



Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Introduction and Background Information

(Adapted from Rights of Way Improvement Plans - Statutory Guidance)

Introduction

Sections 60 to 62 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) require local highway authorities to prepare and publish Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) for improving rights of way in their areas, taking into account the needs of the public including disabled people.

These provisions came into effect on 21 November 2002, with the first ROWIPs required to be prepared within five years. Plans must then be assessed and reviewed not more than 10 years after publication and at maximum intervals of 10 years thereafter.

Role

ROWIPs are intended to be the main way in which local highway authorities will identify the changes to be made, through management and improvement, to their local rights of way network in order to meet the Government's aim of better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.

The Plan

In producing their ROWIP, authorities must consider:

- The extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
- The opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of their area;
- The accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.

A statement of the action proposed for the management and improvement of local rights of way networks should be included.

Arrangements should be established for monitoring, reporting on progress of and implementing ROWIPs.

Further Information

CROW Act 2000:

<http://www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm>

Rights of Way Improvement Plans - Statutory Guidance: (133kb)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/rowip/rowip.pdf>

DEFRA Guidance on ROWIPs:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/publiccrow.htm#rowplans>