

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 7

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire
Progress Report September 2008 to March 2009

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Purpose of report

To present Forum members with an update on key items of progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's RoWIP during 2008/09.

A detailed monitoring report for the whole year in line with that submitted for 2007/08 will be presented to the June meeting of the Forum.

Progress September 2008 – March 2009

Below are the key items of delivery in relation to the five RoWIP aims:

Aim 1 – Existing network

- The BVPI 178 ease of use surveys for 2008/09 have been completed. November's survey produced a pass rate of 71.1% with May's results slightly higher at 74%, giving an overall figure of 72.5% for the year, achieving the target set. Aspects which affect ease of use gave good pass rates, varying from 84.1% to 93.8%. There was a slight reduction in performance for bridges compared with last year but other areas such as signposting, obstructions, path furniture, reinstatement after ploughing and cropping all improved.
- Aim 1c) the County Council's ploughing and cropping leaflet which offers advice to farmers is being redesigned.

Aim 3 – Connected and accessible network

- Aim 3a) Pennine Bridleway National Trail – a major road crossing point on Monk's Road near Glossop has been designed and funding is in place to implement the scheme on the ground.
- Aim 3a) Bridleway improvements – the RoWIP has funded a horse box parking scheme being trialled in the NE of the county.

- Aim 3b) Links to District Plans – contact has been made with Borough/ District Councils for Amber Valley, High Peak/ Derbyshire Dales and those in the NE of the county about getting the RoWIP and Greenway strategies included in the Local Development Frameworks (replacing local plans).
- Aim 3c) Improved accessibility – work is in hand to upgrade the end of the Sett Valley Trail in New Mills to provide direct wheelchair access to the local doctor’s surgery and leisure centre from the trail.
- Aim 3c) Improved accessibility – surface improvements have been carried out on Tupton Footpath 1 and a new access barrier provided.
- Aim 3c) Improvements to infrastructure on promoted routes - the Peak Park Rangers have completed signage and access improvements for the section of the Limestone Way in the National Park, with funding from the RoWIP.
- Aim 3d) Routes to local amenities – Morton Footpath 3 which provides access to local shops/ post office has been upgraded.
- Aim 3e) Greenway development – the West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy has been approved and published. Work is now underway to review the East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy. Several schemes are being progressed on the ground:
 - The Killamarsh Greenway was officially opened.
 - Work has been completed on major surface improvements to 4.2km of the Beighton to Staveley section of the Trans Pennine Trail.
 - A new 0.35km Greenway link has been completed with the upgrade of the Setts Path at Wingerworth providing a new multi user link from the primary school and the village to the A61 and transport links into Chesterfield.
 - Planning permission has been received and work has started on site for the first section of the Great Northern Greenway around Breadsall, including a section within Derby City.
 - Work is underway to complete the Conkers Circuit in the National Forest to Greenway standard and two monitoring stations have been installed on the route in Derbyshire.
 - The Trent Valley Greenway has been included as a case study in the EMGIN (East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network) Green Infrastructure Guide.
 - The RoWIP is helping to fund surface improvements on the Monsal Trail to bring the northern section from Hassop Station up to full Greenway standard.
- Aim 3f) Vehicles in the Countryside – a start has been made on reviewing the existing policy and work is progressing on drawing

up management plans for routes identified in the sustainability pilot within the Peak District National Park.

Aim 4 – Promotion and Publicity

- Aim 4a) Signage – work is continuing to provide more information through the use of symbols, either on signposts directly or through additional signage to inform users of who can use each type of public right of way.
- Aim 4c) Promote the network for healthy walking schemes – discussions are taking place with the County Council’s Wellbeing section about a project to promote walking for health on a countywide approach.

Aim 5 – Community Involvement

- Aim 5a) Work with local councils - Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire is continuing to work with five local councils in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales areas. DCC Area Rangers are also working with a further six councils: Middleton by Wirksworth, Hognaston, Ildridgehay, Old Bolsover, Ashover and Findern.
- Aims 5a) and 5b) Bolsover Countryside Partnership is delivering RoWIP improvements on the ground.