

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 16 October 2024

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, drainage and roadside signposts/ waymarking:** The revised list of rights of way schemes to be delivered in the Peak District LAF area in 2024/25 includes the following:
 - Monyash BOAT 29 Derby Lane – completed in August (pictured right).
 - Chinley FP 44 drainage and surfacing - design issued and awaiting start date.
 - Eyam BOAT 31 drainage and surfacing - design issued and awaiting start date.
 - Edale BW 19 (Jacobs Ladder/ Pennine Way) stone pitching – being priced by contractor.



Other schemes, including Bamford Clough, Chinley FP1, Eyam BOAT 31, New Mills BW54 and Birchover BOAT 23/ South Darley 46 (Clough Lane) have been deferred to future years due to a need to target funds for carriageway pothole repairs. Further funding of £120k is available in 2024/25 for the replacement of 400 missing or damaged roadside signposts on public rights of way across the county, with 2,000 waymark discs already purchased to improve waymarking along those routes reported to be difficult to follow.

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 24 May and 30 September 2024 is set out in the table below.

Legal Order Stage	June 2024 (Period from 24 May to 30 June)	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
New DMMO applications received (10)	<p>04811 = Upgrade FP18 to BW, South Wingfield.</p> <p>04813 = Upgrade FP15 (part) and FP17 (part) to BW, New Mills.</p> <p>04814 = Upgrade FP27 (part) to BW and add BW to Woodnook Lane, Brampton.</p>	<p>04816 = Add FP from FP67 along Dumbles Lane, Denby.</p> <p>04817 = Add FP from Station Road to BW89, Denby.</p> <p>04818 = Add a FP from BW90 to FP82, Denby.</p> <p>04820 = Vary the particulars of FP47, Osleston and Thurvaston.</p> <p>04821 = Vary the particulars of FP14, Osleston and Thurvaston.</p>	0	<p>04824 = Upgrade FP28 (part) and FP29 to BW, Taddington.</p> <p>04825 = Vary the particulars relating to alignment of FP31, Kirk Langley.</p>
Informal consultation started (1)	04526 = Add RB from Ridge Top Lane to FP4, Hayfield	0	0	0
Decision made by DCC (2)	<p>04265 = Upgrade FP8 to BW, Abney & Abney Grange.</p> <p>Application rejected - Schedule 14 appeal submitted.</p>	0	<p>04526 = Add RB from Ridge Top Lane to FP4, Hayfield.</p> <p>Application approved but for FP status.</p>	0
Orders made (1)	0	0	04526 = Add FP from Ridge Top Lane to FP4 and modification of alignment of FP4 (part), Hayfield.	0
Cases passed to PINS (1)	04173 = Add BW and upgrade FP13 (part) to BW, Eaton & Alsop and Newton Grange.	0	0	0
Decisions received from PINS (0)	0	0	0	0
Orders confirmed (0)	0	0	0	0

FP = Footpath BW = Bridleway RB = Restricted Byway

Further information about each of the applications in the table above, including decisions made by DCC and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) can be found through the County Council's on-line register.

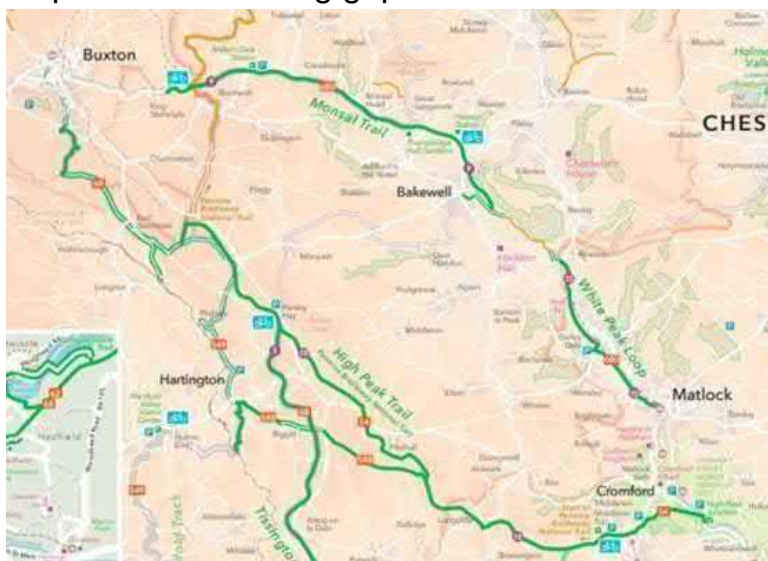
- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes across Derbyshire with research records now created for 404 paths and 221 DMMO applications submitted to the County Council to date. The Joint LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group met on 12 August to discuss how the processing of these applications could be made easier and how they might be prioritised in the light of an increasing backlog. The Sub-Group's conclusions/ recommendations will be reported to both Forums to agree the advice which will be communicated to the County Council.

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):**

- On the Derbyshire section of the Pennine Bridleway, general maintenance was undertaken over the summer, predominantly on essential drainage work and vegetation clearance, with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at Wye Dale and Lantern Pike. The replacement of non-slip surfaces is being progressed for several road crossings, starting with the one on the A5012 (Via Gellia road) near Pikehall which will be refurbished when the Safer Roads Fund project gets underway this Autumn. Others, including those on the A6 at Blackwell in the Peak and the A515 at Pomeroy will be rolled out in the coming months with funding provided through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme.
- On the development side, investigative work is continuing for two missing sections of the National Trail around Glossop, with landowner discussions underway for a feasible alternative route into Gamesley which avoids Dinting Viaduct. Engineers have been assigned to progress the initial designs and preparatory work for the River Etherow section between New Road at Tintwistle and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield, including road crossings and a multi-user bridge.
- Grant bids submitted to the Pennine National Trails Partnership have been successful in securing funding totalling £58,899 to support on-going maintenance and further development work on the Pennine Bridleway in 2024/25, with match funding also provided by the County Council.

- **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.

Design and preparatory work are getting underway for

the missing section of the WPL from the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike through Buxton to the Parks Inn at Harpur Hill. Surface improvements have been carried out on a proposed section of the route across Temple Fields between Fern Road and Green Lane in Buxton, where it is hoped to carry out further surfacing and drainage works later in the year. A contract has been awarded for repairs to Public Rights of Way and a section of Coombs Road, between Rowsley and the



Monsal Trail, near Bakewell. The drainage, surface and accessibility improvements are due to start at the beginning of November 2024 and expected to be completed early in the New Year. Encroaching vegetation has recently been cleared along the section of the White Peak Loop between Harrison Way in Darley Dale and the Old Station Close car park at Rowsley, as well as from either side of Rowsley Bridleway 2 off Church Lane. More information about the WPL can be found here:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/white-peakloop/white-peak-loop.aspx>

- **Derwent Valley Trail:** Following the completion of the feasibility study commissioned by the County Council, we are developing recommendations for how to progress delivery of the different stages of this 68km multi-user route between Shardlow and Hathersage.

Active Travel Masterplans: Public consultations for the Active Travel Masterplans across the three market towns of Belper, Glossop and Ilkeston have been completed, identifying key issues and proposing further amendments. The overall response to the consultation was largely positive. However, concerns about pavement parking obstructing footways, particularly for those using mobility aids, were widespread. Public transport integration was another concern. Whilst bus services fall outside the project scope, we will emphasise improving access to these services through active travel. The needs of equestrian users were raised by the British Horse Society and DADLAF, although the masterplans will clarify that the focus is on walking, wheeling, and cycling, with horse riding considered primarily for rural leisure routes. Town-specific amendments will include integrating active travel with public transport in Glossop, along with new/improved surfacing, lighting, signage and crossing points. Also, Gamesley will now be included in the scope of the masterplan for Glossop. Following the adoption and publication of the three active travel masterplans, future steps involve



securing additional funding to develop these schemes and launching further public engagement activity to refine the plans with local input.

Separately, the **Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan**

project is now underway, with two stakeholder engagement events held during September, which LAF members attended, and wider public consultation expected in November 2024.

- **Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire:** The County Council is working with The Young Foundation and University of Derby to develop Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This involves bringing together diverse perspectives from organisations, communities and citizens across Derbyshire and Derby to co-create a vision for nature recovery that responds to the needs of today and meets the challenges of the future. A series of stakeholder engagement events is taking place over Summer and early Autumn 2024 to gather views and knowledge from as many people as possible. Public consultation on the draft document is planned for early 2025 with the aim of publishing the strategy by Summer 2025. More information can be found here: <https://derbyshirenaturerecovery.co.uk/>

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

- **Countryside Code Update:** During 2024, 'Shaun the Sheep' has helped reach over a million people with the message of *Respect, Protect and Enjoy*. Shaun will be continuing as an ambassador of the Countryside Code until the end of May 2025, attending events and featuring in a series of guides about responsible use of the countryside:



https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/countryside-code-and-shaun-the-sheep/

- **Walk Derbyshire:** The Walk Derbyshire App was officially launched on 1 July 2024 to help people find and explore local outdoor spaces and short walks near them. People were encouraged to add walks and spaces to the app, which had 868 downloads in the first month and twenty new walks added. There are several events taking place this Autumn with free guided walks as part of the Autumn Footprints, Derbyshire Dales and YHA Walking Festivals: <https://walkderbyshire.org.uk/everyday-walking/events/>



- **Cycle Derbyshire:** Each year we distribute around 13,000 copies of the Cycle Derbyshire leaflet/map to key visitor information points and venues, cycle hire centres, shops, pubs and cafes all around Derbyshire, as well as display stands in major transport hubs including Sheffield and Chesterfield railway stations (pictured left). The leaflet/ map is available on the County Council's website and paper copies can be



requested by contacting sustainable.travel@derbyshire.gov.uk

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** The Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties is continuing in 2024/25. There were 154 volunteer days delivered in the first six months of the year, estimated to be worth around £30,723. Dedicated groups of volunteers have worked on rights of way in South Derbyshire, as well as on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, White Peak Loop, Archaeological Way, Clowne Greenway and connecting paths, mainly carrying out much needed cutting back of encroaching vegetation and creating habitat piles using the cleared brush.

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