

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** Thursday 12 March 2020

**Item:** 6

**Title:** Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire

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### **Purpose of Report**

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

### **Progress to March 2020**

Below is a summary of the main work in progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims:-

#### **Aim 1: Existing Public Rights of Way network**

- **Path condition surveys** to assess the ease of use of the network continued in 2019 and results are based on a 6% random sample of the total length of public rights of way. November's survey returned a 55.9% pass rate, which combined with May's result of 68.4% provides an overall figure of 62.0% for the year. While this falls short of the 72.5% target, it is very slightly up on last year's result of 61.7%. Aspects which affect ease of use produced good pass rates, varying from 78.0% to 93.7%. Compared with 2018, there was an increase in performance for the proportion of paths reinstated after ploughing and cropping, but other areas (roadside signposting, waymarking, bridges, stiles & gates, obstructions and surface condition) showed a slight reduction. Priority will continue to be given to ensuring that the existing public rights of way network is open and available for use, as resources allow

#### **Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement**

- In terms of dealing with the **backlog of legal orders**, since the beginning of December 2019, seven legal orders have been made and advertised and three orders confirmed/ brought into effect. This includes the Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) which adds a 920m Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) along Pin Dale near Castleton. The Order was confirmed by the Secretary of State following a public inquiry held back in November. Public inquiries have been arranged for later in 2020 in relation to a Modification Order for a footpath over Calico Lane in Furnace Vale, near Whaley Bridge and the upgrading of two footpaths to bridleway in the Parish of Hodthorpe and Belph at Creswell Crags. A DMMO for a Restricted Byway between Sheffield Road and

Hazelmere Road in the Parish of Elmton with Creswell, Bolsover District will be dealt with by written representations. Further information can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website under Rights of way:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate)

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** As a follow-up to the event which was held at the Record Office on 9 September, the DADLAF is organising a meeting in Matlock on Saturday 14 March to check on progress and discuss any issues which may have arisen. According to DOBBIN, the British Horse Society's database, research records have been created for 101 paths in Derbyshire, with 18 DMMO applications submitted

<https://www.bhsaccess.org.uk/dobbin/Project2026.php>

The Ramblers are also encouraging people to "Join the search" for unrecorded routes across England and Wales and have set up an interactive map as part of the Don't Lose Your Way Project

<https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/>

### **Aim 3: An improved network**

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** We are in the process of preparing a bid for funding for the maintenance of the Trail in 2020/21 and have recently met with Natural England and the Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager to discuss how we might resource the necessary preparatory work for the three missing sections around Glossop. The Pennine Bridleway leaflet has now been updated and can be downloaded from the website at:

[www.nationaltrailbreaks.com/en\\_GB/trails/pennine-bridleway/leaflets/](http://www.nationaltrailbreaks.com/en_GB/trails/pennine-bridleway/leaflets/)

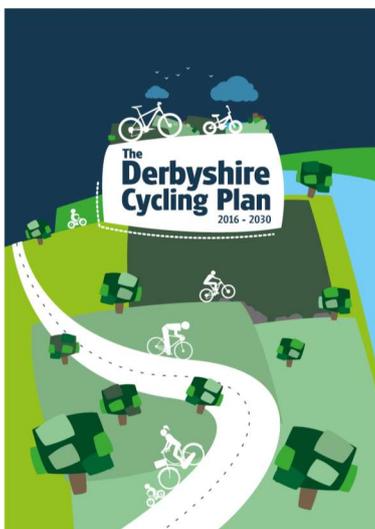
*(Please note that the web address will be changing at the end of March to [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)).* The leaflet provides a summary of what the Pennine Bridleway has to offer and its first outing was at an international tourism trade event held in the Netherlands, specialising in walking and cycling. This provided the opportunity to encourage Dutch visitors to spend time exploring the Pennines and enjoying Northern hospitality

- **Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat:** The VSCR programme is focused on growing the local visitor economy within an area roughly bordered by Chesterfield, Worksop and Mansfield, based on the main attractions, green infrastructure and cycling trails. We have secured £651,000 to deliver part of Phase 1 of the VSCR action plan. This consists of £404,000 (Rural Development Programme for England) and £150,000 (DCC's Local Transport Plan) to construct 6.9km of new and improved cycling trails around the Pleasley Visitor Hub, with some work due to start on the ground imminently. A further £97,000 from the Business Rates Retention Programme will deliver a number of feasibility studies,



including Marketing, PR & Social Media, an audit of the VSCR Trails network and accessibility audits of several countryside sites

- **The Derbyshire Cycling Plan:** A report on the County's emerging Key Cycle Network (KCN) was presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2020. The proposed network was approved, along with the principles for guiding its implementation, including the concentration of preparatory work against the order of priorities set out in the Appendix to the Cabinet report and the terms of reference for the County Council's role in supporting projects promoted by external bodies. An annual report of KCN development will be included in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department's Service Plan. The KCN is the county's strategic network consisting of the



most important routes for commuting, tourism and leisure. Extending from it is the Local Cycle Network (LCN) providing connections into communities and other key destinations such as public transport interchanges, leisure/visitor attractions, employment, education, health, retail etc. The third tier consists of the Town Networks, a high density of routes within key settlements facilitating local trips. The County Council continues to develop and invest in the Chesterfield Cycle Network and Buxton Town Team is in the process of identifying a safer walk and ride network

- Much of the work on the KCN has formed the basis for our contribution to the **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)** which is being developed for the Derby Derbyshire Nottingham Nottinghamshire (D2N2) area. A draft document is being prepared by the four authorities working in conjunction with Sustrans and a firm of consultants. This is due to be submitted to the Department for Transport at the end of March, before being taken to our respective Committees for approval to consult on the draft document
- **Investment:** Funding bids have been submitted for prioritised Rights of Way and multi-user Greenway/ KCN development and maintenance schemes from within the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme for next year. The outcome will be reported to the LAF meetings in June

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

- The County Council's Countryside Destinations and Events Brochure has been produced for 2020 and can be viewed on our website at: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countrysideevents](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countrysideevents)



The brochure contains a range of countryside events and festivals for people to enjoy throughout the year, starting at Easter. As well as promoting our Countryside Destinations and Visitor Centres, there is also information about volunteering opportunities, public transport and the network of Public

Rights of Way and Greenways across the county which is available for people of all ages and abilities to explore

- The **#PeakDistrictProud** campaign led by the National Park Authority and National Trust was launched on 1 March. It builds on the core messages of 'respect, protect and enjoy' found in the Countryside Code. Posters and signage showcasing the new artwork will be displayed around the national park and social media will also target communities and visitors before they plan their visit. These will contain seasonal messages about the positive ways in which people can help care for the National Park, including taking litter home, avoiding BBQs, keeping dogs on leads during periods of wildlife activity and the use of drones



### **Aim 5: Greater community involvement**

- **Volunteer contribution:** During the first nine months of 2019/20, our records indicate that volunteers working with or on behalf of the Countryside Service have contributed 1,909 days, estimated to be worth around £401,109. This is slightly up on the same time last year
- **Groundwork Greater Nottingham** has continued to work on the network of paths and trails across the county through its existing Access and Wellbeing Service Level Agreement, delivering a total of 299 volunteer days between 1 April and the end of December. Dedicated groups of volunteers have carried out much needed maintenance work and improvements on rights of way in South Derbyshire and the High Peak. Task days have also taken place on the Pennine Bridleway, White Peak Loop, Clowne Branch Line and with two groups in Little Eaton.

### **Recommendation**

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