

Warwickshire County Council

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016 Implementation Case Study - Year 2

Case Study 2 WCC Land – path improvements at June 2008

The CAROWIP targets

N08d	Survey all WCC landholdings and review and develop the countryside access path network
A1a	Continue to remove stiles and unnecessary structures from the rights of way network
H2a	Continue to remove stiles and unnecessary structures from the rights of way network to allow access for more people
P4a	Follow the policy on 'Gaps, Gates and Stiles on footpaths and bridleways' when replacing or repairing existing boundary crossings
P4c	Develop a proactive programme of removing unnecessary structures and improving existing structures especially close to centres of population, tourist areas and easy access trails following the policy on gaps, gates and stiles

The process

1. Using the data held in WCC's Rural Estates Dept., obtain details of Warwickshire County Council's Rural Estate including smallholdings.
2. By reference to the current definitive map(s) ascertain if any Public Rights of Way are present on these WCC Rural Estates.
3. Carry out a full Access survey for those Rural Estates that have Public Rights of Way present including taking photographs of existing furniture and features.
4. Identify and prioritise those rights of way that:
 - a. Connect settlement(s) to settlement(s) (Priority 1)
 - b. Connect settlements to local shops, businesses etc. (Priority 2)
 - c. Set out to provide a pleasant rural walk, cycle or horse riding route (Priority 3)
 - d. provide a walk / route possibly affected by a motorway and or major road.
5. Meet with WCC's estate tenants to discuss and agree access improvements that can be effected to improve those rights of way on the estate/smallholding.
6. Meet with adjoining land owners to extend the improvements to a logical boundary.
7. Estimate costs of the improvements for each rural estate and prioritise based on above categories.
8. Agree those rights of way on the rural estate to be improved in the current financial year and identify those to be completed in year 2.

9. Obtain tenders from those contractors on the preferred contractors list (with current liability insurance, submitted health and safety procedures).
10. Accompany contractor on a detailed visit to the site to specify and ensure all necessary work is included in final quote and where possible introduce contractor to tenant and/or landowner.
11. Prepare detailed map, photographs, schedule of work and Bill of material for the agreed start date.
12. Attend the site at random intervals during the works to ensure they are proceeding to the agreed specification and schedule.
13. Inspect the completed works and waymark the entire route.

The result... so far

12 WCC farms and or land holdings have been completed with a total of 41 public rights of way improved.



One of the improvements – before and after

Improvements have, in the majority of cases, involved the removal of stiles and the installation of pedestrian, kissing or Bristol gates.

In every case improved signposting and/or waymarking has been carried out by the installation of yellow topped posts.

Since the access improvements have been completed, letters have been received from members of the public expressing their approval and pleasure with the improvements and requesting that we “keep up the good work”.

Next steps

Dependant on the budget available, it is the intention to continue with the improvement of Public Rights of Way that are present on WCC’s Rural Estate based on the aforementioned priority classification.

Examples of work undertaken

Public Footpath M324 Corley Hall Farm



Public Footpath SM64 Harbury



Examples of work undertaken

Public Footpath SM65 Harbury



Public Footpath SS25 Hopkins Farm, Tysoe



Public Footpath T53 Hurley



Examples of work undertaken

Public Footpath SM112 Northfields Farm , Priors Marston



Public Footpath N51 Galley Common Farm



Public Footpath W129e Weston under Wetherley



Examples of work undertaken

Public Footpath N51 Galley Common Farm



Public Footpath SD141c Oldhouse Farm / Heathcote Hill Farm

