

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** Wednesday 15 March 2023

**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 continuing to complete the package of rights of way schemes funded through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme. Progress for 2022/23 includes the completion of 12 major surfacing and drainage projects, with a further 9 schemes designed and issued to our contractors. Works of a more minor nature, although equally important to help make routes available and more accessible, have also been completed on 38 paths across the county. This has involved surfacing/ patching, some drainage, vegetation clearance, boardwalk and step repairs, with similar schemes having been issued for a further 33 routes. 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 below:

Route	
<b>Works completed</b>	
Taddington Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) No. 70 Sough Lane.  Completed May 2022	

Great Hucklow BOAT 18	Completed May 2022
Foolow BOAT 20, Nether Bretton	Completed May 2022
Hartington Town Quarter Bridleway (BW) 42	Completed August 2022
Baslow Road and Bakewell Footpath (FP) 20  Completed November 2022	
Bonsall BOAT 64 and 71 Blakelow and Blakemere Lanes  Completed November 2022	

Calver FP 13  
Stoney Middleton to Bramley  
Lane/ Coombs Dale

Completed November 2022



Calver BW 30 and Bramley Lane  
No works undertaken on BW30  
as completed by others. Still  
need to topsoil and seed  
Bramley Lane, so appearance  
will hopefully be more like BW30  
with the grass central strip.

Completed December 2022



Eyam FP 28 & BOAT 34 and  
Grindleford Restricted Byway  
(RB) 32, Riley Lane

Completed November 2022



Great Longstone BOAT 52  
 Blakedon Hollow Lagoon

Completed December 2022



Stoney Middleton BW 17  
 Moisty Lane to Black Harry Lane

Completed January 2023

Hope FP33

Completed February 2023



**Works in progress**

Castleton FP 21 and Hollowford Road (BW 22)

Works currently on-going. Continuation of stone flags on FP 21 with an aggregate path on flatter gradients. Re-using turf to restrict path width.

Hollowford Road is only means of access and had to install a filter drain under the path collecting land drains and springs.

Expect to complete mid-March

<b>Works issued to contractor</b>	
Castleton FP 20	Tor House to Hollins Cross
Charlesworth FP 52	Path linking to the Trans Pennine Trail
Eyam BOAT 25	Sir William Hill Road to Edge Road
Edale BW 19 and FP 1	Jacob's Ladder
Green Lane Middleton	High Peak Trail to Green Lane
Edensor BOAT 13	Off Handley Lane
Beeley BOAT 13	
<b>To be funded in 2023/24</b>	
Castleton BW 40	Dirtlow Rake
Hayfield BW 47 – Phase 1	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
<b>2023/24 Funding Bid Phase 1</b>	
Tintwistle BW42 - Pennine Way	Torside Reservoir
Hayfield BW47 – Phase 2	below Kinder Reservoir
Ballidon BOAT 11	Minninglow Lane
<b>2023/24 Funding Bid Phase 2</b>	
Chapel en le Frith BOAT 144	Rushup Edge (Chapel Gate)
Monyash BOAT 29	Derby Lane

- Roadside signposting: Signposting work has been undertaken at 896 locations across the network in 2022/23, with another 155 to complete by the end of March 2023. Funding is available next year to deal with missing or damaged signposts at 400 locations in Phase 1 and the potential for work to be completed at an additional 200 locations.

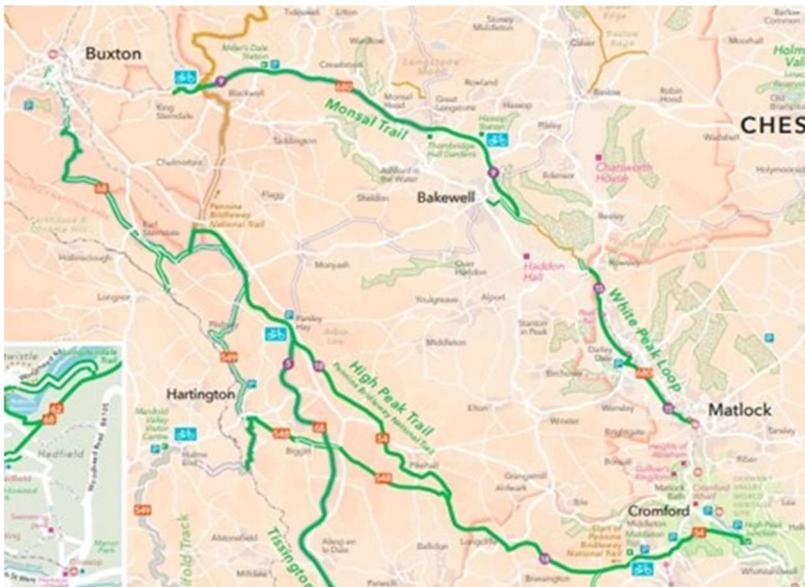
## **Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement**

- The number of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications which the County Council receives continues to increase. A further eleven claims have been added to the online register since the beginning of December 2022, with the majority of more recent applications now being based on historic, documentary evidence: <https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/results.asp> As of the 1 March 2023, the Authority is dealing with 320 applications at various stages in the process, of which 272 are currently undetermined.

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Meetings of the Joint LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group were held in November and January to gather information and listen to people’s views about the issues surrounding the prioritisation of DMMOs. This should enable the LAFs to be in a position to provide further support and advice in accordance with their role and statutory function.

**Aim 3: An improved network**

- **White Peak Loop:** 62km or 71% of the White Peak Loop (WPL) is



currently complete. The missing gaps are from the Monsal Trail at Blackwell Mill into and through Buxton; from High Peak Junction near Cromford to Matlock Railway Station and from Rowsley to Coombs Road in Bakewell.

- We are progressing a feasible design for a multi-user link from the western end of the Monsal Trail to the new A6 Hogshaw roundabout in Buxton. A preferred route has been identified through Wye Dale and Woo Dale. We are undertaking pre-planning discussions with the Peak District National Park Authority and other important stakeholders, before consulting more widely. We are proposing to carry out further site investigation work and structural design to fully cost the scheme and secure permissions over the next 12 months.
- We are continuing to carry out preparatory work to support the implementation of the White Peak Loop onwards from Fairfield Common through Buxton to Harpur Hill, which also meets local needs as part of a Buxton Walk and Ride Network. Following a successful online stakeholder input workshop on 28 January, feedback was reviewed and routes refined. We are now assessing these options section-by-section to select the final preferred route(s). This includes carrying out heritage and ecology assessments, C2 utility search enquiries and route audits
- Route appraisal and feasibility work is also underway for the other missing sections and we are currently seeking funding for further route development to complete the Loop.
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** On-going maintenance continues, primarily with drainage work and general repairs being undertaken.

Groundwork volunteers have been busy replacing gate posts, gates and clearing drains near Hayfield, as well as replacing sections of fencing and litter picking near Glossop. Investigation work for the missing sections of the route around Glossop is ongoing. Site visits have taken place with DCC Highways Design to look at improving the A626 Glossop Road railway bridge and with DCC Estates to investigate another route running along the northern flank of the railway line through Network Rail land amongst others. Both routes are possible alternatives to the Pennine Bridleway running under the Dinting Viaduct.

- **Peak Forest Tramway Trail:** All landowners have been informed of the resurfacing work which is due to get underway just after Easter on the section of trail between Buxworth and Chinley. We also have consent from Historic England as part of the tramway lies within the Scheduled Monument of Buxworth Basin. There will be a temporary closure of the route in force while the work is taking place.
- **Shallcross Incline, Whaley Bridge:** Work to refurbish the surface and improve drainage on the Shallcross Incline in Whaley Bridge is due to start towards the end of March 2023 and should be complete in time for the school holidays in July. Due to the fairly steep nature of the route, this will be top dressed with a porous paving material to assist with drainage and provide a suitable surface for all users which include pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Again, it will be necessary to close the route while construction is underway.
- **Tissington Trail:** The works which began in November 2022 to address ash dieback on the Tissington Trail should be complete by March 2023. This has involved felling all ash trees within falling distance of the trail between Mapleton Lane to Alsop en le Dale Station. Although it is recognised that this will have a major visual impact, it will also open up many views to the surrounding landscape.
- **Chesterfield Active Travel Route:** Construction work is now underway on the east-west walking and cycling route across Chesterfield, starting with improvements to the surface of the Hipper Valley Trail which runs through Somersall Park from Somersall Lane, past Walton Dam to the A632 (Walton Road). Work on this section of the 8km route will take around 12 weeks to complete, during which time the park will remain open to the public. Crow Lane, at the eastern end of the route was permanently closed to vehicles on 17 February 2023 to provide a dedicated walking and cycling route to the Chesterfield Royal Hospital. The £1.68m scheme is being funded under Tranche 2 of the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund.
- **Safer Roads Fund Projects:** Following the public consultation which took place back in January for the A5004 (Long Hill) between Buxton and Whaley Bridge, a four week consultation is now underway until 26 March 2023 for the A5012 (Via Gellia) between Cromford and Newhaven. New proposals have been developed to improve road safety along the 9-mile stretch of the A5012. This is also an opportunity to

seek comments and views from stakeholders and local communities with regard to improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

- **Greener Towns 20mph zones:** A consultation is also underway until 13 April 2023, seeking people's views on our Green Towns initiative. This would mean 20mph speed limits in two Derbyshire towns, Buxton and Long Eaton. This lower speed limit could improve health and encourage healthier and more sustainable modes of transport. A lower safer speed, with fewer accelerations and decelerations would improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and could encourage more people to walk or cycle for shorter journeys:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/greener-towns-20mph-zones.aspx>

#### **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 closed on Wednesday 8 March 2023. Further information about the feedback which has been received will be provided in due course.



- **Walk Derbyshire:** Recordings of the various stakeholder engagement events which have taken place around the County can be found in the News and Stories section of the Walk Derbyshire website:

<https://walkderbyshire.org.uk/get-walking/>

The Districts/ Boroughs which have been chosen for the four Active Neighbourhood pilot areas are Bolsover, Chesterfield,

Erewash and North East Derbyshire. They will each have the opportunity to access £100k of funding. Guidance on the sort of proposals which will best qualify for this funding has now been produced and a working group will be reviewing the proposals as they are received.

- **Derbyshire Woodland Festival:** This year's Festival is due to take place at Elvaston Castle Country Park near Derby on the weekend of the 16 and 17 September 2023. Further details can be found in our Countryside Destinations and Events brochure here:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/whats-new-this-season/countryside-events-programme.aspx>

**Aim 5: Greater community involvement**

- **Volunteer contribution:** So far this year, volunteers working on our countryside sites, paths and trails have contributed just over 1,270 days, which is a 50% increase on the same time last year. The newly formed Darley Dale Community Volunteer group (DDCV) met for its second task



White Peak Loop.

day recently to cut back vegetation to reinstate the original width on a section of the White Peak Loop multi-user trail alongside Peak

Rail's heritage railway, as well as picking up two large sacks of litter from this short section alone. These half day volunteer events are managed and supervised by Groundwork Greater Nottingham on behalf of the County Council. A contract funded by the County Council is also underway to carry out more extensive vegetation clearance and siding out of the trail on the Matlock to Rowsley section of the



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