



**Countryside Access Team** - Maintaining and improving the rights of way in Cambridgeshire for the use and enjoyment of everyone. Providing opportunities for sustainable transport and healthier enjoyable lifestyles through the public path network.

### Countywide work

#### 1. **Staff**

We are pleased to welcome George Hay as Network Asset Management Enforcement Officer. Countryside Access Team will be hosting George.

Chris Tucker has been appointed Countryside Access Team Finance Officer and will be starting on 2 June.

#### 2. **Common and Village Greens**

##### Ely

A report will be taken to the Director of Highways and Access on 21 May recommending that a public inquiry is held into this opposed application Whitehill Road Cambridge

A report recommending that this application is approved and the relevant land is added to the register of town and village greens will be taken to the Director of Highways and Access on 21 May

#### 3. **Local Access Forum**

The next meeting of the LAF is to be held on 27 May. Agenda and meeting papers will be available on the County Council's Website prior to the meeting.

#### 4. **Training and publicity**

The team's 2008 goal-setting Away Day was held at Rampton, and the opportunity was taken to see the improvements made by the Northstowe Project at Giants Hill and around the wider parish. Team objectives for 2008-09 were also discussed following a presentation on the County Council's Corporate Objectives.

An article on Cambridgeshire County Council's Lost Highways Project written by Alysoun Hodges from the Countryside Access Team was published in the Spring edition of the Institute of Public Rights of Way Management magazine

The Lost Highways Road show visited Wimblington Ladies' Night Out group to give a presentation on rights of way and old maps of Wimblington. This was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

The public liaison officer post remains to be filled. Consideration is currently being given to appointing an officer to cover the whole of Network Asset Management.

## 5. Biodiversity

Grass cutting has commenced with detail instructions for contractors where grass cutting runs through or adjacent to areas of natural history interest.

Surveys of several routes are being commissioned from the Wildlife Trust in order to inform improved management for biodiversity. Work over consecutive seasons to manage scrub and encourage a species rich grass sward on selected routes such as the Bullock Road is beginning to create some good wildlife habitats on previously neglected and/or damaged routes.

Work continues with ADAS to develop and promote management practices in the interest of access and biodiversity.

Path has been closed while badger activity is assessed prior to surface repairs

## 6. Green Infrastructure Projects

Teams were represented at the initial meeting of the Green Infrastructure Green Corridor Forum.

Meetings have been held with Huntingdonshire District Council to co-ordinate delivery of Green Infrastructure work around St Neots.

Officers are being appointed to take forward the externally funded access work at Northstowe and around Cambridge City.

## **Definitive Map and Statement**

### **No more wasted journeys as new service comes on-line**

A new service to customers has been made available via our web page. A full listing of all routes covered by Traffic Restriction Orders or Prohibition of Driving Orders has been placed on the internet. This enables the public to check whether there are any restrictions on routes they plan to use, and preventing possibly wasted journeys. These cover mostly byways closed to motorised use or subject to width restrictions.

### **Map Consolidation Project progress to March 2008**

	<b>Number of Parishes</b>	<b>Number of Paths</b>
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>2890</b>
Totals within Cambridgeshire	237	3998
<b>Project Progress (%)</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>72.3 %</b>

## **Parish Paths Partnership**

The final total number of parishes in the scheme for 2008-09 is 92. We are still awaiting final confirmation of district grant support.

### **Green Lane information day gets message out**

On Sunday April 20 in Coveney, Little Downham and Witchford a green lane day was held with police, user groups, landowners and general public in attendance to discuss some of the problems being encountered on surface damage (also the criminal damage to some of the recently installed byway gates). Meetings were

well attended and all agreed that it had been a successful day.

## **Access Unit**

### **Surveying how well we are doing...**

The first part of the annual path conditions survey will be taking place this month (the second takes place in November). Although there is no longer a reportable Performance Indicator for this service, the majority of Local Authorities are continuing with the survey as a benchmarking exercise.

### **...and making sure we continue doing well**

Cropping-blitz cards have been sent to some 354 landowners as part of our efforts to reduce cross-field crop obstructions. Officers will carry out random path inspections along with the grass cutting inspection programme.

## **Huntingdonshire**

### **West Hunts welcomes responsible byway users for the summer**

Byways closed over the winter under Seasonal TROs have been opened up for the summer season. These include routes at Waresley, Abbotsley, Eynesbury Hardwick, St Neots Rural, Old Weston, Winwick and Upton and Coppingford.

### **Broughton and Spaldwick enjoy improved access**

New bridges have been erected at Spaldwick and Broughton. Also at Broughton, surface improvements at Illings Lane restricted byway have been approved.

## **Definitive Map cases**

### **Easier to pop to the shops in Eynesbury**

A well-used local all purpose footpath in Eynesbury Hardwick will now be protected for the public after an independent Inspector at a recent public inquiry agreed with the County Council's Definitive Map Officers that the path should be registered on the Definitive Map and Statement

### **Long-standing problem resolved**

At Bury footpath No2 a long-anticipated diversion of part of the path running through new development is now underway.

### **New walking route to school in Huntingdon**

The green-light has been given for the creation of footpath adjacent to St Peter's School Huntingdon to link Ambury Road with existing ROW network (FP20)

## **South Cambridgeshire**

### **Longstowe path made safe**

Dangerous stream bank reinforcement work has been completed on Longstowe footpath 8. Expressions of thanks have been received from the Parish Council and local residents.

### **Hippopotamuses no longer welcome at Steeple Morden**

Work is starting on Steeple Morden Byway No1 (Cobbs Lane) as the path is in a very muddy condition -recent horse fall there.

### **More vandalism on barriers at Longstowe**

New seasonal TRO barrier has been installed at the Gransden end of Longstowe byway 12 following the deliberate crashing of previous gates here.

### **Porters Way major works**

Planned capital works for Porters way (Bourn/Kingston) are progressing.

### **Definitive Map cases**

#### **No need for waders at Cambourne**

At Cambourne FP3 (old Bourn FP2) a diversion order has been made to divert part of the path from running through a lake and school to a new route around the edge of the lake and roadside.

#### **Better late than never in Weston Colville**

A Definitive Map Modification Order has been made to correct an error in the Definitive Map at Weston Colville. Public Footpath No16 in that village is still shown running through a housing estate even though it was believed that the path was diverted in the 1960s.

### **Northstowe**

- The Northstowe Area Footpath and Cycle way Network Project was completed at the end of March.
- A reception was held in Rampton to mark the successful achievements of the Project objectives.
- Copies of the Northstowe Hundred access map are available on request.
- The Northstowe Countryside Access Project, funded by DCLG under Housing Growth Fund commenced at the start of April. Work is currently concentrating on consultation, with evening visits being made to individual Parish Councils and contacts being made with other stakeholders. Please do let us know if you have any new suggestions. Potential improvements will then be planned.

## **East Cambridgeshire**

### **Walking well in Snailwell**

Resurfacing works are underway on paths in Snailwell.

### **Access experts help Ely move forward**

We have provided advice on the access aspects of the Ely Master plan

### **Addressing practical byway issues in Witcham and Witchford**

We shall soon be consulting on the need for seasonal TROs at Witcham to protect the byways over winter.. Consultation on surface restoration work on Witchford byways will be starting soon in conjunction with landowners.

### **Definitive Map cases**

#### **New application for footpath in Littleport**

An application has been received for a Modification Order to register a public footpath in Littleport between Limes Close and unrecorded drove connecting Upton Place and Upton Lane. The application was precipitated by proposed development.

## **Fenland**

### **Definitive Map cases**

#### **Footpath registration in March**

A Definitive Map Modification Order will be made to register a public footpath at Lambs Place March, following protracted investigations into the width of the claimed path.

A copy of this bulletin will be available online at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/countryside)

If you would like to discuss any item mentioned in the bulletin please contact the team on 01223 717445 or email us [cst@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cst@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

If you would like a copy of the text in this bulletin in large print, Braille, audio tape or in another language please call 01223 717445



**2006-2007**  
*Delivery of Quality Services Through Procurement  
Waste and Recycling*  
**2005-2006**  
*Asset Management*  
**2004-2005**  
*Better Local Public Transport*