



## COLSTERWORTH NATURE TRAIL Constitution

### 1. BACKGROUND:

The High Dyke Branch Railway was built during the First World War to carry iron ore from quarries at Colsterworth, Skillington, Buckminster, Gunby and Sproxtton to the East Coast main line at Scunthorpe for smelting.

Quarrying at Colsterworth ceased in 1973 and the line was closed. The trackbed was removed and the surrounding land restored; a task which took several years.

The Colsterworth and District Parish Council secured a 99 year lease on the Old Railway land belonging to Lincs Waste Limited (FCC) in 2014 with the objective of ensuring that this narrow two mile stretch of land is preserved for wildlife and fauna and a nature trail for all to use.

The land stretches some 2 miles from Skillington Road eastwards to Bridge End (B6403) – See Appendix 1

There is an additional small wooded area to the north east belonging to Stoke Rochford Estates which is also leased by the Parish Council.

### 2. NAME OF THE GROUP

Colsterworth Nature Trail

### 3. AIMS

- Retain, promote, protect and improve the biodiversity of the area
- Encourage access by all age groups by working with other groups such as Scouts, Brownies, School, etc.
- Encourage wellbeing both physically and mentally through activities associated with the programme set out in the aims of the group
- Work with specialist groups, charities, Trusts and Authorities (e.g., LCC, SKDC) to provide advice and specialist training (e.g., Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership)
- Encourage community involvement by volunteers, contractors, other community groups, local businesses

### 4. OBJECTIVES

To co-ordinate on behalf of the Parish Council, a group of volunteers to routinely attend a weekly activity programme to:

- Establish and maintain a well-used nature trail on the Old Railway Line
- Removal of rubbish and litter
- Wildflower seeding
- Bulb planting
- Encourage limestone grasses, fauna and flora to thrive
- Integrate site with existing Woolsthorpe Roadside Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site.

### 5. MEMBERS

- The Group has a very open membership who are all volunteers within the Group

- A Ranger is identified to co-ordinate the weekly programme with volunteers and liaise with the Parish Council
- Basic personal information of volunteers will be collected and held by the Parish Clerk for insurance purposes
- Members will adhere to the Council's Volunteer Policy

## **6. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- The Ranger is the link between the Colsterworth Nature Trail Group and the Parish Council
- All communications are through the Parish Clerk
- Periodic reports are to be provided to the Parish Council regarding progress, events, etc. This will be done via the Environment and Amenities sub-committee report which is a standing item on the Parish Council agenda.
- The Group will be invited to the Parish Annual Public Meeting to report back to the Parish including future plans

## **7. HEALTH AND SAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The Parish Clerk and Ranger will review the health and safety and risk assessments for the nature trail and volunteers on an annual basis.

## **8. FINANCES**

The Group requires ongoing funding for a number of things to achieve its aims and objectives, e.g.,

- Hand tools and equipment
- Maintenance and repair of tools and equipment
- Protective clothing
- Materials (such as wood) for installation and repair of safety barriers and steps
- Specialist services (contractors and training)
- Consumables and other materials for trail enhancements
- Notices and noticeboards
- Seeds, bulbs, etc,
- Events to promote community engagement in the aims and objectives of the nature trail

The Group falls under the umbrella of the Parish Council who is committed to providing an annual grant to the Group as part of its budgetary processes. Requests can be made to the Council in October for the following financial year (in line with the Council's Grant Allocation Policy).

The Group will accept donations and resources from local businesses if they meet the Groups aims and objectives.

Additional funding for projects will be applied for if the Group meet the criteria required and the Parish Council will support/partner.

All income and expenditure will be recorded and accounted for by the Parish Council and this will be shown in a separate memorandum in the Council's accounts.

## **9. ASSETS**

An asset register will be kept by the Parish Clerk in conjunction with the Ranger.

## **10. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Changes to this constitution will be made in conjunction with the Ranger and Volunteers with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the Group

**11. DISSOLUTION**

If the Group is unable to function due to the lack of volunteers and a responsible Ranger, the Parish Council must be informed to ensure that all reasonable actions are taken to secure the safety of and seek to ensure the sustainability of the Colsterworth Nature Trail.

All assets and money will be handed to the Parish Council.

**12. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT**

All volunteers will be treated equally and fairly regardless of their colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age, or any other unjustifiable criterion.

**13. SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

- The Council is committed to the safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults
- If necessary there will be careful selection and training of paid and voluntary staff who might come into contact with children or vulnerable adults, using the Disclosure and Barring Service amongst other tools to check suitability.
- Staff, Councillors and volunteers will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed cooperating fully with the police, local authority and any other appropriate statutory body in any investigation

Signed ..... Ranger

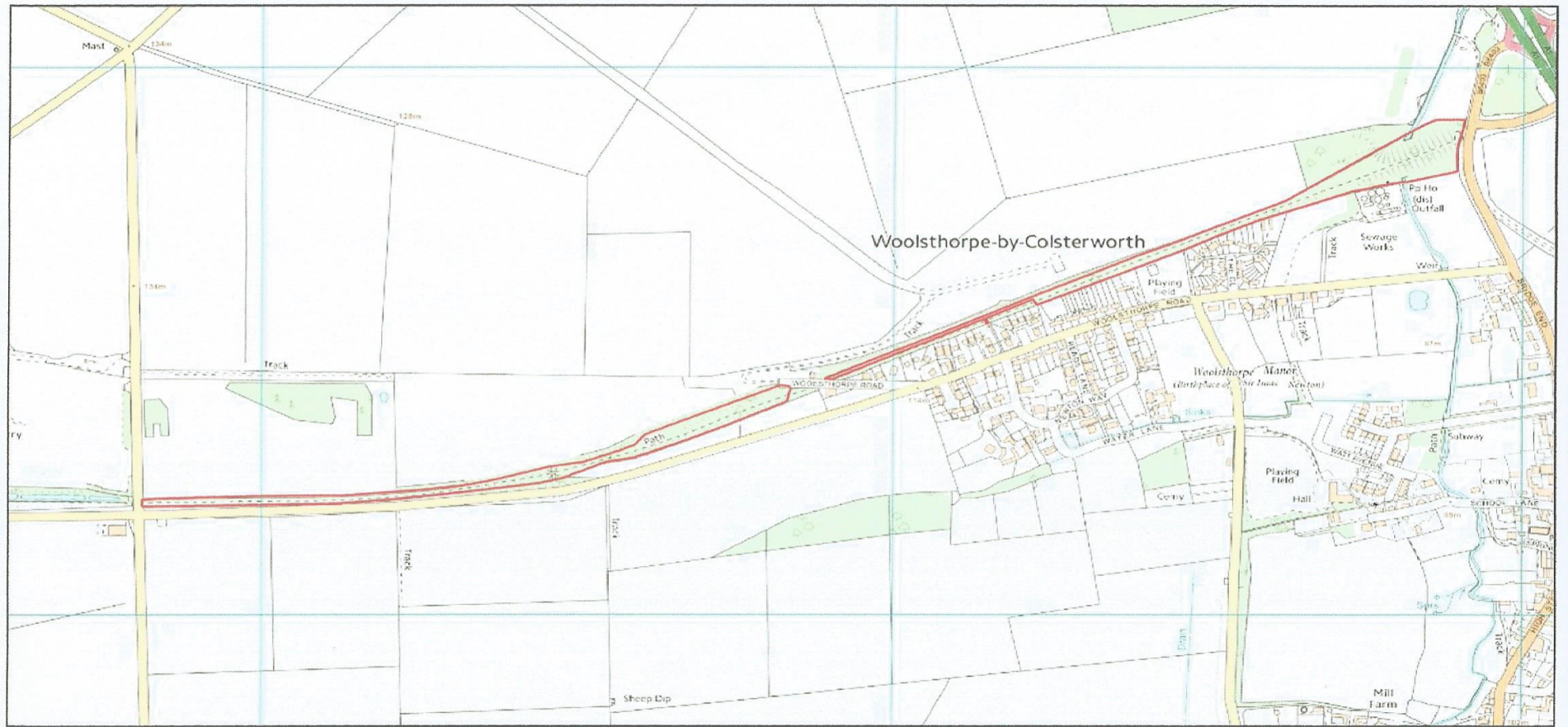
Name.....

Date .....

Signed ..... Parish Clerk

Name .....

Date .....



Adopted at Colsterworth and District Parish Council Meeting:	1st October 2023
Chairman:	Caroline Hainsworth
Responsible Officer/Clerk	Sue Grant
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