

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Access aspects of the Brecks Fen edge and Rivers HLF project
Date of meeting:	18 July 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact The BFER Landscape Partnership is currently developing the projects for the stage 2 bid in a £3m landscape and Heritage conservation scheme for the Brecks which will encourage new audiences into the landscape.	

Executive summary

The BFER Landscape Partnership is currently developing the projects for the stage 2 bid in a £3m landscape and Heritage conservation scheme for the Brecks. The scheme will focus on delivery along the Brecks' Fen Edge and main river corridors. It comes as part of the legacy of the successful Breaking New Ground LP that completed delivery of 47 projects (£2.2M value) focussing on the heart of the Brecks (Forests and Heathland) - see www.breakingnewground.org.uk . The BFER scheme, like BNG, will include elements of access development to encourage new audiences into the landscape, and is currently seeking partners, ideas and match funding that can be developed into solid proposals for inclusion.

Recommendation:

That the NLAF notes the achievements to improve access through Breaking New Ground, and the opportunities that lie ahead through the BFER partnership.

1. Proposal

- 1.1. Significant achievements to improve public access were made by Norfolk Trails as part of the Breaking New Ground HLF project which preceded BFER.
- 1.2. The project area is a major resource for recreation in the Brecks, both existing and potential, and increasing housing provision in and around the Brecks in coming years is likely to see an increase in demand. There is evidence that species and historic monuments may be disturbed by recreational use, but there is insufficient evidence to determine this in respect to new or increasing recreational demand. Without such evidence, planning and implementing new recreational provision is hampered, as any such projects need the evidence to demonstrate no likely significant effect on heritage
- 1.3. As part of the stage 2 bid SCC ROW will work with partners to develop Access Opportunity mapping, and an access strategy for the scheme. This will establish a suitable methodology and undertake studies to determine how best to manage/improve recreational access and interpretation without detriment to heritage assets.
- 1.4. Although NCC chose not to be a scheme partner in the stage 1 bid, the partnership is seeking to develop projects that will improve access along the Gadder and Wissey river corridors, connecting and interpreting heritage sites.

- 1.5. Outputs should address missing links, provide well signed routes encouraging walking for health and promoting heritage assets.
- 1.6. Opportunities suggested at stage 1 included:
A new link between Little Cressingham Mill and Peddars Way with interpretation
A circular walk promoting and interpreting heritage at Cockley Cley Estate with possible Audio tour.
New opportunities include:
Improved access and circular walks with interpretation at Oxborough Hall
- 1.7. Potential HLF grant funding for Wissey and Gadder access improvements agreed at stage 1 are £26,500 grant with required minimum £10,000 match funding/in-kind contribution (27.4%)

2. Evidence

- 2.1. See proposal.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. None

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. See proposal.

5. Background

- 5.1. 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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