



NATIONAL RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGERS' WORKING GROUP

Monday 13th October 2025

10:00 – 12:00 Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present:

Pete Hobley	(PH)	SW Group (Chair)
Adam Maciejewski	(AMaci)	Eastern Group
Becky Fuller	(BF)	W Mids Group
Rowena Lloyd	(RL)	W Mids Group
Edwin McWilliam	(EMW)	E Mids Group (Vice Chair)
Mike Ogden	(MO)	Northern Group
Kylie Russell	(KR)	ADEPT
Undine Kalcenaua	(UK)	DEFRA
Graham Rusling	(GR)	SE Group & IPROW
Adrian Walls	(AW)	Wales Group
Richard Cuthbert	(RC)	Eastern Group
Laura Allenet	(LA)	Staffordshire County Council (minute taker)

Apologies:

Andy Mackintosh (AMack) Natural England

TABLE OF ACTIONS

25 October 2023	
3	ADEPT/IPROW: Need to work together on producing Deregulation Act guidance to help practitioners.
24 January 2024	
10	<p>PH to raise with OS policies around incorrect/ inconsistent mapping re bodies of water.</p> <p>PH to circulate inquiry letter to OS and the OS response. Kate Noss at the OS is discussing the issue internally – response that OS don't realign PROW symbol where there are new bodies of water or buildings, but also don't show symbol across existing water/buildings.</p> <p>PH to respond further.</p>

	DONE
25 Jan 2025	
4	PH to contact SoS with regard to TCPA s247 apps & orders – DONE, but acknowledgment only received PH update in Apr – devolved down to Mayoral authority?
13 Oct 2025	
	PH to contact OS to attend next meeting re OS Reporting app
	UK to update group on Baroness Hayman ‘state of the network’ request
	RC/GR/PH to finalise LGR/Devo guidance note following anything further arising from the IPROW conference, circulate, with possible ADEPT/IPROW webinars to follow
	GR to circulate s41 information
	PH to share self-dedication examples
	PH to share TCPA diversion/s38/s278/s106 flowchart once finalised

1. Welcome/introductions

Apologies

- UK – standing in for DEFRA. Julia Murch has moved roles and also was only ever standing in as the Access lead.
- BF – Becky is leaving her role and is moving on to National Highways. Rowena Lloyd coming in as West Midlands Chair for next meeting. West Midlands will have a rolling chair who will attend future meetings.
- PH – Discussion around who will chair after PH two year tenure has finished. It was agreed that PH will extend chair tenure for the next year

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

- 16th July 2025 meeting minutes agreed and arising matters on Agenda.

Item 1 – DEFRA update

- UK – no updates from DEFRA
 - o Unsure on Baroness Hayman case progress. UK to check the latest and report back.
 - o Updated on the green paper on access and said timelines may be a bit slower than originally expected.

- Discussion was held with regard to the current size of the Access Team at Defra.

Item 2 – LGR/Devolution draft guidance

- RC shared draft guidance note with the following information:
 - Be clear at the outset on your structure and directorate.
 - “Vesting” day is never the end. Changes will continue for a period of time
 - 28 November 2025 is the date to submit full LGR proposal
 - April 2028 is vesting day for new unitary councils
 - Finalise and circulate this document for 28th October 2025
- AW – has experience of LGR. Definitive maps and parish surveys will need to be sent to new keepers. Some are easy to pull apart but some are left with other authorities, but they have been at risk of being thrown away.
- AMaci – has been through LGR. During shadow authority stage it is important to do an audit of what files district authorities have.
- GR – An uneven spread of definitive map work across county council can mean that there won't be an even split.
- BF – Staffordshire County Council is proposing east/west split and highlighted concerns about lack of alignment with Highways and concerns over staff taking it as an opportunity to leave and morale
- KR – agreement from ADEPT to run further webinars

Item 3 - Environment Agency Cuts – PROW Bridges

- PH – Environment Agency stepping away from maintaining some of their PROW bridges in Somerset, where they no longer have a direct need for the asset.
- PH asked regions to discuss if this a common experience and can discuss in more detail at the January meeting.
- BF will share this with ADEPT structures.

Item 4 - Routine meeting updates as applicable

- PINs casework
 - EM – no update
- Transport and Connectivity Board
 - PH – prime minister keen to have ratings for highways maintenance to help target support

- £1 billion capital to be divided between MRN schemes and Structures. Exact split still to be decided.
- LTP guidance likely to follow the Integrated National Transport Strategy (INTS) some time in 2026
- MHCLG considering a single revenue payment to LAs as opposed to a separate payment coming from DfT for example.
- INTS will be published by end of 2025 and aligned to the spending review settlement. The vision is Places/People/Partnerships. The INTS will be outcome led, leading to consolidated financial settlements on Local Transport funding, potentially over a number of years.
- GBR – rail bill and will be the new public organisation running passenger services.
- Level Crossing Strategy Group
 - No attendees from ADEPT at the last meeting
- Nation Highways WWCHR Forum
 - BF attended last meeting.
 - EM volunteers to be the new ADEPT RoW representative.
- Network Rails First and Last Mile Network.
 - No invite / meeting as yet

Item 5 - Reports from the Regions

- GR – Section 41 scheme update – making proper allocation for species alongside development (PH circulated to group on 13/10/25)
- AMaci – discussion on schemes of delegation and what was delegated and also how to dedicate highways land on our own land. PH to share Somerset example.
- AW – meeting with Welsh government on new farming scheme.
- EM – development on PROW and changes in inspection responsibility on asphalt paths etc. PH working on a flowchart re TCPA diversions/s38/s278/s106 agreements and will share once finalised
- BF – looking at ways to support each other within west midlands ADEPT.
 - There are concerns over PINS validation process
 - Limited engagement with ROW teams within Councils.
- PH – concern from SW group that some authorities are not following AIS17 when it comes to permissive paths and cattle. Permissive paths should be the last option once other methods of cattle/land management have been tried as per revised AIS17. Regional chairs to please highlight with their regions and report back any feedback.

Item 7 Horizon scanning

- LGR and devolution advisory note

Item 8 Next meeting

- PS: 21st January 2026

Dates of Next Meetings:

- 21st January 2026
- 22nd April 2026
- 15th July 2026

SECRETARY ROTA FOR ROWMG

Date	Secretary	Completed
24 January 2024	East Midlands	Yes
17 April 2024	West Midlands	Yes
17 July 2024	Eastern	Yes
16 October 2024	Northern	Yes
22 January 2025	Wales	Yes
9 April 2025	West Mids	Yes
16 July 2025	West Mids	Yes
13 October 2025	West Mids	Yes