

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 11 June 2025

Item: 8

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) - Update

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Purpose of Report

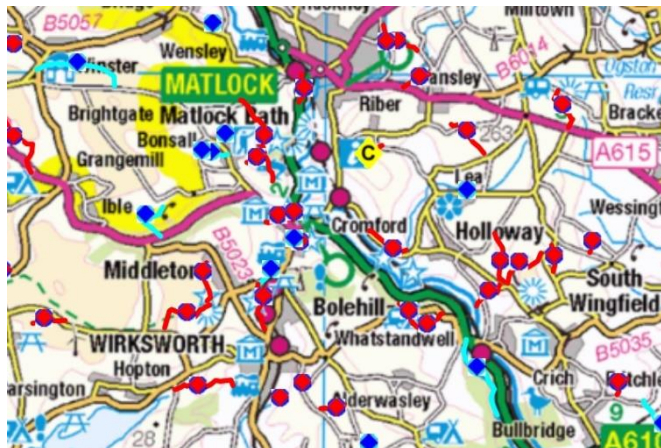
To present Forum members with an update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Aim 1: Existing Rights of Way Network

- **Surface condition, drainage and roadside signposts:** A total of 297 roadside signposts were installed across the rights of way network during 2024/25. A programme of work is being prepared for 2025/26 with £315,052 of funding secured through the Highways Capital Programme for emergency schemes to promote safe use of the rights of way network and continued investment in roadside signposts. Further details will be provided at the October LAF meeting.

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- **Project 2031 Derbyshire:** Volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes across Derbyshire with research records now created for 412 paths and 262 DMMO applications submitted to the County Council to date. The set of recommendations put forward by the Joint LAF Sub-Group for Public Rights of Way, Open Access and Unrecorded Ways regarding the prioritisation of DMMO applications is being conveyed to the County Council's Legal Services team following its approval by both LAFs.
- In terms of dealing with the backlog of **Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications**, details of progress made between 1 February and 30 April 2025 is set out in the table below.



Legal Order Stage	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
New DMMO applications received (5)	04844 = Upgrade FP7 to RB, Burnaston	04850 = Add FP from Chapel Lane to North End, Wirksworth 04852 = Add FP from FP72 to FP71, Wirksworth	04856 = Add FP from BOAT 63 to FP33, Bonsall 04857 = Upgrade FP 56 to BW from Broadway Lane to junction with BW74, Taddington
Informal consultation started (1)	0	0	04786 = Add BW from Maple Drive through Long Walk Wood and add BW Weston Road to BW 6, Weston on Trent
Decision made by DCC (1)	0	0	0936 = Upgrade BW50 to BOAT, New Mills (second determined report without TRO) Report approved
Orders made (0)	0	0	0
Cases passed to PINS (2)	04413 = Add FP from A608 to "The Mound", Morley	0	04174 = Add FP from Flamstead Lane to FP 28, Denby
Decisions received from PINS (0)	0	0	0
Orders confirmed (0)	0	0	0
FP = Footpath BW = Bridleway RB = Restricted Byway BOAT = Byway Open to All Traffic NB: Those in the Peak District LAF area are shaded in grey.			

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

<https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/>

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Greenway/ Cycle Route Development and Maintenance in 2024/25:**
A total of 7.45km of new Greenways/ Cycle Routes was achieved in 2024/25, bringing the total length of the off-road network across

Derbyshire to just over 453km. This included sections of the White Peak Loop and Markham Vale Greenway, near Chesterfield. Improvements were also undertaken on a further 15.25km of existing routes as follows:

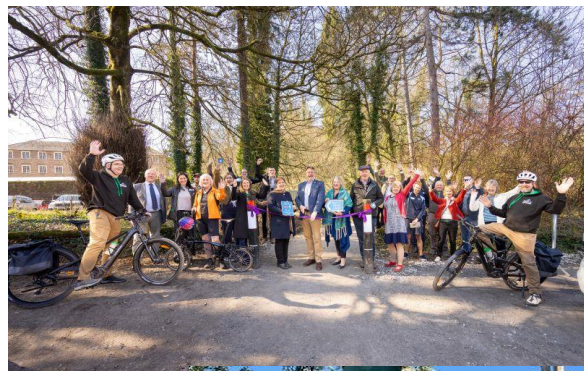
- White Peak Loop – Churchtown to Rowsley
 - High Peak Trail – Middleton Incline
 - Trans Pennine Trail – Chesterfield Canal towpath between Hollingwood Hub and Mill Green, Staveley
 - Dronfield to Unstone Cycle Route
 - Archaeological Way at Shirebrook
 - Hipper Valley Greenway – Walton Road to Chesterfield railway station
 - Old Road, Buxton (Brookfield Cottage to White Hall Centre)
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):** A 205-mile, multi-user National Trail running from Middleton Top, near Wirksworth to Ravensdale in Cumbria.
 - On the Derbyshire section of the Pennine Bridleway, general maintenance has focused on essential drainage work and vegetation clearance, with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at various locations, including Birch Vale and South Head. Following the completion of work on the A5012 (Via Gellia Road) near Pikehall, the replacement of non-slip surfaces is also being progressed for road crossings on the A6 at Blackwell in the Peak and the A515 at Pomeroy, with funding provided through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme. Again, these will be treated with a buff-coloured stone to increase visibility/ awareness of the crossing for motorists and provide an anti-slip surface for trail users.
 - On the development side, work is continuing on two of the three missing sections of the National Trail around the west side of



Glossop, with landowner discussions underway for a feasible alternative route into Gamesley which avoids Dinting Viaduct. Engineers assigned to the River Etherow section between New Road at Tintwistle and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield are making good progress with preparatory work and initial designs for this 1.7km section which will include a multi-user bridge over the river and road crossings at either end. Meetings

are taking place with the various landowners and further ecological surveys are underway.

- The County Council is a member of the Pennine National Trails Partnership which oversees the management, maintenance and promotion of the PBW. Funding from Natural England is allocated through the Partnership each year to support the on-going maintenance of the existing sixty miles of the PBW through Derbyshire, as well as development work for the missing Glossop sections, with match funding provided by the Council. Grant offers have recently been received to fund this work in 2025/26.
- **White Peak Loop (WPL):** An iconic 54-mile circular route around the White Peak area of the Derbyshire Peak District, linking the National Park with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Once complete it will connect the High Peak and Monsal Trails with the market towns of Buxton, Bakewell and Matlock.
 - In the meantime, following the launch event held at Cromford Mills back in March, a shorter 42-mile circular loop is now signed and open. This avoids Buxton for the time being and runs along a variety of surfaces, including some sections of public open roads, aggregate tracks, bridleways and traffic-free trails.
 - Development work will continue throughout 2025 to extend and make further improvements to the whole WPL, including design and preparatory work for the missing sections in and around Buxton, which also meet local needs as part of a Buxton Walk and Ride Network. Preliminary designs are nearing completion for a section of route between Green Lane, next to Buxton Community School and the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout in Fairfield.
 - Work also continues to make the WPL accessible to more people and to make further local connections for both active travel and leisure.
 - A scheme to improve the public rights of way and part of Coombs Road between Rowsley and the Monsal Trail near Bakewell is now complete, providing a useful off-road connection.
 - More information about the WPL, including the new film which has been produced, can be found here: [White Peak Loop - Derbyshire County Council](#)



- **Derwent Valley Trail:** Following completion of the feasibility study in 2024, we are developing recommendations for how to progress delivery of the five different sections of this 68km multi-user route between Shardlow to the SE of Derby and Hathersage, working in partnership with key stakeholders, such as the Derwent Valley Trust (DVT). Preliminary design of Route Section 2 between Belper, Duffield and Derby has been identified as one of the strategic interventions to be progressed through the Belper Active Travel Masterplan. In collaboration with the DVT, the Belper West Bank section will be the first phase towards connecting the network of active travel routes to and from Derby City for communities and visitors alike.
- **Active Travel Masterplans (ATMs):** Work is continuing to progress several of the recommendations in the Active Travel Masterplans which



have been produced for the market towns of Belper, Glossop and Ilkeston. As well as developing preliminary designs for sections of the Derwent Valley Trail, Pennine Bridleway and Great Northern

Greenway, this also includes delivering more short-term interventions/ quick wins, such as dropped kerbs, footway resurfacing and cycle parking. A rural/ visitor economy-based ATM is being developed for the **Hope Valley** based on the results of the stakeholder engagement which took place last September. Wider public engagement is planned for Summer 2025.

- **Safer Road Fund Projects:** Funding secured from the Department for Transport to improve road safety along the A5004 (Long Hill) between Buxton and Whaley Bridge and the A5012 (Via Gellia) between Cromford and Newhaven has provided an opportunity to make some improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
 - In connection with the A5004, these have included the resurfacing of a badly eroded 1.6km length of Old Road between Brookfield Cottage and White Hall Outdoor Activity Centre, which incorporates part of Buxton BOAT 28. Work is currently underway to tarmac the central strip which has since washed out and the whole section will be surface dressed later this year. A shared footway/ cycleway has been provided alongside the A5004 between its junction with the A53 in Buxton and Coldspring Plantation. Subject to securing the necessary planning permission, it is proposed to extend this facility to connect with the SE end of Old Road. Footway improvements are also proposed for Vaughan Road/ Manor Road in Whaley Bridge.

- Along the Via Gellia, an anti-slip road crossing has been provided where the High Peak Trail/ Pennine Bridleway crosses the A5012. In order to help improve safety for pedestrians looking to cross the road between two existing rights of way near the Lilies, a new flight of steps, handrail and landing area has been constructed at the NE end of Hopton Footpath 6. Similar improvements are also planned at the SE end of Bonsall Footpath 2 east of the Old Colourworks. At Pikehall, an off-road connection is being designed between Hedge Lane and Green Lane.

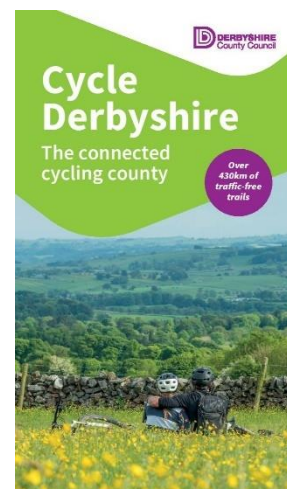
- **Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for**

Derbyshire: The public consultation on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire, which includes the city of Derby, closed on 20 March 2025. All the comments and feedback received from the on-line survey and series of events held across the county back in February/ March are being used to produce the final version of the Strategy by Summer 2025.



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

- **Walk Derbyshire:** Details of Get Active Walks, regular activities and upcoming events for each of the districts and boroughs across the county can be found by clicking on the map here: [Everyday Walking -](#)
- **Cycle Derbyshire:** Over 20,000 copies of the Cycle Derbyshire map and leaflet have now been distributed to over 150 sites including visitor hotspots, accommodation providers, campsites, cycle hire and information points. Due to popular demand, there will be a further print run during 2025.



Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** As part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties, 383.69 volunteer days were delivered in 2024/25, estimated to be worth around £76,546, with six new



volunteers recruited during the year. Under the new SLA for 2025/26, dedicated groups of volunteers continue to work on rights of way in South Derbyshire, as well as on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, Little Eaton Canal, Bolsover Loop (Archaeological Way/ Clowne Greenway) and the White Peak

Loop, carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements which include cutting back encroaching vegetation, creating wildlife habitat, litter picking and essential drainage work.



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