

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Executive summary</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Introduction</b> .....	<b>8</b>
2.1 What is a rights of way improvement plan? .....	8
2.2 What are public rights of way? .....	9
2.3 What are the benefits of an improved network of public rights of way? .....	9
2.4 A rights of way improvement plan for Solihull .....	10
<b>3. Background</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1 Introduction to Solihull .....	11
3.2 Solihull's countryside .....	12
3.3 Public rights of way .....	13
<b>4. Policy framework</b> .....	<b>15</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	15
4.2 The national policy context .....	15
4.3 The local policy context .....	16
<b>5. Stakeholders and their needs</b> .....	<b>22</b>
5.1 Consultation .....	22
5.2 Response from members of the public .....	23
5.3 Points raised by walking groups .....	24
5.4 Walking - preferences .....	25
5.5 Walking - access and facilities .....	26
5.6 Points raised by cyclists .....	27
5.7 Points raised by equestrians .....	29
5.8 Points raised by off-road motorists .....	30
5.9 Points raised by Parish & Town Councils .....	30
5.10 Points raised by land managers .....	34
<b>6. Assessment of the rights of way network</b> .....	<b>36</b>

6.1 The definitive map .....	36
6.2 The physical condition of the network.....	37
<b>7. Statement of action .....</b>	<b>41</b>
7.1 Introduction.....	41
7.2 Issues identified .....	42
7.3 Themes.....	48
<b>8. Action plan.....</b>	<b>50</b>
8.1 Format of the action plan .....	50
8.2 The action plan .....	50
<b>9. Implementation and monitoring.....</b>	<b>71</b>
9.1 Implementation .....	71
9.2 Monitoring .....	72
<b>10. Appendix.....</b>	<b>73</b>
Glossary.....	73
Interest groups consulted as part initial consultation phase (in alphabetical order) .....	76
Summary of feedback received as part of consultation of draft version of rights of way improvement plan .....	79