

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR Oldham

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2007/08 (YEAR 1)

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) for Oldham was published by the Council in December 2007 and provides a new opportunity of planning and monitoring work on countryside access and public rights of way. (1)

The Actions listed in this first annual document reflect all of those listed in the RoWIP for Year 1. Whilst all the Actions relating to this year have been listed, it is recognised that there may not be the resources to deliver each one and so some have been carried forward to following years.

Footnote (1)

This may change in future with regard to further guidance that Defra may choose to publish.

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Proposed Action from RoWIP	Specific Action	Resources	Delivered by	Timescale
Aim: Ensure that the existing PRow network is open and available for use				
Existing network management commitments	Continuing to manage and maintain the existing public rights of way network – including a review of the annual work programmes targeted at the removal of up growth	General PRow revenue budget.	RoW Officer Groundwork Parks and Countryside	Ongoing
Roadside signposting	Target all of the signposts known to be missing on 1 st April 2007 – approximately 70 new signs erected this year	Money allocated in PRow capital budget	RoW Officer	2007-2009
Prioritised list of paths in need of surface repair	Larger scale surface improvements carried out during 2007/08 included: FP's 5 schemes BW 's 3 schemes	Existing staff Capital budget	RoW Officer	2007-2011
Resolving obstructions	Work to targets set and report outcomes	Existing staff	RoW Officer	From 2007
Quantify PRow infrastructure	Work with highway teams to include PRow information in Highway Asset Management Plan	Existing staff	RoW Officer	2007/08

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Bridge replacements	Survey and design of two Footbridges to be replaced in the Beal Valley	Existing staff Capital budget and contributions	Bridges section PNFS	2008/09
Improved ways of dealing with reported problems	Business case to be prepared to justify a RoW data base	Existing staff	IT Section	2008
Aim: Provide an up to date and widely available paper and digital Definitive Map and Statement				
Digitise PRow network	No obligations meeting held with Land Aspects	Existing staff Capital budget	RoW Officer and Senior Surveyor	Ongoing
Survey paths affected by legal events	Phase One: Chadderton, Failsworth, Lees and Royton.	Existing staff	RoW Officer	Ongoing
Maintain up to date digital working copy of Definitive Map	Incorporate further legal changes to the network within 4 working days of receipt of notice of confirmation/certification of order	Existing staff	RoW Officer and Highway Records Officer	Ongoing

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Create on line registers	Section 31A Highways Act Register of Declarations and DMMO applications now on line	Existing staff	PRoW and web team	From 2007
Develop a strategy /priority system for dealing with legal orders	Develop strategy, consult with LAFs and seek member's approval.	Existing staff	PRoW and Legal Services, LAFs	2008/09
Definitive Map Anomalies	Report number of anomalies resolved or identified	Existing staff	RoW Officer	Ongoing
Review existing procedures and responsibilities for dealing with DMMO applications	Develop action plan on Use of Motorised Vehicles in the Countryside	Existing staff	PRoW and Legal Services	Carried over to 2009/10
Aim: Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network for all users				
Prioritise bridleway claims, creations/ dedications	Aim to progress one agreement / order through to completion.	Existing staff	Legal Services and RoW Officer	2007-2010

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Network available to horse riders and cyclists	Identify and map the whole network to which horse riders and cyclists have access including permissive routes	Existing staff	RoW Officer User groups	Carried over to 2009/10
Develop circular bridleway links off the Pennine Bridleway	Identify likely routes aim to progress one circular route	Existing staff	RoW Officer Countryside staff PDNPA and Natural England	2008/11
Additional routes/missing links	Report any other schemes that contributed to this target and recognise opportunities as they arise.	Existing staff	PRoW and Countryside Service PDNPA	Ongoing
Improved access opportunities to Open Access Land	Identify what work can be achieved within existing staffing and revenue budgets	Existing staff Open Access budgets	Countryside Service, PDNPA	2008-2010
Easy access routes	Contact local access groups to identify existing easy access routes and future opportunities for new easy access routes	Existing staff	Countryside Service Local Access Groups, User Groups	Ongoing

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Gaps: gates: stiles policy	Purchase of gates for use on local PRow network. (FP 64 Saddleworth, FP 43 Chadderton and FP's 68, 69, 71 and 83 Crompton)	LTP RoWIP delivery	RoW Officer Groundwork and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council RA Landowners	2007/08
Provide financial incentives for landowners to replace stiles with gates or gaps	Liaise with landowners	Existing staff. If budgets permit look to allocate money from PRow revenue or LTP RoWIP delivery to cover additional costs	RoW Officer	2007/08
Improvements to infrastructure on existing OMBC promoted routes	Improvements being carried out to the Oldham Way and Medlock Valley Way	Existing staff From LTP RoWIP delivery	RoW Officer and Countryside Service	Ongoing

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Improvements to road crossings	Identify and cost road crossings improvements opportunities	Existing staff to compile list and costings. Funding for improvements on ground to be investigated	Row and Cycling Officer's	Ongoing
Improve the provision of routes for Equestrians	Re survey the existing Horseshoe Trail	Existing staff Revenue budget	RoW Officer and user groups	2008/09
Safe routes to schools and local amenities	Identify which path improvement schemes in the list fulfil this aim.	Existing staff	RoW Officer to coordinate with Transportation team	Ongoing
Use of existing highway verges	No targets set for this year but implement if opportunities arise	Existing staff		Ongoing
New routes inside field boundaries	One route planned at Chadderton Fold by up grading part of a footpath to a bridleway	Existing staff	RoW Officer	2008-2009

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Review management of motor vehicles in the countryside	Review existing document in light of new legislation and guidance	Existing staff	RoW and Legal Services, PDNPA, LAFs, Vehicle users, Access stakeholders	2008-2010
Aim: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network				
New signs	Approximately 70 new signs erected in year 1 and 40 new signs planned for year 2. (This programme commenced in 2005 and has resulted in over 150 new signs being erected and maintained)	LTP RoWIP delivery and from PRow revenue budget	RoW Officer	2007-2009
Additional signage	Crompton Circuit , Pots and Pans and Leesbrook	Existing staff Capital budget and contributions	RoW Officer Shaw and Crompton Parish Council / Groundwork Regeneration	Ongoing

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Ensure that open access land is well signed	Check that all individual OMBC sites are signed from the main access points and complement signage for PDNPA sites where appropriate	Existing staff	Countryside Service and PDNPA	2008/09
Signs to advise users	Inform users about who is entitled to use each category of right of way and include information in relevant publications.	Existing staff	RoW Officer Cycling officer, LTP sub group, PDNPA and Countryside Service	From 2008/09
Improve information on access on Oldham MBC website	Implement as much as can be done by existing staff, and for information centre and site staff to provide feedback from members of the public	Existing staff	RoW Officer and Countryside staff	2008/09
Promote countryside and moorland codes	Ensure information is included in any relevant publicity	Existing staff	Countryside Service, PDNPA, Moors for the Future	Ongoing

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Provision of events and support programmes to provide information and develop confidence	Work with Ranger Services, Groundwork Trusts, and voluntary organisations to promote this action. Events programme facilitated by Countryside staff	Existing staff	Countryside Service	2008/09
Promote network for healthy walking schemes and for use by health professionals	Take advantage of opportunities to work with PCTs and volunteer organisations to promote this action	Existing staff to make contacts	RoW / Countryside PDNPA, PCTs, Groundwork Trusts, Walking for Health	2008/09
Promoted routes and trails	Report lengths of promoted routes inspected	Existing staff	RoW officer and Countryside Staff Volunteers	Ongoing
Review sections of existing promoted routes that are on roads	Review existing OMBC promoted routes and quantify sections where route alignment can be improved.	Existing staff	RoW Officer	2008-2011

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Promote more sustainable use of the access network	Ensure relevant information is included in any relevant publicity and influence partners to do the same. Produce checklist of information to be included	Existing staff	Countryside Service, PDNPA, Public Transport providers,	Ongoing
Encourage new promoted routes	Seek to establish mountain bike routes and activities to support the local economy and increase tourism	Existing staff	Cycling officer, LTP sub group, PDNPA and Countryside Service	2008
Improve information about the access network	Publish cycle route maps to promote general cycle routes and mountain bike routes	Existing staff	Cycling officer, LTP sub group, PDNPA and Countryside Service	2008

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Promote routes identified as <i>easy access</i> paths	Provide targeted information	Existing staff	Disability organisations PDNPA Countryside staff	Carried over to 2009/10
Aim: Encourage greater involvement in managing local Rights of Way				
Increase involvement of groups	In conjunction with Groundwork implement projects with Shaw and Crompton Parish Council. Encourage the initiative of Saddleworth Parish Council to comprehensively survey the network	Existing staff and volunteers	RoW Officer and Countryside teams, Groundwork, Parish Council's Volunteers	Ongoing

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Work with user groups and other volunteer groups	Work with BTCV to implement access improvements Report number of volunteer days and any outputs achieved	Existing staff and volunteers	Countryside Service BTCV, PDNPA, User Groups	Ongoing

Abbreviations:

BVPI: Best Value Performance Indicator

OMBC Oldham Met Borough Council

LAF: Local Access Forum

LTP: Local Transport Plan

PRoW: Public Rights of Way

PCT: Primary Care Trust

PDNPA: Peak District National Park Authority

NFU: National Farmers Union

DEFRA: Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs

RA: Ramblers Association

PNFS: Peak and Northern Footpath Society

Unity Partnership