

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 15 September 2022

Item: 6

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

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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.

Aim 1: Existing Rights of Way Network

- **Surface condition and drainage:** Work is underway with funding secured through the Highways Capital Programme (LTP) for a package of schemes on 239 individual paths across the county. These range from minor repairs/ vegetation clearance to substantial drainage and resurfacing projects which require more detailed design and preparation. Almost 40% of schemes have already been completed and a further 20% issued to the construction team. The remainder are under investigation with a target to be delivered by the end of March 2023. 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 below
- **Roadside signposting:** Funding has also been allocated to install around 1,120 roadside signposts across the rights of way network in 2022/23. To date, 349 signposts have been installed and a further 403 issued to the construction team

Route	Location
Works completed	
Foolow Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) 20	Nether Bretton to BOAT 27
Hartington TQ Bridleway (BW) 42 and Footpath (FP) 28	Beresford Dale
Hucklow BOAT 18	School Lane, Hucklow
Taddington BOAT 70	Sough Lane, (part of Limestone Way)
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
Scheme designed – ready to issue	
Baslow Road	Bakewell FP20 and Baslow Road
Castleton BW 22	Hollowford Road to Hollins Cross
Green Lane Middleton	High Peak Trail to Green Lane
Scheme designed	
Edensor BOAT 13	Claimed BOAT from Hadley Road to Chatsworth house
Funding bid for 2023/24	
Castleton BW 40	
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

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- In terms of dealing with the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Order applications, an order adding a footpath in Denby between Church Street and Footpath 20 was not confirmed after being referred to the Planning Inspectorate. The order for a bridleway between Lathkill Dale and Back Lane, Conksbury has been confirmed by the Secretary of State with modifications which will require advertising. A Public Inquiry is due to take place on 13 September, to consider the order to upgrade Eaton and Alsop Footpath 13 to bridleway between Liffs Road and the county boundary with Staffordshire where it continues as a bridleway into Alstonfield. An order upgrading several footpaths to Restricted Byways from Stoke Ford near Bretton Clough in the Parishes of Eyam and Eyam Woodlands will be dealt with by written representations

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes. According to the British Horse Society's database, research records have been created for over 356 paths across Derbyshire, with 190 claims for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) already submitted to the County Council
- **Joint DADLAF/Peak District LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group:** a further meeting of the Sub-Group is being arranged for October time to discuss the issues around the prioritisation of DMMO applications

Aim 3: An improved network

- **White Peak Loop (WPL):** Work is continuing to progress feasibility and design on key missing sections of the route from High Peak Junction, near Cromford to Matlock, Rowsley to Bakewell through Haddon Estate and through Buxton to Harpur Hill. Following a meeting with Aecom, the report is now being finalised for the section from the end of the Monsal Trail via Wye Dale/Woo Dale to the A6 on Fairfield Common in Buxton where construction of the Hogshaw Roundabout is underway and will accommodate road crossings for WPL users
- **Derwent Valley Cycleway:** Route audits are now complete for Segment 5 from Matlock to Hathersage and a draft report issued for comment. A report has also been produced which identifies any environmental assets/ constraints eg heritage and biodiversity within 500m of the 54km route, including possible alternative and linking sections. This identifies the key risks and makes recommendations for further work eg consultation, surveys and mitigation measures
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** The annual condition survey of the Pennine Bridleway and Pennine Way is currently underway 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, routine maintenance continues with the replacement of several gates on The Roych, as well as the continued renewal of waymarks and fingerposts along the entire route. Groundwork volunteers have been busy helping to replace fencing at Hayfield, with surfacing work by the river at Wyedale and dealing with on-going drainage issues. Initial investigation work is being undertaken 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:** A community engagement event is due to take place at the O.A.P Hall, Barley Close in Little Eaton on Wednesday 28th September to capture local opinion, answer queries and concerns and seek public support for the scheme prior to submitting a planning application. A simultaneous online consultation will be available for anyone who may not be able to attend this event in person. The Little

Eaton Greenway Supporters group is assisting with advertising and promotion of the event, as well as undertaking volunteer work party days to manage the vegetation and litter along the section through Little Eaton. Funding is being sought from the Highways Capital Programme to begin site clearance and resolve encroachment issues in 2023/24

- **Bolsover Loop to Trans Pennine Trail:** Project design is underway to deliver a missing section of the Key Cycle Network between Markham Vale and the Trans Pennine Trail at Staveley. Preliminary investigations and discussions with landowners are planned for the coming months. Funding is being sought for construction in 2023-24. This project will provide a continuous shared route connecting the Clowne Greenway to Poolsbrook Country Park and the Trans Pennine Trail
- **Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat (VSCR) and The Archaeological Way:** Plans are now in place to resurface the remainder of the Skegby Trail in Derbyshire, from Batley Lane to Pit Lane, Pleasley. The works are funded through the Highways Capital Programme (LTP) and should be completed by winter 2022. Plans have also been developed to improve the Archaeological Way through Shirebrook Town, with further LTP funding. These are subject to consultation over the autumn, with construction expected by the end of March 2023. A Town Trail will also be developed to promote access around Shirebrook. The contract to develop the VSCR App has been issued to a local firm, AT Creative, based in Higham. The contract will be completed by March 2023, when the App is launched. The project is again funded through the LTP
- **Peak Forest Tramway Trail:** Works have been identified and costed to resurface the tramway trail between Buxworth and Chinley. Scheme delivery is expected later this year
- **Local Transport Plan - A61 South:** The County Council is currently revising its Local Transport Plan which sets priorities for investment in roads and transport across the county. One of the roads being looked at is the A61 between Chesterfield and Clay Cross which is likely to become busier over the next few years as a result of several new housing and commercial developments. An online consultation which is open until 16 October, is aimed at people who use the road or live near it and explores potential options, including improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, which could help manage congestion, reduce emissions and make journeys easier
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/a61-south---your-chance-to-shape-the-future.aspx>
- **Safer Roads Fund Projects:** Further to the road safety improvements which have been implemented on the A619 (Thirteen Bends) between Baslow and Bakewell, preliminary designs on the various solutions to improve road safety along the A5004 (Long Hill) between Buxton and Whaley Bridge and the A5012 (Via Gellia) between Cromford and Newhaven are being progressed. Cabinet approval is being sought for a

Public Engagement/ Consultation process for both projects which is planned to take place this Autumn. These will also seek comments and views regarding improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders from stakeholders and local communities

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

- **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** The online consultation for the draft D2N2 LCWIP shared between Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council is now due to commence this Autumn
- **Walk Derbyshire:** The third stakeholder event of 2022 is planned to take place online via zoom at 10am on 13 October. Again, this is free to join and open to anyone interested in playing a part in helping to increase everyday walking. It will include a talk and discussion on insight around the latest walking levels in Derbyshire, along with a presentation from Greater Manchester Walking on a case study to increase levels of walking within a community through partnership working <https://www.sasp.co.uk/events/2022/10/walk-derbyshire-stakeholder-event>
- **The Derbyshire Woodland Festival** is being held at Elvaston Castle Country Park near Derby on 17 and 18 September 2022

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. During the first quarter of 2022/23, 38.5 volunteer days were delivered with groups working on the Clowne Greenway, Pennine Bridleway, Little Eaton Branch Line and the Little Eaton Canal, as well as rights of way in South Derbyshire and the High Peak carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements. A volunteer task is due to take place in September to clear back overgrown vegetation from around the boardwalk on the White Peak Loop near Rowsley. Further sections of the route between Harrison Way and Churchtown have recently been mown by the County Council's Property Services team to help reduce the encroaching vegetation

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