

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY RIGHTS OF WAY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This report was brought to the Northumberland National Park Authority Meeting on 19th May 2004.

1. Summary of the Report

1.1 This report is for information only at this stage and outlines the responsibilities and likely magnitude of the task to ensure that Rights of Way within the National Park are all available and easy to use.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Authority is recommended to :

- a) note the likely scale of resources required to ensure that Rights of Way within the National Park are available and easy to use; and**
- b) note that a further detailed timescale for these improvement works linked to the expected improvement in Performance Indicators will be produced after further consultation with Northumberland County Council and other key partners.**

3. Background

3.1 Appendix B provides information about the size of the task to bring the Rights of Way within the National Park up to a standard whereby they are all available and easy to use, as defined by the Audit Commission.

3.2 The estimated cost to do this is in the order of £1.3 million. This does not include an ongoing maintenance programme to keep them in good order

3.3 The figures have been calculated from the best available data which has been reconstituted following the loss of information during a data IT transfer between servers.

3.4 The responsibility for the majority of these costs will fall upon Northumberland County Council as Highway Authority.

3.5 Some input can also be expected from Forest Enterprise and Ministry of Defence as landowners within the Northumberland National Park with a public recreation remit. DEFRA expects the NPAs, under Section 62 Environment Act, to hold public bodies to account for achieving National Park purposes. This will be a helpful mechanism to achieve this.

3.6 Forest Enterprise has a history of actively seeking to use their skills and resources to improve the Rights of Way network e.g. the recovery and maintainance of Public Rights of Way in Wark Forest. They are expected to respond positively.

- 3.7 The Ministry of Defence have also assisted with costs for path repairs in the recent years and have signalled their intention to be more proactive following the appointment of a Recreation Officer.
- 3.8 Recent discussions with Officers at Northumberland County Council suggest that they will appreciate having information about the condition of rights of way in the National Park which helps to quantify the financial implications for them as Highway Authority.
- 3.9 Once their reaction is known, the next steps will be to “translate” the information in Appendix B into a planned and costed programme linked to expected improvement in Performance Indicators. The objective will be to agree targets which are acceptable to the National Park Authority and achievable by the Northumberland County Council.
- 3.10 The role of the National Park Authority is actively to manage the performance and input principally from Northumberland County Council as Highway Authority but also those of Forest Enterprise and Ministry of Defence.
- 3.11 This is very much a case of work in progress at this stage.

Contact Officer:

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Background papers:

None

	Type of Work	Units	Total in area	Total out of repair/required	% Out of repair/required	Cost per Unit	Cost of repair
Signage	Finger Signs	No.	300	105	35	£ 125	£13,125
	Way Markers	No.	7,500	3,450	46	£ 15	£ 51,750
Field Boundary Crossings	Wooden step-over stiles	No.	400	60	15	£ 150	£ 9,000
	Stone step-over stiles	No.	125	19	15	£ 200	£3,800
	Ladder stiles	No.	650	95	15	£ 200	£19,000
	Kissing gates	No.	30	3	10	£ 250	£ 750
	4' - 5' Wicket gates	No.	900	90	10	£ 300	£27,000
	10' - 12' Field gates	No.	350	35	10	£ 350	£12,250
	Bridges	Board Walk	m.	300	25	8	£ 30
	3 metre bridges	No.	150	70	47	£ 250	£ 17,500
	10 metre bridges	No.	70	33	47	£ 4,000	£132,000
	20 metre bridges	No.	20	7	35	£ 10,000	£ 70,000
	30 metre bridges	No.	7	4	57	£ 45,000	£180,000
	40 metre bridges	No.	2	2	100	£ 80,000	£ 160,000
	40+ metre bridges	No.	2	1	50	£ 100,000	£ 100,000
Surfacing	Aggregate surface	m.	8,000	500	6	£ 40	£ 20,000
	Pitching	m.	1,100	250	23	£ 100	£ 25,000
	Steps	m.	200	50	25	£ 40	£ 2,000
	Soil reversal	m.	23,000	15,000	65	£ 25	£375,000
	Vegetation management***	m.	60,000	92,000	153	£ 0.1	£ 9,200
	Ditching	m.	3,600	4,000	111	£ 5	£ 24,000
						Sub Total	£1,252,125
Legal order work (NCC)	Path orders	No.	-	20	-	£ 1,200	£ 24,000
	Obstructions	No.	-	20	-	£ 500	£ 10,000
	Claimed new routes	No.	-	25	-	£ 2,000	£ 50,000
						Sub Total	£ 84,000
						Total	£1,336,125

* Based on 2003 BVPI figures.

** Includes Labour

*** Veg. cutting, 2 cuts per year + Fertiliser on HWNT. 1077km network

