

# **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 District 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**

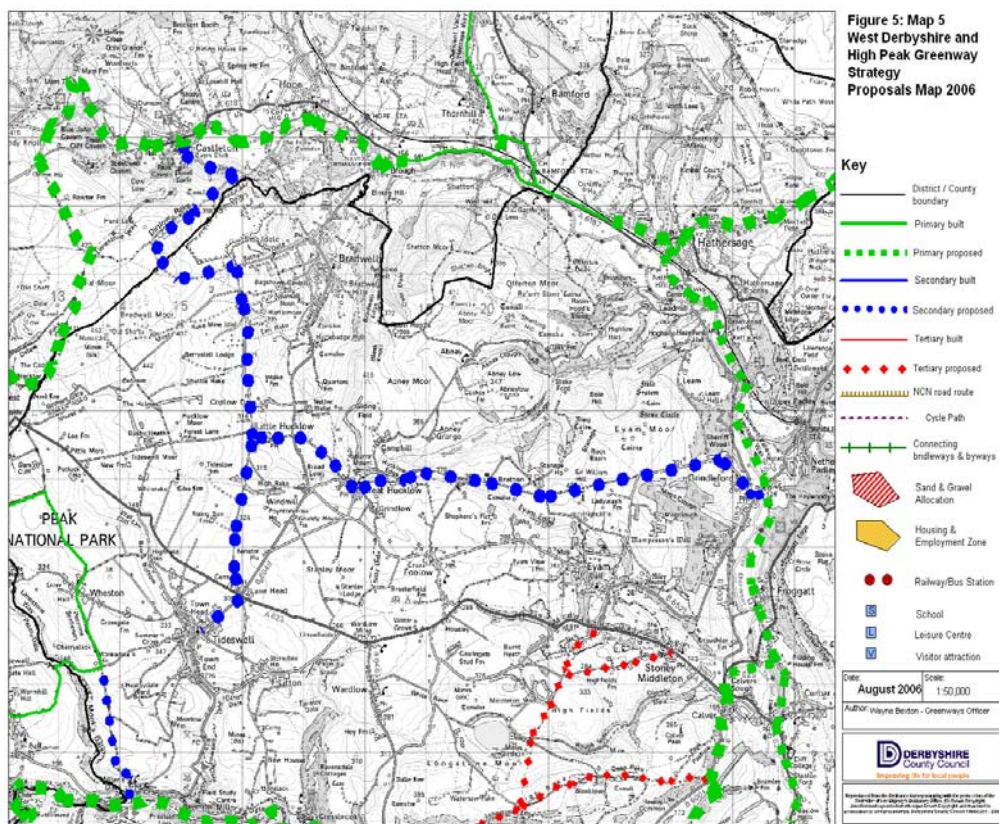
The analysis showed that the study was generally met with enthusiasm and a great deal of support for the development of a Greenway network in the West area of Derbyshire. Many routes were proposed by individuals, Local Authorities and corporate bodies that will further support existing or proposed strategies,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

An example route map of the proposed network is shown in Figure A below.

Figure A: An example of a route proposals map.



## The Strategy

The Strategy identifies 122 km of existing Greenways and 123 km of potential routes that could be developed in the future should opportunities present themselves.