






Contents

	<i>Page</i>	
List of tables and charts	ix	
Glossary	x	
1 Introduction	1	
1.2 Types of public right of way	1	
1.3 Rights of Way Improvement Plan	2	
1.4 ROWIP legislation	3	
1.5 Statutory role	3	
1.6 Local Access Forum	3	
1.7 Previous policies and documents	4	
1.8 Milestones	4	
1.9 Greenwood and Sherwood Access Studies	4	
1.10 Pilot Greenwood area Rights of Way Improvement Plan	4	
1.11 Nottinghamshire’s vision and objectives	5	
1.12 Nottinghamshire’s countryside access vision	5	
1.13 Aims	5	
1.14 Research and consultation	6	
2 Scene setting	7	
2.1 The Plan Area – Nottinghamshire	7	
2.2 Coalfields	9	
2.3 Farming	9	
2.4 Forestry and heathland	9	
2.5 Natural and man-made barriers	9	
2.6 Nottinghamshire’s landscape and geology	10	
3 Policy Context	11	
3.2 National	12	
3.3 Regional	13	
3.4 Local	13	



3.5	Nottinghamshire's Community Strategy	13
3.6	Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan	15
3.7	Local Transport Plans for Greater Nottingham and North Nottinghamshire	16
3.8	Nottinghamshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	17
3.9	Local Development Framework	18
3.10	Other Initiatives and Strategies	18
4	Assessment of Countryside users and their needs	19
4.1	Walkers	19
4.2	Dog walking	21
4.3	Horse Riding	22
4.4	Carriage Driving	26
4.5	Cycling	26
4.6	Motor Vehicles in the Countryside	29
4.7	Illegal motor vehicle use	32
4.8	Access for All	32
4.9	Physical barriers	34
4.10	An inclusive network	35
4.11	Farmers and land managers	35
4.12	Summary of countryside users key needs	37
5	Assessment of the network	39
5.1	The County Network	39
5.2	Making the Assessment	44
5.3	Local Consultation	46
5.4	Current dissatisfaction	47
5.5	Analysis of current use in the assessment areas	47
5.6	Results and analysis of the assessments	48
5.7	Key findings from the assessments	49
5.8	Summary of key findings from assessments	50
5.9	Comparison with Nottinghamshire's actual 2006 BVPI figures	52
5.10	General findings from the network assessments	53
5.11	Accessibility audit in Warsop	54
5.12	Wider access	56
5.13	Key findings for wider access	60
5.14	Quiet Lanes	60
6	Policies and Procedures	63
6.2	Maintenance and enforcement	63
6.3	Signposting	64
6.4	Waymarking	64
6.5	Gates, stiles and barriers	65
6.6	Surfacing	66
6.7	Ploughing and cropping	67
6.8	Bridges	68
6.9	Enforcement to remove obstructions and other nuisances	69
6.10	Vegetation encroachment	69
6.11	Community and partnership working	69
6.12	Definitive Map and Statement	71
6.13	Public path orders	74
6.14	Right to apply	75
6.15	Planning and development	75
6.16	Dedication and creation agreements	76



6.17	Widths of new routes	77	
6.18	Extinguishment	77	
6.19	Gating orders	77	
6.20	Looking for opportunities	78	
6.21	Open Access	82	
6.22	Publicity and promotions	84	
7	Statement of action	87	
7.1	Introduction	87	
7.2	Layout	88	
7.3	Statement of Action tables	89	
Appendices		101	
Appendix 1		101	
Appendix 2		102	
Appendix 3		104	
Appendix 4		105	
Appendix 5		106	
Acknowledgements		110	



Tables		<i>page</i>
Table 1	PROW classifications and waymarks	1
Table 2	ROWIP contribution to Community Strategy Objectives	14
Table 3	ROWIP contribution to LTP2 objectives	16
Table 4	Surfacing needs of different user groups	25
Table 5	PROW network breakdown by percentage and length	40
Table 6	Socio-economic data for Elston, Gringley, Sutton Bonington and Warsop areas	46
Table 7	Total length of PROW surveyed in each grid square	48
Table 8	BVPI results for network assessments	49
Table 9	Network provision, problems found, average distance per problem and average number of faults per failed route in each area of the Network Assessment.	51
Table 10	Average distances for routes that passed and failed in rural areas	51
Table 11	Average distances for routes that passed and failed in urban and semi urban areas	52

Charts		<i>page</i>
Chart 1	How the ROWIP relates to existing legislation and policy	11
Chart 2	PROW in Nottinghamshire by percentage of network	42
Chart 3	PROW in Nottinghamshire percentage by length of path	42
Chart 4	Nottinghamshire BVPI scores 2002-2007	52

Maps		<i>page</i>
Map 1	Nottinghamshire regional context and district boundaries	8
Map 2	Stable and livery distribution across the county	24
Map 3	Byways in Nottinghamshire	31
Map 4	Density of PROW within Nottinghamshire	41
Map 5	Density of PROW in Nottinghamshire available to equestrians and cyclists	43
Map 6	Network assessment area overview	45
Map 7	Church Warsop area highlighting ease of potential accessibility improvements	55
Map 8	Market Warsop area highlighting ease of potential accessibility improvements	55
Map 9	Rights of way network south of Newark highlighting poor connectivity	58
Map 10	Rights of way network south of Newark overlaid with permissive access routes, highlighting how permissive access can improve connectivity of the existing rights of way network	59
Map 11	Potential access routes for Sherwood Living Legends lottery bid	81
Map 12	Open Access land in Nottinghamshire	83

Access for all	Access for all is an aspiration term used to describe public access that is suitable for all members of society in its widest sense. For example, by replacing a stile with a kissing gate greatly improves the experience for people with limited mobility or by providing information in a format which suits an individual's particular need.
BHS	British Horse Society. National charity representing needs and interests of horse riders. A statutory consultee on DMMOs and PPOs.
Bridleway	A public right of way for walkers, users of mobility vehicles and those on horseback or leading a horse. Cyclists also have a right of way, but must give way to walkers and horse riders. A bridleway can run along a way where certain individuals have a right to drive other vehicles, such as a farm access drive.
BVPI 178	Best Value Performance Indicator 178. A national performance indicator used to measure the 'ease of use' of public rights of way.
Byway / Byway Open to All Traffic / BOAT	Highway with vehicular rights, mainly used by walkers, riders and cyclists.
CLA	Country Land and Business Association, organisation safeguarding the interests of those responsible for land, property and business throughout rural England and Wales.
CoAg	Countryside Agency, now part of Natural England
Conservation Walks	Permissive walks/rides provided by landowners under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme, operated by Defra.
CROW Act	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
CSS	County Surveyors Society, represents local authority chief officers with responsibility for Strategic Planning, Transportation, the Environment, Waste Management and Economic Development.
CTC	Cyclists' Touring Club. National organisation representing the needs of cyclists and working towards better cycling provision. A statutory consultee on DMMOs and PPOs.
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act 1995/2005
Definitive map and statement	The legal record of public rights of way, detailing their position and status.
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMMO	Definitive map modification order modifies or reclassifies PROW's already recorded on the definitive map or legally records previously unrecorded public rights.
Entec	Consultancy commissioned to research current and future demand associated with public rights of way, and to develop methods of assessment for utilisation by highways authorities.
Footpath	A public right of way on foot only, this includes use by people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters where physical conditions allow.
Footway	Surfaced roadside pavement.
GLASS	Green Lane Association, national user group dedicated to researching and protecting the UK's ancient vehicular rights of way and promoting sensible driving in the countryside.



Green Lane	A descriptive term for a way. Normally used when the way is bounded by hedges or stone walls and the surface is not, or does not appear to be, metalled or otherwise surfaced.
Greenway	Recreational route open to the public which may not be a public right of way. Usually available to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. No motor vehicular rights of access. Sometimes known as Multi-user routes / trails.
Highway Authority	Public body responsible for maintenance of all highways, usually the Local Authority.
IPROW	Institute of Public Rights of Way Management, professional body representing the interests of individuals involved in the management of public rights of way in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
LAF	Local Access Forum, Statutory body established under the CROW Act 2000 to provide strategic advice to safeguard the character, and improve access to and enjoyment of the countryside. A statutory consultee on the ROWIP.
LDF	Local Development Framework, a folder of local development documents that outlines how planning will be managed in the area.
LEMO	Legal event modification order is an event which is used to effect a change on the definitive map and statement such as diversions, creations, side road orders but not DMMOs.
List of Streets	A record kept by the Highway Authority of all routes in their area which are publicly maintainable.
Lost Ways	The CROW Act 2000 set a deadline of 1st January 2026 to register forgotten 'historic' rights of way on the definitive map. By historic it means those that were in existence before 1949. The government gave the job of co-ordinating this work to the Countryside Agency.
LPA	Local Planning Authority, usually the District or Borough Council.
LTP	Local Transport Plan. Strategic plan covering highways and transport within Nottinghamshire.
Metalled road	A road with a hard surface of bitumen or tar (sometimes known as tarmac road). The term is normally used in reference to the publicly maintained 'road' network i.e. A, B, C and surfaced unclassified roads.
Multi-user route / trail	Recreational route open to the public which may not be a public right of way. Usually available to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. No motor vehicular rights of access. Sometimes known as Greenways.
Natural England	Formed when Countryside Agency, English Nature and Rural Development Service came together in 2006.
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NCN	National Cycle Network, a network of safe and attractive routes to cycle, running throughout the UK.
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
NFU	National Farmers Union. Represents farmers and growers in England and Wales.
Open Access	Land opened as part of the CROW Act 2000, giving a right of access on foot.
OS	Ordnance Survey. The national mapping agency of Great Britain.

Glossary of terms

P3	Parish Paths Partnership Scheme. National partnership scheme between Highway Authorities and local parish councils whereby parishes maintain, enhance and publicise their local rights of way network through funding from the Highway Authority.
Pedals	Local campaigning organisation representing the needs of cyclists and working towards better cycling provision.
Permissive path	Path with no definitive access rights, but made available to the public by the landowner on a permissive basis. Type of use may vary dependent upon permission given.
PCT	Primary Care Trust. NHS local care trust.
Poaching	Surface damage due to trampling by cattle, usually found around supplementary feeders, gates and stiles.
PPO	Public path order. The legal process to create, divert or extinguish a footpath or bridleway.
Private right	Private right of access, not a public right of access. In some circumstances there maybe a private right for vehicles and public footpath or bridleway rights on the same line.
PROW	Public Right of Way.
Quiet Lanes	Rural routes carrying light levels of vehicular traffic in rural areas that can be used to link off-road routes.
RA	Ramblers Association. National charity working for walkers. A statutory consultee for DMMOs and PPOs.
Restricted Byway	A new classification of public right of way, replacing RUPPs. Access rights for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and carriage drivers. No right of access for mechanically propelled vehicles.
Rural Payments Agency /RPA	An executive agency of Defra responsible for making Government payments to farmers through the single payment scheme.
RUPP	Road Used as a Public Path. A classification still used on the definitive map but gradually being phased out. Now reclassified by the CROW Act 2000 as Restricted byway.
Rural Rides	Nottinghamshire County Council annual run programme of guided cycle rides.
Side Roads Order	A statutory order to close or change junction arrangements between a side road and a main road, usually as part of a road building or improvement scheme.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest, a statutory conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom
Sustrans	A charity working on practical projects to help reduce motor traffic, including the National Cycle Network and Safe Routes to Schools.
Toll Rides	Permissive horse-riding route whereby users pay the landowner a fee in return for the provision of off road riding opportunities on private land.
TRF	Trail Riders Fellowship. National organisation representing trail bike riders. A statutory consultee for DMMOs and PPOs.
UCR	Unclassified County Road. A road recorded (on the List of Streets) by the Highway Authority as 'maintainable at public expense', and normally having vehicular rights. May also be a definitive public right of way (e.g. Byway).