

Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan – Executive Summary

Overview

The Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan sets out a strategy to improve infrastructure for walking, cycling, and wheeling across the Hope Valley. It aims to enhance safety, connectivity, and accessibility for residents and visitors, supporting a shift away from car dependency toward more sustainable, healthy, and inclusive travel modes.

Background

The Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan emerged from the Derbyshire Cycling Plan 2016-2030, which aims to enhance active travel across the region and make Derbyshire the most connected county for cycling in England by 2030. The plan supports national policies, including the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, which targets 50% of all journeys in urban areas to be made by walking or cycling by 2030.

The masterplan builds on previous initiatives, notably the Pedal Peak project, which focused on developing cycling routes and promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transport in the Peak District. This strategy emphasises the need for improved active travel infrastructure and community engagement.

The masterplan is informed by workshops held last autumn, which identified local needs and priorities. It aims to create a network of active travel routes that connect key destinations, improve safety, and reduce reliance on cars, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the Hope Valley. The project seeks to create a sustainable travel culture while addressing the unique challenges of the area.

Vision and Objectives

The vision for the Active Travel Masterplan is:

- To enhance active travel across the Hope Valley. We aim to connect towns and communities with key attractions, education, and employment sites. By linking existing routes, transport hubs, and tourist centres, we'll encourage active travel for everyone.
- We'll create direct, attractive, traffic-free routes where possible for walkers, wheelers, and cyclists, with clear signage and barrier-free access.
- This improved infrastructure will promote healthier, greener transportation while increasing footfall to support local businesses and our economy.

A number of objectives have been developed for the Active Travel Masterplan which align with the Derbyshire Cycling Plan – these are set out below.

Increase the number of people walking, wheeling and cycling for trips across the Hope Valley, helping to support localised decarbonisation and improvements to health and wellbeing.

Provide active travel connectivity across the Hope Valley providing both a leisure and utility function, including links to local communities, job opportunities, education sites and public transport hubs.

Provide a high-quality network which is accessible to all for walking, wheeling and cycling, whilst also providing for equestrian use where practicable.

Improve routes to leisure and tourism attractions, accommodation providers, green space and the countryside to enhance accessibility to the natural environment.

Supporting local businesses through increased footfall & passing trade by cycle.

Masterplan Themes

Key themes have been developed unique to the Hope Valley area to guide the proposals for the masterplan. These are:

- **Strategic Connections:** Enhancing safety on main routes (A6187, B6001, A623, B6049)
- **Linking to Schools and Colleges:** Creating safer journeys to schools
- **Cycle Parking:** More secure parking and better rail station access
- **Wayfinding and Signage:** Clear signage to connect communities and highlight destinations
- **Access to Rail Stations:** Improve railway connectivity in Hope Valley, addressing car dependency due to some stations lying outside settlements.
- **Derwent Valley Heritage Way and Wider Connectivity:** Develop the Derwent Valley Cycle Route to create a traffic-free paths through the region, benefiting residents and tourists.
- **Reducing Severance:** Address barriers created by limited road networks and rivers, enhancing cycling infrastructure in Hope Valley.
- **Local Links:** Improve connections between neighbourhoods to enhance access for pedestrians, cyclists, and mobility aid users in areas with narrow streets and limited space.
- **Business, Tourism, and Local Attractions:** Support the local economy by managing the transport network to accommodate the area's popularity among outdoor enthusiasts.
- **Settlement Centres and Communities:** Enhance connectivity within the Peak District National Park to improve movement between settlements that have evolved from agricultural roots to tourism destinations.

Details regarding interventions for specific locations are provided on pages 49-74 of the Masterplan.

Engagement

The plan has been informed by:

- Early stakeholder engagement (Autumn 2024), including workshops with community groups and elected members.
- Findings from Hope Valley Climate Action and the Derbyshire Dales Climate HUB.
- Ongoing input from local representatives, accessibility groups, and schools.

A full public consultation is scheduled for summer 2025, providing residents with the opportunity to comment on the masterplan. We are seeking feedback on the potential interventions specific to each settlement.

Benefits

- Improved safety for vulnerable users.
- Reduced traffic congestion and car dependency.
- Better air quality and lower emissions.
- Healthier lifestyles through increased physical activity.
- Support for local businesses and tourism through improved footfall.
- A connected, inclusive, and environmentally responsible transport network.