

**North Yorkshire Local Access Forum****23 November 2016****Permissive Access –  
Referral from Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Access Forum****Report of the Secretary****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider whether the Local Access Forum wishes to undertake any work on permissive access.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Access Forum discussed the attached report on Permissive Access at its meeting on 28 September 2016.
- 2.2 The Regional Forum suggested that all Local Access Forums consider the report. LAFs were encouraged to identify any potential access loss, evaluate its importance to the Rights of Way network and discuss possible solutions. Regional Forum members will be asked to report back at the next regional meeting in March 2017.

**3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 That the Forum considers what, if any, work it may wish to undertake in relation to permissive access in its area.

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Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

Report author: Kate Arscott, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

**Background Documents:** None

## **PERMISSIVE ACCESS YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE**

### **Introduction**

In the past, landowners have been able to apply for grants under various agri-environmental schemes, such as Higher Level Stewardship, to create permissive routes across their sites. In 2010 it was announced that this subsidy will cease, although current payments will be honoured until 2020. As a consequence, it is likely that many of these routes could be lost to the public unless landowners continue to support them voluntarily. Various LAF's in other parts of the country are following this up & it is suggested that local LAF's in the Yorkshire & Humber region should do the same.

Recent correspondence with DEFRA has confirmed that permissive access funding is no longer available, although access 'furniture' will continue to be funded within the new Countryside Stewardship scheme for those who wish to continue to provide access voluntarily, particularly where there has been previous investment in permissive access.

There are currently some 91 such sites across the Yorkshire & Humberside region (see annex). A register is maintained by Natural England on <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk> where a search can be made by County or Region. Most sites last only 10 years & are not on Ordnance Survey maps. Some are widely publicised but others are less well known.

Walking, cycling & other recreational activities are recognised by the Government as being important forms of exercise & are being promoted & encouraged to help improve health & general well being. Access to the countryside should therefore be maintained wherever possible & landowners should be encouraged to play their part, supported by LAF's & other local forums, communities & user groups.

### **LAF & Other Partnership Support**

It is suggested that each LAF reviews the sites listed on the Natural England register for their local area to determine which routes would benefit from continued permissive access arrangements. Suggested criteria for prioritising permissive access routes include, but should not be limited to:

- What date does the current permissive access period end?
- Does the access area include &/or form links with an existing PROW?
- Is the route suitable for a wheelchair?
- Does the route have scenic, historical, or geological value?
- Is there an opportunity to view wild life on the route?
- Are there examples of unusual or picturesque flora on route?
- Is there safe off-road access from the nearest community?

The prioritised list of permissive routes should be refined in discussion with local communities & user groups. It may be advantageous for local Rights of Way Officers to be given an opportunity to comment.

Also, with the increasing Government encouragement on improving health & wellbeing, the support of local Health & Wellbeing Boards may be of benefit. Similarly, if there are opportunities to view wild life &/or flora then the Local Nature Partnerships may be supportive.

### **Landowner Discussions**

Once a prioritised list of sites &/or routes has been determined, landowners should be approached with a view to seeking their comments on continuing to voluntarily support the existing permissive access arrangements.

When discussing permissive access with landowners, it may be beneficial to consider what access 'furniture' may be eligible for funding under the new Countryside Stewardship scheme. There may also be opportunities for landowners to consider other arrangements which may attract funding such as Educational Access Visits.

Landowners will need to discuss the ramifications of continuing to support permissive access routes across their sites with Local Authorities & others. Advice & guidance is also available from the Natural England Permissive Access Team in Cambridge.

Environmental Stewardship Permissive Access Team  
Natural England  
Customer Services  
Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road  
Cambridge, CB2 8DR

Mailbox address: CS.Access.Cambridge@naturalengland.org.uk  
Customer Services Helpline: 0300 060 1114

### **Suggested Timescales**

Some permissive access sites have already expired and others will do so at various dates until 2020. It is therefore suggested that LAF's seek the help of their members to undertake an initial desk top review of the current Natural England register of local sites & develop an initial prioritised list based on the expiry date of the access permission in their areas.

It is recommended that an initial review is completed before the end of 2016. A more detailed prioritised list, based on the suggested criteria above, should be compiled in parallel with a view to finalising this by mid-2017.

Discussions with landowners could start to be initiated by late-2016/early-2017, subject to priorities, with a view to completing all such discussions by the end of 2017. This would give everyone involved a chance to implement any changes by 2020.

## EXTRACT – NATURAL ENGLAND, CONSERVATION WALKS & RIDES REGISTER, MAY 2016

There are 91 sites in Yorkshire and The Humber which match your requirements.

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### EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE and THE HUMBER

- Benningholme Grange - near Hull
- Buckton Cliffs - near Bridlington
- Cleaving Coombe - near Market Weighton
- Densholme Farm - near Withernwick
- Filbert Grange Farm - near Howden
- Golden Hill Farm - near Driffield
- Hall Farm - near Goole
- Hall Farm - near Howden
- Head Farm - near Bridlington
- Head Farm - near Flamborough
- High Callis Wold - near Pocklington, York
- Holme House - near Market Weighton
- Home Farm A - near Bridlington
- Home Farm B - near Bridlington
- Home Farm C - near Bridlington
- Ivy House Farm - near Selby
- Westfield Farm - near Driffield
- Wold House Farm Site A - near Driffield
- Wold House Farm Site B - near Driffield

### NORTH YORKSHIRE

- Askham Bog - near York
- Baldrencia Farm - near Easingwold
- Bellmanear Farm - near Malton
- Beningbrough Home Farm - near York
- Bent Rigg Farm - near Scarborough
- Bishop Monkton Railway Cutting - near Bishop Monkton
- Broad Lane Farm - near York
- Buck House Farm - near Kirkby Malzeard, Near Ripon
- Burton Leonard Lime Quarry - near Burton Leonard
- Carlton Farms - near Helmsley
- Church Farm - near Myton On Swale
- Cockhill - near Greenhow
- Cogden Hall Grinton - near Reeth
- Colburn Hall - The Batts - near Richmond
- Colcroft Farm - near Scarborough
- Crayke Estate Walk (Home Farm) - near Crayke
- Crayke Estate Walk (Launds Farm) - near Crayke
- Crayke Estate Walk (Mount Pleasant Farm) - near Crayke
- Crimple Head Farm - near Harrogate
- Daleside Farm - near Helmsley
- East Underbanks - near Richmond
- Friar's Hurst A - near Ripon
- Friar's Hurst B - near Ripon
- Griff Farm - near Helmsley
- Home Farm - near Knaresborough
- Home Farm Site A - near Boroughbridge
- Home Farm Site B - near Boroughbridge
- Jeffrey Bog - near Westow
- Kexmoor Farm - near Kirby Malzeard/ Ripon
- Land At Asenby - near Asenby

- Lee Gate Farm - near Malham
- Littlebeck Wood - near Scarborough
- Lower Winskill - near Langcliffe
- Lowgate Farm - near Hawes
- Lownethwaite Farm - near Richmond
- Milbank Farm - near Rillington/Malton
- Newsham Hall Farm - near Richmond
- Norton Tower - near Skipton
- Nosterfield Nature Reserve - near Masham
- Oak Bush Farm A - near Stamford Bridge
- Ousebank Farm - near Selby
- Pear Tree Farm - near York
- Punchard House Farm - near Richmond
- Rspb Bempton Cliffs - near Bridlington
- Sherburn Willows Nature Reserve - near Sherburn-In-Elmet
- Staveley Nature Reserve - near Staveley
- Stillingfleet Green - near Stillingfleet
- The Hall Sinnington - near Pickering
- Town Farm - near Scarborough
- Town Farm - near Scarborough
- Town Head Farm - near Grassington
- Webster's Farm - near Thirsk
- West Side Farm Site A - near York
- West Side Farm Site B - near York
- Wilkinsons Farm East Marton - near Skipton
- Woodend Farm - near Leyburn

#### **SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

- Delf House - near Barnsley
- Denaby Ings Nature Reserve - near Doncaster
- Hoyles Farm - near Sheffield
- New Hall Farm - near Barnsley/Darfield
- Wentworth Castle Park - near Barnsley

#### **WEST YORKSHIRE**

- Bramham Moor - near Wetherby
- Fairburn Ings - near Castleford
- Hazel House Farm - near Methley
- Martin Wood, Mytholmroyd - near Mytholmroyd
- Penistone Hill - near Howarth
- Rodley Nature Reserve - near Leeds
- Scaife Hall Farm - near Otley
- Stoney Royd Farm - near Mytholmroyd
- Willow Garth Nature Reserve - near Knottingley
- Wothersome Lake Plantation - near Wetherby
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park - near Wakefield