

# Luton local access forum (LLAF)

## Rights of way improvement plan (ROWIP)

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## Introduction

Rights of way improvement plans are intended to identify the improvements to be made to the local rights of way network. The plan must explain how these will provide a better experience for these users:

- walkers
- cyclists
- horse riders
- horse and carriage drivers
- people with mobility problems
- people using motorised vehicles, for example, motorbikes

The plan needs to consider how the land is used for agriculture, forestry and nature conservation to avoid conflict and encourage co-operation in improving public rights of way.

The council must review the rights of way improvement plan every 10 years.

## The published plan

Luton published a [rights of way improvement plan](#) in July 2008.

## Review

At each review, the council must carry out an assessment of the local rights of way, which will form part of the rights of way improvement plan.

Before assessment the following are considered:

- the definitive map and statement of rights of way and any applications for changes to them
- the current condition of the network
- any improvement requests for the network

The assessment includes:

- availability of routes to different groups of users
- routes that are not suitable for all or some users, for example, users with mobility problems
- inconsistencies on individual rights of way, for example, paths that do not follow the mapped route or routes that have a dead end
- opportunities to improve the network, for example, restoring routes that have been cut off by building works

The council carried out a review assessment in 2015, followed by a review in 2016. Consultation on a revised edition of the plan was carried out between December 2015 and March 2016. In April 2016, the council approved the second edition of the Luton rights of way improvements plan, subject to the amendments tabled at the meeting. Final amendments to the plan were apparently completed and a new version of the plan should have been published in September 2016. However, this does not appear to have happened.

A key conclusion of the review was that the five themes of the plan were still of relevance to the second edition, as follows:

- Theme 1: A better signed, maintained and accessible network for the whole community
- Theme 2: Improved promotion of rights of way and access routes
- Theme 3: Improving health and wellbeing
- Theme 4: Promoting confidence, safety and security

- Theme 5: Updating the definitive map, influencing planning and growth

## Progress

Highway maintenance carry out an annual inspection of the rights of way network.

Complaints about rights of way are dealt with as and when received.

Progress is now being made on updating the definitive map to include the excluded areas. This is a six-year project. Regular updates will be provided to LLAF on the progress of this project.

## Future

The council will not now publish the 2016 review but will carry out a new review. This would make best use of time and resources. LLAF will be actively consulted during this review.