



Appendix 1

The following is a summary of the local consultation undertaken in 2005 and 2006:

- 14,000 Nottinghamshire County Council employees were surveyed inviting their views on countryside access. 10% response rate.
- A scaled down questionnaire based on the above survey was distributed at local County shows at Newark, Moorgreen and Flintham. 462 completed questionnaires were received.
- An equestrian survey was distributed to Nottinghamshire members of the British Horse Society, equestrian businesses, liveries and paddocks, through Equestrian Life magazine and Moorgreen Show. 3000 were distributed, 448 completed forms received, a 15% response rate.
- A cycling survey was distributed to cycling shops countywide, the campaign group Pedals, Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC), Rural Ride leaders and participants, and cycle hire shops at Clumber and Sherwood. 3000 questionnaires were sent out, 547 completed forms received, an 18% response rate.
- A recreational motorists' survey, aimed at users of the byway network, was distributed to Trail Riders Fellowship clubs in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire areas, motorcycle shops, Land Rover and other 4x4 clubs, the Green Lane Association and individual enthusiasts. 800 forms were sent out, 60 forms returned, giving a 7.5% response rate.
- A walkers survey was distributed to libraries county-wide, outdoor shops, Rambling groups, County and District contact centres and other public outlets. 3000 were sent out, 324 completed forms received, a response rate of 11%.
- A land managers survey was distributed to 449 farmers (45% response rate) with rights of way on their land, the Country Land and Business Association members in Nottinghamshire and at Flintham Ploughing Match.

- Three focus groups run by external consultants were held in January 2006 for land owners / managers, unaffiliated users and non users of the countryside, and members of Nottinghamshire's user groups. These groups were set up specifically to assess current levels of public knowledge of rights of way, satisfaction with the network and relationships between different types of users.
- A series of 'local consultation events' as part of the network assessment were delivered in May 2006. The aim was to obtain local feedback from users and non users of the path network, local landowners and managers and others with an interest in access in their respective areas. The workshop was also run for Nottinghamshire's Local Access Forum members in July 2006.
- A survey, NCC Clarborough Surveys, was undertaken in 2005 to measure the type and levels of use on public rights of way in the Clarborough and Sturton areas. The surveys took place over a four month period in 2005.
- The Authority, as part of the production of this ROWIP, also used local information gathered during the Greenwood Pilot Plan process from 2002 to 2004. This included 5000 parish and wider community surveys and 13 focus groups, user surveys and a detailed questionnaire. This questionnaire, undertaken by consultants, was distributed to 16,495 households, community groups and public outlets in the Greenwood area in 2003 with a response rate of 3%.
- The findings from all of the above research have assisted the County Council in the development of this plan and the further initiatives drawn from the plan's Statement of Action. The full findings can be found on www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/countryside

Appendix 2

Countryside Appraisal

The regional character areas are as follows: (Countryside Appraisal, Nottinghamshire County Council 1997)

Nottinghamshire Coalfield. A densely settled, heavy industrialised region characterised by former closely spaced mining settlements, spoil heaps and small farms. The geology consists mainly of clay which can cause problems with drainage and waterlogging.

Magnesian Limestone Ridge. Gently rolling hills urbanised in places, agricultural landscape with a regular pattern of large fields and distinctive stone built villages. Mainly free-draining soils albeit some areas have a heavier texture with clay subsoils that can remain waterlogged for long periods. An appealing landscape for walking, riding and cycling.

Sherwood. Forestry and in places, industrialised region characterised by semi natural woodlands and heaths, historic ducal estates, large pine plantations, mining settlements and a planned layout of roads and fields. Mainly well drained sandy soils which can cause erosion problems on the rights of way network.

Idle Lowlands. A varied low-lying region characterised by sparsely settled carrlands, levels, and rolling sandlands and village settlements. A mix of sandy soils, and heavier soils and peat.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands. A rural agricultural region of small red brick villages, narrow country lanes, ancient woodlands, wooded 'dumble' streams and a variable pattern of fields. Mainly dark clay soils causing localised problems with waterlogging.

Trent Washlands. A low-lying agricultural region associated with the broad valleys of the Trent and Soar, characterised by arable farming, meadowlands, small villages, market towns and cities, power stations and quarries. Sand and gravel extraction can cause problems on the PROW network through stopping up and diversions of paths due to quarrying.

East Nottinghamshire Farmlands. A remote low-lying agricultural region characterised by a well-ordered layout of fields and roads, small red brick villages, a varied pattern of woodland cover and pockets of remnant heath-like vegetation. A mix of sandy and clayey soils some waterlogging and poor drainage.

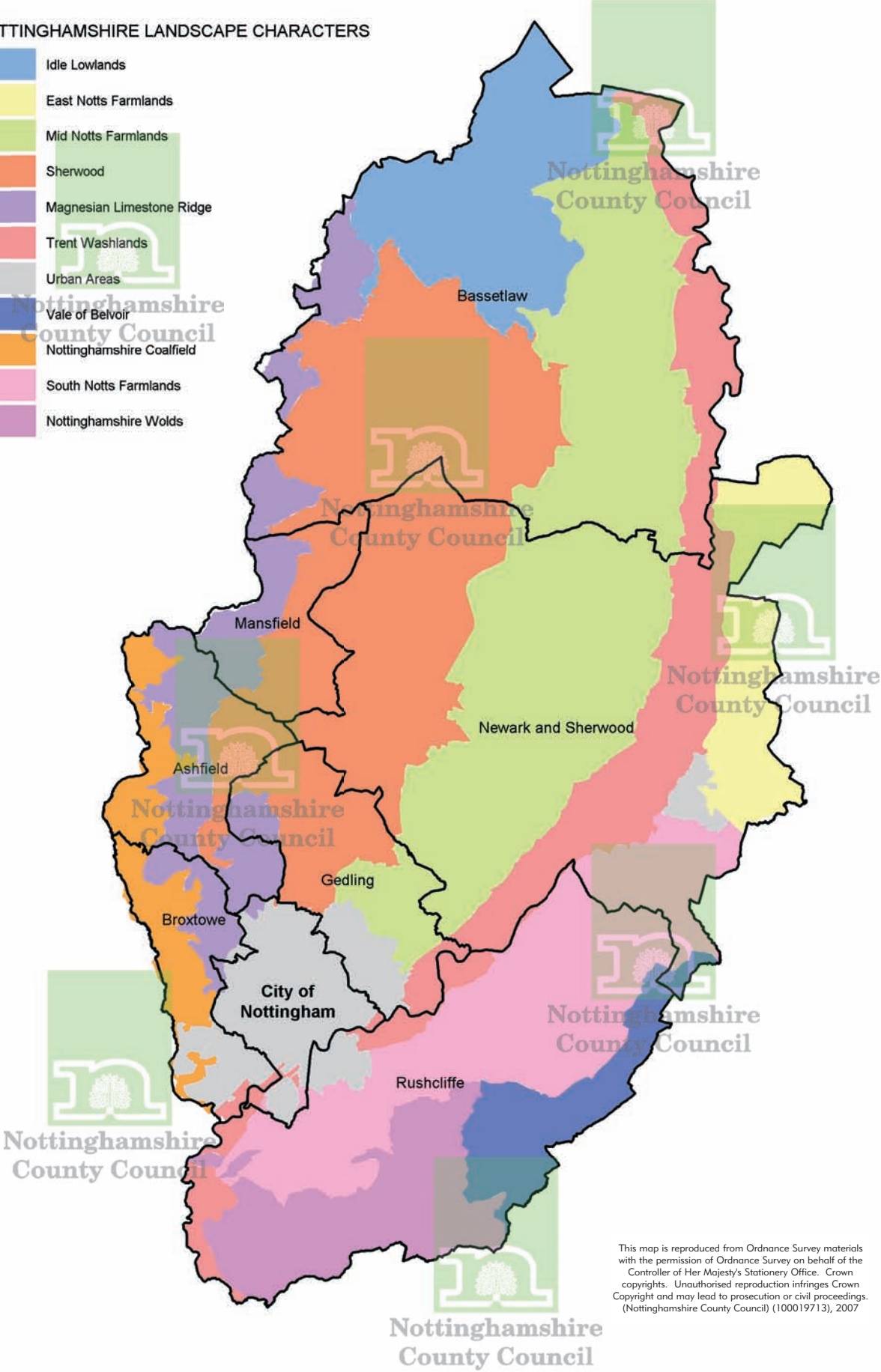
Vale of Belvoir. A low-lying clay vale with a strong tradition of dairying characterised by large hedged fields, small rural villages and wide views to rising ground.

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands A prosperous lowland agricultural region with a rural character of arable fields, village settlements and broad alluvial levels. A mix of sandy and clayey soils some waterlogging and drainage problems.

Nottinghamshire Wolds A sparsely settled and remote rural region characterised by rolling clay Wolds, mixed farming, small red brick villages and narrow country lanes. A mix of clay and chalk stones, difficult to cultivate and maintenance problems with drainage particularly on popular bridleways in the area.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LANDSCAPE CHARACTERS

- Idle Lowlands
- East Notts Farmlands
- Mid Notts Farmlands
- Sherwood
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge
- Trent Washlands
- Urban Areas
- Vale of Belvoir
- Nottinghamshire Coalfield
- South Notts Farmlands
- Nottinghamshire Wolds



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey materials with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyrights. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Nottinghamshire County Council) (100019713), 2007

Appendix 4

As part of the Authority's ROWIP assessments, land managers were asked to rank the five most important issues to them regarding public rights of way:

What are the most important issues to you as a land manager, regarding public rights of way?	Issue ranking (1 the most important)
Fly Tipping	1
Dogs (not on a lead, fouling etc.)	2
Trespassing	3
Farm security	4
Motor vehicles (motorbikes, quad bikes etc.)	5
Difficulty and lack of flexibility in diverting paths	6
Litter	7
Liability / health and safety	8
Gates left open	9
Crossfield paths (reinstating after ploughing and cropping)	10
Path maintenance (vegetation, surfacing, bridges etc.)	11
Better waymarking and signing	12
Network rationalisation (e.g. where 4 paths cross one field)	13
Lost Ways (registering forgotten historic paths)	14

Appendix 5

Nottinghamshire County Council Countryside Access Policy List

The page number refers to the location of the supporting text.

POLICY A1-1 The County Council will have due regard for the needs of all lawful byway users and will positively manage the network with all stakeholders in a sustainable and cost effective way.

Page 30

POLICY A1-2 Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to work with its partners in a bid to reduce the impact of illegal motor vehicle use. This will be undertaken within the parameters of current highway legislation.

Page 32

POLICY A2-1 The Authority will seek to keep the number of structures erected on the rights of way network to a minimum, consistent with legislation, good husbandry and public safety. The least restrictive option available will always be the priority.

Page 34

POLICY A2-2 In developing and improving the local rights of way network, Nottinghamshire County Council will embrace the principles of access for all as specified through legislation, guidance and research. The Authority will seek to make the local rights of way network as accessible as possible to all users with emphasis on the provision of clear information and by adopting an approach of the least restrictive option.

Page 35

POLICY A1-3 Nottinghamshire County Council will share information with the Rural Payments Agency on issues relating to cross compliance and rights of way to ensure that land managers meet the requirements of 'Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition Standards (GAEC 8)'.

Page 36

POLICY A6-1 The County Council will continue to support and develop the Farm Partnership Scheme.

Page 36

POLICY A1-4 Nottinghamshire County Council will work towards formulating a policy to ensure that maintenance and improvement works are prioritised to reflect competing demands on budgets. Prioritisation will consider frequency of use, health & safety of the public, needs of the disabled and promotional status. Such a policy must not lose sight of the fact that NCC has a duty to maintain all public rights of way.

Page 64

POLICY A1-5 Nottinghamshire County Council will implement a co-ordinated signing and waymarking programme. The County Council is committed to ensuring that all paths are signed with their correct legal status from metalled roads, and where appropriate, signs will be placed at other locations where there is an identified need.

Page 64

POLICY A1-6 The County Council aims to provide waymarking wherever there is difficulty in identifying the route of a right of way. Nottinghamshire County Council will proactively seek to waymark definitive public rights of way in a structured and standardised approach. Waymarking will only be used where the route is unclear, as an aid to users and land managers, to reduce signage clutter and prevent 'urbanisation' of the network.

Page 65

POLICY A2-1 The Authority will seek to keep the number of structures erected on the rights of way network to a minimum, consistent with legislation, good husbandry and public safety. The least restrictive option available will always be the priority.

Page 65

POLICY A1-7 The Council will carry out surface improvements and maintenance in accordance with relevant and current government guidance. When specifying surfacing materials the Council will place the needs of the legal public user first. Where appropriate the Council will consult with local stakeholders such as conservationists, landowners and user groups. Surfacing will only be considered where budget constraints allow, alternative remedies have failed and patterns of use justify expenditure.

Page 66

POLICY A1-8 The Authority will seek to maintain the surface of public rights of way to a standard appropriate with their ordinary legal public use with regard to both the current and possible future use of the path.

Page 67

POLICY A1-9 The County Council will continue to work with land managers to ensure paths are kept free from obstruction by cultivation and cropping. The County Council will carry out countywide inspections in the Spring to check paths are clear of crops and Autumn to check paths are marked and level following cultivation. Any paths found not to be compliant with the Act will be followed up with the landowner and enforcement proceedings taken where necessary. Repeat offenders will be served enforcement notices without prior warning and the Council will consider prosecution in cases where this approach fails to have effect. The Council may recover its reasonable costs where default enforcement action is carried out.

Page 68

POLICY A1-3 Nottinghamshire County Council will share information with the Rural Payments Agency on issues relating to cross compliance and rights of way to ensure that land managers meet the requirements of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition Standards (GAEC 8).

Page 68

POLICY A1-10 The Council will use its powers of enforcement to tackle obstructions of public rights of way wherever initial discussion with the person responsible fails to resolve the situation. The Council may recover its reasonable costs where default action is taken to make a path available to the public. Persons responsible for obstructing paths will be given the opportunity to remedy the situation within specified deadlines; subsequent enforcement will be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines in a firm but fair way.

Page 69

POLICY A6-2 The Council will continue to expand and develop the Parish Paths Partnership (subject to available resources).

Page 70

POLICY A6-3 The County Council will encourage and invite other organisations into the Parish Paths Partnership.

Page 70

POLICY A6-1 The County Council will continue to support and to expand the Farm Partnership Scheme.

Page 70

POLICY A6-4 The County Council will continue to work with and support volunteers, and is committed to increasing volunteer work tasks.

Page 70

POLICY A6-5 The County Council is committed to developing the work of Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum by encouraging an active membership, supporting the needs and publicising the role of the Forum.

Page 71

POLICY A5-1 The County Council will ascertain the extent of anomalies on the definitive map and statement, and develop and implement a prioritised framework. To deliver this framework, resources need to be allocated to an Anomalies and PPO orders Officer.

Page 73

POLICY A5-2 Definitive Map Modification Order applications will be processed chronologically by order of receipt with the following exceptions (in no particular order):

- Where the public benefit to be gained is of more than limited impact. For example, where an order could result in a positive impact on the network such as adding a bridleway to complete an 'off-road' network for horse riders
- Where a claim affects a householder in proving the existence or non-existence of a right of way. For example, a potential route that passes close to residential buildings and dwellings
- A claimed route triggered by an event such as fencing off the line of a regularly used path
- Where an order is claimed on 20-year use the personal circumstances of path users will be taken into account. For example, the witness's age, health and possible relocation
- Where a claimed route is under threat due to development or major road schemes. For example, the dualling of the A46 trunk road or the widening of the M1 motorway.

Page 74

POLICY A5-3 The County Council will, where possible, use dedications in lieu of DMMOs enabling a quicker route onto the definitive map and statement.

Page 74

POLICY A5-4 Where a claimed route is unavailable on the ground, for example, due to a building or environmental issue, the County Council will consider the use of concurrent public path orders to assist with the establishment of the route

Page 74

POLICY A5-5 The County Council will recharge its full costs of a public path order to all applicants except in exceptional circumstances such as correcting historical errors or a landowner providing a package of measures to significantly improve the rights of way network for the benefit of the public.

Page 74

POLICY A5-6 Public Path Order applications will be processed chronologically by order of receipt with one or more of the following exceptions (in no particular order):

- Where there is a clear public benefit. For example, where an order would result in increased connectivity such as an improved path network or a path with more attractive view or historical feature
- An order that addresses public safety, for example, a path may be diverted to a more suitable road crossing point with increased visibility
- Where PPOs resolve definitive map and statement anomalies
- Applications linked to DMMOs – the diversion of a path concurrent with the making of a modification order.

Page 75

POLICY A1-11 The County Council will seek improvements, at an early stage, to the rights of way network affected by development. The County Council will work with developers and local planning authorities to achieve the maximum benefit for the rights of way network.

Page 76

POLICY A5-7 Where developments affect non-definitive routes, on which public rights may reasonably be presumed to exist, the County Council will expect developers and the relevant local planning authority to have regard to these paths as they would with definitive rights of way.

Page 76

POLICY A1-12 The County Council will work closer with developers and the local planning authority to minimise the illegal obstruction of rights of way and other access caused by permitted development and unlawful development.

Page 76

POLICY A1-13 Creation agreements will only be considered:

- Where there is a clear public benefit to be gained from the proposed path
- Where the requirement to dedicate forms part of an obligation under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 s 106.

Maintenance liability will normally only be accepted where:

- The addition of a path is of strategic public benefit
- No initial additional expenditure by the Authority is required to bring a path into a fit state for use.

Page 77

POLICY A5-8 Where there is a clear public need, the County Council will seek to create a new path in the first instance by agreement. Where an agreement fails and there are substantial public benefits to be gained and the benefits are relative to the expected costs, the County Council will consider a HA80 s 26 creation order. The Council will carry out this power in accordance with the relevant available guidance.

Page 77

POLICY A1-14 The County Council will continue to work with its partners in securing and providing safe and traffic free multi-user routes for walkers, riders and cyclists.

Page 80

POLICY A1-15 The County Council will work with landowners, Natural England and conservation bodies to ensure members of the public enjoy their rights on foot to Open Access land designated under the CROW Act 2000.

Page 82

POLICY A4-1 The County Council will encourage local authorities and other organisations that produce walk and ride literature to check the accuracy, status and suitability of public rights of way used in their publications with the County Council.

Page 85

Acknowledgements

Nottinghamshire County Council would like to thank the following people and organisations who gave their time and expertise towards the development of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan:

- Everyone who participated in the surveys, consultation events and focus groups (inc. members of public, land managers and user groups)
- Claire Herring Associates
- Faber Maunsell
- IPROW Good Practice Guide
- MRUK research consultants
- Nottinghamshire County Council Local Transport Plan Team
- Nottinghamshire County Council Countryside Access Team
- Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum
- Nottinghamshire Parish Councils
- Regional ROWIP Officers Group
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan Officers from authorities nationwide

Notes

Notes

--



Contacting us

email **countrysideaccess@nottscc.gov.uk**
phone **01623 825491**
fax **01623 825375**
post **Communities Department, Countryside Access,
Nottinghamshire County Council, Trent Bridge House,
Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ**
internet **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk**
published **November 2007**

COM/PLAN/11.07/0170/DP&P/5423

This publication can be made available in alternative formats and languages to ensure it is fully accessible.



When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it



Printed on paper which comes from sustainably managed commercial forests which comply with the 'Forest Stewardship Council' (FSC)