

Active Travel for Porlock

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Active travel includes walking, wheeling (using mobility aids such as wheelchairs), cycling, and horse riding and considers use both in town and the countryside, for local people and visitors. The purpose is to help people get around with less need for cars and to enjoy the health, wellbeing, and other benefits this provides.

Exmoor Active Travel Plan

- Published Summer 2025
- Evidence base for investment decisions
- Focus on infrastructure improvements
- Public consultations and audits carried out in Dulverton, Dunster, Lynton and Lynmouth, and Porlock



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In 2024 Active Travel England (ATE, part of the Department for Transport) announced funding for each of the 10 English National Parks to be spent on active travel network planning and evidence gathering. Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) used part of this funding to develop the [Exmoor Active Travel Plan](#).

The aim of the plan was to provide an evidence base for investment decisions and identify projects suitable for future funding bids.

As part of this work, public consultations and audits of walking infrastructure were carried out in four villages on Exmoor, including Porlock, to identify potential improvements.

ATE Phase 2 Funding

- At least 6 Active Travel infrastructure designs in 4 villages
- Must be complete by October 2027
- Designs will be based on the Phase 1 public consultations and audit recommendations



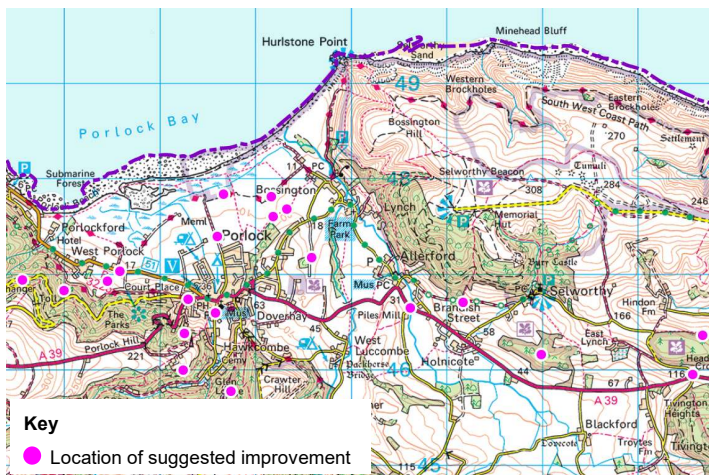
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Earlier this year ATE announced a second round of funding for the English National Parks to further develop active travel design work.

The funding is only for planning and design work, and there is a mandatory element to have at least one scheme fully designed by October 2027.

For part of this mandatory element, we would like to progress some of the recommendations that were identified in the Porlock active travel audit.



Porlock Consultation Results

- Improvements to traffic free routes
 - Upgrading footpaths to bridleways
 - Surface improvements
 - Safe alternatives to the A39
 - New links to existing routes
- Traffic speeds on routes into the village
- Safer walking infrastructure

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A public consultation was carried out in Porlock in November 2025 and an online consultation, which covered all of Exmoor, ran from October 2024 to November 2025.

Six individuals attended the in-person event and 14 of the online responses suggested improvements in and around the village.

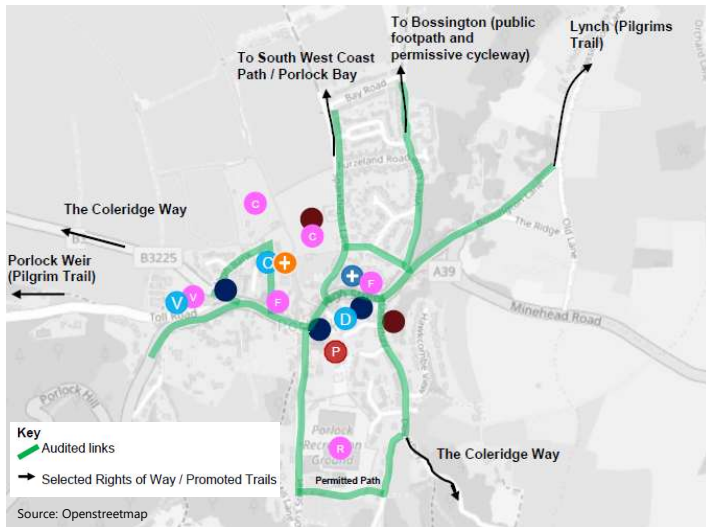
There was strong support for improvements to traffic free routes, particularly an off-road multi-use route connecting Porlock Weir and Minehead.

Lower speed limits and traffic calming on routes into the village were suggested on the A39 and the B3225 to Porlock Weir.

There were comments regarding the narrow footpaths in the village, although there was an appreciation that this is typical of historic settlements.

Porlock Active Travel Audit

- Narrow pavements
- Limited tactile paving and dropped kerbs at side road junctions
- Limited formal crossing points
- Missing or virtual footpaths on routes into the village
- Limited cycle parking
- Limited seating



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The audit was carried out by consultant Transport Planners, who were only assessing the active travel infrastructure and not necessarily considering the historical context, so not all the recommendations may be suitable.

Features which support active travel include the 20mph speed limit and gentle gradients in the village, along with low traffic flows and speeds on side roads.

Potential challenges to active travel include narrow pavements, issues at junctions and crossings, missing footways on main roads into the village, and limited cycle parking and seating provision.

It was also noted that the bus stops do not have shelters or raised kerbs to allow for level boarding.



Audit Recommendations

- A. Dropped kerbs and tactile paving
- B. Redesign junction to improve pedestrian safety
- C. Improve provision for sections without kerbed footways
- D. Create space for cycle parking and seating
- E. Bus stop improvements

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To provide more opportunities for active travel and to improve accessibility in Porlock the audit recommends:

- Improvements to side road junctions and other crossing points through provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving
- Introducing designated crossing locations on the High Street with dropped kerbs, tactile paving and footway buildouts
- Improve provision for pedestrians on sections of road without kerbed footways
- Create space for cycle parking and seating in the village centre
- Provide raised kerbs and shelters at bus stops if feasible
- Improved signage in the village centre, similar to the Key Information maps provided in the car parks.

Whilst not all these recommendations may be suitable, we want to work with Porlock Parish Council to identify what is feasible and what is likely to bring the biggest benefit to the community.

Next Steps

- Funding for planning and design only
- Six interventions in four settlements
- What do you think are the priorities for Porlock?



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To reiterate, the funding is only for planning and design work, but the designs may be used for future funding bids.

Design work must be completed by October 2027.

We aim to design at least six interventions across the four towns/villages.

We welcome the Parish Councils' insight on the priorities for Porlock.