

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

2025-2035

Action Plan



11. Appendix - Action Plan

The statement of action the council propose to take over the next ten years for the management of local rights of way, and for securing an improved network of local rights of way, is set out in this current Action Plan.

The Action Plan is a living document, which will be monitored, reviewed and updated annually in response to the changing priorities, funding available and continued engagement feedback with all the partners, organisations, and volunteers the council works with. This will help ensure the actions in the plan continue to deliver outcomes that support the successful management and improvement of the rights of way network for all of the people that use it.

The current actions and their progress are set out below:

Themes <div>Managing and Maintaining (MM)</div> <div>Encouraging and Enabling (EE)</div> <div>Working Together (WT)</div> <div>Improving the Network (IN)</div>	Action Number	Action	Description	Frequency	Status / Progress	10 Year Programme Tracker									
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						2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
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Highway Authority (HA)															
(WT)	AR1	Annual Reporting to LLAF	Produce an Annual Report on the progress of the RoWIP, and present to Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF)	Annual	Next report due in 2026	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(WT)	AR2	Update RoWIP Action Plan	Update RoWIP Action Plan to provide latest progress on Actions & review existing Actions &/or need for new Actions	Annual	Next update in 2026/27	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	HA1	Annual survey of the network	Measure the percentage of rights of way that are easy to use	Annual	2025 survey	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	HA2	Annual review of sealed surface routes	Inspection of all sealed surface paths. i.e. asphalt	Annual	80% to 100% over 2 years	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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(MM), (IN), (WT)	HA3	Provide online defect reporting service	Reporting service that enable the public to report defects on paths using online system with photo option	Ongoing	Review 2026	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN), (WT)	HA4	Investigate all reports received	Investigate and prioritise all reports received from the public and stakeholders	Ongoing	50% closed within 1 month	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN), (WT)	HA5	Apply enforcement protocol	Defect reports about paths dealt with in line with the Enforcement Protocol	Ongoing	All over 1st year	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	HA6	Keep Enforcement protocol up-to-date	Ensure Enforcement Protocol is kept up to date, in line with legislation changes, for use by officers as necessary	Ongoing	Currently up-to-date	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM), (IN)	HA7	Manage vegetation on priority paths	Undertake an annual programme to manage vegetation on priority paths	Two Cuts	2025 2 cut programme	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	HA8	Integrate PRoW assets into wider highway network assets	Integrate PRoW assets into wider highway network assets to provide a complete assets register to aid assets management	First 3 years	60% to 100%	●	●	●							
(MM), (IN)	HA9	Survey and inspect bridge assets	Survey and inspect Bridge assets and identify replacement structures	Ongoing	70% complete 2025	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN), (WT)	HA10	Identify PRoW improvement projects in MMAIP and LCWIP areas	Identify suitable programme of PRoW improvement schemes to support delivery of wider MMAIP and LCWIP capital programmes	2025/6	Initiation date to be confirmed	●	●	●							
(MM), (IN)	HA11	Proactive sign renewal checks on priority routes	Undertake signage improvements and renewal to provide directional and destination information for users on the PRoW network	2026/27 onward	Dependent on funding aligned with wider area improvement works		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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(MM), (IN)	HA12	Improve access on promoted PRoW	Improve access on promoted PRoW routes including the Leicestershire Round	2026/27 onward	Dependent on funding		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM), (WT), (IN)	HA13	Implement Greenways programme	Implement Greenways programme to identify and improve priority routes between settlements. Improvements to include surfacing, signage and reducing stiles and replacing with gates or gaps in physical barriers such as hedges and fence lines, to better connect communities	2025/26	Initiation date to be confirmed, expected to begin 2026/27		●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM), (WT), (IN)	HA14	Manage highway verges	Undertake feasibility assessment of highway verges with a view to improve access for users, providing wider connectivity of the PRoW network, including equestrian users	2026 survey	Initiation date to be confirmed, expected to begin 2025/26	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM), (WT), (IN)	HA15	Survey the Leicestershire Round	Survey all routes on Leicestershire Round as a priority route	2025-27 survey	80% complete	●	●				○	○			
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	HA16	Assist Parish councils who want to help look after local paths	Assist Parish councils who want to help look after local paths in their areas	Ongoing	5% of paths currently looked after by Parish councils	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	HA17	Provide support to Leicestershire Footpaths Association (LFA) and volunteers working on Leicestershire Round	Provide support to LFA and other volunteers to enable them to assist with work on the Leicestershire Round	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	HA18	Recruit and support Volunteers	Recruit, appoint and support volunteers helping to manage the network	Ongoing	4 appointments made in 2025 so far	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	HA19	Host the Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF)	Host and support the Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LLAF), including holding three meetings annually	Ongoing - (3 Meetings every year)	1 Meeting held. 2 more to be held in 25/26	✓●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●
(WT)	HA20	Consult with the LLAF on policy or service changes that effect PROW	Consult with the LLAF on policy or service changes that effect PROW, to ensure improvements meet the needs of current and future users	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	HA21	Engage with the public Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Forum on PROW projects and schemes	Engage with the public Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Forum on PROW projects and schemes, to ensure all users are given the opportunity to input into the design of schemes and projects before they are delivered	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(EE), (WT)	EE1	Promoting the Network and its use	Promote the PRoW network and its use via Choose How You Move (CHYM)	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(EE), (WT)	EE2	Targeted Promotion and Engagement	Engage users and promote the PRoW Network and its uses to under represented communities to enable increased number and diversity of people using the network	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(EE), (WT)	EE3	Provide online and printed information on PRoW routes and events	Provide online and printed information for people to help the use PRoW routes and attend events and training	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(EE), (WT)	EE4	Facilitate Guided walks and rides on the PRoW Network	Facilitate guided walks and rides on the PRoW Network to help encourage and attract new users to the network and travelling actively	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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(EE), (WT)	EE5	Provide targeted information to improve accessibility of the network for users	Provide targeted information, promotions and communication campaigns, to ensure that there is clear information on the accessibility of individual PROWs to enable people to make informed and safe plans for using them	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	EE6	Engage and work in partnership with others to improve access for underrepresented user groups	Improve and increase working in partnership with groups/organisations/service providers that serve underrepresented user groups including those with protected characteristics, to promote, encourage and enable use of the PROWs for all	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	EE7	Engage and work in partnership with Landowners and Farmers to minimise conflict with livestock and users	Engage and work in partnership with Landowners and Farmers to minimise conflict with livestock and users on the network	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(EE), (WT)	EE8	Provide orienteering and map reading training for users	Provide orienteering and map reading training session for user groups to empower users to confidently navigate the network	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(EE), (WT)	EE9	Provide information and education provision to schools in Leicestershire on PROW and the Countryside Code	Providing information provision and practical skills training on using the PROW network in line with the countryside code. This will include getting to know signs and symbols using the countryside, being considerate and protecting the environment	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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Surveying Authority (SA)															
(MM), (IN)	SA1	Maintain an up-to-date Definitive Map	The Definitive Map to be updated following all legal changes and published for inspection by the public	Ongoing	Within six weeks of change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	SA2	Publish a Definitive Map Modification Order(DMMO) priority policy	Take account of legislative requirements and amending legislative proposals which are expected within the 3rd year of this plan, and to develop a DMMO priority policy	3rd Year	2027			●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM), (WT), (IN)	SA3	Recruit and support Research Volunteers	Recruit and support new Research volunteers to research existing historic DMMO claims and associated evidence	Ongoing	5 appointments made in 2025 so far	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM)	SA4	Maintain a DMMO online register	Provide an online register of claims for the public to inspect	Ongoing	100%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (WT), (IN)	SA5	Provide PROW datasets to 3rd parties	Provide PROW data to organisations, including Ordnance Survey, Government and its agencies as part of the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) record. These organisations can also include private sector developers and their agents	Monthly	100%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	SA6	Inform public of temporary orders that affect PROW	Update National data database with Temporary diversion, closure and Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders(TTROs) on PROW	Ongoing	Continuous	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	SA7	Respond to legislative changes	If enacted, deregulation proposals affecting PROW to be implemented and processes reviewed, to ensure these are inline with government legislation	Subject to Parliament	As enacted				○	○					

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(MM), (IN)	SA8	Reduce anomalous PROW data recorded on the definitive map	Reduce contradictory PROW data recorded on the definitive map, when assessed with current land management data, to minimise impact on users and landowners	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (IN)	SA9	Publish an online register of Legal Orders	Maintain an online register of all Legal Order applications and process, and update in response to further legislative changes	Ongoing	100%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Planning & Development (PD)															
(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD1	Provide advice and support to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) for routes affected by development	Support the legal process of temporarily closing or moving routes during construction and assisting with permanently diverting paths under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA)	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD2	Maintain up-to-date PROW Design Guidance	Ensure the latest relevant information regarding PROW is included in the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide, to aid land developers, their agents and other parties when designing and delivering developments	Ongoing	100%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD3	Provide PROW formal advice to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) and Secretary of State (SoS)	Provide formal advice to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's), and Secretary of State (SoS), on applications that are directly affected by PROW	Ongoing	As submitted	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD4	Provide PROW advice to Developers and their agents on development proposals	Act as a point of expertise to advise land developers and their agents on development proposals that may directly affect PROWs	Ongoing		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	PD5	Obligate and deliver PROW improvements identified through the planning process	Ensure necessary PROW improvements are obligated from relevant parties as part of housing and employment land development, and support their delivery through Section 106 funding use	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD6	Provide PROW input into Local Plan development process	Provide PROW input into Local Plan process, to ensure access opportunities are maximised to connect communities as part of long term land development	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD7	Ensure Green Infrastructure proposals are aligned to access and the PROW network	Ensure Green Infrastructure proposals are aligned to access and the PROW network, including supporting climate change mitigation and flood risks	Ongoing	Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
(MM), (WT), (IN)	PD8	Provide advice and work with government agencies including Network Rail on infrastructure improvements	Provide advice and work with government agencies including Network Rail on infrastructure improvements and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)	Ongoing	Inputting into Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange (HRFI) proposals. Working with Network Rail ongoing	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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Access Authority (AA)															
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	AA1	Ensure designated open access sites are accessible to the public	Work with land managers and the Leicestershire Local Access Forum on site access surveys of larger open access sites	5 yearly	Await Natural England review for which open access sites are on the register		●	●				●	●		
(MM), (EE), (WT), (IN)	AA2	Assist land managers to dedicated land as open access	Work with landowners who wish to dedicate land for open access	Ad hoc	Liaising with Landowners as required	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

