

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** Wednesday 12 June 2024

**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, drainage and roadside signposting:** The list of rights of way schemes which have been approved for funding from the Highways Capital Programme in 2024/25 is available on the County Council's website here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/transport-roads/roads-traffic/road-maintenance/road-improvements/2024-to-2025-highways-capital-programme-delivery-plan.pdf>

It also includes £120k to replace missing or damaged roadside signposts across the county, as well as £115k for emergency schemes to promote safe use of the network ie small scale works which typically include step repairs, filling voids and potholes. As Forum members are aware, the need for works teams to prioritise repairs on Derbyshire's roads has resulted in a backlog of rights of way schemes which are already funded, but have yet to be delivered on the ground. The list referred to above is currently open to review while discussions take place about which new schemes will remain on it and which outstanding schemes will be carried forward from previous years to come up with a realistic programme of work for delivery in 2024/25. The revised list will be shared once it has been finalised. An update on repairs to routes which the LAF is particularly interested in, such as Chapel Gate, Hope Brinks, Pennine Way, Long Causeway and Derby Lane at Monyash will be provided at the meeting.

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

- In terms of dealing with the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications, details of progress made between 1 March and 24 May 2024 are set out in the table below. Further information about each of these applications, including decisions made by DCC and the

Planning Inspectorate (PINS) can be found through the on-line register which is available on the County Council's website.

Legal Order Stage	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024 (Up to 24 <sup>th</sup> of the month)
New DMMO applications received (9)	<b>04795</b> = Add FP at South Church Street, Bakewell. <b>04800</b> = Upgrade FPs to Restricted Byway between Monks Road, Charlesworth and Goddard Lane, New Mills.	<b>04804</b> = Extend Sudbury FP3 to adopted highway at Northfield Farm. <b>04805</b> = BW claim between Derwent BWs 5 and 9, near Ladybower Reservoir. <b>04806</b> = Upgrade FPs in Findern to bridleway between Hillside and Findern Lane.	<b>04807</b> = Upgrade Tansley FP16 to bridleway along Coach Road between A615 and Church Street.  The following claims do not yet appear on the register of applications: <b>04808; 04809; 04810</b>
Informal consultation started (3)	<b>04396</b> = Add FP from Lady Lea Road to Horsley FP12.	<b>04718</b> = Add FP from Matlock FP44 to Riber Road. <b>03089</b> = Add BOAT along Mill Lane between Derby Road at Hunloke, Wingerworth and entrance to Grange Farm, Hasland.	0
Decision made by DCC (1)	0	0	<b>04624</b> = Modify location of Whaley Bridge FP86 between Shallcross Road and Elnor Lane.
Orders made (0)	0	0	0
Cases passed to PINS (1)	0	0	<b>04274</b> = Upgrade Hartington Upper Quarter FP102 to bridleway from A5004 Long Hill to Bunsal Cob.
Decisions received from PINS (3)	0	<b>02878</b> = Upgrade FPs leading to Stoke Ford, in Eyam and Eyam Woodlands to Restricted Byways. <b>Order not confirmed by the Secretary of State</b>	<b>04266</b> = Add FP from St Helens Lane to Breamfield Lane, Wirksworth. <b>04136</b> = Add BW in Eaton & Alsop and Newton Grange parishes between Dam Lane and Tissington Trail/ A515.
Orders confirmed (2)	0	0	<b>Both Orders (04266 &amp; 04136) confirmed by Secretary of State</b>

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes across Derbyshire with research records now created for 399 paths and 217 DMMO applications submitted to the County Council to date. The Joint LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group will continue to look at how the processing of these applications could be made easier and how they might be prioritised in light of an increasing backlog. A further meeting of the Sub-Group will be held as soon as practicable.

### Aim 3: An improved network

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):** On the Derbyshire section of the Pennine Bridleway, general maintenance continues predominantly concentrating on essential drainage work and vegetation clearance with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at Lantern Pike and Elle Bank near Hayfield. The replacement of non-slip surfaces is being progressed for several road crossings, including the A6 at Blackwell in the Peak, the A515 at Pomeroy and the A5012 (Via Gellia road) near Pikehall, with funding which has been secured from the County Council's Highways Capital Programme. On the development side, investigative work is continuing for two missing sections around Glossop, looking at a possible alternative route into Gamesley which avoids the Dinting Viaduct and exploring a suitable crossing point of the River Etherow for the section between New Road at Tintwistle and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield. The Pennine National Trails Partnership manager and staff from Natural England have recently visited these sites with DCC officers to gain a better insight into the work required to complete the route. Confirmation of grant bids submitted to the Pennine National Trails Partnership for funding to support on-going maintenance and further development work on the Pennine Bridleway in 2024/25 is expected shortly.
- **White Peak Loop:** 62km or 71% of the White Peak Loop (WPL) is currently complete. The missing gaps are from the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike into and through Buxton to Harpur Hill; from High Peak Junction near Cromford to Matlock Railway Station and from Old Station Close in Rowsley to Coombs Road just outside Bakewell.



Trail at Topley Pike into and through Buxton to Harpur Hill; from High Peak Junction near Cromford to Matlock Railway Station and from Old Station Close in Rowsley to Coombs Road just outside Bakewell.

Derbyshire County Council has made a

Traffic Regulation Order for The Crescent in Buxton which will allow two-way cycling. This is a step towards achieving the 'Buxton Boulevard' active travel scheme as part of the WPL through the town. Preliminary design and further surveys for the missing section of the route from the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike through Buxton to the Parks Inn at Harpur Hill will be undertaken over the next few months. On the existing section of the WPL between Matlock and Rowsley, wide self-closing gates have been installed on either side of the Peak Rail heritage railway crossing near the Arc Leisure Centre to replace the previous chicane arrangement. This work has been undertaken to improve the accessibility of the route as well as safety for users. See before and after photographs below.



More information about the WPL can be found here:

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/white-peak-loop/white-peak-loop.aspx](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/white-peak-loop/white-peak-loop.aspx)

- **Derwent Valley Cycleway:** The feasibility study commissioned by the County Council is now complete and discussions are underway to agree the next steps. The study divides the 68km route between Shardlow to the south-east of Derby and Hathersage in the Derbyshire Dales into five different sections. It identifies the preferred route options and high-level cost estimates for construction, along with an assessment to help prioritise route sections for future delivery.
- **A5004 Safer Roads Fund Project:** Resurfacing of Old Road, including part of Buxton BOAT 28, which runs between the A5004 (Long Hill) and Elnor Lane in Whaley Bridge should be completed by the end of June. The scheme is being funded from the Safer Roads Fund to provide vulnerable users with an alternative route away from the main A road.

- **Chesterfield Active Travel Route:** This 7.8km east-west route across Chesterfield is a £1.68m scheme being funded under Tranche 2 of the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund. Work at the western end of the route to provide a superhighway style arrangement in the form of a



segregated cycleway on the A619 Baslow Road/ Chatsworth Road is now complete. The County Council has produced a video which gives an overview of the segregated cycleway and how to use it safely: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g61jNyxLVgE>

- **Active Travel Masterplans:** An on-line consultation is currently underway until 24 June 2024 to collect people's views on the Active Travel Masterplans being drawn up for the market towns of Glossop, Belper and Ilkeston. Drop-in sessions were also held in each of the three locations during May as part of the consultation.



The results will provide an idea of the public's current level of interest and appetite for active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling). They will also help inform how the next step in planning could proceed to achieve the associated benefits of reduced traffic congestion and emissions, improved air quality, along with physical and mental health improvements, as well as benefits to local businesses.

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

- **Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Derbyshire:** More information about the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be found here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/conservation/local-nature-recovery/local-nature-recovery.aspx>  
Anyone who is interested is encouraged to register to receive updates on the preparation of the strategy and find out how to support or get involved in its development.
- **Move More/ Nature Connection Map:** An interactive map has been developed to promote emotional health and wellbeing across Derby and Derbyshire to help connect people with local outdoor activity groups and opportunities to stay active and connect with nature which includes parks, trails, places of beauty, outdoor gyms, community gardens and more. The link to the webpage which was launched in May to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week is here: <https://bit.ly/Movemorenature> along with a link to the map itself: <https://bit.ly/MHPAMap>

- **Walk Derbyshire:** Details of walking events can be found on the Walk Derbyshire website and include the National Forest Walking Festival, the Erewash 85 mile walking challenge, walks on the Eastern Moors, litter picks, Beat the Streets and fund raising events:



<https://walkderbyshire.org.uk/everyday-walking/events/>

**Aim 5: Greater community involvement 337 days in 2023/24**

- **Volunteer contribution:** As part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties, 337 volunteer days were delivered in 2023/24, estimated to be worth just over £67k. Dedicated groups of volunteers have worked on rights of way in South Derbyshire, Bolsover and the High Peak, as well as on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, Archaeological Way, Clowne Greenway, Little Eaton Branch Line and the White Peak Loop carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements. Action days with the Friends of Little Eaton Canal also delivered some very valuable habitat work and conservation tasks. Funding and approvals have been secured to continue the SLA in 2024/25.



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