

Greenway Strategy for West Derbyshire and the High Peak

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Derbyshire County Council has undertaken a study to outline proposals to develop a strategic network of multi-user routes, or Greenways, for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility difficulties, across the geographical area of West Derbyshire.

Greenway development is seen as a valuable asset that cuts across many disciplines and meets many of the current targets and policy initiatives supported by Central Government. Greenways improve accessibility to facilities, services, schools, work, places of interest and to the countryside. It provides alternative transport choices and links communities together to reduce isolation and promote independence and well being. Additional benefits are linked to the creation of new tourism based infrastructure to promote economic growth and sustainable development. In the West of the County this will provide particular benefits to business potential within the Peak National Park.

Purpose of strategy

This strategy extends the area of study of the East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy and the South Derbyshire Greenway Strategy. It will form a strand of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and will inform the Local Transport Plan 2006/11 by extending the Derbyshire Cycle Network throughout the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Districts.

Research undertaken

A desktop study of the area, site investigations and consultations with relevant key stakeholders and access providers were carried out to contribute the information necessary to identify the resulting proposed routes.

Analysis and Conclusions

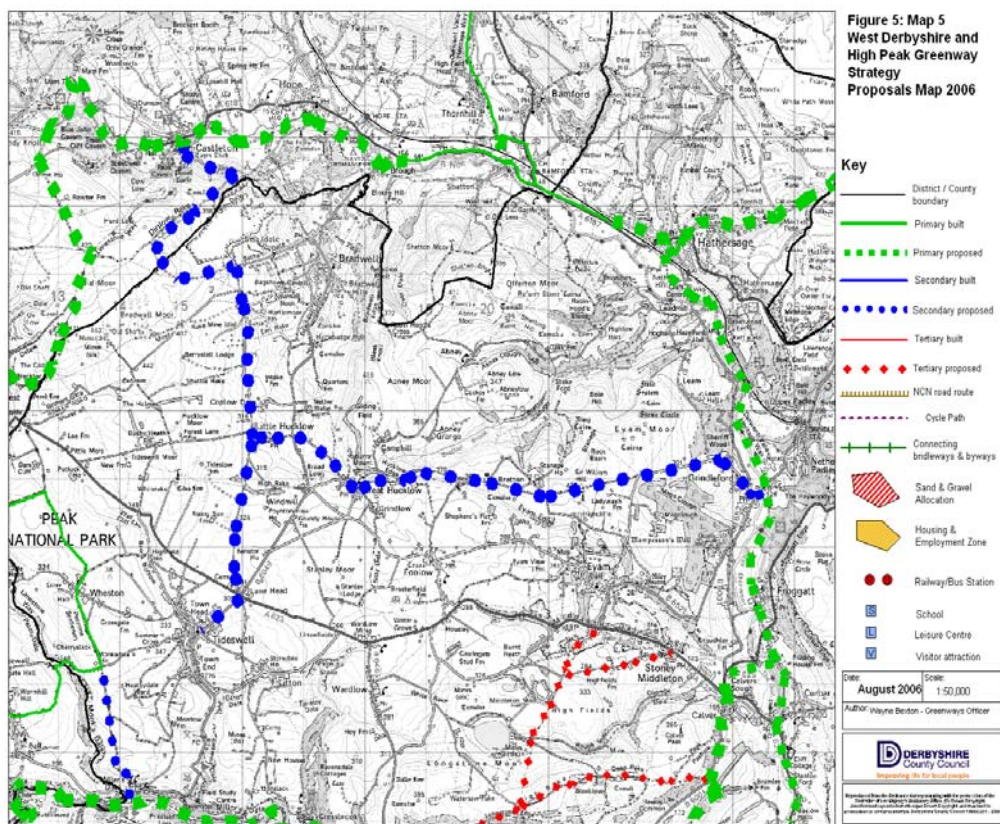
The analysis showed that the study was generally met with enthusiasm and a great deal of support for the development of a Greenway network in West Derbyshire. Many routes were proposed by individuals, Local Authorities and corporate bodies that will further support existing or proposed strategies, plans and policies generated by the consulted organisations.

The Vision

The long term vision for the area is to develop a network of multi-user traffic-free Greenways across Derbyshire Dales and the High Peak to provide long distance, middle distance and shorter circuits that interconnect with each other and the existing highway network. The routes will connect people and places to enhance recreational and utilitarian journeys, on high quality and attractive pathways.

The proposed network is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: An example of a route proposals map.



Routes which are considered to meet the study objectives in full at the present time have been described in this report as **Primary Routes**, and it is recommended that these should be given the highest priority for funding and development.

1. Other routes which warrant inclusion in the strategic network but are not as important have been defined as **Secondary Routes** for reasons which vary from route to route. In some cases secondary routes may be important in a local context but offer less benefits in terms of linking settlements throughout the study area. In other cases there may be real long term benefits to be gained in promoting a route, but it may be impractical to achieve it in the short term (the next 5-10 years).
2. Finally, many other routes exist which will form important connectors to the greenway network, but have no capacity to provide for either full multiple use or connections at a strategic level. These are referred to as **Tertiary Routes**.

It is important that implementation of all the identified network is vigorously pursued to achieve the objective of linking urban areas, within and surrounding the defined area, with the rural environment and countryside attractions. The primary network should be given priority because it best fulfils the objectives, but this should not prejudice the development of other components all of which can be regarded as integral to the success of the overall concept.