

Clerk To Theddingworth PC

Tall Trees
Main Street
Theddingworth
Lutterworth, Leics
LE17 6QZ

Date: 23rd September 2011
My ref: LAF/HLS
Your ref:
Contact: Roy Denney
Phone: 0116 2338604
Fax:
Email: accessforum@leics.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS – Access Sites) – Beeches Farm

I am writing on behalf of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum. The Forum is a statutory body set up to advise on access and rights of way issues.

Under the Stewardship programme, occupiers have been encouraged by Government to provide area or linear permissive access to a number of sites in the county in return for grants. The programme is administered by Natural England. A recent change to Higher Level Stewardship has removed support for the access element of the scheme. When agreements come to an end the access may be removed.

A scheme in your area which is due to end on 30th September 2011 is shown on the attached map. The walks amount to about 3 miles of paths which may be of value to the local community. If the permissive paths are lost it will reduce the options for walking in the countryside for local residents and for visitors to the area. Theddingworth is not blessed with many rights of way. With walking being such an important form of exercise assisting in improving health and general well being, it is beneficial to ensure that access to the countryside for walking is maintained wherever possible.

If you wish the access to remain available, you may want to discuss the situation with the land owner/land manager to see if informal access can be retained. I believe advice is available from the Rights of Way team at Leicestershire County Council to support permissive access agreements.

Letters have also been sent to your neighbouring parish informing them of the impending ending of the HLS access grant at the site. If you want to discuss the issue with us please get in touch and if you do pursue it we would be obliged if you would let us know what response you get.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Denney
Chairman
Leicestershire Local Access Forum

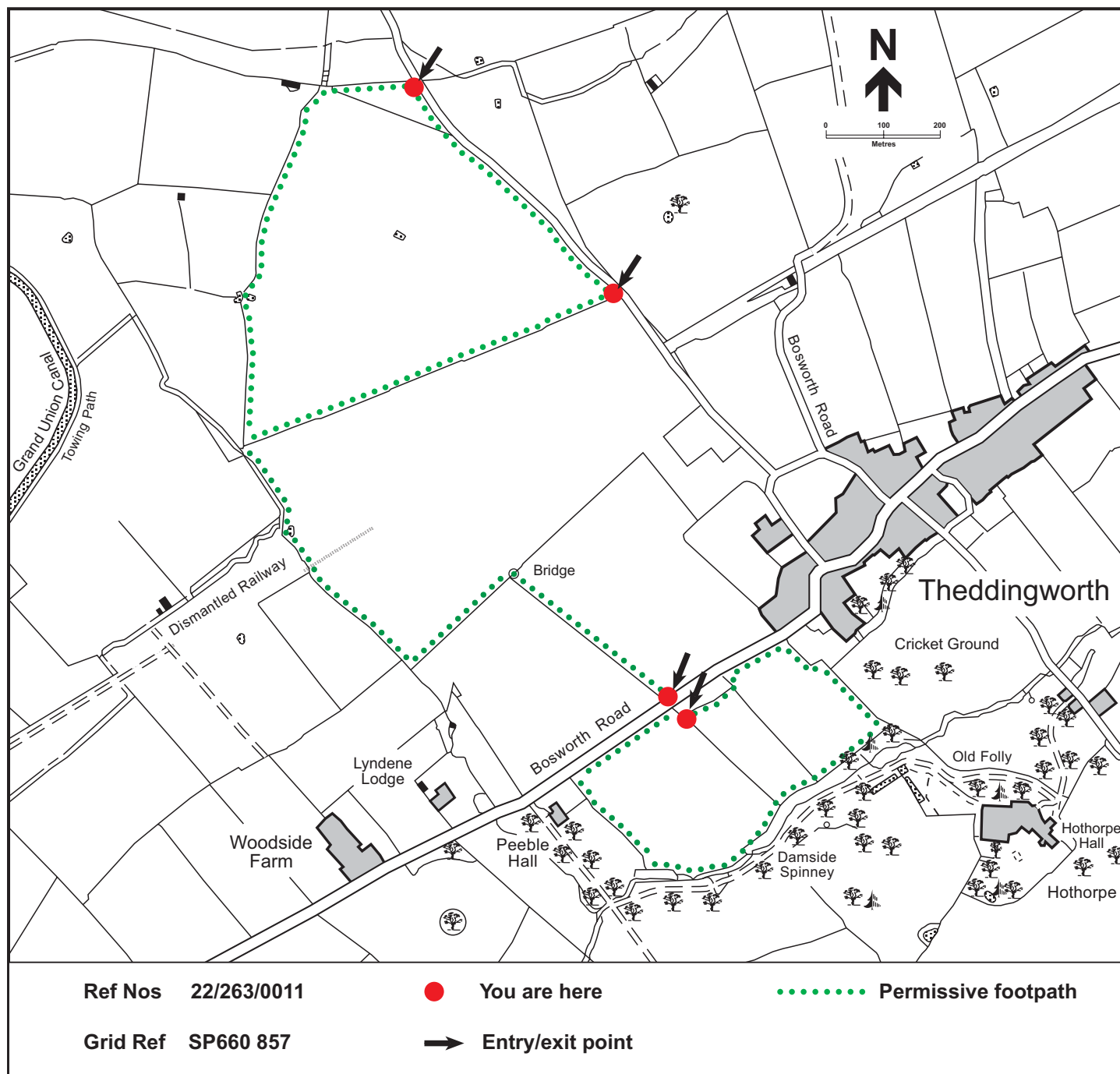
Leicestershire Local Access Forum, c/o Travel Choice & Access, Leicestershire County Council,
Dept Environment & Transport, Room 700, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RJ
Telephone: 0116 305 7086
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Roy Denney, Chairman of the Access Forum

www.leics.gov.uk/laf

CONSERVATION WALKS

These permissive paths offer two circular walks through arable farmland of 1.3km and 4km. The site offers a pleasant walk with wildlife interest associated with hedgerows and field pond habitats.



This access has been provided under the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' farm conservation schemes, which help farmers and land managers protect and improve the countryside, its wildlife and history. It is permissive access and no new rights of way are being created. Existing rights of way are not affected. Please follow the Country Code and observe any other requirements shown above. Do not disturb wildlife, livestock or other visitors and in particular keep dogs under control. This is working farmland so please take care; people using this site do so at their own risk. Access ends in September 2011. For more information contact DEFRA: 020 7238 6907 (Office hours).

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**COUNTRYSIDE
STEWARDSHIP
SCHEME**

**ENVIRONMENTALLY
SENSITIVE
AREAS**

defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs