

Rights of Way Improvement Plan update – Rutland County Council

Ref	Action	Target Date	Progress at October 2012
1A	Conduct an annual condition survey of at least 20% of the total network length.	2007 - 2012	
1B	Continue to maintain a fully signed and waymarked network using a rolling maintenance programme developed using data from the annual survey.	2007 - 2012	
1C	Initiate a programme of signing all un-surfaced unclassified county roads (UICRs).	2008	Not started.
1D	Develop a maintenance policy and a priority system for categorising rights of way.	2012	Not started.
1E	Prepare a new rights of way maintenance contract and improved seasonal vegetation clearance programme.	2009	
1F	Map all paths in the clearance programme and identify key routes using priority system.	2009	Digitising and prioritising still not started.
1G	Develop a headland management scheme, whereby landowners are offered payments for cutting headland paths on their land.	2012	
1H	Develop a management strategy for the control of ragwort on the rights of way network and key road side verges. Publicise the procedure for reporting ragwort 'hotspots' to the Highway Authority.	2012	
1I	Work with local equestrian groups to carry out a survey which can then be used to develop an overhead vegetation clearance programme.	2011	
1J	Develop improved defect reporting procedures, including on-line systems.	2011	Waiting on IT to install RIA tools and updated version of STRATUS

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1K		Explore cost effective means of using recycled materials for maintenance on rights of way.		2009		Complete	
1L		Encourage the use of volunteers to carry out improvements to paths.		2007 - 2012		Scheme to be reviewed.	
1M		Establish management agreements with Natural England for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSi) crossed by public rights of way.		2009			
2A		Review the Definitive Map and Statement during life of the plan and publish a new map and statement for the county in stages over the next five years.		2009			
2B		Distribute copies of the new Definitive Map to all Council Offices, Local Libraries and Parish Councils.		2009			
2C		Continue work on the development of a digital definitive map so that it can be provided on-line at scales up to 1:2500.		2009			
2D		Seek to map other routes and land with public access (permissive routes, uUCRs) and make this information available to the public.		2009		Further development of Stratus will continue on delivery of RIA tools	
2E		Develop priority systems for handling applications for Legal Orders (PPO) (DMMO).		2012		PPO policy and schedule of rates now in draft but will probably not be introduced until the next ROWIP is published	
2F		Continue work with the County Surveyors Society Definitive Map Sub Group to develop an easy to use DMMO application pack.		2008		Complete.	
2G		Undertake research to determine the widths of paths where it is currently undefined		2012			

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2H		Catalogue existing Definitive Map anomalies, determine the preferred actions, and seek implementation.	2009	In progress.
2I		Identify all cross boundary routes and ensure consistency of status and alignment.	2012	
2J		Develop and maintain such digital registers as are required by legislation, incorporating such additional information as may be deemed appropriate.	2009	In progress.
3A		Continue to apply the principle of the 'Least Restrictive Option' when authorising new structures, and only authorise stiles in exceptional circumstances.	2009	Complete.
3B		Ensure all newly authorised structures conform to BS 5709.	2009	Complete.
3C		Encourage landowners to allow the County Council to install gates in place of existing stiles that require repair or replacement.	2007 - 2012	In progress.
3D		Develop a system for recording and authorising structures on the network. Officers will then seek the removal of those that are unauthorised and/or unnecessary.	2009	
3E		Identify key routes offering potential for increased use and carry out resurfacing and improvement where appropriate.	2007 - 2012	CPO procedures now being initiated at Lyndon.
3F		Develop a more robust enforcement policy building on the existing procedures that the authority has in place. Continue to maintain a database of 'repeat offenders' and take appropriate action against persistent non compliance.	2009	
4A		Upgrade footpaths to bridleways, where appropriate, to develop a more cohesive network of routes available to equestrians and cyclists.	2007 - 2012	Negotiations over upgrade of FP E248 ongoing. Seeking grant funding (WREN) for FP E202 (Oakham to Egleton)

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4C	Develop links between the Rutland Water perimeter track and the wider access network, and assist local riding groups in their efforts to secure greater equestrian access.	2009	No progress.		
4D	Seek creation agreements / orders to make missing links, where sufficient need has been established.	2009 - 2012	Routes included on the 'wish list' mapping layer will be investigated in order of popularity / number of requests.		
4E	Ensure that all gates fitted on routes with equestrian rights are fitted with latches that can be operated from horseback.	2009	In progress.		
5A	Identify existing routes that are suitable for users with restricted mobility.	2009	In progress.		
5B	Undertake accessibility audits to identify routes where improvements may be made to make them more accessible.	2009	Not started.		
5C	Working with Rutland Access Group (RAG) and other groups representing people with disabilities we will identify and improve routes for users with restricted mobility.	2009 - 2012	In progress.		
5D	Ensure all new and improved paths comply with the British Telecom 'Countryside for All' design standards where reasonable and practical to do so.	2009 - 2012	In progress.		
5E	Promote new and existing routes using an appropriate format and medium.	2007 - 2012	Development of mobile phone app may now be in conjunction with general tourism app – LSTF project officer		
6A	Prioritise improvements on routes used for existing Health Walks and identify routes with the potential to be used as part of a health walk.	2009	In progress.		
6B	Work with representatives from the PCT and WHI volunteers to develop packs of health-orientated routes on rights of way.	2012			
6C	Develop and promote a series of self-guided short walk leaflets for new walkers.	2012			

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6D	Seek to provide free transport for local 'Health Walk' participants to various sites around the county.	2007 - 2012	Complete.
6E	Support new physical and mental health initiatives that involve the use of the rights of way network.	2012	
6F	Establish a BTCV 'Green Gym' programme to assist with maintenance and improvement of the rights of way network.	2012	
7A	Assist in the promotion of local routes and events such as the 'Rutland Round' and the 'Round Rutland Ride' and encourage potential links with tourism and rural businesses.	2007 - 2012	In progress.
7B	Develop promotional literature describing a series of high quality circular routes for different classes of user, targeted around the edge of towns and villages, using appropriate formats and media.	2009 - 2011	In progress.
7C	Work with parish councils to erect map display boards at suitable locations throughout the county.	2009 - 2011	No requests. Should this be something we publicise?
7D	Support nationally promoted routes that pass through the county and publish guides that allow for sections of the paths to be used as day walks or rides.	2009 - 2011	Viking Way survey currently underway. Programme of works to be developed and prioritised.
7E	Develop the countryside access pages of the County Council website and investigate the feasibility of delivering on-line GIS mapping.	2009	Complete - Would like to review the PRoW pages on the website and would welcome any comments / suggestions.;
7F	Seek to develop links with tourism and accommodation providers to distribute information on the access network and promoted routes.	2009 - 2011	Distribution of walks leaflets and promotional material being handled by Discover Rutland.
7G	Seek opportunities to promote off-road cycling routes throughout the county to cyclists visiting Rutland Water.	2009 - 2011	In progress.

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7H	Provide information on the accessibility of routes, as determined by accessibility audits, using suitable formats and media.	2009 - 2012	Not started.
8A	Identify points where the rights of way network is crossed by the primary road network and seek opportunities to make and fund improvements.	2009	Not started.
8B	Identify where 'missing links' in the rights of way network require users to travel along busy roads and develop solutions including verge improvements, creation agreements / orders.	2007 - 2012	Mapping layer of requests from user groups now complete.
8C	Identify locations where the rights of way network is crossed by the rail network and, working with the appropriate authorities, develop measures to improve safety.	2009	In progress.
8D	Identify roadside verges and footway improvements that can provide safe links between rights of way. Compile a register of identified verges.	2011	In progress – see 8B
8E	Create 'Behind the Hedge' routes to provide missing links where appropriate, and safe to do so.	2009 – 2012	
9A	Seek to prevent development that would have a detrimental impact on the existing public rights of way network.	2007 - 2012	In progress.
9B	Ensure that all new developments link to the rights of way network by appropriate dedicated footpaths, cycleways and bridleways.	2007 - 2012	In progress.
9C	Working with both the local Planning Authority and developers, the County Council will produce a Guide to Development and PRoW.	2009 - 2011	Guidance for developers and design guide still in draft. Leicestershire project on hold indefinitely – to be raised at ADEPT.

Ref	Action	Target Date	Progress at October 2012
10A	Identify existing links between the rights of way network and local bus services.	2011	Not started
10B	Ensure that rights of way connections are considered when planning new bus routes and stops.	2008	In progress.
10C	Promote selected routes through timetables, bus route information maps, key bus interchanges and train stations.	2009 – 2011	Not started.
10D	Ensure that, wherever possible, promoted walks can be accessed using public transport.	2011	In progress.
10E	Provide relevant public transport information on promoted walk leaflets.	2011	In progress.

