

Greenway Strategy for South Derbyshire District

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 district of South 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 South Derbyshire this will provide particular benefits to business potential within the National Forest.

Purpose of strategy

This strategy extends the area of study of the East 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 District of South Derbyshire.

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 South 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 South Derbyshire 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, and features a wide circuit around the district with long distance connections leading away from the district boundaries. Furthermore, internal circuit routes link places of interest and community links connect settlements to the network.

Figure 1: The Proposed South Derbyshire Greenway Network

