

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016

Implementation Case Study - Year 2

Case Study 1 Review of Signing and Waymarking

The CAROWIP target

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Undertake a comprehensive review of signs and waymarking on public rights of way

Background

The majority of Warwickshire's paths have been signed using simple wooden posts (not fingerposts) by the roadside, bearing two discs – one showing status and the other an arrow showing the direction of the path. Across country, a simple coloured arrow (yellow on dark green for footpath, blue on yellow for bridleway) attached to a wooden post, fence or other structure indicated direction.

Over the years it became apparent that many of the discs use by WCC were prone to fading, and it seemed sensible to combine the two existing roadside discs into one.

In addition, a number of information plaques had developed over the years, with a variety of colours and wording.

There was also concern that discs did not have sufficient contrast to be easily read (and this was exacerbated by the fading problem) and it was suggested that improvements could be made which would improve the discs for people with visual impairments.

As part of the CAROWIP WCC made two commitments. The first, that an accessibility audit would be carried out, was carried out in Year 1. The second commitment was that a full review of signs and waymarks would be carried out.



The process

- ◆ An Accessibility Audit was carried out by The Access Company.
- ◆ As part of their work they were asked to research good practice among local authorities and to make recommendations in a number of areas.
- ◆ As a result of the report from the Access Company a number of changes were agreed.
- ◆ The primary change was a move from a two-disc signposting system (one with status, the other with the arrow) to a single disc containing all the information.

Design Principles were agreed.

- ◆ The background colour will be white
- ◆ The arrow should be the appropriate colour for the status of the route and should be outlined in black.
 - Public Footpath yellow
 - Public Bridleway blue
 - Restricted Byway plum
 - Byway Open to all Traffic red
- ◆ Text should be in mixed case (sentence case) e.g. 'Public Footpath' rather than 'PUBLIC FOOTPATH'
- ◆ The status should appear in full above the arrow.
- ◆ 'Warwickshire County Council' should appear below the arrow.
- ◆ A 95mm disc will continue to be used.
- ◆ Promoted route groups will no longer be permitted to add stickers to the arrows on the WCC discs.



The design principles were applied to a new type of disc which could be used on promoted route. Routes would have their own identity by having their logos in the centre of a white arrow, and by their background colour.

In addition, the design ideas for small information plaques were agreed which would provide information at key locations for the promoted routes.



It was agreed within the Access Team that the waymarkers would be replaced and installed on an 'as needed' basis, but it was important that all out of date or unnecessary markers would be removed.

The following Working Practices were written to ensure that WCC officers and volunteers will be using the discs consistently.

- ◆ Persons Responsible for Signposting & Waymarking Functions
- ◆ Waymarking Public Rights of Way
- ◆ Waymarking of Promoted Routes
- ◆ Installing Waymarkers on Wooden Signpost

The result... so far

Before	After	Before	After
			

To date, the changes have only been applied to footpath and bridleway waymarks. There are very few Byways Open to All Traffic in the County, and no Restricted Byways (yet). When new waymark discs are ordered they will conform to the new design.

Next steps

The review of our information signs remains to be done. Exampled of some of the old designs are shown below

