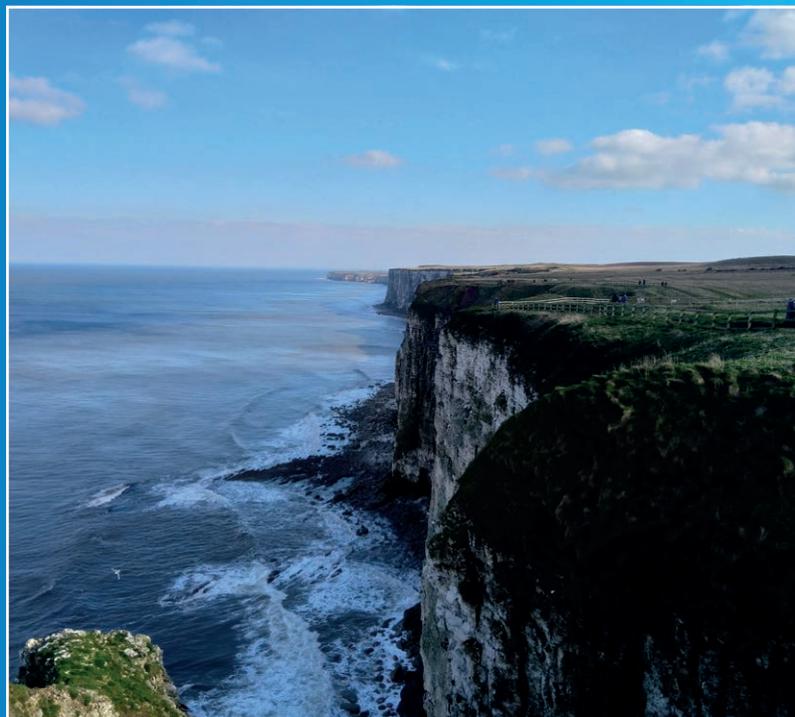


EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE AND KINGSTON UPON HULL Joint Local Access Forum



16th Annual Report

2019 – 2020

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE AND KINGSTON UPON HULL JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Introduction

This is the 16th Annual Report of the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) and it has been a privilege to have served as the Chair of the Forum for a number of years.

The world has recently changed dramatically with the Coronavirus outbreak. Exercising outside in the fresh air, with social distancing and far less traffic, has seen many people discovering the great, green outdoor gym. This has certainly highlighted the value of green space and public rights of way close to where people live, something the JLAF has advocated for many years as part of our statutory advisory role. Having good local access for walking and riding now seems even more important due to recent events.

Forum members both old and new cover a wide range of interests and skills so can always be relied upon for a robust debate and recommending realistic outcomes. We are privileged to have support from officers of both Local Authorities and indeed work closely with them to realise the intentions of the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for Hull and the East Riding, which were produced some years ago and which we hope will shortly be undergoing revision and scrutiny.

This year there have been a number of local access challenges that have at times been trying. There have again been problems with illegal and inconsiderate driving on green lanes in the Wolds during times when they were under seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders. This has rendered some excellent routes totally unusable for many people, with the added cost implications of needing to re-instate damaged surfaces. Essential flood defence works have also resulted in long temporary closures and diversions to key public rights of way (PROW) but in general many of these are coming to an end and most of the routes closed over the winter should be re-opened this summer, although further works will still be taking place in areas along the Humber Estuary.

A recent European Court Case required Natural England to reassess the impact of its proposals on areas of nature conservation which has impacted on the pace of delivery for the England Coast Path. Sensitive coastal habitats do, of course, have to be treated with the utmost care but DEFRA expects the whole path to be open, or to have establishment works under way by the end of 2021. Our local stretches cover Filey southwards to Easington and westward to the Humber Bridge via Hull.

An important part of the JLAF's role is responding to strategic consultations that impact on rights of way and public access. Forum members have recently had a lot of input into consultations with an external developer regarding the onshore cabling route for the proposed Hornsea Four offshore wind farm which would see a temporary rolling closure of numerous PROW from landfall near Barmston to Creyke Beck near Cottingham. If the project proceeds, the Forum with East Riding of Yorkshire Council will monitor this work throughout its delivery and ensure that restoration of PROW is robust and satisfactory. Special thanks must go to the Professor Ian Reid and Dr Andrew Hersom who have attended several meetings and documented developments throughout the year.

There have been disruptions to the new and very well used bridleway alongside the southern edge of the Beverley Southern Relief Road due to ongoing development but diversions were put in place and when the new roundabout is completed normal usage can be resumed. With a large number of homes being built between this

road and the southern edge of Beverley Town we also have to look at diversions to existing rights of way, and the proposed closure of England Springs Crossing by Network Rail means finding a solution to getting safely over the railway lines. Discussions are progressing and should hopefully deliver a safe outcome for all users which will not impinge on the splendid views of the Minster from the south.

One of our latest consultations concerns the proposed dualling of the A164 road from Skidby to Beverley and the re-alignment at Jocks Lodge Interchange. Our comments and concerns have been listened to and when the scheme comes to fruition we hope it can massively improve connectivity to the PROW network, improving non-motorised usage between settlements and reducing carbon emissions.

The Forum has also responded to numerous definitive map consultations and selected planning applications in the past year, seeking to enhance the rights of way network in both urban and rural locations and improving safety and accessibility for walkers and riders.

In our local area we have more than 700 miles of public footpaths and close to 300 miles of public bridleways for residents and visitors to enjoy responsibly. The Coronavirus outbreak has highlighted that some communities have better PROW networks than others but the JLAF continues to work with our local authorities seeking to plug gaps and extend connectivity in line with Rights of Way Improvement Plans. This report includes a summary of recent activities.

Much research is underway by volunteers to find missing lost ways (ie. unrecorded rights of way) across Hull and the East Riding. These need to be claimed and legally recorded before 2026 which is an onerous task and takes up a lot of time and effort. I would like to thank those volunteers and also the hard working Definitive Map officers whose job it is to process all the paperwork to get routes added to the legal record.

Understandably more and more people are using the internet to find out about the countryside and local rights of way and I would encourage everyone to visit the webpages listed on the final page of this report. The 'Walking the Riding' website has undergone much transformation in the last year and is now easier to read, follow and understand. It contains hundreds of interesting local routes and if you have a smartphone you can easily follow your chosen route without having to print it off.

All in all it has been a mixed year of both highs and lows, with work now being done at home from self-isolation and uncertainty about life as we know it, but in the end the countryside will blossom in the spring and rights of way will be there for future generations. I hope you find this report an interesting summary of our recent work.



Hazel Armstrong

Hazel Armstrong
Chair of the Joint Local
Access Forum
May 2020

Membership of the Joint Local Access Forum

The Forum is constituted to provide a balance of views representing:

- Different recreational user interests
- Landowners and land managers
- Other interests relevant to the management of the countryside and urban greenspace

The Forum was represented by 17 members during the 2019-20 year, including two elected council representatives from East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council.



Name	Interests Represented
Hazel Armstrong (Chair)	Equestrianism, Social Inclusion and Health
John Nicholson (Vice-Chair)	Waterways, Transport, Walking and Cycling
Michael Butler	Rural Business and Conservation
John Gatenby	Conservation and Farming
Stephen Richardson	Country Sports, Conservation and Business
Gordon Hawcroft	Farming, Rural Tourism and Conservation
Keith Greenwood	Walking, 'Walkers are Welcome' and Heritage
Terry Holmes	Trail Riding and Green Lanes
Dr Janet Cochrane	Rural Tourism and Horse Riding
Professor Ian Reid	Rights of Way User, Heritage, Landscape and Waterways
Andrew Nunn	Cycling
Dr Andrew Hersom	Urban Access and Healthy Exercise
Brian Witty (*)	Cycling, Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
Clive Bolton (*)	Walking and Health
Linda Samuel (*)	Horse Riding
Councillor David Craker (Hull City Council)	Elected Member Representative
Councillor John Holtby (East Riding of Yorkshire Council)	Elected Member Representative

(*) Brian Witty, Clive Bolton and Linda Samuel stood down from the JLAF during the 2019-20 year. The Forum members and Secretariat would like to thank Brian, Clive and Linda for all of their help and past contributions to the Forum's work.



Forum Meetings

Four formal public meetings of the Joint Local Access Forum were held during the year:

Date	Venue	Number of forum members attending	Number of others in attendance (eg. speakers officers, public)
12 June 2019 (AGM)	Thornton Village Hall, Hull	11	9
11 September 2019	Sewerby Hall, Bridlington	14	6
11 December 2019	County Hall, Beverley	11	13
11 March 2020	Bishop Burton College	12	17

Review of the JLAF Operating Year 2019-20

Objective	Activities Undertaken and Advice Provided
<p>Provide strategic advice on the management of key recreational green infrastructure assets in Hull and the East Riding</p> <p>Respond to local and national consultation documents on important access, rights of way and highways matters</p> <p>Provide advice on funding opportunities for access and rights of way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The JLAF provided strategic advice regarding non-motorised user access provision for three proposed large infrastructure schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hornsea Project Four onshore cable corridor - Jock's Lodge/A164 Improvement Scheme - Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme (Hull) Advice was provided at forum meetings and at separate stakeholder consultations to inform the ongoing development of the scheme proposals. ■ JLAF members responded to 11 definitive map modification order and/or public path order consultations to improve the PROW network in the East Riding. ■ The JLAF responded to eight planning applications of strategic importance to the local public rights of way network (6 Hull, 2 East Riding). Some positive PROW measures were incorporated in the schemes approved and hopefully increasingly more local access improvements can be delivered through the planning system. ■ Forum members continued to monitor the progress of the England Coast Path in our area having responded to previous stakeholder consultations. More progress on the two local ECP sections is hoped for in the forthcoming year. ■ The JLAF arranged a meeting with Highways officers and Humberside Police to assess management options for problematic unmetalled highway routes in the East Riding. The JLAF previously advised on the development of new council policy and this remains an issue regularly raised by affected local communities. ■ JLAF members and secretariat are actively involved in the Market Weighton Canal Trail improvement project which has secured funding awards from both the Sancton Hill Windfarm Community Fund and the Trans Pennine Trail Legacy Fund in the past year. Further improvements to the local heritage trail network (eg. canal and river towpaths, disused railway lines) remains a priority for the JLAF. ■ The JLAF provided letters of support for funding bids relating to local community-led access/heritage projects, including proposals for The Royal Way project in the Vale of Snaith. ■ In addition to main JLAF meetings, four PROW sub-group meetings were held in the past year, enabling positive dialogue between PROW officers and JLAF members to inform a range of local rights of way matters.
<p>Continue to develop and strengthen contacts with other key organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JLAF members maintain regular dialogue with farming industry contacts concerning the developing Agriculture Bill and countryside access implications. ■ Following positive recent engagement with Bishop Burton College tutors it is hoped that the JLAF can give a future presentation to access module students. ■ Speakers and guests invited to recent forum meetings included representatives from the Environment Agency, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside, HEYwoods (Northern Forest project) and parish councils. ■ JLAF members attended network events organised by the Hull and East Riding Catchment Partnership and the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership.
<p>Review 'Walking the Riding' and other local web-based access information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Significant improvements were made to the 'Walking the Riding' online PROW map following recommendations made by the JLAF. This is an important resource regularly used by both residents and visitors. Forum members will continue to work with officers to enhance the local access information available on the web.
<p>Help promote progress on the Kingston upon Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ROWIP updates from both authorities continue to be included in JLAF annual reports which are circulated to contacts locally, regionally and nationally. ■ Updates from both local authorities are provided at quarterly JLAF meetings. ■ The JLAF secretariat organised display stands highlighting recent local access improvements at selected local events.
<p>Continue to support and actively participate in regional and national access activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JLAF representatives regularly attend external group and partnership meetings, including the Trans Pennine Trail (Eastern Management Group), Yorkshire Wolds Way Partnership and Yorkshire & Humber Regional Access Forum

Objectives for 2020-21

The Joint Local Access Forum has set the following broad objectives for the next year:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide strategic advice on the management of key recreational green infrastructure assets in the East Riding and Hull
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to local and national consultation documents on important access, rights of way and highways matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen links with key external contacts including landowning organisations, public health, youth engagement, Local Nature Partnerships and Local Enterprise Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review 'Walking the Riding' and other local web-based access information and make recommendations to improve the experience for users
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for continued funding for National Trails and the wider public rights of way network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to raise awareness of local access improvements relating to the Kingston Upon Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire ROWIPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to actively participate in regional and national access activities

The Forum remains committed to working closely with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council and providing independent and constructive advice to both authorities and to other organisations.

The JLAF offers advice through formal and informal channels, including making recommendations on key issues at forum meetings, responding to consultation documents, issuing section 94 advice letters, reviewing policies and contributing to stakeholder working groups and external partnerships.

Specific priorities for 2020-21 will be confirmed at the JLAF's forthcoming AGM but are likely to include the following:

- Large infrastructure projects with PROW implications
- England Coast Path and Yorkshire Wolds Way National Trails
- Trans Pennine Trail, local rail trails and towpath trails
- Agriculture Bill and opportunities for public access
- Woodland access / community forest projects
- Review of PROW performance standards
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans
- COVID-19 recovery – local access implications



River Humber at Weighton Lock

Officers and Speakers

Members of the JLAF would like to thank the following officers for their regular attendance at forum meetings and for their ongoing support and help:

Allan Davidson

Sustainable Travel Officer, Hull City Council

Patrick Wharam

Countryside Access Manager, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Debbie Smedley, Mark Drydale, Marie Harrison and Georgia Mellors

Definitive Map Team, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Members would also like to thank speakers from the following organisations who attended meetings of the JLAF during the past year; Environment Agency, Garton on the Wolds Parish Council, HEYwoods, East Riding Infrastructure & Facilities and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Humberside.

Forum Secretariat

East Riding of Yorkshire Council provides the Secretariat to the Forum and the following officers are thanked for their support during the year:

Tracey Tomlinson

Democratic Services Officer

Steve Howdle

Principal Rural Development Officer



Beverley Parks Nature Reserve

Education and promotion

Additional officer time has enabled significant progress to be made behind the scenes this year. Most existing routes on the Walking the Riding website have now been checked and 180 new routes have been drafted. Within these are many shorter routes aimed at encouraging walks 'from your doorstep', with 76% of all settlements now having a route through them, an increase of 6% from last year.

The council's web team have redesigned the Countryside Access Team's web presence with the inception of a new Coast & Countryside web page. Walking the Riding will share the new branding and fall within this. We are at the stage of transferring both old and new routes into the new branded template, ready for addition to the new site, along with a range of updated, higher quality photographs.

The launch of the redesigned web page and the addition of the new routes are expected to be complete by the end of summer 2020. The online Public Rights of Way interactive map has also been substantially upgraded and includes enhancements requested by the JLAF.



Spring PROW grasscut Wilberforce Way

Accessibility

The key accessibility target for the PROW service is to achieve an overall reduction in the number of stiles. Stiles can be difficult to use and often form a barrier to the public enjoying a whole network of other routes. A target of 95% of routes free from stiles is achievable for 2020 and more stiles will be removed in order to achieve the target. Area PROW officers are treating this as a priority. The chart below (Figure 1) shows the progress made towards this target, using random samples collected annually. We have also taken account of customer feedback to adapt existing structures to make them more accessible at select locations across the East Riding.



The Definitive Map Team have recently succeeded in making a Public Path Order (PPO) at Goxhill which satisfies Statement 3b of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, seeking to remove physical barriers to routes and increase easy access, as this route removed a stile making it more accessible.

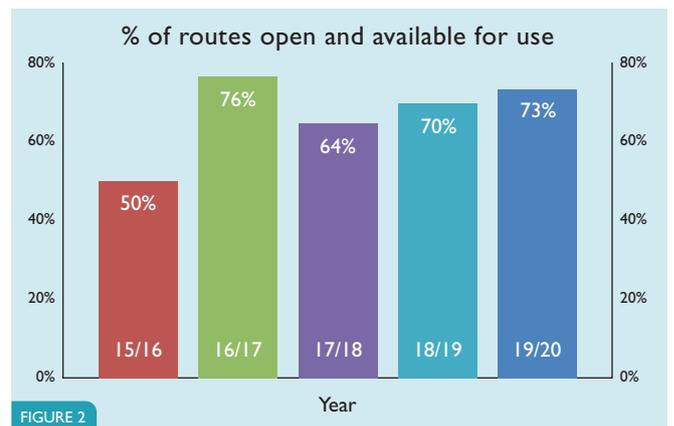


Goxhill footpath stile removed

Route maintenance and improvement

One of the key targets for the Countryside Access Team is to try and improve the maintenance of public rights of way. The vegetation clearance programme continued in 2019 and we have procured the grass cutting programme for the next three years.

We have set a target for 75% of routes to be open and available for use in conjunction with the JLAF. Figure 2 shows that we are slightly behind achieving this target on a consistent basis, although the random nature of the surveys can result in peaks and troughs.



The Local Transport Plan Team secured funding to help resurface part of the old railway line close to Skirlaugh picnic site where tree roots pushing through the surface were impacting on the experience for users of the Trans Pennine Trail.

Network Connectivity

The Definitive Map Team continuously strives to increase and improve the public rights of way network across the East Riding. The team are currently working with developers, project teams within ERYC and external companies on three major schemes - A164 and Jocks Lodge Junction Improvements, the Beverley Footbridge Project (north of the Beverley Southern Relief Road) and the Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm cable corridor route - and are working to improve and/or increase the public rights of way network within these schemes.

There have been six Public Path Orders (PPO) made in the reporting period and two Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) which has increased the East Riding PROW network by 299 metres.

The Definitive Map Team have been largely occupied with Orders that have received objections and require submission to the Secretary of State for determination. The outcome of one of these DMMOs in this last year added 245 metres of footpath to the PROW network in Howden.

Definitive Map and Statement

The current Definitive Maps and Statements in use are inherited from the devolution of authorities and as such we are working with five Definitive Maps and Statements. To help improve our service the Definitive Map Team are working on a major overhaul to create one East Riding of Yorkshire Council Definitive Map and Statement. This is a large project to undertake and is ongoing alongside the team's other statutory duties.

Since the last annual report there have been eight new applications made under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act with six of them currently certified.



Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Progress Update – Hull City Council

Improve accessibility through improved surfaces and safer crossings

Public realm improvements in the city centre were extended to Brook Street and Prospect Street though completion has been delayed due to Covid19. The new bridge at Princes Quay has been installed by Highways England and work is ongoing to access the bridge in advance of the Castle Street / A63 improvements. It is expected to open later this year and will improve traffic free access to the Fruit Market area from the public realm in the city centre.

Ensure public rights of way are clear of obstruction and well-maintained

The council is continuing to engage with Grounds Maintenance, Community Payback and The Community Volunteers (TCV) to remove obstruction caused by overgrown vegetation on the public rights of way network. The council has also supported the Absolutely Cultured volunteers in their work to enhance the Bean Street area.

Improve connectivity within the network

The council continues to work with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Natural England to progress the development and implementation of the England Coast Path between Humber Bridge and Easington, and is jointly seeking potential funding from Highways England to improve active travel routes in and to the city. Unfortunately this has been delayed due to the significant Humber Flood Defence works which are currently ongoing. A new footpath link from the Ennerdale Leisure Centre car park to the River Hull and fishing platforms on public right of way no. 6 was installed by the Environment Agency.



Council website and publications utilised more effectively

In addition to the inclusion of existing Hull PROW within the 'Walking the Riding' website to encourage better cross boundary access, the council's website application <https://maps.hull.gov.uk/myhull.aspx> allows users to turn on various layers - including PROW, walking and cycle routes – and is proving popular, however further promotion is required. Events on the PROW network continue to be actively promoted through social media including Facebook and Twitter.

Implementing and modifying public rights of way

The council has successfully acquired land at Castle Hill for future development which will incorporate some improvements to public access, on the banks of the Holderness Drain with future enhancement along the Drain to connect the area to the ferry terminal, subject to funding. The Local Access Forum has continued to be supportive of the Environment Agency's proposal to implement the Humber Frontage Flood Alleviation Scheme and the River Hull Flood Alleviation scheme which directly affect several PROWs in the city. The Environment Agency has carried out works on public right of way no. 11 adjacent to the River Hull between Myton Bridge and Whitakers (see image below).



EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE AND KINGSTON UPON HULL JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum is a statutory advisory body, independent of but administered by East Riding of Yorkshire Council in partnership with Hull City Council. The Forum meets on a quarterly basis and consists of unpaid volunteers representing a range of countryside and access interests. Elected Member representatives from both councils also sit on the Forum.

Local Access Forums were established under section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and operate in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.

The Forum has the statutory authority to provide advice to appropriate 'section 94(4) bodies', including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council and relevant central government departments and agencies, in the following areas of interest:

- Improvement of public access to land in the area (whether on foot or by horse, cycle, canoe, mechanically propelled vehicle or any other lawful means) for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.
- Public access to land in the area for any other lawful purpose, whether on foot, horse, cycle, canoe or by any means other than by mechanically propelled vehicle.
- Public access to land in the area by means of a mechanically propelled vehicle for any other lawful purpose, but only insofar as the access relates to byways open to all traffic (BOAT).

Section 94(4) bodies are statutorily required 'to have regard, in carrying out their functions, to any relevant advice given to them' by Local Access Forums.

Quarterly meetings of the Joint Local Access Forum, and the Annual General Meeting, are held in public and minutes of the meetings are available online or by request from the Secretariat. Interested members of the public are very welcome to attend forum meetings.

USEFUL LINKS

www.eastriding.gov.uk/jlaf

www.hullcc.gov.uk

maps.hull.gov.uk/myhull.aspx

walkingtheriding.eastriding.gov.uk

eastridingcoastandcountryside.co.uk

[www.gov.uk/government/
organisations/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england)

PHOTO CREDITS

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Hull City Council

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This report is also available in electronic format and other languages. For further information please contact:

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