

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-2017



February 2009

PROGRESS REPORT



Resident & Visitor Services
Environment Services

1 INTRODUCTION

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was adopted by Torbay Council in October 2007. The aim of the ROWIP was to manage the rights of way network in order to provide the following key themes:

- **Enhances health, well being and enjoyment of life** - through the use of public paths for outdoor exercise and appreciation of the environment.
- **Increases economic prosperity** - by attracting more visitors to the countryside and the area of Torbay.
- **Improves sustainable transport** - by providing traffic-free, safe routes to urban and rural facilities.
- **Provides access for all** - by being available for the disabled.

In producing the ROWIP Torbay Council were keen that whilst the document would outline the high level strategy and policies it would also have a clear Statement of Action detailing what the Council intended to deliver over 10 years. This allows a clear measure of how the Council has delivered the improvements. Outlined below are the key actions implemented to date.

TABLE 1 - STATEMENT OF ACTIONS – IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Key Action	Progress	Issues Arising
<p>1) A Public Right of Way Code of Practice will be produced to outline the maintenance standards of all PROW (Section 4.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of inspections being delivered. • Hedge cutting contract now includes rights of way. • Code of Practice is being developed with draft for consultation expected May 2009. • Ongoing improvements being carried out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No good practice guides exist for producing a maintenance code of practice that is fit for purpose.
<p>2) Implement three year programme of signing and waymarking (Section 4.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to signing of 49 Footpaths and Bridleways carried within the last three years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice from the LAF would be welcome with regard to signing improvements and routes that require waymarkes.
<p>3) Implement improvement to countryside areas (Section 4.2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occombe Woods, creation agreement and Legal event order implemented. • Scadson Woods, creation agreement implemented. Legal event order to be implemented shortly. • Clennon Hill, route currently being surveyed. 	
<p>4) Carry out an audit of street lighting (Section 4.5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements made to lighting on 18 urban connecting Rights of Way. • Planning agreement provides for improved lighting to TQ184 Hawkins Avenue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice from the LAF would be welcome with regard to any routes that would benefit from improved lighting.
<p>5) Develop the existing seven circular routes and publicise with maps, leaflets and waymarkers (Section 5.4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant progress to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements planned for Maidencombe.

Key Action	Progress	Issues Arising
<p>6) Improved information on the Public Right of Way Network (Section 5.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site improvements implemented. • Links formed to other trail sites. • Countryside Access Management System has been procured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countryside Access Management System to be developed.
<p>7) All promotional material will include distances and information of suitability for pushchairs and disabled (Section 5.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant progress to date. • Web site improvements to be implemented shortly. 	
<p>8) Improve Accessibility (Section 4.3)</p> <p>Implement three routes with facilities for Disabled Users and upgrade the existing routes (Section 5.8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Stiles have been replaced with kissing gates. • Route at Berry Head has been surveyed by the Access Officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torbay Council would welcome advice from the LAF on what improvements would be required to the disabled routes at Berry Head and Cockington. • Advice in relation to other access issues would be welcome.
<p>9) Introduce missing links and new routes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Hill, creation Order implemented. 	
<p>10) Introduce better links for cyclists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of the footpath PN2, Brixham Road has been regraded as a Bridleway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is investigating the possibility of providing a cycle link into Brixham via BX56 (Copythorne Road to Fishcombe Road).

Key Action	Progress	Issues Arising
11) Improve the provision for horseriders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="448 237 1134 344">• A Horseriding Strategy is being produced by Torbay Council's Strategic Transportation Team. 	

Future Progress

The LTP Capital Programme for 2009/10 provides for funding of £10,000 which will be used to further implement the Statement of Action.

Progress on the ROWIP may be affected by the following issues:

- Application for a claimed route at Dolphin Holiday Camp.
- Application for a claimed route at Torre Station.
- Planning Application for Wishings Field.
- Request for diversion at Astra Zeneca, Brixham.