



Ramblers research on the public rights of way network

Jack Cornish
Head of Paths



Paths team - what we

do

Responding to threats and changes to the network

- Support for thousands of volunteers
- Statutory consultee

Improvement & maintenance

- 150 path maintenance teams
- Path Accessibility Fund

Expanding the network

- Don't Lose Your Way & user evidence

Advice & casework

- Public advice service
- Training, guidance and support
- Legal action

Champion

- Research to make the case for the network



Why research?

- Part of a long-term vision and workplan (but not just for the Ramblers) - “A path network that is open for everyone to enjoy and where paths connect people and places across Britain”
- Understand value of public rights of way – case for investment, support and legislation - in critical national infrastructure.
- Enables targeting of work by the Ramblers and others





WHO HAS A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY?

AN ANALYSIS OF PROVISION AND INEQUITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

WRITTEN BY: DR ALEX CHAPMAN,
POORVA PRABHU AND ANTONY SCOTT



ROUTES TO NATURE

UNLOCKING LOCAL ACCESS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

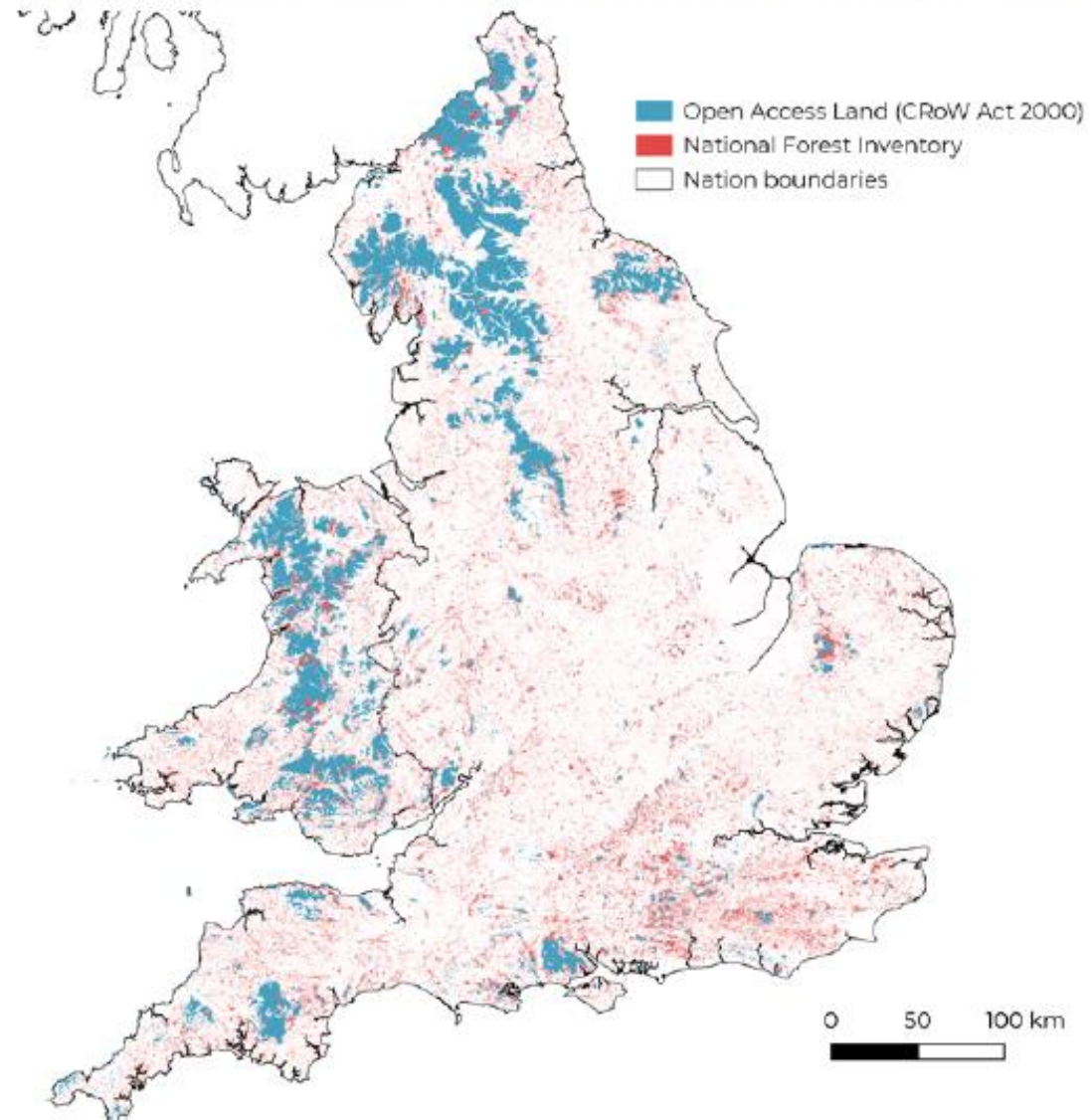
WRITTEN BY: DR ALEX CHAPMAN

Collecting data

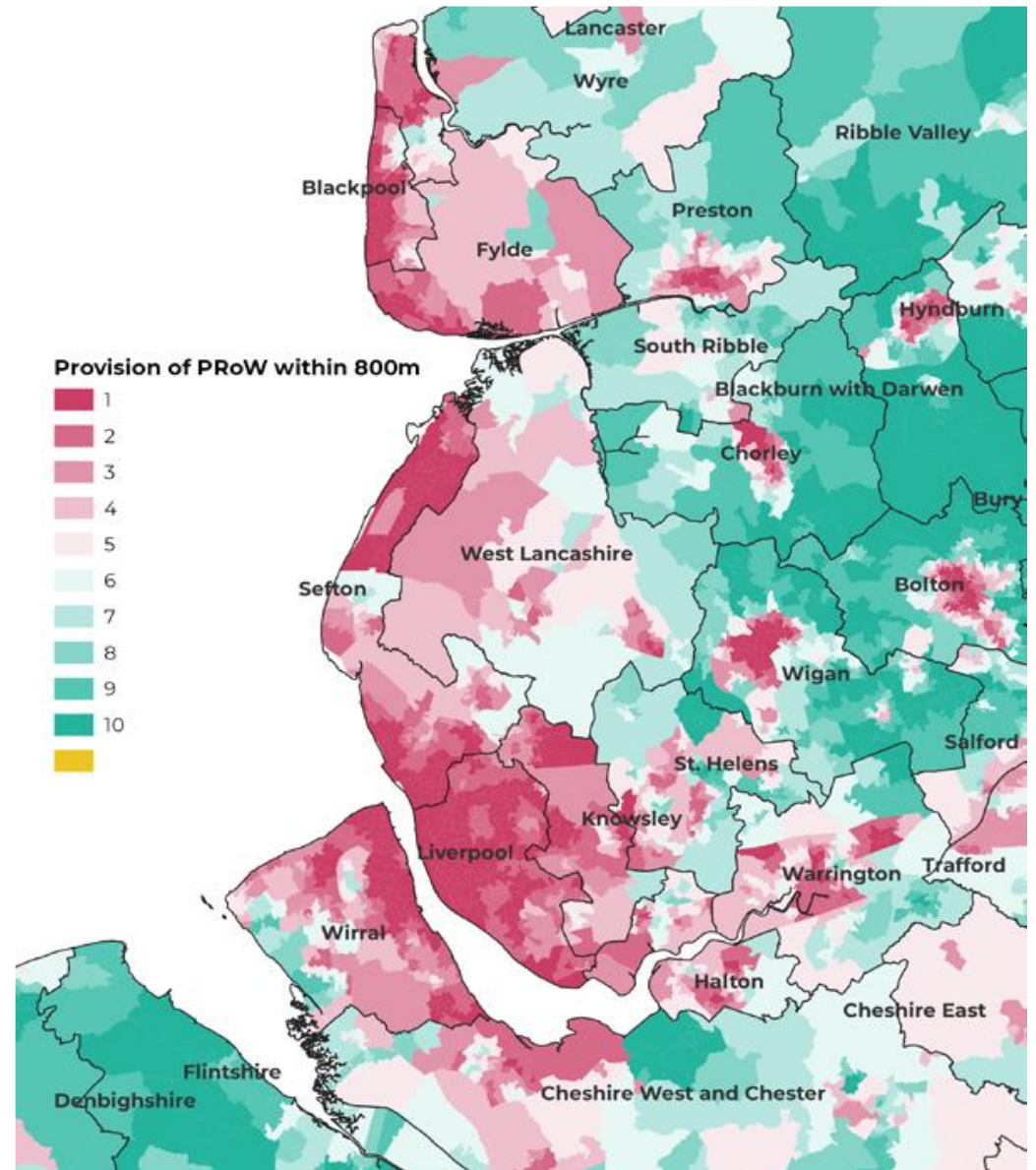
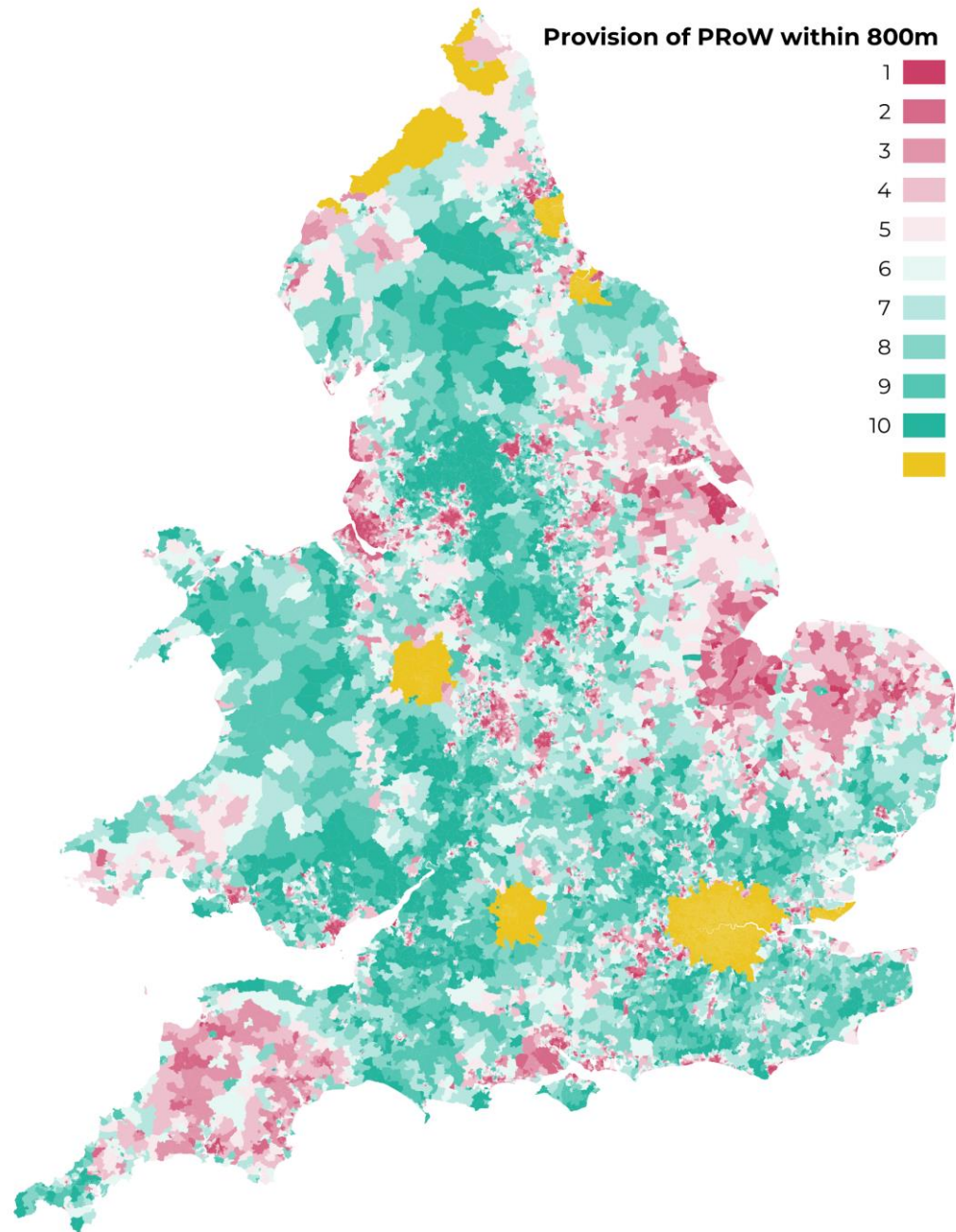
- **Collected path data for 98.5% of the land surface of England and Wales**
- **Demographic data:** deprivation, age, ethnicity, income, heart-attacks, mental health, age of homes
- **Looked at neighbourhoods (every 1,500–2,500 people)**
- **Landscape data:** satellite data on greenness, nature reserves, National Parks, rural/urban, rivers/reservoirs, access land

Ecotype	Description and source	England and Wales length (km)	England and Wales proportion	England length (km)	England proportion	Wales length (km)	Wales proportion
Agricultural	PRoW located within all agricultural land classes in the Defra framework.	197,708	88.59%	168,179	90.60%	29,530	80.62%
Woodland	Length of PRoW located within all classes of woodland in the Forestry Commission inventory.	30,116	13.49%				
Greenbelt	All PRoW located within greenbelt land as classified by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.			31,975	17.23%		
Urban fringe	All PRoW located within 1km of the boundary of urban land as classified by Defra.	32,454	14.54%				
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	All PRoW located within an AONB as classified by Defra.	33,964	15.22%	31,550	17.00%	2,414	6.59%
National parks	All PRoW located within a national park as classified by Defra.	24,382	10.92%	17,867	9.63%	6,515	17.79%
Local nature	All PRoW located	1,370	0.60%	1,252	0.67%	78	0.21%

MAP 7: OPEN ACCESS LAND AND WOODLAND (NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY) IN ENGLAND AND WALES



Source: Natural England and DEFRA



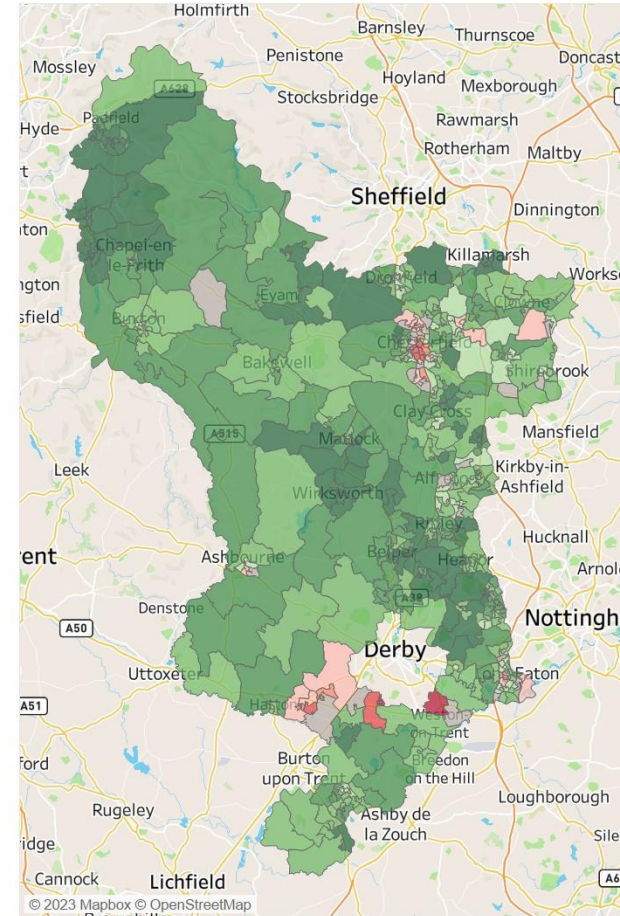
PRoW = Public Right of Way (public paths)



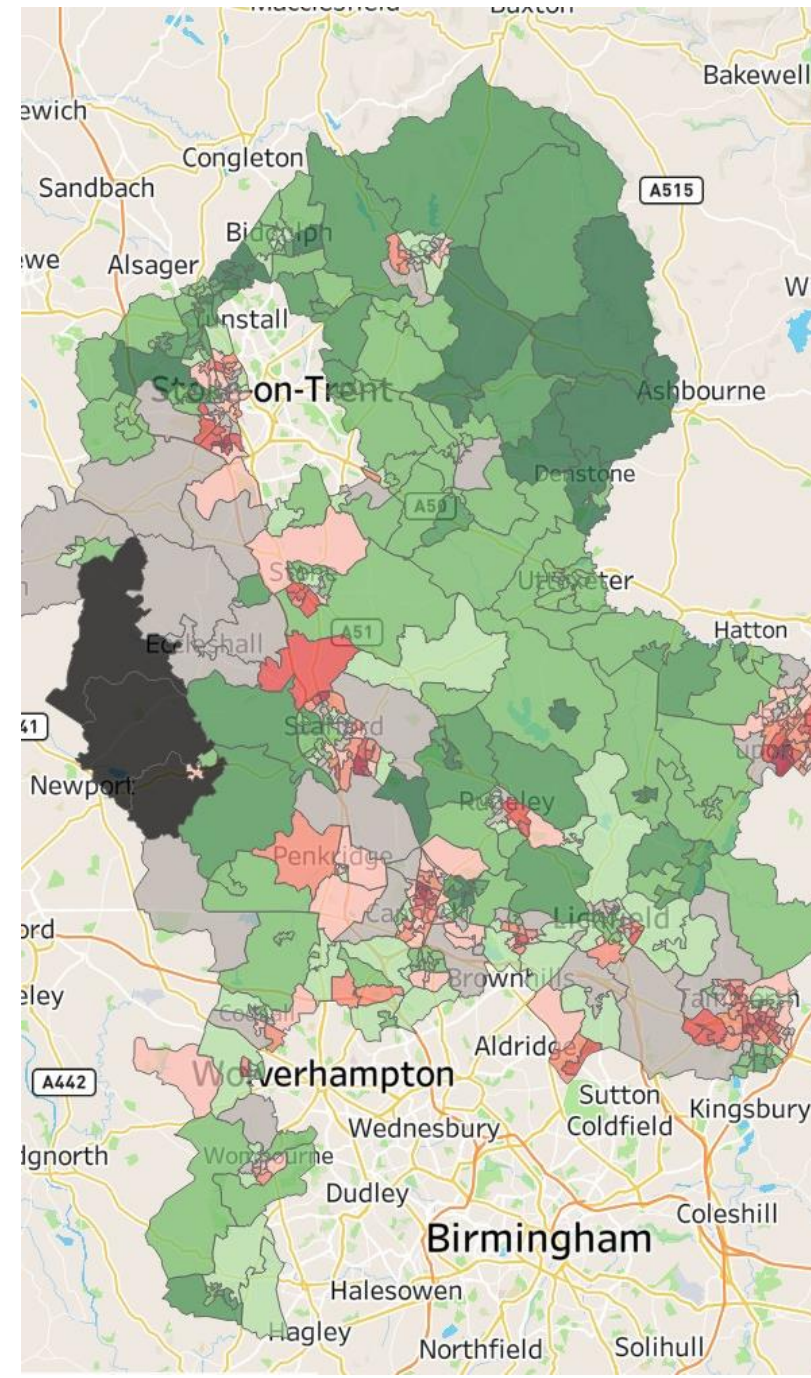
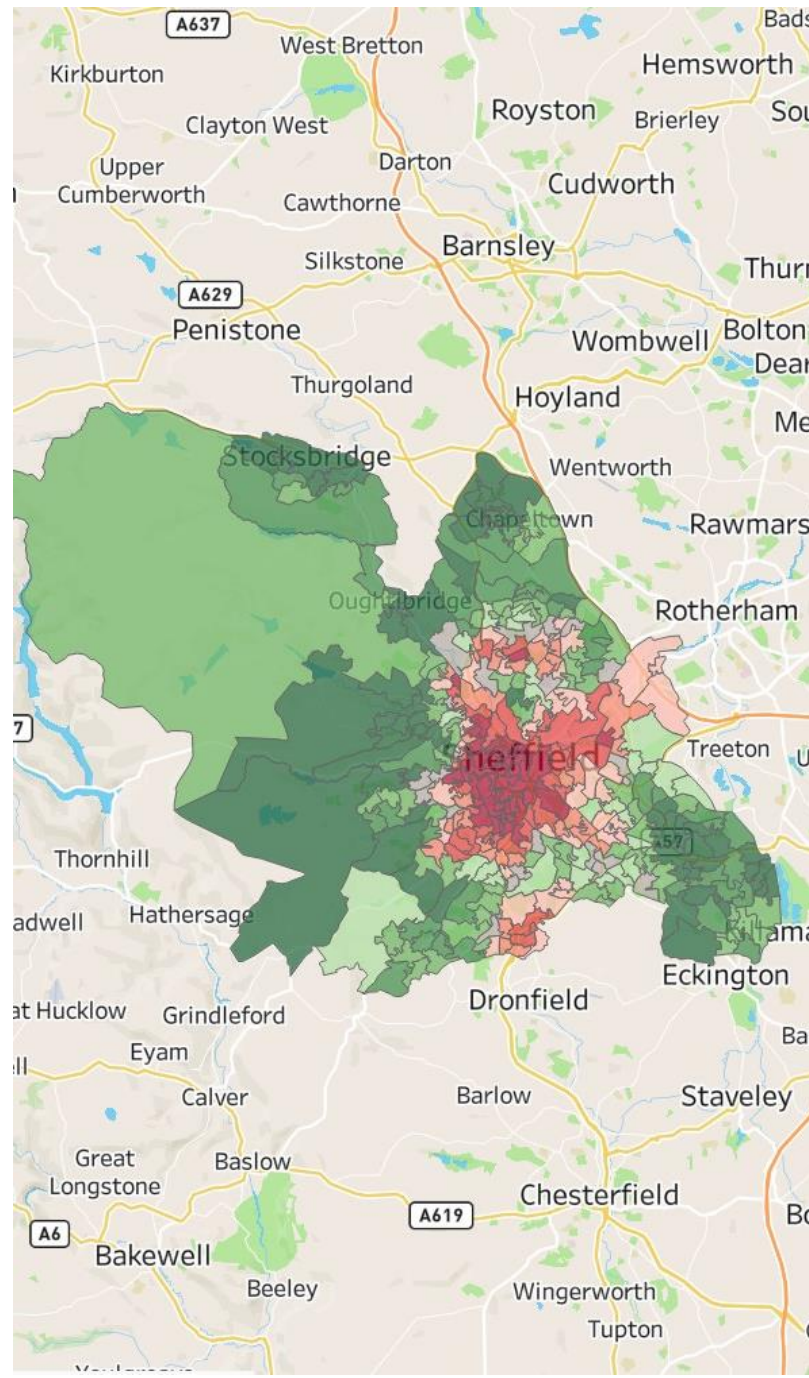
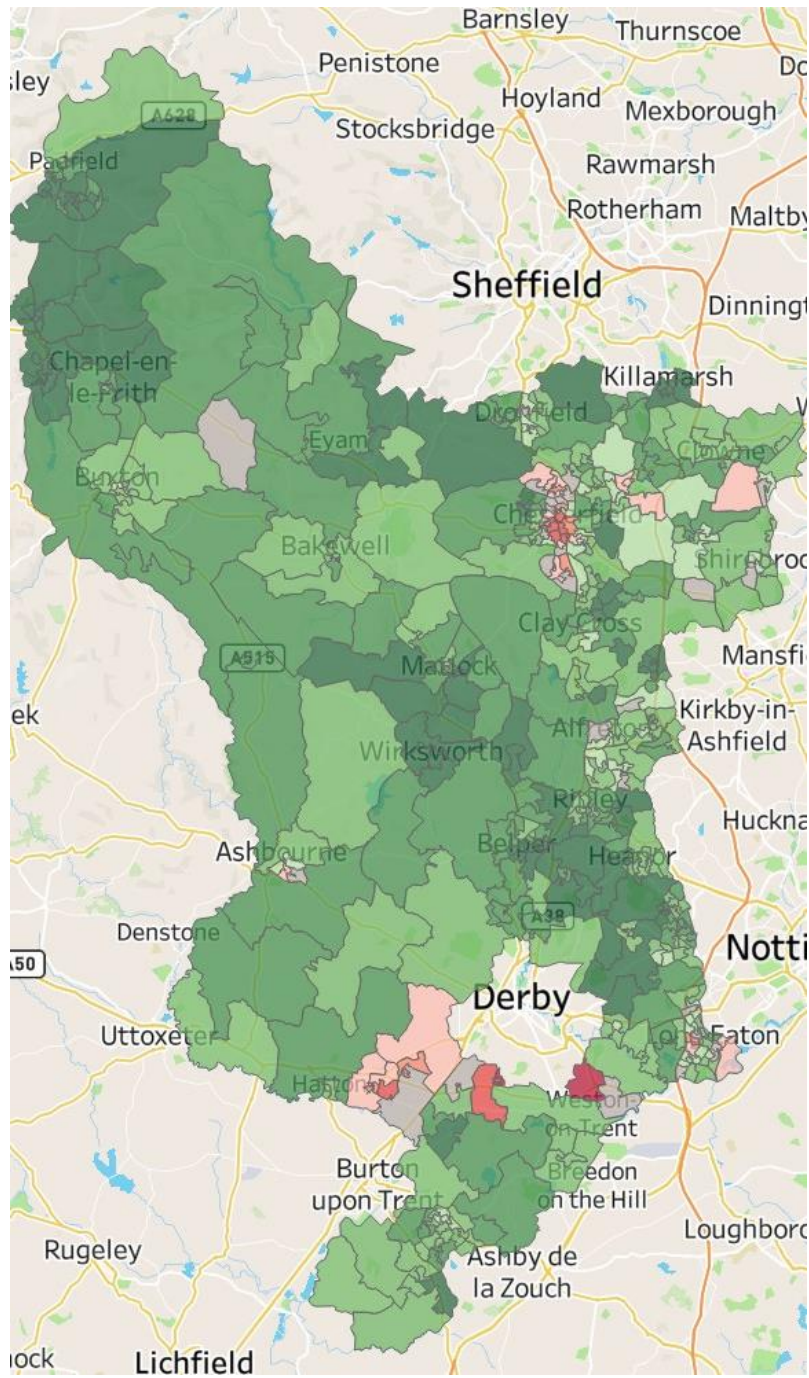
Highway Authority: **Derbyshire**

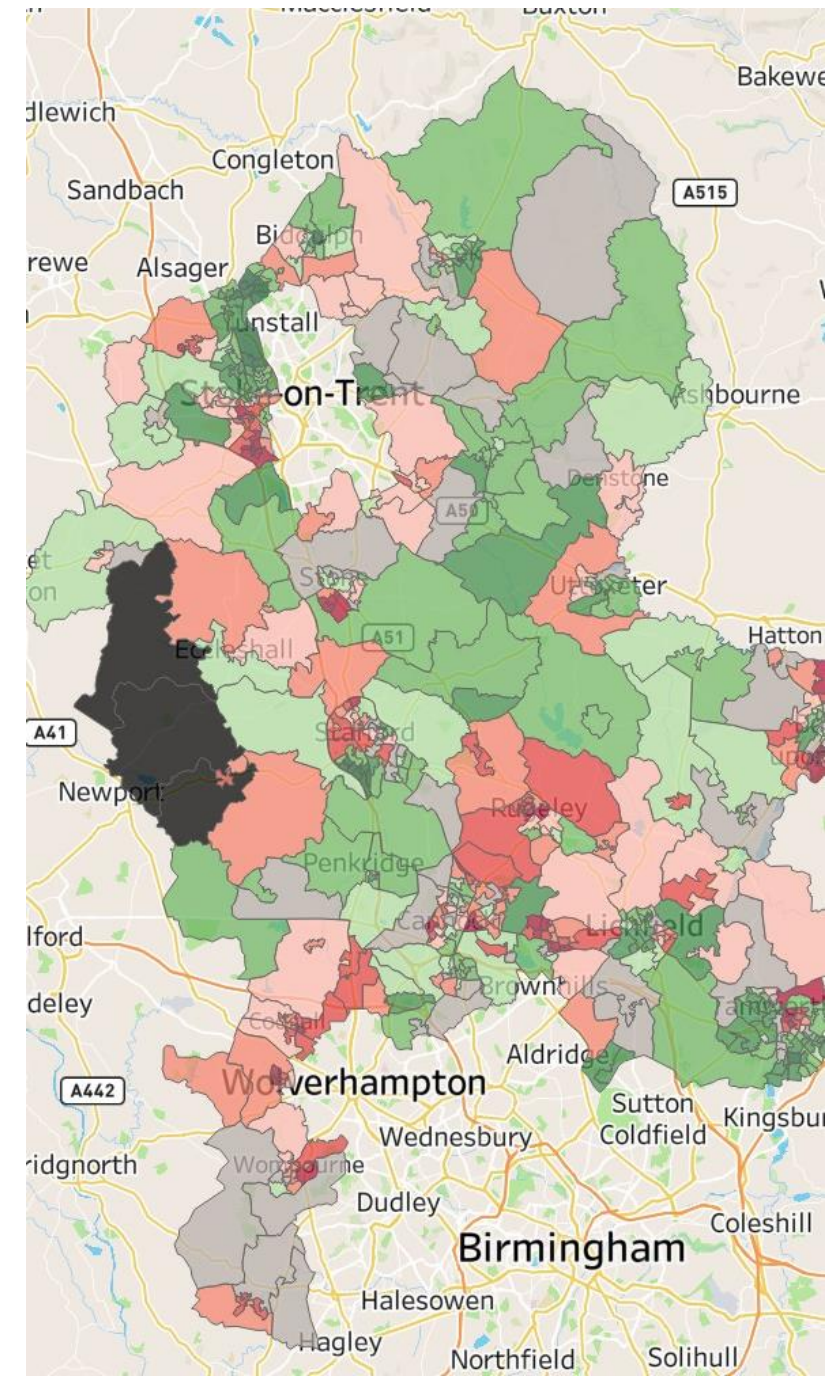
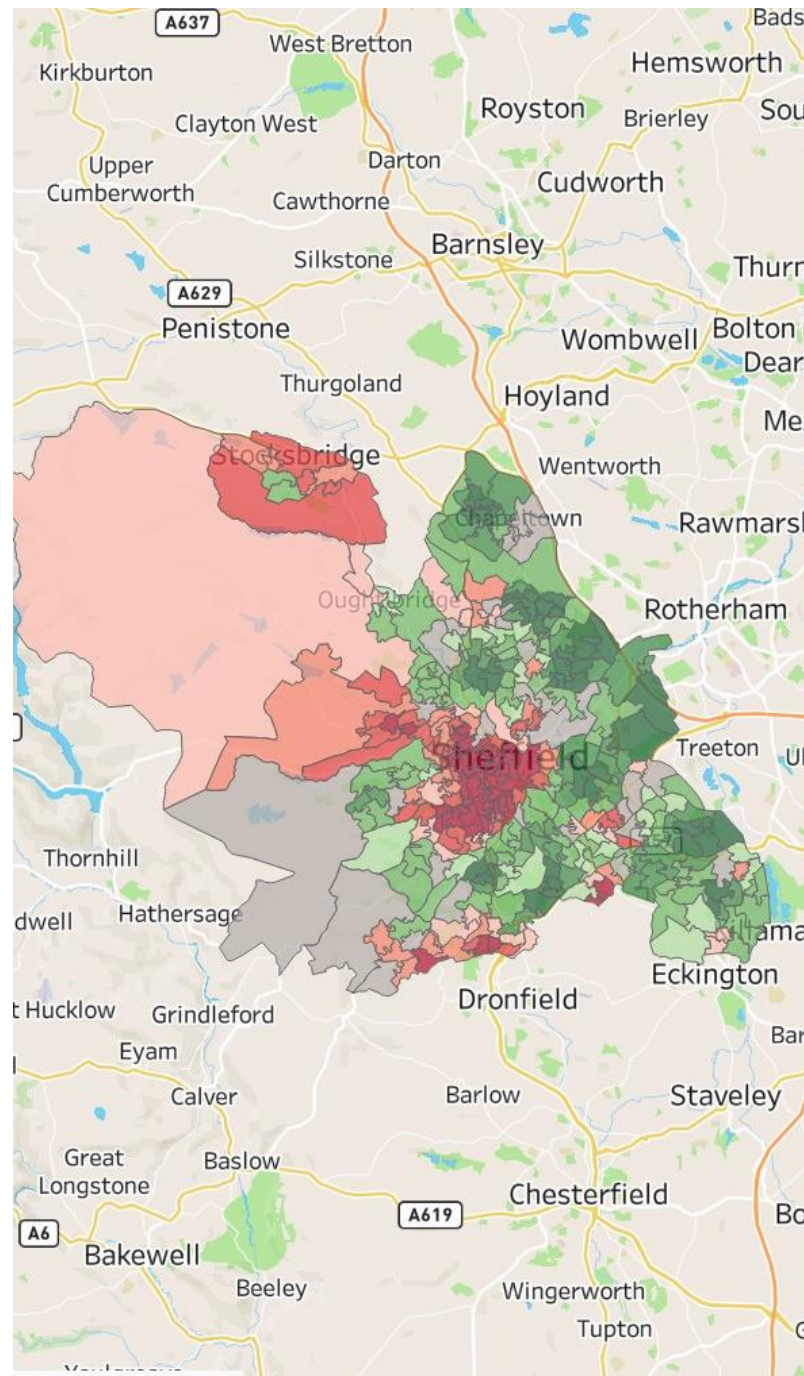
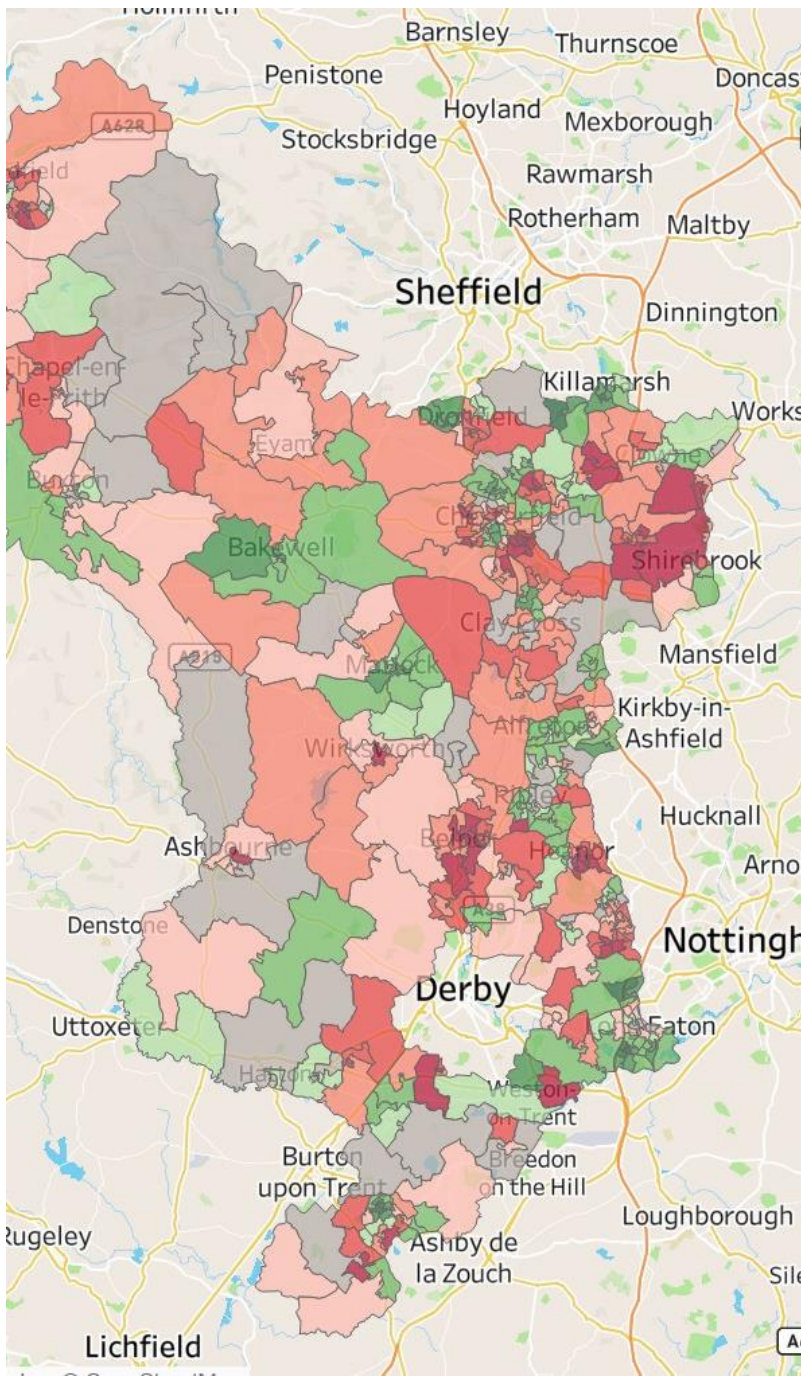
Highway Authority Choice	Nation Choice			
Derbyshire	All	Derbyshire	England and Wales Average	Difference from Average
The length of public right of way within a ten minute walk (800m)		4,420	2,788	1,632
The length of public right of way within a twenty minute walk (1600m)		18,189	11,396	6,793
Sum of length of continous right of way over 3km long intersecting buffer within a ten minute walk (800m)		326,010	254,753	71,257
Sum of length of continous right of way over 3km long intersecting buffer within a twenty minute walk (1600m)		444,665	340,160	104,505
Distance to nearest ROW of 3km continuous length		125	257	-132
Green right of way length within a ten minute walk (800m) - England only		4,083	2,455	1,628
Green right of way length within a twenty minute walk (1600m) - England only		16,473	9,758	6,715
Percentage right of way which is green within a ten minute walk (800m) - England only		78.84%	71.29%	7.55%
Percentage right of way which is green within a twenty minute walk (1600m) - England only		83.84%	77.31%	6.53%
Length of right of way with greenness of over 80% within a ten minute walk (800m)		5,245	3,530	1,715
Length of right of way with greenness of over 80% within a twenty minute walk (1600m)		19,746	12,663	7,083
Length of right of way within/next to a Natural England nature rich zone		2,811	3,217	-406
Distance to nearest access land of at least 5 hectares in size and with at least one public right of way connection		5,958	4,585	1,373
Distance to nearest access land of at least 5 hectares in size, including woodland, and with at least one public right of way connection		695	1,152	-457
The length of public right of way within a ten minute walk (800m) including lost rights of way		5,175	3,854	1,321
The length of lost public right of way within a ten minute walk (800m)		755	1,065	-310
Percentage of public right of way which is lost within a ten minute walk (800m)		15.84%	31.29%	-15.45%

The length of public right of way within a ten minute walk (800m)

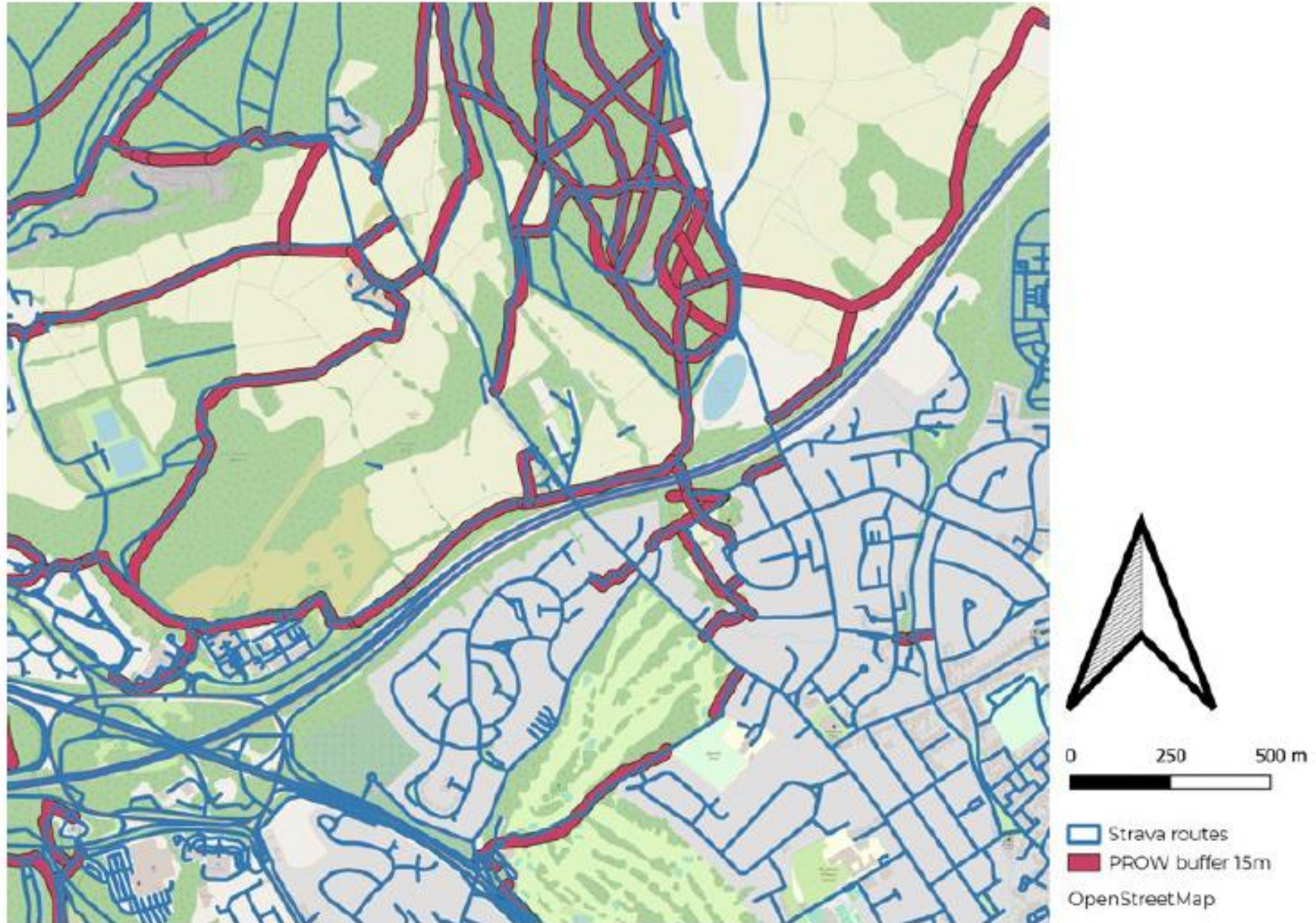


Green is good provision, Red is bad provision and Black means the information is not publicly available





MAP 7: PROW PROVISION AND STRAVA ROUTES IN NORTH CARDIFF



What have we found out?

Our analysis shows that the value of the PRow network is:

£1.8bn per year, or £32.20 per person per year in England

£109m per year, or £35.30 per person per year in Wales.

Our analysis suggests that:

Doubling the average local neighbourhood provision of PRow could lead to a 6.2% increase in people visiting green space every week. While this may sound low, this would equate to an additional 78.5 million annual visits to greenspace each year.

What we found out...

83% of people agree that
the path network is a
national asset

85% of people agree
that
the path network should
be protected for future
generations

Only half of all people surveyed know (some of) their rights and responsibilities when out walking on the path network

Almost a third of all respondents told us
one of the main reasons they don't go
out walking on the path network is
because
they don't know where paths are or
where they go

What we found out...

'Physical barriers stop me from using
the path network'

24% of people in England

28% of people in Wales

22% of people in Scotland

56% of people registered physically
disabled



What comes next?

- Looking at using **more of the Strava data**
- Targeting our work (nationally and locally)
- Provision (and usage) is by no means the whole picture – **quality, condition & accessibility**
- Making the case for our paths – **Access to Nature bill**