

# Wherrymans Way Access for All

Norfolk trails

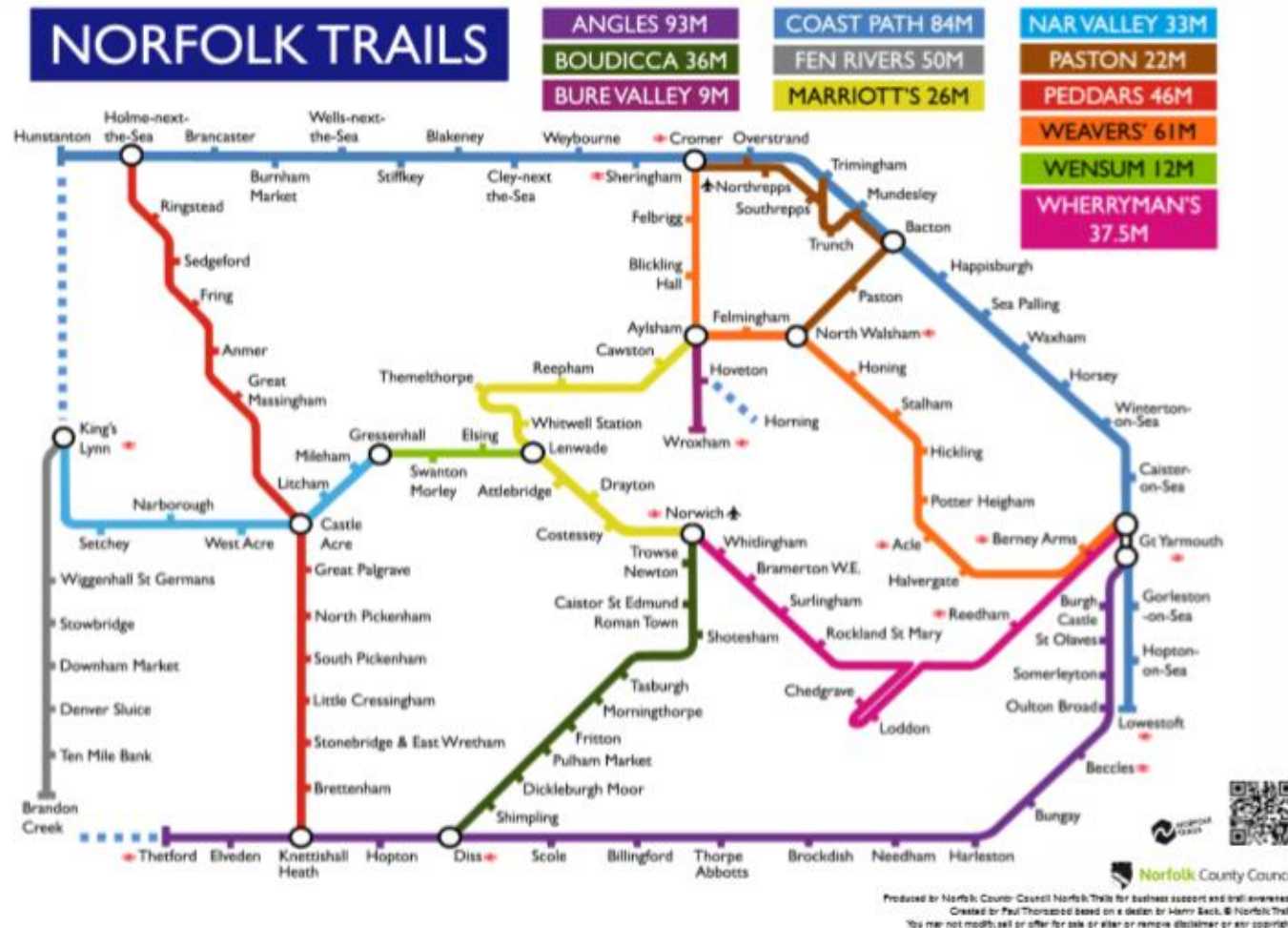


# Norfolk Trails

Bringing together all the long distance routes in Norfolk

Ambition is to bring these up to a National Trail standard

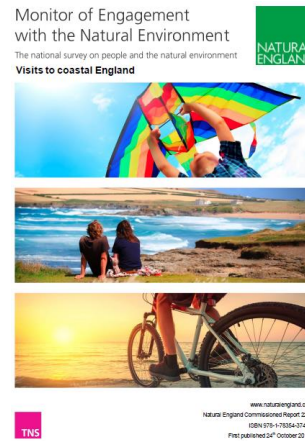
Locally the Boudiccas Way has benefitted for funding and access improvement – barrier free access for the first time ever, signage improvement throughout



# Tools used to value countryside visitors

Natural England Monitoring of Engagement with Natural Environment (MENE) estimates spend at £6 per visit to green space and £18 per visit to the coast

Total value 2018-19 = £19,247,694



Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT)

Total value = £482,095,000



© World Health Organization,  
Regional Office for Europe, 2014

Total value of countryside access

**£501,342,694**

Economic value of Norfolk Trails (2018/19)	MENE	HEAT*
Angles way	£547,434	£24,318,000
Boudicca way	£232,578	£7,001,000
Marriotts way	£3,356,490	£134,888,000
Nar Valley way	£276,480	£8,633,000
Norfolk Coast Path**	£13,456,062	£253,438,000
Paston Way	£213,276	£7,292,000
Peddars way	£155,838	£14,128,000
Weavers way	£702,820	£26,010,000
Wensum way	£36,888	£1,144,000
Wherrymans way	£169,388	£5,243,000
Little Ouse Path***	£100,440	
<b>Total all counters</b>	<b>£19,247,694</b>	<b>£482,095,000</b>

\*HEAT value for total health benefits accumulated over 10 years

\*\*NCP includes mobile counter data 2018/19

\*\*\*LOP Insufficient data at present for HEAT calculation



# Wherrymans Way



# The Wherrymans Way

Norfolk Trails was created to bring together all of the long distance promoted routes.

The Wherrymans Way was created in 2005 as a long distance promoted route throughout the broads area between Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The route is created by using public rights of way where appropriate and where available.

**Developed in partnership with the Broads Authority when created which is why the permissive sections of the route were held by the Broads Authority not by NCC**

The Wherryman's Way is managed by the trails team in a similar way as the Weavers Way, Angles Way, Boudicca's Way etc.

The trails team manage the trails and the public right of way it sits on. The team is not responsible for the wider public rights of way network which fall under the management of the County Council's Countryside Access Officers

**The Wherrymans Way does not have any separate act of parliament of legal structure other than the rights of way it uses and these are governed and managed under the highways act 1981**

# The Wherryman's Way route

In the Surlingham and Bramerton area the Wherryman's Way on the following existing public rights of way

(From Whitlingham)

Trowse-with-Newton BOAT1

Kirby Bedon FP1

Kirby Bedon FP3

Bramerton FP1

Surlingham FP12

Surlingham FP1

Surlingham FP2

Kirby Bedon BR2

Kirby Bedon BR8

Kirby Bedon BR4

Surlingham FP4

Surlingham FP10

Surlingham FP3

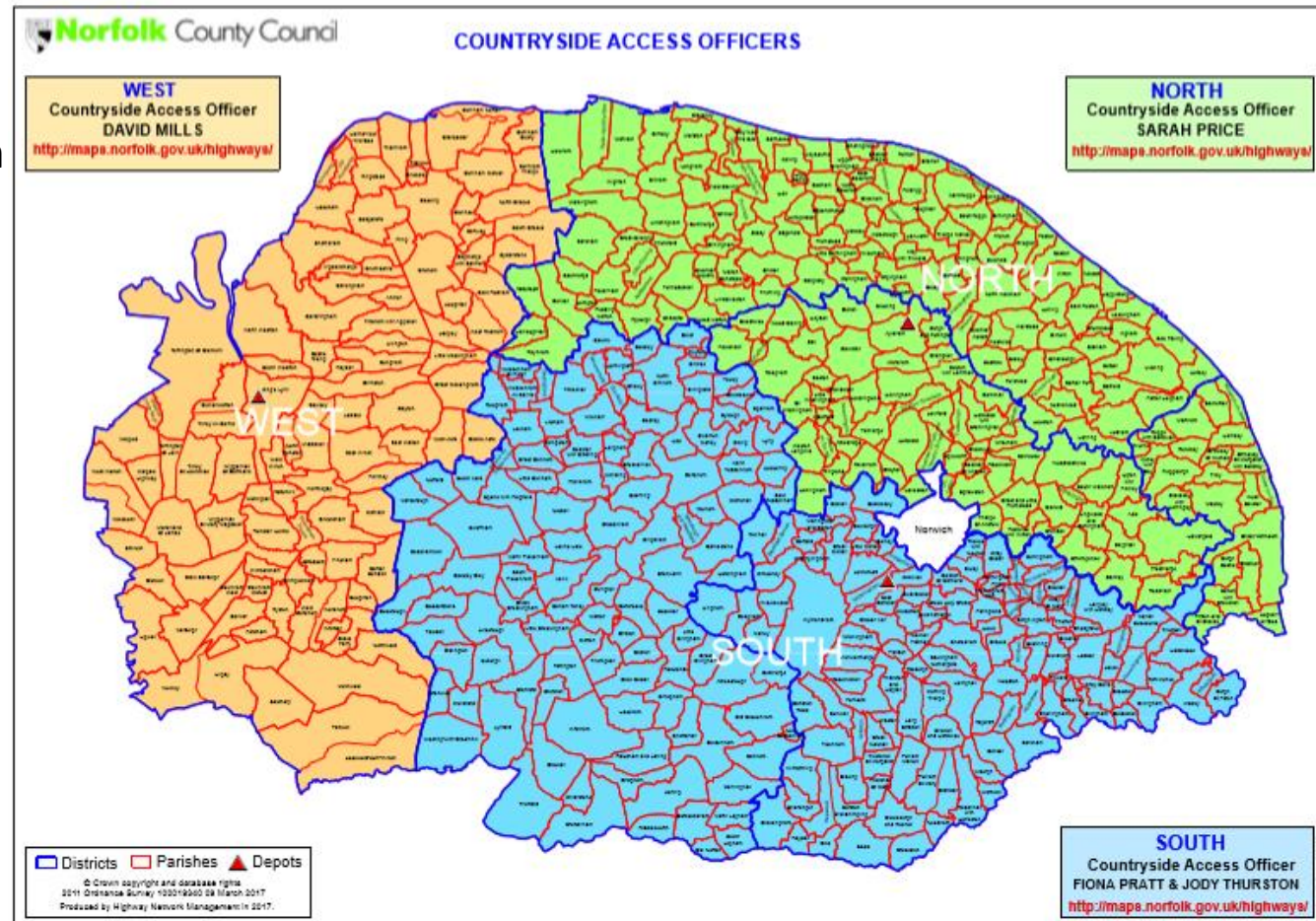
(Surlingham Ferry)

The route of the Trails does sometimes change due to certain reasons – improved access, loss of rights of way, health and safety considerations, removal of permissive paths. However we try maintain the routes on the existing line as much as possible.



# Countryside access officers and their areas

South Norfolk falls under the South Area



# Extracts for the NCC website explaining responsibilities

## About Public Rights of Way

We manage approximately 2,400 miles of Public Rights of Way consisting of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic.

A Public Right of Way is a route over which the public have the right to pass and re-pass. All Public Rights of Way are highways and are protected by highway law and other legislation. The land over which the Public Right of Way runs is usually private land; the surface of the path is maintained by us as the highway authority, **but the subsoil remains the property of the landowner**.

We also manage the [Norfolk Trails](#), a network of 13 long-distance paths and associated [circular walks](#) covering 1,200 miles. Norfolk Trails are managed to national standards with strong emphasis on improving the health, wellbeing and prosperity of the county, bolstering tourism and contributing to the conservation and understanding of our outstanding natural and historic environment. Norfolk Trails team has developed further opportunities for short walks and circuits, many with a geographical focus such as market towns or that integrate with public transport.



# The definitive map and definitive statement

# The definitive map and definitive statement

- Actions for rights of way are based on the definitive map and statement
- They are called the definitive map and statement as they are definitive, not open to discussion or negotiation, the right of way is where it is.
- Modifications can be made to the definitive map through a number of legal processes
- The legal orders team are a good first point of call for anyone wishing to modify, change or update the definitive map.

# The definitive map and definitive statement

- It was determined that there should be an authoritative record of public rights of way throughout the country. This recommendation was put into effect by section 27 to 38 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- The surveys went through three phases; draft (1957 ), provisional (1962) and definitive (1966). The dates given here are the dates this process was undertaken in the areas of Bramerton and Surlingham. At the same time an accompanying statement was drawn up.
- The showing of a path on the definitive map was and is conclusive evidence that it was a public right of way at the date the map was prepared.
- There was a duty to periodically review the definitive map and statement under various acts but due to difficulties in doing so further legislation followed: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This act legislates for the Definitive Map and Statement to be kept under continuous review.
- Section 56 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act reads 'A definitive map and statement shall be conclusive evidence as to the particulars contained therein...'
- This means that what is shown on the definitive map and statement is the legal extent of a public right of way regardless of any subsequent informal changes or routes used.



# The definitive map and definitive statement

The definitive map is conclusive for what it does show but not for what it doesn't. Routes can be altered, added or removed only by strict procedure. These include;

Definitive Map Modification Orders under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Such applications cannot be used for arbitrary changes.

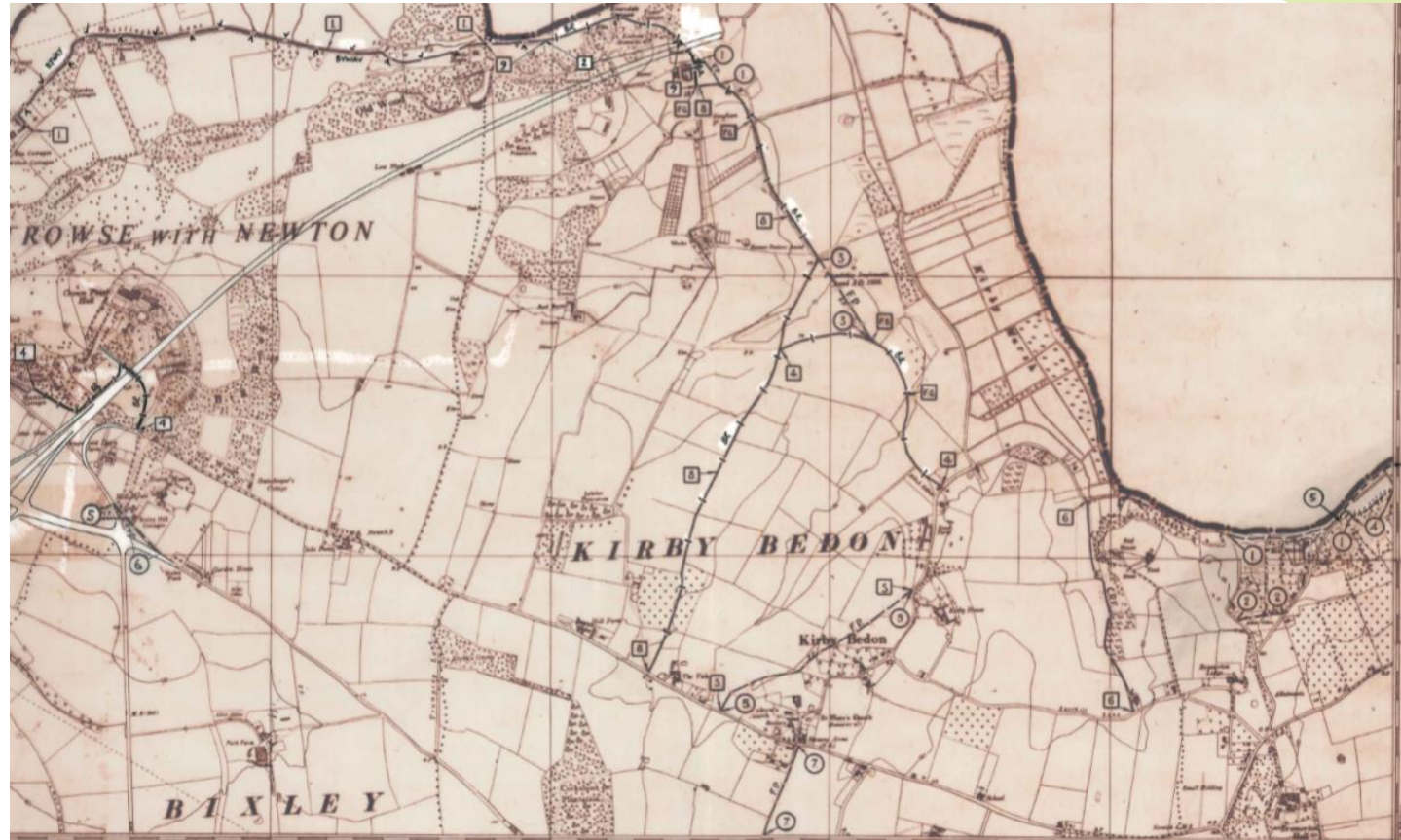
Public Path Orders under the Highways Act 1980. The legal requirements for such Orders are prescriptive. If the legal tests are not met the Orders will fail. Applications for such Orders are chargeable by Norfolk County Council

Public Path Orders under the Town and County Planning Act 1990. This is for where changes to the route are required in order to allow development to take place.

Orders made under legislation other than the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement by means of a Legal Event Order.

# The definitive map and definitive statement

- What the definitive map looks like
- Definitive map held at County Hall
- Available for viewing at county Hall
- Arrange with the legal orders team



# The definitive map and definitive statement

- What the definitive statement looks like

## PARISH OF BRAMERTON

Footpath No. 1 (Path near south bank of River Yare). Starts from the roadway leading to Wood's End Public House and runs eastwards, then east north eastwards near the south bank of the River Yare, through the Hill House Estate, to the parish boundary where it joins Surlingham Footpath No. 4.

Footpath No. 2 (Mill Hill Road to Woods End Hill). Starts from Mill Hill Road and runs westwards to enter Wood's End Hill.

Footpath No. 3 (Bullockshed Lane to Parish Boundary). Starts from Bullockshed Lane by a stile, and runs south south westwards to a second stile, then turns south westwards to the parish boundary where it joins Holverston Footpath No. 1 at a footbridge.

Footpath No. 4 (Bullockshed Lane to Parish Boundary). Starts from Bullockshed Lane and runs south west then southwards to the parish boundary where it joins Holverston Footpath No. 2.

Footpath No. 5 (Bramerton Footpath No. 1 to Surlingham Footpath No. 4). Starts from Mill Road, Bramerton Footpath No. 1, via a gate to the garden of Kingfishers Old House and runs north easterly for 53 metres through the garden of Kingfishers Old House to a gate, then follows the river bank along open marshland, for 430 metres in a north easterly direction, and finally turns south easterly for 45 metres to the north west corner of O.S. No. 134 to join Surlingham Footpath No. 4. The length of the path is approximately 528 metres and its width varies but is not less than 1 metre.



# Highways Responsibilities

As the Highway Authority, we are responsible for;

- Maintaining the surfaces of Public Rights of Way including the control of natural vegetation
- Assisting farmers and landowners with the maintenance of approved structures
- Signposting Public Rights of Way where they leave a road (note that some tarmac PROW in urban areas may not be signed). We may also arrange for additional waymarking after consultation with landowners
- Maintaining most bridges crossed by Public Rights of Way over natural watercourses including farm ditches (as long as the ditch was there when the path was first recorded)

# Landowner Responsibilities

- Keep Public Rights of Way clear of obstructions and overhanging vegetation including hedges and fallen trees. Hedges should be cleared high enough along bridleways, restricted byways and Byways Open to All Traffic to allow for horses and riders
- Maintain stiles and gates across footpaths and gates across bridleways in a good state of repair (with the assistance of maintenance authorities)
- Not place new structures across Public Rights of Way without prior consent of Norfolk County Council
- Provide new bridges or culverts over new or widened drainage ditches following consultation with Norfolk County Council
- Restore the surface of any cross field footpath or bridleway which has been ploughed or disturbed to at least the minimum width so that it is reasonably convenient to use and apparent on the ground, within 14 days (or 24 hours of any subsequent disturbance). The minimum width for a footpath is 1m across the field or 1.5m on the field edge; for a bridleway it is 2m across the field or 3m on the field edge. These widths only apply to the law on ploughing and cropping and do not affect other aspects of the law on Public Rights of Way
- Not plough or disturb the surface of cross field footpaths and bridleways where it can conveniently be avoided

# Landowner Responsibilities

- Not plough any footpath or bridleway which constitutes a headland, i.e. field edge
- Not plough any Byway Open to All Traffic or Restricted Byway, these Public Rights of Way will have a minimum width of 3m
- Ensure crops (other than grass), are not grown on or overhang a right of way at any time, so as to obstruct or otherwise inconvenience the public or prevent the line of the Public Right of Way from being apparent on the ground
- Not allow any prohibited bull in a field through which a Public Right of Way passes. (See 'what about bulls' section)
- Not erect misleading signs likely to deter use of Public Rights of Way
- Not remove or alter the direction of rights of way signs and waymarks
- Not allow barbed or electrified wire to cross through stiles or run too close to adjacent Public Rights of Way
- Contact Norfolk County Council before erecting fencing adjacent to Public Rights of Way to ensure that the highway is not encroached upon
- Ensure that Public Rights of Way are restored following drainage schemes



# Wherrymans way access improvements

The Wherryman's Way from Whitlingham Country Park to The Surlingham Ferry Inn was access audited by active trails using all terrain wheelchairs in 23/09/ 2016 absolute barriers to access were identified at Bramerton footpath 1 and Surlingham footpath 4.

The next stretch to Surlingham was audited on 02/09/2017 by able bodied trails officers as the route was impassable for wheelchair users. A one mile section at the Great Yarmouth end from Vauxhall station was audited by Active Trails on 12/11/2018.

**37.5 miles in length  
linking together  
Norwich and Great  
Yarmouth**

**Opportunity to  
improve access  
to countryside  
from Norwich**

**Ties together all  
GNGB areas –  
Norwich, South  
Norfolk,  
Broadland,  
Broads Authority**





September 2016 (Kirby Bedon  
BR4)



June 2017 (Bramerton Fp1)



November 2018  
(Reedham fp14)



# Access tested routes

## Accessibility information

- Trails team provide a range of access tested routes across the trails network
- Active trails – wheelchair users come out onto site and carry out assessments with trails staff to provide information for future users



# Access tested routes across the county

## Accessibility information



- Stretches of routes have been access tested across the county
- From Thetford to the Norfolk Coast Path
- Trails team provide information for users so they can make an informed decision about what routes are suitable prior to going out on the routes

# .GOV website for disabilities

## **Leisure, social and cultural activities**

Disabled people remain significantly less likely to participate in cultural, leisure and sporting activities than non-disabled people. Latest data shows disabled people are more likely to have attended a historic environment site, museum or gallery than in 2005 to 2006. However, disabled people are less likely to have attended a library over the same period [13](#).

## **Civic involvement and volunteering**

Disabled people remain significantly less likely to participate in cultural, leisure and sporting activities than non-disabled people. Latest data shows disabled people are more likely to have attended a historic environment site, museum or gallery than in 2005 to 2006. However disabled people are less likely to have attended a library over the same period [14](#)

Disabled people are significantly less likely to engage in formal volunteering. In 2010 to 2011, 23% of disabled people engaged in formal volunteering at least once a month, compared with 25% of non-disabled people [15](#).



# Invisible conditions



- **Not all disabilities are obvious**
- **By removing barriers to access the countryside becomes more accessible**
- **Its not about wheel chair access but improving access across the Norfolk Trails Network**

# How big is the market?



According to  **TOURISM FOR ALL**  
Making Accessible Travel Better

- There are **11.9 million disabled people in the UK**
- This is **19% of the population** – which means that **1 in 5 of customers** is likely to be disabled
- The population is ageing – **5 million of the disabled people in the UK are over State Pension age**
- This number is going to almost **double by 2030**

# Activity following access audit

Undertook a programme of scoping out possible access improvements

Looked at areas of particular access issues and prioritized these

Carried out habitat assessments on all sites prior to scoping works

# Work delivered to date along the Wherrymans Way



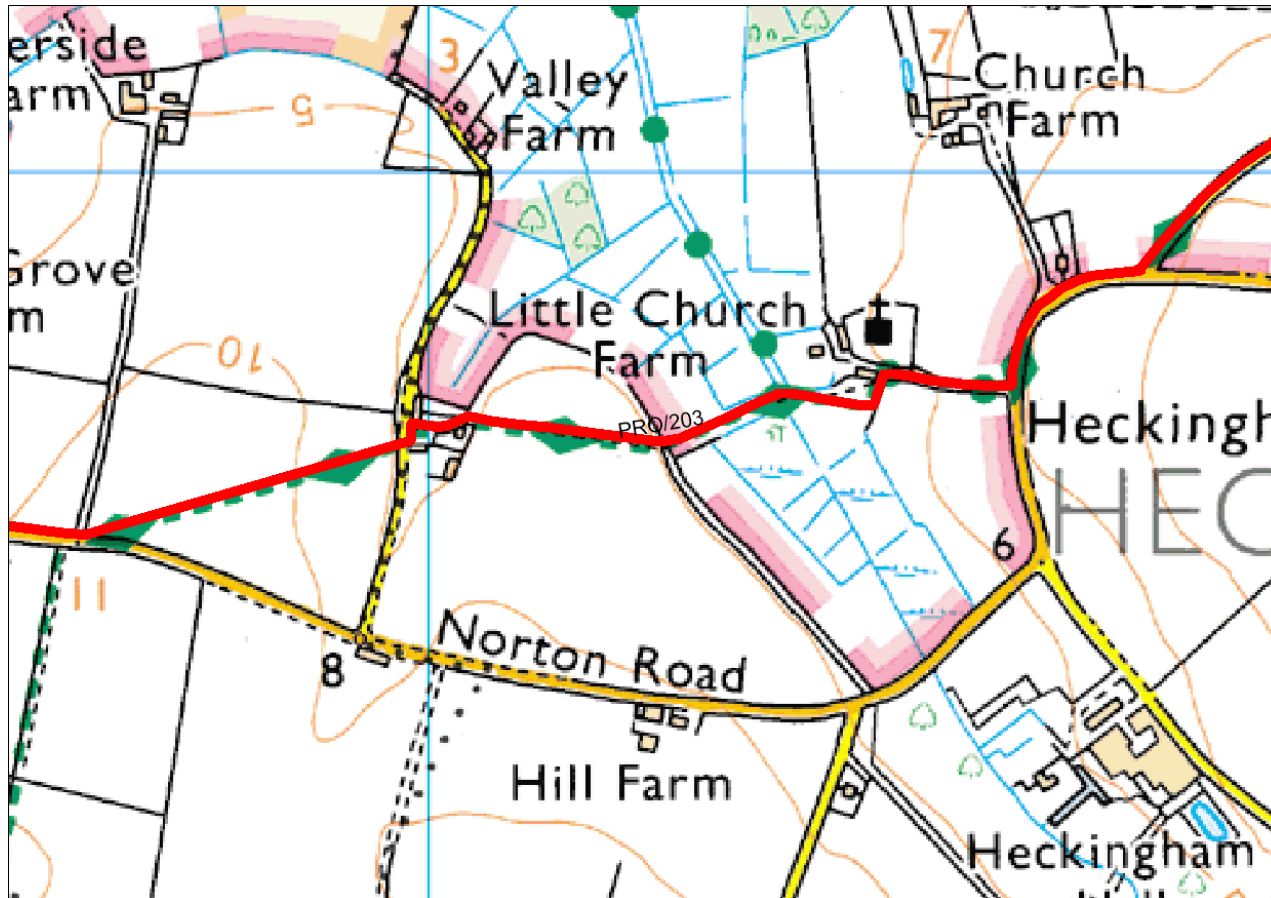
# Working with landowners on the route

- ✓ We have identified issues on the route and associated circular walks
- ✓ We have helped landowners with managing their trees
- ✓ Report from the public, initial visit from Trails team, arbocultural officers visited, landowner carried out works to manage trees on this section of path in Loddon





# Access Improvements in Heckingham



Removed two broken stiles and replaced with kissing gates

Regraded significant slope and imported material to create improved walked route

Installed new signage to support Wherryman's way users

# Infrastructure before improvement



Gate with very little room to get through

Broken railings

Significant slope

Very difficult for anyone to access



# Infrastructure after improvement



Path re-graded and new surface installed – now more accessible – removal of 2 foot drop

New kissing gate installed

New signage installed

Installed and completed within a week



## Infrastructure before improvement

Old bridge structure with stile built into the end

Difficult to access during wet weather



# Infrastructure after improvement



New deck installed on bridge

Stile removed and new kissing gate installed to improve access





# Access improvement in Bramerton

Public right of way had been closed for over 60 years so improved countryside access was created as a result of this project.

**This has resulted in surface improvement and re-opening of closed right of way**

# Signage improvements



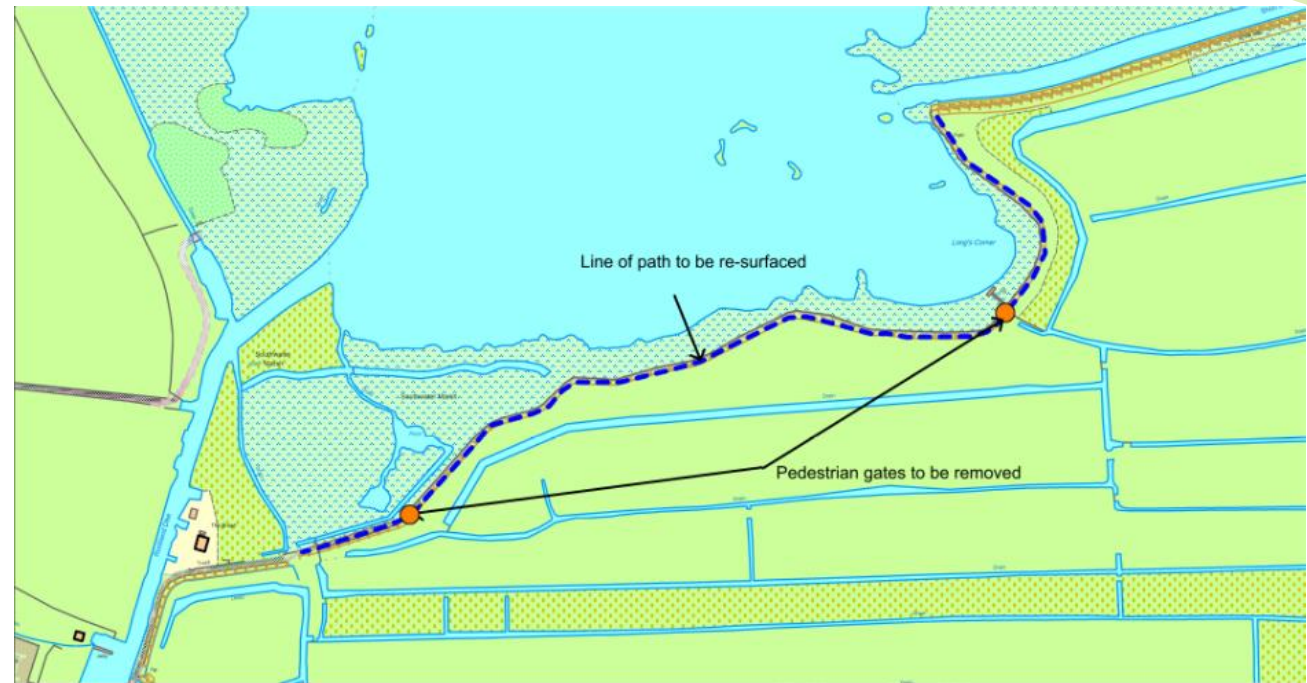
Signage improvements installed from Great Yarmouth through to Loddon

Signs now provide additional information regarding distances etc

# Planned work or work under review

# Future Plans - Rockland

- Approached by Parish Council to improve access to bird hide
- Meetings held on site with range of stakeholders and landowners
- Agreed programme of works
- Delivery of programme starting Jan 2020



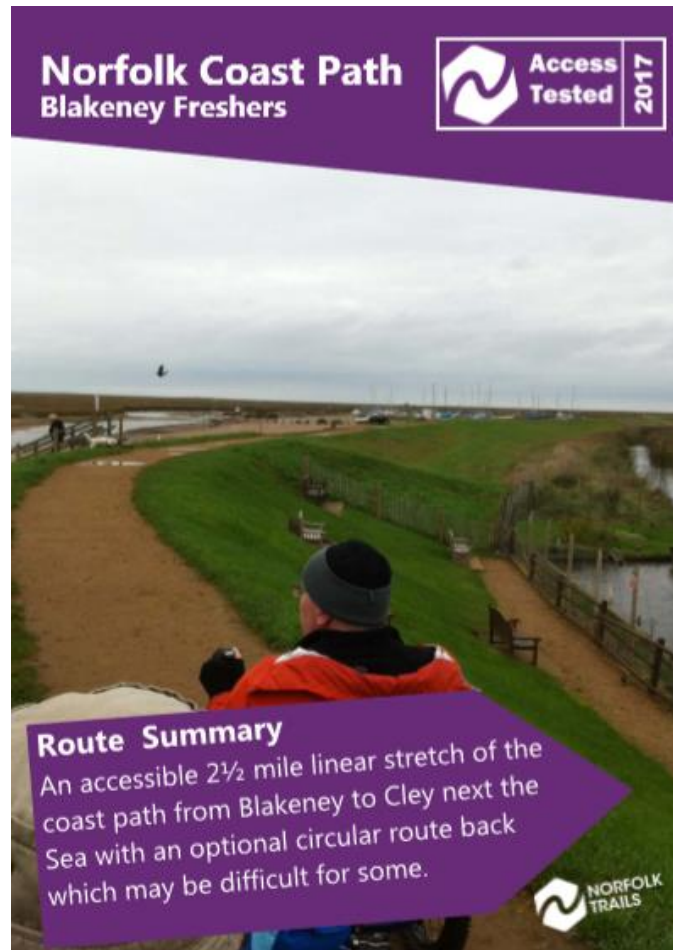


# Improve access from the car park through to the bird hide



- Scrape the surface
- Spray the surface
- Improve the access by importing new materials to improve access
- Done in partnership with the Broads Authority and volunteers

# Improve access from the car park through to the bird hide and Rockland Broad



- Post construction we will get the route access tested by wheelchair users
- Bring this section up to a wheel chair user standard as an objective

# Wherrymans Way improvements

Surface improvement  
at Chedgrave

Based on user  
evidence etc

Delivered by the  
Environment Agency





# Wherrymans Way improvements

Surface improvement at Chedgrave

Based on user feedback – complaints, access audits, trails officers site visits etc

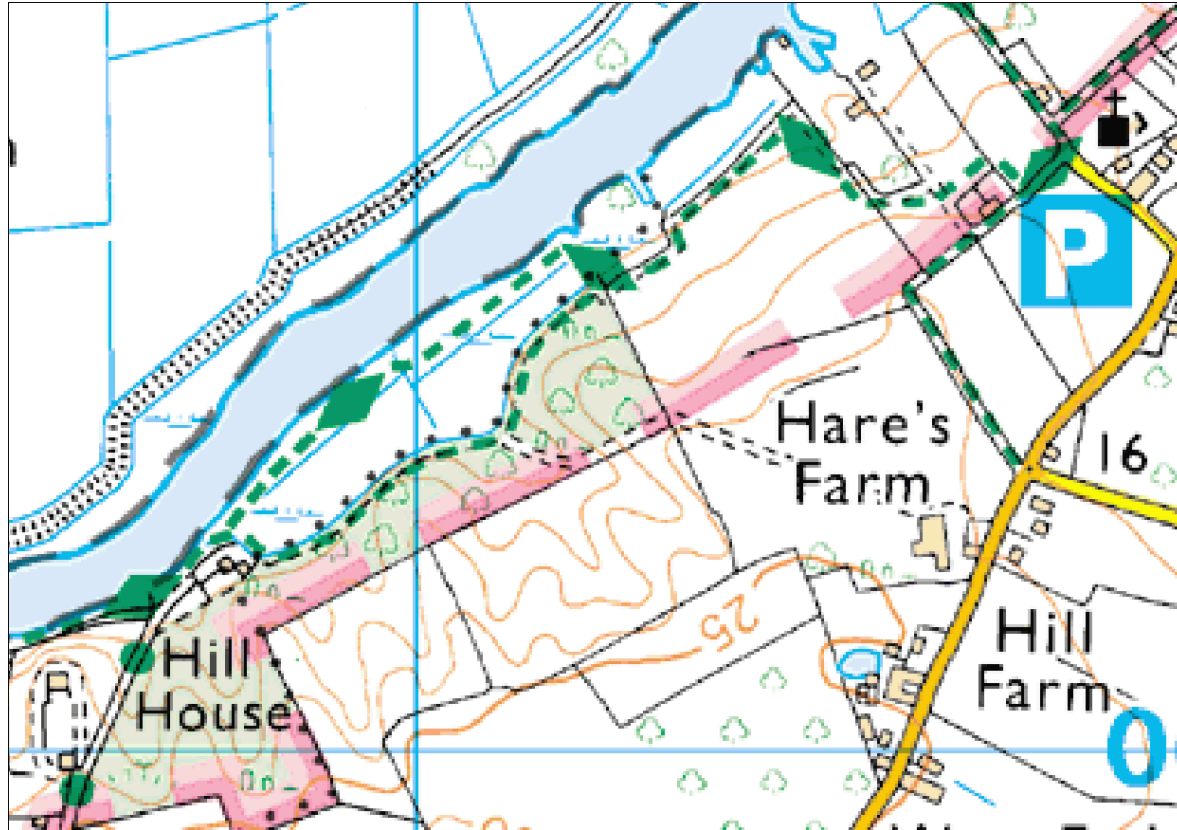
Delivered by the Environment Agency

Access tested by Active Trails





## Surlingham FP4



Prior to starting work met with the Broads Authority to confirm no planned work was being undertaken in this area. This remains the case.

Resign the Wherryman's Way to FP4 from FP5 is considered no longer accessible in all weather / tidal conditions.

Health and safety consideration

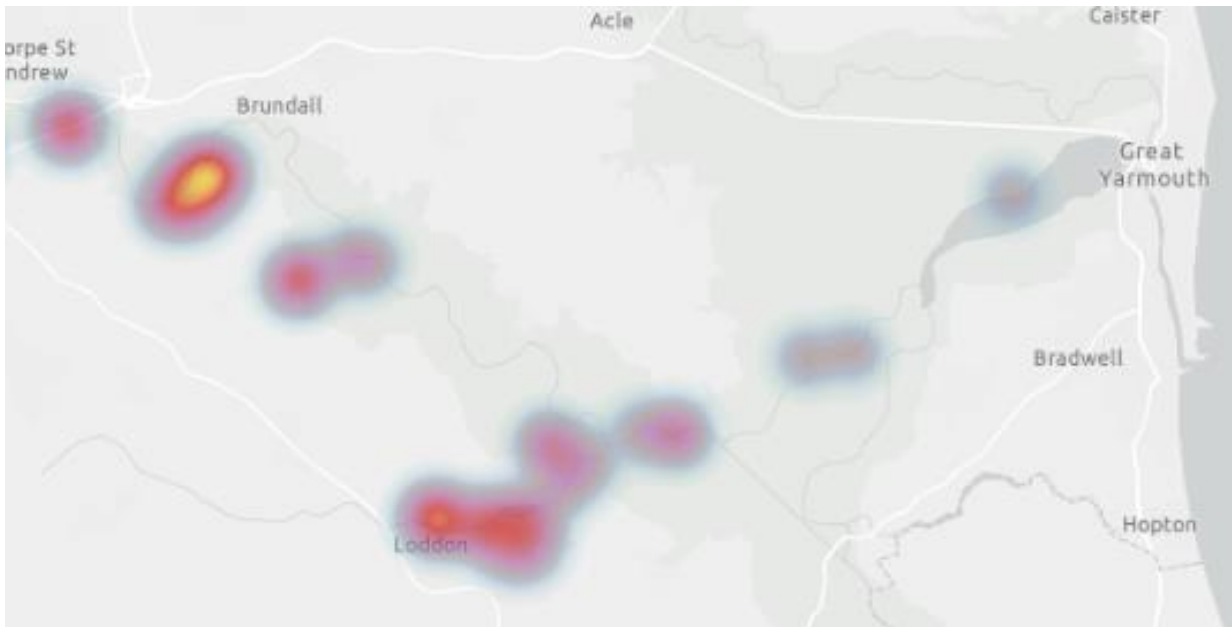
## Surlingham FP4



Significant cross slope on FP4 – proposed terracing of the route creating easier walked route

Currently waiting for the legal orders team to confirm the definitive line of the footpath on the ground to allow any proposed works to commence

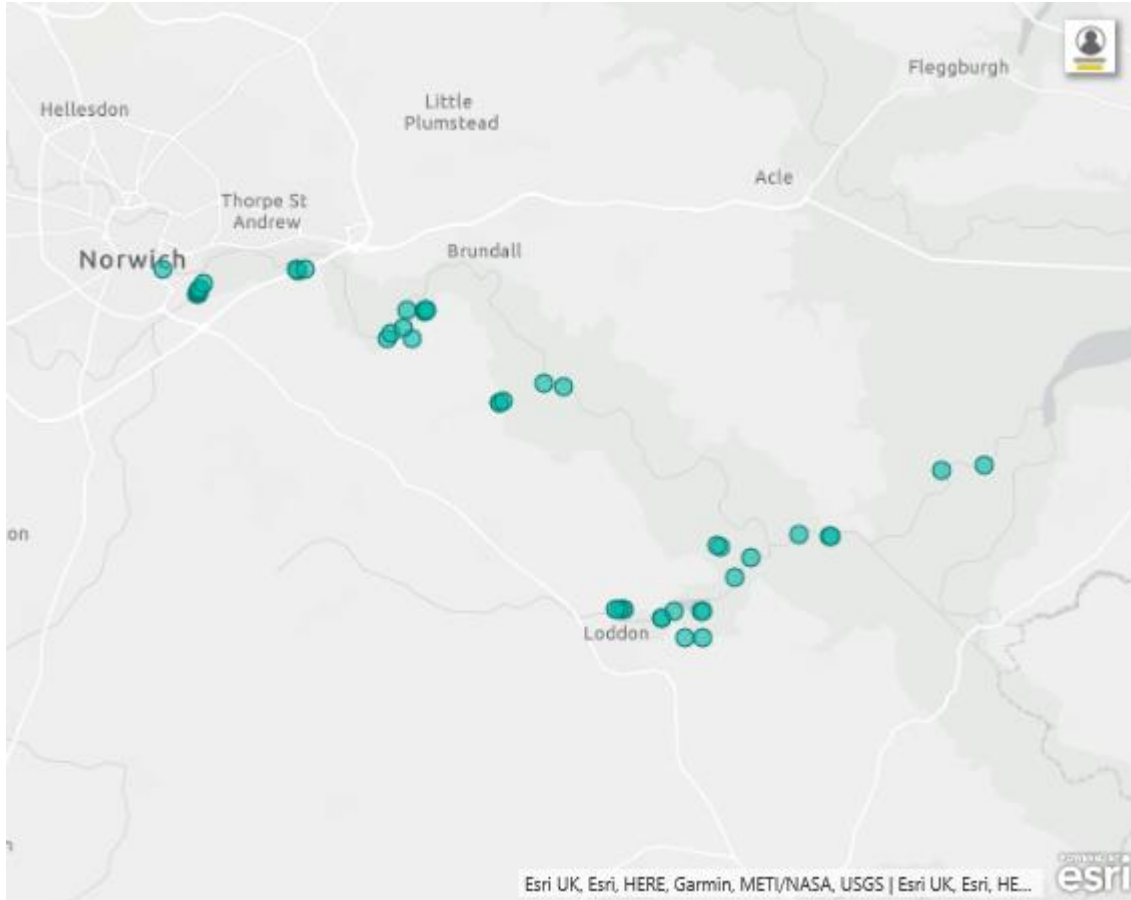
# Reporting of issues on the Wherryman's Way



Heat map showing overview of issues reported across the Wherryman's Way

The hotter the spot the more issues

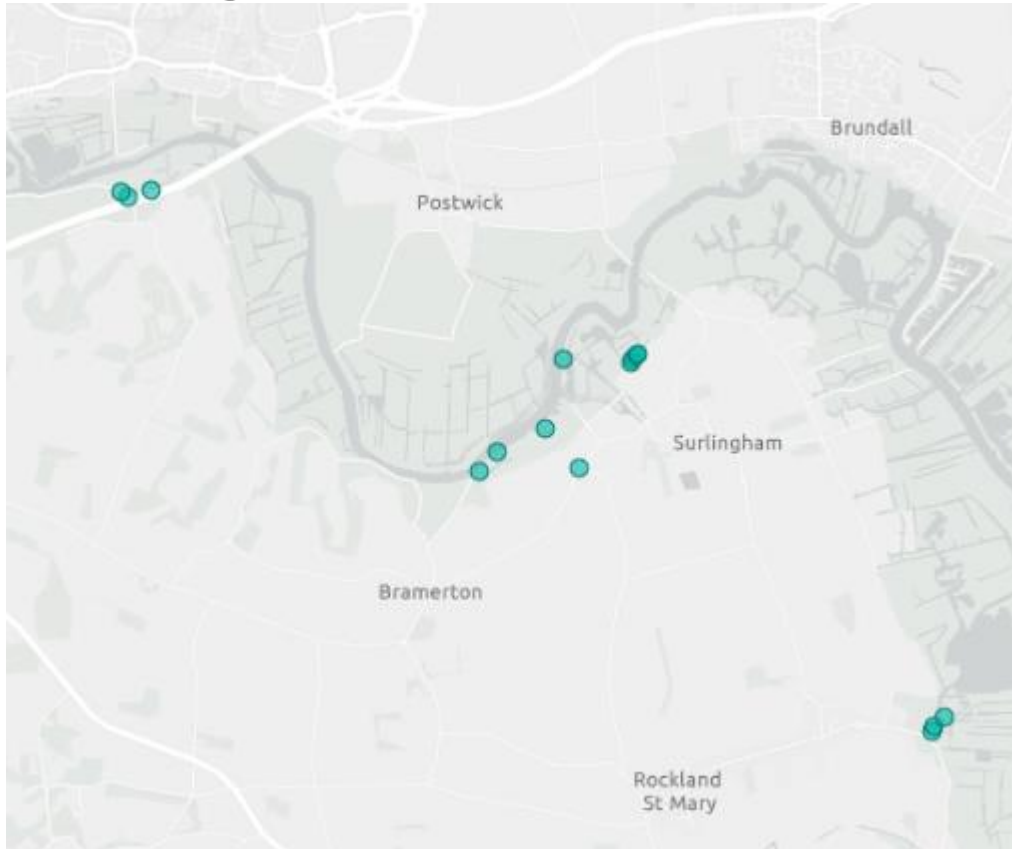
# Reporting of issues on the Wherryman's Way



Map showing overview of issues reported across the Wherryman's Way



## Zoomed in view in the Bramerton / Surlingham Area



Highlights where issues have been reported

Ability to have an overview of issues and their location

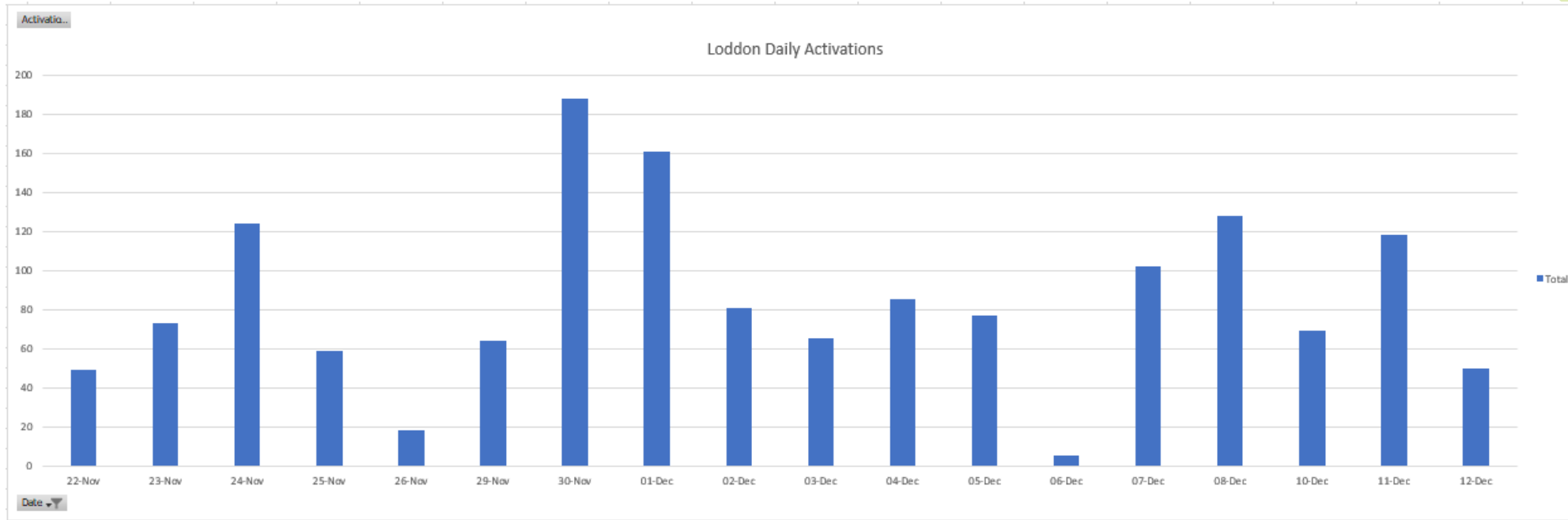
Ability to prioritise delivery of work to address issues

# New data counters installed to monitor current usage

Monitor current use and any future increases in use



# Data counter information



No personal data collected

Just records activations

Loddon data counter detail – 22 November to 12 December 1516

people used the footpath

# Data counter information – economic impacts

By collecting user data we can collate this and create economic benefits to the local economy

In 2018 2019 the MENE impact was **£169,338**

The HEAT analysis was worth **£5,243,000**

MENE = Monitoring engagement with the natural environment

HEAT = Health Economic Assessment Tool



## Helpful websites

Norfolk County Council –

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/map-and-statement-of-public-rights-of-way-in-norfolk/definitive-statements>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way>

Norfolk Trails

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails>

Access tested routes

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/access-tested-walks>

**Thank you. Any Questions?**