3.17. The CROW Act states that any public rights of way that existed in 1949, and not recorded on the definitive map and statement by 2026 will then be extinguished and the public rights lost; however, this provision has not yet been enacted. A national programme to research and propose orders for such routes, called 'Discovering Lost Ways', was trialled by Natural England in pilot counties but has since been abandoned. The Deregulation Act 2015 detailed changes in existing law and procedures to improve the efficiency of the process; this legislation has not yet been enacted.

3.18. Apart from modification orders, the trends in public path orders give some indication of pressures on and changes to the public rights of way system (see Box 2C). Table 3 summarise the public path orders that have been made between 2007 and 2011.

Box 2C Public Path Orders

Public rights of way can be created, diverted or extinguished by means of Public Path Orders. There are various grounds for making a Public Path Order, for instance to enable development or in the interests of the landowners or of the public. In a similar manner to definitive map modification orders, these orders consider legal tests and objections and may lead to independent inquiry. Changes in legislation have broadened the grounds for public path orders, which can now be promoted for reasons including crime prevention and security; health and safety on school premises; and nature conservation. The power to make public path orders has previously been at the discretion of the Authorities.

Table 3: Number of Public Path Orders made 2012 to 2017

	Bath & North East Somerset	**Bristol City**	**South Gloucestershire**	**ROWIP area**
2012	3	8	8	19
2013	4	1	6	11
2014	10	2	11	23
2015	4	0	4	8
2016	7	1	9	17
2017	6	2	8	16
TOTAL	**34**	**14**	**46**	**94**