

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

21ST AUGUST 2008

OPEN ACCESS – LINKS TO ISOLATED AREAS

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members on the area of work around identifying and addressing problems relating to the lack of access to areas of Open Access Land

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Previous reports have outlined an area of work involving the identification and prioritisation of new links required to make certain Open Access land accessible
- 2.2 A full survey has been undertaken on Open Access land outside the Nidderdale area to identify the potential for new links
- 2.3 There is currently no dedicated Officer resource to deal with Open Access issues

3.0 PROGRESS

- 3.1 No significant progress has been made since the last update in November 2007. Volunteers have been identified to continue surveying of Access Land, in order for this work to be undertaken there are a number of requirements which need staff resource.
- 3.2 The key requirement is to introduce a system for the production of base information and the recording and prioritisation of issues resulting from the survey. The existing CAMS database has been identified as a suitable tool to handle this information and as part of a system upgrade the software developers have been instructed to import Open Access base maps into CAMS. Once this has been completed the system can then be configured to handle Open Access data.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that this will be completed before December 2008, after which existing survey information can be input into the system and any gaps in the data identified. This will allow the production of a further survey programme which can be distributed to volunteers.
- 3.4 There is clearly a resource requirement for the updating and production of survey information which the section is currently unable to meet with Officer time. In order to continue to make some progress the Ramblers' Association have offered to undertake this work under the supervision of the PRoW Team Leader.

4.0 PROPOSED ACTION

- 4.1 The upgrade and configuration of the CAMS database will be complete by December 2008, after which time existing information will be input by volunteers.
- 4.2 Further survey work will then be identified and undertaken by volunteers allowing an assessment of requirements and priorities to be devised.
- 4.3 There is currently no resource available to progress any resulting action plan from this work. The aim is to identify the scale and priority of the requirement which will allow an accurate assessment of resource required to be made.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 There is currently extremely limited resource available to progress Open Access work. However we are seeking to utilise volunteer resource to ensure some progress is made.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that this report is received for information

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