

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday 15 October 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:** The work being planned for 2025/26 using funding secured through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme for emergency schemes to promote safe use of the network will be discussed in further detail at a LAF Sub-Group meeting due to be held in January. This will include an update on repairs to the routes which Forum members have been particularly interested in, such as Edale BW19 (Jacobs Ladder - Pennine Way), BW32 at Hope Cross, Chapel Gate and Bamford Clough. In the meantime, there is continued investment in roadside signposts and details of those paths where vegetation is being cut back on an annual basis are available here: [Rights of way maintenance programme - Derbyshire County Council](#)



Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- **Project 2031 Derbyshire:** Volunteers from the British Horse Society, Ramblers, Peak & Northern Footpaths Society and other user groups are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes across Derbyshire with research records now created for 413 paths and 317 DMMO applications submitted to the County Council to date.
- In terms of dealing with the backlog of **Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications**, details of progress made between 1 May and 30 September 2025 is set out in the table below.

Legal Order Stage	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025
New DMMO applications received (7)	04859 = Upgrade FP54 Taddington to BW from road at Rock Lodge Farm to BW 74	04860 = Add FP from Armitage Drive to Grange Park Green Space, Long Eaton	111038 = Add FP from Woolley Bridge Road to Etherow Lodge Printers Park entrance, Glossop	04864 = Add FP from All Saints' Churchyard gate to New Road, Youlgrave 04871 = Add FP from Westbourne Grove along edge of Brookfield School playing field, Chesterfield	04867 = Upgrade to BW parts of FPs 17, 15, 24, 18, 20 and whole of FP 21, from Church Street to Long Rake, Monyash 04872 = Add FP from Scropton Road along Chapel Lane to FP22 Foston & Scropton
Informal consultation started (3)	04649 = Add FP from Hope FP12 (Station Road) to Parsons Lane, Aston	0	04760 = Add FP along Boggy Lane from Ivy Cottage to Bradshaw Cottage, Church Broughton	0	04785 = Add FP from Pilhough Lane to Stanton Hall Lane, Stanton in the Peak
Decision made by DCC (3)	0	0	04367 = Add FP from Heathy Lane to Strines Lane End, Hathersage (Application rejected – to be appealed)	04786 = Add BW from Maple Drive through Long Walk Wood and add BW Weston Road to BW 6, Weston on Trent. (Make BW Orders) 04649 = Add FP from Hope FP12 (Station Road) to Parsons Lane, Aston (Make BW Order)	0
Orders made (1)	0	0	04504 = Add FP from Macclesfield Old Road to FP34, Buxton (being advertised until 6/11/25)	0	0
Cases to PINS (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Decisions from PINS (1)	0	04230 = Confirmed with modifications (see below)	0	0	0
Orders confirmed (1)	0	04230 = Upgrade Matlock FPs 31, 102 & Tansley FP14 to RB and add RB from FP31 to Lumsdale Road.	0	0	0
FP = Footpath BW = Bridleway RB = Restricted Byway BOAT = Byway Open to All Traffic NB: Those in the PDLAF area are shaded in grey.					

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

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

- The set of recommendations put forward by the Joint LAF Sub-Group regarding the prioritisation of DMMO applications was sent to the County Council's Assistant Director of Legal Services on 14 August 2025. A copy of the letter is attached in Appendix 1 to this report. Its receipt has been acknowledged, and a fuller response is awaited.

Aim 3: An improved network

- **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 this summer has focused on vegetation clearance with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at various locations, including Glossop, Wye Dale and Wormhill. 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. 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 on-going over the summer and into autumn.

- 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 60 miles of the PBW through Derbyshire, as well as development work for the missing Glossop sections, with match funding provided by the Council. Grants, totalling £57,357, have been offered to help 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, catering for both active travel and leisure use.



- A 42-mile predominantly traffic-free route is now open and signed.
- Future plans during 2025/26 include working to explore the options to connect the trail head in the car park at Old Station Close in Rowsley with Church Lane; surface and drainage improvements for the Byway across Fairfield Common in Buxton, along with Highstool Lane, near Chelmorton (a section shared with the Pennine Bridleway National Trail); further surface upgrades on Coombs Road, Bakewell, as well as progressing the extension of the route into and through Buxton linking with the railway station.
- Preliminary designs have now been completed, and high-level cost estimates are being produced for a section of route between Green Lane, next to Buxton Community School and the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout in Fairfield.
- There has been good progress with ecological surveys and development work for the section between the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout and the end of the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike.
- More information, including the GPX file for GPS devices and the new film about the WPL, can be found here:



[White Peak Loop - Derbyshire County Council](#)

- A pocket-sized Z card for the WPL has been published by Visit Peak District & Derbyshire and is being distributed to visitor information points.

- **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**, drawing on the results of the stakeholder engagement which took place in September 2024. Wider public engagement was undertaken over the summer months with an online survey and drop-in sessions being held as part of the consultation which ran from 30 June to 24 August 2025. A copy of the response which has been submitted on behalf of the Peak District LAF is attached in Appendix 2 to this report.

- **Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire:**

The publication of Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Thriving with Nature was officially announced by the County Council in September. It is one of the first eight strategies to be published from 48 being developed across England, establishing a

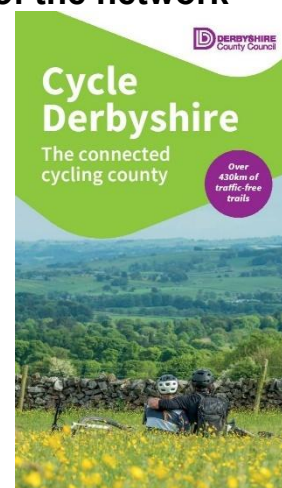


collaboratively developed vision for restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity. The strategy was developed over two years with public and stakeholder input and support, including farmers, landowners and community groups. It sets out priorities and opportunities to help nature thrive in Derbyshire. Further information, including the interactive local habitats map of locations where key measures (actions) should be focused to have the greatest benefits for nature can be found here:

[Homepage - Derbyshire's Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

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

- **Walk Derbyshire:** The latest newsletter for August 2025 is available here:
[Walk Derbyshire August Newsletter -](#)
- **Cycle Derbyshire:** The Cycle Derbyshire map and leaflet has recently been updated to show over 453km of traffic-free routes. The latest print run of 20,000 copies is being distributed to over 150 different sites including visitor hotspots, accommodation providers, campsites, cycle hire and information points.



Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** The Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties is continuing in 2025/26. There were just over 189 volunteer days delivered in the first half of the year, estimated to be worth around £37,841. Dedicated and enthusiastic groups of volunteers have been carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements on paths, trails and countryside sites across the county, including the Pennine Bridleway. Work has involved cutting back encroaching vegetation and creating habitat piles using the cleared brash, essential drainage work, installing fingerposts, litter picking and seasonal meadow management.



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