

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** Wednesday 3 June 2026

**Item:** 5

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

**Author:** Gill Millward, Senior Active Travel Manager, Strategic Transport and Sustainable Travel Team, Derbyshire County Council

### **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:**  
Funding of just over £627k which has been secured through the County Council's Highways Capital Programme in 2025/26 and 2026/27 is being used to undertake roadside signposting, emergency schemes and minor drainage/ surfacing works to promote the safe use of the Rights of Way network across Derbyshire. The schemes of work being planned or already underway/ completed will be discussed further under agenda item 4 at the June LAF meeting. Reference will also be made to those routes which Forum members have been particularly interested in.

### **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 422 paths and 239 Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications submitted to the County Council to date.
- In terms of dealing with the backlog of **DMMO applications**, details of progress made between 1 March and 19 May 2026 is 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 County Council's on-line register:  
<https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/>
- Any consultations which are currently underway in relation to DMMO applications and public path orders can be found here:  
[Rights of Way notices - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Legal Order Stage	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026
New DMMO applications received (7)	<p><b>04882</b> = Delete FP68 from junction with FP58 to FP67 near Dumbles Cottage - Denby</p> <p><b>04883</b> = Add FP from FP7 to Hall/church driveway - Barton Blount</p> <p><b>04884</b> = Upgrade FP52 to BW and add BW from E end of FP52 to Riber Road - Matlock</p>	<p><b>04885</b> = Add FP from FP29 to adopted highway Guildford Lane - Clay Cross</p> <p><b>04888</b> = Add FP from Main Street to FP6 - Calver</p> <p><b>04890</b> = Vary particulars of width for part of FP146 – Ripley</p>	<p><b>04891</b> = Upgrade to BW FPs 91 &amp; 99, Piddocks Road to Park Road - Swadlincote</p>
Informal consultation started (7)	<p><b>04465</b> = Upgrade FP16 to BW – Church Broughton</p> <p><b>04671</b> = Add BW's from Mercaston Lane to Wild Park Lane and from Middle Wild Park to Wood Lane - Mercaston</p>	<p><b>04444</b> = Add FP from Tanners Lane to bank of River Trent - Repton</p> <p><b>04412</b> = Upgrade to BW FPs 8 &amp; 9 - Newton Grange and FP10 - Eaton &amp; Alsop</p> <p><b>04395</b> = Add FP at Intakes Lane - Middleton by Wirksworth and Hopton</p> <p><b>04431</b> = Upgrade FP22 to BW and add BW along Bowden Lane - Hope</p>	<p><b>04864</b> = Add FP between gate into Youlgrave Churchyard and FP14 - Youlgrave</p>
Decision made by DCC (3)		<p><b>04407</b> = Add BW Wyver Lane - Belper. <b>Rejected making of Order.</b> (Applicant has appealed to PINS)</p> <p><b>04386</b> = Add FP from Ferry Lane to River Trent - Twyford and Stenson. <b>Determined to make order</b></p> <p><b>04365</b> = Upgrade to BW FP1, FP9 (part), FP63 and add BW over ford River Wye - Wormhill, Blackwell in the Peak and Taddington. <b>Determined to make order</b></p>	
Orders made (4)	<p><b>04624</b> = Modify the particulars of the location of FP86 between Shallcross Road and Elnor Lane - Whaley Bridge</p>		<p><b>04322</b> = Upgrade FP8 to BW and downgrade BW7 to FP - Northwood &amp; Tinkersley</p> <p><b>04386</b> = Add FP from Ferry Lane to River Trent - Twyford and Stenson</p> <p><b>04603 &amp; 04760</b> = Add RB along Boggy Lane - Church Broughton</p>
Passed to PINS (1)	<p><b>02853</b> = Upgrade BW50 to RB from Sitch Lane to Spinnerbottom, New Mills</p>		
Orders confirmed (2)	<p><b>04274</b> = Upgrade FP102 to BW – Hartington UQ</p> <p><b>04312</b> = Add FP from Commonsie Road to FP30 and from FP30 to Springfield Road - Barlow</p>		
<p>FP = Footpath BW = Bridleway RB = Restricted Byway BOAT = Byway Open to All Traffic  <b>NB: Those in the Peak District LAF area are shaded in grey.</b></p>			

### Aim 3: An improved network

With funding secured through the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), Active Travel England, the County Council's Highways Capital Programme and Natural England/ Pennine National Trails Partnership, work is continuing to develop and improve several priority sections of Derbyshire's Key Cycle Network, as well as progressing some of the next steps for the Active Travel Masterplans in Belper, Glossop and Ilkeston, as described below.

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):** A 205-mile, multi-user National Trail running from Middleton Top, near Wirksworth to Ravensdale in Cumbria.
  - Grant applications to Natural England allocated through the Pennine National Trails Partnership, combined with match funding from the County Council, will be used to support the ongoing maintenance of the existing 60 miles of the PBW through Derbyshire in 2026/27. These also fund a Project Officer to oversee and undertake works on the ground. This winter/spring has seen general maintenance being focused on vegetation clearance with the continued help of Groundwork volunteers working at various locations, including Hayfield and Glossop, along with essential clearance of cross drains between Birch Vale and South Head. A recycled plastic bench has been installed along the Sett Valley Trail near Hayfield, increasing the stopping points along this busy section and a replacement picnic bench also in recycled plastic has been installed at Middleton Top. The replacement of anti-slip surfaces on the road crossings is being progressed, with the A6 at Blackwell in the Peak now completed and the A515 at Pomeroy planned, using funding provided through the Highways Capital Programme. Surface and drainage improvements are also being programmed this summer for



Highstool Lane near Chelmorton (a section shared with the interim route for the White Peak Loop), along with the clearance and resurfacing of a short section of the onward route alongside the A515 to the west of Street House Farm.

- On the development side, work is continuing for one of the three missing sections of the PBW around the west side of Glossop again with funding from Natural England allocated through the Pennine National Trails Partnership, as well

as active travel funding from EMCCA. 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. The route includes proposals for a multi-user bridge over the river and signalised crossings on the roads at either end. Officers continue to liaise with the various landowners and ecological/river condition surveys are now complete. To help with the design and future planning application, a flood risk assessment is also being planned, along with a geotechnical survey at the proposed location for the bridge to help better understand the underlying ground conditions.

- **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, helping to support the visitor economy.



- Work is continuing on 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 the Buxton Walk and Ride Network.
- Preliminary designs and high-level costings have been completed for a section of the WPL between Green Lane, next to Buxton Community School and the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout in Fairfield. The route will now be taken forward in stages, with funding available from Active Travel England to progress the section between Buxton railway station and the A6 Hogshaw Roundabout to detailed design in 2026/27.
- Detailed designs are being finalised for improvements to the surfacing and drainage of the Byway across Fairfield Common.
- Feasibility work to scope and assess route options is commencing on the section of the WPL between Matlock and High Peak Junction, near Cromford. This also coincides with part of the Derwent Valley Trail. Officers will be working closely with the Derwent East Bank Track Project, a partnership between Matlock Civic Association, Matlock Bath Development Association and the Derwent Valley Trust.

- The options at Rowsley to connect the trail head in the car park at Old Station Close with Church Lane are currently being explored.
- Further surface/drainage improvements are being planned for Coombs Road, near Bakewell.
- The refurbishment of the 200m long boardwalk situated between Harrison Way in Darley Dale and the car park off Old Station Close at Rowsley has now been completed (pictured right). The work has been carried out to ensure that it is safe and accessible throughout the year for walking, wheeling and cycling. The existing decking has been overlain with new hard-wearing deck planks which have a ribbed surface profile. This provides a highly slip resistant finish, also allowing water to drain away and thereby reducing the risk of ice forming in cold conditions.
- More information about the WPL, including updates on future developments for various sections of the route can be found here: [White Peak Loop - Derbyshire County Council](#)



- **Active Travel Masterplans (ATMs):** Work is continuing to progress several of the recommendations in the ATMs which have been



produced to improve connectivity within the market towns of Belper, Glossop and Ilkeston. Capability Funding from Active Travel England is being used to help progress several strategic KCN routes. This

includes producing preliminary designs and high-level costings for a section of the Derwent Valley Trail between Belper and Duffield, as well as investigating possible routes for the Great Northern Greenway through Ilkeston. In Glossop, the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust has been commissioned to conduct a review and develop options for improved walking, wheeling and cycling routes through the western areas of Glossop (Gamesley/ Dinting) to Glossopdale School. The report and route options study are due to be completed by the end of

May. As well as the longer-term strategic interventions, funding is also available to deliver more short-term interventions/ quick wins, such as dropped kerbs, footway resurfacing and cycle parking.

- **Safer Roads Fund Schemes:**

The Safer Roads Fund is a UK government initiative that provides local highway authorities with funding to implement practical safety upgrades on England's highest-risk, local A-roads with the aim of proactively reducing fatal and serious collisions. Whilst typical measures include installing average speed cameras, junction redesigns, roadside barriers, rumble strips, anti-skid surfacing, and clearer road markings/signs, there is also an opportunity to make some improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders for whom these roads can present a significant barrier. especially where there is no safe onward connection.

- **A5004 Long Hill between Buxton and Whaley Bridge:**

Following substantial resurfacing work, surface dressing has been completed on a section of Old Road between Brookfield Cottage and the White Hall Outdoor Activity Centre which incorporates part of Buxton BOAT 28. Planning permission has now been granted by High Peak Borough Council for a shared use facility through existing farmland and the site of a Severn Trent Water reservoir alongside the A5004. When complete this will create a link between the SE end of Old Road and the shared footway/cycleway which has already been provided between Coldspring Plantation and the junction of the A5004/A53 in Buxton. Footway improvements proposed for the area between Vaughan Road and Mevril Road in Whaley Bridge have been programmed for July. Following the confirmation of a DMMO back in March, improvements are being planned for Hartington Upper Quarter Footpath 102, now upgraded to bridleway between Long Hill opposite the bridleway from White Hall down into the Goyt Valley. This will include the replacement of an existing footbridge.

**A5012 Via Gellia:** A new footbridge has been installed on the public footpath near Tufa Cottage. The off-road connection between Hedge Lane and Green Lane at Pikehall is being programmed for June/July time. In order to improve safety for pedestrians looking to cross the main road near the Via Gellia Colour Works, a new flight of steps, handrail and landing area are due to be installed at the SE end of Bonsall Footpath 2.

- **A57 Snake Pass between the outskirts of Glossop and Sheffield:** Other measures to improve connections between existing rights of way are being considered at three locations – The Snake Pass Inn, Hope Cross to Bridge-End Pasture and Cutthroat Bridge. Further information can be found on pages 24-28 of the County Council's report presented to the National Park

Authority meeting on 22 May 2026 under agenda item 11: ([Public Pack](#)) [Agenda Document for National Park Authority, 22/05/2026 10:00](#) For Cutthroat Bridge, designs have been produced which include a handrail on the unofficial path from the nearby layby. It is proposed to reinstate the stone surface along the verge on the south side of the A57 to provide a better connection between the two public footpaths on either side of the Snake Pass Inn.

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

- **Walk Derbyshire:** A summary of the last four years of Walk Derbyshire and the various initiatives to encourage more people to get out and walk more can be found here: [A quick summary of the last four years of Walk Derbyshire](#) - There is now a network of walking groups which meet regularly in all districts and boroughs in Derbyshire, including the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales, along with a programme of regular led walks for people of different ages and abilities, including wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility.
- **Cycle Derbyshire:** An article about cycling the White Peak Loop in May's edition of the Derbyshire Life magazine describes a two-day guided e-bike tour of the route: <https://wheresems.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Circling-the-White-Peak.pdf>

#### **Aim 5: Greater community involvement**

- **Volunteer contribution:** As part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Groundwork Five Counties, just over 357 volunteer days were delivered in 2025/26, estimated to be worth around £71,221. During Quarter 4 (January to March 2026) work was undertaken across various sites, including the Pennine Bridleway, Bolsover Loop (Clowne Greenway/ Archaeological Way), White Peak Loop, Little Eaton Greenway and the former Canal, as well as footpaths in Overseal. Volunteers carried out much needed maintenance and improvements, including footpath surveys, dealing with fallen trees, cutting back encroaching vegetation, creating wildlife habitat, providing bird and bat boxes, litter picking and essential drainage work. It was also reported that volunteers had been receiving lots of positive comments from members of the public. A new SLA is underway for 2026/27 with dedicated groups of volunteers already making a difference on several of Derbyshire's multi-user trails, countryside sites and public rights of way.



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