



**MONITORING QUALITY STANDARDS ON NATIONAL TRAILS IN
ENGLAND**

RESULTS 2007

QUALITY STANDARDS ON ENGLISH NATIONAL TRAILS – 2007

Natural England wants everyone using the network of National Trails in England to enjoy their experience to the full.

The over-arching goal of the partners involved in the management of National Trails is their maintenance to a standard that is consistent, sympathetic to the landscape through which the Trails pass, which meets the needs of users and which is appropriate to their use.

Each year we ask National Trail Officers to report on how their Trails are performing against the published standards. National Trail Officers are professionally qualified individuals whose knowledge about each Trail is unsurpassed and whose opinion can be relied upon. This report gives a detailed breakdown of the results monitored during the summer months of 2007.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This year's figures reflect the fact that funding issues have meant that improvements to the Trails have not been taken forward. This has meant that overall *status quo* has been maintained.

Bad weather over the summer is highlighted in the results for measure 5 where surface standards have worsened slightly overall.

A planned programme of replacement of signs on the Pennine Way has meant an improved average figure for measure 22.

A user survey was carried out on the Trail network during 2007. Analysis of this is underway and the results from the English Trails will be compared with the results of this quality standards monitoring. Further investigation and priority funding will be considered where the two reports do not match.

It should be noted that figures for the Pennine Bridleway are not directly comparable year to year as they will encompass new sections of the Trail as they open.

Due to changes in management structures we have been unable to include Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail in this analysis.

Offa's Dyke Path is not included as management of this Trail is shared between the Countryside Agency and the Countryside Council for Wales.

These figures need to be read in conjunction with the document "Quality Standards for National Trails in England" which is also available on this site

Where "unknown" is shown this is normally because it has been impossible to collect the information due to a lack of technical equipment or manpower.

MEASURE 1: The percentage of each Trail that is legally defined				
	Baseline 2004	2005	2006	2007
Pennine Way	99.9	99.9	99	99
Cleveland Way		99.5	99.5	99.5
Yorkshire Wolds Way		99.5	99.5	99.5
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	95	100	99.3	99.3
North Downs Way	100	100	100	100
South Downs Way	99	99	95	95
Thames Path	99.4	99.4	99.4	
Ridgeway	100	100	100	100
South West Coast Path		92.2	92.2	92
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway		96.2	96.2	
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	86	86

Figures in the target column that are just below 100% are calculated on the fact that the “walked “ route of a National Trails can diverge from the actual “legally defined” route (as shown on definitive maps). Where this is perceived as a major problem, we encourage action to vary routes so that both converge.

MEASURE 2: The percentage of each Trail in the best position				
	Baseline 2004	2005	2006	2007
Pennine Way		100	100	100
Cleveland Way		98	98	98
Yorkshire Wolds Way		95	95	95
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	87	87	87	87
North Downs Way	Unknown	90	90	90
South Downs Way		94	99	99
Thames Path	Unknown	75	91	91
Ridgeway	Unknown	96	96	96
South West Coast Path	Unknown	92.3	92.3	93.2
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway		95.8	95.8	95.8
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	82	98

The improved figure for the South Downs Way National Trail is due to the exclusion of two specific lengths. The two areas concerned (The Milburys, Hampshire, and Washington, W Sussex) both require opposed path creation orders if progress is to be made.

On-going work over the last few years to vary the route of the Thames Path National Trail at Inglesham, Purley and Shiplake has had a positive effect on this evaluation. The work has been supported by both Natural England and the local highway authorities involved.

MEASURE 3: The percentage of each Trail which is traffic-free and off road				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	93	93	93
Cleveland Way	Unknown	90.5	90.5	90.5
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	86	86	86
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	85	85	85	85
North Downs Way	Unknown	77.2	78	77
South Downs Way	93	93	93	91
Thames Path	90.2	98	90	91
Ridgeway	90.2	90.2	90.2	90.2
South West Coast Path	Unknown	85.2	85.3	85.3
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	82.9	82.9	82.9
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	82	83
Average figure		88.1	86.9	86.8

MEASURE 4: The number of road, rail, river and sea crossings on each Trail that need improvements to make them safer				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	0	0	0	0
Cleveland Way	Unknown	0	0	0
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	0	0	0
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	5	2	2	2
North Downs Way	5	6	6	6
South Downs Way	3	3	2	2
Thames Path	9	9	9	9
Ridgeway	7	7	7	7
South West Coast Path	Unknown	3	3	3
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	7	7	7
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	16	16
Average figure		3.7	4.7	4.7

Unsafe road crossings are largely deemed to be so because of speed of traffic, line of sight and similar issues. Work with relevant Highway Authorities is on-going to improve these sites.

MEASURE 5: The percentage of fords, bridges and ramps on each Trail which are appropriate

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	100	73	73
North Downs Way	100	100	100	100
South Downs Way	Unknown	80	99	99
Thames Path	69	69	69	69
Ridgeway	100	100	100	100
South West Coast Path	Unknown	90	90	93.8
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	100	100	100
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	90	90
Average figure		93.9	92.8	93.1

On-going funding of the Peddars Way/Norfolk Coast Path National Trail by Natural England and relevant highway authorities has led to an improvement in these figures.

MEASURE 6: The percentage of each Trail with an acceptable width

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	90	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	99	90	90
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	99.9	99	99
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
North Downs Way	Unknown	84.9	85	97
South Downs Way	99.5	99.5	99.5	100
Thames Path	86	86	86	86
Ridgeway	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
South West Coast Path	Unknown	100	100	99
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	100	100	100
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	98	98.5
Average figure		95.5	95.7	96.9

MEASURE 7: The percentage of each Trail that has an acceptable surface				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	100	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	96	96	97
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	99	99	99
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	99.5	96.9	96.2	96.2
North Downs Way	93	93	94	95
South Downs Way	98	98	98.6	95.5
Thames Path	70	70	70	<70
Ridgeway	49	49	82	60
South West Coast Path	Unknown	99	99	98.4
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	99	98	99
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	95	97
Average figure		90	93.4	91.5

The Ridgeway National Trail continues to be affected by illegal motorised use. An Action Plan was implemented between 2003 – 2006 to fund improvements to the surface of the Trail. The introduction of Restricted Byways to replace Byways Open to All Traffic has helped but there is still a management issue which we are seeking to address.

MEASURE 8: The percentage of each Trail where off-road vehicle use is causing demonstrable problems				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	<1	Unknown but some	Unknown but some
Cleveland Way	Unknown	1	1	1
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	1	1	1
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	2.7	3.8	3.8
North Downs Way	Unknown	5	5	5
South Downs Way	Unknown	2	0	0
Thames Path	Unknown	<1	6	5
Ridgeway	Unknown	46.2	44	44
South West Coast Path	Unknown	<1	<1	<1
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	19.8	19.8	19.8
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	<1	<1
Average figure		8.1	7.6	7.5

MEASURE 9: The percentage of steps and gradients on each Trail that are appropriate				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	100	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	70	70	70
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	33	33	33
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	92	92	92
North Downs Way	Unknown	100	100	100
South Downs Way	100	100	100	100
Thames Path	32	32	32	Unknown
Ridgeway	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
South West Coast Path	Unknown	78	78	83
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	100	100	100
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	88	88
Average figure		78.3	79.3	85.1

MEASURE 10: The percentage of each Trail corridor which is of the highest quality				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	87	87	87
Cleveland Way	Unknown	82	82	82
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	88	88	88
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	79	79	79	79
North Downs Way	Unknown	91	91	91
South Downs Way	99.5	99.5	99.5	100
Thames Path	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Ridgeway	100	100	100	100
South West Coast Path	Unknown	Unknown	85	85
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	95	95
Average figure		89.5	89.6	89.6

MEASURE 11: The percentage of furniture on each Trail that is appropriate				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	100	Unknown	72
Cleveland Way	Unknown	80	77	91
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	93	94	94
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	100	Unknown	Unknown
North Downs Way	Unknown	76	78	84
South Downs Way	99	99.5	95	85
Thames Path	33	41	41	24
Ridgeway	32	35.5	36	58
South West Coast Path	Unknown	82	84	86
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	100	99.5	99.5
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	77	84
Average figure		80.7	75.7	77.8

There are a number of reasons for the changing statistics above:

- More accurate surveying of furniture
- Programmes for replacement/repair priorities on some Trails
- Funding issues which have led to a lack of maintenance of furniture
- Adherence to the DDA has set higher standards

MEASURE 12: The percentage of major access points on each Trail that are accessible by public transport or appropriately connected				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	83	83	83
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	64	71	71
North Downs Way	Unknown	100	100	100
South Downs Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Thames Path	Unknown	81	81	81
Ridgeway	Unknown	56	56	56
South West Coast Path	Unknown	100	100	100
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	93	87	93
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	52	52
Average figure		87.7	84.5	85

MEASURE 13: The number of gaps in accommodation provision on each Trail				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	0	0	0
Cleveland Way	Unknown	3	3	3
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	3	3	3
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	1	1	1	1
North Downs Way	Unknown	0	1	2
South Downs Way	Unknown	0	1	3
Thames Path	Unknown	0	0	0
Ridgeway	Unknown	1	1	1
South West Coast Path	Unknown	0	Unknown	Increasing
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	3	3	3
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	8	Improving

The closure of key Youth Hostels and individual accommodation provision has had a negative effect on this measure.

MEASURE 14: The percentage of each Trail that is litter and dog mess free				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	100	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	98	98	98
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	95	95	95	95
North Downs Way	80	80	81	83
South Downs Way	95	98	98	98
Thames Path	95	97	95	95
Ridgeway	100	90	84	81
South West Coast Path	Unknown	99	99	98
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	99	99	99
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	Unknown	Unknown
Average figure		95.6	94.9	94.7

Increase pressure on policing of The Ridgeway (most of the litter relates to raves, dumping/illegal use) has had a major impact on this measure

MEASURE 15: The percentage of officially produced Trail information that is currently accessible and branded in accordance with national guidance

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	56	56	60	87
North Downs Way	Unknown	100	100	100
South Downs Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Thames Path	Unknown	100	100	100
Ridgeway	Unknown	100	100	100
South West Coast Path	Unknown	100	100	100
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	100	100	100
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	100	80

MEASURE 16: Number of guidebooks

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	8	8	9
Cleveland Way	Unknown	8	8	8
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	6	6	6
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
North Downs Way	Unknown	Unknown	3	3
South Downs Way	Unknown	7	7	7
Thames Path	Unknown	3	3	3
Ridgeway	Unknown	3	3	3
South West Coast Path	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	6
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	Awaiting opening	Unknown

MEASURES 17, 18 AND 19: Availability of printed information				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	All Available	Circular walks not available	All Available
Cleveland Way	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
North Downs Way	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
South Downs Way	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
Thames Path	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
Ridgeway	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
South West Coast Path	Unknown	All Available	All Available	All Available
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	Public transport guide and circular walks and rides not available	Public transport guide and circular walks and rides not available	All available
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	Work still required	All Available

MEASURE 20: The provision of accessible, complete and up-to-date on-line information

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleveland Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Downs Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Downs Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thames Path	Unknown	Yes	Not complete	Increased but not complete
Ridgeway	Unknown	Yes	Not complete	Increased but not complete
South West Coast Path	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

MEASURE 21: The provision of a complete database of service information for each Trail

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleveland Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	No	Yes	Yes	Yes but work to do
North Downs Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Downs Way	Unknown	Yes	Yes but work needed on accommodation entries	Yes
Thames Path	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ridgeway	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
South West Coast Path	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	Yes but not complete	Yes

MEASURE 22: The percentage of signs which meet the standards on each Trail

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	2	10	63
Cleveland Way	Unknown	5	84	89
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	93	91	94
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	100	100	100	100
North Downs Way	Unknown	80	83	90
South Downs Way	Unknown	80	80	85
Thames Path	80	82	87	79.5
Ridgeway	65	65	71	71
South West Coast Path	Unknown	61	64	69
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	100	100	100
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	67.5	84
Average figure		66.8	76.1	84

MEASURE 23: The percentage of key access points which have appropriate information displayed

	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	6	6	6
North Downs Way	Unknown	50	50	50
South Downs Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Thames Path	Unknown	43	43	43
Ridgeway	Unknown	50	50	50
South West Coast Path	Unknown	44	44	65
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	0	8	8
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	80	80
Average figure		59.3	61.9	61.9

MEASURE 24: The percentage of highway authorities that comply with temporary diversion procedure best practice				
	Baseline 2004	2005 (baseline or result)	2006	2007
Pennine Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Cleveland Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Yorkshire Wolds Way	Unknown	100	100	100
Norfolk Coast Path/Peddars Way	Unknown	100	100	100
North Downs Way	100	100	100	100
South Downs Way	100	100	100	100
Thames Path	100	100	100	100
Ridgeway	100	100	100	100
South West Coast Path	Unknown	100	100	100
Open parts of Pennine Bridleway	Unknown	70	100	100
Cotswold Way	N/A	N/A	100	100