



# Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013

## Report

November 2013

Report produced on behalf of Rossendale Borough Council by Nick Harbour

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# 1 Executive Summary

On the whole, the results from the Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013 survey are quite positive. A couple of key positive findings include:

1. 54% are either very satisfied or satisfied with the Public Rights of Way overall
2. 51% are either very satisfied or satisfied with the cleanliness in relation to rubbish
3. 66% are either very satisfied or satisfied with the gates provided

A couple of the less positive findings include:

1. 51% are either very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the amount of overgrowth
2. 50% are either very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the cleanliness in relation to dog mess
3. 55% are either very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with information available about routes

A fairly clear message from the survey was that people with disabilities and older residents seem to have the most negative views of the Public Rights of Way, perhaps understandably so with certain aspects such as stiles, gates and path surfaces having a greater impact for these residents.

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
<b>Specific aspects of the Public Rights of Way</b>		
Gates	66%	15%
Stiles	52%	25%
Path surfaces	49%	34%
Fingerposts from highways	47%	28%
Waymarking	39%	38%
Overgrowth	24%	51%
Steps and handrails	37%	22%
Bridges	56%	9%
Information about routes	24%	44%
<b>Cleanliness of the Public Rights of Way</b>		
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the cleanliness of the Public Rights of Way in relation to rubbish?	51%	30%
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the cleanliness of the Public Rights of Way in relation to dog mess?	31%	50%
<b>Your overall thoughts of the Public Rights of Way</b>		
Taking everything into account, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with Public Rights of Way in the Borough?	54%	22%

## 2 Background and Methodology

### 2.1 Background

Rossendale Borough Council's Scrutiny process had established a Scrutiny Review Group to look at the Public Rights of Way network throughout the Borough, to assess their value and effectiveness.

The review aimed to look at the network of footpaths and bridleways which walkers, wheelchair users, horse riders and cyclists use to access, enjoy the countryside and link into urban areas, and find out what their opinions are of the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale.

The results of the survey would be used as part of an assessment and discussion of best practice and feedback to Lancashire County Council, who are responsible for the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale.

It was anticipated that the results of the survey would help to improve Public Rights of Way for the people of Rossendale and visitors alike.

The survey questionnaire was designed to:

- review how frequently the Public Rights of Way are used and the types of people who tend to use them;
- highlight areas where development and improvement is required to the Public Rights of Way across the Borough
- provide the public with an opportunity to give their views on how Public Rights of Way might be improved.
- offer members of the public a chance to get involved further by giving them a chance to join the Public Rights of Way Task and Finish Group

### 2.2 Methodology

The survey was set up to complete either online or paper based, to enable all members of the public to be able to have the chance to submit their views.

741 members of the Citizen Panel were invited to take part in to the survey.

Numerous walking groups agreed to advertise the survey on their website.

The survey was also advertised on both Rossendale Borough Council and Whitworth Town Council's website encouraging all residents to have their say.

The survey began on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The fieldwork closed on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### 2.3 Responses

In total, 349 responses were received. 195 of these were received by email and 154 were received as paper copies.

How well the sample represents the population is gauged by two important statistics – the survey's margin of error and confidence level. For example, this survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.2% at a 95 percent level of confidence. This means that if the survey was conducted 100 times, the data would be within 5.2 percentage points above or below the percentage reported in 95 of the 100 surveys (see figure 2.1 below). Typically 3% is

considered to be a 'good' margin of error and in the case of this consultation, the 5.2% margin of error is slightly higher. As a result, the findings of the survey have real value but they should not be seen as a completely accurate reflection of the borough.

**Figure 2.1: Margins of error at 95% confidence**

<b>Survey Sample Size</b>	<b>Margin of Error Percent</b>
349	+/- 5.2
300	+/- 5.7
200	+/- 6.9
100	+/- 9.8

For each question in the survey, comparisons have been made between different sub-groups of respondents (namely gender, age and disability) to look for statistically significant differences in opinion. Statistically valid differences between sub-groups are described in the main body of the report. Some groups cannot be included in the sub-group analysis as there were too few respondents to allow statistically significant results (e.g. ethnic minorities).

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

### 3 Demographic Data

Please note that for the purpose of identifying the borough composition in the tables below, data has been taken from the 2011 census.

#### 3.1 Gender

Slightly more men responded to the survey than women. 1% said that they would prefer not to state their gender.

**Figure 3.1: Gender**

Gender	Survey respondents	Borough actual
Male	52%	49%
Female	47%	51%
Prefer not to say	1%	-

Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q13

#### 3.2 Age

50% of all the respondents were above the age of 60. The highest age group represented were the 60-69 year olds, from whom 31% of responses were received.

**Figure 3.2: Age**

Age group	Survey respondents	Borough actual
Under 40	12%	40%
40-49	16%	14%
50-59	22%	18%
60-69	31%	12%
70+ years	19%	16%
Prefer not to say	1%	-

Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q14

#### 3.3 Disability

13% of respondents who replied have a disability. This compares to 20% for the borough as a whole.

**Figure 3.3: Disability**

Disability	Survey respondents	Borough actual
Yes	13%	20%
No	85%	80%
Prefer not to say	2%	-

Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q15

### 3.4 Ethnicity

94% of people who responded to the survey were White or White British. Only 1% of respondents were BME. The other 5% preferred not to state their ethnicity.

**Figure 3.4: Ethnicity**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Survey respondents</b>	<b>Borough actual</b>
White or white British	94%	94%
BME	1%	6%
Prefer not to say	5%	-

Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q16

## 4 Main Findings

### Q1 – Have you used the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale since March 2013?

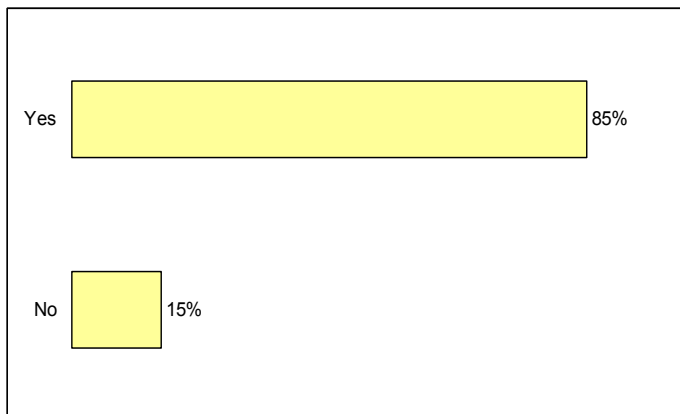
The vast majority of responses to the survey have used the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale since March 2013. This group accounted for 85% of the total response.

Only 15% of responses hadn't used the Public Rights of Way since March 2013.

Figures show a negative correlation between usage and age - 95% of those under 40 use the Public Rights of Way compared to 75% of those over 70.

A similar correlation can be found between usage and disability - 72% of people with a disability have used the Public Rights of Way in this same time period, compared to 88% of those without a disability.

**Figure 2.1: People who use the Public Rights of Way**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q1 Base: 346

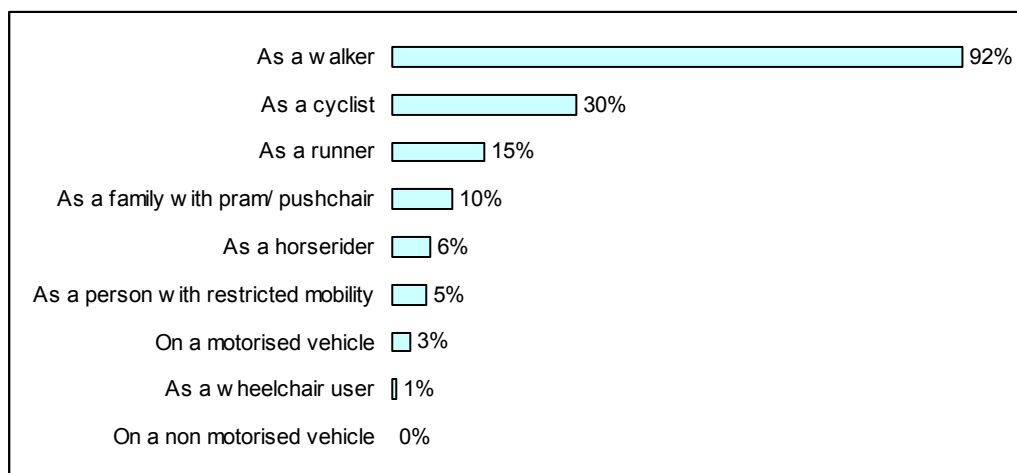
### Q2 – In what capacity do you tend to use the Public Rights of Way?

92% of respondents stated that they use the Public Rights of Way as a walker. This was by far the most common use of the Public Rights of Way.

There are a larger number of young people who use the footpaths as runners, cyclists and as a family.



**Figure 2.2: Capacity of use breakdown overall**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q2 Base: 297

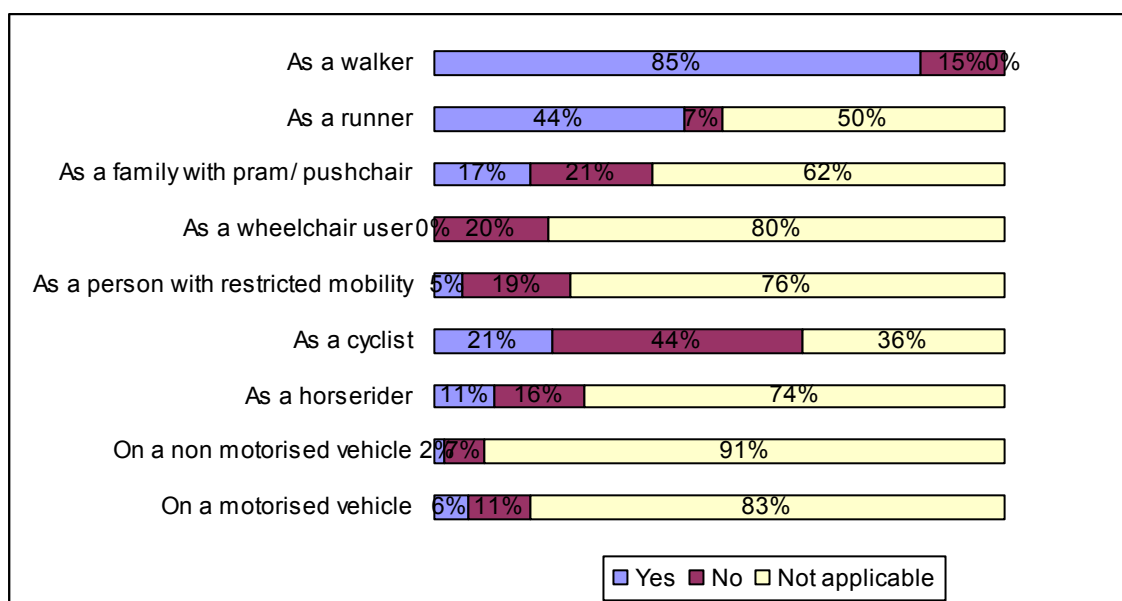
### Q3 – Does the network of Public Rights of Way provide sufficient paths and tracks in Rossendale for the uses that you identify at Q2?

The chart below highlights the proportion of Public Rights of Way users who feel that the network provides sufficient paths and tracks.

85% of walkers are happy with the provision (lower at 66% for those with a disability), but 44% of all respondents stated that they are unhappy with the paths and tracks for cycling purposes (higher for men at 53%).

Importantly, the vast majority of people who use the paths as a wheelchair user (or with restricted mobility) are not happy with the provision.

**Figure 2.3: Whether the network of Public Rights of Way provides sufficient paths and tracks**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q3 Base: 281

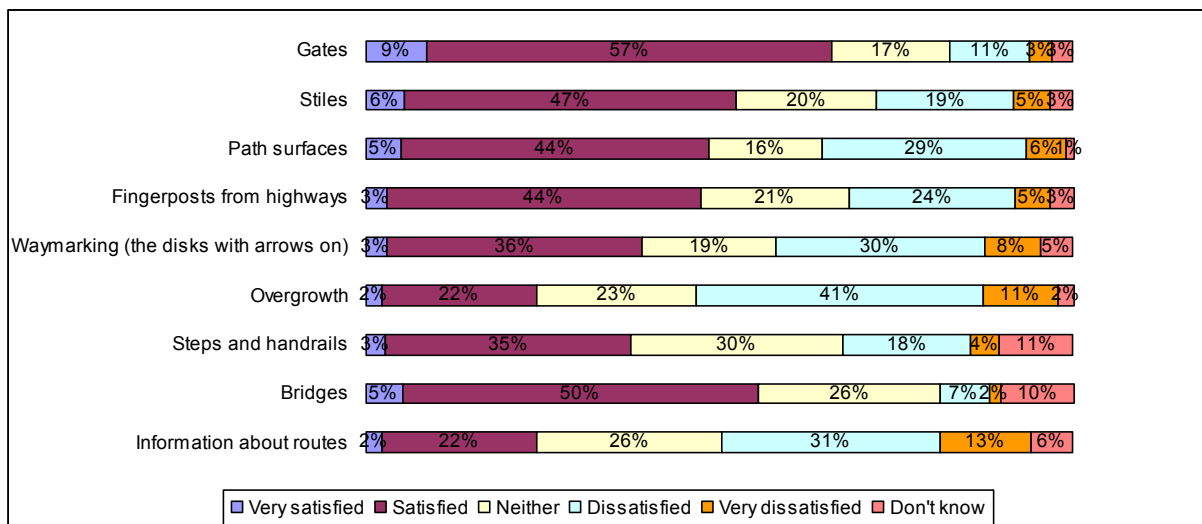
## Q4 – How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale?

Over half the people who answered the questions in relation to gates, stiles and bridges were either very satisfied or satisfied with these aspects on the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale.

Over half the people who answered the question in relation to overgrowth were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Information about routes, waymarking and paths & surfaces also scored quite high for the dissatisfied and very dissatisfied options.

**Figure 2.4: Satisfaction with aspects of the Public Rights of Way**

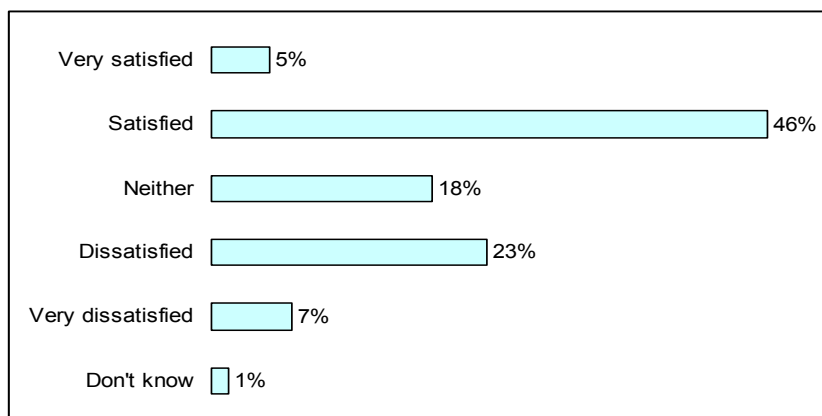


Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q4 Base: 281

## Q5 – How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the cleanliness of the Public Rights of Way?

Just over half of the respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the cleanliness of the Public Rights of Way in relation to rubbish. Interestingly, older people seemed to be the most dissatisfied – almost 50% of over 70's. Over 75% of people under the age of 40 were satisfied or very satisfied.

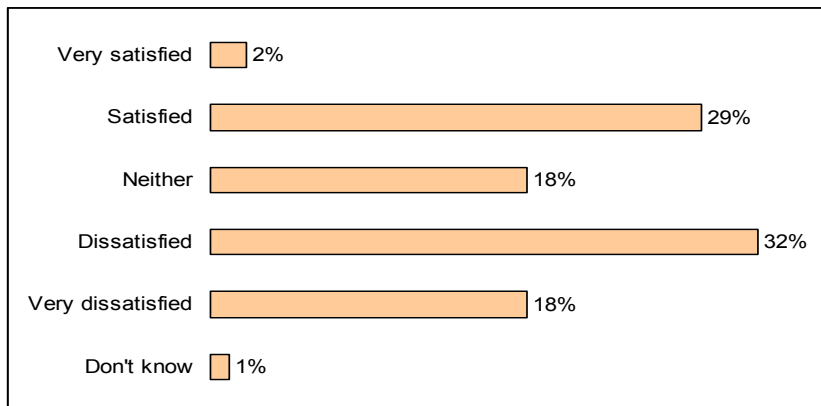
**Figure 2.5: Satisfaction with cleanliness (in relation to rubbish)**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q5 Base: 289

However, half of respondents were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the cleanliness of the Public Rights of Way in relation to dog mess. Similar to the views on rubbish, more older people were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the levels of dog mess compared to younger people.

**Figure 2.6: Satisfaction with cleanliness (in relation to dog mess)**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q5 Base: 284

### Q6 – If you answered ‘dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’ to either option at Q5, please tell us where you have noticed specific problems?

Respondents were invited to name specific areas in the Borough that they felt had a particular problem with cleanliness.

120 people responded to this question and the majority of people who answered didn't name a specific area, but pointed out their concerns that various parts of Rossendale had problems with litter and dog mess, particularly footpaths.

Below are some of the areas which were specifically highlighted:

- Stacksteads
- Haslingden
- Bacup

For a full list of the specific areas and problems, please see Appendix 1 at the end of the report.

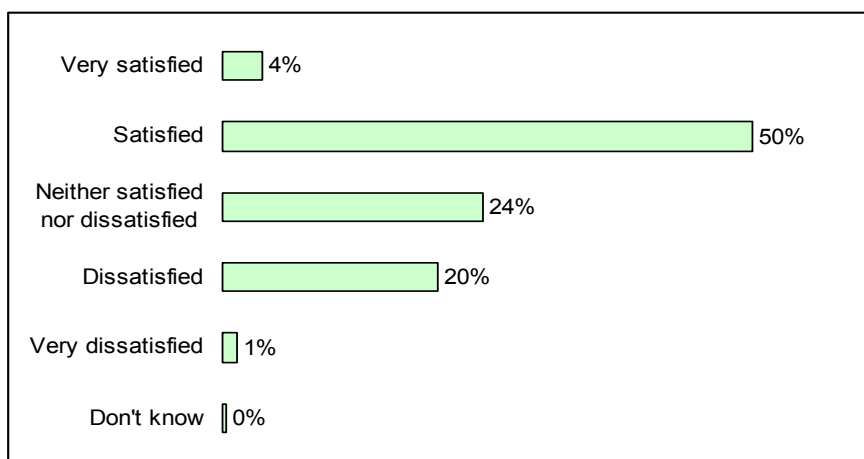
### Q7 – Taking everything into account, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with Public Rights of Way in the Borough?

After taking everything into account, 54% were satisfied or very satisfied with Public Rights of Way in Rossendale. Only 21% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

31% of people with a disability were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. This compares to 20% for residents with a disability.

Furthermore, 27% of those aged 60-69 were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. This compares to 14% for those aged 40-59.

**Figure 2.7: Overall satisfaction with Public Rights of Way**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q7 Base: 291

### Q8 – Using just one sentence, how would you describe your experiences to date of using the Public Rights of Way?

Respondents were invited to describe their experiences to date of using the Public Rights of Way in one word.

256 people responded to this question, most of whom had positive comments.

Below are some examples of the positive comments:

- Generally it is a pleasure to walk around my local area, Rawtenstall. There has been a great improvement since more got involved in civic pride
- Enjoyable and refreshing
- Great to walk surrounded by flora and fauna and away from the traffic
- I love the Public Rights of Way/ footpaths of Rossendale
- We are fortunate in Rossendale to have so much scope for walking within very easy access of populated areas

However, some comments submitted were negative, as shown below:

- Lack of continuity and inappropriate classification. Poor surfaces, often waterlogged and not possible to take disabled person with me
- Usually spoilt by dog mess/smell
- Can be frustrating due to lack of signage and overgrowth.

For a full list of the experiences, please see Appendix 2 at the end of the report.

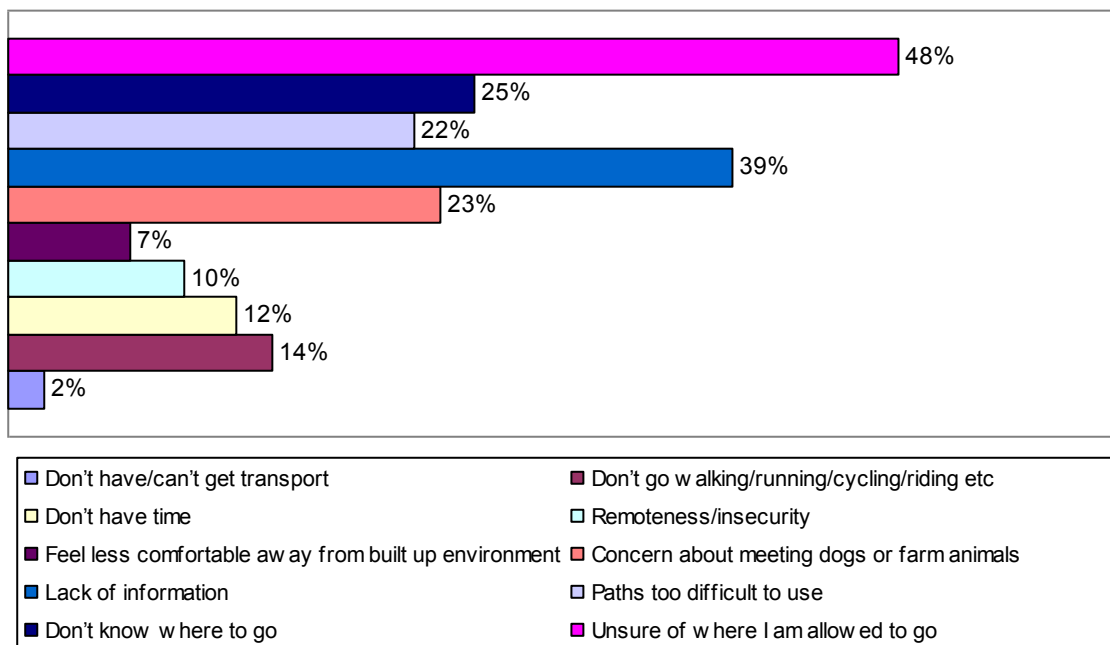
### Q9 – When do you not use or avoid using the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale?

Of those who do not use or avoid using the Public Rights of Way, almost half claimed it was because they are unsure of where they are allowed to go – interestingly, the majority of these people were aged between 40-69, whereby under 40's and over 70's didn't score as highly.

Lack of information was also seen as a barrier to usage. 39% stated this to be a problem (higher for those aged 40-59).

A larger number of females (30%) were concerned about meeting dogs or farm animals compared to males (14%).

**Figure 2.8: Avoiding the Public Rights of Way**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q9 Base: 211

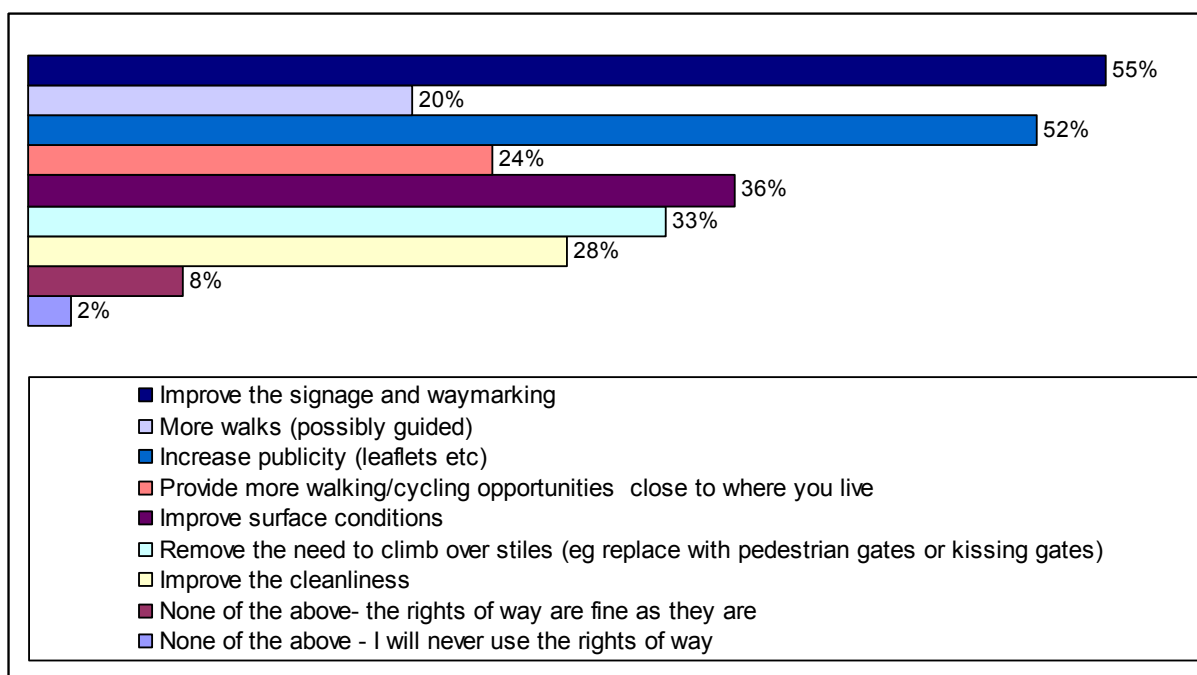
### Q10 – What, if anything, can we do to encourage you to use Public Rights of Way more?

Over 50% of respondents thought that improving the signage and waymarking (55%) and increasing publicity (52%) were the best ways to encourage people to increase their usage of the Public Rights of Way.

Despite the above two improvements being the most popular, they each scored relatively low in the under 40's and 70+ age groups.

As you would perhaps expect, there was a significant difference to responses between disabled people (54%) and those without a disability (30%) to the question regarding removing the need to climb over stiles.

**Figure 2.9: Encouraging more usage**



Source: Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Review 2013, Q5 Base: 314

**Q11 – We are keen to make sure that you are kept involved and/ or informed of the progress of this scrutiny review. Please indicate below whether you would be interested in?**

30% of the people who took part showed an interest in attending the Public Rights of Way Task and Finish Group – this is an encouraging figure and shows that a number of people are especially keen to see that the Public Rights of Way in Rossendale are maintained to the best standard possible for residents and visitors alike.

68% of people who took part asked to be notified of the outcome of the survey – again this demonstrates an interest in seeing what improvements can be made and how the responses to this consultation have been used to identify such improvements.

## 5 Appendix 1 – comments around cleanliness

Access road to Swinell Brook Park & the cycle way around it.  
all over the borough but particularly in Staghills Woods  
All routes around Tunstead to Bacup golf course passing Waggoners Tunstead to honey hole or via Mitchell Field Nook  
All the Rights of way that I have walked in the past 5 years un the area covered by this survey  
Almost everywhere I walk (with dogs) in: Rossendale and also everywhere I ride in Rossendale  
Almost everywhere I walk!  
Along the "railway lines" in Hareholme.  
Along the disused railway track from Swinell Brook Park on towards the Robin Hood Pub: also on the park site or homes on Sevunel Brook Park (dog mess!!)  
Always litter, must allow for old folks bungalows  
around seat naze  
Around Stacksteads  
Around the more frequently used footpaths e.g. Cowm Reservoir.  
At Masseycroft and Cockhall Way Whitworth  
At the hall and rubbish is a lot of places  
Back Lane in Rising Bridge my local walk used by lots of dog walkers who don't clean up after their dogs. Occasional fly tipping too.  
Because it is untidy.  
Between Rawtenstall Station and Townsend Fold is an area where dog mess can be found  
Bridleway of Bacup Rd.  
Britannia Bridleway, Stubbylee Park Generally around the whole area, as there are insufficient bins and no enforcement.  
Burnley Road East. Also the centre of Waterfoot. Near the taxi office and around the garden area to the side.  
By River Irwell Sculpture trail  
Can't be specific, just general  
Cawn Reservoir Whitworth.  
Clowbridge reservoir on path that dogs are supposedly not allowed and on most footpaths/pavements in area  
Clowbridge Reservoir  
Cycle path from Britannia to Healy Dell  
Different spots around Haslingden. But can't think of specific ones at the moment.  
Does no-one from the Councils inspect repair and improve these areas?  
dog dirt dog dirt bags and no as much with litter  
dog mess and smell is prevalent on most tracks out of sight of a public highway  
dog mess and smell is prevalent on most tracks out of sight of a public highway  
Dog mess around Cown Reservoir is a big problem.  
dog mess everywhere, even little plastic bags of the stuff left for somebody else to collect  
Dog mess in abundance is on a corner on the pathway/road running from Kings to Lamberts, alongside the river.  
Dog mess in Stacksteads, along the main road and by the riverside, is an ongoing problem and a major concern to many local residents. The patch behind Knights Funeral Parlour towards the riverside that is earmarked for allotments is particularly bad.  
Dog mess is a particular problem in the Stacksteads Riverside Park and the Higher Cloughfold Recreation Ground Footpaths. The rubbish problem is particularly noticeable on the Mary Towneley Loop section of the Pennine Bridleway where it passes through Rossendale. Other sections of this route do not have the same problem.  
Dog mess is all over the place in Rossendale, it is hard to define a specific problem.  
Dog mess is everywhere, too endemic to be able to offer specific locations. I am referring to Rawtenstall, Haslingden & Helmshore. Litter isn't too bad, until you look in the undergrowth.  
Footpaths in Helmshore.  
Dog mess is not removed from the majority of the paths that I walk on by the dog owners and it should be.  
Dog mess is on every street I feel it is a major problem.  
Dog mess is typically found just away from housing, as is rubbish.  
Dog mess. All over Stacksteads!!  
Dog Pitt Lane. Adjacent to Burnley Rd. Completely full of dog mess. Lee Mill Quarry and paths to it.

Also dog mess.

E.G. Walking up to + around Cowm Reservoir

Energy gel wrappers littered on routes, most likely from cyclist and maybe runners.

Everywhere.

fly tipping

Footpath approaching ABBA Care Home from the Heald Lane direction is constantly used as a dog toilet. General rubbish on footpath surrounding lodges in same area

Footpath immediately to w of St James the Less school Rawtenstall from school all way to bridleway this meets. Also some of footpaths around Clowbridge reservoir.

Footpaths.

Hanging dog mess bags on trees + fences. Drinks containers and bad litter problems on some paths closer to towns.

Haslingden mainly

Haslingden town centre Grane area.

Helmshore, along the railway down by Snig Hole Park.

in general around built up areas, near housing.

In particular lodge lane in Bacup is always littered - a dirty rag was there for about six months once.

It is also full of potholes

In the Helmshore area where we generally walk

In the last week I have found a gate chained up by a farmer - going west up onto the hills from the CPA club Loveclough in the direction of the single wind turbine near to a farm.

Irwell Vale Helmshore nr Musbury

its all over Rossendale

I've seen some areas of fly tipping on farm tracks. But other than this, on the whole rubbish isn't a problem otherwise

Lee Quarry, Cragg Quarry and Edenfield Moors

Marl Pits over up Chapel Hill

most cycle rides through the Rossendale area close to housing result in dog mess covering the bike. There also seems to be a culture of creating dog mess bag tree's in some locations. Some signage warning of fines etc but no action.

Near River Irwell on the Sculpture Trail.

New Line Bacup - Todmorden Road Bacup. Old railway lines.

No specific 'hot spot', it's a general problem even on roadside footpaths.

No specific place, there is just dog mess everywhere.

Not enough dog mess bins provided, also litter bins for rubbish.

Nowhere in particular

Occasional dog, or horse fouling on footpaths in Whitworth area no worse or better than anywhere else, just annoying.

Often seen piles of rubbish tipped and plastic bags in the rivers. They may well be cleaned up quickly for all I know, but it makes me agree when I see any litter.

On footpaths

On footpaths and grass verges.

On the old railway running to Healey Dell from Albert Street, past Wallbank, in Whitworth.

On the Pack Home trail above Weir Village extending through filthy farm yard onto Old Todmorden Rd.

On the path by New Line between Stack Lane and Britannia and also on the parallel path at the top of Deansgreave Road

Path from Snig Hole to Irwell Vale and back in Helmshore;

Path going from the end of Holden Place Haslingden towards Textile Museum

paths at Irwell Vale

Pathway between Market St and Tunacliffe Road around the back of Hilltop. Paving stones disturbed when Ton. Rd. was resurfaced have not been replaced. Steps at Market St end of pathway are uneven and pathway overgrown.

Regretfully, pretty well everywhere.

Reservoirs

Riverside Walk, Helmshore.

Rochdale Road. New line. Top path to Britannia.

Rossendale at times appears to be covered in its entirety by dog mess every easily accessible area is covered in it as are most of the streets

Rossendale Way, path from Edenfield down to Irwell Vale.



Rubbish is usually every where, dropped by the public. There are also issues with mountain bikers dropping empty water bottles etc on their travels but I have seen Countryside Rangers picking the litter up in the past. Dog mess is a national problem, so complaining won't make it disappear IMO. Rubbish seems to accumulate around public rights of way near the schools in both Waterfoot through to Stacksteads dog mess just seems to be a persisting problem along most routes in the area

rubbish up Cat Steps off Newchurch Road. Becoming more of a problem in Adrenalin cycle tracks and everywhere really but ..... Dog mess on the paths around the Riverside Park in Stacksteads. We, SCPG are working on it.

Sculpture trail, Groundwork, Railway station path, Shoe trail..... dog mess everywhere

Seat naze, The Heys (Waterfoot to Staghills)

small paths that cross fields etc where no houses about.....owners seem to think they don't need to pick up in these areas.....also need more dog waste bins

Snighole Park entrance (dog mess) Helmshore

Speaking of routes in Whitworth. Dog dirt on the approach roads & lanes to the moors.

Specific problems at: Driveways leading to Carterplace, Acre. Blackburn Road Acre. At the side of the houses at the beginning of Taylor Street, Maiden Street and Ormerod Street Acre On the footpath leading from Taylor Street to the Kings Highway, Acre via Top O'th Bank. I am informed that one culprit is a lady who lives in Oddfellows Terrace, Blackburn road, Haslingden (just through the Acre traffic lights row of cottages on Blackburn road). I understand this lady walks her small sandy and white doge early every morning around 5:30- 6:30 and each day allows it to foul at the end of either Tattersall Street or Maiden Street Acre. Another culprit I am informed is a gentleman living at Hall Park at Carterplace. He was apparently verbally abusive to another dog owner in the village who asked him to pick up after himself please. I personally do spot fly tipping on occasion along the Kings Highway or in other places and as due to my disability I am unable to remove it I always report it to RBC.

Stacksteads

Stacksteads and Bacup. To Weir dog mess everywhere you walk

Stacksteads as a whole is full of it I live up Blackwood road and daily walking my son to school we dodge at least ten foulings. our problem is its a great place to take a dog out and its out of sight of most main roads and in my opinion the dog warden does nothing at all to enforce the law (having dealt with him in the past I have no confidence unfortunately ) fair enough he is only one man

Stacksteads Recreation Ground and other paths in that area

Steps up to land adjacent to old hospital at Lock gate No poo bins on the top of the hill paths.

The bridle path from Cloughfold to Waterfoot.

The football pitches in Maden Recreation grounds and surrounding public footpaths.

The footpath alongside the river Irwell from Stubbins to Chatterton is so disgusting with dog dirt that I refuse to use it although I live next to the path.

The footpaths near to town centre

The litter I have found whilst out walking has been frustrating and I find myself picking up a lot myself whilst out. The dog mess is a particular issue that I am becoming increasingly angered about. This is both on the public rights of way and on the streets and highways. Those responsible he huge amount I find on the streets whilst walking with my family is unacceptable and more should be done to police it and punish them

The old railway line from New Line to Britannia

The path around Cowm Reservoir suffers badly from Dog Mess. The path at the back of Wallbank lodge and down to Healey dell suffers from rubbish been thrown from over back fences from properties on Wallbank - as does the path known as Wallbank Lane and land beyond Fern Isle Close. These are areas of natural beauty but are blighted by rubbish.

the start of any well used public path in Rossendale, even where there are bins. Clowbridge, Grane, Seat Naze, Marl Pits - you name it, there is dog mess there

There is always litter at some point on a public right of way, there is definitely always dog mess

Those paths that are not used as much as others, or are out of sight from onlookers

Tonge Lane Britannia,

Too much dog mess on paths

Various Places

Victoria Park and paths around that area. Foot paths/ bridge around bypass to Hasi Industrial Estates

Water-foot area - Back of Police Station up to Rawtenstall. Staghills Wood.

We paid poll tax

Whitworth Cycleway. Alan Fishwick cycleway. Horse droppings more of a problem than dog mess

You have done a great job but on the Moors people still think it is okay not to clean the mess up

## 6 Appendix 2 – view of the Public Rights of Way

Overgrown and used as dog toilets

A bit like the curate's egg!

a gate was locked on a public right of way and I couldn't get my bicycle through.

A massive disappointment, in an area of natural beauty, shameful neglect seems the order of the day!

A pleasant alternative to getting around and seeing the environment close up.

acceptable

Acceptable

Acceptable, but room for improvement.

Access can sometimes be varied but, overall, good but could be better signposted or way-marked

accessible and generally well marked

Adequate, but they could be so much better publicised.

All Area

An enjoyable experience and I love showing off the beauty of the Rossendale valley when visitors come.

Apart from the eye-sores, no complaints

Appropriate. would help if people would clean up better after their dogs when the poop is actually on the path but I have not had a particular experience a hotspot grot-spot!

as a keen walker and cyclist who uses PROWs all over the UK I would say Rossendale is overall quite disappointing.

As a keen walker, enjoy using the paths

as a mountain biker, the work at lee and Cragg quarry is just outstanding however if the surrounding trail network were improved it will bring business into the area as mountain biking is done by people with disposable incomes

As a regular walker in local area my experiences are broadly positive

As a regular walker in local area my experiences are broadly positive

As a regular, responsible dog walker I am quite content using Public Right of Way.

As a resident of Swinell Brook Park I am quite concerned that dog owners do not pick up mess from their pets!!

As a walker for over 20 years, I have found condition, access etc to vary widely

As a walker some farmers make it very difficult (move marker put up barb wire etc)

At times, difficult, due to lack of signs, or follow up signs

Average

awkward and not very cycle friendly

Beautiful surroundings and stunning walks ruined by litter and dog mess

beautiful views

Because I don't use very often unfair to comment but what I have used has been enjoyable

Can be difficult at times with overgrown plants dog mess and litter.

Can be frustrating due to lack of signage and overgrowth.

Can be frustrating to follow due to lack of markings

Capable of being more and benefiting Rossendale resident more.

confusing as so many signs are missing

Convenient short cuts

Could be better

Could be improved.

Curbs want lowering

Cut backs very noticeable, lots of repairs needed etc.

Dangerous mess of broken styles fences & some rusty barred wire from same.

Definite room for improvement

Disastrous. Even the park paths are rocky for scooters.

Disgusting.

Dodging dog dirt, more bins needed.

Doing the walks I do I've not experienced any real problems

Easily accessible, but not enough signposting with information and not enough information on routes available to the public.

easy

Easy to stroll, with no bother etc

enjoy hill walks - farmers and their dogs can be a problem  
 Enjoyable  
 Enjoyable and positive  
 Enjoyable and refreshing  
 Enjoyable walks,  
 Enjoyable with no serious problems.  
 Enjoyable, but frustrating where paths are obstructed by natural growth etc. Or churned up by horses or off-road bikes. E.G. FP132 & FP56 between FP57 & FP53.  
 Enjoyable.  
 Enough to stop you walking.  
 Excellent  
 Excellent if we are having a dry spell, very muddy in places if its been raining.  
 Excellent way to gain access to moorland  
 Excellent.  
 Fairly good routes through nice countryside.  
 Fine!  
 Fine, no problems  
 Free to walk in the countryside  
 Friendly and generally reasonably maintained  
 Frustrated by landowners blocking paths  
 frustrating  
 Fun to explore when you have an hour or two of spare time.  
 Fund satisfactory 75% of the time.  
 General experience is good; nevertheless there is one big problem - see letter attached.  
 Generally fine. My biggest problem is footpaths which run past farms with dogs not on leads. Scary!  
 Generally good although some landowners still keep gates chained.  
 Generally good but insufficient rights of way for cyclists  
 Generally good. However, with the stone theft in the area some footpaths are dangerous as walls have been removed making the footpaths hazardous for young children as real drop other side of the wall. See area behind bus stop after the glory pub  
 Generally happy, more signage/ route info would always be appreciated though.  
 Generally it is a pleasure to walk around my local area, Rawtenstall. There has been a great improvement since more got involved in civic pride.  
 Generally satisfied shame about the weather  
 Generally satisfied. Stiles, gates can be improved  
 Generally, the footpaths are in reasonable condition.  
 Getting better all the time  
 Getting worse  
 Glad that they are available  
 God enough and better than many areas.  
 going the right direction  
 Good  
 Good  
 Good - although do not do as much walking nowadays as previously (now 77)  
 good access and improving over time, with work still to do  
 Good experience although the path across Cribden Hill has now been given over to cattle, that are causing mess and damage, and dangerous to walk on.  
 Good in parts, bad in others.  
 Good overall.  
 good when i can find where they are and where they go.  
 Good, but more maintenance is required.  
 Good, but routes are not always clear to follow.  
 Good, where open to cyclists.  
 Good.  
 Good. Enjoyable.  
 Gradually improved until cuts about six years ago then less repairs and more temporary closures  
 Great - lots of them & well kept  
 great paths in lovely countryside.  
 Great resources that we could make more of

Great to walk surrounded by flora and fauna and away from the traffic  
 Great variations in maintenance of public footpaths  
 Great! a nice way to go walking  
 hurt my extended family are from Belgium and agree i live in a wonderful area , but can not believe the government (local ) leave paths like this ,bike rutted, and pooled over with deep water  
 I am fully mobile and have no problems with stiles but I am aware of people who would like to use the PRoW but cannot  
 I am not one that concerns much  
 I am satisfied at the time of writing  
 I appreciate farmers worry over the moronic public who pass over their land, and a danger to sheep and livestock, but they should allow access where this is legal.  
 I do a reasonable amount of walking & apart for Q5 I am reasonably satisfied  
 I enjoy using rights of way, just wish they were cleaner and there was more info as to what can be accessed.  
 I enjoy using the Public Rights of Way but would like more information regarding their usage  
 I enjoy walking around Rossendale  
 I enjoy walking with my dog. Meeting others on my walks  
 I have found them clean but more signage and better quality of paths would be nice  
 I have not encountered any problems but then again, I don't use the paths as much as other walkers.  
 I love the Public Rights of Way/ footpaths of Rossendale  
 I make the most of a bad job!  
 I only use Riverside Walks because they are level - one bad spot - between K Steels too. Ewood Bridge  
 I value easy access to local countryside with my dog.  
 In general terms quite good but could be better.  
 In need of some TLC  
 It is a constant battle to keep horse riding routes open and takes forever to get routes upgraded to bridleway status. People don't want horses on the roads but there is often no alternative.  
 It is just adequate  
 It is something we use regularly that is ruined by something easily resolved ie - more bins.  
 It's very enjoyable to be able to walk the Rossendale Hills  
 lack of bridleway access compared to footpaths. Farm gates and way-marking through farms is a problem  
 Lack of continuity and inappropriate classification  
 Landowners on rights of way should be made aware not to harass the public legitimately using public footpaths.  
 Lot of improvement is needed  
 Lots of good places to walk, run. Lots of potential to increase bridleway network.  
 Mainly positive.  
 Mixed, some good e.g. Spodden Valley, some less good e.g. stiles approaching Spring Mill Resv.  
 More could be done to improve them, they could be better maintained!  
 Most are fine, could do with better signage. Some have no dog-poo bins  
 most are manageable, some enjoyable, others not so.  
 most get too muddy in winter  
 Most paths through woods are badly littered with fly tipping etc - also the signage is not always clear  
 Mostly enjoyable  
 Mostly enjoyable but a bit disappointed at the poor state of some areas.  
 Mostly enjoyable but better signage would enhance the experience.  
 Mostly good, occasionally frustrating when a path marked on the map appears not to exist on the ground.  
 mostly good. in area between seat naze & liver hill many stiles are in disrepair however  
 mostly good. in area between seat naze & liver hill many stiles are in disrepair however  
 Mostly OK  
 Muddy, sometimes difficult, and poorly maintained  
 My husband and i have run off road for many years and really enjoy that experience. Dog fouling is a real problem on the more accessible paths, and we would love an accessible cycle route all along the valley - and then I would cycle to work  
 N/A

need to be more clearly signed  
Need wellies all year round.  
Needs the status reviewing to make more off road routes accessible to cyclists  
no issues  
No major problems personally but others may have problems.  
No Problems  
No problems, this may be because I use rights of way responsibly and view the use of paths over other people's land as a privilege and not a right  
Not adequately maintained and signposted  
not always accessible  
Not bad  
Not bad but could be better.  
Not bad but not good.  
Not enough use to comment areas of Rossendale but also limited information sources  
NOT USED MANY BECAUSE DON'T LIVE IN THE AREA - BUT WHAT I HAVE USED ARE FINE  
Not welcoming  
Not well kept  
Number of path overgrown, broken stiles and some paths are badly way marked  
Ok  
Ok  
ok but gates could be improved for horse riders and signs  
OK for the routes that I have used.  
ok not something I use much  
OK to a point.  
OK, but could be better  
okay  
on the whole they are very good  
Overall, they're not too bad.  
Path maintenance ok but sign posts and way markers are in very poor condition.  
Paths could be better in the winter (grit etc).  
Paths not always clearly marked so have ended up having to climb over walls etc.  
Pleasant apart from having to dodge the dog mess.  
Pleasant but overgrown trees and locked gates with broken styles.  
Pleasant way to unwind or take the dogs out. Should be protected at all cots!  
Plenty of scope for improvement, they could be so much better served.  
Poor  
poor  
Poor surfaces, often waterlogged and not possible to take disabled person with me.  
Poorly signed, maintained and awkward to access  
Quite enjoyable.  
Quite overgrown, litter in undergrowth, loads of dog mess & parts of Rossendale Way around Musberry Torr have been ruined by recent fencing work, leaving boggy paths and some land stolen  
really good, wish there was more  
Reasonable and as I would expect  
Reasonable but would like it to be easier to find paths  
Reasonable variety of walks suitable for dogs  
Reasonably good apart from farm access,  
Reluctant to use many as they are overgrown or covered in litter and dog mess  
Rossendale has some fantastic access to countryside which should be valued, enhanced and promoted  
Rossendale is one of my favourite places to cycle and walk that is always a pleasure to visit  
Rubbish  
Satisfactory  
Since becoming partially mobile a very poor one.  
SOME ARE GOOD, OTHERS ARE AVERAGE TO POOR  
Some are overgrown with tree branches restricting them  
Some are very good others not so good.  
Some farmers and people living in non working farms try to discourage walkers from using the paths by various means.

Some in good condition, others in poor.  
Some in good condition, others in poor.  
Some landowners go out of their way to make you ride/ walk difficult by placing obstructions in your path.  
Some of the most popular paths are fine but others have been block such as the ones in Loveclough  
Some paths are hard to find for inexperienced walkers, sometimes there is a lack of signage, and brideways are not always indicated, especially through farms.  
Some very well maintained, other in need of further work.  
Sometimes very good and clearly marked, sometimes tricky to use.  
Successful, enjoyable and peaceful.  
The bridle way network needs signposting better and improved maintenance.  
The brideways are very limited in number and in mileage.  
The ones I've used have been clearly signed, relatively clear & easy to negotiate.  
The traffic free areas are very pleasant walking areas and dogs are able to have fun off their leads.  
There are some very good routes but they are not enough signposts or advertising of their existence  
These are good except during very bad weather conditions  
They allow one to see the hidden beauty of the area  
They are average but need improvement.  
They are usable for my needs but could be improved in some areas.  
This signposting on the PBW is in places missing, and in others confusing.  
tolerable  
Too many gates, not enough signage but generally not bad compared to many areas.  
Tranquil walks in lovely countryside  
tread with care  
Two or three times a week - sad some are such a mess  
Up to about 2 years ago I was quite satisfied but of late things seem to have regressed.  
Using the right path for walking  
usually spoilt by dog mess/smell  
usually spoilt by dog mess/smell  
variable  
Varied and interesting, some are challenging, but that's how it should be, still no RUPPS  
Varied types of walks available, providing interesting leisure time  
Very challenging as most of the brideways appears to be on a north-south axles, heading east or west is difficult.  
Very enjoyable and easily accessible  
very enjoyable during the warm weather  
very enjoyable experience  
Very good  
Very good  
very hard to navigate  
Very hit and miss  
Very pleasant experience to be repeat often.  
Very pleased with what I have seen.  
Very scenic  
Very variable, sometimes good, sometimes dire, overgrown, virtually impassable.  
Very well to date, but spoiled by a few inconsiderate people  
we a are fortunate in Rossendale to have so much scope for walking within very easy access of populated areas  
We are lucky in Rossendale with the amount of countryside & walks on our doorstep  
We live in a beautiful area but litter and dog mess do spoil it  
wear wellies and watch your eyes!  
What a great publicly available network - wish it was slightly better signposted to encourage more users and make it easier to use  
Whilst walking I have not met with any serious issues.  
Would go somewhere else to ride if there was an alternative.  
You get into the habit of only using ones that take you to local viewpoints & watersides, and ignore the rest.

