

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016

Statement of Intent April 2006 – March 07 Year 1



The CAROWIP was published in February 2006, and marks a new way of planning and monitoring work on countryside access and public rights of way.

The Actions listed in this document reflect those listed in the CAROWIP for years 1-2. Whilst all the Actions have been listed, it is recognised that there will not be the resources to tackle each one.

An annual report will be published at the end of the year, and progress towards CAROWIP targets will be monitored by the Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry Local Access Forum.



















Countryside Access Team
Warwickshire County Council

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| Key |  existing staff |  additional staff or time |  partnerships |  | quick wins |
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Action

Resources & Additional funding




Key partners & stakeholders

| Information & Publicity | | | | |
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| A02a | Publicise appropriate routes once improvements have been carried out |  | £5,000 pa | Land managers Fieldfare Trust Volunteers CoAg |
| A03b  | Promote use of Country Parks and greenways as safe gateways to the countryside Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |
| E01a | To publish a countryside access magazine twice a year to inform users of the countryside, share best practice and promote rights and responsibilities |  | - | |
| E02a | Free talks will be given to any group willing to work to manage, promote or improve the path network |  | - | |
| E03a | Develop website to educate and inform all countryside users |  | - | |
| E03b | Maintain up to date web pages including network changes and closures |  | - | |
| H01d | Promote existing Health Walks Schemes and support the growth of the Scheme |  | - | WCC (others) Health walk groups |
| H01e | Provide led walks and walks with a theme e.g. history |  | - | Heritage and environment professionals WCC (others) |
| H01f | Publicise the availability of information in order to increase the confidence of potential users |  | - | |
| H05c  | Promote use of Country Parks and greenways, for health benefits Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £10,000 each | PCTs CoAg |
| P06a  | Make reporting defects and other obstructions as easy as possible for path users |  | - | LAF |
| S05b | Establish online ordering of countryside publications |  | - | WCC (others) |
| S05c | Produce a range of downloadable leaflets and other information |  | - | WCC (others) |
| S06d | Work with heritage and environmental professionals on promotional material which links together topics e.g. history, archaeology, wildlife |  | £5,000 per publication | WCC (others) Heritage and environmental professionals |
| S07c | Assess existing and future promotional material to ensure that opportunities are taken to promote the health benefits of countryside activities |  | - | WCC (others) PCTs |









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Action





Resources & Additional funding Key partners & stakeholders

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| S07d | Produce a directory of healthy activities in the Warwickshire countryside |  | £5,000 per edition | WCC (others) Heritage professionals |
| S08a | Promote the opportunities for safe cycling in Country Parks and greenways and bridleways |  | - | |
| T02b | Further develop use of the Warwickshire Web to provide information for visitors about the Warwickshire countryside |  | - | WCC (others) |

Practical Works

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| A01a | Continue to remove stiles and unnecessary structures from the rights of way network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £30,000 pa | Land managers Volunteers |
| H02a | Continue to remove stiles and unnecessary structures from the rights of way network to allow access for more people Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £30,000 pa | Land managers |
| N02f | Undertake a programme of works to deal with the 6 large (over 8 metre span) missing bridges Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £100,000 per bridge | |
| P04a | Follow the policy on 'Gaps, Gates and Stiles on footpaths and bridleways' when replacing or repairing existing boundary crossings |  | - | |
| P04b | Follow the policy on 'Gaps, Gates and Stiles on footpaths and bridleways' for boundary crossings when authorising new structures |  | - | |
| P04e | Seek landowners' consent for installation of dog-gates alongside stiles especially surrounding centres of population (NB only if unable to install gate or gap instead) |  | £2,000 pa | |
| P05a | Undertake a programme of works to deal with the 6 large (over 8 metre span) missing bridges Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £100,000 per bridge | |
| P05b | Continue the programme of bridge repair Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £75,000 pa | |






Campaigns

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| E03c  | Campaigning based web pages on specific issues, 2 per year, e.g. dog fouling, ploughing and cropping, litter, car parking, Countryside Code, etc. |  | - | Land managers Other councils English Nature |
| E05a | Arrange publicity campaign to highlight the importance of dog worming, effects of livestock worrying and impact on wildlife etc. Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £3,000 each time | Land managers User groups Parish Councils Other councils English Nature |
| E05b | Liaise with dog wardens to promote the responsible use of rights of way and the countryside by dog owners |  | - | Other councils |





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Action





Resources & Additional funding Key partners & stakeholders

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| E06a | Promote understanding of Open Access rights, and areas involved through leaflets, website, talks, media, etc. Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £5,000 | CoAg |
| P01a | Continue annual ploughing and cropping campaign |  | - | NFU CLA |
| P01b | Continue to take legal action against persistent non compliance with legislation Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |
| S04a  | Develop and organise an annual walking festival, building on the success of the 2005 event |  | £20,000 | Sponsors WCC (others) Volunteers |
| S10b | Develop an annual media campaign to publicise the Countryside Code and use of the Warwickshire countryside Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £3,000 pa | |
| T01a  | Publicise the annual walking festival throughout the UK |  | £20,000 | Sponsors |















Signing and Waymarking

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| A01c | Carry out an accessibility audit of our signs and waymarks |  | £2,000 | Disability groups WCC (others) |
| P03b | Develop a trial of improved roadside signage including fingerposts with destinations and route times, stile free routes, etc and monitor public response Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £10,000 | |
| P03e  | Undertake a comprehensive review of signs and waymarking on public rights of way |  | £2,000 | Disability groups WCC (others) Parish Councils P3 groups LAF CALG User groups |

Targeted Improvements

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| A01d  | Develop at least one wheelchair accessible circular route of at least 3 miles in the countryside, outside Country Parks Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £20,000 each | CoAg Fieldfare Trust |
| A01i | Identify key routes for accessibility improvements |  | £1,000 pa | Disability groups Other councils WCC (others) Minority groups |
| H03a | Work with existing "Walking the Way to Health" groups to establish and improve suitable routes Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £3,000 per group | |

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| | Action | | Resources & Additional funding | Key partners & stakeholders |
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| N02a | Identify and use key sections of roadside verge to create safe links for all NMUs Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £10,000 per section | User groups Highways Agency WCC (others) Parish Councils |
| N03a | Establish safer crossings of major roads, 'LTP heavy traffic routes' other roads and railway lines for all NMUs Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £30,000 each | Highways Agency Network Rail WCC (others) |
| N03b | To ensure that all classes of NMUs are catered for in the design of road crossing and road junctions Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | Highways Agency WCC (others) |
| N03c ✓Q | Identify where the use of surfaced roads forms a significant part of the path network |  | - | User groups Parish Councils LAF |
| N06a | Develop 2 new greenways – Kenilworth Berkswell and Leamington to Rugby Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £250,000 | Sustrans Other councils |
| N08d | Survey all WCC landholdings and review and develop the countryside access path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £2,000 pa | WCC (others) |
| N08e ✓Q | Identify and review all at-grade rail crossings on the network with a view to improvements Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | Network Rail |
| P02e ✓Q | Carry out a survey, and develop an overhead vegetation clearance programme, for all routes with equestrian rights Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £20,000 pa | User groups CoAg |
| P03d | Inspect and sign, where appropriate, all Open Access Land |  | £1,000 | CoAg |
| P04c | 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 Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £10,000 pa | Land managers Volunteers |
| P04f ✓Q | Survey all routes with equestrian rights and develop a programme for improving gates and gate latches Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £20,000 pa | User groups CoAg |
| P09b | Develop and undertake a programme of surface improvements for heavily used rural routes Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £50,000 pa | |
| R05a | Seek additional routes and improvements to existing paths commensurate with increase in population or vehicle movements on large development sites |  | - | WCC (others) |
| R05d | Seek developer contributions associated with all large developments |  | - | |

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




Action

Resources & Additional funding







Key partners & stakeholders

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| S02g | Develop the two proposed greenways (Leamington-Rugby and Kenilworth-Berkswell) Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £250,000 | Sustrans Other councils |
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Volunteers & Community Working

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| E07a | Provide support and training for volunteers and other partners Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | Land managers |
| H01a | Encourage people to sign up to volunteering with existing practical groups |  | - | Existing practical groups |
| P03c  | Encourage P3 groups and other partner groups to sign paths with fingerposts displaying destinations and route times |  | £300 per path | P3 groups |
| P07a | Continue with the existing P3 Scheme and encourage other parishes to join the Scheme |  | - | |
| P07b | Regularly publish details of grants and other funding opportunities for P3 groups |  | - | |
| P08a | Support voluntary groups which undertake practical, promotional and research work on the path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |
| P08b | Encourage other voluntary and community groups to undertake practical works on the path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |

Orders




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| R01a | Progress the review in accordance with the Operational Principle covering the Definitive Map Review at the current rate Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |
| R02a | Offer reduced fee PPOs on paths newly recorded or upgraded by DMMOs for applications made within 3 months of confirmation Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |
| R02b | Pursue PPOs where they can be made in lieu of DMMOs |  | - | |
| R02c | Offer reduced fees to landowners who are willing to create additional paths or links as part of a "New Paths for Old" package |  | - | |
| R02d | Give priority to all PPO applications which remove or improve crossings of railway lines or heavily trafficked roads or which remove the need for excessive road walking |  | - | |
| R02e | Promote creation orders to create links between existing paths or to improve strategic recreational routes over WCC land Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £1,000 per route | WCC (others) |

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Action

Resources & Additional funding

Key partners & stakeholders

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| R06a | Seek agreements which add routes constructively to the path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £1,000 pa | |
| R06b | Seek agreements in lieu of DMMO's |  | - | |
| R07a | We will use schemes under the 'New Paths for Old' umbrella to improve and develop the rights of way network for the public by combining public path orders and other legal agreements |  | - | |

Promoted Routes



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| A01h  | Provide four new sensory trails |  | £10,000 each | Land managers Disability groups |
| H01g  | Develop packages of walks for health professionals to recommend |  | £10,000 each | CoAg PCTs WCC (others) |
| S01a  | Maintain a list of Recognised Promoted Routes ('the List') |  | - | LAF |
| S01b | Ensure that routes on the List are periodically inspected |  | - | User groups |
| S01c | Continue seeking improved infrastructure on routes on the List |  | £10,000 pa | P3 partners User groups |
| S02a  | Develop a procedure for adding routes to the List |  | - | LAF User groups |
| S02b | Support and assist the development of Sustrans routes Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | Sustrans |
| S02c | Support and assist the development of the Battlefields Trail |  | - | Other councils Battlefields Trust WCC (others) Heritage professionals |
| S02d | Support and assist the development of the North Arden Trail (this project has recently been awarded £422,500 by Heritage Lottery Fund) |  | - | WCC (others) Other councils |
| S02e | Support and assist the development of a strategic equestrian route through the County Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £15,000 | User groups |
| S03b | Relaunch the existing Avon Valley Way between Stratford upon Avon and Marcliff Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £5,000 | Other councils. |
| S07a  | Develop a series of stile free circular routes with information explaining the health benefits, timed circuits, etc from centres of populations Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £10,000 per series | CoAg PCTs |

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



Action

Resources & Additional funding











Key partners & stakeholders

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| T01b | Support A Coventry Way Association in supporting their annual event, and offer similar support for other key events. |   | - | User groups |
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Internal processes

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| E07b | Share training and best practice, and ensure that some within the team have the skills to train others |  | - | |
| E07d | Provide training for the Countryside Access Team in understanding overlapping disciplines e.g. agriculture, planning, ecology etc. |  | - | |
| N01a | Support applications for agri environment schemes which include constructive access elements |  | - | |
| P11a | Develop written working practices to formalise internal procedures |  | - | |
| R04a | Continue and complete the digitised data checking process towards a digital record |  | - | |
| R04b | Establish IT framework to allow full network survey, including inventory information, and input data into GIS Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £5,000 | |
| R05b | Work with district and borough planners to ensure applications affecting existing rights of way are advertised and treated as a material planning consideration |   | - | Other councils WCC (others) |
| R08a | Develop written working practices to formalise internal procedures Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |












Not to be carried out in Year 1

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| A01f | Work with Fieldfare Trust to receive accessibility accreditation for a number of routes within Warwickshire (3 by year 4 and 10 by year 10) <i>There are no additional resources for this. It is hoped to start in year 2.</i> |   | - | Fieldfare Trust |
| A04a | Undertake research into the needs of users with disabilities, which can inform future actions <i>Priority for year 2 – potential Natural England funding bid</i> |   | £20,000 | CoAg Disability groups WCC (Others) |
| A04b | Undertake an assessment of current open space and green space provision within Warwickshire, so as to identify gaps in availability <i>Priority for year 2 – potential Natural England bid</i> |   | £20,000 | CoAg Other councils Land managers |
| E03d | Develop map based web pages with interactive path defect reporting, route selection, inventory etc. <i>Corporate IT Infrastructure is not in place</i> |   | - | WCC (others) |
| E06b | Ensure all affected areas are suitably signed <i>Not identified as a priority for year 1</i> |   | £1,000 | CoAg |

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Action

Resources & Additional funding Key partners & stakeholders

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| H01h | Provide information about the social and health benefits of walking, riding and cycling <i>There are no additional resources available for this</i> |  | - | PCTs WCC (others) |
| H03d | Train more "Walking the Way to Health" leaders <i>Partnerships are not yet in place.</i> |  | £3,000 pa | WCC (others) |
| N08b | Continue to identify areas of poor access to the countryside and seek to improve it. Prioritise tourist areas and areas close to centres of population <i>This will be started in year 2 and will be ongoing.</i> |  | £15,000 pa | WCC (others) Market Towns Parish Councils |
| P04d | Develop system of recording and authorising structures on path network <i>Awaiting implementation of database and network survey</i> |  | - | |
| P05c | Develop an inspection programme for all known bridges on the public path network <i>This will be done in year 2</i> Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | - | |
| R01b | Increase pace of the review in order to meet the 2026 deadline <i>There are no additional resources available for this</i> Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £5,000 pa | |
| R01c | Take UCRs out of sequence and process DMMOs to remove uncertainty over status <i>There are no additional resources available for this</i> Action chosen as a priority by the LAF |  | £5,000 pa | |
| S03d | To support other organisations in securing access to woodland <i>Not identified as a priority for year 1</i> |  | £5,000 per route created | Forestry Commission Woodland Trust WWT Landowners |
| S08d | Promote a cycling culture by encouraging families and young children to go cycling <i>This will be started in year 2</i> |  | £3,000 pa | |
| S09a | Develop and promote circular rides throughout the County <i>There are no additional resources available for this</i> |  | £10,000 per route | User groups |
| S13a | Undertake an assessment of current open space and green space provision within Warwickshire, so as to identify gaps in availability <i>Priority for year 2 – potential Natural England bid</i> |  | £20,000 | CoAg Other councils Land managers |