

# COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL



# INTRODUCTION

1. How the Lincolnshire & Rutland LAFs are producing routes suitable for the disabled.
2. How you can use the “*Let’s Get Going!*” pack to create routes.
3. Actions being pursued at a National Level.
4. Determine through discussion how people with disabilities can enjoy the countryside through improved access.

# **1. HOW LINCOLNSHIRE & RUTLAND LAFs ARE PRODUCING ROUTES FOR THE DISABLED**

## WHO'S DOING WHAT?

- South Linc's & Rutland LAF joint project with the Mid Linc's LAF
- Discussing countryside access issues with disabled groups
- Identifying suitable routes
- Publishing routes in a similar style to the Lincolnshire County Council Countryside For All Routes.

# WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE

- Provide people with information to enable them to make decisions on whether a route is suitable for them.
- To get people out enjoying these routes and benefit from improvements in their health and general wellbeing.
- To give people of all abilities more opportunities to enjoy the countryside

# WHERE WE ARE DOING IT

- Public Rights of Way
- County Council: Nature reserves  
Country parks
- Forestry Commission
- National Nature Reserves
- Wildlife Trust
- Water Companies

# THINGS WE HAVE LEARNT

- The groups we have consulted with are really enthusiastic about Countryside for All routes and are hoping to trial some new routes this year.
- Workload – Each site takes 2 person days to survey.
- Changing conditions of the route can effect users (Bourne Wood issues)
- No measure of the number of people with disabilities using the current Countryside For All routes.

**2. How you can use the “*Let’s Get Going!*” pack to create routes.**

# HOW WE DO IT

- Create a LAF disability sub group
- Discuss issues with disability groups and sports partnership.
- Identify suitable routes and take account of where disability groups would like to visit and their requirements.
- Teams of two from the sub group survey the site and record the details.
- Produce site plan with relevant information.
- The County Councils produce the information for the printers and place it on their web site.

# TOOLS WE USE



# HOW ELSE COULD IT BE CARRIED OUT?



- Include discussions with Physical Activity Development Officers
- Create a group of people who care for each route.
- Deliver Fieldfare Trust training to the relevant people.
- County Council provide the friends of the route with a web site
- Facebook option

# FRIENDS OF THE ROUTE



- Update the friends web site
- Take a major part in the official opening
- Investigate complaints by users e.g. Overhanging branches and take appropriate action.
- Undertake user surveys
- Responsible for providing the County Council with details of any permanent changes to the route

# HOW SHOULD WE PROMOTE THE ROUTES?

- Press release to community papers, parish councils and organisations for the disabled.
- Leaflets to doctors surgeries
- Leaflets to hospital waiting areas
- Route experience days
- Further press releases as new routes become available.

# *Get Out, Get Moving, Get Fit & Enjoy The Countryside For Free*

*The people of Leicestershire are creating countryside routes for people of ALL ABILITIES to access and enjoy.*

*The routes are listed and fully described at [www.....](http://www.....)*

*If you do not have access to a computer your library will be able to assist.*

*The routes display pictures, angles of any slope, descriptions of surface conditions, location of parking for the disabled, location of disabled toilets and points of interest.*

*The routes are provided and managed by a number of different organisations in Leicestershire . The routes are cared for by a group of friends of the specific site.*

*Please see an example route overleaf.*

# WHISBY NATURE PARK



Map Scale  
100 m



## key

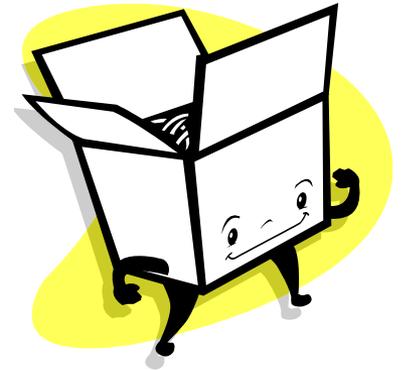
- Compacted stone path. Some loose stones up to 20mm. Path 2.5m wide
- Grass path, bumpy in places
- Earth path, with some slopes and tree roots. May be muddy
- smooth tarmac path. 2m wide
- block paving
- Natural World Centre
- Education Centre
- Information board
- Accessible toilet
- Car park
- Disabled parking area
- Playground and Life Trail
- Seat
- Bird hide Accessible Bird Hide
- Uphill section  
**(1:10)** Max gradient of slope  
**(10m)** Length of slope
- Downhill section  
**(1:10)** Max gradient of slope  
**(10m)** Length of slope
- Slope across path  
**(1:16)** Max gradient of slope
- Route direction

### **3. ACTIONS BEING PURSUED AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.**

# WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF?



- Collect ideas from all disability groups
- Collect ideas from all major countryside owners
- Collect ideas throughout GB
- Get Natural England to assist in delivering the project
- Get the English Tourist Board involved
- Get Visit Britain onboard
- ***This is what a group of us are aiming to do!***





# WHAT WOULD THAT WORLD LOOK LIKE?

C4AA

- Standardised method of measuring & displaying Countryside For All sites UK wide.
- Only sites which adopt that form of measurement can display the Countryside For All accreditation
- One stop web site where all Countryside For All accredited sites can be found
- There are already web sites which could do this.



# NATURAL ENGLAND'S WEB SITE

- <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/walk-ride.aspx>
- Could use the links as links to the “friends of the route” web site.
- Costs of maintaining this web site and loading site details are small
  - Web hosting £179.88/pa.
  - Loading individual site details £2.50
    - Costs supplied by Natural England via Freedom of Information (2013)

# FIELDFARE TRUST'S PHOTOTRAILS

- <http://www.phototrails.org>
- Anyone can upload a route
- Uploaded routes checked by Fieldfare
- Could display web address to “friends of route”

**4. DETERMINE THROUGH DISCUSSION,  
HOW PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN  
ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE THROUGH  
IMPROVED ACCESS.**

**A whistle stop tour of some of the issues  
we need to examine in detail.**

1. What would you miss about the countryside if you were:
  - a) A wheelchair user?
  - b) A mobility scooter user?
  - c) Visually impaired?
  
2. If you were a wheelchair user, a mobility scooter user or visually impaired how could we deliver the experiences you wanted?

3. Your Highway Authority's issues relating to creating Countryside For All routes:

a) What concerns would your Highway Authority have?

b) How would you overcome those concerns?

4. How do we achieve our aims with no finance?

5. Where could you get funding to enable you to promote the route and produce the literature?
  
6. How else could you promote the routes?

7. Do you think village, town or city parks should be included in the routes which are promoted?

a) Why?

b) Why not?

8. Should we promote the use of public transport to get to and from the site?

a) Why?

b) Why not?

9. If we recommend a one stop web site at National level:

a) Who should administer it?

b) How should it be funded?

10. What else can be done to improve access to the countryside for the disabled?

11. What are the minimum number of routes we should aim for in each LAF area?

a) City LAF

b) Small County LAF

c) Large County LAF

12. Please complete your action plan at the back of the *“Let’s Get Going!”* pack

On completion of the action plan, please email it back to me so I can offer assistance if required.

# SUMMARY

1. How the Lincolnshire & Rutland LAFs are producing routes suitable for the disabled.
2. How you use the “*Let’s Get Going!*” pack to create routes.
3. Actions being pursued at a National Level.
4. Determine through discussion how people with disabilities can enjoy the countryside through improved access.
5. We will send out electronically a summary of the discussions with further information.
6. On completion of your action plan, please email it back to me with the completed workshop questionnaire.

**THANKS FOR TAKING PART IN  
THE WORKSHOP**