



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

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Title: Rights of Way Team Update

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A. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (MIKE WALKER)

A1 DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDERS MADE

1. **Great Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleways Nos. 52 and 55 (part) to Public Byways Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected on 14 July 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order has been made and advertised. Objections to the Order have been received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.
2. **Great Missenden/Wendover** – upgrading Public Bridleways No. 1 Great Missenden and Nos. 45 and 61 Wendover to Public Byways Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected on 14 July 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order has been made and advertised. Objections to the Order have been received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.
3. **High Wycombe** – claimed public footpath between Sheraton Drive and Windsor Drive. The Committee accepted the application on 10 November 2010. An Order was made on 25 October 2011. Objections were received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.
4. **Little Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleway No. 24 (Featherbed Lane) to Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order was made on 20 September 2011. Objections have been received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.
5. **Little Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleway No. 25 (Kingstreet Lane) to Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order was made on 20 September 2011. Objections have been received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.

6. **Little Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleway Nos. 29/42 (Mop End Lane) to Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order was made on 21 June 2011. Objections have been received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.
7. **Marlow** – claimed public footpath along the Thames Towpath from Marlow Mill Pool to Public Footpath No.1. The Committee accepted the application on 14 July 2010. An Order was made on 22 November 2010. One objection was received and the matter was referred to the Secretary of State. A public inquiry was held on 22 May 2012. The Inspector confirmed the Order.
8. **Stowe and Lillingstone Dayrell** – upgrading Public Bridleways No. 6 Stowe and Nos. 11 (part) and 12 Lillingstone Dayrell to Public Byways Open to All Traffic. The application was partly rejected on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order was made on 10 May 2011. Objections have been received; the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.
9. **Whitchurch** – claimed public footpath between Buckingham Road and Public Footpath No. 5. The Committee accepted the application on 14 July 2010. An Order was made on 17 May 2011 and objections were received. A public inquiry was held on 10 October 2012. The Inspector confirmed the Order.
10. **Lacey Green** – claimed public footpath from Main Road to Public Footpath No. 20. The application was accepted by Committee at its meeting on 20 July 2011. An Order was made on 21 May 2012. No objections were received and the Order has been confirmed.
11. **Great and Little Hampden** – claimed public bridleway at Speen. The Committee rejected the application on 27 March 2009 on the grounds that there had not been uninterrupted use of the route for the full 20-year period. The applicant appealed against the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order was made on 5 April 2011 and one objection was received. The matter was referred to the Secretary of State and the Order not confirmed.
12. **Taplow** – application to record the route from River Road to Amerden Lane as Public Bridleway. The application was accepted by Committee at its meeting on 7 December 2011. An Order was made on 18 June 2012. Objections have been received and the matter will be referred to the Secretary of State.
13. **Stowe** – application to record the route from High Street, Dadford to Public Footpath No.11 as Public Footpath. The application was accepted by Committee at its meeting on 7 December 2011. An Order was made on 21 May 2012. No objections were received and the Order has been confirmed.
14. **Chartridge** – drafting error of Public Footpath No. 47 and No. 49. The application was accepted by Committee at their meeting on 7 December 2011. An Order was made on 6 March 2012. No objections were received and the Order has been confirmed.
15. **Aston Clinton** - application to record the route from Weston Road to Public Footpath No. 28 as Public Footpath. The application was accepted by Committee at its meeting on 30 May 2012. An Order was made on 22 October 2012 and is currently within its objection period.

16. **High Wycombe** – application to record the route from Daws Hill Lane to the Junction of Public Bridleway No 67 and Public Footpath No 64 (Keep Hill Lane) as Public Bridleway. The application was accepted by Committee at its meeting on 25 March 2010. An Order was made on 23 June 2010. One objection was received concerning the width of the route. This is now resolved but requires the Secretary of State to confirm the Order subject to any modification with regard to width. A decision is awaited.

A2 DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE

17. **West Wycombe/Downley** – application to record Cookshall Lane as part Public Bridleway, part Restricted Byway. This is due to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January.
18. **Lower Winchendon** – application to record the route from the Old Mill to Public Footpath No. 3 as Public Footpath. This is due to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January.
19. **Wendover & Halton** – application to record the route from Public Footpath No. 24, Wendover to Public Footpath No. 13, Halton as Public Footpath. This is due to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January.
20. **Westbury** – application to record the route from the Oxfordshire county boundary (Public Footpath No. 303, Mixbury) to Fulwell Road, Westbury, as Public Footpath.
21. **Westbury** – application to record the route from Public Footpath No. 11 to the Oxfordshire county boundary as Public Footpath. The claimed route continues through Oxfordshire to join Public Footpath No. 14, Westbury.
22. **High Wycombe** – application to record the route from Burnham Close to Whitelands Road, High Wycombe as Public Footpath. This is due to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January.
23. **Princes Risborough** – application to record the route from Elm Road to Bell Street, Princes Risborough as Public Footpath. This is due to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January.
24. **Iver** – application to record various routes across the Fields and the Clump, Iver as Public Footpaths. Investigation not yet started.
25. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record the route from Elmshott Close to King's Wood as Public Footpath. Investigation not yet started.
26. **Beaconsfield** – application to record the route from Minerva Way to the junction with Public Footpath No. 15 and No. 16 as a Public Footpath. Investigation not yet started.
27. **Bledlow** – application to record the route from Footpath No 49 to Bridleway No 55 as public footpath. Investigation not yet started.
28. **Lane End** – drafting error of Public Footpath No 25. This is due to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January.

A3 PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

29. **Bledlow** – Application to divert Footpath No 8. Order confirmed.
30. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Bridleway No 11. Order confirmed.
31. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No 11. Within informal consultation period.
32. **Edgcott** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 6 and 7. Order Confirmed.
33. **Ellesborough** – Application to divert Footpath No 66 (part) – 1. Order confirmed.
34. **Ellesborough** – Application to divert Footpath No FP66 (part) – 2. Order confirmed.
35. **Gerrards Cross** – Application to temporarily divert Footpath No 11. Order to be made.
36. **Grendon Underwood** – Application to divert Footpath No 19 (part). Order to be made.
37. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No 24 (part). Order made and in objection period.
38. **Hedgerley** – Application to divert Footpath No 8. Order made and awaiting confirmation.
39. **High Wycombe** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 27. WDC planning matter awaiting formal consultation from them.
40. **Hughenden** – Application to divert Footpath No 54 / 54A. Order made and in objection period.
41. **Latimer** – Application to divert Footpath No 1. Order made and one objection received. Referred to Planning Inspectorate and written reps procedure underway.
42. **Latimer** – Application to temporarily divert Footpath No 1. Order confirmed.
43. **Leckhampstead** – Application to divert Footpath No 34. Order to be confirmed.
44. **Marsworth** – Application to divert Footpath No 3. Within informal consultation period.
45. **Pitchcott** – Application to divert Footpath No 4 (part). Order made and in objection period
46. **Quanton** – Application to divert Bridleway Nos. 17 & 17a. Within informal consultation period.
47. **Quarrendon** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 2. Order to be made.
48. **Thornborough** – Proposal to divert Public Footpath No 9. Within informal consultation period.
49. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 10, 11 and Bridleway No 13. Order made and with Secretary of State to deal by written reps.
50. **Turville** – Application to divert Bridleway No 20A. Within informal consultation period.
51. **Westbury** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 14 (Special Schools). Order made. Objections received. Stage 2 process to be considered.
52. **Winslow** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 5. Within informal consultation period.

A4 PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENTS

53. **Brill** - The Walks. Footpath Creation Agreement. Completed.
54. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation. Awaiting instruction to make Agreement with WRG.
55. **Westcott** - Footpath Creation. Awaiting instruction to make Agreement.

A5 VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

56. **Gerrards Cross** – land at Lower Road. Awaiting public inquiry.
57. **Iver** – land at The Fields and The Clump. The application is under consideration.

- 58. **Great Missenden** – land at The Field, Bryants Bottom. The application is under consideration.
- 59. **Beaconsfield** – voluntary registration of the land at Hampden Hill. The application is under consideration.
- 60. **Penn** – land at Coppice Farm Road, Tylers Green, Penn. The application is under consideration.
- 61. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. Waiting investigation.
- 62. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. Waiting investigation.

B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

- 63. A total of 63 planning applications have been commented upon by the Strategic Access Officer since the last meeting, distributed between authorities as follows: Wycombe 14; Aylesbury Vale, 22; South Bucks 9; Chiltern 4; and Bucks County Council 14.
- 64. HS2 consulted the County Council on a draft Construction Code of Practice on 9th September 2012 with a deadline for submissions on 19th October 2012. Rights of Way response outlined elements with regard to the maintenance and signposting of temporary diverted routes during the construction process and the mechanism through which to report problems. The legal mechanism for temporarily closing paths severed by the railway and construction sites was questioned, as well as the strategy for consulting the public and Local Access Forum and the need to outline timescales for closures. The accommodation for disabled access users on temporary routes was missing.
- 65. The Council made its main response to the draft HS2 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping report through the 51M Group, the body which consists of all the Councils along the route opposed to the new railway. The scoping report essentially seeks information on what baseline information we would expect to see in a full EIA. The report asks if there are omissions and seeks out the key issues needing to be addressed.
- 66. The following table summarises the numbers of ROW affected by the HS2 footprint and proposed new roads:

	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway or Restricted Byway	TOTAL
Directly severed by the Railway	48	9	1	58
Directly severed by new roads	9	4	0	13

- 67. The East West Rail project plans to connect Oxford and Cambridge by rail, with a planned opening in 2017. The Buckinghamshire stretch between Blechley and Bicester, running through Winslow, line was closed to passengers in 1967 and to freight in 1992. It forms part of the 'Western Section' and will also connect with Chiltern Railways from Claydon Junction down to Aylesbury, then on to High Wycombe and London via Princes Risborough. A project outline has been prepared that identifies the personnel, timescales and work needed to be undertaken in order to identify the 'at grade' crossings and come to an agreement

in principle with Network Rail and the East West Rail Consortium of the methods by which the rights of way are taken off the line. The outcomes of the project can then form the basis for consultation with the LAF and partners. We are waiting to hear back from the EWR Consortium before proceeding.

68. The following table compares the numbers of ROW affected by the East West Rail Project (Row 1) with other lines across Buckinghamshire (several crossings were reduced in row 3 as part of the Evergreen 3 Project):

	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway or Restricted Byway	TOTAL
'At grade' railway crossings north of Aylesbury Vale Parkway Train Station.	28	3	0	31
'At grade' railway crossings south of Aylesbury Vale Parkway Train Station (Aylesbury – Great Missenden Chenies).	6	0	0	6
'At Grade' crossings (Luggershall – Haddenham – Princes Risborough – Denham).	9	0	0	9
At Grade crossings Aylesbury to Princes Risborough branch line.	14	0	0	14

69. Across all 4 routes we have been approached by Network Rail, who are undertaking a 'closure programme' to provide alternative routes that take the public off the railway line. We have been asked for initial thoughts on 29 crossings sites and if we would consider any for extinguishment, diversion or replacement footbridge.
70. There have been 7 new Donate-a-gate donors since July 2012, taking the total to 252 donors.
71. The project to remove 127 stiles along the Chiltern Way continues, using the donate-a-gate tax rebate from the government (Gift Aid) with the route now having only 57 stiles through Buckinghamshire, with 10 landowner refusals.

72. The proposed new footpath creation through the Lane End Industrial Estate has been put on hold for 6 months. The path aims to connect two halves of the village divided physically and socially and will link residents from each part of the village with the shops in their respective areas. The Parish Council are currently waiting for the owners of the Industrial Estate Road to submit a planning application which will hopefully deliver the footpath connection the Parish aims to achieve.
73. The Officer has been working with Watermead Parish Council in order to apply for the Government's 'Paths for Communities' funding (P4C) to finance a new bridge over the River Thames and create a new bridleway between Buckingham Park and Watermead. The application rules prohibit match-funding from the public purse, but the funding body has outlined they would welcome an application. The P4C Scheme was launched on 14th May 2012 by Natural England and has so far had around 120 expressions of interest, but only 6 completed applications.
74. The last edition of the Rights of Way and Environment Newsletter was published in July 2012 and is available to download from the County Council's website via this link: http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/row/parish_news.page. The Newsletter planned for October 2012 was postponed due to other work pressures.

C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)

75. The Rights of Way Operations team has 6 members: a Team Leader, 3 Rights of Way Officers (see area map Appendix 1) and 2 FTE Assistant Rights of Way Officers. Unfortunately, the team has had a staff vacancy since September 2012, due to a temporary position becoming available in the Definitive Map Team being filled by an Area Officer – Claire Tranter. Rosie Taylor, the Assistant Officer for the south, is now 'acting-up' in Claire's position, but Rosie's old post is vacant. It is hoped the vacancy will be filled in the next 2 – 3 weeks.
76. Weather conditions over the last 8 months have caused considerable difficulties. The wet and warm season provided excellent conditions for vegetation growth and this gave Bucks Customer Services high volumes of public complaints due to overgrowth problems, making it necessary, at quite an early stage of the summer, to issue a general statement that the conditions were affecting the amount of work being carried out. Commonly jobs were taking twice as long normal, purely due to the length of the material having to be cut. Eventually, additional funding was obtained allowing the Operations team to purchase extra contractor time and crews. Even so, the summer clearance schedule, which is normally completed in September, is only now drawing to a close.
77. Whilst the rights of way gangs were busy on clearance jobs, works on structures such as stiles and gates were curtailed, resulting in a steady build up of outstanding jobs through the summer. Thankfully, in the early autumn, it was also possible to employ teams to catch up on this type of work which has allowed the number of structure works, such as gates and stiles, to remain at similar levels to previous years. Regrettably, the number of issues resolved through negotiations with landowners, usually enforcement works, is lower than this time last year. Almost certainly, this is due to staff resource being drawn away to manage the problems with clearance, as well as a staff vacancy. See Appendix 2 Summary of Works.
78. Other weather dependant works such as surface and drainage works that are also carried out over the summer and autumn have also been postponed, with some removed completely for this financial year, but these will hopefully be added to next year's surfacing programme.

D. 'SIMPLY WALK' (FIONA BROADBENT)

79. A successful celebratory walk and picnic was held at Hughenden Manor on Friday 13th July 2012 with over 70 volunteer walk leaders attending.
80. The new walks programme covering 1st October 2012 to 31st March 2013 is available on the website. The full-colour programme will no longer be funded by Reactivate Bucks, but the NHS will provide some additional funding to cover the cost for next year publications.
http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/row/simply_walk.page?
81. A new walk was been launched in Stone (October 2012) and additional slower and shorter walks have been developed alongside the 'regular' walks. It is hoped a new walk will start in Winslow during the spring next year.
82. Additional funding from walkers' donations is significantly down on last year, currently at just over £1000. All current funding partners agreed contributions this year (2012/13) at the same level as previous years, but income (c. £32k) remains less than costs (c. £44k).
83. The latest quarterly walking figures available for July, August and September 2012 are as follows:-
 - Total walkers 1, 290
 - Total new walkers 177
 - Total new volunteer leaders trained 10
 - Total volunteer walk leaders 206
 - Total 'footfall' 6,211