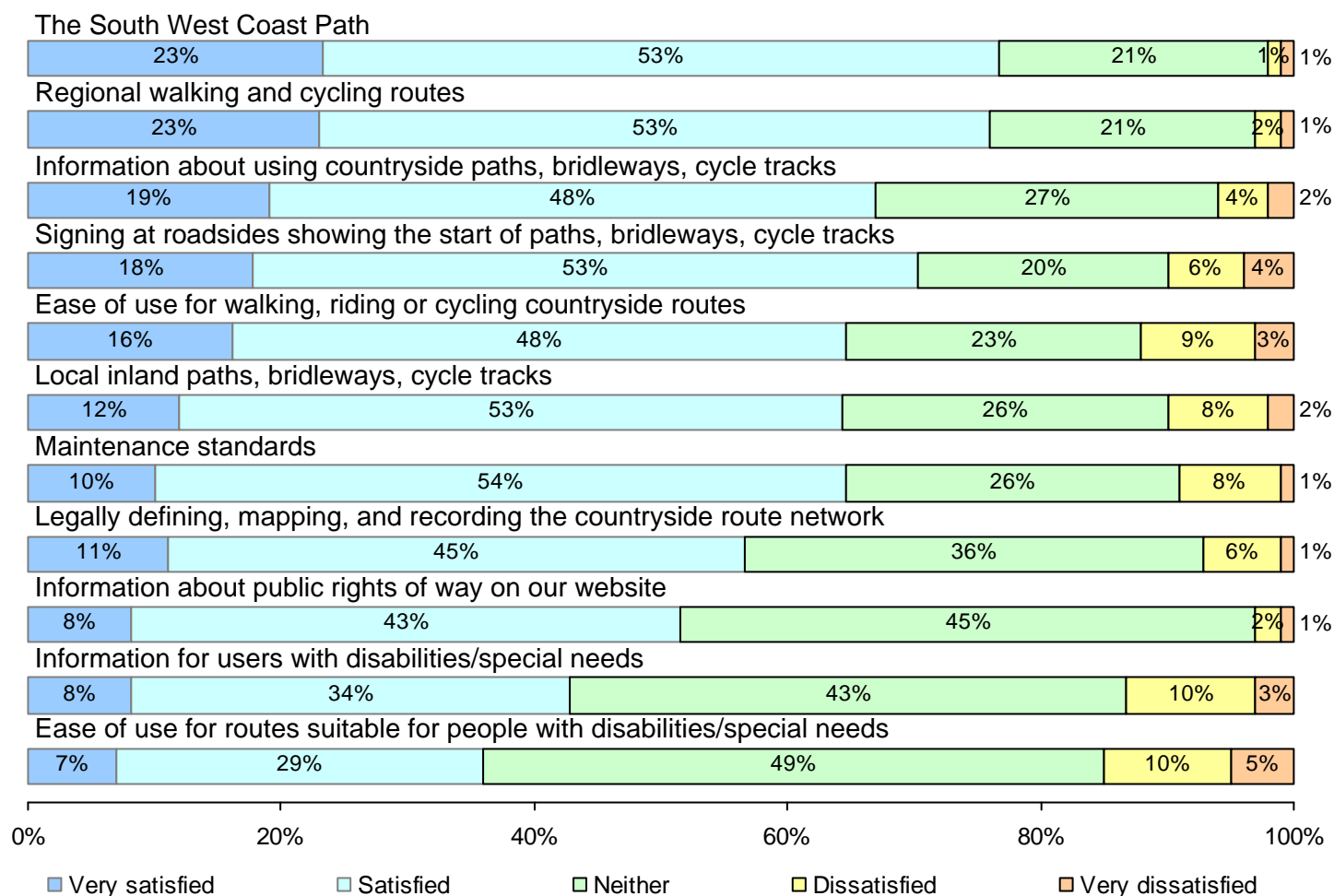


Public Rights of Way in Devon

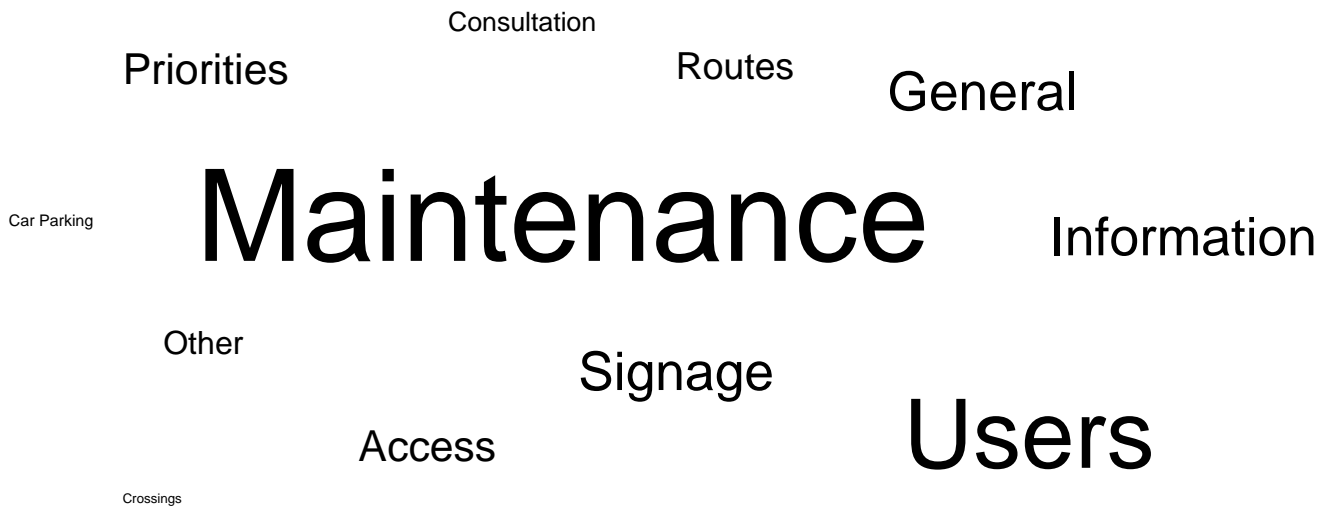
For each of the following aspects of the public rights of way network please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are by selecting the relevant box:



Please rate each of the following aspects of public rights of way

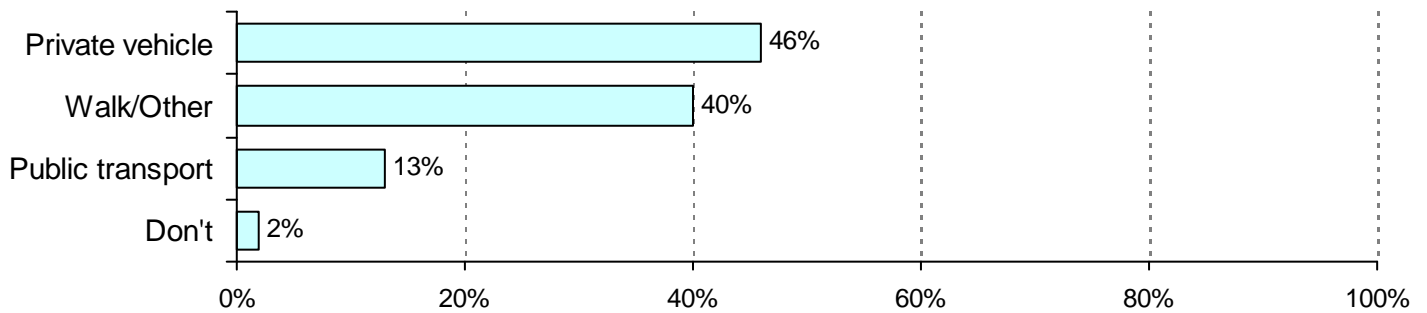
Aspect	Score
Signing at roadsides showing the start of paths, bridleways and cycle tracks	831
Ease of use for walking, riding or cycling countryside routes	808
Maintenance standards	793
Information for users with disabilities or special needs	771
Ease of use for routes suitable for people with disabilities or special needs	766
Information about using countryside paths, bridleways and cycle tracks	754
The South West Coast Path	747
Local inland paths, bridleways and cycle tracks	727
Regional walking and cycling routes e.g. Tarka Trail and Granite Way	726
Legally defining, mapping, and recording the countryside route network	694
Information about public rights of way on our website	624

Are there any ways in which we could improve the public rights of way network in Devon for you?

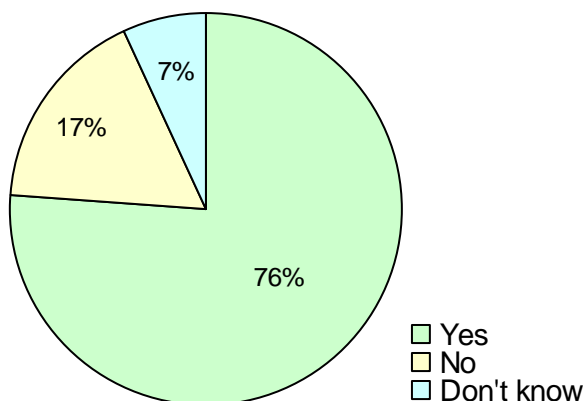


Over one-hundred suggestions were made as to how we could improve the public rights of way network in Devon. Top of the list was maintenance to make sure the paths were free from vegetation and obstructions. Concerns were also raised around other users, and how paths could be improved by stopping misuse by cyclists, horse riders, and dog walkers, amongst others. Increasing information, signage, and accessibility, including car parking, was also suggested. Some questioned the expenditure on public rights of way in the current economic climate.

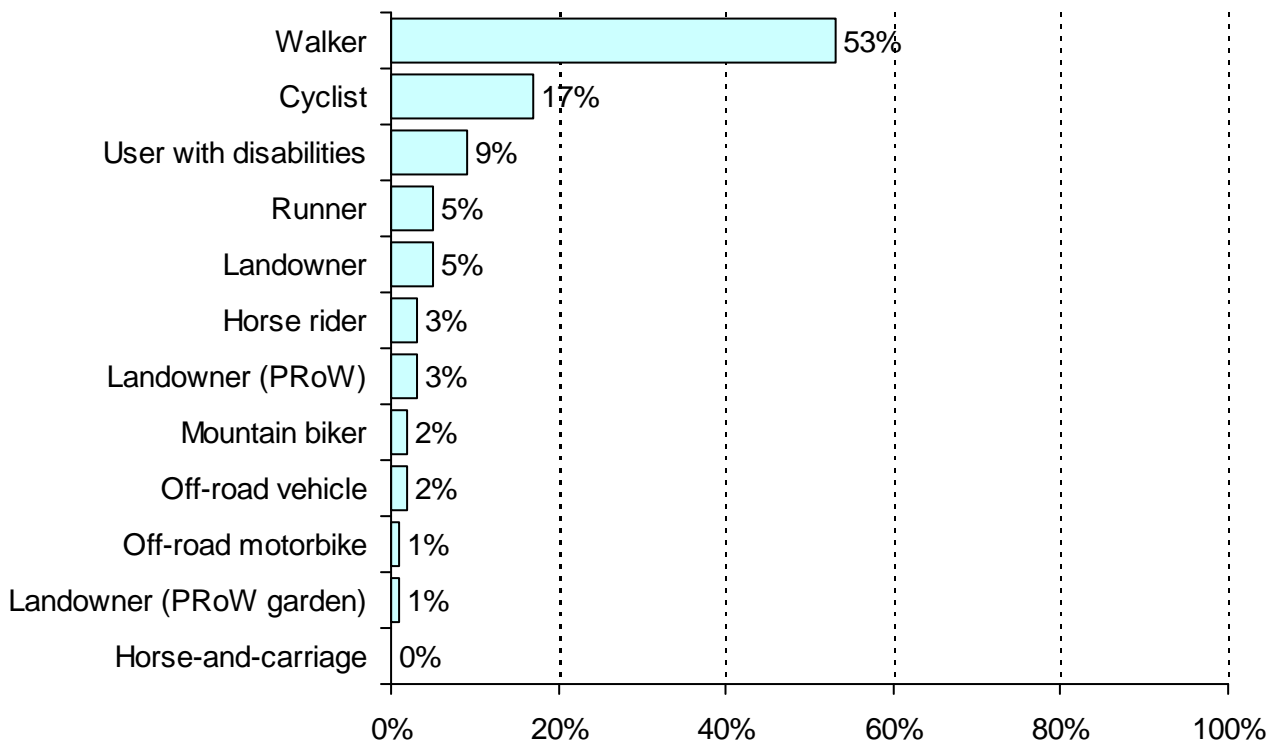
How do you normally reach the local countryside?



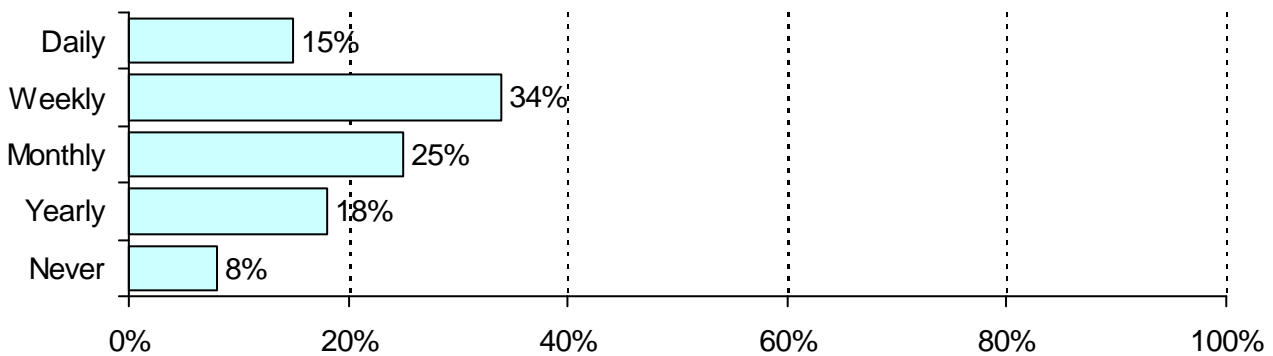
Do you think that the Council should promote walking, riding, and cycling, to help local tourist interests?



Please select any of the following that apply to you. I am a:



Please indicate how often you use public rights of way routes, for either leisure, health, or travel reasons



If you would like to make any further comments about public rights of way:

Over seventy further comments were made around Public Rights of Way, around a third were on the rights and responsibilities of way users. Some wished for people to take more responsibility when crossing land. Issues were raised of effects on livestock from dogs, to people leaving gates open. Dog owners were also asked to act responsibly in clearing up after them. Others suggested that notices could warn when cows have calves, or if bulls were present near the right of way. Clear signage could also assist people to keep to the right of way, though some respondents highlighted the need for landowners not to block or reroute the paths. Issues were raised around the shared use of paths with problems from motorbikes, off road vehicles, cycles, and horses.

Some people commented on the priority of Public Rights of Way. The comments appeared to be balanced between those who did not see this area as an priority in the current economic climate, against those that saw them as an asset that needed support. Accessibility was an issue for some respondents who highlighted that routes were not always “disabled friendly”. Improvements could also be made to information with suggestions including changes to the website, leaflets in libraries, or maps for sale. Where routes existed they needed to be properly maintained, perhaps by local rambling groups. Other suggestions included suggestion for new routes, or improvements for transport.

Tables and text

For each of the following aspects of the public rights of way network, please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are by selecting the relevant box:

	Very satisfied		Satisfied		Neither		Dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Information about using countryside paths, bridleways, cycle tracks	63	19%	163	48%	90	27%	15	4%	6	2%	337	100%
Information for users with disabilities/special needs	22	8%	92	34%	116	43%	28	10%	9	3%	267	100%
Information about public rights of way on our website	20	8%	106	43%	111	45%	6	2%	3	1%	246	100%
Signing at roadsides showing the start of paths, bridleways, cycle tracks	62	18%	181	53%	67	20%	19	6%	14	4%	343	100%
Ease of use for walking, riding or cycling countryside routes	54	16%	159	48%	78	23%	31	9%	11	3%	333	100%
Ease of use for routes suitable for people with disabilities/special needs	17	7%	74	29%	124	49%	24	10%	13	5%	252	100%
Maintenance standards	34	10%	184	54%	90	26%	28	8%	4	1%	340	100%
Local inland paths, bridleways, cycle tracks	41	12%	173	53%	84	26%	26	8%	5	2%	329	100%
Regional walking and cycling routes	72	23%	164	53%	66	21%	5	2%	3	1%	310	100%
The South West Coast Path	71	23%	165	53%	65	21%	4	1%	4	1%	309	100%
Legally defining, mapping, and recording the countryside route network	34	11%	139	45%	111	36%	19	6%	3	1%	306	100%

Please rate each of the following aspects of public rights of way (recoded so more important =3, less important =1)

	Score
Signing at roadsides showing the start of paths, bridleways and cycle tracks	831
Ease of use for walking, riding or cycling countryside routes	808
Maintenance standards	793
Information for users with disabilities or special needs	771
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Information about public rights of way on our website	624

Are there any ways in which we could improve the public rights of way network in Devon for you?

Category	Count
Maintenance	24
Users	18
Information	10
Signage	10
Access	8
Priority	8
Routes	7
Car Parking	3
Crossings	2
Consultation	1
General comment	10
Other	6

Maintenance

- To keep clear and cut back and maintain these rights of way, the least used areas can be somewhat dishevelled!
- Regular cutting of brambles, Regular maintenance of paths and path cleaning and better signage of public rights of way - and encouraging people to use them.
- Make them tidier, ease of use, close down rights of way that are not used.
- Most ROW are overgrown with brambles, etc. They should be kept at least walkable.
- Keep the footpath free of vegetation so they can be used safely.
- Keep the paths clean.
- Keep the paths clear of brambles.
- General maintenance only.
- By noting on website known obstructions/problems awaiting resolution.
- Ask people who use the rights of way on a regular basis to report any problems to the website.
- Ask walking, cycling clubs etc. to report regularly to you, to advise where landowners (or vandals!) have impeded paths, access, etc.
- Yes by examining footpaths which have been closed
- More regular inspections for obstructions, ploughing over by farmers.
- Stop farmers blocking or not keeping clear public rights of way.
- Some farmers change hedges/gateways and do not replace signs.
- Ensure public rights of way are not blocked by development. One local to me has been virtually impossible because of builders lorries.
- Act far more quickly where problems are; told you sometimes it takes years to sort out bridleway & footpaths that landowners have wrongly closed or blocked.
- Footpath has been blocked and stagnating by bureaucracy for years. There was said to have been a visit by an official which obviously did not take place as they came up with very bizarre measurements.
- Are you satisfied that all the public rights of way in Devon are open so that all may pass along them?
- Ensure they are well maintained for all weather conditions.
- Filling really deep muddy holes with core.
- Local groups to maintain public right of way.
- Make the paths wider ie Tarka Trail for bikers and pedestrians.

Users

- I think the network is adequate but care needs to be taken with certain users. Mountain biking across the moors for instance is causing problems in some areas.
- Ban cyclists from using soft surface paths. They churn up the ground, cause mud & flooding & should only be allowed on hard surfaces.
- Keep cyclists and sometimes even motorcyclists and skateboarders off pedestrian pavements
- Stop cycling on seafront footpath. It's very dangerous.
- Yes get cyclist off footpaths
- Ban horse riding/ bike riding other than on bridlepaths.

- Keep horses off of footpaths.
- Do more work to educate and prevent motorbikes from using footpaths.
- Enforcing the law i.e. coming down hard on people driving trial bikes and 4x4's where they shouldn't.
- The problem for ordinary walker is the dog mess and security for women walking on their own I manage a home for Adults with a learning disability. Unfortunately dogs are an issue; fouling on country footpaths especially by the canal.
- Ban dogs. More dog mess than ever before.
- More dog bins. This would help stop people throwing black poo bags into trees etc.
- More reminders and enforcement of "dogs on leads" where footpaths cross grazing land.
- Enforcement of fining dog owners for allowing their dogs to foul paths and routes.
- I use the Seaton Underfleet cycle track almost daily - whilst one appreciates the rights of others - pedestrians and dog walkers make the track less than satisfactory for cyclists unless on rare occasions the track is clear.
- The cycle tracks designated in Exeter for example can be confusing short stretches that turn back into the highway. It is often easier not to use the cycle way. Also as a pedestrian, cycling on the pavement is illegal as I understand it, and yet many are dual purpose cycle ways and pedestrian ways.
- Better sharing e.g. bikes and horses and walkers should be able to share.

Information

- Have clear definitions of which lanes are for walkers/cyclists only so we know which ones are safe.
- If the 'rules' and niceties of public paths, etc are known to all then there would be less frustration by frequent users.
- Make information available at pathway; e.g. - map of route points of interest, etc.
- Detail maps, showing accessibility for disabled.
- Send a list and map with the council tax demand.
- Booklet of countryside walks; support "stroll on".
- By making them public knowledge!
- Get all the information required from local info centre.
- Getting your own facts right in the first place.
- Visitors and locals alike are very confused about coastal path between Dawlish and Teignmouth.

Signage

- Signing.
- Better signage.
- Better signing to include start/finish distance, gradient, obstructions suitability for disabled. Done in small picture form.
- Ensure very good way marking - better than now. Far better signage at start and end of cycle routes.
- More signposts; a booklet to show start and finish of routes
- Destination and distance on signs other than public footpath.
- Signs at the start are there; once on to footpaths there are rarely the yellow dot signs to follow and it is difficult to follow path. Dangerous cattle on footpath routes.
- The right of way across Okehampton's golf course could be better laid out - I always get lost there.
- Along the way it is sometimes hard to see where cycle tracks/footpaths go.

Access

- Have a thought for the elderly, very young, and physically less able when constructing stiles. Some are extremely and unnecessarily high, so dangerous for those stiff in the joints and/or vertically challenged!
- I have difficulty walking. I can't get over styles as I can't lift my legs up.
- I use an invalid scooter, often paths are blocked by wheelie bins, signs, broken glass, dog mess
- pathways should be horizontally flat to enable use of wheelchairs as much as possible especially into health centres.
- More seating throughout to stop & rest
- Only better public transport to walks - especially spring/autumn
- The Dartmoor ring road is becoming unsuitable for the disabled they deserve to enjoy it as much as the able bodied. Not all have off road vehicles. It needs to be open to all.
- I belong to a walking group and feel Devon County Council do a good job in keeping public rights of way. The thing I have noticed increasing is farmers keeping bulls in fields that are public rights of way, this is not

DCC's fault

Priority

- Is this a priority at such a time of stringent cuts?
- Unnecessary in these hard times.
- Yes, stop all this work, it's irrelevant to all except a minority. We can't afford it all.
- Spend the money on something else.
- Don't consider this a huge priority.
- In these times of financial constraint, I think economies could be made in not supporting the rights of way network. The most used ones are kept open by that use.
- Invest more time and money in them. Make grants to organisations involved in maintaining them less difficult to obtain grant.
- Ask for donations to ward use of paths - coastpath from users

Routes

- Creating more routes and reviewing existing ones to meet new routes required as communities develop.
- Give us a few more bridleways and improve the most local one i.e. Birch to Goodleigh
- Joining up the paths - public rights of way
- Link Tiverton to Exeter by cycle path (off road)
- Open up the railway line (disused) from Hemyock to Cullompton. Bridge over Otter Mouth at Budleigh to create improve coastal footpath link.
- More shared cycle use of public rights of way.
- Yes, make the cycle route more accessible from the villages.

Car Parking

- Provide some parking areas near access points. Without parking how do you visit some of the countryside?
- Identifying long R of W and constructing car parking facilities etc. at the ends
- Provide parking bays where walks start along a country lane where there is probably no safe place to stop.

Crossings

- Better main road crossings - e.g. footpaths and bridleways crossing fast roads like A386.
- Provide a pedestrian bridge over Link Road on Two Moors Trail.

Consultation

- Public consultation re proposals to include "dry" runs of the proposed route and alternatives.

General comment

- Do we want to 'improve' it? There is ample good walking in Devon.
- Don't know. In my experience is ok.
- Happy with current provision.
- I am happy with the rights of way I use.
- I feel they are fine.
- I think its pretty good.
- I think the public are pretty well served and DCC and South Hams is doing a pretty good job managing things on a budget.
- The public rights of way system in this country is something to be proud of. It is admired by overseas visitors.
- The rights of ways that I use in this area are adequately maintained and signed.
- There has been a big improvement in my lifetime

Other

- Cost of engineering & construction of Granite Way Bridge over the Walkham River.
- Disallow the keeping of bulls of any breed on ground which has a right of way across it.

- Footpaths were either for postmen, workmen or church paths not for a load of ramblers to find fault with how the countryside is run.
- I would like to see more 'freedom to roam' legislation across farmland.
- Just keep them open and signed.
- Work with local Ramblers groups.

How do you normally reach the local countryside?

	Count	%
Private vehicle	253	46%
From home on foot, bike, horse or other method	222	40%
Public transport	72	13%
I do not visit the countryside	12	2%

The Devon coast and countryside attracts many thousands of visitors each year. Do you think that the Council should promote walking, riding, and cycling, to help local tourist interests?

	Count	%
Yes	280	76%
No	64	17%
Don't know	26	7%
Total	370	100%

Please select any of the following that apply to you. I am a:

	Count	%
Walker	291	53%
Cyclist	93	17%
User with disabilities or special needs	50	9%
Runner	27	5%
Landowner without rights of way across land	27	5%
Horse rider	17	3%
Landowner with rights of way across my land	17	3%
Mountain biker	13	2%
Off-road vehicle user	10	2%
Off-road motorbike user	5	1%
Landowner with rights of way through my farmyard/garden	3	1%
Horse-and-carriage driver	1	0%

Please indicate how often you use public rights of way routes, for either leisure, health, or travel reasons

	Count	%
Daily	57	15%
At least once a week	125	34%
At least once a month	92	25%
At least once a year	69	18%
Never	30	8%
Total	373	100%

If you would like to make any further comments about public rights of way, please use the box below:

Rights and Responsibilities (24)

- A little less info on "rights" and a little more on responsibilities of use would be appreciated (e.g. dogs on lead through sheep, and closing gates).
- As a landowner it should be illegal to walk dogs across, or on, a public footpath off a lead. We have many problems of cattle and sheep being driven into dangerous areas by such dogs. This applies to footpaths across fields. Dogs also stray off green lanes into fields.
- Many walkers stray from the designated paths, some cause havoc by leaving gates open, letting their dogs worry sheep/cows/deer. Rights of way are mapped. Those people that use coastal/cliff paths sometimes get into trouble by not keeping to the path.

- Farmers should be responsible for paths across their land.
- The public need to be made more aware that some farmland and animals are not good places for them to be. Right to roam anywhere is wrong!
- Regarding my earlier remarks about the "bulls" I never see a "beware of the bull" sign.
- Some locally are across fields used for grazing cattle and can be very unsafe, especially for walkers with dogs, when the cows have calves. It would be helpful if a notice to this effect could be placed at the entrance to these PRoW's.
- Signing to make sure dog owners act responsibly, not to use these routes as doggie toilets and to clean up after their pets. Several times I have trodden in mess, it is potentially dangerous for people with young families.
- Many users are responsible dog owners. Stiles and gates should be constructed to allow dogs to use easily and not have to be lifted up.
- Stop landowners re-routing footpaths onto lanes or far less enjoyable routes
- Where rights of way cross farmyards or other private areas - I would like to see very clear directions so that I am not a nuisance to the landowner.
- Rights of way are good in theory, but if a farmer blocks your way across his land you do not have any choice!
- There are areas on Dartmoor no longer open to us. It is not good to allow landowners to take back rights.
- Because I like walking I find that wandering through fields and looking at nature is very important to me. I would like to feel I had the legal right to do this without being harassed by an angry farmer.
- I'd like to see more done to stop bikers and 4x4's using footpaths and bridleways.
- I feel aggrieved as a walker that off road motorcyclists seem to feel they have ownership of some local green lanes. On several occasions I have had to jump out of the way.
- I have mentioned Harpford Woods. A mishmash of quad bikes, horses, pets, even a motorbike and cars on a bridleway. Has improved when the new manager of Clinton Estates arrived, and was in conversation with an EDDC councillor who lives nearby.
- Clearer signs reminding those using shared footpaths that they are shared and consideration should be given to others bikers, runners, walkers etc.
- Cyclists need to be more aware of the consequences of their riding on pavements and/or roads. If there is a cycle right of way they should use it and not stray from one to another.
- Mixed use between pedestrians and cyclists is often a "problem". Consult on ways to prevent such conflict.
- Should have do you feel more or less safe using public footpaths because I and a lot of my friends are getting fed up using the once safe public footpaths to having to jump out of the way of speeding cyclist on footpaths.
- Walkers and cyclists do not mix, I try to avoid joint footpaths/cycleways
- Officials should stop blocking and start measures which have been passed after rigorous public consultation years ago.
- Pedantic Enforcement Officers trying to justify their jobs by finding silly little things to complain about.

Priorities (12)

- I do not feel this is a priority at the present.
- Don't waste money on public rights of way in this economic climate. There are far more important priorities that need to be addressed if you need to save money. This is where cuts should be made.
- In the current climate rights of way should be at the bottom of the list for council spending.
- I appreciate public rights of way are important to some, but in these times of austerity, I believe the council should be focusing more on service provision, and dealing with the CSR [Corporate Social Responsibility?].
- I think that there are many more important things to spend money on. However I believe you have a legal obligation, so it's a 'no-brainer'.
- The labour and materials used on repairing fences, gates, and pathways is excessive and only provides the same as much cheaper option would provide.
- Too much about this. It's not important - we are capable adults - too much 'nannying'.
- There are many PRoW that are not used in a year but have to be maintained costing the council; these should be abandoned and more money should be spent on improving facilities (e.g. car parks, etc.) at the PRoWs that are in regularly use.
- 20% reduction maybe leaflets could be paid for by "tourist interests".
- The public rights of way system certainly in England is a wonderful thing and should be protected and maintained as best we can. It must be very important for the tourist trade in Devon to keep the open air facilities in good order.
- Give more financial support to charities & organisations supporting public rights of way.
- Public walks are a potential tourist asset, even from foreign tourists. They need security and planning for advertisement to tourists, and health treasure. Many "unemployed" single mother could benefit from using them. Also their child needs organisation.

Accessibility (7)

- Ease of routes for disabled users.
- Many are not disabled friendly.
- As a wheelchair user I went to Double Locks but unable to cross to other side. With this experience do not try anymore.
- Being unable to use "rights of way" and only confined to urban pavements - 2 want to see some action taken on a stretch of pavement in West St. (outside of the Shrubbery) where the pavement has a dangerous [slope] toward the road and still nothing gets done. The priorities seem to be "local history" - fined here - we are here now!!!
- As a mobility scooter user I have not yet found a usable route to venture forth
- More seating or resting posts, able to get by car to park at the start.
- cars often block the yellow bobble ramp from pavement to road level; police don't seem to patrol 'side roads', if only they would!
- As a wheelchair user I constantly use local footpaths and road crossing. Being stuck in middle of a zebra crossing with vehicles passing fore and aft. Little of no signage visible - no action taken by the authorities. Flaunting parking rights is normal and a "sorry mate" is not acceptable!

Information (6)

- Found the interactive map of rights of way very difficult to use; the map would be much better if it moved with the mouse, rather than by the arrows.
- Info. should be available, as the public right of way exists, but not many would understand all the changes that have gone on or over last few years, or younger folk, unless perhaps farming people, then they would be up to date? Leaflets at library with rules, rights, etc. helpful.
- They are generally good but handy small maps in PO's etc (paid for by customer) would be useful.
- I do not know where the public rights of way are, other than the roads which would be daily.
- Information available if needed. Much improved thoughts with disabilities. Users have more choice.
- Not clear who to contact if in need , is it County, District, or Parish Councils.

Maintenance (5)

- Foster ramblers groups to maintain them. This is a cheap option. Think in terms of people power.
- The larger public rights of way are well notified and maintained. It's the smaller local ones that are not maintained and difficult to locate.
- With the reduced budget for Public Rights of Way. I believe that first priority should be given to the maintenance countryside paths in order to encourage walking. There are probably more walkers than cyclists, horseriders, etc. and this is the exercise which most promotes the maintenance of good health.
- There is no point in encouraging more and more people without providing some facilities. I live near Shaugh Bridge. If the environment Dept. came and saw the waste (human waste) this would tell its own story.
- The B3181 have footpaths mostly back to Exeter and if they were clear it would be better for joggers and walkers who at the moment have to run in the road in places, with the lorry/access issues to Pinhoe.

Routes (5)

- Could provide more dedicated cycle tracks
- Important to link up Tarka Train/cycling/walking between Willingcrott - Braunton
- More ex-railway lines to be used for walking & cycling (e.g. route between Exeter & Tiverton).
- There should be more cycle paths away from traffic.
- Not enough bridleways

Transport (4)

- Many of the country roads do not provide safe footpaths for pedestrians.
- The more safe walking we offer, the more people will leave their cars behind. It is vital to look at safe networks, ideally by preventing cars from using certain roads or restricting speeds or parking. Don't just tarmac more routes away from the roads!
- In order to get more cars off the roads perhaps 'designated' free car parks by the roadside would encourage drivers to walk more.
- Invest in 'hopper' buses for the coast path and over trafficked areas.

Other

- Horsriding and biking are major causes of damage to the natural environment
- Here's a suggestion. Tax horses that foul the pavements and cycle tracks (i.e. all that use the road). - Increase the dog licence . They still foul the pavements.
- Because I walk alone, I stick to open areas and paths that are frequented by other walkers on a regular basis.
- More influence by town councils on what is provided within town boundaries.

Comments (7)

- I believe the PROW in Devon to be essentially in good order, well signposted.
- They are pretty well signed in Devon (Dorset is better!) but really pleased with this facility - better than abroad by a country mile.
- We use Anchor Wood on a regular basis and I must say it is usually well kept and litter free.
- OK please do not change anything.
- All those used by me are maintained well. Thanks.
- Generally good.
- Cycle path is brilliant.

Question (1)

- Are there any PROW that have been obstructed for years because of the want of action by the DCC against the landowner?