



Peak District Local Access Forum

On: Thursday 1 December 2022

At: Aldern House, Board room

Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Welcome and Apologies	Mike Rhodes
2	Minutes from the last meeting, 15/09/2022	Louise Hawson
3	Matters Arising from last meeting	
4	Cycle Access to the Peak District	
5	Access to Water Presentation	Ben Seal
6	Access Update	Sue Smith
7	Derbyshire CC RoWIP Update	Gill Millward
8	Members' Reports	
9	Any Other Business	Mike Rhodes
10	Date of next meetings Tuesdays: March 14 th , June 13 th , September 12 th , December 5 th	Mike Rhodes

Close: 1.00 pm

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Peak District Local Access Forum

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2022
at Aldern House, Board room.**

Members Present:

Charlotte Leech
Martin Bennett
Richard Entwistle
Alastair Harvey
Jez Kenyon
Jo Holliday

Craig Best
Austin Knott
Charlotte Gilbert
Louise Hawson
John Towe

Others Present:

Mike Rhodes, (PDNPA) (Secretary)
Gill Millward, (DCC)

Rich Pett, (PDNPA)
Sue Smith, (PDNPA)

38. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Susan Hobson, Ben Seal, Clare Griffin, Geoff Nickolds, Paul Richardson and Joe Dalton.

The Access and Rights of Way Manager introduced Mr Phil Mulligan who had recently joined the Peak District National Park Authority as the Chief Executive and would be observing the meeting.

The meeting also welcomed Cllr Andrew McCloy, Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) who was taking on the role of the PDNPA Member of the Forum.

39. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, 16 JUNE 2022

The Chair asked the meeting to hold a moment of reflection to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising:

Ben Seal had attended the National Access and Engagement Forum and would be asked to provide feedback at the next LAF Meeting. **ACTION: LAF Secretary**

Natural England Access Team is seeking to appoint an advisor to work with Local Access Forums across the country. The Chair would make further enquires and report back to the next meeting. **ACTION LAF Chair**

Under the Proposed LAF Priorities and Activities there was an action for the Chair to circulate a work plan which would be sent out shortly. **ACTION LAF Chair**

A Sustainable Transport symposium hosted by the PDNPA is now planned for the end of the year as it did not take place over the summer.

A report had been circulated to all Forum Members by the Access and Rights of Way Officer on the projects supported by Farming in Protected Landscapes FIPL.

40. ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE - PRESENTATION

Engaging with Young People

A presentation was given by Luisa Knust who was volunteering at the Lockerbrook Farm Outdoor Centre as part of her time with the European Solidarity Corps which has volunteers between the ages of 18 & 30 and aims to create a more inclusive society.

The average age in the UK is 40 but younger people are not included in the decision-making process and yet will live with the impact of the decisions made for longer. She suggested that young people are very concerned about these issues and recent demonstrations in the UK and in Germany showed the strength of feeling. There is a need to encourage more outdoor education and to empower children and young people to speak up for themselves.

The outdoor centre is an opportunity to allow young people to stop and look at what the National Park is about in the hope that it will inspire them to become involved in the preservation of the landscape, if they are not aware they cannot be engaged.

Luisa had looked at the best ways to engage with young people and found that some of the more popular forms of social media only engage with those already aware of the topic/content. Use of on-site information, posters, newspapers or sticker campaigns can be more effective when trying to reach young people.

Luisa asked the Forum to consider:

- How to support young people – especially to overcome barriers to accessing the countryside.
- How to make contact with young people with information about events.

The Forum thanked Luisa for her excellent presentation.

Generation Green

Sarah Wilks (Head of Engagement, PDNPA) introduced a presentation regarding the Generation Green project which had been running across all English National Parks with the PDNPA taking a leading role. The focus of the project had been on encouraging school visits, working with teachers and youth leaders to build their confidence in the outdoors, and encouraging others to look at how to engage young people and hear younger voices in decision making.

Some organisations have Junior Rangers or Junior members of decision-making bodies. Work was ongoing to bring more young people into the decision-making process. The funding for the Generation Green project had now ended. Other areas of work included responding to the section of the Glover Review which suggested a night under the stars and which was being coordinated by the Youth Hostels Association, Scouts and Girl Guiding working with outward bound organisations.

Discussion

The LAF then discussed the issues around engaging with young people, and opportunities to hear the needs, hopes and concerns of younger people in its work. Challenges included the impact of the current cost of living crisis which had led to reduced funding for such initiatives, and which can make travel and taking time out of work difficult.

The PDNPA is planning to create a Youth Voice, but this was in its early stages. Charlotte Leech noted that the Authority and other LAF Members have several apprentices who could be engaged to bring a younger voice to meetings. The NPA would explore opportunities further. Gill Millward said that the Derby and Derbyshire LAF (DADLAF) had appointed student members in the past and was currently looking to fill this position again. The Peak District LAF agreed to explore these opportunities to engage younger voices in its work in future.

41. STAFFORDSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

Andy Farmer (PDNPA Engagement Manager) outlined some of the issues with rights of way as the routes most used by visitors to access the National Park. He highlighted the importance of not just the maintenance of the routes, but also giving confidence to users and making them feel welcome on the network.

The 2021 'ease of use survey' assessed a sample of routes in the National Park against a standard set of criteria and took into consideration all users. However some routes could still be challenging on the perception of standard accessibility.

There had been a decrease in numbers of full-time rangers in the last few years which has impacted on the ability to maintain the access work carried out. With reduced funding this might mean concentrating resources on priorities such as between recreation hubs.

Another ease-of-use survey will be carried out over winter/spring. The results would be reported to the Forum in summer 2023.

The following question was posed to the LAF - should 'accessible and welcoming' be the target for the rights of way network? If so, how should the National Park Authority prioritise this work, given reduced resources?

Forum members supported the suggestion of the higher standard as a target for the network and accepted that this would be an increasing challenge with reductions in resources and increases in prices. Members discussed the possibility of identifying alternative funding and working with volunteers and volunteer organisations. It was agreed to return to this issue following the feedback from the survey in Summer 2023, at which point the PDNPA will look more closely at the issues in order to provide recommendations from the LAF.

42. ACCESS UPDATE

Sue Smith (PDNPA Access and Rights of Way Officer) presented a short report on funding for access infrastructure, with a further report on the work on accessibility to be provided to the December meeting.

The Forum discussed the issues around the closure of land due to the high fire risk in the summer and how the decisions were made on closure and re-opening the land. It was noted that the signage, media coverage and information on the Authority's website were useful. A meeting between National Parks and Natural England will take place in October to look at how well the actions worked. Sue reported that the LAF were welcome to provide feedback to her for this meeting.

43. DERBYSHIRE CC ROWIP UPDATE

Gill Millward (Countryside Access Improvement Officer, DCC) introduced the update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and summarised the main work in progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims.

Under Aim 1 relating to the existing Rights of Way Network, the LAF thanked Gill and the DCC team for compiling the table listing all the routes on which the LAF had already provided comments and guidance, and for including information on the status of the work for each route. Further comments from the Forum were also welcomed. The LAF noted that the impact of inflation on material and other costs would need to be considered when costing and scheduling future projects.

Under Aim 2, it was noted that a joint subgroup with the DADLAF to review possible prioritisations of DCC Definitive Map Modification Order claims was to be set up later in the year.

Under Aim 3, it was agreed that a link to the Safer Roads Fund Consultations for Long Hill, near Buxton and the Via Gellia between Newhaven and Cromford would be circulated to the LAF once they were underway.

44. MEMBERS' REPORTS INCLUDING:

Trails Management Plan:

Charlotte Gilbert reported that the recruitment of volunteers was on-going and the renovated Goods Shed was now open at Millers Dale. A winter work plan was being progressed.

Sheffield LAF:

Louise Hawson had attended a meeting of Sheffield LAF in June, and shared the issues discussed. Members also discussed the desirability of attending the meetings of other neighbouring LAFs, and those in other National Parks, as has happened in the past.

British Mountaineering Council (BMC):

Some funding for footpath and other upland restoration work was available from the BMC's Crag and Upland Restoration Fund, with the involvement of BMC Volunteers.

45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - NOTIFIED TO MIKE IN ADVANCE

Mike had been contacted by Simon Geller from Sustrans regarding routes into the National Park and Mike was looking into this for him. Simon also mentioned that he would like to address a future meeting of the LAF which would be arranged. **ACTION: LAF Secretary**

The Forum meeting was to be followed by a site visit to Edensor to advise DCC on planned capital works and repairs to BOAT 13 (old turnpike lane running from Handley Lane to Chatsworth House).

46. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 1ST DECEMBER 2022

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 1 December 2022

Item: 6

Title: Access Update

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on issues related to access in the Peak District.

Accessible Peak District

The Authority's work on access infrastructure helps to underpin inclusivity and engagement so that everyone can experience its special qualities, including those with limited mobility. This is achieved through the removal of barriers such as stiles, narrow gates, and steps. It includes widening, regrading, improved surfacing, and new and promoted routes. It's supported by mobility equipment, inclusive/adaptive cycles, disabled toilets and Changing Places, designated disabled car parking, links with public transport, information, signage, resting places, and by visitor centres and Ranger-led activities and events.

The accompanying presentation provides an update on our work on access and accessibility.

Access Fund

Donations to the [Access Fund](#) help provide for access improvements in the National Park. This includes:

- new and upgraded access points on access land
- restoring paths on access land
- implementing new areas of access land
- new permissive paths to improve links to existing access
- enhancing the accessibility of paths
- signage, mapping, and leaflets.

In 2022, donations have been received via the Peak District Foundation. This includes repeat donations from Sheffield CHA walking group, Peak Sky Race, and John Thompson – 8 years in a row. Income was also received from handbook sales, with the first run of 1500 handbooks nearly sold out.

Works during 2022 included more Anniversary Gates linking to the wilder side of the National Park, a section of boardwalk on a new route at Chrome Hill, surfacing improvements, more accessible gates, and fingerposts with directions and distances.

CRoW Mapping

Work on the 2024/25 review of the mapping of mountain, moor, heath, and down is underway with a stakeholder meeting held in November 2022 to discuss the approach being considered. The mapping review is being dealt with separately to

any extension of access rights, as set out in [Defra's response to the Landscape Review](#).

Recommendation

- 1. That the report is noted.**

Access & Accessibility

Sue Smith

Access & Rights of Way Officer



Access & Accessibility

- Access to amazing views, moorland expanses, intimate dales, dramatic geology, distinctive habitats, tranquil and undeveloped areas, and the history of the landscape
- For enjoyment, escape, exploration, challenge and adventure
- For all

If

- You can't move far
- You don't know what's available
- You need a friendly face

For All



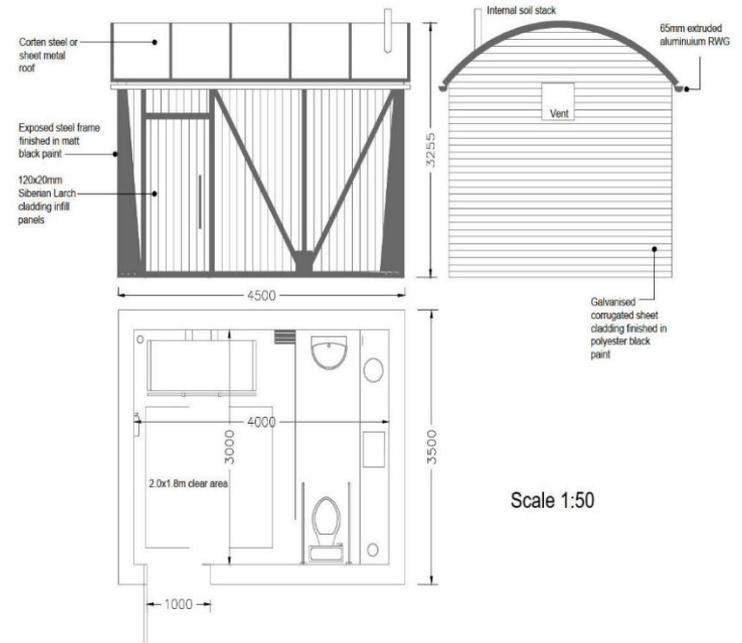
- Range of routes and experiences
- Supporting people
- Infrastructure and facilities
- Dedicated parking and public transport
- Accessibility equipment
- Information and signage

Accessible Peak District



- Places
Facilities and information at key locations
- Miles
Create and enhance Miles without Stiles routes
- Mobility
Increase the number of people participating

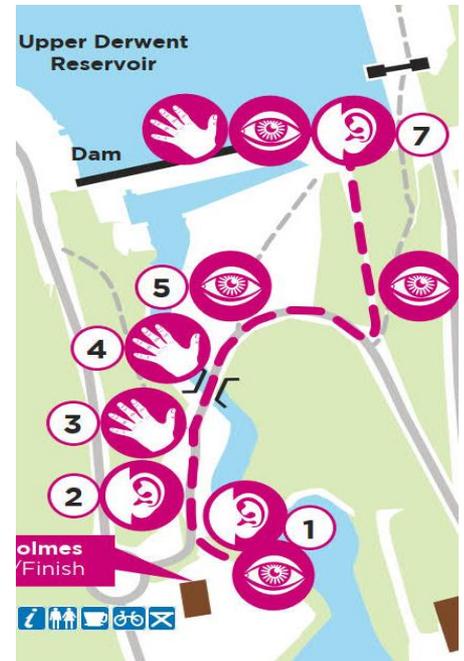
Changing Places



Resting Places



Information & Interpretation





Miles without Stiles

- 20 easy access routes
- 20 more





Resurfacing



Widening



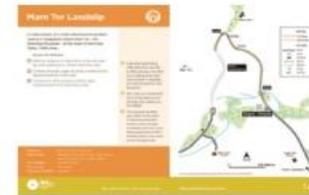
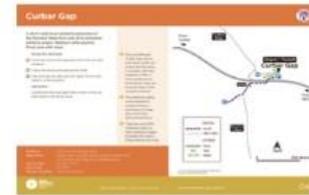
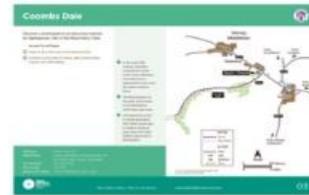
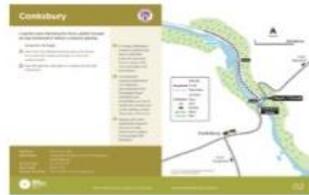
Ramps



Accessible Gates (To Do)



Mapping



Filming

Conksbury

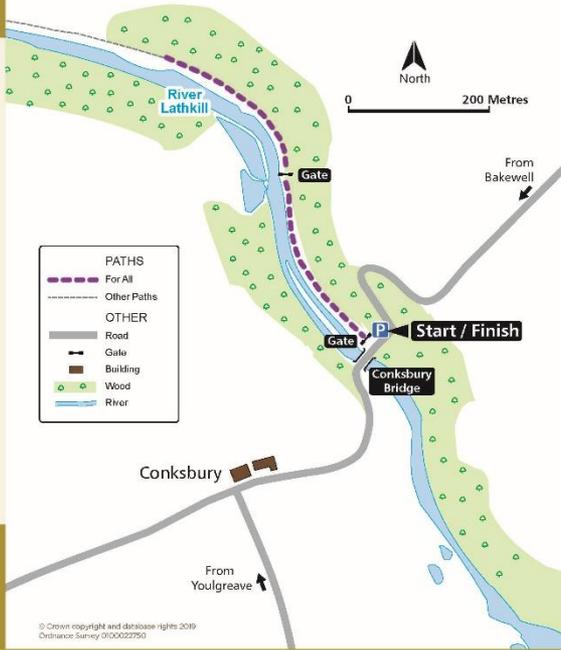


A gentle route following the River Lathkill through an area immersed in history. Livestock grazing.

Access For All Route:

- ① Start from the disabled parking space just above the medieval Conksbury Bridge to follow the surfaced path.
- ② Pass through the next gate to continue by the side of the river.

- ① A Vickers Wellington bomber crashed near here in 1941 after losing its way back from a mission. The crew had bailed out beforehand.
- ① The deserted medieval settlement of Conksbury, documented in the Domesday Book (AD1086) and identifiable now by its earthwork remains, lies on the plateau on the other side of the river.
- ① Dippers and other waterbirds frequent the river's weirs, which were created to encourage fish breeding.



Distance: 510 m one-way
 Start Point: Conksbury Bridge, north of Youlgreave, near Bakewell.
 OS Grid Ref: SK 2119 6565
 Post Code: DE45 1JW
 Nearest Facilities: Over Haddon and Youlgreave



Miles without Stiles - Easy Access Routes

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/mws

02

<https://youtu.be/yT4cOaMvkZ8>



Mobility



Mobility

- Trampers
- Inclusive cycles
- Wheelchairs
- Online booking system
- Videos
- Car park improvements
- Explorer Bus



‘Yours is the earth and everything in it’

(R.Kipling)

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 1 December 2022

Item: 7

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) - Update

Author: Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer, DCC

Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Aim 1: Existing Rights of Way Network

- **Surface condition and drainage:** Work is continuing to complete the package of right of way schemes already being funded through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme by the end of March 2023. Further progress with regard to the schemes which the Peak District LAF Sub-Group has been consulted on and is following with particular interest is set out in the table overleaf. Cabinet approval has also been sought for the annual Department for Transport Local Transport Plan grant (LTP funding) to be added to the Highways Capital Delivery Programme in 2023/24. Further details of the rights of way maintenance schemes being proposed for an allocation of this funding can be found under item 11, along with those for Cycle Routes, Greenways Key Cycle Network and Local Cycling & Walking Investment:

<https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=1149&Ver=4>

- **Roadside signposting:** LTP funding is also enabling work to continue on a rolling programme to install roadside signposts across Derbyshire's rights of way network. So far this year, 429 signposts have been installed and a further 594 issued to the construction team. If successful, the funding bid should allow approximately 1,200 additional signposts to be provided in 2023/24.

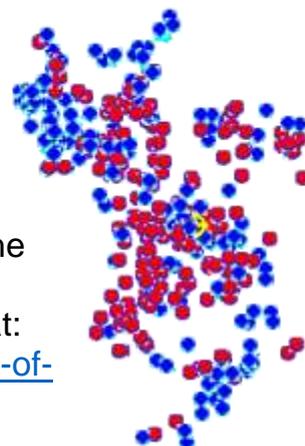


Route	Location
Works completed	
Brough Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) 15	Brough Lane
Works issued to contractor	
Bonsall BOAT 64 and 71	Blakelow and Blakemere Lanes
Calver BW 30	Calver BW 30 and Bramley Lane
Castleton FP 20	Tor House to Hollins Cross
Castleton FP 21	Hollowford Road to Hollins Cross
Charlesworth FP 52	Path linking to the Trans Pennine Trail
Eyam BOAT 25	Sir William Hill Road to Edge Road
Great Longstone BOAT 52	Blakedon Hollow Lagoon
Calver FP 13	Stoney Middleton to Bramley Lane/ Coombsdale
Eyam FP 28 & BOAT 34 and Grindleford Restricted Byway (RB) 32	Riley Lane
Stoney Middleton BW 17	Moisty Lane to Black Harry Lane
Baslow Road	Bakewell FP20 and Baslow Road
Castleton BW 22	Hollowford Road to Hollins Cross
Green Lane Middleton	High Peak Trail to Green Lane
Edensor BOAT 13	Off Handley Lane
To be funded in 2023/24	
Castleton BW 40	Dirtlow Rake
Hayfield BW 47	Kinder Reservoir
Hope BW 32 & BW 5	Low Barn and Brinks Road to Hope Cross
Macclesfield Old Road	Bridge Car Park to Buxton
Peak Forest BW 55	Eldon Quarry
Birchover BOAT 23	Clough Lane
2023/24 Funding Bid Phase 1	
Tintwistle BW42 - Pennine Way	Torside Reservoir
Hayfield BW47 – Phase 2	below Kinder Reservoir
Ballidon BOAT 11	Minninglow Lane
2023/24 Funding Bid Phase 2	
Chapel en le Frith BOAT 144	Rushup Edge (Chapel Gate)
Monyash BOAT 29	Derby Lane

Update on other routes	
Beeley BOAT 13	Waiting to be programmed
Bonsall BOAT 66	Moorlands Lane - minor remedial work required
Holmesfield BW 54	Car Road – illegal still use taking place. Further drainage improvements and surface repairs to be carried out
Castleton BOAT 59	Pindale – drainage channels to be installed

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- In terms of dealing with the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications, an order adding a Restricted Byway off the B5056 at Longcliffe in the Parish of Brassington has been confirmed by the County Council. The order to upgrade Chapel en le Frith Footpath 91 to Restricted Byway and add a Byway Open to All Traffic along the adjacent Gypsy Lane at Breck Edge has now been confirmed by the Secretary of State.
- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes. According to the British Horse Society's Dobbin database for Derbyshire, research records (shown in blue) have now been created for over 359 paths across the county, with 193 DMMO claims (shown in red) already submitted to the County Council.
Applications can be viewed through the on-line register at: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights-of-way/register-of-applications-for-rights-of-way/register-of-applications-for-rights-of-way.aspx
- **Joint DADLAF/Peak District LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group:** a further meeting of the Sub-Group is planned to take place at the end of November to discuss issues relating to Definitive Map Modification Orders, including the prioritisation of applications.



Aim 3: An improved network

Approximately 770km of routes make up the approved Key Cycle Network (KCN) which is the upper strategic tier of Derbyshire's wider cycle network. Around 400km are currently complete and open for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, wherever possible. The remaining 370km (48%) of the KCN has been split into 127 sections or discrete projects which have been prioritised for investment in the short, medium and long term. The cost of delivery was estimated at £140 million in 2019 and forms the basis of Derbyshire's programme of works building on the Authority's strong track record of delivering and managing this type of infrastructure over many years utilising funding from various sources and working with a wide range of

partners. This also forms an integral part of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which is being finalised for the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) area, referred to in Aim 4 below.



Since the KCN was approved by Cabinet back in January 2020, resources have been focused initially on the Top 20 priority links (shown in orange on the plan below) for further consideration and development towards full business case (shovel ready schemes) ready for making funding bids when an appropriate opportunity presents itself. Four of the five projects classed as short term (typically < 3 years) are now complete, including Clowne Greenway, with the fifth scheme under development. The Council is actively involved in investigating/ developing twelve of the medium term KCN projects (typically < 5 years) utilising its own and other external sources of funding. This involves extensive partnership working with a range of key stakeholders and community/user groups, including National Highways, District/Borough

Councils, Sustrans, Canal and River Trust, Natural England/ Pennine National Trails Partnership, Buxton Town Team and the Derwent Valley Trust. Feasibility work is underway for the full length of the Derwent Valley Cycle Route between Shardlow and Hathersage, along with missing sections of the White Peak Loop and Pennine Bridleway National Trail. Schemes are being progressed to planning for the Little Eaton Branch Line along with the cross-boundary section of the Derwent Valley Cycle route between Darley Abbey and Little Eaton, which is being funded and project managed by National Highways with input from both County Council and Derby City Council officers.

The KCN delivery programme was designed to be agile and responsive to changing circumstances and all proposed links - irrespective of their overall placing will remain under constant review for consideration should an appropriate funding or other opportunity arise. Whilst the County Council is taking the lead in developing this programme, it incorporates the aspirations of a range of different stakeholders and community groups with similar ambitions, some of which are directly involved in funding and developing

various sections of the KCN, working independently or in partnership with the Authority. We are also committed to several projects which involve the repair of completed sections of the KCN (eg Peak Forest Tramway, Shallcross Incline and the White Peak Loop) or relate to funding provided by Section 106 Agreements.

- **White Peak Loop (WPL):** AECOM is now finalising the report and drawings for pursuing a multi-user link from the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike to the new A6 Hogshaw roundabout in Buxton. The report includes an options assessment for the section between Wye Dale and the southern end of Woo Dale that would involve new bridges over the river. The options involve work within a flood plain, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation and will require landowner permissions, planning consent and external funding. The proposals will be used as a basis for our pre-planning discussions with the Peak District National Park Authority and other stakeholders. We are commissioning AECOM to carry out preparatory work, preliminary design, cost estimates and information to support the implementation of the White Peak Loop onwards from the A6 Hogshaw roundabout through Buxton to Harpur Hill which also meets local needs as part of a Buxton Walk and Ride Network proposed in the [sustainable travel plan](#) for the town.
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** The annual condition survey of the Pennine Bridleway and Pennine Way undertaken by staff, is now complete and will be used to identify any maintenance or improvements required to achieve the quality standards for a National Trail. The results will also inform work planning and budgeting for 2023/24. In Derbyshire, on-going maintenance continues with the drainage work and continued renewal of waymarks and fingerposts along the entire route. Groundwork volunteers have successfully completed approx. 30m of surfacing work by the river at Wye Dale and have been busy dealing with on-going drainage issues with essential ditching near South Head and Elle Bank, Hayfield. Investigation work for the missing sections of the route around Glossop is continuing with site visits taking place with the British Horse Society, local horse riding representatives, County Council Rights of Way and Countryside Service teams, to look at improving the A626 Glossop Road railway bridge and upgrading Charlesworth Footpath 115 as a possible alternative to the approved route of the Pennine Bridleway under Dinting Viaduct. This may prove to be a cheaper and more viable option but is not without its challenges.

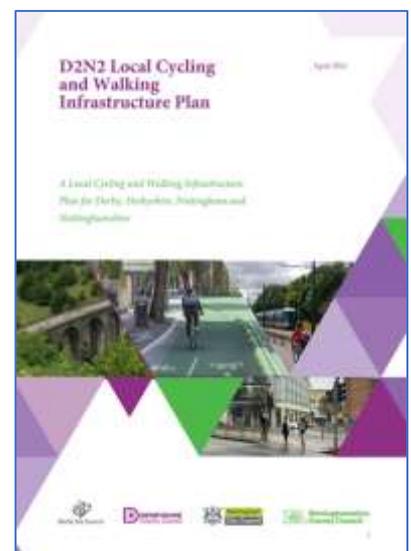


- Little Eaton Branch Line:** The community engagement event held on 28th September attracted 168 people. The response was generally very positive with much enthusiasm for the project. An online consultation ran from this date for four weeks to capture responses and gauge public opinion. The results are favourable and provide good evidence for demand. There were 318 responses to the survey. The results show that 97% of respondents support the project with almost 50% indicating they would use the Greenway weekly and almost 90% would use it monthly. A full report is being prepared to support the planning application and future grant bid opportunities. Work is continuing to investigate the status of existing and additional access points along the route. The Little Eaton Greenway Supporters Group has carried out volunteer task days to trim back vegetation on the southern section. Funding is being sought from the Highways Capital Programme to begin site clearance and resolve encroachment issues in 2023/24.
- Peak Forest Tramway Trail:** A scheme has been identified and costed to resurface the Tramway Trail between Buxworth and Chinley. The work is being programmed for early next year and a temporary footpath closure order is under preparation.
- Tissington Trail:** sections of the trail will be affected by temporary closures over the winter months for resurfacing and tree maintenance due to Ash dieback. Although there is no recommended alternative route, the trail will remain open at weekends.



Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** The online public engagement for the shared LCWIP which has been prepared jointly by Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council for the D2N2 area is expected to commence at the beginning of December 2022.



- **Tideswell and District Environment Group:** Local people living in Tideswell and surrounding villages are working to support and promote cycling in their local area, including a bike exchange. The cycling project was launched in Litton Village Hall on 8 October. We have been supporting the group by providing advice and information for the launch event and their [website](#).



- **Walk Derbyshire:** November saw the launch of the new website to support the vision of making every day walking the norm in Derbyshire. It is hoped that this will be a valuable source of information to get more people walking, as well as for those who would like to help encourage people to walk more for leisure or to travel locally to the shops, work, school etc. [Visit our Website](#)

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** The work of volunteers on our countryside sites, paths and trails continues to be supported under a service level agreement with Groundwork Greater Nottingham. At the beginning of November, Sustrans volunteers working with Groundwork did a great job raking up the grass that had been recently mown from Harrison Way to the boardwalk into piles for taking off site. They also cleared all the leaves off the boardwalk and cut back encroaching bramble.



Recommendation: That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

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