



Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016

Annual Report Year 2

April 2007 – March 2008

The purpose of the report is to reflect on our progress in Year 2 of Warwickshire's Countryside and Rights of Way Improvement Plan (CAROWIP) and to highlight and share our achievements over the first two years of implementation.

The Appendix contains two case studies of projects undertaken in that time.

- Implementation Case Study 1 – Review of Signing and Waymarking
- Implementation Case Study 2 – WCC Land – path improvements at June 2008

Although money has been reallocated internally to CAROWIP projects, there has been little external grant money. In particular, there are no additional funds available through Natural England, where grants were previously available through its predecessor, the Countryside Agency.

Reading the Document


The format of the report is based around our areas of work, rather than the themes in the CAROWIP, so as to avoid duplication, and groups together linked actions, followed by a short report on progress made towards those actions.

The column for resources indicates the additional funding required, as identified by the CAROWIP. Details of actual additional funding (if any) can be found in the bullet point summaries below the Actions.

An index for the Action numbers is available at the end of the report.

N.B. The term NMU used throughout the report means 'non-motorised users' and can include pedestrians, wheelchair users, pedal cyclists and horseriders.

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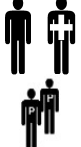







Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
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Action














Resources & Additional funding needed





Key partners & stakeholders

Information & Publicity







A02a	Publicise appropriate routes once improvements have been carried out		£5,000 pa	Land managers Fieldfare Trust Volunteers CoAg
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four leaflets were produced covering Stile-free Walks – Weddington, Studley and Newton Regis/Seckington/Shuttington. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 2. 				
A03b 	Promote use of Country Parks and greenways as safe gateways to the countryside Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-	
S08a	Promote the opportunities for safe cycling in Country Parks and greenways and bridleways		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of led walks took place as part of the ‘What’s on in the Warwickshire Countryside’ programme and as part of the Warwickshire Walking Festival. Regular walking groups based in the parks have reached out to new audiences, including successful ‘Prams in the Parks’ and healthy walking groups. Community groups were offered chaperoned visits to the County Parks. Entered into a profit-sharing arrangement with the cycle hire business at Kingsbury Water Park. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. WCC and Sustrans were successful in winning a share of National Lottery money as part of the ‘Sustrans Connect2’ scheme. This will allow a new bridge to be constructed on the Kenilworth – Berkswell Greenway to avoid a busy road. The bid and the telephone vote also generated a lot of good publicity and local support. 				
E01a	To publish a countryside access magazine twice a year to inform users of the countryside, share best practice and promote rights and responsibilities		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewpoint was published and distributed in the Spring and Autumn. Circulation is 3000 copies. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. 				
E02a	Free talks will be given to any group willing to work to manage, promote or improve the path network		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers attended A Coventry Way AGM, Young Farmers meeting and the launch of Baddesley Ensor Parish Plan. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers attended the Rugby Disability Forum and a local branch of the National Farmers’ Union (NFU). 				
E03a	Develop website to educate and inform all countryside users		-	
E03b	Maintain up to date web pages including network changes and closures		-	

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
	Action	Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders
S05c	Produce a range of downloadable leaflets and other information		-	WCC (others)
T02b	Further develop use of the Warwickshire Web to provide information for visitors about the Warwickshire countryside		-	WCC (others)
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website was expanded to cover new topics including the DMMO applications register, a page on highway and rights of way searches and updated pages for many other subjects. As part of a corporate redesign of the website as a whole, all pages were reformatted to be in keeping with the new design. Two new web authors were trained. The list of orders online was expanded to include temporary closures. It was not possible to implement online ordering as the IT infrastructure does not support it. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website continues to be developed and updated by the team of web authors. The Countryside Recreation homepage continues to receive 2000 hits per month, on average. Web authors have been working with the new 'One Stop Shop' in Kenilworth to increase the range of downloadable leaflets. It was not possible to implement online ordering as the IT infrastructure does not yet support it. 				
H01d	Promote existing Health Walks Schemes and support the growth of the Scheme		-	WCC (others) Health walk groups
H01g  Q	Develop packages of walks for health professionals to recommend		£10,000 each	CoAg PCTs WCC (others)
H05c  Q	Promote use of Country Parks and greenways, for health benefits Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		£10,000 each	PCTs CoAg
S07c	Assess existing and future promotional material to ensure that opportunities are taken to promote the health benefits of countryside activities		-	WCC (others) PCTs
S07d	Produce a directory of healthy activities in the Warwickshire countryside		£5,000 per edition	WCC (others) Heritage professionals
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that the two (part time) staff members responsible for health improvement transfer to the Countryside Recreation Group. Funding was identified for creation of a part time health walks officer post at Ryton Pools Country Park. A separate version of 'What's on in Warwickshire' was developed for distribution to doctors' surgeries. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A part time health walks ranger was appointed to be based at Ryton Pools Country Park. Four schemes have been prepared for spring/summer 2008 at Ryton Pools Country Park, each with a promotional leaflet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'T'ai chi in the park' 'Get Started and Get Active' 'Regular walking group' 'Prams in the park' A new promotional leaflet and poster was produced 'Get Active in Warwickshire's Countryside', covering activities county-wide including locally run walking for health schemes. A 'Get Active' section was created on the Warwickshire website. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders
H01e	Provide led walks and walks with a theme e.g. history	 	-	Heritage and environment professionals 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
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2006 Warwickshire Walking Festival included walks on a number of themes, including history, trees and art. Viewpoint included articles written by colleagues from the Warwickshire Museum and Historic Environment Service as well as articles on walking and the countryside. Walks with a theme were included in 'What's on in Warwickshire'. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. 				
H01f	Publicise the availability of information in order to increase the confidence of potential users		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stall and staff were present at several shows including the Kenilworth Show, Godiva Festival, Fillongley Agricultural Show, Rugby Show and the Outdoors Show at the NEC. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stall was present at several shows including the Kenilworth Show, Godiva Festival, Fillongley Agricultural Show (all one day shows) and the Ragley Game Fair (a two day show). 				
P06a 	Make reporting defects and other obstructions as easy as possible for path users	 	-	LAF
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Team members are encouraged to use the rights of way database for recording and updating reported faults, so that our records are up to date. Online fault reporting has been well used throughout the year. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. The use of the 'Comments?' plaque has been reintroduced at roadside signpost locations. The waymarking standard now includes this wherever paths are newly signed or where signs are replaced or updated. 				
S08d	Promote a cycling culture by encouraging families and young children to go cycling		£3,000 pa	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 1. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 2. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed	Key partners & stakeholders	

Practical Works



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
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		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiating the replacement of stiles with kissing gates has proved very successful It has proved more difficult to persuade land managers to remove stiles and gates altogether and leave gaps. Over 350 stiles were replaced with kissing gates or pedestrian gates or removed altogether in Year 1. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. Over 600 stiles were replaced with kissing gates or pedestrian gates or removed altogether in Year 2. A gate demonstration area was set up at Kingsbury Water park for users to see and try out a variety of pedestrian gates. The results of the accompanying questionnaire will inform our choice of gates in the future. The results of the BVPI survey suggests that the number of gates equals the number of stiles for the first time. 				
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	
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	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has continued on the replacement of the River Stour footbridge between Alderminster and Whitchurch. A Diversion Order was made to allow the bridge to be constructed at the site permitted by the Environment Agency. Work is unlikely to commence on the other large bridges until the River Stour Bridge is complete. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has continued on the replacement of the River Stour footbridge between Alderminster and Whitchurch. The diversion order was confirmed by the Secretary of State, with modifications. In consequence, a Compulsory Purchase Order is now required to allow the bridge to be constructed. Work is unlikely to commence on the other large bridges until the River Stour Bridge is complete. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
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Action

Resources & Additional funding needed

Key partners & stakeholders


P02c	Identify utility paths which require regular spraying or clearance programme <i>* This was not originally identified for Year 1-2 *</i>		-	Other councils
P02d	Develop a utility path clearance and spraying programme <i>* This was not originally identified for Year 1-2 *</i>		£30,000 pa	

Year 1

- A schedule has been developed to list which paths require spraying.
- A spraying contract is let each year.
- Further work is needed to identify paths which should be added to the schedule, and these will result in an expanded spraying contract.

Year 2

- The spraying contract has been re-let for 2008, which includes 18.5 km of paths.
- A comprehensive review of the paths which require clearance was carried out. A contract was put out to tender and a new contract was let for mowing/strimming 40km of paths.


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	
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Year 1

- Due to the success with negotiating gates, it has not been necessary to provide dog-gates.

Year 2

- Due to the success with negotiating gates, it has not been necessary to provide dog-gates.

P05b	Continue the programme of bridge repair Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		£75,000 pa	
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Year 1

- Ongoing, with a rolling programme based on priority.
- Diving inspections of key structures have been carried out.
- Extensive repairs carried out to a large footbridge at Coughton designed to extend lifespan.

Year 2

- After lacking suppliers for some time, two new sources have been located for bridge kits, and bridge replacement is now being carried out as required.
- Six small (<8m) timber kit bridges have been purchased and installed.

Campaigns


















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
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Year 1

- This has not happened in Year 1.

Year 2

- This has not happened in Year 2.


Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders	
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 Action chosen as a priority by the LAF	 	-	Other councils	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 1. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 2. 					
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	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A web page now explains about Access Land and an Information Sheet is available. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action was taken. 					
P01a	Continue annual ploughing and cropping campaign Action chosen as a priority by the LAF	 	-	NFU CLA	
P01b	Continue to take legal action against persistent non compliance with legislation Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-		
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal action was taken. Discussions with legal services took place with a view to enabling us to serve notice on land managers more easily. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to continued good relations with land managers, legal action has not been necessary. It is likely that cross-compliance is also having an effect. 					
S04a ✓Q	Develop and organise an annual walking festival, building on the success of the 2005 event	 	£20,000	Sponsors WCC (others) Volunteers	
T01a ✓Q	Publicise the annual walking festival throughout the UK	 	£20,000	Sponsors	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival took place from 27 May to 4 June 2006. The festival featured 57 separate walks, and over 30 walk leaders/organisers. In preparation for the 2007 show, staff attended the Outdoors Show at the NEC as well as advertising in national walking magazines. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival took place from 26 May to 3 June 2007. The festival featured 54 separate walks, and over 25 walk leaders/organisers. In preparation for the 2008 show, staff attended the Outdoors Show at the NEC as well as advertising in national walking magazines. A third party was employed to source sponsorship for the 2008 festival, and over £3000 was raised. 					

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

Resources & Additional funding needed

Key partners & stakeholders

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	
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Year 1

- This did not happen in Year 1

Year 2

- This has not happened in Year 2.

Signing and Waymarking



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	
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Year 1

- This has been programmed for Year 2.

Year 2

- Consultation was carried out with sample fingerpost designs taken to each of the shows which were attended.
- The design principles were agreed for the design of fingerposts, and their use was set out in a Working Practice.





P03e  Q	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
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Year 1









- An accessibility audit was carried out by the Access Company, grant aided by the Countryside Agency.
- The Access Company also provided researched information to support the comprehensive review of signs and waymarking, which will now be carried out in Year 2.





















Year 2










- The design was agreed for the new standard waymarkers, and a Working Practice was written.
- New waymarkers were purchased, using a new fade-resistant material, and were put into service for footpaths, bridleways and promoted routes.
- Work still remains to be done on advisory and information discs and signs.
- The design principles from the footpath and bridleway waymarkers were extended to waymarkers to be used on promoted routes. As the small round logo stickers will no longer be permitted, the four main promoted route representatives were offered replacement waymarkers at no cost.
- Negotiations were entered into about implementing the new promoted route marking.















Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed	Key partners & stakeholders


Targeted Improvements

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
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This did not happen due to problems with the proposed network of paths for the first route. However, another network has been identified and work will start in Year 2. Routes at Oversley Wood have been identified for improvements which will open up 6 miles to wheelchair users. This should allow us to create the first route under A01d above in Year 2. Although the Team is responsive to individual requests, no work has yet been done to proactively identify routes. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison has begun with Rugby Disability Forum, who offered to assist in identifying suitable routes. Three routes have been identified for improvements in Year 3. 				
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)		-	Fieldfare Trust
A04a	Undertake research into the needs of users with disabilities, which can inform future actions		£20,000	CoAg Disability groups WCC (Others)
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This did not happen in Year 1 <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison has begun with Rugby Disability Forum. No contact has been made with the Fieldfare Trust. 				
A01h 	Provide four new sensory trails		£10,000 each	Land managers Disability groups
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has continued on the development of the sensory trail at Ryton Pools Country Park. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. 				
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	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was not undertaken in Year 1. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 2. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders
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
N02b	Identify key roadside links and create 'behind the hedge access' <i>* This was not originally identified for Year 1-2 *</i>	 	£5,000 per link		User groups Land managers Highways Agency Parish Councils
N03c  	Identify where the use of surfaced roads forms a significant part of the path network	 	-		User groups Parish Councils LAF
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A survey of the road sections of A Coventry Way was completed. Following a survey, two 'behind the hedge' permissive routes have been established. Agreement has also been reached for increased mowing frequency on two lengths of verge, plus clearance work has been carried out on a third section of verge to create a usable width. This work was grant-aided by the Countryside Agency. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional routes have been identified, but County Highways are mowing some verges more frequently where a need has been identified. A diversion order was completed which removed a small section of road walking and created a public footpath parallel to the road, behind the hedge. 					
N08e  	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
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey has been completed. Network rail will be contacted in 2007 regarding proposed improvements and repairs. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Rail were advised of the recommended works. 					
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)
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to pursue Highways Agency about safer crossings of the A46 at Warwick. Responded to consultation over Longbridge bypass, and objected to the subsequent Side Roads Order in an attempt to move the path away from the road. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diversion Order for the A46 crossing was successfully published without objection. The Highways Agency was requested to make safety improvements to a stretch of the A46 near Stratford where horses use an access road immediately adjacent to and unsegregated from the main carriageway. Negotiations are underway with the Highways Agency over the possibility they may provide a bridge over the A46 near Hampton Magna to replace two at-grade crossings. 					

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed	Key partners & stakeholders	
N06a	Develop 2 new greenways – Kenilworth Berkswell and Leamington to Rugby Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		 £250,000	Sustrans Other councils	
S02g	Develop the two proposed greenways (Leamington-Rugby and Kenilworth-Berkswell) Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		 £250,000	Sustrans Other councils	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a bid for a new bridge over the Coventry Road at Kenilworth to reconnect the route to the town centre, in conjunction with Sustrans and the Friends of Kenilworth Greenway. Bid for, and received, £50,000 of LTP funding for improvement works to the Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway. Feasibility works were undertaken with Sustrans to re-establish the bridge over the Fosse Way near Offchurch. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC and Sustrans were successful in winning a share of the £50million National Lottery money as part of the 'Sustrans Connect2' scheme. This will allow a new bridge to be constructed on the Kenilworth – Berkswell Greenway to avoid the busy Coventry Road. Bid for, and received, a further £50,000 of LTP funding for improvement works to the Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway, to be used in Year 3. A permissive cycle link between the Greenway and a nearby bridleway has been agreed, which will allow cycle access to the Warwick University campus. 					
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)	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights of way have been surveyed over the whole WCC Rural Estate. Six holdings were chosen for improvements which would have the most benefit. Works on those six holdings are complete (at a cost of £20,000), and work continues on the remaining holdings into 2007. This was grant-aided by the Countryside Agency. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has continued on implementing the improvements identified in Year 1. Work on six further holdings was completed. No grant money was received in Year 2. A package of legal orders, including a dedication, was made on a WCC landholding at Hurley. 					
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	
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	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was not available in Year 1. The survey is due to begin in Year 2. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey and assessment of works needed was completed in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth areas. The survey and assessment in the Rugby area is 50% complete. 					

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders	
P03d	Inspect and sign, where appropriate, all Open Access Land	 	£1,000	CoAg	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Access Land has been surveyed. No signing has yet taken place. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage was not considered necessary as the affected areas are so small. 					
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	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues on the implementation of gap-gate-stile and many areas are being improved. No specific projects have been identified close to tourist areas and centres of population. Some practical works close to centres of population have been carried out as part of other projects. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. A gate demonstration area was set up at Kingsbury Water Park for users to see and try out a variety of pedestrian gates. The results of the accompanying questionnaire will inform our choice of gates in the future. 					
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		
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress in Year 1 on developing a programme. Some surfacing improvements have been carried out as part of other projects. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress in Year 2 on developing a programme. Some surfacing improvements have been carried out as part of other projects. 					
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		-		
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £600 for two new bridges included in a planning agreement via SDC for development south of Stratford. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received £30,000 from a landfill operator in Bubbenhall, through a Section 106 agreement, for improvements within for a five mile radius. Negotiated £10,000 over three years for a quarry in Rugby District for the future. Negotiated £30,000 for improvements in the vicinity of the former Peugeot site. 					
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	 	£15,000 pa	WCC (others) Market Towns Parish Councils	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 1. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has not happened in Year 2. 					









Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
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Action






Resources & Additional funding needed

Key partners & stakeholders

Volunteers & Community Working

E07a	Provide support and training for volunteers and other partners Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-	Land managers
P07b	Regularly publish details of grants and other funding opportunities for P3 groups		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and training continues on-site for volunteers. Support and training is provided for new groups as they join the scheme. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out in Year 1 were continued. Groups were provided with materials, and WCC undertook negotiation with land managers on behalf of some groups. 				
H01a	Encourage people to sign up to volunteering with existing practical groups		-	Existing practical groups
P07a	Continue with the existing P3 Scheme and encourage other parishes to join the Scheme		-	
P08b	Encourage other voluntary and community groups to undertake practical works on the path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three parishes have left the scheme in Year 1. Five parishes have joined the scheme in Year 1. Other groups such as A Coventry Way and Kenilworth Footpath Preservation Group have continued to work in partnership with us. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new introductory leaflet has been drafted but is yet to be published, pending changes in the Team structure. 				
P03c  Q	Encourage P3 groups and other partner groups to sign paths with fingerposts displaying destinations and route times		£300 per path	P3 groups
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trial is due to be started in Year 2. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design principles have been agreed, but no trial has yet started. 				
P08a	Support voluntary groups which undertake practical, promotional and research work on the path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds were contributed to the Heart of England Way Association's 25th anniversary events. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support was given to the Shakespeare's Avon Way Association in purchasing waymarkers for their new route. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed	Key partners & stakeholders	





Orders				
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		-	
R06b	Seek agreements in lieu of DMMO's		-	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review is progressing well in the Rugby area, with nine new cases started. Two applications were received in 2006-07. At 31 March 2007 there were 163 outstanding applications, of which 29 were in the Rugby area. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review is continuing in the Rugby area. Two applications were received in 2007-08. Seven applications were closed in 2007 without orders being made. At 31 March 2008 there were 149 outstanding applications, of which 25 were in the Rugby area. 				
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		-	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None so far. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None so far. 				
R02b	Pursue PPOs where they can be made in lieu of DMMOs		-	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None so far. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dedication agreement was secured for Lock Lane, Warwick. 				
R02c	Offer reduced fees to landowners who are willing to create additional paths or links as part of a "New Paths for Old" package		-	
Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None so far. Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None so far. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships		quick wins
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Action

Resources & Additional funding needed

Key partners & stakeholders

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)
R06a	Seek agreements which add routes constructively to the path network Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		£1,000 pa	
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		-	







Year 1

- Work continues to achieve safe crossings of the A46 near Warwick.

Year 2

- PPOs are now prioritised on receipt.
- Land managers are encouraged to include benefits for the public in their PPO applications.
- A PPO was made to resolve a Definitive Map anomaly near Bidford on Avon where paths did not connect.
- Negotiations are underway for three agreements in the Warwick area which will improve the network.

Promoted Routes




















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
















Year 1

- A draft procedure has been prepared for adding routes to The List.
- The List has yet to be prepared.

Year 2

- No further action was undertaken in Year 2.

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships		quick wins
Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders	
S02b	Support and assist the development of Sustrans routes Action chosen as a priority by the LAF	 	-		Sustrans
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a bid for a new bridge over the Coventry Road at Kenilworth to reconnect the route to the town centre, in conjunction with Sustrans and the Friends of Kenilworth Greenway. Bid for, and received, £50,000 of LTP funding for improvement works to the Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway. Feasibility works were undertaken with Sustrans to re-establish the bridge over the Fosse Way near Offchurch. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC and Sustrans were successful in winning a share of National Lottery money as part of the 'Sustrans Connect2' scheme. This will allow a new bridge to be constructed on the Kenilworth – Berkswell Greenway to avoid a busy road. WCC was extremely active in promoting the Connect 2 scheme in advance of the public vote. Bid for, and received, a further £50,000 of LTP funding for improvement works to the Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway, to be spent in Year 3. 					
S02c	Support and assist the development of the Battlefields Trail	 	-		Other councils Battlefields Trust WCC (others) Heritage professionals
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trail was successfully launched in 2006. 					
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
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have worked closely with others in developing the Trail. Work will continue in Year 2. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community workshops about the North Arden Trail and Quarryman's Walk were held in Atherstone, Baddesley & Merevale, Hartshill and Mancetter. 					
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
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action in Year 1. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action in Year 2. 					
S03b	Relaunch the existing Avon Valley Way between Stratford upon Avon and Marlcliff Action chosen as a priority by the LAF	 	£5,000		Other councils.
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have worked closely with The Shakespeare's Way Association to assist in their development of the 'Shakespeare's Avon Way' running from the Source to the Severn. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activity carried out in Year 1 was continued. The route was surveyed and preparations are being made to launch the 'Avon River Walk' with new signing and literature in Year 3. 					




Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed	Key partners & stakeholders
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
Year 1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action in Year 1. 				
Year 2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action in Year 2. 				
T01b	Support A Coventry Way Association in supporting their annual event, and offer similar support for other key events.	 	-	User groups
Year 1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical works were carried out to prepare sections of A Coventry Way for the Challenge Event. The 'Challenge Event' was publicised via the WCC website. Funds were contributed to the Heart of England Way Association's 25th anniversary events. 				
Year 2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support was given to A Coventry Way Association. 				
Internal processes				
E07b	Share training and best practice, and ensure that some within the team have the skills to train others		-	
Year 1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An in-house practical surveying course was delivered. Training sessions have been established, following the monthly Team Meeting, several times a year. 				
Year 2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training sessions are delivered after Team meetings several times per year. 				
E07d	Provide training for the Countryside Access Team in understanding overlapping disciplines e.g. agriculture, planning, ecology etc.		-	
Year 1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agricultural awareness day was held at Moulton College, Northampton in February 2007. 				
Year 2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was not undertaken in Year 2. 				
N01a	Support applications for agri environment schemes which include constructive access elements		-	
Year 1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations for agri-environment schemes have been few as the Higher Level Scheme is so new. 				
Year 2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations for agri-environment schemes have been few as the Higher Level Scheme is so new. 				
P11a	Develop written working practices to formalise internal procedures		-	
R08a	Develop written working practices to formalise internal procedures Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-	
Year 1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft working practices have been written on a number of subjects. An induction manual for new members of staff in the Team has been developed. 				
Year 2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Working Practices have been completed. 				

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
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Action










Resources & Additional funding needed

Key partners & stakeholders

R04a	Continue and complete the digitised data checking process towards a digital record		-	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues on high level verification of data ('gross checking'). <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed checking of individual paths has begun, initially with two members of the Team being trained to carry this out. 				
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	
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress in year 1. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress in year 2. 				
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)
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to be consulted on planning applications that affect rights of way. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to be consulted on planning applications that affect rights of way, but it is sometimes difficult to get rights of way treated as a material planning consideration. 				

Not intended to be carried out in Year 2

A04b	Undertake an assessment of current open space and green space provision within Warwickshire, so as to identify gaps in availability <i>There are no additional resources available for this</i>		£20,000	CoAg Other councils Land managers
S13a	Undertake an assessment of current open space and green space provision within Warwickshire, so as to identify gaps in availability <i>There are no additional resources available for this</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 (Access Land) areas are suitably signed <i>Not identified as a priority for year 2</i>		£1,000	CoAg
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)
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 Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		-	

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 Q	quick wins
Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders	
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 2</i>		£5,000 per route created	Forestry Commission Woodland Trust WWT Landowners	
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	
S05b	Establish online ordering of countryside publications <i>Corporate IT Infrastructure is not in place</i>		-	WCC (others)	

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