

# Draft Lincolnshire rights of way improvement plan 2025

Public rights of way (ProW) are highways that the public can use at any time. They are grouped by who can use them:

- walkers
- cyclists
- horse riders
- carriage drivers
- motor vehicle drivers

Every highway authority in England, including Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) must write a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). It must assess:

- how well public rights of way (ProW) meet the public's current and future needs
- exercise and outdoor recreation/enjoyment opportunities
- accessibility for people who are blind, partially sighted or have mobility problems

To produce the RoWIP we:

- review current and previous RoWIPs
- look at existing council plans and policies, such as the local transport plan
- examine local cycling and walking network plans
- consider other local and national planning policies
- conduct a network fragmentation analysis – our significant unsurfaced unclassified road network could link up the fragmented network
- analyse census, health data and consider Lincolnshire's main features:
  - large geography, including a 97-mile-long coastline
  - National Landscapes and national nature reserves attracting visitors
  - a low density, ageing population with over 20% disability
- consult key stakeholders to understand needs for the next 10 years. Top three:
  - well-maintained routes
  - more routes
  - accessible routes
- work with the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum

We must:

- protect and maintain public highways as the highway authority
  - surface maintenance - clear vegetation and resurface well-used paths
  - repair bridges
  - put up and maintain signs
  - authorise gate installation, and stiles where absolutely necessary

- maintain a legal record, known as a definitive map and statement, of all the ProW as the surveying authority
- use our powers to create access points to open country and registered common land as the access authority

Four main themes are identified for action

- maintain
  - surface
  - clearance
  - enforcement
- develop
  - accessibility
  - parking
  - quality routes
- connect
  - more routes
  - link up/circular routes
  - upgrade
- engage and promote
  - maps and information
  - to those who don't often use PRow
  - health benefits