

Keeping on the right track

Delivering rights of way improvements 2008/09





Derbyshire has some of the most beautiful countryside England has to offer.

We want you to be able to get out and about and enjoy it by making use of the 3,000 miles of public rights of way across the county. That includes footpaths, bridleways and byways as well as the many miles of other paths, trails and multi user Greenways that cross the county linking our urban areas into the countryside.

In order to do this we have produced a five year Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire which outlines our proposals for carrying out improvements from 2007 to 2012. These are some of the highlights from the second year of delivery which we have achieved working both on our own or in partnership with others.

Aim: Making your way easier:

Following what you asked for we said that we would focus on making the existing public rights of way network easier to use.

- To help you find your way 540 new roadside signposts were installed across the network during the year
- Over 625 miles of our most popular promoted routes were inspected during the year and minor works carried out to ensure that they are in good condition Path surveys were carried out in 32 parishes across the county to build up an accurate picture of the condition of the network
- We have been working actively with 15 parish or town councils to improve local path networks. A further 60 local councils have been making use of funding that we offer under a scheme that encourages

them to carry out minor works such as cutting back nettles and other vegetation or waymarking paths

- Volunteers worked for 1,346 days on projects to help improve access to local paths (which we estimate is equal to us paying for over £250,000 of work)

Aim: It's all mapped out:

We undertook to update the Definitive Map and Statement which provides a record of where routes are and who can use them

- Digital maps are now available on our website for 5 districts and boroughs within the county - High Peak and parts of Amber Valley being the latest to be added in 2008/09. The others include North East Derbyshire, South Derbyshire, Erewash and Bolsover. In total 1770 miles of public rights of way



have now been accurately digitised. If you don't have access to the internet at home why not call in at your local library and take a look.



Aim: Forging new links and providing a Greener network for Derbyshire

We said we would work to provide a more connected, safe and accessible network of paths suitable for all users

- We delivered 6 schemes during the year to provide improvements to benefit disabled people or to improve the level of easy access to paths, all at the request of local people: on the Sett Valley Trail in New Mills, at locations within Shipley Country Park and on several other paths around the county



Before



After

- 6 further schemes were completed to improve the quality of off-road links between villages or to improve access to local schools, shops or public transport. One of these schemes was to improve a path that links Stonebroom with Morton in North East Derbyshire. Local people now have a safe off-road link that they can use in all weather to access the local shops and Post Office

- We paid the Peak District National Park Authority to improve gates, stiles and signs along the section of the Limestone Way from Castleton to Bonsall to make it easier for people to use
- Two of our larger Greenway projects included:

Widening and re-surfacing nearly 4 miles of the towpath along the Peak Forest Canal between New Mills and Whaley Bridge to allow the path to be used by cyclists and people in wheelchairs or with pushchairs as well as walkers



Building a new 1.5 mile section of Greenway at Breadsall along the route of the former Great Northern Railway to provide a new link from within Derby City to just beyond Breadsall village funded by money from the East Midlands Development Agency. In future years we hope to develop the route all the way to Ilkeston



Before



After

- We have produced a document that sets out proposals to protect and develop a network of new Greenways in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales areas of the county.



- Several improvements have been delivered to benefit horse riders this year. We have re-surfaced 5 bridleways, including 2 major bridleways in Shipley Country Park. A horse box parking scheme has been successfully trialed to provide increased access to County Council car parks in the North East of the county. Progress has also been made in negotiating the route of the Pennine Bridleway through Glossop.

Aim: Promoting our paths:

- A new, promoted route was launched at Hayfield to commemorate the Kinder Trespass, which should also contribute to tourism in the area

Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan is available to view on the county council's website at:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/Access_recreation/rights_of_way/improvements

If you would like a paper copy of the Plan or have any suggestions for paths that could be improved, then

Call Derbyshire 08456 058 058



This leaflet can be made available in other formats. Please contact **Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058** for more information.