

Halesworth Millennium Green Trust Site Management Plan



Access Strategy

Appendix 1 “Barriers : Useful Thinking Tools”

Appendix 2 “Accessibility Audit” chart

Appendix 3 “Work-in-Progress : Practical ideas for actions to promote access”

The **Access Strategy** must address obvious physical barriers, but also the invisible ones that prevent people from using the Green. Building a Strategy requires an exercise of putting together a database of what those barriers are, and strategies to resolve them.

Overview

Barriers, not just physical

Recent research (carried out by bodies including Natural England, the Sensory Trust, English Heritage) suggest barriers to participation relevant for the Green include:-

- not knowing the Green exists
- knowing it exists but not knowing where it is, or where all of it is
- lack of facilities – toilets, places to sit
- flooding or muddiness in wet conditions
- paths and gates not accessible
- rubbish
- no-one to go with
- fears about safety, anti-social behaviour

There must be a balance between access and the overall aims of the Trust under which the land is held for Halesworth. Our Access Strategy might need to identify areas where physical access is not possible and alternative forms of access may be needed. The Strategy will explain :-

- ✓ how we will improve physical access without damaging the purposes of the Trust, if there should be conflict (e.g. conservation purposes);
- ✓ whether there are areas of the site where physical access is inappropriate and, if so, how we will provide alternative access;
- ✓ how we will design physical access improvements so that they are appropriate to the site, including choice of materials, scale and location.

Strategies to overcome barriers

Strategies to resolve the barriers to fuller use of the Green by local people might include :-

- information and events focussed on particular users, or particular locations
- site management and enhancement
- allocation of part of the Green for organised community activities
- outreach
- involvement of local people as volunteers
- better baseline data.

Step One : Barriers - Useful Thinking Tools (Checklist) – Appendix 1

This checklist will guide the Trust through a process of addressing physical, organisational, sensory, intellectual, cultural and financial barriers to use of the whole Green by local people.

Step Two : Physical Barriers, the Accessibility Audit – Appendix 2

An audit of the whole Green will be carried out to develop base-line data at a given date of the physical and on-site informational barriers and obstacles to use by all types of traffic (foot, foot with push-chair, cycle, motor-buggy) and by people with hearing and visual issues.

A later stage will be to address off-site information (signage, outreach) and the other categories of barrier set out in the Checklist.

See Appendix 3 for “Work in Progress : Practical ideas for actions to promote access”

Reviewed October 2017