

*of North Lincolnshire and the quality of life for its residents. There are still opportunities to further develop cultural and entertainment facilities for heritage interpretation, performances, exhibitions and other activities. In particular there are opportunities for a multi-use gallery/arts centre and opportunities to expand the provision of cinemas and nightclubs as a commercial enterprise.*

## The Recreational Paths Network

- 10.29 Accessibility is a crucial element in allowing the public to enjoy fully the recreational opportunities of the countryside. The area contains a large number of individual footpaths, and there is some scope to link these together to improve access. It is also important to provide linkages from built up areas to open spaces, woodland, riverside and water areas and the wider countryside. The aim will be to promote circular routes of differing lengths to provide a variety of interesting walks which reflect the varying needs and abilities of users.
- 10.30 People are unlikely to make full use of the recreational paths network unless they are confident that they are following the correct route and that their walk will be unimpeded. It is therefore important when dealing with relevant planning applications, to seek to protect existing recreational paths, improve existing ones and negotiate new links in the network.
- 10.31 The Council will seek to cater for the needs of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and people with disabilities within the recreational path network either on footpaths, cycleways and bridleways or on shared use paths where suitable. SPG4 provides guidance for public rights of way.

## R5 - Recreational Paths Network

**The creation of a strategic network of recreational paths to provide linkages from the built up areas of North Lincolnshire to open spaces, woodland, riverside and water areas and the wider countryside will actively be pursued. Additional footpath links are to be created over the Local Plan period.**

**In determining planning applications where development may either have implications for the maintenance of the recreational paths network, or offer opportunities to expand this network the following factors will be taken into account:**

- i) favourable consideration will be given to development proposals which provide additional links to the recreational network;**
- ii) the Council will seek to negotiate additional linkages to the recreational paths network, where appropriate;**
- iii) favourable consideration will be given to development proposals which will improve the condition and appearance of existing links in the network;**
- iv) existing rights of way will be protected from development that would remove or restrict the right of way;**
- v) permission will not be granted for any development which**

**would prejudice public access onto and through the recreational path network, unless specific arrangements are made for suitable alternative linkages;**

**vi) where necessary, the diversion of footpaths will be required.**

- 10.32 *Policy R5 seeks to secure better access to the open countryside which will significantly enhance informal recreation opportunities. The Countryside Commission's Enjoying the Countryside initiatives, to put all formally designated rights of way into good condition by the year 2000 will also be reflected in the implementation of this policy. Any proposals for new rights of way will be considered in close liaison with landowners and managers, nature conservation organisations and other interested groups as appropriate.*

### Water Based Leisure

- 10.33 The use of waterways and water areas for recreation, both on and alongside the water, and for recreational navigation has increased dramatically over the last 50 years and the potential for additional use and enjoyment is substantial. North Lincolnshire's rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs are a valuable resource for active and passive leisure pursuits.
- 10.34 The Rivers Ancholme, Trent and Humber form navigable links with the country's waterway network. Marinas provide permanent moorings for boats clear of the navigational channel. At present these resources are largely under-used and offer enormous potential for recreation. The northern area of Ashby Ville lagoon to the south east of the

Scunthorpe and Bottesford Urban Area offers a potential site for water based recreation which is currently undertaken on an informal basis. Proposals have been put forward to provide an additional boat house on the banks of the River Ancholme, adjacent to the leisure centre at Scawby Brook, Brigg. Potential also exists for water based recreation in the Ironstone Gulleys area to the north east of Scunthorpe, and at Barton Claypits.

- 10.35 In encouraging water based recreational activities the environment is an important concern. Some sporting activities, such as fishing, canoeing and wind surfing may be considered less damaging than power boating and water skiing, which cause noise disturbance, create wash that can damage banks and cause oil and petroleum pollution. A large number of users in an area can have an adverse impact on the surrounding countryside, due to increased traffic, litter generation, over-use of paths and banks, and habitat destruction.

### R6 - Water Based Leisure

**Planning permission will be granted for the development of recreational activities on the Rivers Ancholme, Trent and Humber and on inland lagoons and water areas providing the following criteria are met:**

- i) the development does not prejudice important amenity, landscape or ecological characteristics of the waterway or water area and its environs. Proposals to extend recreational usage will need to be carefully balanced against the effect they may have on the ecology**