

Marton Moss Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycle Routes Study Revised Draft

Summary

This is a summary of the report that was produced for the Neighbourhood Forum by planning consultants Envisionuk

Public Rights of Way include public footpaths and bridleways. People have a legal right to use these 'off-road' paths irrespective of who owns the land. It is an offence to block or obstruct the use of such paths. Blackpool Council has publicly committed to maintaining and improving Public Rights of Way in the Borough. Cycle Routes are roads and pavements that are signed to encourage their use by cyclists, shared with other users. There are numerous Public Rights of Way in Marton Moss but few signed routes for cyclists. The Study appraises the condition of each Public Right of Way and recommends where improvements are needed; it also suggests lines for new paths and proposes a network of Cycle Routes.

The Study shows there are some well used and maintained paths on the Moss but also reveals that several others are obstructed or completely blocked in some way making their use either difficult or impossible. Also, numerous paths lack signs and stiles or are sub-standard in other ways. However, this revised draft of the Study does recognise that Blackpool Council have achieved some improvements with more signs and paths cleared of overgrown vegetation. Recommendations are made for the remaining improvements needed.

The findings of the Study are mainly intended to encourage the Council to further improve the existing Public Rights of Way and to sign the suggested Cycle Routes. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot make landowners open-up their property for new footpaths but as and when development proposals arise on or near such routes their provision can be sought as part of the planning application decision making process.

However, before the Plan is prepared there is an opportunity for local people and other interested parties to put forward other suggestions or to comment on the outcomes of this Study within the six weeks set aside from when the report was published. The full report can be viewed on the Forum's website www.martonmossforum.org and comments made using the form available there. The Forum can also be contacted via enquiries@martonmossforum.org or on 07739 517630.

Do you agree with the findings of this Study?

Do you disagree or wish to comment?