

Public Rights of Way in Derbyshire

**Derby & Derbyshire Local Access Forum &
Peak District Local Access Forum**

June 2023

Rob Greateorex

**Team Leader – Public Rights of Way
Network Planning**

Organisational Structure

➤ Place Department

- Highways Directorate
 - Network Planning
 - Strategy
 - Construction
 - Design
 - Emergency Planning
 - Derby & Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership & Road Safety

Organisational Structure

Network Planning

- Traffic & Safety
- Highway Maintenance – Highway Inspections & Public Rights of Way
- Street Lighting & Traffic Signals
- Highways Hub
- Structures Management & Maintenance
- Civil Parking Enforcement

Organisational Structure



Organisational Structure

Public Rights of Way

- Team Leader – Public Rights of Way line managed by Senior Project Engineer – Highway Inspections
- 6 Rights of Way Assistants (Inspectors)
- 2 Rights of Way Assistants (Legal Orders)
- 1 Rights of Way Assistant (Digitiser)
- 1 Technical Assistant
- Team currently supported by
 - 1 Project Officer – Capital Programme,
 - 1 Project Support Officer &
 - 1 Rights of Way Assistant (Legal Orders) 0.5FTE

What We Do

- Manage & maintain the Public Rights of Way network for throughout Derbyshire ensuring the successful delivery of the Councils duties, responsibilities, and priorities, as Highway Authority and thereby provide a **safe and reliable** Public Rights of Way network for all users.

s130 Highways Act 1980 'to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway for which they are the highway authority'

s41 Highways Act 1980 'duty to maintain highways maintainable at public expense'

- Ensure the Definitive Map & Statement is kept under continuous review to incorporate changes made through legal orders.
- Currently a responsive service to enquiries raised by members of the public, landowners, stakeholders etc. etc.

A Few Figures

- 4,497 km of Public Footpaths
- 612 km of Bridleways
- 69.8km of Restricted Byways
- 59 km of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS)



Priorities

- Attending to public safety issues include:
 - Missing/damaged drainage/inspection covers
 - Collapsed mine shafts
 - Sink holes
- Signposting where the PRow leaves a metalled road.



Public Rights of Way Management

- Barbed wire
- Bulls & Aggressive Animals/Dogs
- Dangerous Land Adjacent to a Public Right of Way
- Definitive Map – Public Path Orders/Creations, DMMO's
- Electric Fences
- Encroachment
- Hedges & Trees adjacent to a Public Right of Way
- Misleading Signs & Notices Erected on a Public Right of Way
- Obstructions
- Ploughing & Cropping

- Stiles & Gates
- Surfaces on Public Rights of Way – Bridges, Drainage, Ditches, Boardwalks
- Sign Posting & Waymarking
- Temporary Closures –
Emergency & planned Works



Workload 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Service	Enquiries received	Enquiries closed	Enquiries outstanding
Rights of Way general	1147	1015 (88%)	132 (12%)
Definitive Map	275	252 (91%)	23 (9%)
Emergency	9	8 (88%)	1 (12%)
Maintenance	1380	928 (68%)	452 (32%)
Obstructions	2560	2467 (96%)	93 (4%)
Total	5371	4670 (87%)	701 (13%)



Surface Vegetation Clearance 2023/24



- Countywide 662 selected paths cut/sprayed once May/July and some again August/September to control surface vegetation.

	No. of Paths	Length (Km)	Area (sqm)
Amber Valley	165	31.86	71,533.50
Bolsover	55	19.26	81,764.50
Chesterfield	54	17.42	66,278.20
Derbyshire Dales	88	17.24	41,088.40
Erewash	103	22.68	44,665.50
High Peak	39	5.20	14,459.00
North East	133	37.43	133,737.00
South Derbyshire	25	7.95	13,671.00
Totals	662	159.03	467,197.10
Hectares			46.72

Role of Town & Parish Councils

- Section 43 Highways Act 1980 provides a power to parish or community councils to undertake maintenance of any footpath or bridleway within the parish or community.
- The highway to which the Agreement relates must be a highway maintainable at public expense.
- Intended for minor works. Excludes:
 - ❖ Work on Restricted Byways or Byways Open to All Traffic
 - ❖ The renewal or construction of footbridges
 - ❖ The repair and maintenance of public paths or sections of public paths having tarmacadamed, concreted, flagged, paved or similar permanent surfaces
 - ❖ The supply and erection of signposts on public paths.
- 156 of the 204 Derbyshire parish/town councils are signed up to the scheme.
- In 2022/23, 61 parish/town councils participated in the scheme.

Maintenance completed 2022/23

In the last 2022/23 we:

- improved the surface of 8.1 miles of PROW.
- renewed or installed 1043 finger posts locations and waymarked 202 routes.
- completed 240 minor PROW schemes



Capital Programme 2023/24

- 10 - 2022/23 Funded projects carried over into 2023/24 for completion
- 10 - Phase 1 projects – Funded in 2023/24
- 8 - 2022/23 projects carried into 2023/24
- 6 - Phase 2 Projects which may not be funded in 2023/24
- 12 - Emergency/Block projects



Enterprising Council

- Highway Service is moving towards a mixed economy operational model and as part of the review all service areas will be looked into including public rights of way.
- Creating 2 new service areas to help us transform the way we work - commissioning and delivery.
- Review will look into how services are currently delivered and how they can be delivered in the future.
- Review will look into how volunteering can be integrated in to the service, minor maintenance agreements with Parish/Town Council's and a replacement for the Ease of Use Survey.
- New model to be implanted March 2024.

How to Report Faults With Us

- For any routine enquiries please email report via our website <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/roads-traffic/report-a-road-fault/report-a-road-fault.aspx> - auto acknowledgement with ref no. you can use to trace your enquiry with, enquiry will be directed to the correct officer, speedier response – better customer experience.
- If you believe that the issue you are reporting could cause an immediate threat to life or serious injury to road users or the general public please contact Call Derbyshire Monday to Friday between 8am – 6pm and Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm on 01629 533190 or outside of these hours please call Derbyshire Police on 101.

..... and finally

Any questions?

