

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 1 December 2022

Item: 7

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 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.

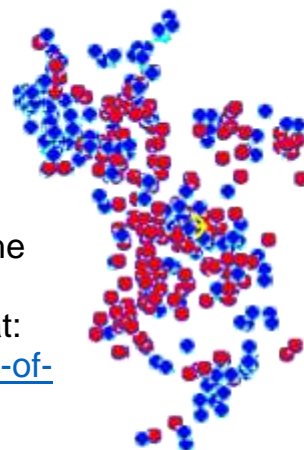


Route	Location
Works completed	
Brough Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) 15	Brough Lane
Works issued to contractor	
Bonsall BOAT 64 and 71	Blakelow and Blakemere Lanes
Calver BW 30	Calver BW 30 and Bramley Lane
Castleton FP 20	Tor House to Hollins Cross
Castleton FP 21	Hollowford Road to Hollins Cross
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.

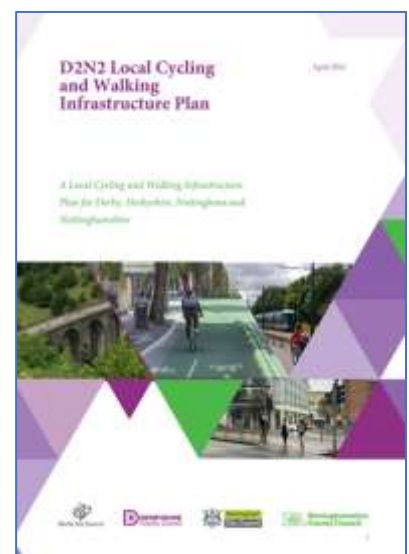


- Little Eaton Branch Line:** The community engagement event held on 28th September attracted 168 people. The response was generally very positive with much enthusiasm for the project. An online consultation ran from this date for four weeks to capture responses and gauge public opinion. The results 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.