

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR OLDHAM

MONITORING REPORT

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09
(YEAR 2)

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.

The Actions Reported in this document reflects all of those listed in the RoWIP for Year 2. 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.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Oldham – Annual Work Programme 2008/09 (Year2)

Identified need in RoWIP	Proposed 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	£30k general maintenance work	Unity Partnership on behalf of Oldham MBC	Ongoing
<p>BVPI 178 target set at 65% - Actual based on seasonal sample survey 65.4%</p> <p>Due to the collection of data being randomly selected from sample surveys, then larger than average disparities will result year on year. With this in mind the setting of targets has been done in such a way as to attempt to even out these inevitable highs and lows. The results for 2008 put the council <i>back on track</i> after the lower than average score in 2007 and the wettest summer on record.</p>				

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<p>Aim 1a) i Produce an annual prioritised list of the paths most in need of improvement or which will benefit the most users (in line with LTP2 targets.) This list will form the basis for bids for to 2010 / 2011</p>	<p>Produce a prioritised list of paths in most need of surface repair / improvement. To be available on request. Produce a list of paths where surface improvements are being carried out during 2008/09. Reported to user groups and LAF's</p>	<p>£30k LTP RoWIP delivery</p>	<p>Existing staff</p>	<p>Work Progressing</p>
<p>Five paths have been improved totalling a distance of 925 metres of surface improvements carried out within the capital programme: > BW 28 off Lees New Road Oldham > PBW Widening work off Chew Valley Road Greenfield > FP 132 at Dodle Farm Grains Bar (Oldham Way link route) > FP 52 at Brookdale Golf Course Failsworth (part of the Woodhouses Circular walk) > FP 44 at Salmon Fields Royton</p>				<p>Target Achieved</p>

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Aim 1d) ii Roadside signposting	35 signposts installed and repaired	Repairs –revenue New - capital	Unity	Completed
Aim 1e) i Annual vegetation clearance	Produce a list of paths where seasonal vegetation clearance is carried out Reproduce the current maps location plans electronically (CAD) on an area basis starting with Shaw and Royton	£12k of the Revenue budget transferred internally from Highways to Parks and Countryside £4K to Groundwork	Parks and Countryside Groundwork	Completed Work in progress

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Aim: Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network for all users				
Aim 2a) i Prioritise bridleway claims, creations/ dedications that contribute to or connect up with existing bridleways	A) Upgrading of Footpath numbers 16,19,20 and 21 Chadderton. Legal Orders being prepared (to be advertised in 2009/2010). Start of construction work to follow	Existing staff and Consultancy Services	Legal Services and RoW Officer	2008-2010 ongoing
Aim 2a) ii Identify and Map the 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	Work ongoing
Aim 2a) iii Use of existing highway verges	No targets set for this year but implement if opportunities arise	Existing staff		Ongoing

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Aim 2a) iv Develop circular bridleway links off the Pennine Bridleway	Work in conjunction with Natural England to investigate any suitable rides to meet the needs of equestrian users	Existing staff	RoW Officer Countryside staff PDNPA and Natural England	Work progressing
Aim 2b) i Integrate RoWIP into the LDF. Provide for improvements through development control	Provide for PRow improvement and protection through the Development Control process, include the use of S106 planning obligations when appropriate	Existing staff	Planning & regeneration	ongoing

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Aim 2b) ii Improve the provision of routes for Equestrians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re survey the existing Horseshoe Trail ▪ Review the maps produced by GMC ▪ Ongoing feasibility: survey to implementation ▪ Upgrade bridleway ink from Magpie Lane to Leesbrook Nature Park using S106 resources ▪ Upgrade of paths and bridleway within Bank Top section of Leesbrook nature Park including new access points and signage 	Capital and Revenue budget Grant from Natural England – National Trails Section 106 Section 106, landfill Tax, Environment Agency and Forestry Commission	RoW Officer Cycling Officer and user groups Parks & Countryside services and Regeneration Parks & Countryside Services, Regeneration and Pennine Edge Forest	Work ongoing Ongoing to be complete by March 2009
Aim 2b) iv 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	Work ongoing

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Aim 2c) i 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	Not yet started
Aim 2d) iv Gaps: gates: stiles less restrictive policy	Existing ladder stile on part of FP 64 Saddleworth, (Oldham Way) replaced with pedestrian Kissing gate Condition survey to be undertaken on promoted routes to identify improvements – starting with the Crompton Circuit	LTP RoWIP delivery RA contributions	RoW Officer Groundwork and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council RA Landowners	Work progressing
Aim 2d) v Provide financial incentives for landowners to replace stiles with gates or gaps	Liaise with landowners – FP 107 at Ward Lane 1 gap stile installed.	Existing staff. If budgets permit look to allocate money from PRow revenue or LTP RoWIP delivery to cover additional costs	RoW Officer	Work ongoing

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Aim 2d) vi Improvements to infrastructure on existing OMBC promoted routes	Improvements being carried out to the Oldham Way and Medlock Valley Way Development of Peak District Northern gateways project Development of Pennine Edge Forest Trail	Existing staff from LTP RoWIP delivery and landfill Tax (GGM) Access to nature funding applications	RoW Officer and Countryside Service Regeneration and Pennine Edge Forest Peak Park	Work progressing
Aim: Provide an up to date and widely available paper and digital Definitive Map and Statement				

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Aim 3a) i Digitise PRow network	Internal Trading Agreement set up with Land Aspects to digitize a Pilot phase for consultation followed by phase one of the full roll out	Existing staff Capital budget	Land Aspects in conjunction with the following Unity Staff- PRow Officer, Senior Surveyor and the Highways Records Officer	Pilot Phase Mar 2009 Full roll out due to be completed summer 2009
Aim 3a) ii Survey paths affected by legal events	Phase One: Chadderton, Failsworth, Lees and Royton.	Existing staff	PRow Officer and Highway Records Officer	Ongoing
Aim3a) iii 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
Aim 3b) ii Create on line registers	Section 31A Highways Act Register of Declarations and DMMO applications now on line	Existing staff	Highway Records Officer / PRow Officer and web team	Completed

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Aim 3c) i 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	2009/2010
Aim 3c) ii Definitive Map Anomalies	Report number of anomalies resolved or identified	Existing staff	PRoW Officer and Highway Records Officer	Ongoing
Aim 3c) iii Identify those mostly rural unclassified roads which should be added to the Definitive Map as Footpaths, Bridleways, Restricted Byways or Byways Open to all Traffic	Seek approval for specialist consultancy services	Existing staff and Land Aspects	PRoW and Legal Services	Work progressing
Aim: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network				

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Aim 4a) ii New signs	Approximately 35 new signs erected and repaired in year 2 and 40 new signs planned for year 3. (This programme commenced in 2005 and has resulted in over 200 new signs being erected and maintained) New signs erected in Leesbrook Nature Park	LTP RoWIP delivery and from PRow revenue budget Landfill Tax	RoW Officer Regeneration and Parks and Countryside	Work progressing Complete in Breezehill and Bank Top sections
Aim 4a) iii Additional signage	Oldham Way and Medlock Valley Way signage at Road Crossings to be improved	Existing staff Capital budget and contributions from Countryside and Regeneration	RoW Officer Shaw and Crompton Parish Council / Groundwork Regeneration	Work ongoing
Aim 4a) iv 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	Work progressing

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Aim 4b) ii 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
Aim 4b) iii Review publications that focus on horse riding	Consultation on the horse riding / mountain biking maps being prepared	Existing staff	Cycling and RoW Officer's other Council officers User groups PDNPA	Work progressing
Aim 4b) iv Encourage new promoted routes	Seek to establish mountain bike routes and activities to support the local economy and increase tourism Development of Peak District Northern Gateway project Development of Pennine Edge Forest trail	Existing staff	Cycling officer, LTP sub group, PDNPA and Countryside Service, Regeneration and Pennine Edge Forest and BTCV	Work started but not yet complete

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Aim 4d) iv 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	Work progressing
Aim 4d) v 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		Countryside Service	Ongoing
Aim 4e) i Promote routes identified as <i>easy access paths</i>	Provide targeted information	Existing staff	Disability organisations PDNPA Countryside staff	Work started but not yet complete

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Aim 4e) ii 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	Work started but not complete
Aim: Encourage greater involvement in managing Local Rights of Way				
Aim 5b) i Work with user groups and other volunteer groups	Work with BTCV to implement access improvements 20 volunteer days on cutting back and ditching work	Existing staff and volunteers	Countryside Service BTCV, PDNPA, User Groups	Work ongoing
Aim 5b) ii Support path surveys being undertaken by interested groups and organisations	In conjunction with Groundwork Implement projects with Shaw and Crompton Parish Council. Monitoring of 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	Work progressing

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

NE: Natural England

PNFS: Peak and Northern Footpath Society

GMC: Greater Manchester Council

LDF: Local Development Framework

Unity Partnership