

Footpaths and Bridleways

HC Deb 19 July 1990 vol 176 cc729-30W

Dr. Woodcock

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps he is taking to ensure that authorities adequately carry out their duties with regard to **signposting footpaths and bridleways.**

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory

My Department recently carried out a survey among authorities to establish the extent of signposting of footpaths and bridleways; the results have been made available to highway authorities through the County Surveyors Society and the rights of way review committee. It is for the authorities to take action as appropriate in the light of these findings, within the context of the formulation of their rights of way strategies.

Dr. Woodcock

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment **what lengths of footpaths and bridleways now exist in England and Wales.**

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory

Precise figures are not available: however, a recent sample survey by the Countryside Commission suggests the total length of rights of way in England and Wales to be about 140,000 miles. **Of this, footpaths make up 106,000 miles and bridleways 28,000 miles.**

Footpaths and Bridleways

HC Deb 04 June 1991 vol 192 c167W

Mr. Redmond

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment **if he will list by year for the past 10 years, and for the current year to date, the number of (a) public footpaths and (b) public bridleways that have been (i) created and (ii) closed to the general public.**

Mr. Baldry

Information is not held centrally in precisely the form requested, but records held by the Countryside Commission indicate that the number of public path creation and extinguishment orders made, and known to have to come into operation in England and Wales since the introduction of revised procedures on 28 February were:

	Orders made	Orders known to have come into operation
Creation		
1983 ¹	65	43
1984	60	47
1985	79	65
1986	93	79
1987	71	55
1988	108	87
1989	97	74
1990	113	76
1991 ²	45	19
Extinguishment³		
1983 ¹	215	143
1984	281	187
1985	309	196
1986	267	186
1987	295	157
1988	289	177
1989	242	143
1990	303	151
1991 ²	100	23

¹ After 28 February.

² Approximately first half of year.

Bridleways

HC Deb 06 March 1995 vol 256 c16W

Mr. Gordon Prentice

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment **what steps he is taking to extend and develop the network of bridleways in England.**

Mr. Atkins

The Government have endorsed the target to ensure that the whole network of footpaths, bridleways and byways open to all traffic is properly maintained and recorded on definitive maps by the year 2000. The Secretary of State was also pleased recently to approve the Countryside Commission's proposals for the Pennine bridleway national trial.

Local authorities have powers to create bridleways by agreement or order.

While the provision of facilities for specific recreational activities is a matter for local authorities to consider, planning policy guidance note 17 encourages them to include in Local plans policies and proposals on the availability of rights of way.

Bridleways

HC Deb 18 November 1997 vol 301 c133W

Mr. Blizzard

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions **if he will include measures to encourage the re-establishment of bridleways in his plans for increasing access to the countryside.** [16185]

Angela Eagle

We have no plans to do.

Bridleways

HC Deb 26 January 1998 vol 305 c6W

Mr. Blizzard

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, pursuant to his answer of 18 November 1997, Official Report, **what factors underlay the decision not to include measures to encourage the re-establishment of ancient bridleways in his plans for increasing access to the countryside.** [24082]

Angela Eagle

We have a long-standing commitment to give people greater freedom to explore open countryside. **However, we have no plans at present to introduce new measures relating to rights of way. Local authorities already have powers to create linear routes**

Bridleways

HC Deb 29 January 1998 vol 305 cc319-20W

Mr. Pike

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions what estimate he has made for each relevant local authority in England of **the number and length of bridleways (a) recorded on the definitive map, (b) under consideration for registration on the definitive map and (c) eligible for consideration for registration.** [25324]

Angela Eagle

Information is available only on the length of bridleways, as follows:

Highway authority	Bridleways (km)
Avon	200
Bedfordshire	1,400
Berkshire	260
Bolton	2
Buckinghamshire	649
Calderdale	—
Cambridgeshire	430
Cheshire	124
Cleveland	200
Cornwall	522
Cumbria	1,878
Derbyshire	494
Devon	570
Dorset	1,600
Durham	573
East Sussex	678
Enfield	—
Essex	680
Gloucestershire	360
Hampshire	850
Herefordshire	358
Worcestershire	648
Harrow	—
Hertfordshire	576
Humberside	453
Isle of Wight	266
Kent	694
Kingston on Thames	—
Kirklees	—
Lancashire	388
Leeds	148
Leicestershire	584
Lincolnshire	770
Norfolk	443
Northamptonshire	600
Northumberland	1,295
North Yorkshire	1,609
Nottingham	799
Oxfordshire	970
Shropshire	795
Solihull	7
Somerset	927

Staffordshire	355
Suffolk	553
Surrey	1,045
Tameside	6
Warwickshire	460
Waltham Forest	—
West Sussex	1,006
Wiltshire	1,540
Wirral MBC	30
	28,795
Total	(17,882 miles)

Countryside Commission data from 1991 and 1996 surveys; data for Cambridgeshire and Dorset are for 1998.

Mr. Pike

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions **what level of funding he has allocated to(a) the maintenance of existing bridleways and (b) the creation of new bridleways and new bridleway links;** and if he will make a statement. [25321]

Angela Eagle

A specific figure for the funding of the bridleway network is not available.

Revenue expenditure for local authorities on public rights of way, including bridleways, is taken into account in the calculation of local authorities' standard spending assessments (SSAs), as used in the distribution of revenue support grant. It is not covered by a distinct SSA component, but is included together with expenditure on many other services within the district level sub-block—"All Other Services".

Mr. Pike

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions **what progress has been made on modification of the definitive map of bridleways; when this is planned to be completed; and if he will make a statement.** [25323]

Angela Eagle

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires highway authorities to prepare and maintain a definitive map for their areas, showing all classes of public rights of way, including bridleways. They must keep their definitive maps under continuous review and modify them when appropriate.

Public Rights of Way

HC Deb 18 March 1999 vol 327 c726W

Mr. Paul Marsden

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions **when he plans to announce proposals to extend access to the countryside for horse riders, cyclists and recreational vehicles; and if he will make a statement.**

[76613]

Mr. Meacher

The Government's "Framework for Action" for improving access to the countryside, which I announced to the House on 8 March 1999, Official Report, columns 21–33, comprises a package of measures intended to benefit all those who enjoy informal recreation in the countryside. **Horse riders, cyclists and users of recreational vehicles gain access mainly through the rights of way network and the improvements proposed to the network will therefore be of particular interest to them.** We are keeping their interests in mind in developing detailed proposals.

Horse Riders

HC Deb 28 June 1999 vol 334 c29W

Mr. Maclean

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions **when he expects to publish proposals permitting horse riders to use certain footpaths; and if he will make a statement.** **[88351]**

Mr. Meacher

We are considering recommendations for improvements to rights of way legislation submitted by the Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency) and expect to issue a consultation paper shortly.