Long Leys Green Infrastructure Report

An assessment of the green and blue infrastructure in Long Leys, Lincoln, as part of the Long Leys Neighbourhood Plan.

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V1.1 18 November 2025
V1.2 21 November 2025
V1.3 5 November 2026

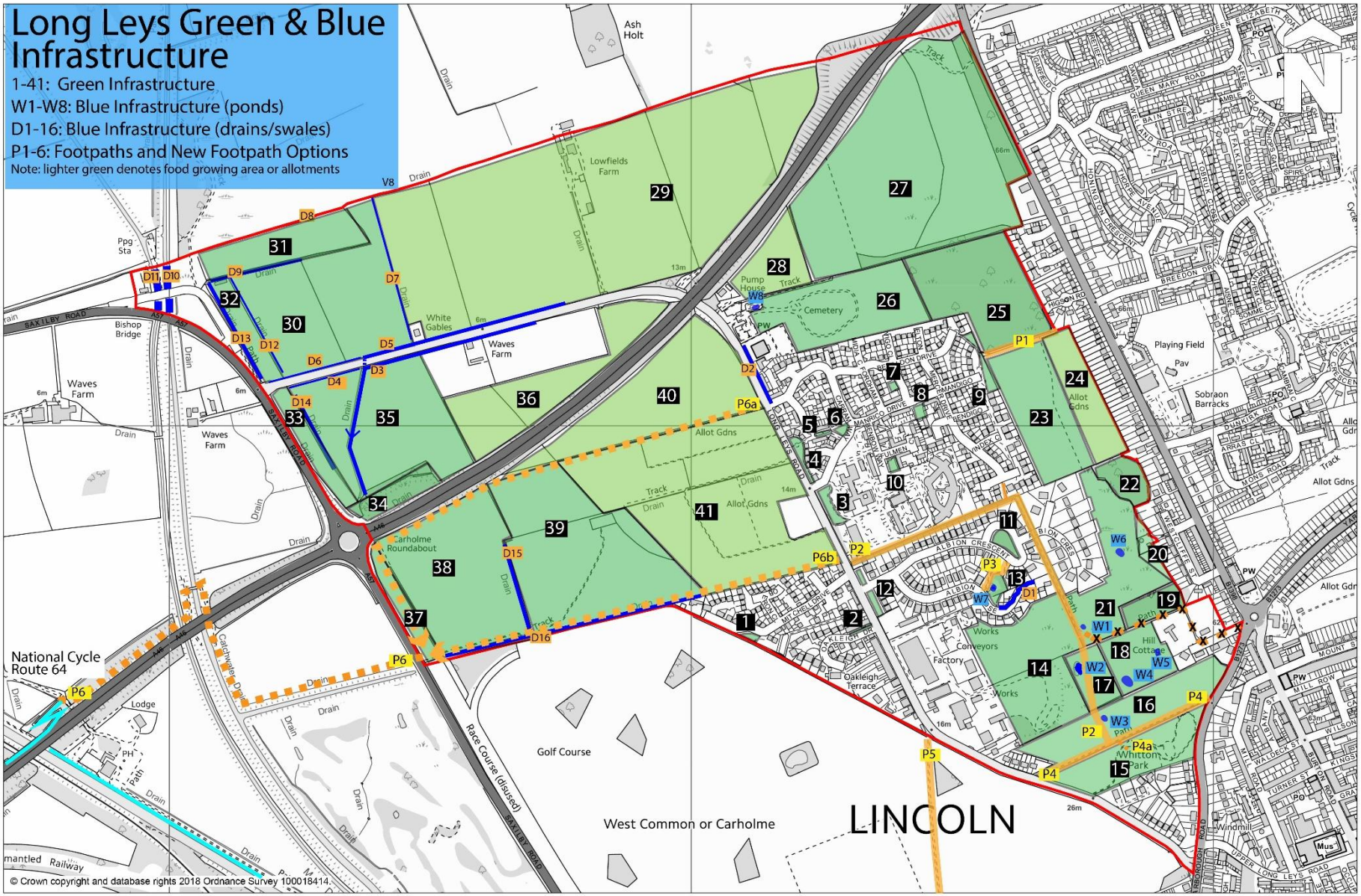
Summary

Long Leys, on the northwest edge of Lincoln, has a semi-rural feel with over 108 Hectares (267 acres) of green infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This excludes the adjacent West Common with circa 60 Hectares of greenspace. The report documents the green and blue assets within Long Leys which include:

- 41 separate habitat areas
- 8 ponds
- 16 different swales, ditches and drains providing drainage
- 6 Footpaths or potential footpaths

Details on assets within this report:

- Habitats:
    - Bried description
    - Reference photos
    - Approx area in Hectares or square metres
    - Notable features or opportunities for habitat enhancement (if any)
- Ponds
    - Ecological survey where available
    - Reference photos
    - Opportunities for habitat improvements
- Drainage – swales and ditches
    - Brief description of state of ditch
    - Reference photos
    - Opportunities for drainage improvements
- Footpaths
    - Length and surface material
    - Reference photos
    - Potential extensions or enhancements



Long Leys Road Residents' Association Neighbourhood Plan Boundary

Scale: 1:6500 at A3 Version 1: 24-Apr-2018

CITY OF Lincoln COUNCIL

Green Infrastructure

Habitat Areas

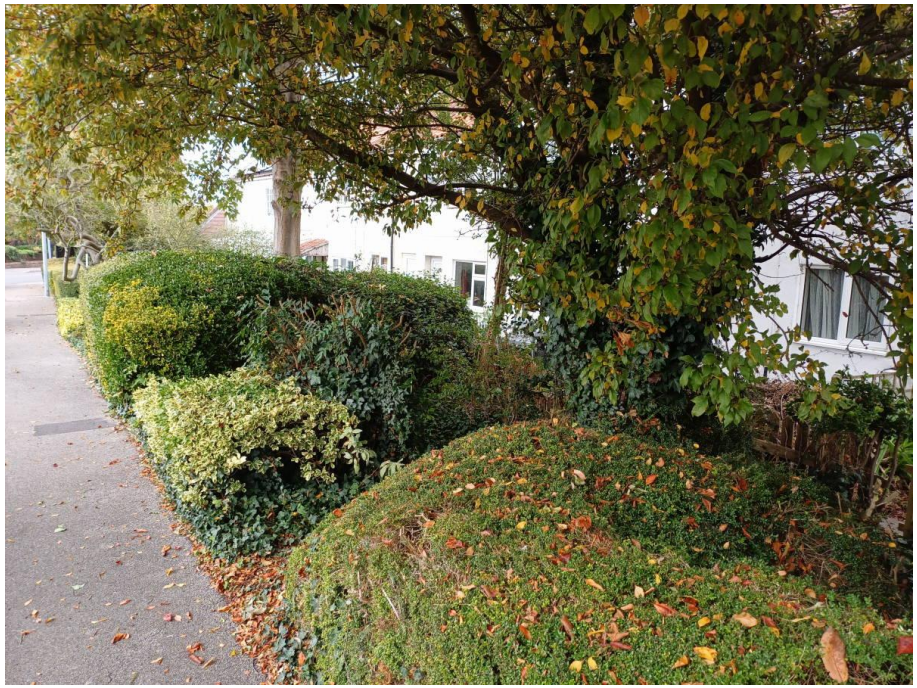
Long Leys: 1- 41

1. **Mitchell Drive Green area**
   Habitat: Area of mown grass, bordering West Common.
   Features of Interest: Mature hedge
   Approx area: 450m^2





2. **Industrial Cottages**
   Habitat: Bushes and mature trees
   Features of Interest: Hedges for birds.
   Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Maintain foliage and reduce intrusion through space.
   Approx Area: 180m^2





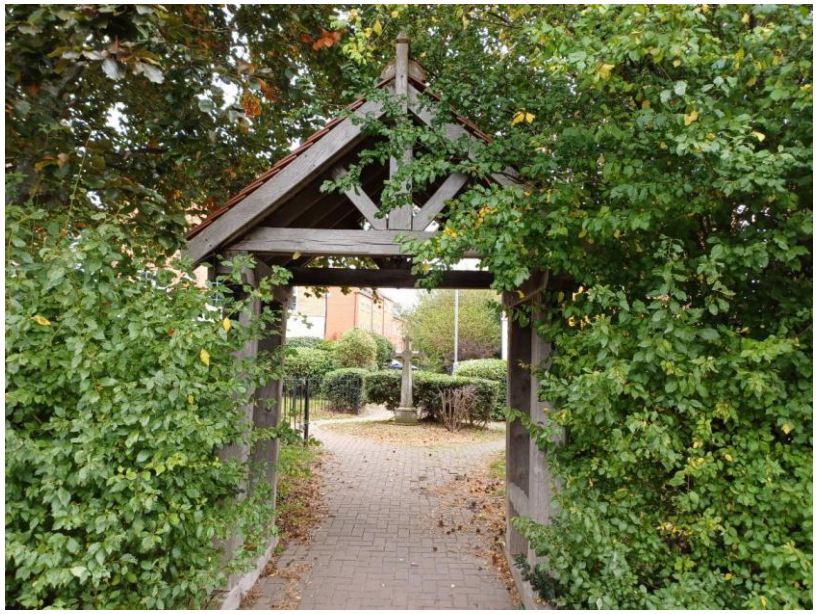
3. **St. George's Hospital**
Habitat: Grass, mature trees and hedge.
Features of Interest: Hedges for birds.
Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Hospital management are planning to leave grass longer to reduce maintenance costs and encourage greater diversity of flora.
Approx Area: 0.2 Hectares (2,000m^2)





4. **Long Leys Road Green**
   Habitat: Area of mown grass with bushes and hedges.
   Features of Interest: Hedges, Grass area historically used for community meetings (outdoor carol service).
   Approx Area: 0.1 Hectares (1,000m^2)







5. **Carram Way Public Open Space**
   Habitat: Area of mown grass, trees and shrubs.
   Approx Area: 450m^2





6. **Dorrigan Close Green Area**
   Habitat: Enclosed area of shrubs.
   Approx Area: 100m^2





7. **Maidment Drive**
   Habitat: Area of mown grass and hedges with a few small trees.
   Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Potentially leave some areas of grass longer to encourage pollinators.
   Approx Area: 300m^2



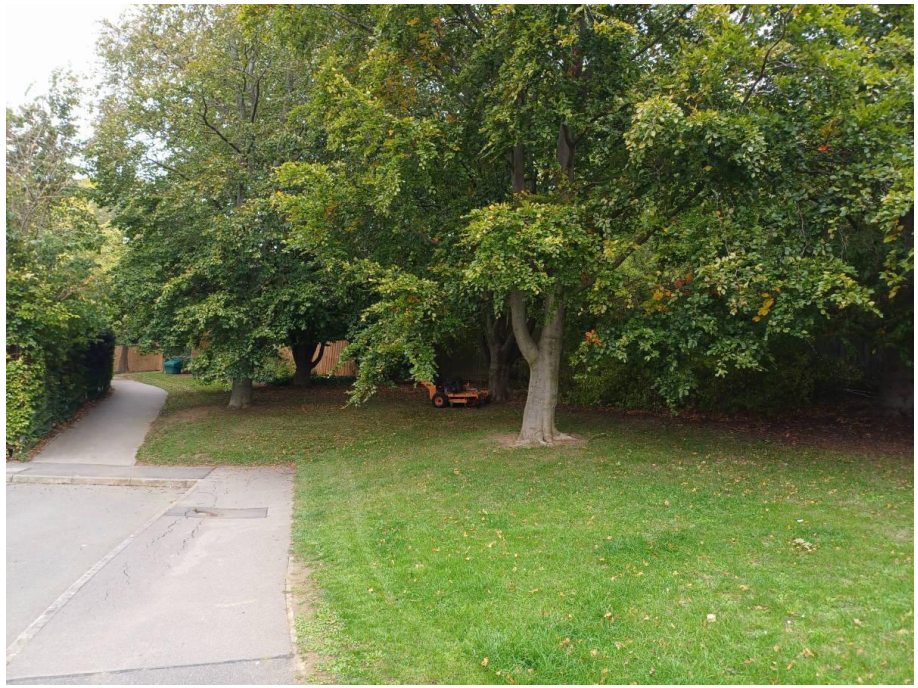


8. **Manrico Drive**
   Habitat: Area of mown grass with some bushes and small trees.
   Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Potentially leave some areas of grass longer to encourage pollinators.
   Approx Area: 500m^2





9. **Area below Higson Steps**
   Habitat: Area of mown grass, mature trees and shrubs.
   Approx Area: 0.2 Hectares (2,000m^2)





10. **Fulmen Close**

Habitat: Area of mown grass, with small hedge.

Approx Area: 700m^2



11. **Albion Crescent Green**

Habitat: Area of mown grass and mature trees.

Features of Interest: Used for dog exercise and sometimes children's play. Election portacabin placed here for elections.

Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Potentially leave some areas of grass longer to encourage pollinators.

Approx Area: 0.2 Hectares (2,000m^2)





12. **Long Leys Road / Albion Crescent Junction**
Habitat: Area of mown grass and mature trees.
Approx Area: 700m^2



13. **Albion Close wildlife area**

Habitat: Area of mown grass, mature trees and retention pond.
Features of Interest: Scrub area to west of retention pond.
Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Leave scrub area unmanaged.
Approx Area: 1,250 m^2







14. **Former Landfill Site**

Habitat: Area of scrub and mature trees.

Features of Interest: Well established wildlife-friendly area.

Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Maintain mature trees in North-east corner.

Follow guidance provided in the Community Masterplan for the Albion Works Site

Approx Area: 3.5 Hectares (35,000 m^2)





15. **Whitton Park**

Habitat: Area of mown grass and trees.

Features of Interest: Childrens Playpark with 1/3 court basketball area and double zip wire.

Approx Area: 2.1 Hectares (21,000 m^2)





16. Hobblers Hole

Habitat: Overgrown grassland developing to scrub. Ephemeral pond.

Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Create swale to flow surface water into pond area.

Approx Area:2.9 Hectares (29,000 m^2)





17. Newt Hollow

Habitat: Overgrown grassland with pond and wetland vegetation and developing trees.

Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Manage former grazed area to prevent further growth of saplings and encourage flora.

Approx Area: 0.8 Hectares (8,000 m^2)





18. **Land Below Hill Cottage**

Habitat: Area of grass with developing trees. Newly landscaped with managed pond for swimming.

Approx Area: 1.2 Hectares (12,000 m^2)





19. **Westcliffe Quarry – South-East Corner**
    Habitat: Former site of clay extraction reverting to woodlands.
    Approx Area: 0.7 Hectares (7,000 m^2)



20. Westcliffe Quarry and Lincoln Astronomical Society

Habitat: Steep sided former site of clay extraction reverting to woodlands.

Features of Interest: Astronomy dome for telescope.

Approx Area: 0.1 Hectares (1,200 m^2)





21. Westcliffe Quarry Woodland

Habitat: Woodlands circa 50-100 years old with occasional standing water and steep gradients.
Features of interest: used for ad hoc forest school type activities (Example: building dens or rope swings).
Approx Area: 4.3 Hectares (43,000 m^2)





Wigwam type den built by local children

22. Westcliffe Quarry Woodland – upper ridge

Habitat: Woodlands circa 50-100 years old with occasional standing water and steep gradients (slope and previous clay extraction).

Approx Area: 0.3 Hectares (2,500 m^2)





23. Land below Burton Ridge allotments

Habitat: Area of scrubland and trees.

Approx Area: 2.9 Hectares (29,000 m^2)





24. **Burton Ridge Allotments**

Habitat: Some vegetable and flower cultivation.

Features of interest: A variety of garden sheds and other constructions.

Approx Area: 1.7 Hectares (17,000 m^2)





25. **Westcliffe Wildlife Space**
    Habitat: Ancient grasslands reverting to scrub.
    Approx Area: 4 Hectares (40,000 m^2)





26. **Long Leys Cemetery**

Habitat: Area of grassland surrounded by managed hedges.

Approx Area: 2.6 hectares (26,000 m^2)





27. **Burton Hall Land**

Habitat: Grassland grazed by horses. Strip of woodlands along Burton Road.
Approx Area: 10 Hectares (100,000 m^2)



28. **Land north of Cemetery**

Habitat: Farmland edged by hedges and mature trees.

Approx Area: 1 Hectare (10,000 m^2)



29. Lowfields Farm

Habitat: Cereal crops (Barley) and Sugar beet.
Approx Area: 15 Hectares (150,000 m^2)





30. Land to North of Long Leys Road

Habitat: Grassland with hedges.

Approx Area: 9 Hectares (90,000 m^2)





31. Land to West of Bishops Bridge

Habitat: Mown grassland and trees used by an outdoor laser tag operator.

Approx Area: 2.3 Hectares (23,000 m^2)





32. Land to North of Long Leys Road x 1

Habitat: Mown grassland used for dog training.

Approx Area: 1 Hectare (10,000 m^2)



33. Land to East of Saxilby Road

Habitat: Grassland formerly part of the racecourse edged by hedges/trees.

Approx Area: 6 Hectares (60,000 m^2)



34. Woodland to North of A46

Habitat: Inaccessible wooded area alongside A46 used for drainage..

Approx Area: 0.9 Hectares (9,000 m^2)





35. Land to North of A46 x 1

Habitat: Grassland and some hedges.

Approx Area: 4.5 Hectares (45,000 m^2)





36. Land to North of A46 x2

Habitat: Farmland. Cereal crops (Barley) and Sugar beet with mature hedgerows.

Approx Area: 5 Hectares (50,000 m^2)





37. Land to East of Carholme Roundabout x 1 - Part of Old Racecourse Alongside Saxilby Road

Habitat: Grassland edged by mature hedges and trees.

Approx Area: 0.8 Hectares (8,000 m^2)



38. Land to East of Carholme Roundabout x 2

Habitat: Grassland bounded by hedges.

Approx Area: 5 Hectares (50,000 m^2)





39. Land to East of Carholme Roundabout x 3

Habitat: Grassland edged by hedges and grazed by horses.

Approx Area: 5.6 Hectares (56,000 m^2)





40. Land to the south of A46 on Long Leys Road

Habitat: Agriculture - Cereal crops (Barley) and Sugar Beet edged by hedges.
Features of Interest: Purchased in 2024 by local housebuilding company exploring options for homes.
Potential Actions to Improve Habitat: Ensure wildlife corridor is maintained to allow deer to access east side of Long Leys Road.
Approx Area: 4 Hectares (40,000 m^2)





41. Long Leys Road Allotments

Habitat: Mixed vegetable and flower cultivation with grass areas. Circa 1 Hectare leased to farmer for cereal crops.
Approx Area: 10 Hectares (100,000 m^2)





Blue Infrastructure

Ponds in

Long Leys: W1 – W7

W1: Seasonal Pond by Footpath.

Usually dry but, in a winter with heavy rain, water can persist until May/June.

A June 2025 Ecological Survey reported: The pond is small and irregularly shaped, approximately 4m^2 and around 30cm deep at its deepest point. The pond was moderately turbid, contained no aquatic vegetation either in the pond or in the margins and is heavily shaded by grey willow and hawthorn scrub. No fish were present. Pollen from the surrounding willow plus willow catkins created a film across the surface water.
The Habitat Suitability Index for Great Crested Newts (HSI) was 0.37 (Poor).

Suggested improvements from survey: Scrub removal or thinning would benefit this pond, as would restoration through the removal of leaf litter and the widening and deepening of the pond. As well as the small size of the pond, the proximity of the scrub, in particular willows, will likely be playing a role in the speed at which the pond dries out each year. Allowing sunlight onto the pond area will encourage any seeds within the seedbank to regenerate and recolonise. Should the restoration be successful, i.e. the pond holds water until late summer, consider adding aquatic plants to boost the flora. This in turn will provide egg-laying plants for newts, create microhabitats for invertebrates and increase the biodiversity value of the pond. Suitable plants include water forget-me-not Myosotis scorpioides, water mint, water-cress Nasturtium officinale and water-speedwell Veronica anagallis-aquatic.

Proposed Action: None – this is a seasonal pond which appears rarely



12 January 2025



9 October 2025

W2 Newt Hollow Pond

Seasonal pond, with frogspawn often found around March, usually close to dry June-October

A June 2025 Ecological Survey reported: The pond is small and irregularly shaped, approximately 60m^2 and around 45cm deep at its deepest point, although this depth is partly due to high levels of leaf litter. The pond water was discoloured due to the tannins from the decomposing leaf litter, which became increasingly darker with the lowering water levels each visit. There was a small clump of water mint *Mentha aquatica* at the southern end with occasional great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. The margins and surrounding habitat comprised frequent common nettle Urtica dioica beneath the willow scrub. Again, pollen from the surrounding willow plus willow catkins created a film across the surface water. No fish were present. The Habitat Suitability Index for Great Crested Newts (HSI) was 0.39 (Poor).

Suggested Improvements from Survey: In addition to shading, this pond is affected by a dense accumulation of leaf litter, which severely impacts the water column and open water areas where all newt species typically display. Removing the leaf litter and cutting back the surrounding willow scrub will lead to positive improvements. With remnants of aquatic plants present, it is likely there will be a seed bank to regenerate the pond once sunlight is reintroduced. All resultant brash, logs etc. from the clearance works can be used to create hibernacula around the pond.

Proposed Action: Carry out suggested improvements above.



20 March 2022



25 November 2022



11 January 2023



9 October 2025

W3 Hobblers Hole Seasonal Pond

Dry usually from late May to November/December. Was dug out by volunteers in December 2021

A June 2025 Ecological Survey reported: The pond is small and circular, approximately 30m^2 and about 55cm deep at its deepest point. The pond was moderately turbid and supported aquatic vegetation across the full pond; waterplantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, water-starwort *Callitriche sp.* and floating sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*. The immediate terrestrial habitat supported common grasses along with great willowherb and broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*. No fish are present. The pond was shaded to the north by hawthorn scrub but a large portion remained unshaded. The Habitat Suitability Index for Great Crested Newts (HSI) was 0.49 (Poor).

Suggested Improvements from Survey: There is a deeper central area to this pond, which may hold enough water for amphibians to complete their breeding cycle, however, it is small at approximately 5m^2. With Ponds W1 & W2 drying annually, this small central area of Pond W3 is important to the local amphibian population. Smooth newts are using the floating sweet-grass for egg laying, however, this grass occurred most frequently in areas that became too shallow for successful breeding. To increase the success of breeding, it may be beneficial to slightly deepen areas in which floating sweet-grass is present. In deeper areas, supplementary planting with some of the species listed in improvements for W1 will also offer more egg-laying opportunities and increase micro-habitats for aquatic invertebrates. It may also be possible to transplant some of the water mint present at Pond W2 into Pond W3.

Proposed Action: Carry out suggested improvements above.



20 November 2021: Volunteers digging out the pond



7 June 2023



14 August 2024



23 October 2024



7 December 2024



31 January 2025



19 February 2025



29 May 2025



9 October 2025

W4 Pond

Pond recently excavated in private residence.

A June 2025 Ecological Survey reported: Pond W4 is a rectangular, lined natural swimming pool with a filter and pump, approximately 140m^2, with a central section that is 2m deep. The pond was not turbid and visibility was very good, excluding some clumps of blanketweed. There was no aquatic or marginal vegetation present; the pond was lined with stones placed on top. The pond lies within a landscaped garden, unshaded with no fish present. The Habitat Suitability Index for Great Crested Newts (HSI) was 0.67 (Average).



24 April 2025



Satellite Image

W5 Pond

Pond recently excavated in private residence.

A June 2025 Ecological Survey reported: Pond 5 is moderately sized, irregularly shaped and clay bottomed. It is approximately 290m^2 and around 30cm deep at its deepest point. It is recently excavated in 2022/2023. The pond was turbid, with a small area of bulrush Typha latifolia in the north-western corner. The only other aquatic vegetation present was occasional great willowherb. The immediate terrestrial habitat comprised rough grassland, with woodland and scrub located to the west of the pond. The pond was not shaded and no fish were present. The Habitat Suitability Index for Great Crested Newts (HSI) was 0.75 (Good).



24 April 2025



Satellite Image

W6 Pond

Seasonal Pond in Westcliffe quarry area which fills with run off from surrounding slopes. Dry in Summer.



19 November 2025



19 November 2025

W7 Albion Close Retention Pond

Pond excavated in circa 2013 as a retention basin for a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) fed by a swale next to an access road serving 13 Eco-homes. The basin outflows into a public surface water sewer. Generally, there is no more than 100-150mm of water in the basin and there is little flow into the sewer. Since 2013 foliage has gradually crept into the basin with brambles growing around the edges.

Improvement Opportunity: Cut back some of the brambles to leave exposed open water.



March 2015



May 2018



October 2025

W8 Long Leys Cemetery Attenuation Pond & Reed Bed

Excavated in 2012 as an attenuation pond forming part of the Long Leys Cemetery surface water drainage system. It is designed to temporarily store excess rainwater during storms and release it to the existing drainage system on Long Leys Road at a controlled rate. This delay in discharge helps to reduce the pressure on the drains on Long Leys Road and thereby reduces flooding. The pond is heavily planted to benefit wildlife, and also act as a natural filter, removing sediment and pollutants from the water before it re-enters the ecosystem. By design, the water level in the attenuation pond varies greatly depending on recent weather conditions.

Improvement Opportunity: Perform ecological survey to assess current wildlife benefits and identify possible areas for improvement.



October 2025



October 2025

Blue Infrastructure

Drainage in

Long Leys: D1 - 16

D1 Albion Close Swale and Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)

Actively managed and maintained. As mentioned in W6 above, this swale, with gabions every few metres, is used to flow surface water run-off from the brick road serving the Albion Close Eco-home development. By diverting run off into the swale, much of the water is absorbed in the swale itself, with any remaining water slowed by the gabions. The water is then channelled into pond W2 before slowly fed to the surface water drainage further down the hill. The SuDS significantly reduces the risk surface water drainage further down the hill from being inundated beyond capacity.



October 2025: Swale feeding retention basin

D2 Long Leys Road (inside A46 underpass) ditch

Maintained with mature hedge and grassed ditch.



October 2025: 144 Long Leys Road retention

D3 Long Leys Road (south side outside A46 underpass) main ditch

Actively managed and maintained. Mature hedges to one side of open ditch. There are flash flooding issues in this area, believed to be caused by clogged drains (foliage and dumped rubbish). Ditch runs along Long Leys Road and then diverts southwards through the hedge across fields towards Carholme Roundabout. The southward leg also takes water from D5 om the north side of Long Leys Road



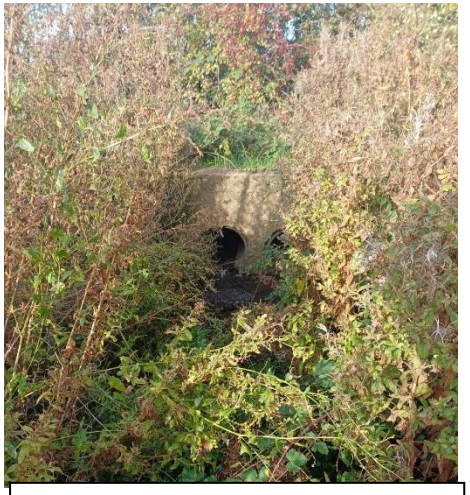
October 2025: View to east



October 2025: Feed to southwards extension



October 2025: Southwards portion of ditch – looking to north



October 2025: Culvert into southwards ditch

D4 Long Leys Road (south side outside A46 underpass) westerly ditch

Semi-maintained open ditch edged by mature hedge with occasional tree. Appears to drain towards Saxilby Road, although the culvert is in poor condition.



October 2025: Looking eastwards from A57 end of Long Leys Road



October 2025: Culvert at west end of ditch. Damaged and partially covered.



October 2025: Roadside drain by culvert.

D5 Long Leys Road (north side outside A46 underpass) alongside Lowfields Farm

Actively managed and maintained. Mature hedges to one side of open ditch. There are flash flooding issues in this area, believed to be caused by clogged drains (foliage and dumped rubbish) and a low-capacity pipe running under the access to White Gables. The drainage crosses Long Leys Road at a culvert and feeds into D3 in a southward's direction



October 2025: Long Leys Road by Lowfields Farm



October 2025: Long Leys Road by White Gables – small diameter pipe



November 2025: Culvert to feed D5 across Long Leys Road into D3 on south side.

D6 Long Leys Road (north side outside A46 underpass) western section

Semi-maintained open ditch edged by mature hedge with occasional tree. Appears to drain towards Saxilby Road.



October 2025: View eastwards along Long Leys Road, from just by dog training area.



November 2025: Culvert for D6 at junction with D5 to feed road drainage on Long Leys Road into D5/D5 system

D7 Drainage between fields outside A46 to north of Long Leys Road

Not maintained. Although marked on map the drain is not particularly visible along the hedgerow. A ditch is partially visible towards Long Leys Road.



October 2025: Little visible signs of effective ditch



October 2025: Little visible signs of effective ditch

D8 Drainage On City Limits running East West

Appears maintained. Open ditch with mature trees and hedgerow.



October 2025: View to west. Open ditch with mature trees and hedgerow next to farmland (to north).

D9 Drainage Close to Bishops Bridge running East West

Not visibly maintained. A visible but overgrown ditch with mature trees and hedgerows



October 2025



October 2025 : Ditch to left of picture. View to west.

D10 Upper Catchwater Drain at Bishops Bridge

Actively managed and maintained. This drain feeds the Foss Dyke to the south-east.



October 2025 Upper Drain at Bishops Bridge

D11 Lower Catchwater Drain at Bishops Bridge

Actively managed and maintained. This drain runs alongside the Upper Catchwater Drain and heads south-east.



October 2025 Lower Drain at Bishops Bridge

D12 Marked Drain to East of Dog Training Area

Not maintained. Although marked on local maps there is little sign of an effective ditch here.



October 2025: No effective ditch visible



October 2025: No effective ditch visible

D13 Drainage to West of Dog Training Area

Appears maintained. Mature hedge and open ditch next to Bishops Bridge pull in by dog training area.



October 2025



October 2025: Culvert to feed to Long Leys Road drainage

D14 Drainage between old racecourse straight and fields alongside A57

Old ditch not maintained or cleared and appearing to have no outlet at either end. Mature hedges alongside with occasional mature trees.



October 2025



October 2025

D15 Drainage to north of West Common

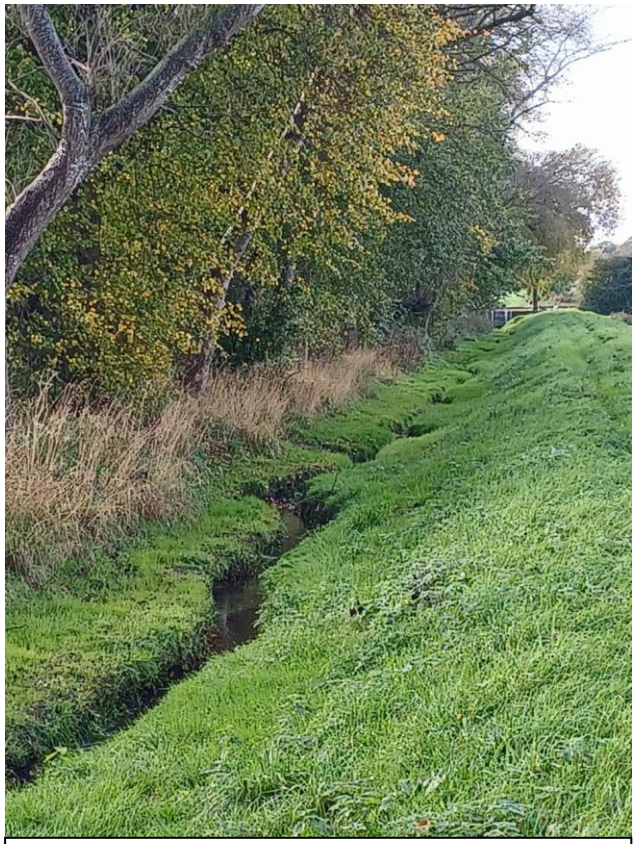
Appears maintained. Edged by mature hedges.



October 2025

D16 Drainage north of West Common

Appears actively managed and maintained. A ditch which feeds a culvert to the Catchwater drain across Saxilby Road.



October 2025



October 2025: Culvert

Infrastructure

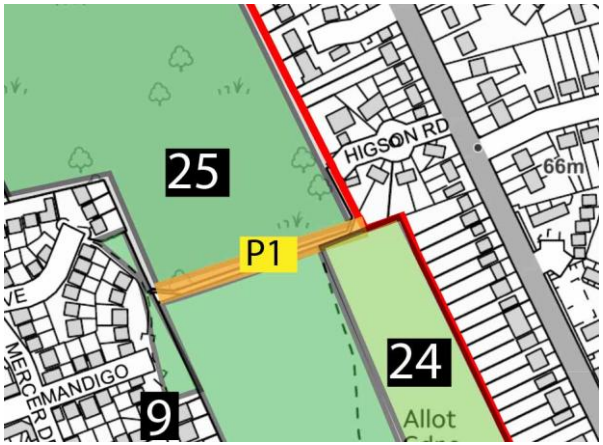
Footpaths: P1 - 6

Footpaths

P1 – Higson Steps – Manrico Drive to Higson Road

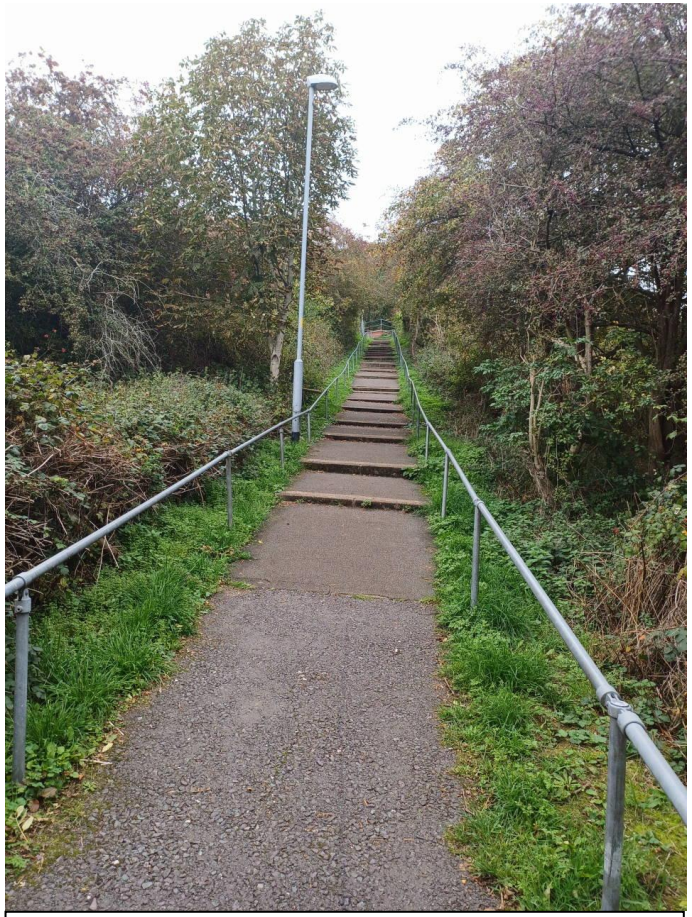
Circa 200 metre tarmac path with steps, handrail and street lighting.

Provides route between Long Leys / Manrico Drive at St. George's & Higson Road/ Burton Road. Important as it provides access to shops and more regular bus services. There is a 30-metre rise in height between Manrico Drive and the Burton Road.





Western/lower start to path on Manrico Drive Park to

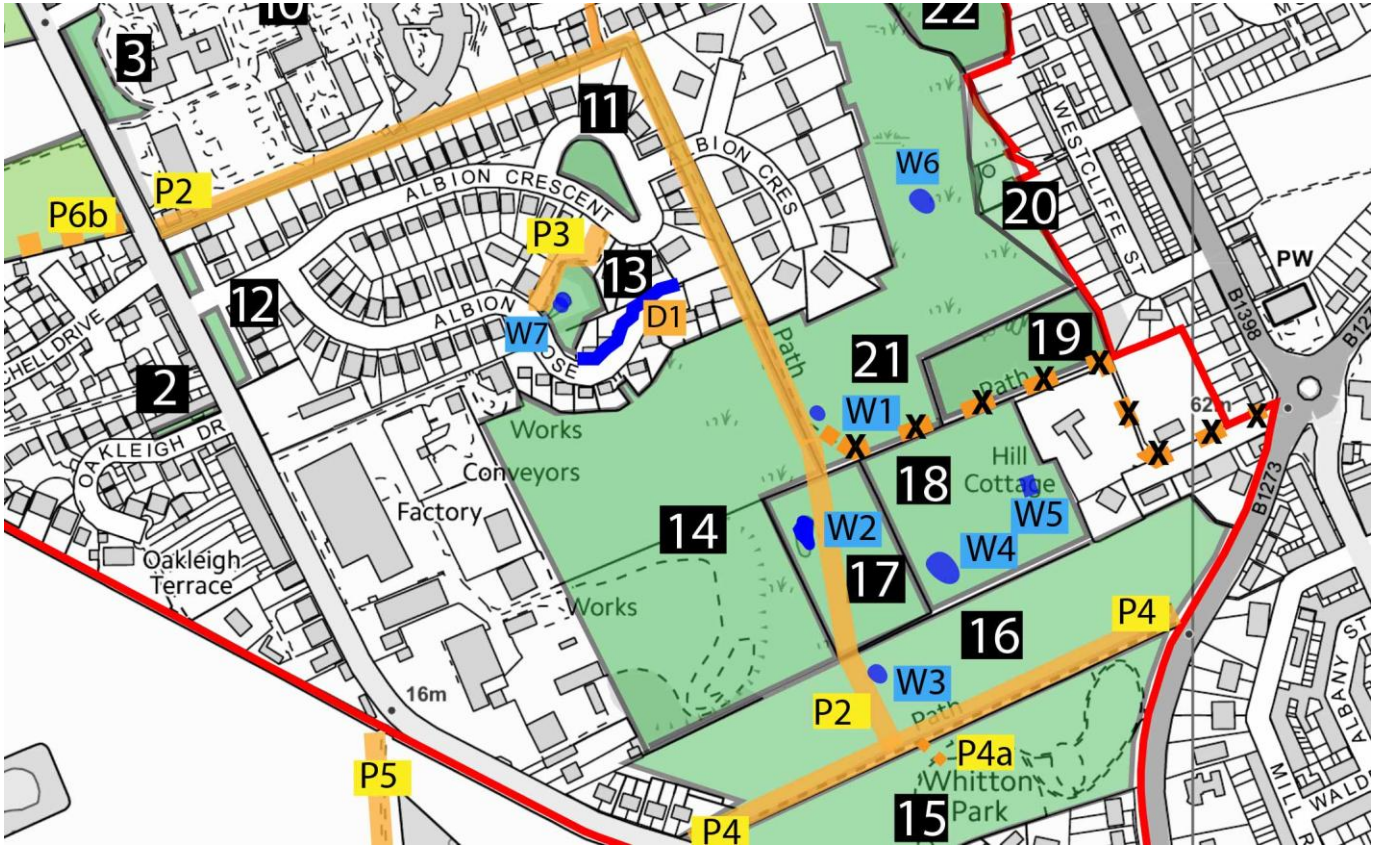


View up Higson Steps

P2 – Long Leys Road to Yarborough Road (Created 2026)

Circa 800 metre path of poor grade limestone chippings (400 metres) and then (better grade compacted gravel (under construction November 2026). Unlit.

The original path to the Burton Road roundabout, described as footpath No. 3 by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), was closed in February 2024 when a section running by Westcliffe quarry became dangerous. The closed section is marked in dotted orange and crosses on the map below. A new footpath, based on an existing route across Newt Hollow (17) and Hobblers Hole (16) to Whitton Park (15), was added to the Definitive Map in 2026. The new route is being built with stone chippings and is designed to link up with Footpath P4 (known in LCC terminology as No 6).





Westerly start of P2 on Long Leys Road



Spur access from St. George's Estate



P2: Between St. George's Hospital and Albion Crescent. Limestone chippings and grass/mud.



View as footpath crosses Albion Crescent. Prior to path upgrade in November 2026.



View to South from Albion Crescent as upgraded (gravel) path is being compacted.



View to North heading towards Albion Crescent (straight on).



View to North across Hobblers Hole from Whitton Park.

Path being upgraded in November 2026.

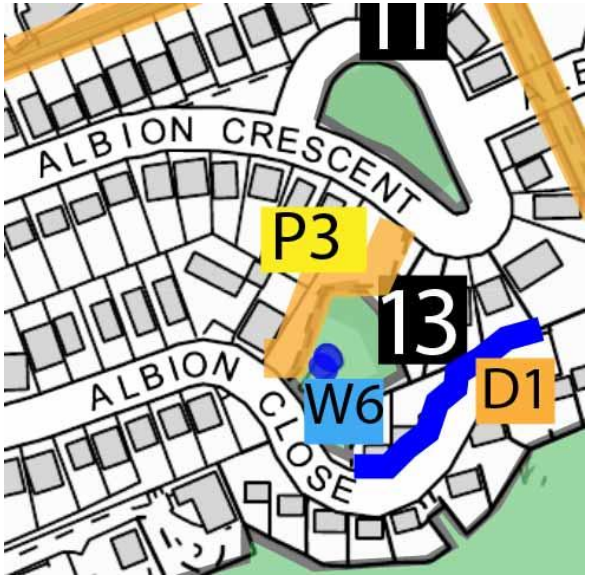


View to East at junction of Footpath P2 (to left) and P4 (running uphill alongside Whitton Park).
Path being upgraded in November 2026.

P3 - Albion Close to Albion Crescent

Circa 90 metre path between Albion Close and Albion Crescent. 5 metre change in gradient.

Tarmac path.





Northern start of Footpath P3

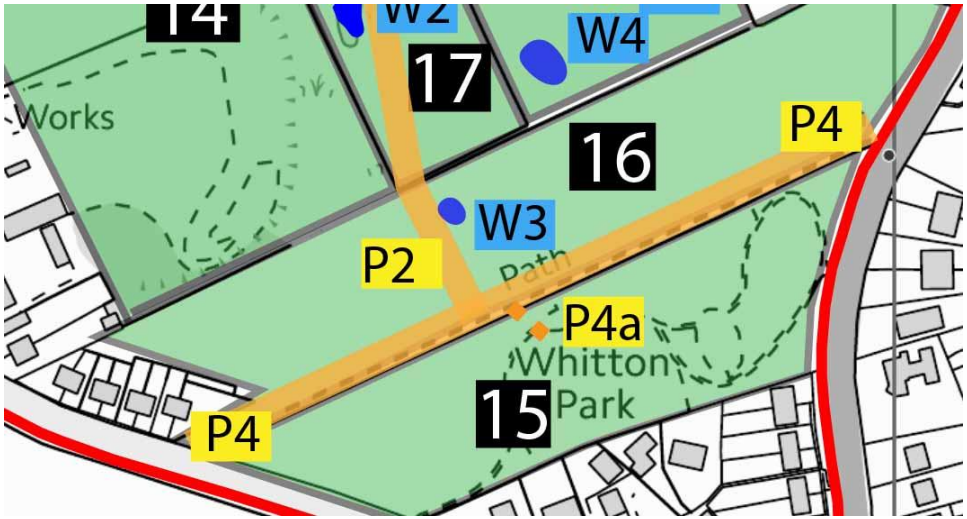


Southern start of Footpath P3

P4 Long Leys Road to Yarbrough Road

Circa 350 metre length grass/soil track alongside Whitton Park. 30 metre change in gradient. Easterly end is steep and in winter very slippery with an adverse camber. Being improved by LCC in 2026 as part of Footpath P2 upgrade.

Ideally City of Lincoln Council would also provide a clear route from footpath 4 into Whitton Park to join up with the extensive tarmac paths there. This is marked as 4a on the map below and on the subsequent satellite image.





View of P4 and potential extension P4a into Whitton Park to meet tarmac paths



Start of P4 (top) at Yarborough Road during November 2026 footpath upgrade



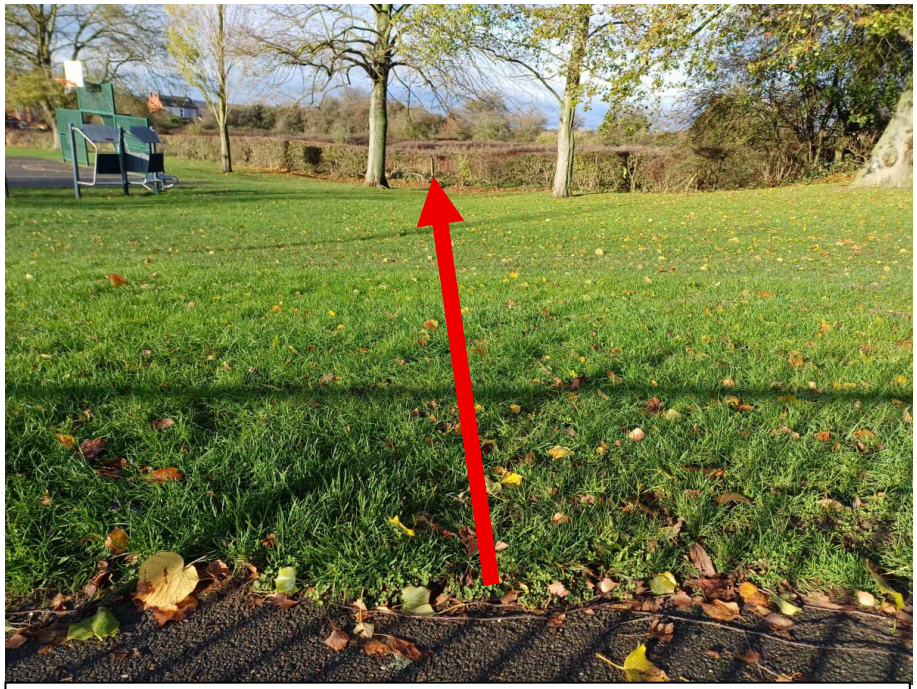
Path at top end of P4 during November 2026 upgrade.



View to east of P4 from half way up during November 2026 surface upgrade



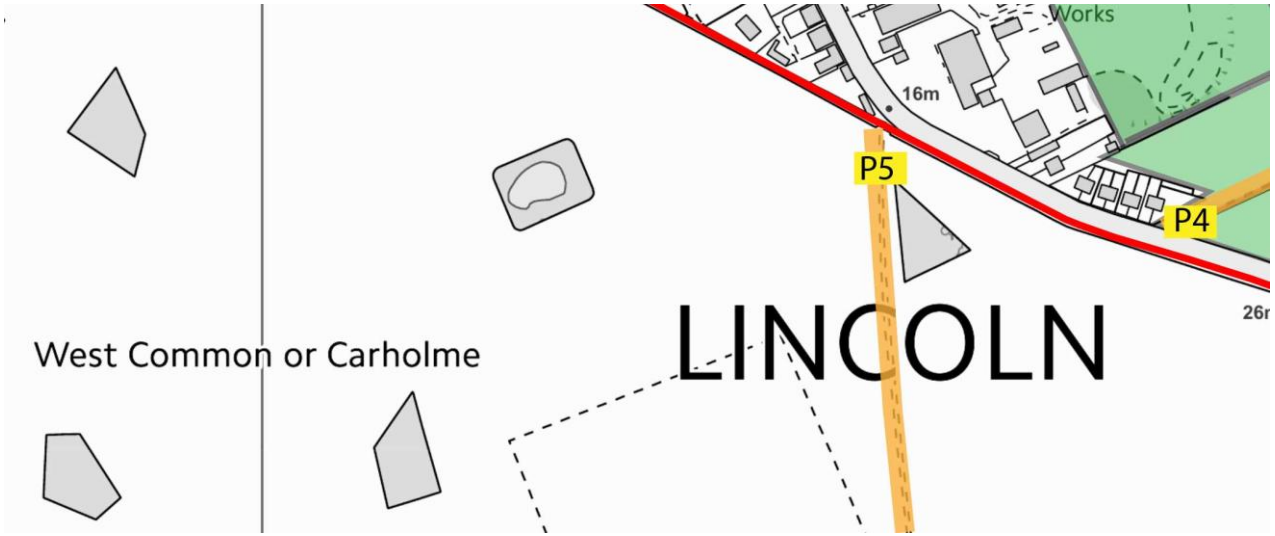
P4 start (lower) on Long Leys Road during November 2026 upgrade.



P4a: View from Whitton Park tarmac park towards suggested access to P4

P5 West Common Path between Long Leys Road and West Parade

Circa 460 metre tarmac path across West Common between Long Leys Road and West Parade (not fully shown on map). Lit.



The route across West Common, between Long Leys Road and West Parade, is the primary route for off-road walking and cycling for those living in Long Leys heading to and from schools and workplaces in the city centre. The path is used by young people aged 4-11 as the main access to the infant and junior schools located in the West End. It is also used by Long Leys residents to access nearby facilities and services not available in Long Leys itself.

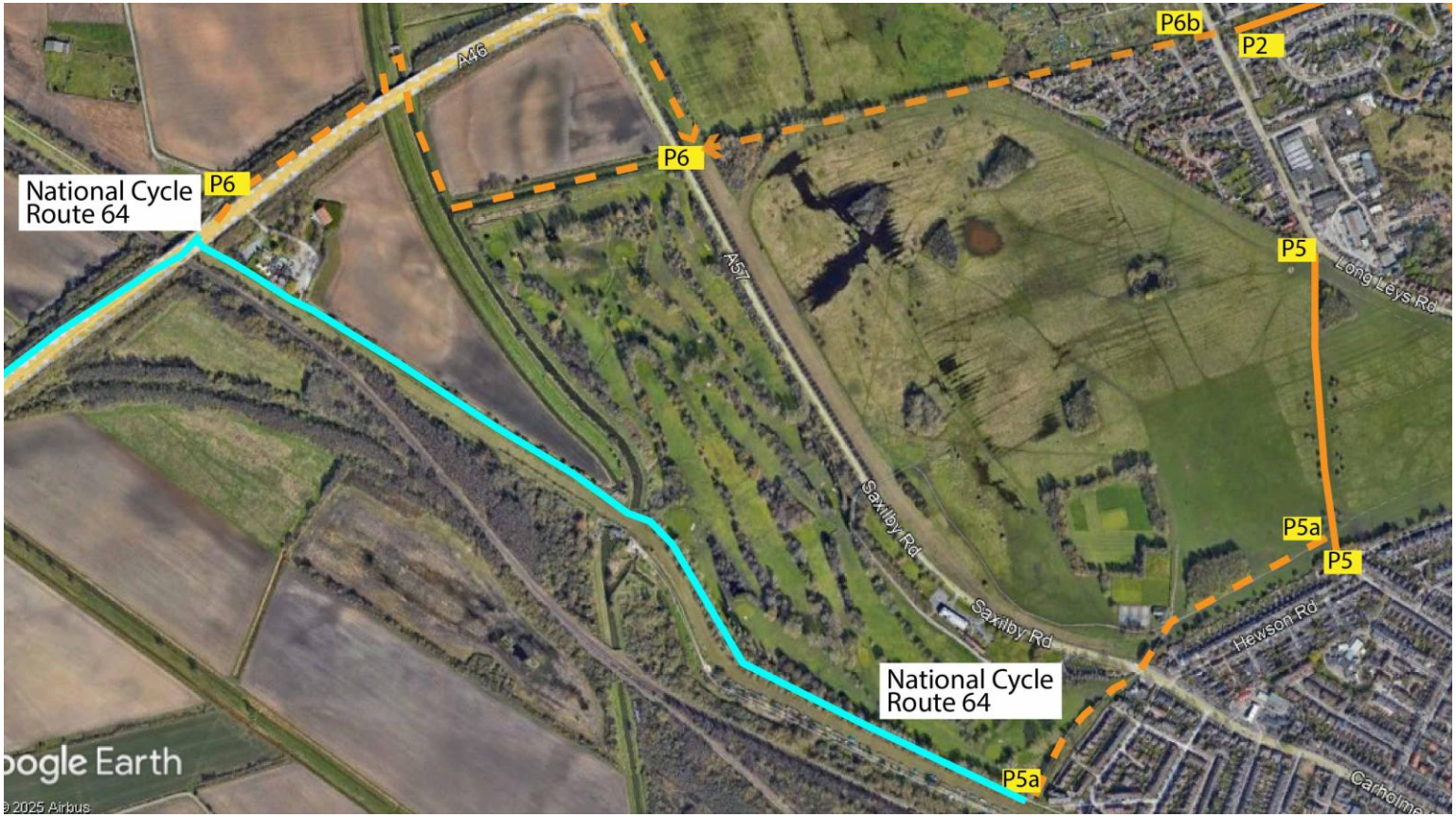
It is a narrow path, installed prior to most homes in Long Leys homes being built, and at 2.2 metres width is unsuitable as a modern multi-use path. It is unsafe at times, with a two-way flow of pedestrians, disabled buggies, pushchairs, cyclists, scooters, dog walkers and the occasional horse all occupying a space designed for much lower traffic levels. The path is dimly lit, and during winter months at peak times this adds to health and safety concerns. Peak usage has been measured at around 200 people per hour (see table on a following page for breakdown).

Whilst the route itself is outside of the plan area, it is desirable to encourage improvement of this route. There are two potential elements to this:

1. Increase the capacity of the path (P5) by either widening the existing path or by introducing a dedicated cycle lane running alongside the existing path. This would be in line with City of Lincoln Council's declared aims of encouraging active travel and would address a known health and safety risk, particularly for vulnerable users.
2. Allow a spur off the existing path to allow a cycle route southwards towards the Carholme Road and potentially, using the existing pedestrian crossing there, to the Foss Dyke which is part of National Cycle Route 64. This option is shown as 5a on the diagram overleaf. The path would follow the line of a historically established crushed brick path used when the racecourse was in operation.

The Lincoln City Council Act 1985 (LCCA) determines much of what can be done on West Common. Section 6-2 grants powers to the city council in that "The council may by resolution dedicate any part of the Commons for the purposes of making or widening carriageways and footways".

P5a: Potential New Cycling Access to Carholme Road and National Cycle Route 64





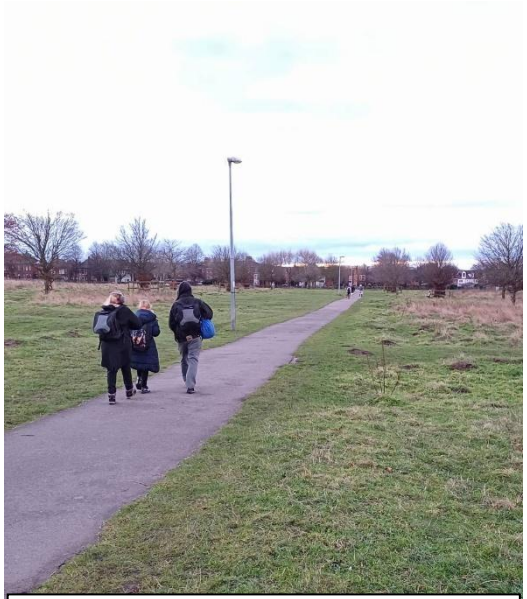
West Common footpath entrance at Long Leys Road



West Common path, approaching Weste Parade gate

West Common Path: User snapshot at peak use (16 December 2024)

30-minute peak (8:20am to 8:50am)	
Child – pedestrian	17
Child – scooter	12
Child – cyclist	8
Adult – pedestrian	29
Adult – pushchair	4
Adult – scooter	1
Adult – cyclist	6
Adult - dog walker	1
Adult - disabled buggy	1
	79



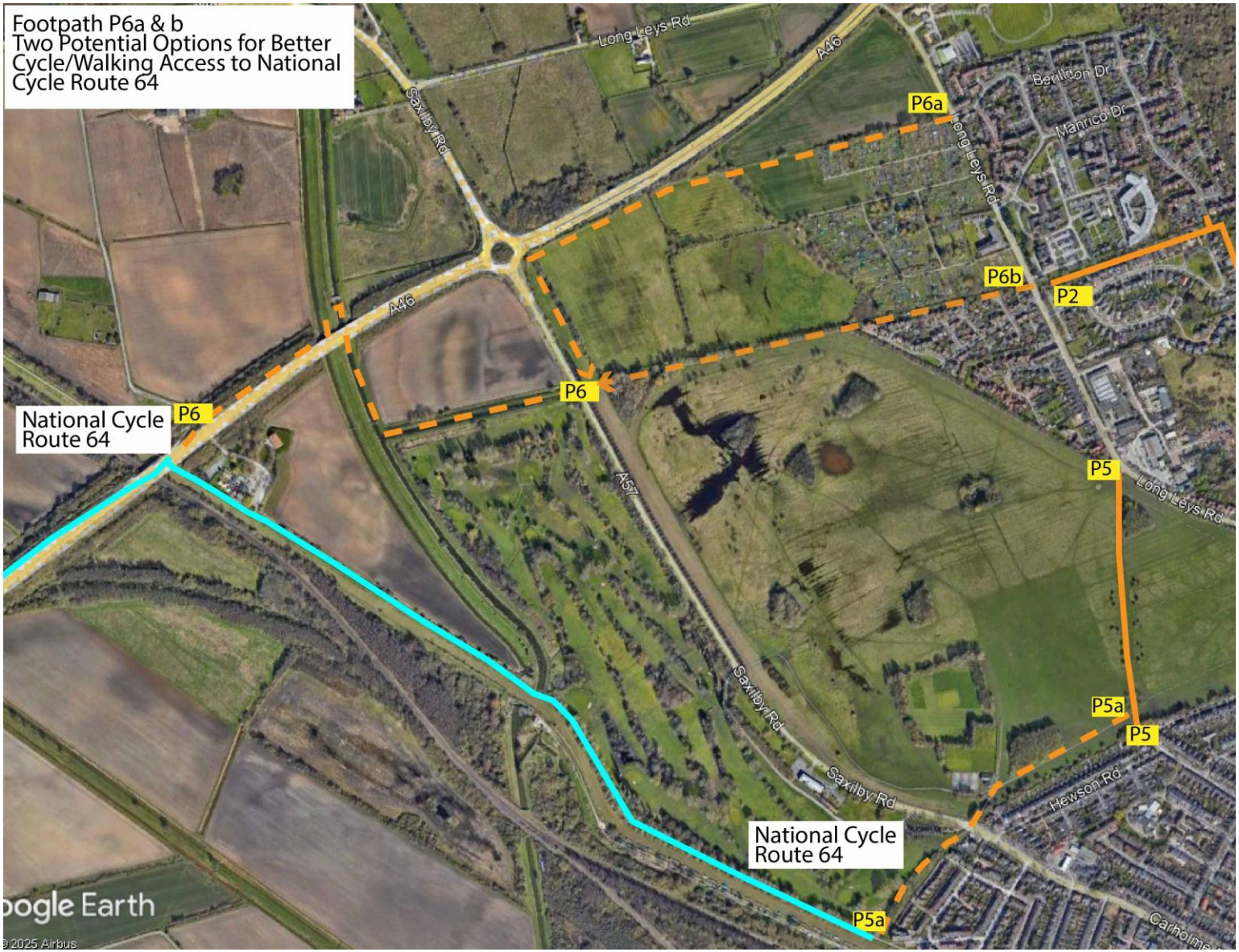
West Common path, with street lighting in background

P6, a and b (Potential New Footpath) Long Leys Road to Saxilby Road

P6, a and b are two possible alternatives for a new walking and cycling route from Long Leys Road to the Saxilby Road and then to the west of the city and beyond towards National Cycle Route 64.

- P6a is circa 1,000 metres in length. The opportunity is created by the eastern part of the route (land numbered 40, currently farmed) being potentially developed for housing and facilities.
- P6b is a potential alternative route, circa 820 metres, which extends from footpath P2 and could run alongside West Common to reach the same point as P6 (using land 41, 39, 38, 37). There is already a suitable walkway at 37 & 38.
- P6 is circa 960 metres in length, would run to the west of the Saxilby Road and require access to an existing concrete bridge across the Upper Catchwater Drain, a new footbridge across the Lower Catchwater Drain and then a path to the north of the A46 embankment to the Pyewipe and National Cycle Route 64. From here access is possible to Doddington and further west.




Footpath P6a & b
Two Potential Options for Better Cycle/Walking Access to National Cycle Route 64
Long Leys Rd
A46
Saxilby Rd
P6a
Long Leys Rd
Berrilcon Dr
Manrico Dr
P6b
P2
A46
P6
National Cycle Route 64
P6
A57
P5
Long Leys Rd
Saxilby Rd
P5a
P5
Saxilby Rd
Hewson Rd
National Cycle Route 64
P5a
oogle Earth
2025 Airbus

References:

ESL (Ecological Services) Ltd: 2025 GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEY TO INFORM PROPOSED PUBLIC FOOTPATH WORK, WHITTON PARK, LINCOLN