

Let's Get

Going!

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GETTING STARTED

GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED

Joint project with other LAFs to help share the workload

Create a disability sub group

Involve groups representing the disabled from the start of the project (page 8 provides a list of all major disabled groups who should be able to provide contact details of local groups)

Work together with the disability groups to identify suitable and interesting routes

Provide regular updates on progress

POSSIBLE LAND OWNERS WITH SUITABLE ROUTES

Local Authorities: Public Rights of Way, country parks, county council owned farmland, Nature reserves, City parks, town parks, village parks

Others: Forestry Commission, National Nature Reserves, English Heritage, National Trust, Wildlife Trust and water companies

Higher Level stewardship “easy access” sites: <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/walk-ride.aspx> (a list of sites with their grant subsidy end date is displayed on page 6)

METHOD OF UNDERTAKING A SURVEY

This is the method used in Lincolnshire and Rutland.

Path width

The published route leaflets will state that all paths are at least 1m wide unless shown otherwise.

If the path is less than 1m then we need to provide information on how wide the path is and for what length it is this width.

Paths may narrow at gates, bridges, between trees etc.

It is useful to state if the path is a lot wider than 1m (for example a forest track)

Features

The leaflet needs to show features that are found along the selected route, this might include:

- Seat/resting place
- Passing/stopping place
- Gate (measure width and describe how it opens)
- Bridge (measure width and length and gaps between decking boards)
- Steps (measure height, width, rise, number)
- Surface break (measure gap)
- Information board
- Picnic table/area (describe location and surface underneath)
- Bird hide (describe/measure access and facilities inside)
- Toilet (describe/measure access and facilities)
- Point of interest
- Tunnel (formed from trees/hedges etc)

Surface

It is important that the leaflet clearly shows and describes the surface of the route and shows any changes in the surface. The size and amount of loose stone is important to note.

Gradient

The leaflet states that the map will only show gradients of over 1:25 (4%). Where the gradient is more than this we need to provide information on the actual gradient and length of path that is that gradient.

Remember to record if the gradient is uphill or downhill.

Cross slope

The leaflet states that the map will only show cross slopes over 1:33 (3%). Where the cross slope is more than this we need to provide information on the actual cross slope and the length of path that has that cross slope.

Points where care is needed

Mark on the map and describe any places where extra care is needed, for example steep drop alongside path, road crossing, deep water etc.

Other information required

Site details – location including post code and grid reference

are there opening/closing times?

any restrictions – are dogs allowed?

where can you get more information about the site?

General site information – a short introduction to the site and what can be found there

the total length of the route in miles and km

Car park – disabled bays available?

surface description

path between car park and site – don't forget to audit

Toilets - location

accessible?

key required?

are there opening/closing times?

Refreshments - where are the nearest refreshments?

Public Transport - is there any?

Where to get more information/timetable

Photos - Don't forget to take photos of the site, features, points of interest etc.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP

The subsidy for permissive access on Higher Level Stewardship sites ends when the 10 year agreement reaches the end date. In order to continue permissive access a number of LAFs have informed the relevant parish councils where land in their parish is affected. Whilst a letter to parishes in some cases has resulted in continuance of permissive access, attending the parish meetings and being involved with the owner of the site should provide more opportunity of success. A list of all the current HLS “easy access” sites is on page * . A draft of a letter for top and tailing can be seen below:

DRAFT LETTER

Dear Sir,

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS – Access Sites suitable for the disabled)

Name of Farm and location

I am writing on behalf of the _____ Local Access Forum. The Forum is a statutory body set up to advise on access and rights of way issues.

Under the Stewardship programme, occupiers have been encouraged by Government to provide area or linear permissive access to a number of sites in the county in return for grants. The programme is administered by Natural England. A recent change to the Higher Level Stewardship has removed support for the access element of the scheme. When agreements come to an end the access may be removed.

A scheme in your area which is due to end on __/__/__ is shown on the attached map. The permissive footpath is approximately __ miles. The route provides an interesting walk and has been identified as being suitable for the disabled. Countryside routes for the disabled are very few. The path is of great value to people with disabilities and the local community. If this permissive path is lost, it will reduce the options for walking and enjoying the countryside for local residents and for visitors to the area. With walking being such an important form of exercise assisting in improving health and general well being, it is beneficial to ensure that access to the countryside for walking is maintained wherever possible.

If you wish the access to remain available, you may want to discuss the situation with the land owner/land manager to see if informal access can be retained. I believe advice is available from the Rights of Way team at _____ to support permissive access agreements.

Letters have also been sent to your neighbouring parish informing them of the impending ending of the HLS access grant at the site. If you want to discuss the issue with us please get in touch and if you do pursue it we would be obliged if you would let us know what response you get.

Yours faithfully,

HLS SITES SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

Location	Number of Sites in 2012	Number of Sites in 2013	YEAR GRANT SUBSIDY ENDS							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bath & NE Somerset	0	0								
Bedfordshire	0	0								
Berkshire	0	0								
Buckinghamshire	0	0								
Cambridgeshire	0	0								
Cheshire	3	3	1							2
City of Bristol	0	0								
Cleveland	0	0								
Cornwall	1	1						1		
Cumbria	6	5	1	1		2			1	
Derbyshire	0	0								
Devon	4	3		1		1				1
Dorset	0	0								
Durham	4	3					2		1	
East Riding	0	0								
East Sussex	1	1								1
Essex *	1	1								1
Gloucestershire	0	0								
Greater Manchester	0	0								
Hampshire	0	0								
Herefordshire	2	0								
Hertfordshire	6	6						6		
Isle of Wight	0	0								
Isle of Scilly	0	0								
Kent	3	2				1	1			
Lancashire	5	5	1	1		1	1			1
Leicestershire & Rutland	0	0								
Lincolnshire	6	6	1			1	1	1	2	
London	0	0								
Merseyside	0	0								
Norfolk	4	4		1		1		2		
North Somerset	1	1		1						
North Yorkshire	8	6					1	1	1	3
Northamptonshire	1	1					1			
Northumberland	5	5		2			1		1	1
Nottinghamshire	2	2		1						1
Oxfordshire	1	0								
Shropshire	2	2							1	1
Somerset	2	2	1							1
South Gloucestershire	0	0								
South Yorkshire	2	2		2						
Staffordshire	2	2	1							1
Suffolk	1	1								1
Surrey	3	2				2				
Tyne & Wear	2	2		1				1		

HLS SITES SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS**continued**

Location	Number of Sites in 2012	Number of Sites in 2013	YEAR GRANT SUBSIDY ENDS							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Warwickshire	1	1		1						
West Midlands	1	1								1
West Sussex	0	0								
West Yorkshire	2	2							1	1
Wiltshire	1	1	1							
Worcestershire	2	2					1			1
TOTAL	85	75	7	12	0	9	9	12	8	18

* Essex previously had a site categorised incorrectly in 2012

Disabled Organisations	Web address	Contact email address
Age UK	http://www.ageuk.org.uk/	contact@ageuk.org.uk
Alzheimer's Society	http://www.alzheimers.org.uk	enquiries@alzheimers.org.uk
Arthritis Care	http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk	Info@arthritiscare.org.uk
Brain and Spine Foundation	www.brainandspine.org.uk	info@brainandspine.org.uk
British Heart Foundation	http://www.bhf.org.uk	partners@bhf.org.uk
British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD)	www.bild.org.uk	enquiries@bild.org.uk
British Legion	http://www.britishlegion.org.uk	info@britishlegion.org.uk
Carers UK	http://www.carersuk.org	advice@carersuk.org
Cauda Equina Syndrome	http://www.caudaequinauk.com	cesukcharity@gmail.com
Down's Syndrome Association	www.downs-syndrome.org.uk	info@downs-syndrome.org.uk
Foundation for People With Learning Disabilities	http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk	Email form only
Hft	http://www.hft.org.uk	info@hft.org.uk
Limbless Association	www.limbless-association.org	enquiries@limbless-association.org
ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis)	http://www.actionforme.org.uk	press@actionforme.org.uk
ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis)	www.meassociation.org.uk	admin@meassociation.org.uk
Mencap	http://www.mencap.org.uk	help@mencap.org.uk
Mental Health Foundation	http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk	Email form only
Mind	http://www.mind.org.uk	contact@mind.org.uk
Motor Neurone Disease	http://www.mndassociation.org	enquiries@mndassociation.org
Multiple Sclerosis Society	http://www.mssociety.org.uk	ahammill@mssociety.org.uk
Multiple Sclerosis Trust	http://www.mstrust.org.uk	infoteam@mstrust.org.uk
National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society	http://www.nass.co.uk	admin@nass.co.uk
National Autistic Society	http://www.autism.org.uk	nas@nas.org.uk
National Osteoporosis Society	http://www.nos.org.uk	info@nos.org.uk
National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society	www.rheumatoid.org.uk	enquiries@nras.org.uk
Parkinson's UK	http://www.parkinsons.org.uk	hello@parkinsons.org.uk
RADAR (Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation)	www.radar.org.uk	enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org
Rethink Mental Illness	http://www.rethink.org	info@rethink.org
RNIB	http://www.rnib.org.uk	helpline@rnib.org.uk
Scope	http://www.scope.org.uk	response@scope.org.uk
Sense	http://www.sense.org.uk	reception@sense.org.uk
Spinal Injuries Association	www.spinal.co.uk	sia@spinal.co.uk
Stroke Association	www.stroke.org.uk	info@stroke.org.uk
The British Polio Fellowship	http://www.britishpolio.org.uk	info@britishpolio.org.uk
The Childrens Society	http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk	supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk
The Dystonia Society	www.dystonia.org.uk	info@dystonia.org.uk

FIELDFARE TRUST

TRAINING

CORE COURSES

Below are the core courses Fieldfare can provide:

1. Disability awareness
2. Physical accessibility on paths and trails
3. Information accessibility for disabled people visiting the countryside
4. Using Phototrails
5. How to become a Phototrails surveyor
6. Editing Phototrails for a local walking group

Training can be delivered to between 12 to 15 people. Courses can also be tailored to the client's requirements.

Countryside4all

Inclusive countryside access through;

- Advice and Support
- Training
- Consultancy
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Project Partnerships
- Direct Services



Offering a 'bridge' to support understanding, development and improvements in countryside access for providers and countryside users to help;

- **understanding** rights and responsibilities
- guidance on the **development** of accessible policy and strategy
- management skills and tools to make real **improvements**

Application of the Countryside for All Standard and Guidelines to the management of recreation and conservation sites, Rights of Way and access networks and, wider countryside access.

Inclusive Countryside Access training to access providers and managers, Local Access Forums, countryside user groups and others;

- Principles of Inclusion
- Equality and Countryside Legislation
- Access Network and Trail Management
- Path Survey and Audit Techniques
- Inclusive Access Information eg. Fieldfare's Phototrails

Over 25 years experience, gained through a diverse countryside management background, delivered by a former Director of the Fieldfare Trust.

If you would like to learn more . . .

Please Contact

Andy Johnson

Director

Tel: 07528 986533

Email: andy-johnson@outlook.com

QUESTIONNAIRE

Questions For you

Are there any areas you felt the workshop should have covered in more detail?

Is there any other information that you require relating to Countryside For All?

Questions for your LAF

The Fieldfare Trust have stated that they can provide a surveyor with additional authority on the web site to edit other surveyors Phototrails (<http://www.phototrails.org>) . For example, an access forum member could be given authority to coordinate and edit Phototrails added by other volunteers. This provides a mechanism for groups to work together to build up a comprehensive catalogue of Phototrails in a particular area. Training can be provided with respect to the editor's role.

Would your LAF be interested in editing Phototrails in your area to ensure they are of the required quality?