

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016

Statement of Intent April 2007 – March 08 Year 2







The CAROWIP was published in February 2006, and marked 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, as well as progress made during year 1. Whilst all the Actions have been listed, it is recognised that there will not be the resources to tackle each one.

An annual report was published for year 1, and another will be published at the end of year 2. Progress towards CAROWIP targets will be monitored by the Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry Local Access Forum.

Countryside Access Team
Warwickshire County Council

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships	 quick wins
	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
A03b ✓Q	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		-	
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
P06a ✓Q	Make reporting defects and other obstructions as easy as possible for path users	 	-	LAF
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

Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships		quick wins
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Action

Resources & Additional funding needed



Key partners & stakeholders


























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		-	
S08d	Promote a cycling culture by encouraging families and young children to go cycling		£3,000 pa	
T02b	Further develop use of the Warwickshire Web to provide information for visitors about the Warwickshire countryside		-	WCC (others)



















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
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	
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	
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

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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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	 	-	Other councils	
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 ✓ Q	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 ✓ Q	Publicise the annual walking festival throughout the UK	 	£20,000	Sponsors	
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		
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	
Targeted Improvements					
A01d ✓ Q	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	
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	





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	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders
A01h ✓Q	Provide four new sensory trails			£10,000 each	Land managers Disability groups
A01i	Identify key routes for accessibility improvements			£1,000 pa	Disability groups Other councils WCC (others) Minority groups
A04a	Undertake research into the needs of users with disabilities, which can inform future actions			£20,000	CoAg Disability groups WCC (Others)
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	
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
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
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
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

















Key	 existing staff	 additional staff or time	 partnerships		quick wins
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	Action		Resources & Additional funding needed	Key partners & stakeholders
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		-	
S02g	Develop the two proposed greenways (Leamington-Rugby and Kenilworth-Berkswell) Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		£250,000	Sustrans Other councils





Volunteers & Community Working

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 ✓ Q	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		-	














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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		-		
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)
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					
S01a  Q	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  Q	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

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Action		Resources & Additional funding needed		Key partners & stakeholders	
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 Marlcliff Action chosen as a priority by the LAF		£5,000	Other councils.	
S07a ✓Q	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	
T01b	Support A Coventry Way Association in supporting their annual event, and offer similar support for other key events.		-	User groups	
Internal processes					
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		-		

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Not 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
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 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		-	
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)
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