

AGENDA 11, Enc xi) DRAFTS RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Northumberland County Council has now begun a 12-week period of consultation on its Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The County Council would be grateful to receive any comments you might have before the 18th of October 2024.

Please follow this link to view the draft plan: [DRAFT ROWIP for consultation 2024 v2 \(northumberland.gov.uk\)](https://northumberland.gov.uk/DRAFT_ROWIP_for_consultation_2024_v2)

Please submit comments by accessing and completing the online survey available at <https://nland.cc/PROWIP>

If you experience difficulties accessing or completing the survey or if you wish to submit additional information, please email countryside@northumberland.gov.uk making sure that the title of your email includes reference to the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Summary of the key points from the Northumberland County Council Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2025-2035:

Vision: A well-managed, accessible, safe and interconnected network of Public Rights of Way (PROW) and countryside access for all users.

Objectives:

Enable access to landscapes and green spaces

Provide access to towns, services, and destinations

Address inequalities in access

Support physical and mental wellbeing

Contribute to tourism and local economies

Increase opportunities for car-free travel

Conserve heritage routes

Nine key policies:

1. Ensure network is well maintained and enhanced
2. Accurately record the PROW network
3. Make network more accessible to wider range of users
4. Provide information about the network
5. Improve connectivity
6. Work with communities to maximize benefits
7. Enhance tourism offer through access to landscape
8. Work in partnership to maximize potential
9. Respond to climate change impacts

The plan will be delivered through rolling 3-year Delivery Plans developed with stakeholders. Key challenges addressed include improving equity of access, responding to climate change impacts, and utilising new technologies.

The plan emphasises partnerships and community involvement in managing and improving the network.

Public consultation on the draft plan is open until 18th October 2024.