

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ACTION PROGRAMME 2006-2007

Devon County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) was published in July 2005. It has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 and takes account of the guidance issued in 2002 by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It includes sections by Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities. The RoWIP forms a strand of the Devon Local Transport Plan (DLTP) 2006-2011. **The main objective of the RoWIP is to improve public rights of way and access for all.**

The CRoW Act required local highway authorities to prepare a statement of the action it proposes to take for the management and improvement of local rights of way with particular regard to:

1. the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
2. the opportunities provided by local rights of way (and in particular footpaths, cycle tracks, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic) for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area; and
3. the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.

Defra guidance suggests that statements of action should make proposals for taking the required action and state, in broad terms, how those proposals are to be realised. This **Annual Action Programme** provides more detailed targets for the year ahead which Devon County Council intends to undertake to implement the RoWIP. **Individual schemes** will be identified following prioritisation of existing suggestions where these fit with the objectives of the DLTP and RoWIP. The programme will be monitored and updated on an annual basis.

The Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities have produced separate Annual Action Plans, available on the Devon County Council website at www.devon.gov.uk/rowip.

The Annual Action Programme summarises the actions which Devon County Council intends to undertake in order to implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan over the coming financial year. Green shading indicates that an action goes beyond a statutory duty and may be deemed as a RoWIP Action. The programme is not exhaustive but focuses on new initiatives or significant ongoing activities and is intended to cover a wide range of Devon County Council's services and functions. A glossary of abbreviations can be found on page 8.

Outline Budget information

£80,000 has been allocated for 2006-7 for the development of the strategic walking and riding network and £117,000 for additional improvement work through the Devon Local Transport Plan.

RoWIP Objectives (from Rights of Way Improvement Plan – July 2005)

4.1	Management of the Access Network	
4.1A	Legal – Definitive Map and Statement	Ensure that the Definitive Map and Statement provide an accurate record of public rights of way
4.1B	Legal – Public Path orders	Work within the existing legislative framework to improve the network of public rights of way for all
4.1C	Maintenance	Ensure that the public rights of way network is maintained at an appropriate level
4.1D	Signing and Waymarking	Ensure that all public rights of way are signed and waymarked appropriately
4.1E	Information and Communication	Improve the quality of information and communication
4.1F	Road Safety	Improve safety for non-vehicular users on and crossing roads
4.1G	Planning	Ensure that the planning process pays due regard to existing public rights of way and, where possible, leads to improvements
4.1H	Access Land	Develop opportunities for Access Land and to integrate this with the rights of way network
4.1I	Permissive Access	Improve opportunities through permissive access agreements
4.2	Provision for Users	
4.2A	Users with Limited Mobility	Improve rights of way and access for blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems
4.2B	Walkers	Improve opportunities for walkers
4.2C	Horse-Riders and Carriage-Drivers	Improve opportunities for horse-riders and carriage-drivers
4.2D	Cyclists	Improve provision for cyclists
4.2E	Motorised Users	Improve opportunities for vehicular users
4.2F	Dog Walkers	Balance the need to exercise dogs with the needs of landowners and other users
4.3	The Wider Context	
4.3A	Environment	Ensure that the management of public rights of way and access respects Devon's environment
4.3B	Tourism and Economic Development	Ensure that public rights of way and access add to the economic benefits of Devon's tourism
4.3C	Health	Ensure that public rights of way and access help to deliver health benefits
4.3D	Agriculture	Encourage a positive attitude and understanding between both users and landowners
4.3E	Partnerships	Improve public rights of way and access through partnerships

Public Rights of Way Action Programme 2006-2007

ROWIP OBJECTIVES	RoWIP POLICY AND ACTION NUMBERS	ACTION	SHARED OBJECTIVE	TARGET / OUTPUT AND DATE	OUTCOME	LEAD DIRECTORATE AND PARTNERS	DCC BUDGET SOURCE
4.1 Management of the Access Network							
Definitive Map and Statement							
4.1A	DM1A DM1B DM1C	Ongoing parish-by-parish statutory review of Definitive Map and Statement.		12 parish reviews submitted to Committee. <i>March 2007</i>	Provision of an up-to-date and comprehensive legal record of public rights of way.	EEC (PROW)	Core
4.1A	DM2B IC1	Prepare Schedule 14 W&CA81 claims register (statutory duty).		Publish register on website. <i>April 2006</i>	Provision of searchable register on the internet.	EEC (PROW)	Core
4.1A	IC1	Digitise Section 31 HA80 register (statutory duty).		Commence 2 yr programme to produce register. <i>September 2006</i>	Provision of register on the internet.	EEC (PROW)	Core
Public Path Orders							
4.1B	LP2A W2A LP2B W2B LP2D	Create public rights of way.	RoWIP DLTP CAg	SWCP Strete Gate, Chilla bridleway link and as other opportunities arise. <i>Ongoing</i>	To improve PROW in line with RoWIP objectives.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core DLTP
4.1B	LP1A LP1B LP1C LP1D	Divert public rights of way to improve ease of use. Divert public rights of way in response to landowner applications.	RoWIP	Process 25 Public Path Diversion Orders. <i>March 2007</i> Process 10 Public Path Diversion Orders. <i>March 07</i>	To make existing public rights of way easier to use under BV178. To improve PROW in line with RoWIP objectives.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
Maintenance, signing and waymarking							
4.1C 4.1D	M1A SW1A M1B SW1B M1D SW2A M1E	Continue maintenance, signing and waymarking of public rights of way to established standards to maintain 91% easy to use.	RoWIP DLTP CPA NPAs	50% of network inspected and necessary maintenance works arranged. <i>March 2007</i>	Increase in people's enjoyment and access to the countryside.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core DLTP
4.1C	M1A SW1A M1B SW1B M1E SW2A	Undertake improvement works to increase BVPI178.	RoWIP	Increase BVPI178 by 1%. <i>Annually</i>	Increase in people's enjoyment and access to the countryside.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core DLTP
4.3D	AG4	Monitor enforcement action and liaise with Rural Payments Agency for Cross Compliance.		<i>Ongoing</i>	Public rights of way open and available to the public.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
4.1C	M1A	Complete Castle Cove works.	RoWIP EDG	<i>June 2006</i>	Public access to Castle Cove restored.	EEC (EDG)	DLTP

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4.1C	M1A	Undertake major structural work schemes.	RoWIP EDG DNPA	Major bridge schemes: Lapford footpath 1; Chumleigh Footpath 13; Shute Footpath 2; Haberton Footpath 6; Bovey Tracy Bridleway 33; Down St Mary Footpath 11; Bondleigh Footpath 1; Manaton Bridleway 32; Throwleigh Bridleway 1. <i>March 2007</i>	To maintain access on important routes.	EEC (EDG)	DLTP
Information and communication							
4.1E	PSA2	Monitor satisfaction through Citizens Survey, Discover Devon website and attendance at national / county / local shows. Improved promotion of access to the countryside.	RoWIP	Current baseline 68.5% of residents and visitors are satisfied - increase by 7%. <i>October 2008</i> Attend 9 shows. <i>September 2006</i>	Increased satisfaction with information regarding access to the countryside.	EEC (PROW) EEC (Economy and Europe)	Core PSA2 DLTP
4.1E	PSA2 IC4A IC4E	Monitoring use of the PROW network. Promotion and publicity of named routes. Develop 'Ride and Stride'.	RoWIP	Establish baseline counts at named locations. <i>April 2006</i> Increase baseline by 5%. <i>October 2008</i> New Devon Coast to Coast walk booklet to replace old Two Moors Way (TMW) booklet and Erme-Plym Trail pack. Update of information in West Devon Way pack. Production of John Musgrave Trail booklet and free leaflet. Reprint West Devon Way flyer, TMW leaflet and Templar Way leaflet with minor updates. Updated information to appear on Discover Devon website. Assist preparation of new TMW website for the TMW Association. <i>March 07</i> 8 leaflets produced. <i>August 06</i>	Increased participation in walking, cycling and horse-riding.	EEC (PROW) EEC (Economy and Europe) Travelwise	Core PSA2 DLTP

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4.1E 4.3C	PSA2 IC1 H1A H1B	Arrange grants, provide support and monitor WfH schemes.	RoWIP	1366 participants in WfH. Increase by 30%. <i>October 2008</i> Physical activity 70%. Increase by 15%. <i>October 2008</i>	Increased participation in WfH schemes and physical activity accrued.	EEC (PROW/LSG) PCTs District Councils Leisure Trust NPAs and AONBs	Core PSA2 DLTP EMP
4.1E 4.2A	IC1 LM2B	Develop web-based interactive map to include gradient mapping and path furniture information and links to other relevant sites.		Publish on website. <i>August 2006</i>	Enable public to make decisions about accessibility.	EEC (PROW)	Core CAg
4.1E	IC1	Continue liaison with Customer Service Centre.	RoWIP CSC	Agree and monitor protocols. <i>Ongoing</i>	Better customer service.	EEC (PROW/LSG) CSC	Core
Parish Paths Partnership							
4.3E	P2A P3A P3B	New parishes encouraged to join the P3 scheme.		5 new parishes to join. <i>March 2007</i>	Improved public rights of way network through partnership working.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
4.1C	M1A M1C	Review and align survey manual to conform with DCC condition criteria.		Complete review of survey manual. <i>June 2006</i>	Consistent standards for maintenance of the network.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
4.1E 4.3E	IC1 IC2B P3A	Arrange summer and winter P3 workshops and training.		3 summer and 3 winter P3 workshops and ongoing training to include H&S, survey manual, strimming, print and publicity.	Confident and well trained parish councils and volunteers.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
Road Safety							
4.1F	RS2B	Undertake safety analysis of rights of way that join A roads.	RoWIP DLTP	Analyse 2 A roads (A39 and A3072) and seek funding to implement identified improvements. <i>March 2007</i>	Improved safety for non-vehicular users on and crossing roads.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core DLTP
4.1F	RS2B	Undertake safety analysis for walkers and riders along Haldon Ridge C road.	RoWIP FComm EDG	Assessment of route and improvement works identified. <i>March 2007</i>	Improved safety for non-vehicular users on and crossing roads and access to Haldon Forest Park.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	DLTP
Planning							
4.1G	PL1A PL1C PL1D	Prepare PROW guidance note for, and liaison with, District Councils to reaffirm understanding of statutory duties.	RoWIP DC	Guidance prepared. <i>November 2006</i> Liaison meetings undertaken. <i>March 2007</i>	Fewer PROW obstructed by development.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
Access Land							
4.1E 4.1H	IC1 AL1	Continue programme of Access Management Plan production and works implementation.	RoWIP NT FComm AONBs Landowners	Produce and implement 10 Access Management Plans. <i>March 2007</i>	Increase public awareness of Access Land availability.	EEC (PROW)	Core CAg

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4.1H	AL2B	Liaise with FComm regarding dedications under Section 16 of CROW 2000.	RoWIP FComm	Compile GIS layer and establish signing programme. <i>March 2007</i>	Increase public awareness of Access Land availability.	EEC (PROW)	Core CAg
4.1H		Respond to forthcoming consultation on Coastal Access provision.	RoWIP AONBs CS	Produce response. <i>December 2006</i>	DCC perspective on Coastal Access provided.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
4.2 Provision for Users							
Limited mobility							
4.1C 4.2A 4.2B	M1A W2B M1E RS2B LM1A RS3C LM1B TED2D IC1	Prepare an assessment of the Strategic Walking Route Network.	RoWIP DLTP PCT	Identify opportunities and implement improved accessibility on Strategic Walking Route Network. <i>March 2007</i>	Improved opportunities for walkers, road safety, econ benefits, tourism, limited mobility.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
4.1 4.2 4.3	Various	Audit and targeted physical improvements to PROW network in Northern Devon (including AONB).	RoWIP NDCCS NDAONB	Audit undertaken including public consultation and consultation with Devon LAF. <i>March 2007</i>	8 sections made more accessible.	EEC (NDCCS)	CoAg / Core
4.2A	IC1 LM1A LM1B	Analyse best practice for limited mobility provision to inform RoWIP implementation.	RoWIP	Produce report. <i>December 2006</i>	Improved accessibility and ease of use.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core
Walking							
4.2B	W1 W2A	Identify potential community circuit locations.	RoWIP DLTP	Review complete. <i>March 2007</i>	Improved opportunities for walkers, road safety, economic benefits, tourism, limited mobility.	EEC (PROW/LSG) Parish Councils Landowners	Core
Horse riding							
4.1F 4.2C	LP2A RS3A RS3C HC1A HC1B	Continue negotiations with landowners for Strategic Bridleway between Thorndon Cross and Venndown Gates and / or publish Creation Orders.	RoWIP DLTP	Publish Creation Agreements or Orders. <i>July 2006</i>	Improved opportunities for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists, road safety improvements, tourism and economic benefits.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core DLTP
4.2C	HC1A HC2A HC1C HC2B HC1E TED2D	Prepare a Committee Report on a countywide Strategic Bridleway Network.	PROW DLTP	Report to Committee. <i>March 07</i>	Approval in principle to the establishment of a countywide Strategic Bridleway Network.	EEC (PROW)	
Multi-use							
4.2	CY3A CY3B CY3C	Monitor and advise the Tamar Valley AONB Service on the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Permissive Route Network	RoWIP AONB	Permissive path provision at Morwellham. <i>March 2007</i>	Establishment of permissive routes throughout the valley.	EEC (PROW/LSG) AONB Service EDG	Core DLTP

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4.2D	CY3B CY4	Review existing and proposed cycleway schemes with a view to multi-use provision and links to the existing network.	RoWIP DLTP	Carry out review of 1 existing cycleway. <i>March 2007</i> To continue review of proposals. To review multi-use code of conduct. <i>Ongoing</i>	More inclusive access, improved road safety and improved links.	EEC (PROW/LSG) EDG	Core
Tarka Trail Improvements							
4.1E 4.2 4.3	Various	Implement improvements in interpretation and to limited mobility access.	RoWIP DLTP North Devon Interpretation Strategy	Improved and updated infrastructure, signage interpretation and information. <i>March 2007</i>	To improve the experience of Tarka Trail Cycleway for all users, increase use on the section south of Torrington and better manage multi-use.	EEC (NDCCS)	Core CAG
4.3 The Wider Context							
4.2C 4.3B	HC1A HC2B HC1B TED2B HC1C TED2C HC1E TED2D HC2A TED3D	A Strategy for Equestrian Tourism in Devon.	RoWIP Tourism RAP	Publish draft. <i>April 2006</i>	Background research to assist in planning promotional campaigns and identify product development actions.	EEC	DDN
4.1B 4.2 4.3B	LP1A TED2C TED2E	Support for access initiatives for Forest for Active Living Project at Haldon.	RoWIP DLTP	Diversion of two routes (St Andrew's Lane and Spicer's Lane, Kenn). <i>March 2007</i>	Improved access at and leading to Haldon.	EEC (PROW) DLTP FE	Core
4.3E	P1	Continue to support the Devon Local Access Forum.	RoWIP DNPA ENPA	Recruit new members, hold 4 meetings and 1 training event and provide ongoing support. <i>March 2007</i>	Well informed, confident and strategic thinking LAF.	EEC (PROW)	Core
Community improvement schemes							
4.1 4.2 4.3	Various	Implement local community improvements through parish plans and existing RoWIP suggestions.	RoWIP	Identify schemes through priority system to be developed with LAF input. <i>March 2007</i>	Improved public rights of way and access.	EEC (PROW/LSG)	Core DLTP CAG

Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	GIS	Geographical Information System
BVPI178	Best Value Performance Indicator 178 ('ease of use')	H&S	Health and Safety
CAG	Countryside Agency	HA80	Highways Act 1980
CPA	Comprehensive Performance Assessment	HMG	Highway Management Group
CROW 2000	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	LSG	Local Service Group
CS	Countryside Services	NDCCS	North Devon Coast and Countryside Service
CSC	Customer Services Centre	NPA	National Park Authority
DC	Development Control	NT	National Trust
DDN	Discover Devon Naturally	P3	Parish Paths Partnership
DLTP	Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011	PCT	Primary Care Trust
DNPA	Dartmoor National Park Authority	PROW	Public Rights of Way
EDG	Engineering and Design Group	PSA	Public Service Agreement
EEC	Environment, Economy and Culture	RAP	Role and Action Programme
EMP	Environmental Management Projects	RoWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
ENPA	Exmoor National Park Authority	W&CA81	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
FComm	Forestry Commission	WfH	Walking for Health
FE	Forest Enterprise		

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This document is available on request in a range of languages and formats including large print, Braille or on tape. Call 01392 382250 for details.

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