

## **Key achievements that have used Oxfordshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) as their foundation since it was adopted**

Oxfordshire's RoWIP and the first five years' RoWIP delivery action plans have focused on achieving better provision and improvements that are over and above the 'day to day' work of recording, protecting, and maintaining the public rights of way and access land network. This work has cut across all access teams within the Countryside Service and included work undertaken by OCC Highways and Transport and developed by the OCC-hosted Lower Windrush Valley and Wychwood projects and the Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trail Team. There has also been significant practical work undertaken by volunteers through the Chilterns Society South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers and the Cotswolds Voluntary Warden Service as well as many parish councils, local groups and individuals.

- Over £320,000 funds allocated from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment which enabled many communities and organisations to improve their access to the countryside and also help meet RoWIP aims. Funds gained from Viridor, WRG and Grundon's Landfill Communities Funding. The new charity, TOE2, taking over from TOE has access to countryside as one of its three aims alongside biodiversity and renewable resources.
- Awarded national RoWIP award to Oxfordshire by Natural England for 'most innovative' RoWIP in 2009 alongside Kent and Bedfordshire councils.
- Informing and steering development of policies covering walking, cycling and public rights of way in the second and third Local Transport Plan. The third LTP is partially integrated with RoWIP and rights of way are included in all of the area strategies for towns and rural areas under walking and cycling.
- Provided the basis to negotiate over £600,000 of countryside access measures with major residential, commercial and minerals & waste developments across the county, which will be implemented over the next few years. These include sites at Barton, Ardley, Upper Heyford, Wallingford, Bicester, Witney, Faringdon, Wantage, Grove, Banbury, Sutton Courtenay. For smaller sites developers are encouraged to provide for access improvements and help their development site be more accessible by non-car modes of travel. Village paths have also been improved under a joint scheme between Countryside and Highways and Transport.
- Improved user, landowner, parish and councillors' awareness and understanding by making our website better structured and updating content, including development of the interactive countryside map, making all walking leaflets downloadable and putting the definitive map online.
- Providing input many community-led parish plans and trying to help communities and local groups to improve access in their area and gain understanding of the work involved and potential funding. A major tool to assist this was the development of the Oxfordshire Local Council Guide to Countryside Access.
- Access Land areas of downland open and accessible – with permissive access to sites and access infrastructure put in place so that the areas integrate with the surrounding rights of way network and are as accessible and easy to use as possible.

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- Better understanding across the authority and in partner organisations of how public rights of way and access to the countryside can contribute to better quality of life for residents and visitors – including running regular Residents Panel surveys and making sure the service's work remains relevant and of value to Oxfordshire's residents and tourists