

# Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review Consultation

Dorset Council are reviewing the Dorset Rights of way Improvement Plan. This plan describes how Dorset Council will manage and develop an improved right of way and greenspace network over the next 10 years.

Dorset's path network includes, for example, public rights of way, permissive paths, access land, cycle tracks the road network and areas of public green & blue space. It enables local people and visitors to get outside and explore and enjoy their local area and wider countryside.

It provides a wealth of social, economic, and environmental benefits – including:

- ~ Sustainable transport - to get out and about your local area, coast, and countryside on foot, by horse or bicycle
- ~ Health - keep fit, relax, and keep healthy
- ~ Tourism –discover and explore parts of Dorset you never have before.
- ~ Planning – enhance development creating beautiful places for people to live work & play
- ~ Land management – managing public footfall protecting agriculture, forestry, and environmental conservation land-practice
- ~ Landscape – enhancing and protecting local character through good design
- ~ Community – developing green nature-based path networks for all ages and abilities to walk, horse ride and cycle safely within and between communities encouraging contact and independence

You can play a key role in the research for this review by completing this questionnaire where we would like to know:

- ~ How you currently enjoy using Dorset's Public Rights of way
- ~ What makes Dorset's public rights of way unpleasant and difficult for you to use
- ~ What are the barriers that prevents you from using Dorset's Public Rights of Way
- ~ Your ideas for improving and developing Dorset's Public Rights of Way

## **Survey Questions.**

### **About you**

The questions that follow vary slightly depending how you respond to this first question. For example if you are responding as a landowner/manager you complete a separate section.

Are you completing this survey as ?      A Parish/Town council

What is the name of your organisation? Chideock Parish Council

Is it the organisation's official response? Yes

### **Using public rights of way**

What type of places do you visit in the Dorset countryside? Please select all that apply.

- Woodland / forest
- Heathland
- Downland
- Farmland
- Historic landscapes e.g. hillforts, churches.....
- Coast path/coastal strip
- The Beach
- Rivers / lakes

- Open Access land (Mountain, moor, heath, down & common land “open country” where the general public have a right to walk due to the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000)
- Nature reserves
- Country parks
- public open spaces
- Parks/playgrounds
- SANGs (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace is greenspace - used as mitigation to offset the impact of new development on sensitive, protected landscapes.)

Of the types of places you visit in the Dorset countryside, what is the main type?

**How do you use rights of way? Please select all that apply**

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Running
- Horse riding
- Horse Carriage driving
- Cycling
- Off road driving (4X4)
- Motorbiking off road
- To relax and unwind
- Health – for mental health reasons
- Health – for physical exercise
- Health – prescribed by health practitioner to address a health problem
- Hobby – photography, art, writing, observe wildlife,
- Sport – to access locations for, e.g. paragliding, climbing location, fishing
- Socialising – meet up/spend time with family & friends
- An organised event e.g. sports event
- Other (please specify)

**Using public rights of way to access local facilities**

Do you use public Rights of Way to walk/horse ride/cycle to reach your local facilities (school, shops, pub, church etc)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how often?

- Daily
- 2-3 times a week
- Weekly
- 2-3 times a month
- Monthly
- Several times a year
- Less often

Is there anything that prevents you from using public Rights of Way to access local facilities?

Select all that apply

- No public rights of way link to local facilities
- Personal limited mobility
- Vegetation overgrowth
- Rundown dirty urban path (litter, dog fouling, graffiti etc)
- Confidence/Personal safety
- Too far to travel – facilities too far away
- Path surface

- Path infrastructure
- Path signage
- Poor integration with wider Highway infrastructure – lack of/too narrow pavements/footways, no dropped kerbs, barriers such as lamp posts etc so poor links to reach public rights of way
- Road severance - Having to walk along roads with insufficient protection from vehicular traffic
- Road severance – having to cross roads with insufficient/safe road crossings
- Other

Please use the interactive map to submit idea/issue if have one. **This step can be repeated**

**I've printed maps for you to use.**

Describe here your proposed idea/improvement which you can map on the frame above (Idea 1)

### **Using local public rights of way from your home to explore your local countryside**

Do you use Public Rights of Way for leisure & recreation within your local countryside (2-3 miles from your home)

- Yes
- No

If yes, how often?

- Daily
- 2-3 times a week
- Weekly
- 2-3 times a month
- Monthly
- Several times a year
- Less often

Is there anything that discourages you or prevents you from using the public rights of way in your local countryside? select all that apply

- Difficulty finding the Public Right of Way – no signage from the road.
- Poor waymarking along the public right of way.
- Poor condition of stiles
- Poor condition/design of pedestrian gates
- Poor condition/design of bridle gates
- Poor condition/dangerous bridges
- A missing bridge
- Poor condition of farm vehicle/livestock gates
- Paths blocked by crops
- Paths ploughed up and not reinstated/unusable
- Paths blocked by vegetation
- Rundown dirty urban path (litter, dog fouling, graffiti etc)
- Barriers/obstructions e.g. fallen trees, locked gates, barbed/electric wire
- Dogs not under control
- Livestock in field e.g. horses, bulls, cattle etc
- Dead end path
- Intimidating signage deterring use of Public Rights of Way

- Lack of car parking
- Lack of horse boxing space
- Lack of cycle lock up facilities
- Personal limited mobility
- Personal visibility impairment
- Conflicts with landowners
- Conflicts/intimidation from other users
- Condition of the path surface
- Flooding
- Deep mud
- The routes don't go where I want to go
- Road severance - Having to walk along roads with insufficient protection from vehicular traffic
- Road severance – having to cross roads with insufficient/safe road crossings
- Lack of network – too many gaps and not enough links to other Public Rights of Way
- Concerns about personal safety
- Not enough information
- Other (please specify)

**Do you use public transport to access rights of way?**

- Yes
- No

Any comments on using public transport to access rights of way

**Information**

	Walk / jog / run	Push chair /tramper?	Horse ride	Cycle	Horse and carriage	Motor cycle	Motor vehicle
Footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Bridleway	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Restricted byway	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Byway open to all traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Access land *	<input type="checkbox"/>						

\* Access Land - where it is not subject to restrictions or additional rights as permitted by the landowner.

**How do you find out about public rights of way to explore Dorset - Please tick all that apply.**

- I know the local area
- Family and friends
- Ordnance survey paper maps
- Ordnance survey online
- Digital map – e.g. Strava, view ranger etc
- Leaflet
- Guidebook
- Club/organisation member information
- Dorset Council website
- Other organisation website
- Blogs & online websites

- Legal Record – Definitive Map & Statement
- Library
- Tourist Information Centres/points
- Accommodation providers e.g. B&Bs, hotels, campsites etc
- Magazines or newspapers
- Other ...please specify

Do you feel there is enough information available in things like the Countryside Code for people to know their own responsibilities, resulting in the safe use and enjoyment of public rights of way and public green space?

- Yes
- No

### **Signage**

Do you agree that public rights of way in Dorset are clearly signposted and easy to find from where they leave roads?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree that public rights of way in Dorset are clearly waymarked along their route helping users to follow and keep to the line of the paths?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Any comments on signage

### **The definitive map & statement - the legal record of public rights of way**

Do you know what the what the legal record of public rights of way - the definitive map & statement is?

- Yes
- No

Do you agree that the definitive map and statement – what it is and how it can be used - is easy to use and widely publicised?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know/no opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

### **Promotional Routes**

Have you used any of the following recreational trails in Dorset? (tick all that apply)

- Dorset Coast Path (South West Coast Path National Trail)
- Wessex Ridgeway
- South Dorset Ridgeway
- Castleman trailway

- Cerne Valley Trail
- Frome Valley Trail
- Wareham Forest Way
- The Rodwell Trail
- North Dorset Trailway
- Northport Greenway & Woodlark Trail
- Jubilee Trail (RA)
- The Hardy Way (LDWA)
- The Purbeck Way
- Other (please specify)

Do you have any comments on how you use and how to improve these promoted routes?  
Please state which route you are commenting on.

### **Trunk Roads**

The three Trunk Roads in Dorset – A35, A31 & A303 - cut across numerous public rights of way creating a barrier for public use. We are working with Highways England who are responsible for these roads to identify the most useful crossing points to enable all users to safely cross these roads.

If you wish please use the interactive map to identify your proposed crossing point(s)

**I've printed maps for you to use.**

Please describe where you would like to cross these trunk roads and your priority location that you think would make a good crossing point for all users and tell us why. Please use the mapping tool to identify these locations.

### **Unclassified County Roads (UCRs)**

Unclassified County Roads (UCRs) – is used to describe highways with similar characteristics as Public Rights of Way and that may extend to carry vehicular rights. They are often unsealed (no tarmac) and rural in character. Many provide key links in the public rights of way network. Please use the interactive map to identify the UCRs you use (Use the line tool to highlight them all on one map)

**I've printed maps for you to use.**

Please describe below and indicate on the interactive map which UCRs you use, those that would provide good links to other public rights of way and any specific improvement ideas you have.

### **COVID**

How did your use of public rights of way change during covid?

Used them more

Used them about the same

Used them less

How has Covid changed your appreciation and awareness of public rights of way?

### **Getting Involved**

There are various ways in which you can get involved helping to enhance Dorset's Public Rights of Way.

Please tick any that you would like more information on.

- Rights of Way Liaison Officers (RoWLOs) are a key link between parish/town communities and Dorset Council – where the RoWLO keeps an eye on their local Public Rights of Way can carry out minor maintenance work, report maintenance problems & identify improvement projects to develop with Dorset Council.
- Volunteer Rangers accompany Countryside Rangers carrying out various maintenance tasks e.g. vegetation clearance, installation of infrastructure such as gates and survey work.
- The Dorset Local Access Forum provides advice on improving Dorset's Public rights of way to various county, regional and national organisations including Dorset Council. There is a recruitment process to elect new members.
- Community Access Improvement Project. If your group have an idea for a project to improve Public Rights of Way in your area please discuss it with us!

Do you have any further comments and ideas about improving Dorset's public rights of way and public green space in Dorset - please leave your comments here?