

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

MODIFICATION OF THE DEFINITIVE MAP & STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES

Leeds City Council is the surveying authority for the purpose of the preparation and modification of the Definitive Map and Statement of public rights of way for the Metropolitan District of Leeds. The Council has considered the requirements of part 3 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and, in accordance with the Department of Environment Circular 2/93, has adopted the following priorities for bringing and keeping the Definitive Map and Statement up to date.

PRIORITY & WORK CATEGORY

- (1) The preparation of modification orders made under the following provisions contained within the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981:  
  
section 53(3)(c) – discovery of evidence by the Council of discrepancies or omissions in relation to the Definitive Map and Statement.  
  
or  
  
section 53(5) – third party applications for modification orders  
  
in circumstances where urgent action is considered to be necessary either in the public interest or in the interests of safeguarding the use of public rights of way.
- (2) The preparation of a Definitive Map and Statement for the built-up areas of Leeds not covered by the existing Definitive Map.
- (3) The review of the Definitive Map and Statement, area by area including investigation and determination of applications made under section 53(5) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Applications made on the basis of historical evidence will take priority over others due to the cut off date imposed by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- (4) The investigation and determination of Definitive Map Modification Order Applications made under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 in order of receipt, unless 1 or 3 above applies.
- (5) The preparation of a modification order to take account of all legal events, which have occurred since the relevant date of the Definitive Map and Statement.
- (6) The periodic preparation of a consolidated Definitive Map and Statement to take account of modification orders properly made to the Definitive Map and Statement from time to time under provisions contained within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

## AREAS TO BE REVIEWED

Aberford; Aireborough; Arthington; Austhorpe; Bardsey; Barwick; Boston Spa; Bramham; Bramhope; Carlton; Clifford; Collingham; East Keswick; Garforth; Great and Little Preston; Harewood; Horsforth; Ledsham; Ledston; Surveyed area of Leeds County Borough; Lotherton; Micklefield; Morley; Otley; Parlington; Pool; Pudsey; Rothwell; Scarcroft; Swillington; Thorner; Thorp Arch; Walton; Wetherby; Wothersome.

The order in which the areas will be reviewed will be determined by Schedule 14 applications and anomalies within a parish area.

## NOTE

If any person wishes to make any representation about any public right of way shown in, or omitted from, the Definitive Maps and Statement, this should be done on the prescribed form.

The City Council is mindful of the right of applicants for a modification order to apply to the Secretary of State for a direction if the Council does not give a decision within 12 months of receiving an application in the prescribed form. The City Council trusts, however, that applicants will appreciate the progress with the exercise as a whole will best be made if applicants have regard to this Statement of Priorities and to the stage reached with the review when deciding the time at which to submit applications.

Any claimed public right of way, which has not been subject to an application in the prescribed form will be investigated when the relevant area review is undertaken, unless (1) above applies.

Where review matters are disputed or raise complicated questions of fact, decisions may be delayed and local inquiries or hearings may be called by the Secretary of State. Consequently, it may be necessary to move onto the next review area before all the issues arising from a review have been settled.

The Statement of Priorities does not necessarily mean that work in any one category will be dealt with to the complete exclusion of any work in any other category. It will also be necessary to keep this Statement of Priorities under review and to amend it, if necessary, in light of experience.