

Delivering Rights of Way Improvements – Highlights from 2010/11

Aim 1: Making your way easier

We continued to focus our efforts on making the existing public rights of way network easier to use



- 72.6% of public rights of way passed the “ease of use test” in our May and November surveys, again exceeding the target for the year
- The Rights of Way team successfully resolved over 82% of the 5,635 issues reported in 2010/11 and also consulted on its **new Rights of Way Charter**
- 281 roadside signposts were installed across the network. More signs will now include details of a path’s destination

- Several routes have been resurfaced this year, including work to improve four popular bridleways. Bridleway No. 7 at Parkside in Hulland Ward Parish is pictured below

Before



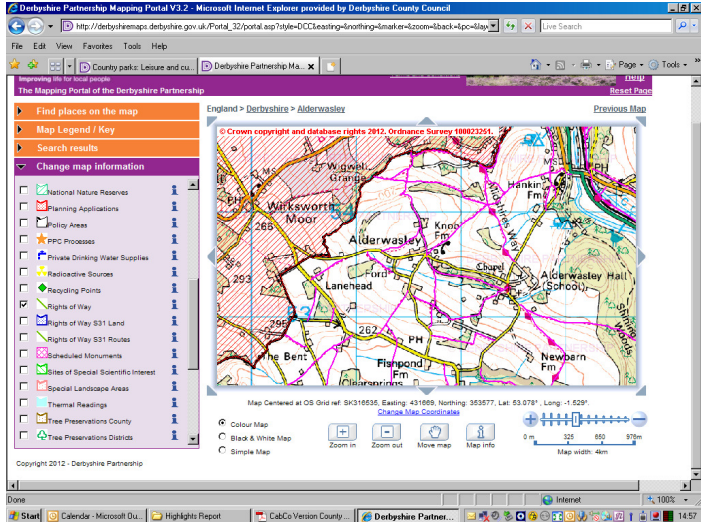
After



- And across the county around 480 paths (80 miles in total) were regularly kept clear of vegetation which would have otherwise made them difficult to use

Aim 2: Mapping it out

Good progress was made towards the completion of our digital record of public rights of way, otherwise known as the Definitive Map and Statement and in tackling the backlog of legal orders



- Four extra members of staff were appointed on a temporary basis to help with this work over the next two years
- We finalised the public rights of way information for **Amber Valley** which is now available to view on line at

http://derbyshiremaps.derbyshire.gov.uk/launch_portal.asp?

Aim 3: An improved network

The £1.2 million of capital funding we received during the year has enabled many rights of way and access improvements to be carried out



- With the help of Natural England we purchased an area of land at **Gamesley Sidings**, near Glossop to secure a further section of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail and a link to the Trans Pennine Trail
- The **Pennine Bridleway** also benefitted from two road crossings which were installed on Glossop Road (A626) at Gamesley and Monks Road in Charlesworth

- 7 miles of new Greenways (multi user trails) were completed this year. They included the **Peak Forest Tramway** between Bugsworth and Chinley and two sections of the **Erewash Valley Trail** at Long Eaton. Just over a mile of the **Stockley Trail** near Bolsover was upgraded to meet modern day Greenway standards





- Improvements were carried out on one of Derbyshire's popular walking routes - **the Limestone Way** between Bonsall and Matlock. New signs and the replacement of old stiles with gates should make the route much easier for people to use

- Access reviews have been carried out at the four County Council countryside sites where trampers (all terrain mobility scooters) are hired out - Middleton Top, Tapton Lock, Shipley and Elvaston Country Parks. Work is underway to implement the improvements which include altering barriers and removing catches from gates so trumper users can negotiate them on their own



- As part of the **Chesterfield Cycle Project**, the local cycle network was identified and a series of new maps for cyclists made available on line. A similar project is being developed for Long Eaton. For more information visit:

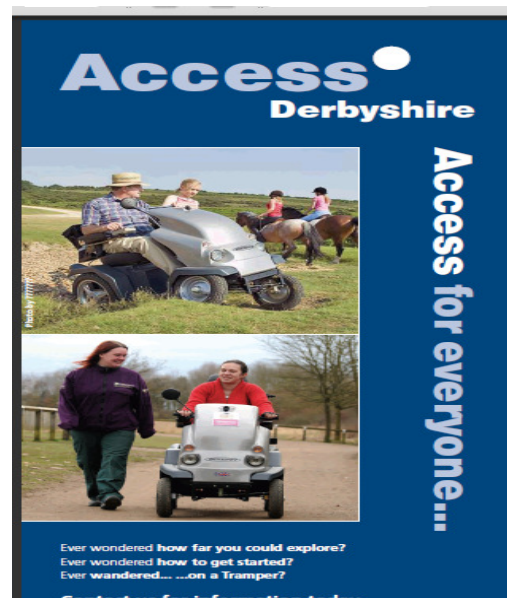
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/transport_plans/transport_studies/chesterfield_cycle_network

Aim 4: Promoting our paths

We have improved the countryside section of the County Council's website so there are now **dedicated pages** for walking, horse riding, cycling, Greenways and Access for all

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access

- A promotional banner has been produced to publicise the **hire of the tramper mobility scooters**
- We have been working with members of both Local Access Forums to develop **Codes of Conduct** designed to encourage responsible use of the access network
- Throughout the year greater emphasis has been placed on making sure that our paths and trails are promoted and used to benefit **healthy walking and active lifestyles** (including cycling and jogging)



Aim 5: Working together

The Countryside Service has continued to work in partnership with a range of groups and organisations across the county to improve local path networks

- More parish councils took advantage of the funding allocated under the Minor Maintenance Scheme this year to carry out vegetation clearance, surface repairs and way marking of routes
- Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire has delivered projects in five parishes - Bonsall, Whaley Bridge, Chinley, Chapel en le Frith and Norbury & Roston, generating 297 volunteer work days involving path surveys and a range of practical works
- Volunteers contributed more than 1,000 days during the year to help improve access to local rights of way