

DRAFT Footpath and Loke Management Plan

Cley-next-the-Sea

June 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 Cley Parish Council recognise the importance of the Footpath network in the parish, the Public Footpath's provide pedestrians with a safe alternative, from walking on the main roads, many of which do not have segregated footways. Therefore, the Lokes and Footpaths are essential for safely travelling around Cley, these narrow lokes are unique to Cley and form part of Cley's charm and village character. The balance between enabling safe access and maintaining Cley's unique character requires careful management.

1.2 Cley Parish Council understand the careful balance between ensuring a highway is safe and passible and having due regard to conservation, wildlife and habitats. Vegetation encourages more insects and enhances local wildlife; this not only benefits the environment but also brings with it a huge amount of pleasure for residents and visitors. However, when grass verges and paths are left as wildlife areas they are sometimes treated as unkept and as such attract more dog fouling and litter. Hedging adjacent to footpaths can quickly make the narrow paths and lokes unpassable and so some maintenance is necessary in order to ensure the paths, lokes and grass verges remain functional.

1.3 This policy has been written so Cllrs, residents and visitors understand what areas of the parish the Parish Council maintain, how they maintain these areas and the reasons for doing so.

2. Aim

Cley Parish Council aim to maintain the footpaths, lokes and grass verges to ensure they are passible all year round whilst ensuring they are vibrant green corridors which attract wildlife and benefit the environment.

3. Grass Verges

3.1 There is no duty on the Parish Council to mow verges, however it is appreciated that tidy verges have been seen as part of maintaining pride in public places around the parish.

3.2 Cley Parish Council assists Norfolk County Council in maintaining some of the verges in the Parish.

3.3 The following grass cutting takes place in Cley between Mid-March and the end of October.

3.3.1 Cley Village Hall located at The Fairstead, NR25 7RJ

- The Playing Field will be cut on 15 occasions or as needed.

3.3.2 Cley Play Park

- The play equipment will be strimmed on 15 occasions or as needed.

3.3.3 Allotment Hedge

- The Village Hall side of the hedge (top only) will be cut on 1 occasion, all arisings will be removed on the day of cutting.

3.3.4 Newgate Green (registered Common Land) located at NR25 7TT.

- Grass on the common land will be cut on 15 occasions or as needed.

3.3.5 Bus Shelter

- The grass up to phone box and small area in front of bus shelter will be strimmed on 4 occasions and bushes trimmed on 1 occasion.

3.3.6 Lime Kiln Close located at NR27 7UB

- The grass at Lime Kiln Close will be cut on 15 occasions or as needed.

3.3.7 High Street Bench located at NR25 7RU

- The grass will be cut on 15 occasions and any ivy and brambles will be cut back on 1 occasion.

3.3.8 The grass verge along Holt Road (as you leave Cley on the left hand side) has been designated as a wildlife verge and whilst this verge is maintained by Norfolk County Council, they have been asked not to cut it between May – September to allow orchids to grow.

4. Hedgerows

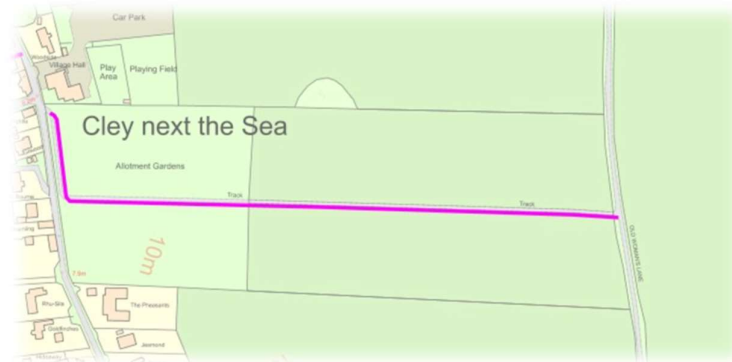
4.1 Hedgerows are an important feature in the village. Hedgerows provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife. The Parish Council will aim to increase infill or new planting of native hedge species on sites they own within the parish. The Council will not undertake hedge pruning or maintenance during the nesting season unless work is for health and safety reasons. The main nesting and breeding season is recognised as being between 1 March to 31 August. Any Health and Safety work undertaken during this time will be done after a thorough hedge inspection to ensure no nesting birds are present. Wherever possible all hedging works will be planned outside of the main nesting season.

5. Footpath and Loke Maintenance

All Public Rights of Way are looked after by the Highway Authority, which is Norfolk County Council. The County Council have powers contained in the Highways Act 1980 to maintain rights of way and ensure they are always open and accessible. The Parish Council works alongside the Highway Authority and cuts a handful of paths in the parish to ensure they are always accessible. These paths do not feature on the County Council's annual cutting regime, and as such need maintaining from time to time.

5.1 Allotment Footpath FP26

The section of footpath through the allotment site will be strimmed regularly between March – October. The hedge along Church Lane will be cut once every winter to ensure there is minimum encroachment. This footpath is currently maintained by Cllr Williamson.



5.2 Footpath No. 25 to Old Woman's Lane

This footpath will be cut twice between March and October.



5.3 Footpath No.13 (Taylor's Loke)

This footpath is self-managing. No programmed cutting. Trim on request.

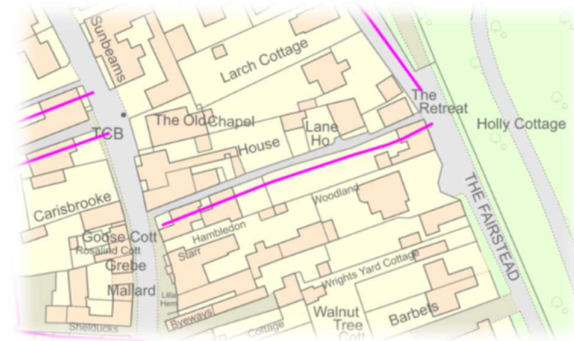


5.4 Footpath No. 8 (Post Office Loke)

This footpath is one of the most beautiful paths in the village, it is well known during the Spring and summer months for its beautiful flowers.

Some work is needed to expose the flint work and ongoing maintenance is needed to ensure the flint work remains uncovered by weeds and dirt. The

Holly and Hollyhocks will need to be taken back every winter. The Hollyhocks will require tying back in the summer months in order to keep the path accessible.



5.5 Footpath No. 6 (Long Stone Loke)

This footpath is self-managing. No programmed cutting. Trim on back on request at the end of the growing season.



5.6 Footpath No.7

This footpath is self-managing. No programmed cutting. Trim on request.



5.7 Footpath 14 and Footpath 15 on Hilltop

These two footpaths will be cut twice a year with particular focus on the Alexanders which grow here and are intrusive. The Alexanders are being pulled up by hand (after pollination has occurred). Both these footpaths are currently being looked after by two volunteer parishioners who live nearby.



5.8 The Coast Path

The Coast Path is maintained by The Trails Team at Norfolk County Council. They are responsible for its maintenance. Problems can be reported online.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem#prowicons>



5.9 Other Public Rights of Way not listed as part of the CPC Footpath and Loke Management Policy

All other Public Rights of Way in the parish are maintained solely by Norfolk County Council's Highway Team. The Rights of Way Officer for Cley is Sarah Price and she can be contacted at sarah.price@norfolk.gov.uk

6. The Land at Hilltop

6.1 Hilltop in Cley has a separate Management Plan which can be seen on the Parish Council website.

<https://www.cleypc.info/documents>

7. The Management of Alexanders in Cley

7.1 Alexanders is a common, invasive flowering plant of a green – yellow colour, which is known for its rapid growth. It is known to thrive in areas close to the coast and can be found in many of Cley's green spaces. It is very aggressive and can shade out smaller vegetation.

7.2 Whilst we try to keep any maintenance to a minimum during the summer months, maintaining Alexanders are an exception to the rule and will be cleared where necessary. This is to ensure that other plants have the opportunity to grow and flourish and to help maintain the diversification needed to sustain all insects and bees.



Reviewed June 2026

Next Review June 2029