towards this aim. At the time it was written, the system for protecting and enhancing biodiversity was through a combination of site designation (i.e. Sites of Special Scientific Interest), legal protection for particular species (such as bats and badgers) and Biodiversity Action Plans drawn up by local Biodiversity Partnerships for those species and habitats felt to be most under threat. All three of these mechanisms still exist, but there have been a number of significant new developments as well:

- 'Making Space for Nature' was published in September 2010. This was an independent report by a group of experts chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton. It argued that existing measures for protecting biodiversity had not been effective, and that landscape-scale measures were needed.
- A Natural Environment White Paper 'The Natural Choice' was published in June 2011. In this, the government accepted the arguments put forward in the Lawton report and suggested various mechanisms for delivering landscape-scale measures.

- 'Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services' was published in Summer 2011. This document outlines the government's ambition to halt the loss of England's biodiversity by 2020.
- Local Nature Partnerships are one of the mechanisms for delivering landscape-scale changes described in the Natural Environment White Paper. 'Wild Anglia' is the Local Nature Partnership covering Norfolk and Suffolk. It is closely aligned with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, which covers the same area.
- The concept of 'ecosystem services' has become more widespread. This gives a financial value to ecosystems by considering how much it would cost to provide the same service through other means. A National Ecosystem Assessment was published in June 2011, which provides values for ecosystem services.
- The Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change was published in October 2006 (just before the Rights of Way Improvement Plan). This report, along with the fourth assessment report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of 2007, increased public awareness of the likely consequences of climate change if CO2 emissions continue to rise. Isolated populations are more vulnerable to the effects than those that can move along corridors to find suitable climatic conditions.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Environment

- Ash die-back (*Chalara fraxinea*) is a fungal disease that kills ash trees. It was first reported in Britain in February 2012, and by October that year had reached woodlands in Norfolk. The effects of the disease on Norfolk's woodlands are still not certain, but it seems possible that a high proportion of the county's ash trees might be lost in the next decade.



Priority Actions

- Countryside access can provide 'green corridors' that can increase the connectivity between otherwise isolated habitats and contribute to an increased resilience of wildlife populations in accordance with the 'Biodiversity 2020' strategy. This is particularly true of long- distance trails such as Marriott's Way, which is already a County Wildlife Site.
- Footpaths and trails are a place where the public has a chance to encounter Norfolk's wildlife and flora. There are opportunities to better interpret the biodiversity of the routes to users.
- Where sections of trails are owned by public authorities, there is a particular opportunity to manage the trail corridor in order to maximise the value for biodiversity.
- Areas such as Open Access land can provide green space hubs for both wildlife and people. The use and promotion of open access land must be considered and clarified in terms of responsibility.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Community engagement

3.3.8 Community Engagement and Volunteering

The current situation

For many years, community groups have been actively involved in the management and promotion of countryside access. Walking, cycling and horse riding are activities that large numbers of people participate in, and many of those who do are willing to help to promote and look after their local routes. Examples of such community involvement that are going on at the moment include:

- Groups that organise programmes of walks, such as the Norfolk Ramblers. They offer a chance to go for a walk in the countryside with a group of like-minded walking enthusiasts. Norfolk has nine branches of the Ramblers, covering the whole county.
- The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Norfolk is working with the Ramblers and the Open Spaces Society to bring together a network of Parish Footpath Wardens to share experiences and access advice and news. The Footpath Wardens monitor the condition of local paths and report their findings to their parish council, who can then help resolve any issues.
- Some parish councils have taken responsibility for the management and maintenance of public rights of way (PRoW) in their parishes, ensuring that some of the footpaths and

bridleways that the County Council has stopped cutting on a pro-active basis due to budget cuts are maintained to a higher standard than the County Council is able to currently achieve.

Volunteers are involved in the management of a number of Norfolk's trails, such as the Norfolk Coast Path and the Weavers' Way. They inspect the section of path that has been allocated to them, report any problems that they find and, in some cases, carry out maintenance work themselves.

- A number of parish councils have instigated the creation of footpaths within their parishes. An example of this is the new Horseshoe Way path in Tasburgh - an old route which has been recreated by the parish council through the purchase of the land from a parishioner.
- Research into the history of footpaths and bridleways has been carried out by volunteers, such as those involved in the CPRE Norfolk's 'Exploring our Footpaths' Research Project. This involved people from the four parishes of Thompson, Beachamwell, Horning and Reepham researching the history of footpaths in their area.
- Sustrans have a team of volunteer Rangers who help to manage the National Cycle route network, part of which goes through Norfolk. As well as inspecting the routes to report any problems, volunteer Rangers also carry out maintenance work such as improving signs, removing graffiti, picking litter and

3 Future user needs: other sectors | Community engagement

- cutting back vegetation where needed.
- An interactive map has been developed which allows members of the public to report any problems they have encountered by recording them directly onto a map on the Norfolk County Council website.

Priority Actions

A series of workshops led by the Assistant Director for Highways and Transport with volunteer user groups, and relevant Council officers were organised during February and March 2015. Early on, the following outcomes were agreed as a framework to guide Community engagement and volunteer work:

- Communities to prioritise which PROW in their area they want to see accessible first.
- Communities to be enabled / empowered to monitor PROW condition and lead the action on maintenance themselves;
- Communities to be able to access resources (either existing Council resources or from others).

The work will form part of the priority actions for community engagement and volunteering within the new Norfolk (Countryside) Access Improvement Plan.

Cromer 'Walkers are Welcome' member Val Smith organised a 75 mile walk along the Norfolk Coast Path to celebrate her 75th birthday, raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and volunteered to check the route for maintenance issues. More information [here](#)¹ or click the image for the video.



3 Future user needs: other sectors | historic environment

3.3.9 Historic Environment

Current situation

The new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) includes a specific section on Historic Environment, which is significant given the clear importance of Norfolk's heritage. Accessing heritage in the countryside is a key element of many peoples' outdoor experience. Paston Way is a good example of a managed trail that has heritage as its focus, with fourteen churches integral to the experience and the 'Paston Letters' as a focus for exploring the area's medieval history. Equally there is Boudicca Way's eponymous association with the queen of the Iron Age Iceni Tribe and with the Roman development of Norfolk.

Opportunities for development

Widening the information available to people accessing the countryside about the surrounding landscape and its heritage is an important aim for extending the appeal of our offer for both local users and visitors to Norfolk. Providing this information can be done through a variety of means, from producing books and leaflets, to developing the information available on the internet.

Another potential way to increase access to Norfolk's historic environment is to produce themed walks and cycle rides. Many of Norfolk's promoted routes lend themselves well to this approach.

Priority Actions

- Heritage top 50 – working with the Historic Environment Section to develop information on the top 50 heritage sites associated with Norfolk's paths and trails.
- Pilgrim routes – a linking theme examining Norfolk's pilgrim heritage and the sites that were important stops on the way to Walsingham.
- Ancient Ways – working in conjunction with UEA to examine some of the oldest routes in the county.
- Ancient landscapes – provide more contextual information on the changes that some of our special landscapes have gone through.
- Industrial Norfolk – drawing out themes relating particularly to the former railways that once linked much of the county.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | coastal and open access

3.3.10 Coastal and Open Access

Current situation

Norfolk currently has significant coastal access on the North Norfolk Coast with the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path National Trail forming part of the Trails portfolio. The new England Coast Path and its associated spreading room has been established by Natural England. Stretch one of the Coast Path has now been handed over to Norfolk County Council for management.

There are also significant areas of open access land across the county. Areas of open access woodland are managed by the Forestry Commission while other areas with open access rights fall within the remit of Natural England. Areas with such rights allow people access on foot.

The Commons Act (2006) Part 1 picks up on the possibility that mistakes may have been made in the initial registration process for common land and town village greens. This means that local users may submit applications to either add to or deregister such areas of land.

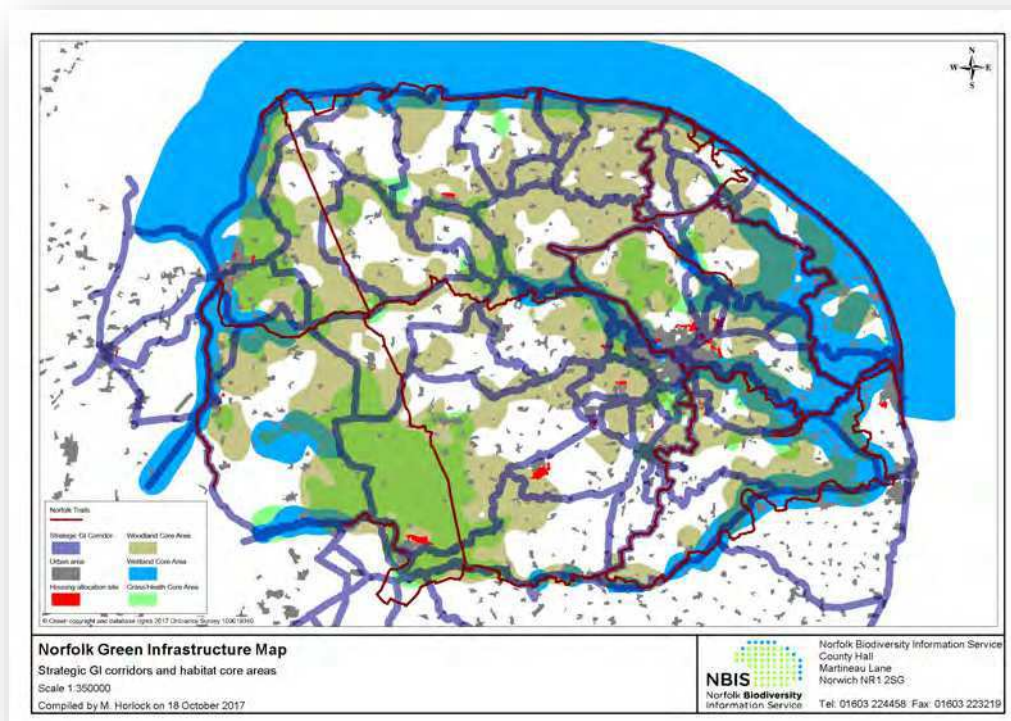
Opportunities for development

- Natural England is tasked with creating the England Coast Path and is currently creating new coastal access in Norfolk as part of this.
- Stretch 1 of coastal access runs from Weybourne through to Sea Palling; stretch 2 runs from Sea Palling to Hopton on sea.
- Stretch 3 from Weybourne to Hunstanton is looking again at the current Norfolk Coast Access to see if there is an opportunity to re-route the path so it retains the proximity to the coast only making changes as and where required.
- Stretch 4 is likely to be Hunstanton through to Sutton Bridge creating a coastal access opportunity right around the Norfolk coastline.
- Norfolk Trails is seeking to create and promote circular walks from the work Natural England are engaged in when creating the new coastal access route.
- Strengthen communication between open access land management and the Local Access Forum, ensuring that advice is sought and given as appropriate.
- Areas such as open access land can provide green space hubs for both wildlife and people. The use and promotion of open access land must be considered and clarified in terms of responsibility.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | coastal and open access

Priority Actions

- Create circular walks from the Norfolk Coast Path inland linking business, heritage and cultural sites to the footpath.
- Develop other access opportunities including cycling and horse riding.
- Set up a sub-group of the Local Access Forum including other key stakeholders to address the use and promotion of open access land and link more closely with managers of open access land.
- Advise users of the possibility of applications being made for additions to and deregistration of common land and town and village greens where it can be shown that mistakes were made at the initial registration stage



3 Future user needs: other sectors | access to water bodies

3.3.11 Access to water bodies

The current situation

Norfolk has a large and varied water body estate. From the North Sea and Wash coasts to the Broads, the five main river catchments, there are many opportunities for recreational and health-enhancing activities in or close to our waterbodies.

Norfolk's waterbodies can be classified as:

- Coastal
- Estuarine
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Ponds

Each category carries specific characteristics which offer the resident or tourist enjoyment and celebration of ecological or sporting activities. One common feature of the relationship between people and the waterbodies is access to the water. Some activities depend on boat use and Norfolk has a glorious tradition and heritage of boating – from kayaks and canoes, rowing, sailing dinghies and larger yachts to power boating and water skiing. The provision of good, safe and low cost access for launching and using boats is a key requirement of our access strategy. Suitable provision encourages greater use of the outdoors and access to beautiful

natural features – a fundamental requirement and promotion for this document.

For anglers, provision of access to the riverbank is a really important part of the Broadland economy. The river Thurne around Martham is a great example of how the provision of access has enabled fishing matches to extend the low season tourism business with angling festivals taking place during October on what has been defined as the 2nd best surveyed river in England in terms of its fish density and populations. The river Yare around Claxton and Langley again is a further example of great access to the river that has enabled the support of over 30 large angling competitions with over 2000 visiting anglers taking part from across the UK, plus a further 30 bookings for visiting clubs, some are saying this is the best natural venue in the UK.

Without these levels of access, these economic benefits would be lost and it demonstrates what could be achieved elsewhere across Norfolk with its great list of natural rivers with healthy fish populations and great open countryside, but limited river access.

3 Future user needs: other sectors | access to water bodies

What boaters, anglers, swimmers and walkers want

Many people travel to the waterbody of their choice by private car. Therefore safe parking and clear signage are a pre-requisite for many activities. Boat and canoe launching facilities need to be provided for safe entry and egress from the water. Anglers also require safe bank spaces and the provision of disabled platforms, common on some stretches of the Broads rivers, is good practice.

Clear information on websites (NCC and partners) with any restrictions is essential. This goes for printed materials also. Sensible provision of safety equipment protects everyone near waterbodies.

Priority actions

- Map existing access routes and highlight deficiencies
- Approach landowners to improve boat launch and angling riverbank access
- Raise awareness of the importance of water and waterbodies in Norfolk for recreation, health and trade.
- Educate all on the importance of water as a resource and how essential water management works

© Photograph credited Geoff Doggett



3 Future user needs: Conclusion

3.4 Conclusion

The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan needs to take into account the many and varied needs of users and other interested parties. The Statement of Actions will develop a structure with key themes for improvement.

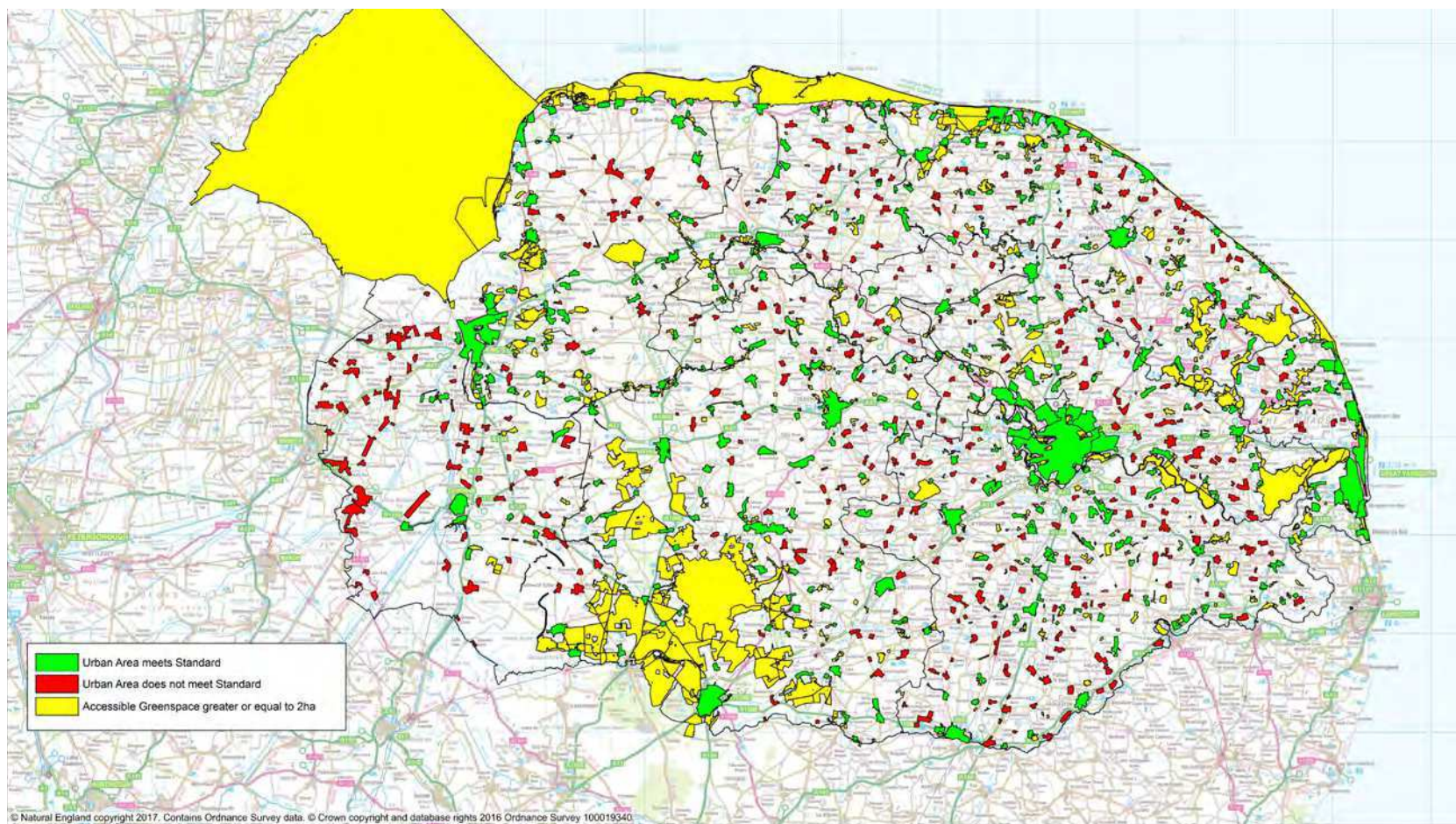


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4 Gaps in the network: areas not well served

4.1 Spatial data - network showing areas not well served

Spatial data can help us assess the extent to which local rights of way meet present or likely future need, or provide opportunities for doing so.



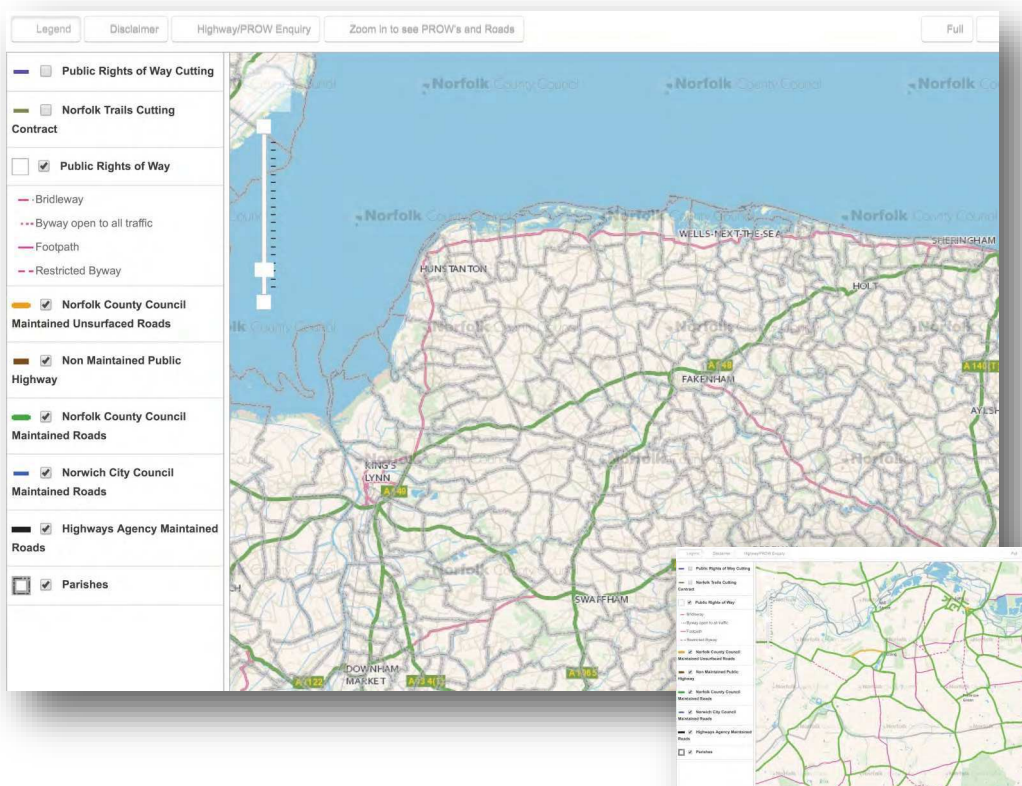
Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) map for Norfolk, showing urban areas within 300 metres of a 2ha or greater Accessible Greenspace. Scale 1: 400,000

*Compiled by K Rushden in October 2017 for Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, County Hall, Norwich NR1 2SG
nbis@norfolk.gov.uk*

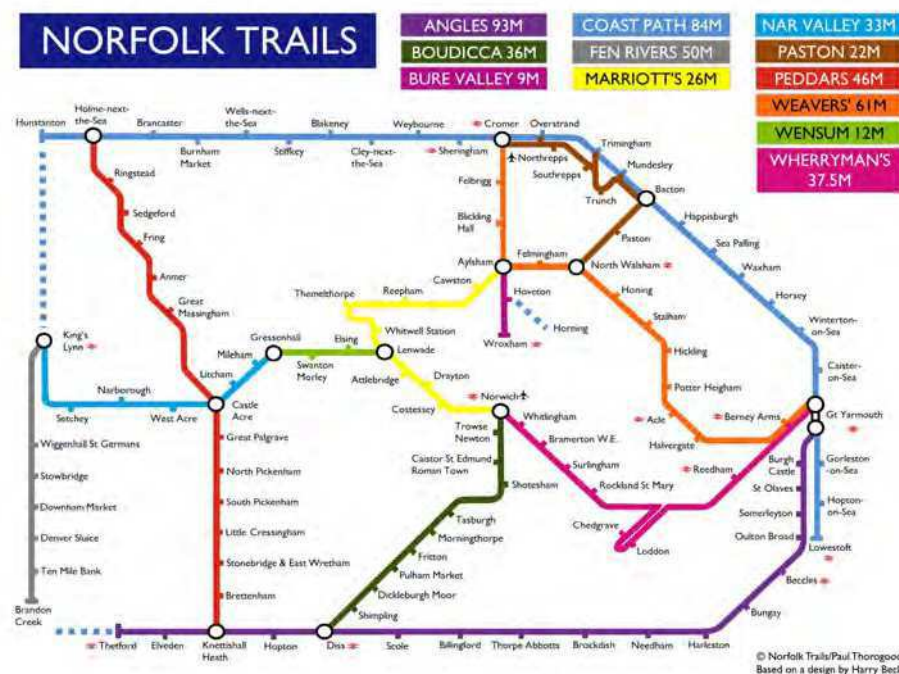
4 Gaps in the network: areas not well served

An [interactive map](http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/)¹ of Public Rights of Way throughout Norfolk is managed by Norfolk County Council. The map shows registered rights of way; County Soft Roads (public roads that are not surfaced); and areas of land freely accessible to the public on foot.

<http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>



There is also an [interactive map of Norfolk Trails](#)² (1000 miles of promoted routes and associated short and circular walks).



The maps show that many rural areas in Norfolk, particularly to the north and west, do not have good access to natural greenspace (which includes the current PROW network).

4 Gaps in the network: growth areas with new needs

4.2 Spatial data - growth showing areas with new needs

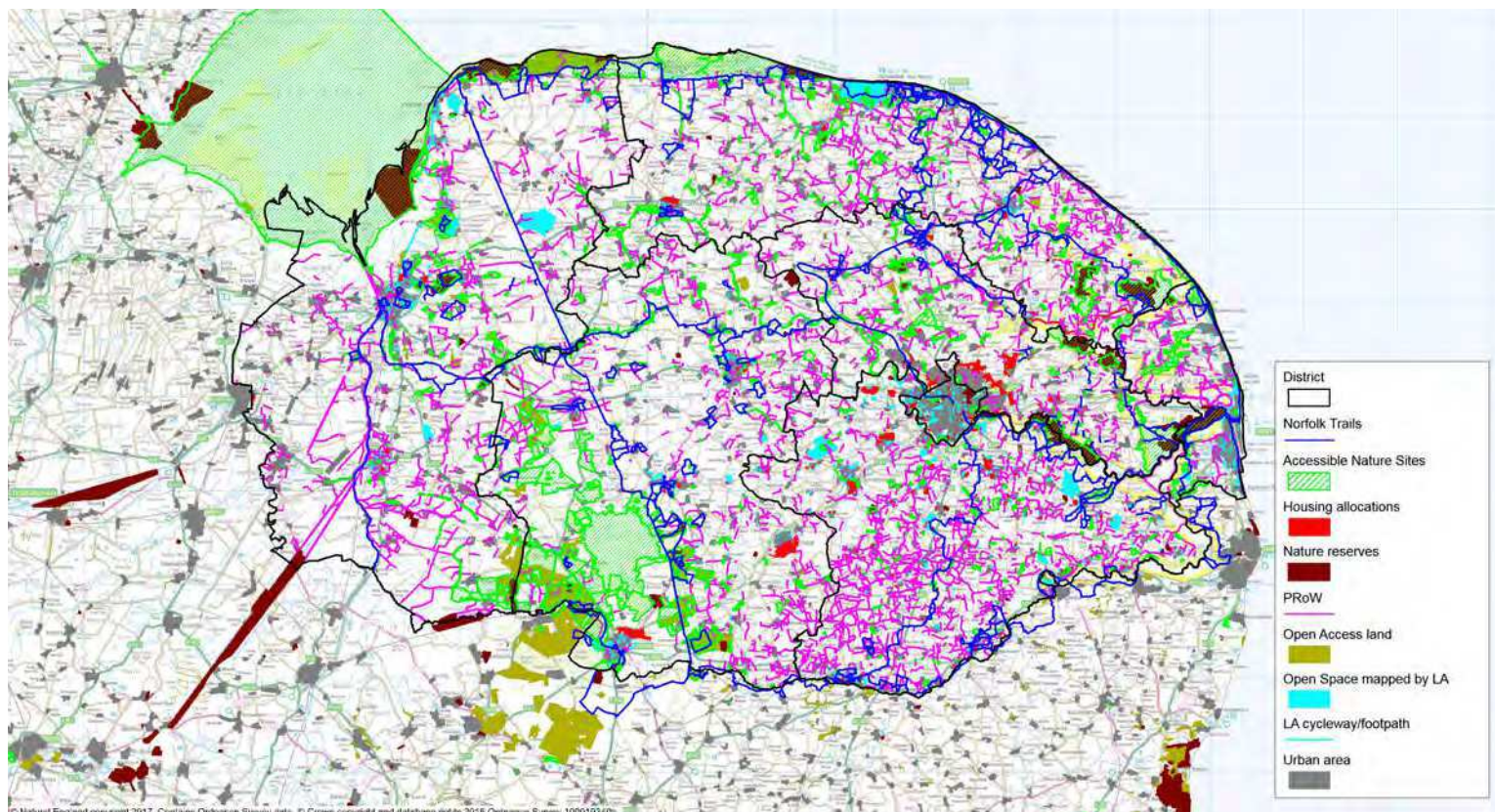
The needs of new housing allocations must be addressed to ensure that people have good access to the natural environment.

The [Norfolk Rural Strategy](#)¹ (2017) recommends “a commitment to deliver landscape scale environmental schemes covering multiple landowners to deliver integrated large-scale improvements which support public access, tourism and economic opportunities e.g. a landscape which integrates boating, cycling and walking routes with food, drink cultural and accommodation facilities to drive high value visits.”

New housing allocations shown alongside current Green Infrastructure and existing PROW.
Scale 1: 400,000

*Compiled by K Rushden in October 2017 for Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, County Hall, Norwich NR1 2SG
nbis@norfolk.gov.uk*

The [Deregulation Act 2015](#)² aimed at streamlining the application procedures for new rights of way giving landowners a greater say in the registration of rights on their land. Part of the legislation includes claims for historic paths (which existed before 1949): these must be claimed before 1st January 2026.



^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

5 Network condition | The Definitive Map and applications for changes to PROW

5. Evaluation of the condition of the network – completeness and accuracy of Definitive Map and Statement, management of applications for changes to PROW and promotion of outdoor recreation

5.1 Completeness and accuracy of Definitive Map and Statement

The [Definitive Map and Statement](#)¹ are now available online on the County Council website.

5.2 Management of applications for changes to PROW

A Public Right of Way (other than a Byway Open to all Traffic) which appears on the Definitive Map and Statement can be diverted or extinguished by a legal process whereby a local authority makes a Public Path Order. There are certain legal tests that need to be met before such an Order can be made.

Another way of changing the Definitive Map and Statement is by making an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, a Definitive Map Modification Order may be applied for by any person wishing to, for example, show:

- A way that isn't shown on the Map but should be**
- A way that is shown on the Map that shouldn't be

- A way that has the wrong status
- A way that is on the wrong alignment

** Evidence is required to support the claim. This evidence can be in two forms; either historical or user evidence or a combination of the two.

^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

6 Crossover between the NAIP and other plans | National and Regional policies

6. Overview of potential crossover between the NAIP and other Plans, Priorities and Partnerships

6.1 National Policies and Strategies

- [Department Health Childhood Obesity Plan](#)¹ (improving the co-ordination of quality sport and physical activity programmes for schools).
- The Sport England Strategy '[Towards an Active Nation](#)'² (2016) has already set out a major new investment of £40m into projects which offer new opportunities for families and children to get active and play sport together.
- Walking or cycling to school provides a healthy way to start the day. The government has committed to producing a [Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy](#)³.

6.2 Regional Policies and Strategies

- New Anglia (Local Enterprise Partnership) [Strategic Economic Plan](#)⁴
- Culture and Tourism Sector
- Green Economy Pathfinder

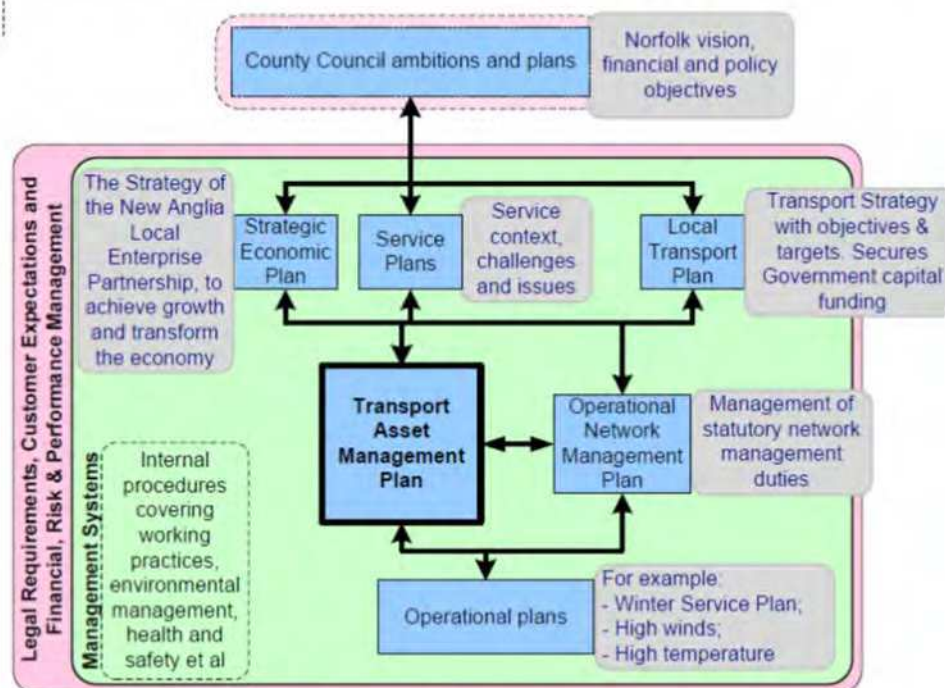
^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

6 Crossover between the NAIP and other plans | Local policies

6.3 Local Policies and Strategies (County and District)

6.3.1 The NCC [Transport Asset Management Plan](#)¹ is the strategic approach that identifies the optimal allocation of resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future users

Management Plan Associations and Lineage



Note: This only shows plans pertinent to the TAMP

^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

6 Crossover between the NAIP and other plans | Local policies

6.3.2 NCC – Local Transport Plan²

Norfolk's third Local Transport Plan 2011-26 has been adopted. It describes the county's strategy and policy framework for delivery up to 2026. It will be used as a guide for transport investment and considered by other agencies when determining planning or delivery decisions. The plan reflects the views of local people and stakeholders, identifying 6 priorities:

- Maintaining and managing the highway network
- Delivering sustainable growth
- Enhancing strategic connections
- Reducing emissions
- Improving road safety
- Improving accessibility

6.3.3 NCC – Infrastructure Plan³ (includes Green Infrastructure)

6.3.4 NCC Active Travel Plans⁴

- Cycling and Walking Action Plan⁵
- AtoBetter⁶ individual Travel Plans

6.3.5 Broads Authority Broads Plan⁷

6.3.6 NCC Health/ Wellbeing Strategy⁸

6.3.7 Active Norfolk – Active Norfolk 2016-2021 Strategy⁹

6.3.8 District Councils Local Development Plans

- Broadland¹⁰
- Breckland – Emerging Local Plan 2017¹¹
- Great Yarmouth – Local Plan and Core Strategy 2013 -2030¹²
- Kings Lynn and West Norfolk¹³
- North Norfolk¹⁴
- Norwich¹⁵
- South Norfolk¹⁶

6.10 Norfolk Coast Partnership – Norfolk Coast AONB Management Plan¹⁷

6.11 Environment – Natural and Historic

6.12 Natural England Coastal Access, National Trails and England Coast Path¹⁸

6.13 Norfolk Rural Development Strategy 2017 - 2020¹⁹

6.14 Norfolk Road Casualty Reduction Board²⁰ Delivery Plan

Elements of Casualty Reduction Strategy for Vulnerable Road Users aimed at children, young people and adult cyclists. Report shows increases in the number of Killed and Seriously Injured from the pedal cyclist and older driver casualty groups have contributed to this rising trend.

^{1,2} etc. Please see Appendix for full website urls

7 Statement of Actions | long-term strategic actions | key aims

7. Statement of Actions

7.1 Statement of Action 2018 – 2028 Long term strategic actions

7.1.1 Key aims and priorities arising from Assessment

The previous ROWIP 2007-2017 underwent a very detailed consultation with a wide range of partners and users but the Statement of Actions was very aspirational and limited in demonstration of achievements due to a lack of clear targets, good management information and monitoring procedures. The process now recommended by Defra is to develop a 10 year Statement of Actions and to have annual or bi-annual delivery plans with clear achievable targets to support it. The management of PROW in Norfolk has also undergone a number of changes which need to be reflected in any new plan.

7.1.2 Long term strategic commitments

We aim to create an easy to use, safe, healthy and sustainable way to enjoy the Norfolk coast and countryside.

We will

- Further develop Norfolk as an all-user friendly county with steer from the Norfolk Local Access Forum and recently appointed Cycling and Walking Champion and Members-led Cycling and Walking Working Group;
- Audit routes (PROW and Trails) to assess current provision for wider access for wheel/power chairs and buggies or for users with visual impairments or mental health difficulties such as dementia;
- Develop multiuser routes for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and motorised vehicles where resources and permissions allow;
- Encompass a sustainable transport ethos, using Active Travel modes and developing good links to public transport;
- Work with colleagues to develop safe routes for users.

7 Statement of Actions | long-term strategic actions | strategic commitments

We will develop:

(Care for our roads and environment)

i) A well-managed Access Network. We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically—both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails—providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas, with good systems and standards for:

- Managing and improving signage;
- Managing path surfaces/ and vegetation;
- Accessible routes without barriers;
- Enforcement of regulations by landowners;
- Reporting issues for volunteers and users;
- Maintaining the definitive map for Norfolk;
- Recording and managing changes to the definitive map;
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the above.

ii) A well connected Access Network. We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network of routes and paths that provides opportunities for all users; improve accessibility of the network and develop opportunities to connect with places of natural and cultural heritage for visitors or for work/education/recreation for residents, through:

- Neighbourhood plans;
- The planning process and growth agenda;

- Coastal Access;
- Funding applications for route improvements;
- Applications to reinstate historical routes by 2026;
- Connectivity to public transport.

iii) A well-protected Natural and Historic Environment – We will provide access to and understanding about the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitor on protected sites. Develop opportunities through:

- Recreational impact assessments;
- Biodiversity plans;
- Historic environment plans;
- Norfolk Coast AONB and Broads Authority Plans;
- Educational projects;
- Promotion of sustainable transport options.

iv) A well promoted Access Network – We will communicate Norfolk’s outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users, and develop a communications plan identifying key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users) with key communication channels including:

- Website;
- Print;
- Press/ media;

7 Statement of Actions | long-term strategic actions | strategic commitments

- Social media;
- Photo/ video library;
- Accessible versions;
- Smartphone apps with games and new technology.

v) A well informed Access Network. We will keep up-to-date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies including

- PROW interactive map showing where there is public access;
- Norfolk Trails interactive map showing promoted routes – long distance trails and circular routes;
- Definitive Map of PROW – showing the legal map base systems;
- PDF downloads of short and circular walks;
- 360° views of Norfolk Trails using Googletrekker technology;
- Norfolk Insight/ Active Norfolk [Active Map](#)¹;
- Natural England [MENE](#)².

(Care for our community)

vi) A community Access Network. We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network and work with parish councils, volunteers and other community organisations to

- Support their management of the network;
- Develop ideas for projects benefitting their local area;

- Support a volunteer network on Norfolk Trails;
- Develop other volunteer opportunities;
- Include users, volunteers and communities in the governance of the Access Network through the Norfolk Local Access Forum;
- Support an independent Charitable Organisation (Pathmakers) in developing and funding community projects.

(Care for our health)

vii) A healthy Access Network. We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network. We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network particularly:

- People with physical disabilities;
- People with mild to moderate mental health issues including dementia;
- The elderly;
- Children;
- Young people;
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.

7 Statement of Actions | long-term strategic actions | strategic commitments

(Care for our economy)

viii) A Valuable Access Network. We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network. We will do this by working with businesses, tourism agencies and DMOs (Destination Management Organisations) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy. We will:

- Develop a supportive network of businesses linked to Norfolk Trails;
- Website and walks showing links to businesses and other facilities;
- Promote the network with partners as part of the Visit Norfolk offer;
- Systems for measuring the benefit of access to the environment;
- Route counters to measure the number of users;
- Surveys to analyse the characteristics of use.

7 Statement of Actions | long-term strategic actions | delivery plan and reporting structure

7.1.3 Structure for Delivery Plans, evaluation and reviews etc.

Delivery Plans will be constructed annually drawing in projects, partners, resources and initiatives as appropriate. They will be evaluated annually and reviewed by the Norfolk Local Access Forum

Theme	Objectives	Owner	Priority	2017-2018	2018 - 2019	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2028
(i) A well-managed Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(ii) A well-connected Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(iii) A well-protected Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(iv) A well-promoted Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(v) A well-informed Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(vi) A community Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(vii) A healthy Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									
(viii) A valuable Access Network	1									
	2									
	etc									

Actions

7 Statement of Actions | long-term strategic actions | process for changes to key policies

7.1.4 Details of process for changes to key policies



7 Statement of Actions | Delivery plans | short/medium term actions

7.2 Delivery Plans - Short/ medium term actions

7.2.1 An Evaluation of Progress delivering NAIP and previous Action Plans; Delivery, Public Benefit, Statement Action met

7.2.2 Review of Policies for Management of PROW

- Maintenance, improvement and enforcement PROW;
- managing Definitive Map and Statement, authorisation and recording of limitations;
- dealing with changes to the network such as diversions, extinguishments, creation PROW

7.2.3 SMART Work Plan

Outputs, Monitoring, Resources, Who lead/ partner, Statement Action objective, Timetable

Identify how they contribute to other plans/ priorities – spec Active Travel, Well-Being and Area Statements.

Statement of Actions 2018—2028



Annual Action Plan 2018—2019

Weblinks

Website links: Section 1.1

- ¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents ;
- ² www.gov.uk/guidance/local-authority-rights-of-way-improvement-plans ;
- ³ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/countryside-access-and-prow-policies ;
- ⁴ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/countryside-access-and-prow-policies ;
- ⁵ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/local-access-forum ;
- ⁶ www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/recreation-and-tourism/access ;
- ⁷ www.broads-authority.gov.uk/broads-authority/committees/local-access-forum ;
- ⁸ www.norfolk.gov.uk

Website links: Section 2.1

- ¹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/out-and-about/public-rights-of-way/strategic-review-of-norfolks-rights-of-way-improvement-plan-2007-2017.pdf?la=en
- ² www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/local-access-forum
- ³ www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/about-public-rights-of-way
- ⁴ www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails
- ⁵ <http://cwr.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?County=NORFOLK>
- ⁶ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents
- ⁷ www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast
- ⁸ www.newanglia.co.uk/
- ⁹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/health-policies/public-health-strategy
- ¹⁰ www.visiteastofengland.com/
- ¹¹ www.activenorfolk.org/
- ¹² www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
- ¹³ <https://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/neighbourhood-planning/>

Website links: Section 2.3

- ¹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/trails
- ² www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path

Website links: Section 2.3.3

- ¹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/trails
- ² www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path
- ³ www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/access-tested-walks

Website links: Section 2.3.4

- ¹ <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>

Website links: Section 2.3.5

- ¹ www.pushingaheadnorfolk.co.uk/cycle-safely/
- ² www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/register-of-definitive-map-modification-applications
- ³ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/contents/enacted
- ⁴ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/countryside-access-and-prow-policies
- ⁵ www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/delivery/greater-norwich-infrastructure-plan/
- ⁶ www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/long-distance-trails/marriotts-way/about-marriotts-way
- ⁷ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/our-budget-and-council-tax/our-budget/bids-and-funding-weve-won/out-and-about-in-norfolk/staying-active-and-independent-for-longer-sail-project
- ⁸ www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2017/06/celebration-this-week-as-boardwalk-officially-opens-at-burgh-castle-near-great-yarmouth
- ⁹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/long-distance-trails/three-rivers-way

Weblinks

Website links: Section 2.3.6

¹ www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/recreation-and-tourism/access

Website links: Section 3.2

¹ www.sportengland.org/research/about-our-research/active-people-survey/

² www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-survey-purpose-and-results

Website links: Section 3.3.1

¹ www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/find-a-reserve/reserves-near-me/index.aspx?c=norfolk

² www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/home

³ www.nbis.org.uk/CWS

⁴ www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

⁵ www.nationaltrust.org.uk/our-cause

⁶ www.forestry.gov.uk/thetfordforestpark

⁷ <https://forestry.gov.uk/thetfordforestpark>

⁸ <https://gov.uk/government/collections/national-nature-reserves-in-england>

⁹ <https://gov.uk/guidance/public-access-to-military-areas>

¹⁰ www.holkham.co.uk/visiting/the-park/introduction

Website links: Section 3.3.5

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy

² www.pushingaheadnorfolk.co.uk

Website links: Section 3.3.8

¹ <http://walkcromer.co.uk/75-mile-challenge-walks/>

Website links: Section 4.1

¹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/map-and-statement-of-public-rights-of-way-in-norfolk

² <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/trails/>

Website links: Section 4.2

¹ <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/business-policies/rural-development-strategy>

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/contents/enacted

Website links: Section 5.1

¹ <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/map-and-statement-of-public-rights-of-way-in-norfolk/definitive-statements>

Website links: Section 6.1

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-obesity-a-plan-for-action/childhood-obesity-a-plan-for-action

² www.sportengland.org/news-and-features/news/2016/may/19/sport-england-triples-investment-in-tackling-inactivity/

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy

⁴ www.newanglia.co.uk/our-priorities/

Website links: Section 6.3

¹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-travel-policies/transport-asset-management-plan

² www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-travel-policies/local-transport-plan

³ <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/business/norfolk-infrastructure-delivery-plan-2017-2027.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/alternative-ways-to-travel/travel-plans>

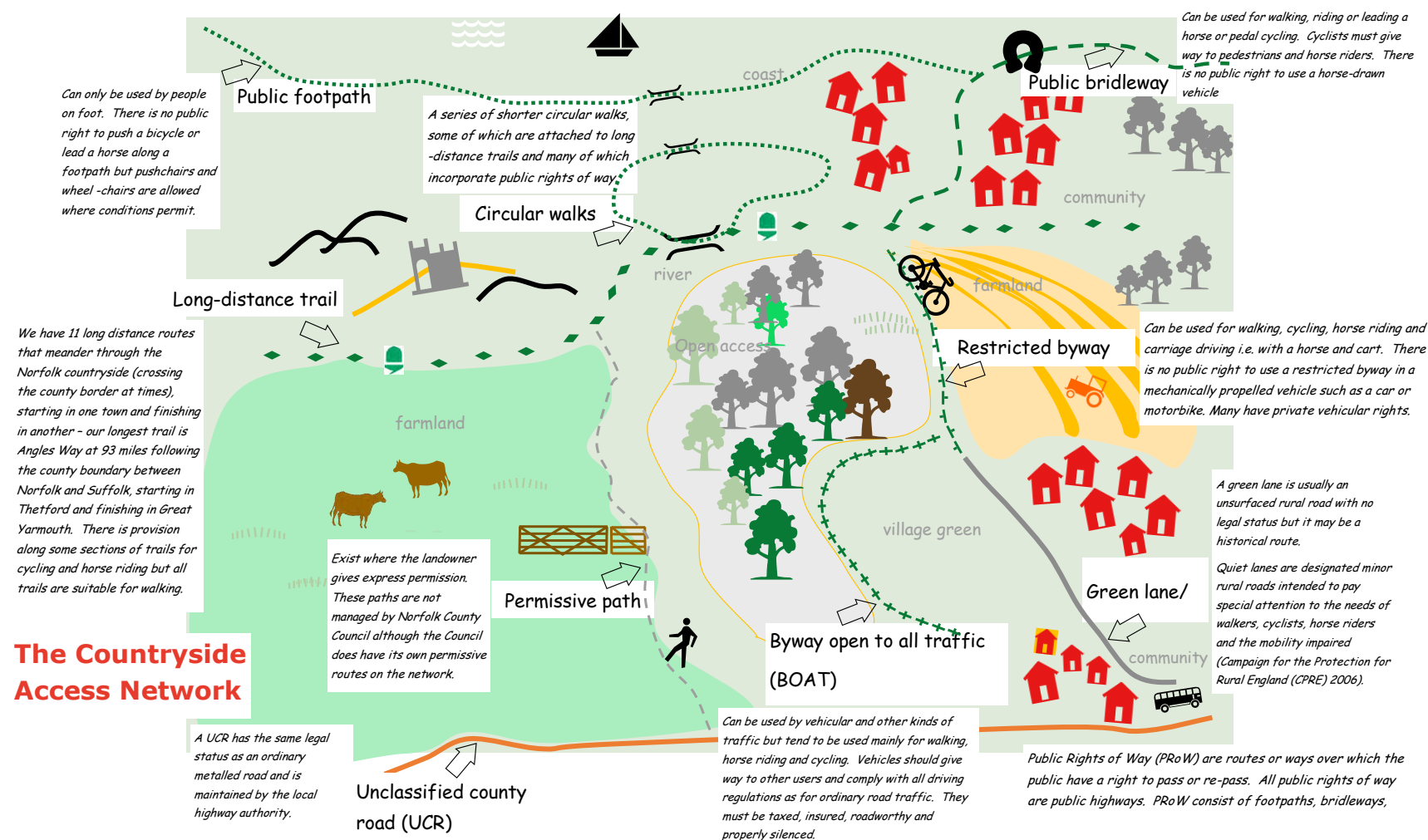
⁵ <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/roads-and-transport/alternative-ways-to-travel/norfolk-cycling-and-walking-strategy-large.pdf?la=en>

⁶ <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/alternative-ways-to-travel/a-to-better-travel-plans/what-are-a-to-better-travel-plans>

Weblinks

- ⁷ http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/976728/Broads-Plan-2017.pdf
- ⁸ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/health-partnerships/health-and-wellbeing-board/health-and-wellbeing-strategy
- ⁹ www.activenorfolk.org/uploads/active-norfolk-2016-2021-strategy.pdf
- ¹⁰ www.broadland.gov.uk/info/200139/policies_for_future_development/247/the_current_local_plan
- ¹¹ www.breckland.gov.uk/Emerginglocalplan
- ¹² www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/article/2489/Current-Local-Plan
- ¹³ www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20091/local_plan
- ¹⁴ www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-policy/view-the-emerging-local-plan/
- ¹⁵ www.greaternorwichlocalplan.org.uk/
- ¹⁶ www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/adopted-south-norfolk-local-plan
- ¹⁷ www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/aonb-management-plan/377
- ¹⁸ www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast
- ¹⁹ www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/business-policies/rural-development-strategy
- ²⁰ https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/41/Default.aspx

The Countryside Access Network



Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: OVERVIEW						
Theme	Problem/ Issue	Challenge	Targets (by 2028)	Monitoring	Timescale	Lead/Partner
<p>(i) A well-managed Access Network</p> <p><i>We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically - both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails - providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas.</i></p>	<p>As a consequence of reduced public funding, there is less resource to manage the access network in Norfolk, with poor user satisfaction rates in comparison with other highway authorities</p>	<p>The challenge is to find innovative and new ways to help deliver network management, working with partners and communities</p>	<p>Aim to improve the Highways and Transport Network Survey Key Indicators for Public Rights of Way and Public Rights of Way (aspects) from 52 to 57 for KBI 15 and from 49 to 52 for KBI 16</p>	<p>Highways and Transport Network Survey:</p> <p>norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/performance/roads-and-transport-performance/nht-network-survey</p>	2028	
<p>(ii) A well-connected Access Network</p> <p><i>We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network of routes and paths that provide opportunities for all users, improve accessibility of the network and develop opportunities to connect with places of natural and cultural heritage for visitors or for work/education/recreation for residents</i></p>	<p>The Public Rights of Way network was established in a time when road and rail networks did not exist and they are now fragmented and poorly connected in places.</p> <p>The Industrial Revolution generated the movement of populations from rural to urban areas to live and work taking over much of the green space for housing and industrial uses.</p> <p>Planning regulations are geared to very local areas and do not always connect up paths or green spaces with populations wanting to use them.</p>	<p>The challenge is to ensure that people have access to green space near to where they live and routes that connect places they want to go to.</p>	<p>Increase access by 10% on 2010 figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18.1% of households have access to an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares within 300 metres; • 48.9% of households have access to an accessible natural greenspace of at least 20 hectares within 2 kilometres; • 36.2% of households have access to an accessible natural greenspace of at least 100 hectares within 5 kilometres; • 16.1% of households have access to an accessible natural greenspace of at least 500 hectares within 10 kilometres; • 3.2% of households have access to all the areas of accessible natural greenspace within the standard; • 29.7% do not have access to any of the accessible natural greenspace within the standard 	TBC	2028	
<p>(iii) A well-protected Environment</p> <p><i>We will provide access to and understanding about the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.</i></p>	<p>Population growth and increased visitor numbers creates a threat to special sites, species, historic buildings and archaeological sites. Norfolk's population is growing - by 2039, it could be 1,015,500 (Norfolk Insight data) - an increase of 13%.</p>	<p>The challenge is to ensure well managed access helps to minimise the recreational impact, controlling access to the most sensitive sites, mitigating and promoting it where and when it will have least impact</p>	TBC			

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: OVERVIEW						
Theme	Problem/ Issue	Challenge	Targets (by 2028)	Monitoring	Timescale	Lead/Partner
<p>(iv) A well promoted Access Network</p> <p><i>We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users, and develop a communications plan to reach key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users)</i></p>	<p>The access network is well used by dedicated walkers and people in the high season summer months. However there are large sections of the population who do not use the network as well as the network having huge capacity outside the summer season.</p>	<p>The challenge is to increase the use of the network, particularly our of season and by people who do not currently use it.</p>	<p>Increase use of the network by 10% on Trails and promoted routes</p>	<p>Counters on Trails and Circular Walks</p>	<p>2028</p>	
<p>(v) A well-informed Access Network</p> <p><i>We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies</i></p>	<p>Managing spatial information and data is an increasingly challenging task with more and more information available in digital format and increasing demands placed upon it for planning, evaluation and management purposes.</p>	<p>The challenge is to maintain accurate data on systems which are appropriate to their use.</p>	<p>Maintain and update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Definitive Map of PROW • the PROW Interactive Map • the Trails Interactive Map • Designated Wildlife Sites Map • Norfolk Heritage Explorer 	<p>Numbers of updates client satisfaction reports?</p>		
<p>(vi) A community-based Access Network</p> <p><i>We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network working with parish councils, volunteers and other community organisations</i></p>	<p>As public funding reduces, the role of communities in helping to manage their local access becomes more important. There are a large number of people willing to help from user groups and community groups but they need support.</p>	<p>The challenge is to engage community groups and ensure they are motivated and embedded into planning and management systems for the network</p>	<p>Support system with training set up</p>	<p>Numbers of communities/ people attending seminars and training Numbers of volunteers</p>		
<p>(vii) A healthy Access Network</p> <p><i>We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network.</i></p> <p><i>We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network.</i></p>	<p>In Norfolk, unhealthy lifestyles and obesity are estimated to contribute to 23,000 hospital admissions per year. We also face the challenges of an ageing population - there will be a 77% increase by 2030 of the proportion of Norfolk's residents aged 85+ (Norfolk Community Foundation Vital Signs 2017). If levels of ill health remain the same in the population, Norfolk will face increasing demands on health and social care services.</p>	<p>To increase the number of people using outdoor spaces and routes for access to school, work or for leisure - particularly target groups (children and young people, elderly people, people with health issues)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • x access improvements made for people with physical disabilities, increasing the mileage available by 10% • x access improvements made for people with mild to moderate mental health issues including dementia increasing the mileage available by 10% • x access activities and events held for the elderly, families with young children, schools, young people and Black and Ethnic Minority groups 	<p>HEAT (Health Economic Assessment Tool) UEA (Active Travel diaries; pedometers; health questionnaire (EQ-5DTM); children's health). 1. x number of people from target groups active 2. x number of people say they have improved health</p>		

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: OVERVIEW						
Theme	Problem/ Issue	Challenge	Targets (by 2028)	Monitoring	Timescale	Lead/Partner
<p>(viii) A valuable Access Network</p> <p><i>We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network.</i></p> <p><i>We will do this by working with businesses, tourism agencies and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy.</i></p>	<p>The Access network is of increasing value to the visitor economy. However, at the moment, most visitors come for a day or less and their spend is limited. The environment and walking are key attractions and reasons for people coming to Norfolk - but businesses do not always know about the access network or appreciate its value.</p>	<p>The challenge is to work with businesses, tourism agencies and DMOs (Destination Management Organisations) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of visitors to Norfolk's access network by 20% • Establish 5 support networks for local businesses, each linked to a different Norfolk Trail. • Engage with 200 local businesses and DMOs (Destination Management Organisations) to provide support to enable them to promote opportunities available through Norfolk Trails. 	<p>People Counters Website/ social media counters Insight Track and other reports</p>		

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (i) - A WELL MANAGED NETWORK**

(i) A well-managed access network.

We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically -both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails - providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Aim to improve the Highways and Transport Network Survey Key Indicators for Public Rights of Way and Public Rights of Way (aspects) from 52 to 57 for KBI 15 and from 49 to 52 for KBI 16		56 (national average 56) norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/performance/roads-and-transport-performance/nht-network-survey					
1.1 Manage and improve signage	PROW and Trails maintained/ created; Signs replaced or installed	Signposts 6800 Way-marks 1000s	Numbers of each	Countryside Access Officers and Trails Officers	Highways and Trails Teams, NCC, NLAF/ PROW sub-group	Annual	TAMP (Manage and maintain the transport network to an appropriate standard), Norfolk Trails
1.2 Manage path surfaces and vegetation	PROW and Trails maintained/ created; Cutting contract;	3,200 km Highways 700 kms Trails	Length cut	Countryside Access Officers and Trails Officers	Highways and Trails Teams, NCC, NLAF/ PROW sub-group	Annual	TAMP, Norfolk Trails
1.3 Create accessible routes without barriers	PROW and Trails maintained/ created; Barriers removed and replaced or installed	Stiles 1650 Gates 1750	Numbers of each	Countryside Access Officers and Trails Officers	Highways and Trails Teams, NCC, NLAF/ PROW sub-group	Annual	TAMP, Norfolk Trails
2. Manage the system for managing PROW/ Trails records.	Transfer Trails records from CAMs to YOTTA		• 'Trails' - Exegesis Countryside Access Management System. This is a commercially available system that uses a Microsoft SQL server as				
2.1 Enforcement of regulations by landowners	Letters sent to landowners		Numbers of each	Countryside Access Officers and Trails Officers	Highways and Trails Teams, NCC	Annual	TAMP, Norfolk Trails

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (i) - A WELL MANAGED NETWORK**

(i) A well-managed access network.

We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically -both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails - providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
2.2 Reporting issues for volunteers and users	CSC enquiries/ reports		Numbers of each	Countryside Access Officers and Trails Officers	Highways and Trails Teams, NCC	Annual	NCC Customer Services Strategy
2.3 Maintain the definitive map for Norfolk	Definitive Map		Number of searches	Definitive Map Team	Highways Legal Orders	Annual	TAMP, Norfolk Trails
2.4 Record and manage changes to the definitive map	Public Path Orders, Modification Orders, deposits and declarations	1) 20 applications received in respect of '2026' routes (user group representatives and parish councils) 2) 'live' applications being dealt with 43 3) average number of applications annually 27	Numbers of applications	Definitive Map Team	Highways Legal Orders	Annual	TAMP, Norfolk Trails
3. Manage the National Trails (Peddars Way, Norfolk Coast Path, England Coast Path)	Peddars Way/ Norfolk Coast Path route up to National Trail standard publications.natural england.org.uk/publi cation/6238141?cat egory=211280		User Surveys, Annual Report to NE	Norfolk Trails	Norfolk National Trail Partnership	Annual	National Trail

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (i) - A WELL MANAGED NETWORK**

(i) A well-managed access network.

We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically -both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails - providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
3.1 Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the above	Follow up system - targets/ achievements The National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) survey		Outcomes	Countryside Access Officers and Trails Officers	Highways and Trails Teams, NCC	Annual	Highways/ Env Team Service Plans

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (ii) - A WELL CONNECTED ACCESS NETWORK**

(ii) A well connected access network.

We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network of routes and paths that provide opportunities for all users, improve accessibility of the network and develop opportunities to connect with places of natural and cultural heritage for visitors or for work/education/recreation for residents.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Provide more opportunities to walk, cycle and ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding applications for route improvements • funding applications for route creation 	700 kms trails x PROW - walking x kms cycle routes x kms bridle ways		DoT Sustainable Transport Fund			Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy
1.1 . Increase the number of multiuse routes + 10							
1.2 Increase the length of the network + 100 miles							
2. Connect up rural paths to provide "green corridors" increasing the resilience of wildlife populations	x green corridors 100 x circular and link routes x schools, x work places, x market towns, x businesses, x attractions			Community Infrastructure Levy Section 106			The Norfolk Trails Plan the AONB Plan - Access and Recreation Strategy the Broads Authority Plan - Integrated Access Strategy Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan - Green Infrastructure Priority Corridors
2.1 Improve the connectivity between routes							
2.2 . Improve the connectivity with schools, work places, market towns, businesses, key attractions							
3. Establish priorities for claiming/ recording historic routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applications to record historical routes (by 2026) 		Annual review	voluntary organisations and other applicants	NLAF/ Ramblers/ NCC	2018 - 2026	
4. Establish a structure and procedure for Permissive Access to private land in Norfolk	Plan for gaps in network where Permissive Access needed		Annual review		NNC/ NLAF		

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (iii) - A WELL PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT**

(iii) A well protected environment.

We will provide access to and understanding about the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Develop opportunities to manage the impact of visitors on protected sites			• NCC and District Council recreational impact project	Reports from Recreational Impacts Project	NCC and District Councils	?	Growth Plans Greater Norwich, Kings Lynn and Thetford
1.1 Develop opportunities to provide access whilst protecting the built environment			• historic environment plans	Plans for . NCC owned buildings and routes	NCC and District Councils	?	
1.2 Develop opportunities to help protect special places and sites			• AONB management plan	AONB Management Plan norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/aonb-management-plan/377	Norfolk Coast Partnership	2014-2019	Growth Plans Greater Norwich, Kings Lynn and Thetford
1.3 Improve all abilities access to sensitive sites	x number of natural/historic sites with improved access						Growth Plans Greater Norwich, Kings Lynn and Thetford
1.4 Increase the use of public transport to access routes	Pushing Ahead pushingaheadnorfolk.co.uk/plan-a-journey		• Promotion of sustainable transport options	DOT sustainable transport fund EU Interreg V ?	Norfolk Trails, Highways Passenger Transport	2017-2019	Growth Plans Greater Norwich, Kings Lynn and Thetford
1.5 Develop opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity			• biodiversity plans	Plans for NCC owned sites and routes	NCC and District Councils Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service	?	

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (iii) - A WELL PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT**

(iii) A well protected environment.

We will provide access to and understanding about the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1.6 Develop shared goals for access improvement with Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF)			• Broads Authority Plans	Broads Water, Mills and Marshes Project (broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/projects/water,-mills-and-marshes) Broads Integrated Access Strategy (broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/recreation-and-tourism/access) Broads Plan (broads-authority.gov.uk/broads-authority/how-we-work/strategy)	Broads Authority Broads Local Access Forum	2017-2022	
2. Improve understanding about the local environment through information, education and advice	x number of people with improved understanding about the natural and historic environment						
2.1 Engage schools, promote the protection of the countryside and provide opportunities for those who find difficulty in learning in a classroom environment	Marriott's Way Heritage Project delivery		• Educational projects	Marriotts Way HLF	Norfolk Trails, stakeholders	2017-2020	
2.2 Increase the understanding of visitors and residents about sites							
3. Reduce the impact of climate change, flooding and other weather incidents on sites and access to sites	Plans		• NCC, Environment Agency, Broads Authority and District Council Flood Plans	Broads Flood Alleviation Project bfap.org/			Climate Change

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (iv) - A WELL PROMOTED ACCESS NETWORK**

(iv) A well promoted access network

We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users, and develop a communications plan to reach key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users).

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Promote the network to key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users)	Increased use of the network by 20%				NCC/ Trails/ Visit Norfolk/ Norfolk LAF	2018-2028	
1.2 Develop a Communications Plan to identify appropriate materials and communication channels for audiences	Comms Plan		Annual review	Users/ partners	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
1.3 Promote the network to visitors from outside Norfolk in the UK and overseas							
2. Raise awareness about the network to stakeholders and a wider public							
2.1 Develop themes for promotion including: • Heritage top 50 sites • Pilgrim routes • Ancient Ways • Ancient landscapes • Industrial Norfolk	5 x projects						
3. Promote the access network in a style appropriate to the audience, particularly taking advantage of modern technology for communication with children and young people							
3.1 Develop websites	Websites	NCC Trails Website NLAF Website Pathmakers Website Visit Norfolk/ DMO websites	Usage/ annual review	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
3.2 Develop printed material	Print	Leaflets	Feedback/ annual review	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
3.3 Develop press releases and media relationships	Press/ media		Response/ publications	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (iv) - A WELL PROMOTED ACCESS NETWORK**

(iv) A well promoted access network

We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users, and develop a communications plan to reach key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users).

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
3.4 Develop social media presence	Social media	Trails Twitter and Facebook accounts	Followers/ Twitter/ Facebook reports	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
3.5 Develop a photo and video library	Photo/ video library	Photos/ videos	Usage/ Review	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
3.6 Develop apps, audio visual products and augmented reality	Apps using new technology	Apps, audio visual products, augmented reality	Usage/ Review	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
3.7 Develop events	Events	Annual Walking and Cycling Festival	Attendance/ feedback	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	
3.8 Develop accessible print and online versions of appropriate publications	Accessible versions	Appropriate print/ online versions	Usage/ Annual review	Projects	NCC/ NLAF	2018-2023	

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (v) - A WELL INFORMED ACCESS NETWORK**

(v) A well informed access network

We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Maintain good standards of GIS data on the access network	Good management of spatial information and data						
1.1 Maintain the Norfolk Interactive Map of Public Rights of Way in Norfolk	PROW Interactive Map norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/map-and-statement-of-public-rights-of-way-in-norfolk		Annual report usage		NCC Highways	Annual	
1.2 .Maintain the Norfolk Trails interactive map showing promoted routes – long distance trails and circular routes	Trails Interactive Map maps.norfolk.gov.uk/trails/		Annual report usage		NCC Norfolk Trails	Annual	
1.3 Maintain the Definitive Map of PROW – showing the legal map base systems	Definitive Map norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/map-and-statement-of-public-rights-of-way-in-norfolk/definitive-statements		Annual report usage		NCC Highways	Annual	
2. Link access data with other relevant spatial data on natural and cultural heritage	Integration of access information with other mapping/datasets (measure how many)						
2.1 NBIS Designated Wildlife Sites	Designated Wildlife Sites nbis.org.uk/designated-sites						

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (v) - A WELL INFORMED ACCESS NETWORK**

(v) A well informed access network

We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
2.2 Norfolk Historic Environment Database	Norfolk Heritage Explorer heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/map-search						
2.3 Googlemaps	360° views of Norfolk Trails using Googletrekker technology theverge.com/2013/6/27/4471740/google-invites-you-to-borrow-its-trekker-street-view-backpacks-and0				Norfolk Trails/ Googlemaps	tbc	GOOGLEMAPS google.co.uk/maps/@52.7773626,1.1661729,9.92z
3. Link access data to individual businesses, attractions and accommodation	Integration of access information with other mapping/datasets (measure how many)						
3.1 PDF downloads of short and circular walks	Trails Short and Circular Walks norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/short-and-circular-walks		Annual report usage		NCC Trails	Annual	
4. Link access data to other relevant economic, health and planning data	Integration of access information with other mapping/datasets (measure how many)						

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (v) - A WELL INFORMED ACCESS NETWORK**

(v) A well informed access network

We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
4.1 Active Norfolk map of health outcomes in Norfolk, with a layer for Norfolk Trails	Norfolk Insight/ Active Norfolk Active Map norfolkinsight.org.uk/dynamicreports/activemap/atlas.html		Annual report usage		Active Norfolk	Annual	
5. Input to the Natural England survey with information about the ways that people engage with the natural environment such as visiting the countryside, enjoying green spaces in towns and cities, watching wildlife and volunteering to help protect the natural environment.	Natural England MENE gov.uk/government/collections/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-survey-purpose-and-results		Annual report usage		Natural England	Annual	MAGIC natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (vi) - A COMMUNITY-BASED ACCESS NETWORK**

(vi) A community-based access network

We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network working with parish councils, volunteers and other community organisations.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Engage user groups and communities in the management of the network							
1.1 Support community network management	Number of events for Parishes/ Parish schemes		Annual report - feedback		Norfolk Trails, Highways, NLAF, Pathmakers		
1.2 Support volunteer networks	Highways Rangers, Norfolk Trails Volunteers		Annual report - feedback		Norfolk Trails, Highways, NLAF, Pathmakers		
1.3 Develop other volunteer opportunities	Friends Schemes		Annual report - feedback		Norfolk Trails, NLAF Pathmakers		
1.4 Include users, volunteers and communities in the governance of the Access Network through the Norfolk Local Access Forum	Norfolk Local Access Forum meetings		Attendance and minutes of meetings		Democratic Services, NLAF and Norfolk Trails		
2. Engage community groups in project development and delivery							
2.1 Develop ideas for projects benefitting the local area	Number of project ideas		Annual report - feedback		NCC, Districts and Parishes, NLAF, Pathmakers		
2.2 Support an independent Charitable Organisation (Pathmakers) in developing and funding community projects	Pathmakers Business Plan Meetings		Review of plan Meeting minutes		Norfolk Local Access Forum, Pathmakers		

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (vii) - A HEALTHY ACCESS NETWORK**

(vii) A healthy access network

We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network.

We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Demonstrate the health value of the network	x number of people from target groups active x number of people say they have improved health		To engage and monitor activities using: • EU Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) with UEA • Active Travel - travel diaries with UEA • Physical activity - pedometers -UEA • Health questions (EQ-5DTM) with UEA	Pushing Ahead	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ UEA	2018-2020	
2. Develop project applications for funding support/ increased access for target groups							
2.1 Develop projects to improve access opportunities for people with physical disabilities	Improvements to routes	Mileage - increase + 10%		Various projects	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ Pathmakers	2018-2020	
2.2 Develop projects to improve access opportunities for people with mild to moderate mental health issues including dementia	Dementia Walks	No and length		SAIL	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ Pathmakers	2018-2020	
2.3 Develop projects to improve access opportunities for the elderly	Outdoor activities for older people	Number of participants		SAIL	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ Pathmakers	2018-2020	
2.4 Develop projects to improve access opportunities for families with young children	Activities and events	Number of participants		Marriotts Way	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ Pathmakers	2018-2020	
2.5 Develop projects to improve access opportunities for young people	Activities and events	Number of participants		Pushing Ahead	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ Pathmakers	2018-2020	
2.6 Develop projects to improve access opportunities for Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups	tbc						
2.7 Develop projects to improve access for schools	Activities and events	Number of participants		Pushing Ahead	NCC/ Active Norfolk/ Pathmakers	2018-2020	

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (vii) - A HEALTHY ACCESS NETWORK**

(vii) A healthy access network

We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network.

We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
3. Promote Active Travel initiatives to school, work and for other regular journeys, including Personal Journey Planning (PJP)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study (impact on children - UEA) 				

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: THEME (viii) - A VALUABLE ACCESS NETWORK

(vii) A valuable access network

We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network.

We will do this by working with businesses, tourism agencies and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
1. Work with businesses, tourism agencies and DMOs (Destination Management Organisations) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy							
1.1 Develop a supportive network of businesses linked to Norfolk Trails	x business networks established x businesses engaged		Minutes of meetings Annual review	National Trail, Coastal Treasures	NCC/ Norfolk Trails	2017-2019	
1.2 Widen network to co-ordinate with other partners/ agencies	x Consultations, attendance at events		Feedback		Norfolk Local Access Forum		New Anglia Economic Strategy, Rural Development Plan
2. Increase the number of visitors to the network by 20%							
2.1 Analyse data from route counters to measure the number of users	Reports on usage of Trails from route counters		Insight Track Report		NCC/ Norfolk Trails		LEP Economic Strategy
2.2 Develop surveys to analyse the characteristics of users	Reports on feedback from users		Insight Track Report		NCC/ Norfolk Trails		LEP Economic Strategy
3. Establish a methodology demonstrating the economic value of the network							
3.1 Develop systems for measuring the benefit of access to the environment							
4. Engage businesses and provide support packages such as training for promotion using the access network							
4.1 Improve website content to show links between walks and businesses and other facilities	Website with links to businesses set up		Annual review website stats	National Trail, Coastal Treasures	NCC/ Norfolk Trails	2017-2019	
4.2 Promote the network with partners as part of the Visit Norfolk offer	Visit Norfolk Walking/ Cycling offers visitnorfolk.co.uk/		Annual review website stats		Visit Norfolk		LEP Economic Strategy

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028: Statement of Actions: **THEME (viii) - A VALUABLE ACCESS NETWORK**

(vii) A valuable access network

We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network.

We will do this by working with businesses, tourism agencies and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy.

Objective/Action	Outputs	Baseline	Monitoring	Resources	Who lead/ partner	Timetable	Contribution Other Plans/ Priorities
5. Provide services linking the network with local businesses including signage, mapping, social media, sponsorship and themed promotions							

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018-2019 - Delivery Plan			
Reference	Theme	Delivery Aims 2018 - 2019	NCC objective relevant
(i)	A well-managed Access Network	We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically -both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails - providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas.	Care for our roads and environment
(ii)	A well connected Access Network	We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network of routes and paths that provide opportunities for all users, improve accessibility of the network and develop opportunities to connect with places of natural and cultural heritage for visitors or for work/education/recreation for residents.	Care for our roads and environment
(iii)	A well-protected Environment	We will provide access to and understanding about the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.	Care for our roads and environment
(iv)	A well promoted Access Network	We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users, and develop a communications plan to reach key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users).	Care for our roads and environment
(v)	A well informed Access Network	We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies.	Care for our roads and environment
(vi)	A Community Based Access Network	We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network working with parish councils, volunteers and other community organisations.	Care for our community
(vii)	A healthy Access Network	We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network. We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network.	Care for our health
(viii)	A Valuable Access Network	We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network. We will do this by working with businesses, tourism agencies and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy.	Care for our economy

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (i) A well-managed Access Network.
We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes efficiently and economically -both public rights of way and promoted Norfolk Trails - providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Manage and improve signage, furniture, bridges	Norfolk Trails; NCC Highways/Landowners; NCC Norfolk Trails	Work plan
Manage path surfaces/ and vegetation	Norfolk Trails and NCC Highways/ Landowners	Work plan/ Cutting contract
Create accessible routes without barriers	Norfolk Trails	Plan for removal of barriers as opportunities arise
Report issues by volunteers and users	Norfolk Trails/Volunteers/Network Users	Respond to issues on CRM, enforcement
Report issues by volunteers and users	NCC Highways & PROW/Volunteers/Network users	Respond to issues on CRM, enforcement
Maintain the definitive map for Norfolk	NCC Definitive Map Team	Definitive map upkeep in paper and on website
Record and manage changes to the definitive map	NCC Definitive Map Team	Respond to claims
Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the above	NCC Environment Team/NLAF	Objectives in Environment Team Business Plan PROW/ Highways Plan.

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (ii) A well connected Access Network.

We will develop an integrated green infrastructure network of routes and paths that provide opportunities for all users, improve accessibility of the network and develop opportunities to connect with places of natural and cultural heritage for visitors or for work/education/recreation for residents.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
<u>Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Plan</u> Develop a new multi-use trail between Wroxham and Broadland Business Park (and from there to the Norwich Cycleway Pink Route and potentially to the Wherryman's Way) through the Broadland Growth Triangle.	NCC Environment Team/ Broads Authority; Broadland District Council; GNDP; Abellio	Negotiate resources / funding
<u>Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Plan</u> <u>River Wensum Parkway Project - strategy and development</u>	River Wensum Strategy Partnership/ NCC; Norwich City Council	Develop agreement for River Wensum Parkway to become part of Norfolk Trails
<u>Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Plan</u> Recycled Railways - identify disused railways which have potential for re-use	NCC Environment Team	Feasibility study
<u>King's Lynn Green Infrastructure Plan</u> Research potential for Green Pilgrimage route connecting Walsingham to other routes in Norfolk	NCC Environment Team/ Walsingham Shrine(s)	Feasibility and detailed plans/ costings for short sections
Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy document	NCC Environment Team	Draft strategy document written and approved by the NCC Environment, Transport and Development Committee
<u>Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy</u> Delivery of Pushing Ahead project (Active Travel Planning for Norwich and Great Yarmouth)	NCC Environment Team	Delivery of Pushing Ahead
Coastal Access Creation of new access, stretches 1 and 2 Weybourne to Hopton	Norfolk Trails	
Coastal Access East Coast Path	NCC Environment Team/ Suffolk County Council; Essex County Council	Develop the East Coast Path concept
Coastal Access East Coast Path Circular walks	NCC Environment Team	
Prioritising claims/recording of historic routes prior to 2026	NLAF PROW subgroup/ Ramblers; Open Spaces Society; British Horse Society	Workshop with Norfolk Record Office about researching historic paths

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (iii) A well-protected Environment.

We will provide access to and understanding about the natural and historic environment, managing the impact of visitors on protected sites.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Ensure access to Norfolk's natural and historic environment is suitably managed through the growth and planning agenda	NCC Green Infrastructure Team/ District Councils; NCC	NDR Access Improvements
Manage access to green spaces such as Local Nature Reserves to minimize visitor impact	NCC Biodiversity Team/ District Councils; NCC	
Foster a sense of care for the historic environment through managed access programmes	NCC Historic Environment Team/ District Councils; Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust	Arrange access to Norfolk Mills through an Open Days programme
Manage access to the Norfolk Coast AONB	Norfolk Coast Partnership	
Manage access in the Broads National Park	Broads Authority	Three Rivers Way - Section 1
Environment Education	NCC Norfolk Trails/ Schools on the Marriott's Way	School activities (in school and on Marriott's Way)
Sustainable Transport options	NCC/ NCC Norfolk Trails; NCC Passenger Transport; NCC Highways	1. Produce Active Travel Plans for Norwich and Great Yarmouth 2. Set up 3 self-service Cycle Points (Broads by Bike project)

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (iv) A well promoted Access Network.
We will communicate Norfolk's outstanding countryside and the benefits of outdoor activity for all users, and develop a communications plan to reach key user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users).

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Develop a (NLAF) Communications Plan	NCC Environment Team/ NCC Norfolk Trails	Develop a communications plan to promote Norfolk's countryside access offer
Develop a (NLAF) Website	NCC Environment Team / NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Develop a (NLAF) Website 2. Develop/manage/maintain websites associated with countryside access projects and initiatives
Develop printed literature to promote Norfolk's countryside access offer	NCC Environment Team / NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Produce a Three Rivers Way leaflet
Promote countryside access projects/initiatives in the press/ media	NCC Environment Team// NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Produce media release to promote successful funding
Promote countryside access projects/initiatives via social media	NCC Environment Team/ / NCC Norfolk Trails	Maintain Norfolk Trails Twitter and Facebook accounts
Create a photographic record of access opportunities (photo/ video library)	NCC Environment Team/ / NCC Norfolk Trails	Develop a photos/ videos library showcasing countryside access in Norfolk
Create newsletters	NCC Environment Team/ / NCC Norfolk Trails	Produce a newsletter for Norfolk Trails volunteers
Organise public events	NCC Environment Team/ / NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Promote the Walking and Cycling festival
Develop accessible publication versions	NCC Environment Team / NCC Norfolk Trails	Create an accessible leaflet/version for the Burgh Castle all-abilities boardwalk

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (v) A well informed Access Network.
We will keep up to date web-based definitive and interactive maps and other access network information making best use of new technologies.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Maintain public information about PROW for users/ walkers	NCC Highways	PROW interactive map showing where there is public access
Develop and maintain public information about Norfolk Trails and Circular Walks for users/ walkers and local businesses	NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Manage the Norfolk Trails interactive map showing promoted routes – long distance trails and circular routes 2. Make available 360° views of Norfolk Trails using Googletrekker technology 3. Create PDF downloads of short and circular walks
Develop and maintain public information about PROW for land-owners, developers and professionals	NCC Highways	Maintain the definitive Map of PROW – showing the legal map base systems
Maintain information about health benefits derived from access to Norfolk Trails	Active Norfolk/ NCC Norfolk Trails	Maintain the Active Norfolk map of health outcomes in Norfolk, developing a layer for Norfolk Trails
Make use of systems for measuring the benefit of access to the environment - MENE	Natural England/ NCC Norfolk Trails	Use information from MENE (Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment) to better understand how people engage with the natural environment in Norfolk (such as visiting the countryside, enjoying green spaces in towns and cities, watching wildlife and volunteering to help protect the natural environment.)
Maintain people counters and develop and implement surveys to measure and understand usage of Norfolk Trails	NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Route counters on Norfolk Trails to measure the number of users 2. Feedback Surveys to analyse the characteristics of users

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (vi) A Community Based Access Network.
We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of their local access network working with parish councils, volunteers and other community organisations.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Support community network management	NCC Norfolk Trails/ NCC Norfolk Trails; NCC Highways	Parish schemes
Develop ideas for projects benefitting the local area	NCC/ District Councils; Parish Councils	Swaffham - trail connecting to Peddars Way
Support volunteer networks	NCC Norfolk Trails/ NCC Highways	Trails volunteer networks
Develop other volunteer opportunities	NCC/NCC Norfolk Trails	Volunteer activities and days
Include users, volunteers and communities in the governance of the Access Network through the Norfolk Local Access Forum	NCC and NCC Norfolk Trails/NCC Democratic Services	Volunteer rep on NLAF
Support an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Pathmakers CIO) in developing and funding community projects	NLAF	

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (vii) A healthy Access Network.

We will improve the health and wellbeing of users through active travel initiatives and leisure use of the access network.

We will develop support and projects for those who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy, particularly those not currently using the network.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Create/promote access opportunities for people with physical disabilities	NCC	Make improvements to routes at Burgh Castle, Access to Beach North Denes, Gt Yarmouth
Create/promote access opportunities for people with mild to moderate mental health issues including dementia	NCC	Set up Dementia-Friendly Walks in North and West Norfolk
Create/promote access opportunities for the elderly	NCC	Develop activities for older people in North and West Norfolk Outdoor
Create /promote access opportunities for families with young children	NCC	Deliver activities and events for families with young children on the Marriotts Way
Create /promote access opportunities for schools	NCC	Deliver activities and events for schools through the Marriotts Way and Pushing Ahead projects
Create/promote access opportunities for young people	NCC	Deliver activities and events for young people through the Marriotts Way and Pushing Ahead projects
Create/promote access opportunities for Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups	NCC	Deliver activities and events for BME

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Delivery Plan 2018-2019

THEME: (viii) A Valuable Access Network.

We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network.

We will do this by working with businesses, tourism agencies and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and others to maximise the benefits for the visitor economy.

Project	Owner/Partners	Actions 2018 - 2019
Develop a supportive network of businesses linked to Norfolk Trails	Walkers are Welcome Towns/ NCC Norfolk Trails	1. Develop Cromer Walkers are Welcome 2. Develop Dereham Walkers are Welcome 3. Develop Aylsham Walkers are Welcome
Develop a network of businesses linked to the National Trail in Norfolk (Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path)	Norfolk Trails	National Trail Partnership and businesses
Website and walks showing links to businesses and other facilities	Norfolk Trails/ NCC Website Team	Businesses signed up to website
Promote the network with partners as part of the Visit Norfolk offer	Visit Norfolk/ NCC Norfolk Trails	Businesses signed up to website

Consultees, Providers, Associations and Interested Parties

Appendix 1

Organisation

[Active Norfolk](#)

[Auto Cycle Union](#)

[Bittern Line](#)

[British Driving Society](#)

[British Horse Society](#)

[British Trust for Ornithology](#)

[Broads Authority](#)

The Broads Authority

[Byways and Bridleways Trust](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[Country Land and Business Association](#)

CLA Norfolk Branch

[Cycling UK](#)

District - Councils

[District Breckland](#)

Breckland District Council

[District Broadland](#)

Broadland District Council

[District Great Yarmouth](#)

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

[District Kings Lynn and West Norfolk](#)

Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council

[District North Norfolk](#)

North Norfolk District Council

[District Norwich](#)

Norwich City Council

[District South Norfolk](#)

South Norfolk District Council

[English Heritage](#)

[Environment Agency](#)

[Equal Lives](#)

Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

[Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group](#)

[Stagecoach East](#)

Stagecoach Group Plc

[Bus Users UK](#)

www.bususers.org

[Konectbus](#)

[Go East Anglia](#)

[First Norfolk and Suffolk](#)

First Group (Buses)

[Forestry Commission](#)

[Greater Anglia](#)

Greater Anglia

[Greater Norwich Growth Board](#)

[Highways England](#)

[Historic England](#)

Involving Service Users

LAF - Local Access Forums

[LAF Broads](#)

Broads Local Access Forum

[LAF Norfolk](#)

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Local [disability] Access Groups e.g.

Local and other businesses e.g.

Local Sure Starts?

Market Town Development Partnerships

Market Town Swaffham

[Iceni Partnership](#)

[Ministry of Defence](#)

Possibly no sites with access?

[National Cycling Strategy](#)

Department for Transport

[National Farmers' Union](#)

[National Trust](#)

Natural England

NCC Norfolk County Council

NCC Childrens Services - Education

NCC Communications

NCC Economic Development

NCC Environment

NCC Environment Norfolk Trails

NCC Highways Asset & Network

Management

NCC Highways Legal Services

NCC Highways Operations

NCC Passenger Transport Unit

NCC Planning & Transport Strategy

NCC Road Safety Team

Neighbouring County Councils

New Anglia - LEP

Norfolk Accident Reduction Partnership

Norfolk and Norwich Association for the
Blind

Norfolk Association of Parish and Town
Councils

Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

North Norfolk AONB

Norfolk Constabulary

Norfolk Deaf Association

Norfolk Disability Information Service

Norfolk Council on Ageing

Norfolk Public Health Network

Norfolk School Sports Partnership

Visit Norfolk

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Open Spaces Society

Primary Care Trusts?

Public Utilities

Anglian Water?

Ramblers' Association

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Suffolk County Council

Sustrans

Trail Riders' Fellowship

Wherry Line

Wild Anglia

Woodland Trust

NFU East Anglia

National Trust Norfolk Coast

Norfolk Casualty Reduction Partnership

Norfolk Association of Local Councils

Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

Norfolk Coast Partnership

Norfolk Deaf Association

Equal Lives

Age UK Norfolk

Visit East Anglia

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Norfolk Area

Suffolk County Council

Sustrans

Strategy Docs

[Active Norfolk Strategy](#)

[The Broads Plan](#)

[Cambs ROWIP](#)

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/campaigning/views-and-briefings/rights-of-way-improvement-plans-england-v>

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/document/migrated/info/rowips5abrf.pdf>

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/code-of-practice>

[East England Forestry Plan](#)

[GNIP](#)

[National Cycling Strategy](#)

[AONB Management Plan](#)

[Norfolk Sports PE Strategy](#)

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/policy-evidence>

[Strategy for the Future](#)

[vales](#)

Consultation on Draft NAIP

The draft NAIP and Statement of Actions can be accessed [\[here\]](#)

Introduction

1. The information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be processed in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act. Your responses will be collected, analysed and anonymised for reporting purposes. The data provided will be held on computer in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act and the Council's records management and retention policy. It will not be passed on to any other third party, nor will it be used for any other purpose without your prior written consent.

[RESPONSE] I understand and agree

2. What is your name

[RESPONSE]

3. What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

[RESPONSE]

4. What is your postcode?

[RESPONSE]

5. Are you responding:

(a) on behalf of an organisation

(b) as an individual

Name of organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

6. What are your/your organisation's interests in relation to public rights of way and countryside access? (please tick all that apply)

(a) Walking

(b) Cycling

(c) Horse riding

(d) carriage driving

(e) driving vehicles off-road

(f) Disabled access

(g) Land owner/manager

(h) Other

If other, please specify

[RESPONSE]

7. Aims of the plan. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the aims of the plan which are to:

- manage the countryside access network so that it is better able to meet the varying demands placed upon it
- increase public, economic and environmental benefit;
- actively seek the involvement of communities
- take a collaborative and pragmatic approach to responsibilities and resources
- increase investment in the countryside access network.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I support the aims for Public Rights of Way in Norfolk					
I understand the purpose of the Plan					

Additional comments regarding the aims of the aims (optional)

[RESPONSE]

8. Objectives – please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the 8 objectives/themes (presented in Section 1 of the NAIP 2018 – 2028) which are to deliver:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. A well managed access network					
2. A well connected access network					
3. A well protected natural and historic environment					
4. A well promoted					

access network					
5. A well informed access network					
6. A community access network					
7. A healthy access network					
8. A valuable access network					

Please provide any additional comments on these objectives. Where possible please specify the objective you are referring to and explain your reasons (optional)

[RESPONSE]

9. Do you have any comments on Section 2 which reviews the achievements of the previous plan (Norfolk's Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 – 2017)?

[RESPONSE]

10. Future user/sector needs - please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the priority actions identified for user/sector groups as follows:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. Walkers					
2. Cyclists					
3. Equestrians					
4. Drivers of motorised vehicles					
5. People with mobility or visual impairments (access for all)					
6. Infrequent users					

7. Landholders and managers					
8. Young people					
9. Health/wellbeing					
10. Businesses and the local economy					
11. Active travel					
12. Planners – growth infrastructure and planning					
13. Environment (including biodiversity)					
14. Community engagement and volunteering					
15. Historic environment					
16. Coastal and open access					
17. Access to water bodies					

Please provide any additional comments on future need. Where possible please specify the user/sector you are referring to and explain your reasons (optional)

[RESPONSE]

11. Action Plan (Section 7 – Statement of Actions) – please tell us how much you agree or disagree that the appropriate actions have been identified

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Appropriate actions have been identified to focus on over the next 10 years					

Additional comments on the Action Plan. Please include details of any actions you consider should be added, amended or deleted, including the reasons for your comments (optional)

[RESPONSE]

12. Understanding – please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the NAIP. The NAIP:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Is clear and easy to read					
Provides an understanding of how Public Rights of Way are managed					
Provides an overview of how improvements to the Public Rights of Way network can be progressed.					

Additional comments on being able to understand the NAIP (optional)

[RESPONSE]

13. General comments – please use this space to provide any other comments regarding the draft NAIP 2018 – 2028 that you have not already included above (optional)

[RESPONSE]

About you

Why do we ask 'about you' questions?

You do not have to answer the questions in this section. However it will help us if you do because we want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally. We collect this data as part of our day to day business to help us improve our services. It also means that we can meet our duties under the 2010 Equality Act.

14. Which of the following age groups best describes you?

15 or under

16 -24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-65

65-74

75-84

85+

Prefer not to say

About you Part 2

15. What is your gender?

Male

Female

Transgender

Gender reassignment

Prefer not to say

16. Are you pregnant or have recently given birth (within the last 26 week period)?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

17. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

18. What is your ethnic group

White

Mixed

Asian

Black

Other ethnic

Prefer not to say

19. What is your religion

Buddhist

Christian

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

No religion

Any other religion

Unknown

Prefer not to say

If 'other' please specify

[RESPONSE]

20. What is your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual

Bisexual

Gay or lesbian

Other

Prefer not to say

21. Are you:

Single

Cohabiting

Married

Civil Partnership

Separated/divorces/partnership dissolved

Widowed

Other

Prefer not to say

22. What is your main employment status?

Full time employment

Part time employment

Self employed

Looking after home

Retired

Student

Unemployed

Carer

Volunteer

Other

If 'other' please specify

[RESPONSE]

Thank you for taking the time to register your response. By clicking 'submit response' you give us permission to process your response in accordance with the Data Protection Act and in line with the main survey text. After you click 'submit response' you will no longer be able to go back and change your answers.

To complete this survey, please click 'submit response' now.

If you experience any problems with the operation of the Have Your Say Consultation Hub, please call us on XXXX



NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DRAFT NAIP subgroup minutes

Date: November 16th 2017

Time: 10am – 12noon

Room 2, Floor 3

Present	
Ken Hawkins	Seamus Elliott
Martin Sullivan (CHAIR)	Pat Holtom
David Hissey	Geoff Doggett
Paul Rudkin	
In attendance	
Russell Wilson (RW)	Senior Trails Officer (Infrastructure)
Sarah Abercrombie (SA)	Senior Projects Officer (Environment)
Su Waldron (SW)	Project Officer (Environment)

Item	Description
1	Apologies for absence were received from Helen Chester
2	Minutes of the meeting on 13 th September 2017
2.1	SA had not yet received a list of partners/stakeholders for consultation from the group which had been agreed at the last meeting. SA agreed to put together (and circulate) a list as a 'starter for 10' and ALL to send further contacts/partners to SA by 24th November.
2.2	Minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting
3	Statement of Actions and Delivery Plan
3.1	3 spreadsheets: Statement of Actions; 2018 Delivery Plan; Delivery Plan structure had been circulated. All had been revised by SA to take account of overarching aims, challenges and monitoring. PR said that there should be links to the main plan from the spreadsheets.
3.2	Statement of Actions: Overview sheet: SA explained that all the 8 themes/ambitions for the NAIP aligned with NCC overarching priorities. The previous NAIP had suffered from poor targets and follow up, turning it into a fossil. The new themes and monitoring targets and action plan in the new NAIP documents would help keep the plan current and fresh over the next 10 years. Comments were recorded as follows: (i) well-managed network – the Survey Key Indicators (Key Benchmark Indicators (KBI))for PROW were the metric to be monitored with an ambition to raise targets for KBI 15 from 52 to 57 and KBI 16 from 49 to 52. The metric conflates Trails and PROW figures. These suggested targets will bring Norfolk into alignment with counties

	<p>within our peer group. KH suggested a more ambitious target. GD asked how monitoring could capture what was happening with footpath use at a local Parish level. RW said that the CRM system is a barometer of footpath use, but GD felt this would only highlight problems. GD offered time to finding out how many parishes (in his NCC PROW officer patch - Jodie Thurston) have footpath wardens. RW said this wasn't an NCC priority and NCC could offer no resource. SE suggested that maybe GD could pilot the idea, but the challenge would be to find a measure that fitted in. MS suggested that the idea was revisited in relation to the Parishes Conference which the PROW subgroup was working on.</p> <p>(ii) Well connected access network. PR felt this aligned well with CIL and green infrastructure. Could consider an additional monitoring statistic - numbers of people accessing the countryside.</p> <p>(iii) Well Protected environment. PR said it was key to influence the district councils in relation to protecting the environment as developments came forward and CIL and S106 monies could be used to help mitigate for the impacts of development by creating new access opportunities. He said that CIL and S106 in the main NAIP document should be changed to 'delivery of planning gain' for public benefit</p> <p>(iv) Well Promoted network. Communications plan needed to address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public perception of NCC CRM problem logging system Getting more people to use the network (who need to for health reasons) <p>(v) – (viii) – not discussed in detail</p> <p>The 8 themes approach taken by SA on the Statement of Actions was fully agreed.</p> <p>ALL agreed to send further thoughts to SA by 24th November.</p>
3.3	Reporting. SW had been looking at using Microsoft Access to hold the information from the spreadsheets. GD advised against this so SW will look at layout/presentation using Excel
4	NAIP document format
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GD offered photos for the access to water section PR said that there should be links from the spreadsheets to the main plan GD said that partnership working was very important – especially with partner landowners such as NWT PH said it was important to reference Pathmakers PH said the need to create more Walkers are Welcome towns should be mentioned ALL agreed they were happy with the format. GD said that printed versions would be needed, including a large print version should be created (from pdf) and that the printed copies should

	<p>include the hyperlinks in full (maybe in an appendix). He offered help if needed on any aspects of printing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PR said there were some inconsistencies within the document on numbers of miles of network etc.• SA was thanked very much for her work to date on the spreadsheet and plan																								
5	Stakeholders																								
5.1	See 2.1																								
6	Consultation																								
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A robust consultation process would be needed. SA to speak with NCC consultation team to get their advice and help• RW said that consultation would be managed in stages to allow learning• PR said that local district buy-in would be essential• RW said that John Jones has suggested a public stakeholder event as part of the public consultation exercise. ALL agree that this was an excellent suggestion• PR offered to help with consultation (district councils)• GD said it would be important to get the plan to named officers at district level, and to get the plan endorsed at their Council meetings. This could happen during (or even before the consultation process).• KH said that in his opinion the NAIP might not always reflect the views of the NLAf (as it is an NCC document and the NLAf is independent of NCC). SE said that in his opinion it was essential that the NAIP is fully supported by the NLAf. PR said that once adopted, the NAIP would be the NLAf's 'bible'• PR offered to work with RW on a list of consultees at district council level.• KH said that follow up would be needed on specific actions (the living action plan) with districts. PR said he would also ask how the districts would do this.																								
7	<div>Timetable</div> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>What</th><th>Who</th></tr><tr><td>by 15/12/2017 (need to check exact date for committee papers)</td><td>NAIP draft complete</td><td>NCC/NLAf</td></tr><tr><td>on the 19/01/2018 (if EDT committee)</td><td>NAIP draft signed off</td><td>EDT committee/OTHER NCC committee</td></tr><tr><td>19/1/2018 to 1/2/2018</td><td>NAIP design completed and sufficient copies printed for consult</td><td>NCC</td></tr><tr><td>on the 7/2/2017</td><td>NAIP signed off</td><td>NLAf</td></tr><tr><td>between 7/2/2018 to 7/5/2018</td><td>NAIP consultation (stakeholders and public) including a public event</td><td>Consultation handled by NCC/NLAf</td></tr><tr><td>between 7/5/2018 to 30/6/2018</td><td>NAIP redrafted and completed</td><td>NCC/NLAf</td></tr><tr><td>on the 1/7/2018</td><td>NAIP published</td><td></td></tr></table>	Date	What	Who	by 15/12/2017 (need to check exact date for committee papers)	NAIP draft complete	NCC/NLAf	on the 19/01/2018 (if EDT committee)	NAIP draft signed off	EDT committee/OTHER NCC committee	19/1/2018 to 1/2/2018	NAIP design completed and sufficient copies printed for consult	NCC	on the 7/2/2017	NAIP signed off	NLAf	between 7/2/2018 to 7/5/2018	NAIP consultation (stakeholders and public) including a public event	Consultation handled by NCC/NLAf	between 7/5/2018 to 30/6/2018	NAIP redrafted and completed	NCC/NLAf	on the 1/7/2018	NAIP published	
Date	What	Who																							
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between 7/5/2018 to 30/6/2018	NAIP redrafted and completed	NCC/NLAf																							
on the 1/7/2018	NAIP published																								
8	<div>Next steps</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments received (by SA) from all by 24th November• Stakeholders/partners received from all by 24th November• PR/RW to research list of key players (for endorsement of NAIP) at district council level• SA to establish process for consultation with appropriate team at NCC• SW reformat spreadsheets and NAIP document, incorporating comments/revisions with SA and inserting photos to end up with a NAIP text document and separate Action Plan and Statement of Actions for publication. SW sort out all aspects of printed copies.																								
9	Date and time for next meeting – no further meeting date set.																								

