

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Policy Ref.	ROWIP Ref.	Achievements 2023-24	Ongoing targets 2024-25
H2 H3 S7 S8	Various	<p>Planning Applications, Pre-Applications and Developer Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications and pre-applications commented upon from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding, putting forward ROWIP aspirations. • Developer contributions sought and secured for off-site improvement through section 106 agreements, unilateral undertakings and s278 agreements • Initiation of s106-funded improvement works in Alsager, Wilmslow and Congleton • Securing improvements to Public Rights of Way and other walking and cycling access routes, to be delivered by developers within sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, as arising.
H2 H3 S7 S8	X15	<p>Publicity to promote walking, cycling and horse riding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles submitted for Council social media feeds for all news items, as arising. • Suggestions for walks, cycle rides and horse riding routes published on Free walk leaflets for Cheshire East • Walks and countryside site leaflets distributed via country parks, visitor information centres, libraries and on request to members of the public. • Countryside Ranger Service events promoted via social media channels. • Responsible countryside access promoted via social media channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing.
H2 H3 S7 S8	n/a	<p>Rights of Way Consultative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice yearly liaison meetings for PROW team and user group representatives. • Updates provided on long term closures of PROW due to legal / resource issues. • Improvements to the online collection of information on issue reports. • Updates from local groups. • Ongoing management of register of volunteers and issuance of Letters of Authority for volunteers assisting with waymarking and minor vegetation cutting and additionally legal order notice checking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing.

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<p>H2 H3 S7 S8</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p><u>Cheshire East Countryside Access Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat duties for Forum, a statutory body, whose members are volunteers, which advises the Council on matters relating to countryside access. The Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ continued to hold quarterly meetings and published an annual report of the work of the Forum ○ continued to monitor the Rights of Way Improvement Plan delivery and Public Rights of Way team resources and considered how issues on the network are reported to the team ○ heard about the new Outdoor Accessibility Guidance which updates and expands the ‘Countryside for All’ document and which reflects a wider diversity of people and landscapes ○ learned about the Forestry Commission and its woodland creation schemes and provided comment on terminology and public access ○ received information on a project concerning landscape and countryside access in the Chonar area between Wilmslow and Alderley Edge ○ continued representation on the Lindow Moss Partnership project aiming to explain the history and value of Lindow Moss landscape ○ continued to post on the Forum’s FaceBook account in order to promote sharing of information including on responsible access to the countryside ○ received a presentation about <u>A Climate for Change: Adaptation and the National Trust</u>, building on the Forum’s interest in the effects of climate change on the visitor economy and countryside access ○ received a presentation on the work of the Disabled Ramblers and its which include organising rambles across England and Wales, and working to make the countryside more accessible by the removal of man-made barriers such as steps, stiles and narrow gates and bridges. <div data-bbox="580 1179 1417 1481" style="text-align: center;">  <p>Cheshire East Countryside Access Forum</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing.

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H3 S7 S8	Various	<p>Road and rail infrastructure schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing road and rail infrastructure schemes through design development, the planning system and Side Road Orders to achieve best possible outcomes for non-motorised users, and ensuring delivery of infrastructure on the ground as well as legal records. • A500 dualling, M6 missing Restricted Byway Bridge, Middlewich Eastern Bypass and Poynton Relief Road. • Continued input of ROWIP aspirations into options and designs to maximise opportunities for improving routes for active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horse riding. • Management of temporary closures undertaken by HS2 as part of pre-construction works. • Continued liaison with Strategic Infrastructure team on planning and delivery of active travel schemes under the Cycling Strategy. <div data-bbox="539 740 996 1201" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <p>Diagram showing the priorities of the Local Transport Plan 2019-2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing.

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H2 H3	N/a	<p>Bradwall Permissive Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradwall Parish Council secured the agreement of third party landowners for the creation of a permissive footpath in the parish. • The aim of the 273m long path is to form a safe and pleasant off-road link alongside a section of Bradwall Road where there is no footway, limited verges and limited sightlines. • In recent years there has been an increase in the number of walkers from Sandbach using this road to form circular routes using other public footpaths in the area. • The Parish Council bore all costs of construction, maintenance and liabilities throughout the duration of the agreement. • An opening event was held August 2023 with a ribbon being cut by the landowner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work completed.

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H2 H3 S7	T34	<p>Wilmslow Footpath No. 80 surfacing improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfacing improvements to a section of footpath which links Handforth with Cheadle Hulme • Continuing improvements previously delivered on another section of path • Improvements also included signage, cutting back vegetation to open up the walking tunnel and fence railings, to increase the accessibility and attractiveness of the route • Lighting ducting installed to help future-proof route for installation of lighting proposed to be installed through Handforth Garden Village development. • Funded by A6-Manchester Airport Relief Road PROW Complementary Measures Package <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Before</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>After</p> </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed.

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H2 H3	W106	<p>Twemlow Permissive Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instigated by Holmes Chapel Parish Council, and with grateful thanks to the landowner and Twemlow Parish Council, a new permissive path has been established in Twemlow. • The path meets a long-held aspiration of Holmes Chapel Parish Council and the Congleton Ramblers to reduce the amount of road walking that followers of the Dane Valley Way have to do. The Way is a long distance promoted route, part of which runs partly along a length of the A54 before continuing on the Public Rights of Way network along the Dane Valley. The permissive path will enable users to avoid a section of the road where there is no pavement, and limited verge. • The landowner kindly agreed to the path on a permissive basis and Holmes Chapel Parish Council funded, with a contribution from Twemlow Parish Council, the installation of the path furniture where it passes through field boundaries. Holmes Chapel Parish Council have also agreed to take on future maintenance and liabilities. <div data-bbox="898 791 1305 1198" data-label="Image"> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements being sought on linking paths.