



Peak District Local Access Forum

On: Wednesday 15 October 2025

At: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Welcome and Apologies	
2	Minutes from the last meeting on 11 June 2025	
3	Membership	Sue Smith
4	Outdoor Recreation & Access to Nature	
5	National Park Behavioural Data & Insights	
6	National Park Management Plan Update There will be a short break before Item 7	
7	Morridge Hills Access Plan	
8	DCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan Update	
9	Access Update	Sue Smith
10	Active Travel Update	Tim Nicholson
11	Annual Report	Sue Smith
12	Members Reports	
13	AOB & Date of Next Meeting	

Close: 12.30 pm

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11 June 2025 at Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell.

Members Present:

Martin Beer
Martin Bennett
Charlotte Gilbert
Jez Kenyon
John Towe

Clare Griffin (Chair)

Cllr Susan Hobson
Austin Knott
Louise Hawson
Geoff Nickolds
Ian Ord

Others Present:

Nick Doran, Local Access Forum
Rich Pett, (PDNPA)

Sue Smith, (PDNPA)
Mike Rhodes, (PDNPA) (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Charlotte Leech, Ben Seal and Richard Entwistle.

14. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2025

11/25 Member Reports

This should read '*King Charles III English coastal path (KCIII ECP)*' will give access to coastal areas including cliffs and beaches.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 February 2025 are approved with this amendment.

15. MATTERS ARISING

Dawn Biram, a member of the public spoke to the PD LAF about erosion of rural paths. Several sites were referred to. Works to try and improve access and footpaths sometimes had a negative impact depending on materials and methods used when upgrading gates, seating and shelters.

The Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) will be considered at the next LAF meeting due to Gill Millward's absence.

The Review of Long-Term Direction Excluding Access at Turncliff Common, due to be raised under Any Other Business, will similarly be taken to the October 2025 meeting in Gill's absence.

There will be an update at the next meeting on the response from the National Trust in relation to the Derwent and Howden Moor fencing over the request to remove once no longer required, and to seek confirmation of access points along the fencing line.

Action: That the Peak District LAF contact the National Trust regarding removal of the fencing once the project is complete. Any comments to be sent to Mike Rhodes who will pass them on to the National Trust.

16. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL PARK RANGER

Rob Kenning, the Ranger Team Manager, gave an update on the current Ranger Team and its work. The recent restructure has reduced the Engagement resource within the team and faces various challenges. At the same time there are more visitors to the National Park, with some sites seeing intense footfall.

National Park Rangers can assist fire services and other agencies on the ground but don't have enforcement powers. The LAF is a good place to liaise with representative groups, and the rangers look to complement their work by working with partner organisations. The Highways Authorities are responsible for managing the Rights of Way network and rangers support that work. They have some budget from Derbyshire County Council to work on priority routes.

Action: Rob Kenning to share area ranger details with the farming community.

17. ACCESS UPDATE

Sue Smith, Access and Rights of Way Officer, gave an Access for All update. The Defra programme has now been extended for another year (Year 4) with capital funding of £255k available until the end of March 2026. Items identified for Year 4 will develop more miles, more places and more mobility. Sue's presentation summarised the work completed in Year 3 of the programme and other accessibility improvements in the National Park.

LAF members referred to Horseshoe Quarry as a good example of accessible climbing, where agencies have worked together. People's lives are changed through being able to access sites that were previously inaccessible to them. Shelters are a useful facility to all users, and should be accessible, and in keeping through the use of existing buildings and structures.

Action: That the report is noted

18. ACTIVE TRAVEL (TIM NICHOLSON)

Transport Policy Planner, Tim Nicholson, and Access and RoW officer, Sue Smith, gave an update on the Active Travel England Capability programme.

The National Park's constituent Highway Authorities have produced Draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, but only the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Plan covered part of the Peak District National Park. The gap in coverage of rural areas led to Active Travel England providing funding to National Parks to produce their own Plans. The PDLAF has been involved in stakeholder workshops. The finalised Plan will include identification of a series of schemes and an economic business case for the existing and proposed strategic network has been prepared. Subject to funding, work will continue to design, develop and deliver the strategic network.

Action: That the report is noted and any queries on the economic business case be taken to a future meeting of the Active Travel Sub group.

19. CHESHIRE EAST RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (GENNI BUTLER)

Genni Butler, Countryside Access Development Manager at Cheshire East (CE) Council updated the LAF on their RoWIP. The Cheshire East Countryside Access Forum covers an area across the Cheshire Plain, covering Crewe, Nantwich, the southern edges of Manchester, and across to the Peak District. It has 11 members representing various

interest groups. The CE Forum flags up access opportunities and concerns and is a 3 CONTROLLED consultee for Highway Authorities, Natural England and the planning system. The current RoWIP 15-year plan to 2026 is being reviewed.

The PDLAF discussed concerns about Rights of Way reporting with different systems across the country. One platform would simplify reporting. Some Local Access Forums are struggling to continue their work, but were important for debating, advising, consultation, prompting bodies to act and as a sounding board with a wide variety of user groups.

Actions: Genni to share the Countryside Access Forum Annual Report with the Peak District Local Access Forum and PDLAF to be consulted on the new 15-year Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan in Autumn 2025.

Useful Links:

Cheshire East Public Rights of Way
Cheshire East Countryside Access Forum

20. DERBYSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE (GILL MILLWARD)

Mike Rhodes introduced the DCC RoWIP update to the LAF as Gill Millward was not present at the meeting.

It is anticipated that Rob Greatorox from the DCC Highways Team will attend the October LAF.

Action: That any questions relating to the report be deferred to the next meeting

21. DISCUSSION ON PATH FORWARD FOR THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Rob Kenning, Ranger Team Manager, opened up a discussion about the future of the PDLAF.

Forum members preferred to keep three in-person meetings a year, as there was a statutory duty on consultations, and an advisory role to the PDNPA and DCC, as the appointing authorities. Some topics were suitable for discussion within a smaller working group outside the full Forum meetings.

Action: LAF members to consider possible changes to the running of the Forum and to set up a working group to discuss in more detail.

22. PEAK DISTRICT TOURISM CHARTER

CEO, Phil Mulligan, presented the Peak District Tourism Charter to the Forum, which was approved in response to visitor impact on the National Park.

Tourism is important. The Charter sets out a plan to work with partners to mitigate some of the negative impacts, and to look at ways of bringing in funding.

LAF Members expressed some concern about the tone of the Charter, which should be carefully worded to avoid negative language towards visitors and respect rights to access the National Park.

Action: To note the Tourism Charter and to provide input as it progresses and for the PDLAF to discuss further at the action planning stage in the Autumn.

23. SHEFFIELD LOCAL PLAN WILDLIFE MITIGATION

The Sheffield Local Plan Wildlife Mitigation report is out for consultation for LAF members to make any comments.

Action: Comments to be sent to Louise Hawson, as a member of the Sheffield Moors Partnership Group, to include in any consultation response.

24. MEMBERS REPORTS

Martin Bennett reported back on the Hayfield Kinder Trespass Group meeting on 26 April, with discussions on the variations across the country of the Rights of Way network. The Peak District has a good network, but in other areas with fewer rights of way, the Right to Roam campaign can make a significant difference to access.

Charlotte Gilbert advised on a Peak Horse Power initiative to have occasional fundraising rides on chosen bridleways. To avoid a lot of people turning up on one day to take part, a different route will be publicised each month.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There is a consultation on the review of a long-term Direction at Turncliff Common, Buxton. Previous comments made by the PDLAF at the last review still stand.

Action: Additional comments should be forwarded to Claire Griffin by 16 June 2025.

The East Midlands Mayor is to walk the 150 mile active travel loop to promote the area and meet key people en route.

Action: The PDLAF to consider its involvement.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 15 October 2025. The Chair to be confirmed nearer the time.

Meeting ended at 12:40

The LAF concluded with a presentation to Mike Rhodes in appreciation for his guiding role in setting up and operating the Forum over the last 25 years.

Meeting ended - 12.40 pm

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 15 October 2025

Item: 8

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

Author: Gill Millward, Senior Active Travel Manager, Strategic Transport and Sustainable Travel Team, Derbyshire County Council

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, drainage and roadside signposts:** The work being planned for 2025/26 using funding secured through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme for emergency schemes to promote safe use of the network will be discussed in further detail at a LAF Sub-Group meeting due to be held in January. This will include an update on repairs to the routes which Forum members have been particularly interested in, such as Edale BW19 (Jacobs Ladder - Pennine Way), BW32 at Hope Cross, Chapel Gate and Bamford Clough. In the meantime, there is continued investment in roadside signposts and details of those paths where vegetation is being cut back on an annual basis are available here: [Rights of way maintenance programme - Derbyshire County Council](#)



Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- **Project 2031 Derbyshire:** Volunteers from the British Horse Society, Ramblers, Peak & Northern Footpaths Society and other user groups are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes across Derbyshire with research records now created for 413 paths and 317 DMMO applications submitted to the County Council to date.
- In terms of dealing with the backlog of **Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications**, details of progress made between 1 May and 30 September 2025 is set out in the table below.

Legal Order Stage	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025
New DMMO applications received (7)	04859 = Upgrade FP54 Taddington to BW from road at Rock Lodge Farm to BW 74	04860 = Add FP from Armitage Drive to Grange Park Green Space, Long Eaton	111038 = Add FP from Woolley Bridge Road to Etherow Lodge Printers Park entrance, Glossop	04864 = Add FP from All Saints' Churchyard gate to New Road, Youlgrave 04871 = Add FP from Westbourne Grove along edge of Brookfield School playing field, Chesterfield	04867 = Upgrade to BW parts of FPs 17, 15, 24, 18, 20 and whole of FP 21, from Church Street to Long Rake, Monyash 04872 = Add FP from Scropton Road along Chapel Lane to FP22 Foston & Scropton
Informal consultation started (3)	04649 = Add FP from Hope FP12 (Station Road) to Parsons Lane, Aston	0	04760 = Add FP along Boggy Lane from Ivy Cottage to Bradshaw Cottage, Church Broughton	0	04785 = Add FP from Pilhough Lane to Stanton Hall Lane, Stanton in the Peak
Decision made by DCC (3)	0	0	04367 = Add FP from Heathy Lane to Strines Lane End, Hathersage (Application rejected – to be appealed)	04786 = Add BW from Maple Drive through Long Walk Wood and add BW Weston Road to BW 6, Weston on Trent. (Make BW Orders) 04649 = Add FP from Hope FP12 (Station Road) to Parsons Lane, Aston (Make BW Order)	0
Orders made (1)	0	0	04504 = Add FP from Macclesfield Old Road to FP34, Buxton (being advertised until 6/11/25)	0	0
Cases to PINS (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Decisions from PINS (1)	0	04230 = Confirmed with modifications (see below)	0	0	0
Orders confirmed (1)	0	04230 = Upgrade Matlock FPs 31, 102 & Tansley FP14 to RB and add RB from FP31 to Lumsdale Road.	0	0	0
FP = Footpath BW = Bridleway RB = Restricted Byway BOAT = Byway Open to All Traffic NB: Those in the PDLAF area are shaded in grey.					

Further information about each of these applications, including decisions made by the County Council and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) can be found through the on-line register:

<https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/>

- The set of recommendations put forward by the Joint LAF Sub-Group regarding the prioritisation of DMMO applications was sent to the County Council's Assistant Director of Legal Services on 14 August 2025. A copy of the letter is attached in Appendix 1 to this report. Its receipt has been acknowledged, and a fuller response is awaited.

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):** A 205-mile, multi-user National Trail running from Middleton Top, near Wirksworth to Ravensdale in Cumbria.
 - On the Derbyshire section of the Pennine Bridleway, general maintenance this summer has focused on vegetation clearance with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at various locations, including Glossop, Wye Dale and Wormhill. Following the completion of work on the A5012 (Via Gellia Road) near Pikehall, the replacement of non-slip surfaces is also being progressed for road crossings on the A6 at Blackwell in the Peak and the A515 at Pomeroy, with funding provided through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme. These will be treated with a buff-coloured stone to increase visibility/ awareness of the crossing for motorists and provide an anti-slip surface for trail users.



- On the development side, work is continuing on two of the three missing sections of the National Trail around the west side of Glossop, with landowner discussions underway for a feasible alternative route into Gamesley which avoids Dinting Viaduct. Engineers assigned to the River Etherow section between New Road at Tintwistle and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield are making good progress with preparatory work and initial designs for this 1.7km section which will include a multi-user bridge over the river and road crossings at either end. Meetings are taking place with the various landowners and further ecological surveys are on-going over the summer and into autumn.
- The County Council is a member of the Pennine National Trails Partnership which oversees the management, maintenance and promotion of the PBW. Funding from Natural England is allocated

through the Partnership each year to support the on-going maintenance of the existing 60 miles of the PBW through Derbyshire, as well as development work for the missing Glossop sections, with match funding provided by the Council. Grants, totalling £57,357, have been offered to help fund this work in 2025/26.

- **White Peak Loop (WPL):** An iconic 54-mile circular route around the White Peak area of the Derbyshire Peak District, linking the National Park with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Once complete it will connect the High Peak and Monsal Trails with the market towns of Buxton, Bakewell and Matlock, catering for both active travel and leisure use.



- A 42-mile predominantly traffic-free route is now open and signed.
- Future plans during 2025/26 include working to explore the options to connect the trail head in the car park at Old Station Close in Rowsley with Church Lane; surface and drainage improvements for the Byway across Fairfield Common in Buxton, along with Highstool Lane, near Chelmorton (a section shared with the Pennine Bridleway National Trail); further surface upgrades on Coombs Road, Bakewell, as well as progressing the extension of the route into and through Buxton linking with the railway station.
- Preliminary designs have now been completed, and high-level cost estimates are being produced for a section of route between Green Lane, next to Buxton Community School and the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout in Fairfield.
- There has been good progress with ecological surveys and development work for the section between the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout and the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike.
- More information, including the GPX file for GPS devices and the new film about the WPL, can be found here:

[White Peak Loop - Derbyshire County Council](#)



- A pocket-sized Z card for the WPL has been published by Visit Peak District & Derbyshire and is being distributed to visitor information points.

- **Active Travel Masterplans (ATMs):** Work is continuing to progress several of the recommendations in the Active Travel Masterplans which



have been produced for the market towns of Belper, Glossop and Ilkeston. As well as developing preliminary designs for sections of the Derwent Valley Trail, Pennine Bridleway and Great Northern

Greenway, this also includes delivering more short-term interventions/ quick wins, such as dropped kerbs, footway resurfacing and cycle parking. A rural/ visitor economy-based ATM is being developed for the **Hope Valley**, drawing on the results of the stakeholder engagement which took place in September 2024. Wider public engagement was undertaken over the summer months with an online survey and drop-in sessions being held as part of the consultation which ran from 30 June to 24 August 2025. A copy of the response which has been submitted on behalf of the Peak District LAF is attached in Appendix 2 to this report.

- **Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire:**

The publication of Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Thriving with Nature was officially announced by the County Council in September. It is one of the first eight strategies to be published from 48 being developed across England, establishing a

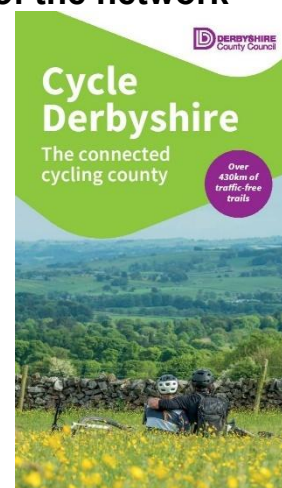


collaboratively developed vision for restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity. The strategy was developed over two years with public and stakeholder input and support, including farmers, landowners and community groups. It sets out priorities and opportunities to help nature thrive in Derbyshire. Further information, including the interactive local habitats map of locations where key measures (actions) should be focused to have the greatest benefits for nature can be found here:

[Homepage - Derbyshire's Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

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

- **Walk Derbyshire:** The latest newsletter for August 2025 is available here:
[Walk Derbyshire August Newsletter -](#)
- **Cycle Derbyshire:** The Cycle Derbyshire map and leaflet has recently been updated to show over 453km of traffic-free routes. The latest print run of 20,000 copies is being distributed to over 150 different sites including visitor hotspots, accommodation providers, campsites, cycle hire and information points.



Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** The Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties is continuing in 2025/26. There were just over 189 volunteer days delivered in the first half of the year, estimated to be worth around £37,841. Dedicated and enthusiastic groups of volunteers have been carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements on paths, trails and countryside sites across the county, including the Pennine Bridleway. Work has involved cutting back encroaching vegetation and creating habitat piles using the cleared brash, essential drainage work, installing fingerposts, litter picking and seasonal meadow management.



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

PUBLIC



DADLAF

Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

c/o Ivan Walters, LAF Secretary
Corporate Services and Transformation
County Hall
Matlock DE4 3AG

Chair – Ian Else



Peak District Local Access Forum

c/o LAF Secretary
Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House, Baslow Road
Bakewell DE45 1AE

Vice Chairs – Charlotte Gilbert/ Martin Bennett

14 August 2025

FAO Mary Fairman
Assistant Director of Legal Services
Corporate Services and Transformation

Dear Mary

Prioritisation of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) Applications for Unrecorded Rights of Way

As I am sure you are aware, a joint Sub-Group consisting of members from both the Peak District and Derby & Derbyshire Local Access Forums has been investigating several concerns which have been raised by their members and other volunteers in connection with the submission of DMMO applications based on historic, documentary evidence.

Firstly, I have been asked to pass on Forum members' thanks and appreciation for the advice and clarification which has been provided by the Legal Services team, particularly from Sarah Bond and Angela Greatorex who both also attended a Forum meeting back in December 2022 to discuss the Council's DMMO prioritisation policy and processes in more detail.

More recently the Sub-Group has been exploring the length of time it takes to process DMMO applications and how this might be made easier. Having reached the conclusion that there was little that could be done to alter the processes and procedures which are governed by legislation and statutory regulations, the Sub-Group then started to concentrate on how these applications might be prioritised in the light of an ever-increasing backlog. It is understood that this now exceeds 300 outstanding applications and that there are only limited staffing resources available to deal with them.

Having discussed this with several experts in the field and looked at various statement of priorities, criteria and matrices adopted by other Authorities, the Sub-Group generally felt there was a need to prioritise the most useful applications, rather than dealing with them in strict chronological order of when they are received, which is the County Council's current policy and practice.

As we seek to encourage more active travel and open-air recreation, it is important to link up the rights of way network as much as is possible to provide viable routes for all users. Some applications will help in this aim whilst others will have limited value other than completing the record which is why the LAFs believe that prioritisation is important.

Following the Joint Sub-Group meeting held on 12 August 2024, the set of recommendations set out below in bold was produced. This was subsequently approved by both Local Access Forums at their respective meetings held on 6 December 2024 and 19 February 2025 when it was agreed that this would be conveyed to the County Council in a letter which also raises concerns about the lack of resources which are currently available for dealing with this area of work.

It is recommended that when considering DMMO applications, priority should be given to those for multi-user unrecorded ways ie claims for bridleway and above. Multi-user routes, whether they are new Rights of Way or upgrades, would benefit the most people and help link up these currently fragmented networks; and giving them priority would fit in with sustainable transport policies. It is also recommended that this new Unrecorded Ways DMMO strategy considers routes in batches by area to reduce duplication.

Whilst it is understood that the Government has announced its intention to fully repeal the revised cut-off date of 1 January 2031, whatever happens, the LAFs anticipate that efforts to register historic, unrecorded rights of way will continue and therefore result in an increasing number of outstanding claims which will take many decades to determine at the current rate of progress.

As this letter constitutes formal advice from both the Peak District and Derby & Derbyshire Local Access Forums, which the County Council should have regard to in carrying out its functions, I would be grateful if you could provide

some feedback so Forum members can understand the relevance and usefulness of this advice.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Gill Millward
Senior Active Travel Manager, Strategic Transport and Sustainable Travel
Team, Derbyshire County Council

On behalf of the Derby & Derbyshire and Peak District Local Access Forums

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Peak District Local Access Forum
c/o Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Bakewell
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Derbyshire County Council Active Travel Masterplans – Hope Valley (the plan) – Consultation.

by email: sustainable.travel@derbyshire.gov.uk

23rd August 2025

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF), in response to the above consultation.

The Peak District Local Access Forum is the statutory body advising the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) on recreation and access matters within the PDLAF area. We were set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 to advise on the improvement of public access in the Peak District and Northwest Derbyshire for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment. Forum members are drawn from a wide range of access interests including walking, climbing, cycling, horse riding, water sports, recreational motor vehicles, disabled access, farming, land management, conservation, climate change and local business.

The forum meets in person three times a year and welcomes presentations from a wide range of access interests as well as the interests represented on the forum. Whilst many of the issues raised are of local concern, we also consider how these issues reflect on the national stage and, where appropriate, reflect the two primary purposes of the National Park.

Over recent years PDLAF has offered advice and support to DCC on the provision of safe access to the Hope Valley to the most vulnerable road users. PDLAF considers all walkers, cyclists, wheelers and horse riders as vulnerable road users and is disappointed that horse riders haven't been more prominent in the target demographic of the survey. PDLAF is currently supporting the Active Travel sub-group of stakeholders contributing to the preparation of the high-level network for the National Park Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (NPLCWIP); the sub-group has representation from local horse-riding groups and from the national organisation, the British Horse Society. PDNPA clearly states horse riders are very much part of the NPLCWIP and have made that clear to Active Travel England (ATE), the funding body, although, it is recognised that in a limited number of routes it will be inappropriate to accommodate horse riding.

We are making a written response rather than using the online form as the form requires a response for each route and this is cumbersome and time consuming for an organisation wishing to respond in general terms.

PDLAF members have participated at all stages of the development of the plan and greatly valued the opportunities given by the early stakeholder engagement in Autumn 2024. We

recognise the difficulties presented by the geography of the Hope Valley; it is a narrow corridor, popular with tourists, with road links to the villages. There is little scope for widening the road corridor to accommodate a traffic free trail adjacent to the road to enable connection to the existing right of way network linking the villages and beyond. We welcome the scope of the plan to include local needs and journeys and the needs and journeys of visitors alike. We will not be commenting on individual plans as we have not had the opportunity to discuss at a meeting. If you would like a more detailed comment, we would be happy to provide it at a later date; we have encouraged all PDLAF members to make individual responses.

As the Masterplan develops into the delivery stage, we would ask that the following be considered as part of that development:

- Traffic calming measures along with cycle lanes are key to both encouraging more cycling and to make the highways safe for all vulnerable road users.
- The Slow Ways initiative aims to create a national network of walking, cycling and horse riding routes connecting all Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages. The organisation has many innovative ideas for network creation.
- Resurfacing should be in keeping with the National Park guidance and should be appropriate to the environment; although tarmac is a durable surface it is not in keeping with the rural infrastructure, we would ask that there should be a drive away from over urbanisation.
- Appropriate signage to discourage use of multi-user routes by motorised vehicles. PDLAF is the access consultee to the PDNPA Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) delivery committee, and we have seen many worthwhile schemes to develop bridleways on farmland lost because of the worry that such routes would encourage illegal use by motorised vehicles if suitable barriers cannot be provided.
- Signage should be appropriate to the setting and kept to a minimum.
- Horse riders to be included in the **Overview** section of the executive summary and to feature more prominently within future texts to ensure horse riders feel included.

Overall PDLAF are supportive of the plan and congratulate the team in delivering some very interesting ideas in what is a challenging environment. We look forward to supporting the further development of the plan.

I hope you find these comments helpful and would be happy to discuss them further with you.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Gilbert
Vice Chair, Peak District Local Access Forum

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 15 October 2025

Item: 9

Title: Access Update

Author: Sue Smith

Purpose of the Report

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

Defra Access Funding

The funding for Year 4 of the programme has now been confirmed as £255.9k and projects are underway. This includes a focus on access to nature for all and for the delivery of accessible facilities and routes, information, and equipment to complement that.

Access Funding

The means by which donations can be given and funding raised for works to improve access is now delivered through the Peak District Foundation's Path and Trails Appeal. An update was provided to the Forum meeting in October 2024.

The Authority's Access Fund continues to receive income from the Miles without Stiles handbook sales and has funding ring-fenced for production of the next handbook, and enhancing accessibility at Mam Tor and Long Causeway. Its balance is £10.7k.

Monitoring

A randomised 5% survey of the rights of way network has provided a pass rate of 85.64% of footpaths and other rights of way in the National Park being easy to use. The survey included signposting, waymarking, condition of the path, structures, and obstructions and was undertaken by Rangers and Ranger volunteers using a field-based app.

Countryside Code

The response provided by the Forum to Natural England's stakeholder survey on a review of the Countryside Code is attached in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report be noted.**

Appendix 1

 The logo for the Peak District Local Access Forum. It features a stylized green mountain range with a blue river winding through it, all contained within a circular frame. Below the circle, the text 'PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM' is written in green capital letters on a white rectangular background.	Peak District Local Access Forum c/o Peak District National Park Authority Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1AE Email: PDLAF@peakdistrict.gov.uk
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Natural England – Countryside Code Consultation

By email consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

27 September 2025

Dear Natural England,

The Peak District Local Access Forum have asked me to respond on their behalf to the Countryside Code consultation, but the online form is not really appropriate for our feedback. I hope you can accept this response.

Our belief is that the code needs to have a significant change of emphasis, rather than just tweaking. The current code is too much about following rules, blindly, and also its a bit patronising when it purports to tell us how to enjoy the countryside - the whole focus is not really right, especially in 2025 when people are more questioning.

Our suggestion is that the first message should be

UNDERSTAND

If people understand WHY they should do certain things, they will be far more likely to try to comply. The suggestion is that the current strap line is replaced with something such as:

Understand - Share – Treasure

Understand - the countryside is a working environment, and if visitors understand that, and things such as the negative impact of dogs running free in sheep fields, or dog poo in a hay harvest, or the impact of litter etc, they are much more likely to try to follow the advice and rules.

Share - the countryside is for use by a whole variety of users, from farmers to walkers, from cyclists to canoeists. We need to focus on being good neighbours with other users etc.

Treasure - our countryside is a jewel in the UK crown - we need to treasure it and treat it as the precious thing it is. We should be proud of our countryside, with all its diverse uses and users, and we should look after it and improve it.

The above message would be far better to teach in schools, as its not based on rules to follow, but on appreciating our countryside. It would fit well with e.g. the forest school

approach. It could be taught by asking kids to eg role play and put themselves in the shoes of a farmer dealing with dogs chasing his sheep, a walker struggling over a bad stile, a mountain rescue team giving up their evening to rescue a numpty etc.

The Countryside Code is a long term project, getting the message across from childhood - we need the public to be brought up thinking of the countryside as a valued british institution, something to cherish, something to value, something to be proud of.

Most of the "detail" in the current code would still apply, but the emphasis would be different - more about encouraging understanding and instilling a love of our countryside in all its richness.

Kind regards,

Jeremy Kenyon
Peak District Local Access Forum

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 15 October 2025

Item: 10

Title: Active Travel Update

Author: Sue Smith & Tim Nicholson

Purpose of the Report

The report provides an update on the Active Travel England Capability Fund programme.

Background

In April 2024, the Peak District National Park received £100k of funding from Active Travel England to develop a programme for active travel and a Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling and Horse-riding Infrastructure Plan. An Active Travel Sub group, comprised of LAF members and other key stakeholders was established to advise on and support this work. The funding ran until end June 2025.

Strategic High-Level Network

The workshops and consultations have allowed development of an active travel strategic network. This is attached in Appendix 1 and includes former rail trails, Sustrans routes, canal tow paths, Derbyshire County Council's adopted Key Cycle Network, and other routes from constituent and adjoining Highway Authorities. Existing routes are shown as solid lines. Proposed routes are indicative and may follow roads, tracks, public rights of way, or other infrastructure features. They are shown as dashed lines.

Feasibility

The programme of work has also included an economic business case which complements the concept work undertaken to identify and prioritise schemes to deliver and enhance the strategic network. Detailed consideration of route issues and improvements provided through the consultation's interactive mapping can be taken forward as part of this process.

Active Travel Consultation

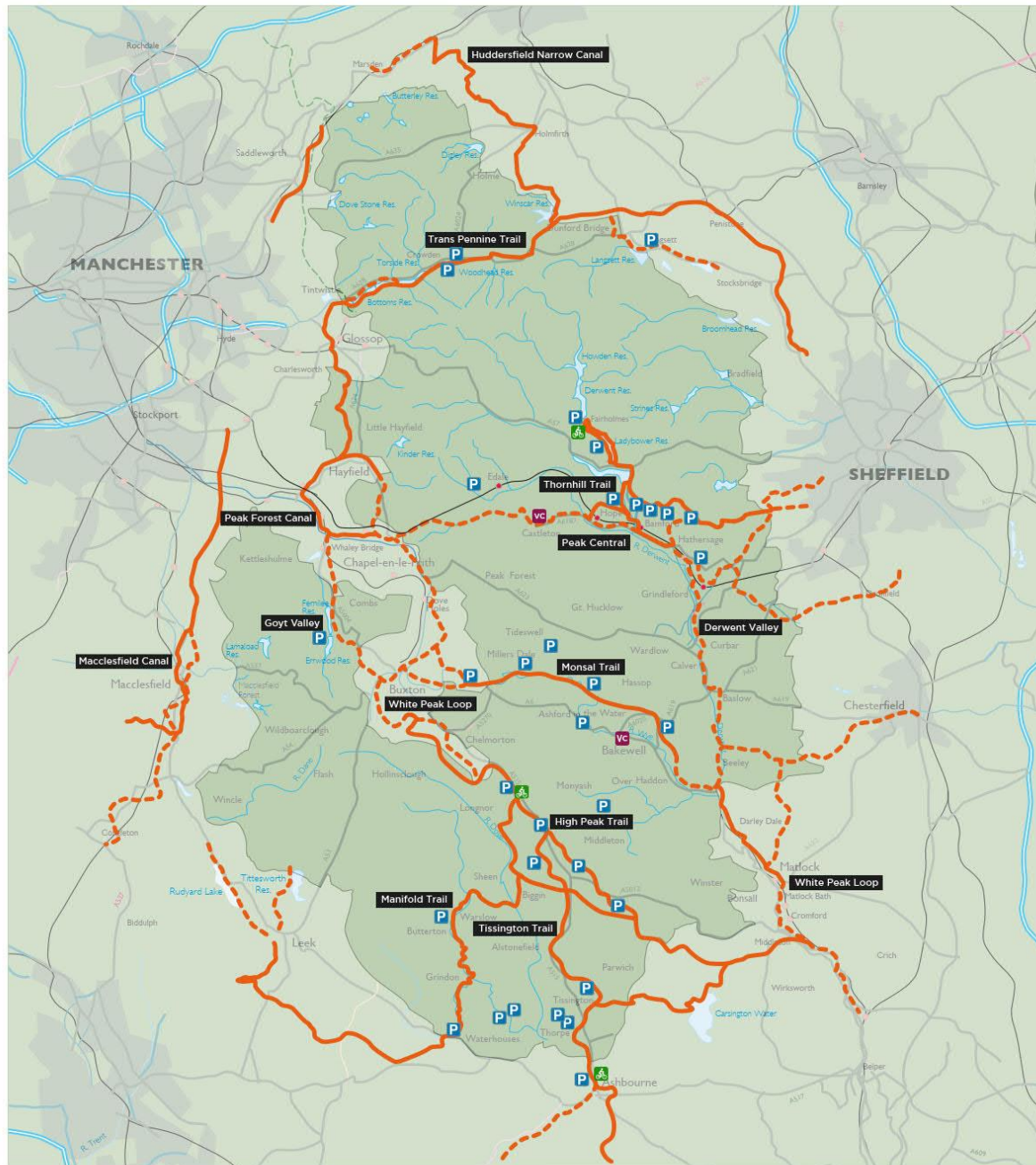
The LAF has responded to an active travel consultation by Cheshire East. The response is attached in Appendix 2.

Recommendation:

- 1) To note the contents of the report.**

Appendix 1

High-Level Network



- National Park boundary
- Active Travel Strategic Network Existing
- Active Travel Strategic Network Proposed
- P National Park Authority car parks
- VC National Park Authority cycle hire
- VC National Park Authority visitor centres
- A-roads
- Railway station and line

NORTH



Appendix 2

 The logo for the Peak District Local Access Forum. It features a stylized green mountain range with a blue winding path or river in front of it, all enclosed within a circular frame. Below the circle is a green rectangular box containing the text 'PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM' in white capital letters.	Peak District Local Access Forum c/o Peak District National Park Authority Aldern House Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1AE
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Cheshire East County Council - Active Travel Strategy in Cheshire East Consultation

by email: activetravel@cheshireeast.gov.uk

29thth August 2025

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF), in response to the above consultation.

The Peak District Local Access Forum is the statutory body advising the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) on recreation and access matters within the PDLAF area. We were set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 to advise on the improvement of public access in the Peak District and Northwest Derbyshire for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment. Forum members are drawn from a wide range of access interests including walking, climbing, cycling, horse riding, water sports, recreational motor vehicles, disabled access, farming, land management, conservation, climate change and local business.

The forum meets in person three times a year and welcomes presentations from a wide range of access interests as well as the interests represented on the forum. Whilst many of the issues raised are of local concern, we also consider how these issues reflect on the national stage and, where appropriate, reflect the two primary purposes of the National Park.

We are making a written response rather than using the online questionnaire.

The PDNPA covers the very eastern edge of the county. However, we feel that the strategy can help more people access walking, cycling and wheeling, either in their local communities or for longer active travel to the PDNPA. We welcome that the new Local Transport Plan and the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be in alignment.

We welcome the vision for Active Travel and support the themes of Create, Culture and Collaborate to deliver that vision. We very much support the aims of making active travel a natural choice for more of the residents and physical activity becoming routine. The five key opportunities in the Consultation can mitigate against the key challenges. The summary benefits in the introduction of the Strategy are exemplar.

The scope of the Active Travel strategy focuses on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for seven towns implemented over a 10-year period. We will not be

commenting on the seven individual LCWIPs as we have not had the opportunity to discuss at a meeting. However, we would very much support the repeated interventions:

- New crossings for both pedestrian and cyclists
- Directional signage
- Reduced speed limits
- Potential 20mph zones
- Traffic calming

PDLAF recognises the plans put forward for consultation lie outside the PDNP boundary and reflect the needs of an urban population. We would ask that when the plans are developed to extend the Active Travel Network to connect urban conurbations and extend onwards into the PDNP, that consideration is given to the needs of horse riders. This would be in keeping with the aims for Active Travel endorsed by the PDNPA in its National Park Local Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan.

As the Active Travel Strategy develops into the delivery stage, we would ask that the following be considered as part of that development:

- Traffic calming measures throughout the county, along with cycle lanes, are key to both encouraging more cycling and to make the highways safe for all vulnerable road users
- That the 2012 Sustrans Shared Space initiative at Poynton be considered in other areas
- Both the Rights of Way network and the National Cycle Network should be signed and extended links provided
- Could the targets in 7.2 of the Strategy be further increased?
- The Slowways initiative aims to create a national network of walking routes connecting all Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages. The organisation has many innovative ideas for network creation

Overall PDLAF are supportive of the strategy and congratulate the team in delivering strong priority walking, cycling and wheeling routes. We note the point in 7.3 of the Strategy about external funding being a necessity to fully deliver the vision. We look forward to supporting the further development of the plan.

I hope you find these comments helpful and would be happy to discuss them further with you.

Yours sincerely

Martin Bennett
Vice Chair, Peak District Local Access Forum