



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 10.00 AM  
MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

**AGENDA**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>1 Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3 Election of New Chairman</b>	
<b>4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2015 to be confirmed</b>	<b>3 - 10</b>
<b>5 Matters Arising</b>	
<b>6 Rights of Way Group report</b> Claire Hudson, Definitive Map Team; Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Advisor; and Joanne Taylor, Operations Team Leader	<b>11 - 20</b>
<b>7 LAF Members' report</b>	<b>21 - 40</b>
<b>8 Any Other Business</b>	
<b>9 Date of Next and Future Meetings</b> Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury, 10am Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016	





# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

## *BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM*

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2015, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.20 PM.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr J Elfes, in the Chair

Mr N Harris, Mr C Hurworth, Mr Caspersz, Mr G Thomas, Ms N Glover, Mr R Pushman, Ms S Randle, Ms A Heath and Mr A Clark

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr J Clark, Mrs C Hudson, Ms J Taylor, Ms H Rackham and Mr P Turner

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr C Hurst, Dr P Wadey, Mr R Hunter and Mr B Worrell

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from David Briggs and Alan Lambourne.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2015, TO BE CONFIRMED**

The minutes of the meeting of the 18 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

*Item 8 – Any Other Business*

*Clay Pigeon Shooting*

Mr Hunter, CPSA Safety Officer and Captain of Cold Shoulder Gun Club provided members with clarification of the incident that took place on the 28 December 2014. A copy of the letter circulated to members is attached for information. Members noted the following key points:

'The Cold Shoulder Gun Club follows the guidelines in every aspect of the law when holding a shoot. This includes observing the 300 yard rule. When a horse/rider approaches the areas where a shoot in progress, the shoot is stopped until they have passed. This system works very well.

Walkers and riders are not hindered from using the footpaths and bridleways at any time while shooting is in progress.

The law states 'clay target shooting sites must have permissions to shoot for a minimum safety zone of 275 metres (300 yards) in front of the shooting stands in the general direction in which shooting takes place.

Shooting is allowed over footpaths and bridleways so long as no clay pigeons or shot are dropped on them.

In terms of the incident in question on the 28 December 2014, when the two horses entered from the other shooting field, the shoot being held by the Cold Shoulder Gun Club had finished. The shoot being held by the neighbouring gun club was still taking place. Members of the Cold Shoulder Gun Club assisted the injured lady in every way they could.

At no time have there been any incidences or accidents caused by the Cold Shoulder Gun Club.

The Cold Shoulder Gun Club has signs on all of the posts on the entrance to the field. There are also special measures of red and yellow signs to indicate shooting is in progress.

Discussions have taken place with the Rights of Way Officer about the problem of horse-riders wandering off the track and trespassing. Contact details have also been requested for Highways and Bridleways officers, but not yet sent.

The Cold Shoulder Gun Club received a map asking for the location of guiding sticks to be plotted out. It is impossible to do this on a map which is almost blank'.

## **5. EAST WEST RAIL PROJECT**

Charles Hurst, Network Rail's Delivery Manager, for East West Rail was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were shown a PowerPoint presentation, during which the following key points were highlighted.

There are two particular points of interest for members of the LAF; the consequence of the process and the environmental impact.

Phase 1 of the project from Oxford to Bicester is currently under construction. There is some learning to take away from some of the issues that have arisen. The project originally started as Chiltern Rail; Network Rail subsequently inherited the Transport and Works Order when it was signed and agreed.

### *Phase 1*

The aim is for Phase 1 to be nearing completion and for passenger services to be running by 26 October 2016. Work will continue on the Oxford parkway for approximately a year after the completion date of Phase 1.

- Noise and vibration are two of the biggest issues to address. Condition 19 specifies what has to be achieved in terms of acceptable noise and vibration levels. There are still some local issues to address as the request has been received for further noise attenuation to take place.

- In terms of land take, there needs to be a realisation of what is required land-wise for the project to be constructed.
- Several sub agreements to the initial agreement. This includes amendments to the loss of compulsory rights which are now negotiated in an open market situation i.e. the landowner can ask the price they want for the land.
- The training of signallers has been delayed
- There will be a new station at Oxford Parkway. The platform lengths at Islip station will be renewed.
- The new lines which form part of the Oxford Core enable passengers to travel directly from Oxford to Marylebone instead of having to go to Reading.
- Bicester town centre – work is being carried out under the Transport and Works Act which means that the crossing doesn't need to be closed in phase 1. Discussions are taking place with Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire Highways about the proposals for the road and ridge schemes. The barrier downtime of 35/45 minutes in the hour during Phase 2 is unacceptable.

#### *Phase 2*

- It is hoped that the required works can be carried out under Permitted Development.
- A Transport and Works Order will be in place for 18 months/2 years. This will go via the various channels of consultation and be submitted for approval from the Secretary of State.
- Some informal consultation about the scheme has taken place with local residents and stakeholders. An official consultation will take place in September 2015. Further consultation will take place in March 2016, during which any additional information will be evaluated.
- The impact of the construction traffic and sites during the programme has been recognised. All issues are being considered.

#### *Project timeline*

- If the work is to be completed over a period of two years, this is a very tight timescale in terms of subsequent works taking place and services being up and running by March 2017.
- There are regulations to conform around environmental impact.
- Baseline surveys will take place to scope the measures that need to be taken.
- The recommendations on the extent and scope of the report enable the formulation of the impact assessment and allow the design to be completed.
- The draft Environmental statement is consulted upon before the final statement is produced.

#### *Progress on the scheme*

- De-vegetation works and spraying have taken place to kill off any regrowth to reveal the structure of the track
- Ground investigations work includes taking ground samples for culverts and bridges to enable the structural integrity of the access to be seen.
- Ecology surveys will also take place which includes taking samples and counts of species are taking place until spring 2016
- One of the biggest issues is still the level crossing and ongoing closure of the road in Bicester.
- The work from Bicester to Bletchley is on track.
- 6 of the 8 crossings between Bletchley to Bedford need to be closed. 2 have half barriers which need to be upgraded. The cost to carry out this work is approximately £12m.

During discussions, the following questions were asked and comments made.

**Does the Equality Impact Assessment include the effect on the Rights of Way?**

Yes the EIA includes the effect on the Rights of Way.

**In terms of the Bicester crossing being shut for 35 minutes in the hour, is there not an alternative route for traffic via the ring road?** This is a question that Highways needs to address. One possibility might be to restrict access to the crossing to delivery hours both morning and evening.

**It has been mentioned that some bridges which are electrified may be unsuitable. How many bridges will have to be replaced?** This information will be known when the track design has been completed. It might not be viable to change the gradient of some of the bridges to an acceptable level for freight; these bridges would therefore have to be replaced. One of the options being considered is taking the top off bridges which have a sound structure and adding a deck. The option of disconnecting the arch and raising the bridge by 1 metre is being carried out by a French company.

**Concern was expressed about the route of EWR which crosses two bridleways in Quinton. The HS2 route is also on the same crossing.** When the application was made for a Transport Work Order, this had to be on the basis that EWR was a standalone project and HS2 did not exist. If HS2 didn't go ahead, the proposal would be to close the bridle-path and divert to a nearby bridge. If HS2 does prevail, it is in their powers to find a resolution to the bridle-path. Clearer information is needed about HS2.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hurst for the very informative update.

**6. 2026 CUT-OFF DATE**

Dr Phil Wadey was welcomed to the meeting.

Dr Wadey took Member through a Powerpoint presentation giving details about Systematic Research needed to meet the '2026 cut-off date' that would extinguish highway rights over any rights of way that existed prior to 1949, if those rights have not been recorded.

The following key points were made.

- There are 10 years and 6 months left until the cut-off date.
- There are certain exceptions to this under the CROW provision although the draft regulations have not been received.
- There are literally hundreds of unrecorded public rights of way in most counties.
- From June 2012 – June 2013, Sport England (via the British Equestrian Federation) funded a BHS project to look at how to speed up path recording. Hertfordshire and Somerset were the two pilot counties.
- The suggested method for Systematic Research is; A. Build a List of Routes; B. Build the Research Library; C. Make DMMO Applications, but these phases are best conducted in parallel.
- Potential routes can be located using a route-led approach such as looking at routes suspected as having higher rights; routes that look 'suspicious', routes remembered by older people in the area or missing current links shown on old maps, or
- Selecting an area of interest such as a County, District, Parish, dividing the area and working through each area one at a time, looking for potential routes (the 1st edition 25" OS County Series grid works well) or

- Systematic methodology. Documents to check include;
  - old maps sold to the travelling public
  - Cassini reprints
  - Inland Revenue Valuation Maps
  - Ordnance Survey
  - Boundary records, object name books, 1st edition County series
  - Tithe Maps, Inclosure Awards
  - Railway, Canal, Major Road Records

During discussions, the following questions were asked and comments made.

**On average, how many man hours would it take to carry out this work?** In terms of the timescale for the work carried out in Hertfordshire, 25 days were spent in the National Archive office as well as several evenings typing up applications. During this time half of the county was covered and 50 applications were submitted, although the evidence was collected for another 100 routes for which application was made later on. A template can be used to record the areas covered and information found and therefore the documents would only have to be written about once.

**Was there anything useful ascertained or areas of good practice identified from the work carried out during the Hampshire project?** The reports from the Hampshire pilot are published on <http://pathh.hwtma.org.uk/>. There was good cross sector involvement in the pilot. Priority setting took place in terms of submitting applications for paths that were the most useful.

**There are some routes in Buckinghamshire which are across borders into neighbouring counties.** It is important to pass on details of such routes to volunteers and LAFs in the neighbouring areas, to make sure they do the work needed there too.

**How are the different categorisations of roads and bridleways etc. in different counties taken into account when research is carried out?** This varies from county to county. The important thing is to collect the evidence for a route and see what status the evidence, as a whole, points to.

**If a path is officially extinguished, can it be re-established?** Official extinguishment means that only evidence post-dating the stopping is relevant. It is possible that although a route was stopped, use continued. In this case, later evidence may have caused the route to be re-established.

**How confident are you that parish councils are fully aware of the cut-off date?** Parish councils need to be reminded of the cut-off date. They have a lot of information that could be valuable.

**Carrying out the research is not a 5 minute job – it can take years of research to look at a particular route. Getting into the Archives is the most time consuming part of the research. The main point to make is whatever method of research is used should be done in a systematic way.**

**Archives are set out in a way which favours the parish by parish method of research.**

**What approach is the Hertfordshire Local Area Forum taking?** The move is towards a multi user working party in conjunction with Rights of Way and the County Council. Concern has been expressed about the amount of County Council officer time this will require in terms of co-ordinating volunteer work.

**How much input has the Hertfordshire Local Access Forum had with Hertfordshire County Council officers?** Herts County Council has been contacted to clarify county boundaries and responsibilities. Apart from this, officers have only to process applications received. The ROW team have also been helpful in terms of allowing access to any relevant maps they have.

**Does training need to be arranged on the options and methods of research?** Yes, training will be important.

**What progress has Buckinghamshire made with this project?** None so far, though applications are made on an ad hoc basis. Two applications have been received from Alison Heath, BHS.

The Chairman thanked Dr Wadey for the very informative update.

**Members of the Forum AGREED the following:**

- A letter will be sent to user groups asking them to nominate a representative to attend a meeting to discuss what work can be done
- A letter is to be sent to parish councils advising them of the cut-off date for extinguishing rights of way.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

## **7. RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT**

Phil Turner, Rights of Way Officer took Members through the Definitive Map update which detailed matters determined by the Rights of Way Committee. No questions were asked.

Joanne Taylor, Operations Team Leader took Members through the Rights of Way Operations update, during which the following key points were highlighted.

- A new Assistant Rights of Way Officer was appointed and started the post in May 2015. A new Area Rights of Way Officer is due to start in August 2015.
- 133km of clearance was carried out between April to March 2015. A further 80km of clearance was carried out by parish councils under the devolvement scheme.
- There has been a drop in numbers compared to the previous year which is due to resource issues. Budgetary cuts are reflected in the figures for path and surface problems and access work.
- Additional revenue money has been secured for the post of a Rights of Way Bridge Inspection Officer. Over the next 4 years, every known bridge structure on the network in Buckinghamshire will be inspected, recorded and assessed for condition.
- The number of parishes involved in surface clearance as part of the devolved services has increased from approximately 20 to around 55.
- 290km of surface path clearance has taken place this year.

During the update, the following questions were asked.

**In terms of the 600 structures per annum to be inspected, does this figure include those bridges inspected by Network Rail and could BCC and Network Rail work jointly in the inspections?** This figure could include some bridges that BCC are responsible for. Information required for an insurance claim might mean that an inspection needs to be carried out twice.

**Is carrying out an inspection of bridges a new process?** Bridge inspections were identified under the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Carrying out the inspections



has now become critical.

**Could the point be reached where a report identifies multiple bridge repairs are required and there are no funds to carry out the repair?** A pot of money has been identified to carry out 600 inspections annually. If the structure poses a danger to members of the public, the possibility of closing it would have to be looked at.

**If a bridge, structure or footpath is unsuitable in terms of safety, does the County Council have a statutory duty to close/suspend use?** There is the issue of liability if a bridge or structure isn't closed and there is an accident. The bridge/structure could be closed until a funding source is identified and a programme of repairs is put in place.

**How many repairs were carried out last year?** About 8/9 bridges were repaired last year. The project has not started as the Bridge Inspection Officer is not currently in post. We will have a better idea of the project once the inspections have started.

**Surface repairs are needed on some of the bridleways as gullies are appearing.** There is not an identified budget to carry out these repairs. The possibility of sourcing single bids for capital money is being looked into.

## 8. LAF MEMBERS REPORT

Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Advisor, gave the following update.

### *Open Access*

A letter has been received this morning advising that it is still the intention of Chiltern District Council to remove the barbed wire fencing, whilst leaving the posts at Pinner Green. An instruction has been placed with their contractor to carry out this work within the month. The Forum will be advised once the work has been completed.

### *Joint LAF meeting*

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council hosted another joint meeting between Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Mid & West Berks, Bracknell Forest and Slough LAF chairs/officers.

A letter has been received from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough LAFs proposing that work takes place with the Bucks LAF to establish dedicated bridleways along existing multi-use routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders along the Jubilee River between Eton Wick, Dorney and Maidenhead. The blue routes on the map enclosed with the agenda pack indicate the proposed routes.

Members of the LAF **AGREED** with the proposal of the Gold route. A letter of response will be drafted.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Elfes advised that he would like to step down from the role of Chairman of the LAF.

An email will be sent to LAF members asking for nominations for Chairman.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

## 10. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4 November 2015, 10am, Mezzanine 2, County Hall, Aylesbury.

**Chairman**



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 6

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Title:** Rights of Way group update

**Authors:** Claire Hudson, Jonathan Clark and Joanne Taylor

**Contact Officer:** Lesley Ashton (01296 382290)

### A. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (CLAIRE HUDSON)

The purpose of this report is to appraise Buckinghamshire LAF members of the outstanding definitive map caseload undertaken by the Definitive Map Team and provide an update. Changes since the last meeting are shown in **bold**.

#### MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

1. **Lower Winchendon** – application to record the route from Public Footpath No 10b to Public Footpath No. 3, Cuddington as Public Footpath. This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 12 February 2014. **Matter referred to the Secretary of State who has scheduled a Public Inquiry for 25 November 2015 to determine the matter.**
2. **Westbury (Route 2)** – application to record the route from the junctions of Footpath No 303, Mixbury, Oxfordshire to Fulwell Road, Westbury as Public Bridleway. Discussions were held with Oxfordshire County Council with a view to their entering into an Agency Agreement with us in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable us to undertake investigations on their behalf. **Public Inquiry held 13-14 October 2015; awaiting Inspectors decision on whether to confirm the Order.**
3. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record the route from Elmshott Close to King's Wood as Public Footpath. This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2014; Objections were received to the Order; case referred to the Secretary of State; **waiting for decision from the Planning Inspectorate on whether to confirm the Order.**
4. **Great and Little Kimble** – Application to divert Footpath 29. Committee agreed that the matter should be referred to the Secretary of State for determination during the 4 March 2015 meeting; **Order confirmed by Planning Inspectorate following written representations. CASE CLOSED.**

5. **Wooburn** – proposal to create a Public Bridleway by Order along the former railway. This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2014; Objections were received to the Order; case referred to the Secretary of State; **Public Inquiry to be held 15-16 December 2015.**
6. **Bledlow** – application to record the route from Footpath No 49 to Bridleway No 55 as public footpath. Application accepted by Committee; Order made and advertised; no objections; **Order to be confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**

#### **B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO COMMITTEE.**

7. **Iver** – application to record various routes across The Fields and The Clump, Iver as Public Footpaths. **To be determined during 10 December Committee meeting.**
8. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **Investigation started.**
9. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Investigation not started.**
10. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Investigation not started.**
11. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of Public Footpath 52. **Investigation not started.**
12. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Investigation not started.**
13. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath 4 to bridleway status. **Investigation not started.**
14. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade Public Footpath Nos. 11 and 12 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Investigation not started.**

#### **C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS**

15. **Chartridge** – Application to divert BW21A – Application received – **site visit arranged to discuss route.**
16. **Chartridge** – Application to divert FP5(part) Chartridge – **under consultation.**
17. **Great Marlow** - Application to divert FP2 Great Marlow. **Order Confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
18. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No.46 – consultation period up and objections received – **decision made not to proceed to Order making.**
19. **High Wycombe** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 27. Wycombe District Council planning matter. Order made and confirmed by WDC. **Awaiting developer works before bringing Order into effect.**
20. **Little Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No 4 – **awaiting further information from the Agent before proceeding.**

21. **Maids Moreton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. Order made and objection received. **Under discussion with applicant and objector.**
22. **Marsworth** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. Order made on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council and no objections received. **Awaiting developer works before bringing Order into effect.**
23. **Oakley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Order Confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
24. **Quinton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Under discussion with landowner.**
25. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No 6. **Order Made. ON HOLD until further notice.**
26. **Swanbourne** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12/14. **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**
27. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No.11 - **Order made – objection period up on 6 November 2015.**
28. **Tingewick** – Application to divert FP29/30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **consultation not started.**
29. **Wingrave with Rowsham** – Application to Divert/ Extinguish Footpath No.1 (part). **Route agreed with landowner – under consultation.**

#### **D. PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENTS**

30. **Chepping Wycombe** – Footpath Creation. **Completed. CASE CLOSED.**
31. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (ERC Land). **Awaiting go ahead from ERC to proceed.**
32. **Penn** – Footpath Creation at Whilden Lane (BCC Land). **Completed. CASE CLOSED.**
33. **Stewkley** – Footpath Creation at Kingsbridge (BCC Land). **Completed. CASE CLOSED.**
34. **Wing** – Footpath Creation at Long Spinney (BCC Land). **Completed. CASE CLOSED.**

#### **E. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS**

35. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **To be determined by Committee on 10 December.**
36. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Waiting investigation.**

**For further information please contact: Claire Hudson 01296 383425**

## **B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)**

37. The Select Committee for HS2 heard evidence from the county council between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The strategic officer was due to give evidence, but last minute assurances were received negating the need to appear. These included provision of a cycleway alongside the Stoke Mandeville bypass and a guarantee that all newly diverted rights of way will conform to the county standard width for new footpaths (2m) and bridleways (4m). The 4<sup>th</sup> round of 'Additional Provisions' (AP's) have been mapped and are now being reviewed. AP's are amendments to the HS2 Bill, to account, for example, for the changes to the footpaths around Mantle's Wood following the decision by the Committee to extend the Chiltern's tunnel.
38. The first of two public consultations on the East West Rail Project are underway and the county council has responded on all 42 proposed new rights of way crossings. Many bridges are shared farm access tracks, having the added benefit access by mobility scooter. Discussions will continue towards the second consultation with the EWR project team about our requirements. Network Rail will produce a revised set of drawings based on any changes we suggest and the final drawings will sit alongside the Transport & Works Act Bill due in May 2016.
39. The volume of planning applications affecting rights of way has increased markedly in the last 6 months, with 168 applications over the half year since April 2015 (69% of which were in Aylesbury Vale), compared to 174 for the whole year 2013/14 and 219 for 2014/15.
40. The rate of new donors coming forward to the Donate-a-Gate scheme has slowed slightly since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 meeting, with 4 new donors, adding the total to 327.

## **C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)**

41. A 'Summary of Works' is attached to this report in Appendix 1, outlining work carried out by the Rights of Way Operations Team between 1st April 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2015.
42. In August 2015 the Rights of Way Operations team welcomed Alastair McVail to the post of Area Rights of Way Officer (North).
43. At the last meeting, the Forum were advised that it had been possible to secure additional revenue money through the business planning process for a Rights of Way Bridge Inspection Officer. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan acknowledged that no routine condition survey of rights of way bridge structures had been carried out for many years, and therefore a more proactive approach was required. Over the next 4 years every known bridge structure on the network will be inspected, recorded and assessed for condition, amounting to 600 structures per annum.
49. It was therefore necessary to recruit a Rights of Way Bridge Inspector and the post was offered to Corinne Waldron. However, this leaves Corinne's Area Rights of Way Officer (South) post vacant. Recruitment for the vacant post started in August 2015, but was unsuccessful. Recruitment is now underway via a recruitment agency which, it is hoped, will be more successful and interviews are anticipated shortly.
50. The bridge inspection project commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and the table in Appendix 2 summarises the results. These are made on a priority basis, selecting first bridges on byways, restricted byways and bridleways first, as they pose the greatest liability and potential danger to the public if they fail. There are 216 of these bridges. There are currently 4 closed paths due to dangerous bridges and 6 month closures have been applied to each with 'early warning notices (EWN's) to Buckinghamshire County Council to raise their awareness and outline the amount of

funds that will be required to replace these structures. Inevitably, the cost of replacing a bridge suitable for horses, carriages and vehicles is significant and far greater than replacing a simple footbridge. For example, £15,000 was spent replacing the deck of a bridle bridge in Denham. There are more EWN's than there are Temporary Closures as it has been possible to keep a couple of bridges open. However, if funds are not provided in the near future then further deterioration will result in closures. There are a number of bridges not recorded on GIS records, equating to a 1.6% increase in bridges on the network over 3 months of inspections.

51. A greater knowledge of the network asset is essential, but this also increases financial pressures on the department with regard to maintenance. At present there are no allocated funds for major bridge repairs therefore the likelihood of further long-term path closures is looking likely. The in-house maintenance budget provides enough funding to carry out minor repairs to 50 bridges, but Appendix 2 illustrates it is likely that significantly more bridges will be identified needing repair.
52. Members of the Forum will recall that a Parish Paths Clearance Fund has been made available by the county council to enable parish councils to benefit from being able to undertake and manage path clearance work over the summer. The money was in the form of a grant to parish councils wishing to employ their contractors to undertake the work. Over 20 parishes took part in the scheme in 2014 amounting to 80 km of clearance being undertaken in those parishes. This year we have between 50 to 60 parish councils taking part in the devolvement project amounting to surface clearance on approximately 170 km. Together with the clearance undertaken by the county council (120 km) this amounts to 290 km.





## Buckinghamshire County Council - Rights of Way

### Summary of Maintenance Carried Out Between 1/04/15 and 30 October 2015

TYPE	DESCRIPTION		
		Aprl 14 - Mar 15	Aprl-Oct 15
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	6	5
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	133km	106km
Bridge	Installed or repaired	39	22
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	149	47
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	10	
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	91	35
Intimidation + animal	Intimidation - resolved	13	11
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	3	3
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	6	1
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	71	55
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	10	8
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	236	90
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	107	30
Other	Delivery of materials	27	19
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	35	21
Stile	Installed or repaired	163	92
Stile	Stile To Gap	15	15
Stile	Stile To KG	61	47
Stile	Stile To PG	36	31
Terrain	Bank Steps	5	5
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	44	44
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	126	31
Authorisation	New Structure HA80 sec 147	2	2
Issues Completed	Since 1st April 2015		758
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	1750	600
Volunteer Hours	RA Only		280
Improvements	To aid mobility access	191	95
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	84%	65%*
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	94%	89%*
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	96%	96%*
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/12	799	
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/13	1150	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/14	1085	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/15	1423	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 14/10/15		1631
% of issues in targ time	Enforcement issues	76%	74%

\* Interim figures for first survey



**APPENDIX 2**

Week	Inspected	Issued to work team	Contractor Quote required	TRO	EWN	No. Added to network
1 (Aug 3rd-7th)	4	2	0	1	1	0
2 (10th-14th)	35	3	1	1	1	26
3 (17th - 21st)	18	3	1	1	1	3
4 (24th-28th)	0	0	0			0
TOTAL=	57	8	2	3	3	29
Week						
1 (Sep 1st-4th)	15	1	2	1	2	2
2 (7th - 11th)	7	0	0			3
3 (14th - 18th)	22	7	0			1
4 (21st - 25th)	11	2	0			0
TOTAL=	55	10	2	1	2	6
Week						
1 (Oct 5th - 9th)	12	3				0
2 (12th - 16th)	16	3				2
3 (19th - 23rd)	16	3	1		1	1
4 (26th - 30th)	0	0				0
TOTAL =	44	9	1	0	1	3
<b>GRAND TOTAL=</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38</b>





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 7

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Title:** LAF members' report

**Author:** Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access

**Contact Officer:** Lesley Ashton (01296 382290)

### Open Access

- 1 The parcel of common land called Pinner Green (HP5 1UL), fenced off along the west side of Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer, has been discussed at previous meetings. Following the chairman's letters of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Chiltern district council confirmed the fence wire has now been removed (Appendix 3) to allow free pedestrian access to the common, while leaving the post uprights to prevent possible fly-tipping. The Open Spaces Society provided a press release (Appendix 4) which featured on the 'getBucks' news website (Appendix 5).

### 2026 Cut-off date

- 2 A letter was distributed by email from the Chairman (Appendix 6) to all Buckinghamshire parish councils and user groups (Appendix 7) inviting volunteers to form a group to co-ordinate progress towards achieving better access in the county before the definitive map is closed for new applications. Within the first week there were 13 volunteers. A strategy for organising the volunteer group will need to be formed.

### Ongoing Projects

- 3 Gavin Caspersz and Andrew Clark have undertaken surveys together in Hockeridge Woods, Johns Lane, Ashley Green, HP4 2SZ (Appendix 8), to seek better pushchair and mobility scooter access. They have also been in contact with the landowner, The Royal Forestry Society, for permission to modify the existing gates.
- 4 Gavin Caspersz attended a local stakeholders briefing workshop for the proposed A355 Relief Road scheme to the east of Beaconsfield. Various route designs were presented and attendees invited to comment and indicate preferences.

## **Joint LAF meeting**

- 5 A joint meeting was held at Maidenhead Town Hall on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 to discuss cross-boundary issues between Buckinghamshire, Slough, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM), Surrey, Mid & West Berks and Bracknell Forest. The meeting touched on the proposal for new bridleway dedication along the Jubilee River network between Tapolow and Eton after the Chairman wrote the RBWM council on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (Appendix 9). The M4 Smart Motorway scheme was also discussed, in particular the three crossings on the county boundary (i. Old Slade Lane, Iver; ii. Thames Path underpass; and iii. Old Marsh Lane, Dorney). A co-ordinated response to Highways England was discussed, as were other boundary issues and possible future site meetings.
- 6 John Elfes attended the South East Local Access Forum Chairs meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in London. A range of topics discussed included LAF member training, conferences, government consultations to LAFs and the List of Streets.

## **Annual Report 2014/15**

- 7 The Buckinghamshire LAF annual report summarises the key achievements of the forum between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and was submitted Natural England on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The report is enclosed for reference (Appendix 10).

## **LAF dates for 2016**

- 8 The dates of the next meetings, in Mezz 1, are: 23/3/06, 20/7/06 and 9/11/06.

Classification: OFFICIAL

# CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT – CHRIS MARCHANT Dip MRICS MCIWM**

King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5AW

Tel: (01494) 729000 Fax No: (01494) 586504 DX No: 50711 Amersham

Web Site: [www.chiltern.gov.uk](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk)

E-mail: [wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk](mailto:wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk) (for refuse/recycling/cleansing enquiries)

E-mail: [engineering@chiltern.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@chiltern.gov.uk) (for car parks/general engineering enquiries)



This matter is being dealt with by: David Stowe

Direct Line: 01494 732093

Our Ref: E221/2/DJS

Your Ref:

26<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Mr J Elfes  
Chairman  
Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum  
Democratic Services  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
Aylesbury  
Bucks  
HP20 1UA

Dear Mr Elfes

**Pinner Green Adj to Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer.**

Further to my letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 concerning the above area of land I can confirm that the barbed wire strands have now been removed whilst leaving the fence posts so pedestrian access is available again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Stowe'.

David Stowe  
Landscape Assistant  
Property and Facilities Team





**OPEN SPACES SOCIETY  
NEWS RELEASE**

**BUCKS COMMON FREED OF UNLAWFUL FENCE**

The Open Spaces Society,<sup>(1)</sup> Britain's leading pressure-group for common land, is delighted that unlawful fencing has been removed from Pinner Green Common, near Latimer in Buckinghamshire.

In 2013 it was reported that a local landowner had erected barbed-wire fencing around the small piece of common land<sup>(2)</sup> which adjoins Blackwell Hall Lane, to prevent fly-tipping. The land is owned by Chiltern District Council.

The fencing did not have the Secretary of State for Environment's consent, under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006, and was therefore unlawful. The public has the right to walk on the common.

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum and the Open Spaces Society pressed the local authorities to remove the unlawful fencing.

Now Chiltern District Council has written to say that the barbed-wire strands have been removed so that pedestrian access is once more available.

Says Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society: 'This is a splendid outcome. Too often common land suffers unlawful encroachments and no one is prepared to act. We are pleased that the Local Access Forum recognised this to be an important issue, which could have set a dangerous precedent for other commons and access land. The forum pursued this with determination and we are grateful to Chiltern District Council for ensuring the fence was removed.'

'It is excellent that Pinner Green Common, which although small is nevertheless of public value, is open once more for people to enjoy.'

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors**

- 1 The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 and is Britain's oldest national conservation body. It campaigns to protect common land, village greens, open spaces and public paths, and people's right to enjoy them. This year it celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the hashtag #saveopenspaces150.
- 2 Common is land subject to rights of common, to graze animals or collect wood for instance, or waste land of the manor not subject to rights. The public has the right to walk on all commons. Before a common can be fenced, the consent of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is needed under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. Without such consent the works are unlawful and any local authority or member of the public can take enforcement action.



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article on the website getbucks.co.uk. The article title is "Barbed wire to keep out flytippers on Pinner Green Common is 'illegal'". The article is dated 13:24, 16 SEP 2015 and is by Graham Spence. The main text states: "The fence, judged to have been illegally erected on Pinner Green Common, near Latimer, has been removed." Below the text is a subscription form for a weekly newsletter and social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn). To the right of the article is a yellow advertisement for Specsavers glasses, offering £20 off glasses from the £69 range or above. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.getbucks.co.uk/news/local-news/barbed-wire-keep-out-flytippers-10068809. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 20/10/2015 and the time as 12:33.

## Barbed wire to keep out flytippers on Pinner Green Common is 'illegal'

The fence, judged to have been illegally erected on Pinner Green Common, near Latimer, has been removed.

The fencing was reported to have been put up in 2013 around a small piece of common land adjoining Blackwell Hall Lane to prevent fly-tipping. The land is owned by Chiltern District Council.

The fencing did not have the Secretary of State for Environment's consent, under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006, and was therefore unlawful as the public has the right to walk on the common. The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum and the Open Spaces Society, Britain's leading pressure-group for common land, pressed the local authority to remove the unlawful obstruction. The district council has now written to say the barbed wire strands have been removed so that pedestrian access is once again available.

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said: "This is a splendid outcome. "Too often common land suffers unlawful encroachments and no one is prepared to act. "We are pleased that the Local Access Forum recognised this to be an important issue, which could have set a dangerous precedent for other commons and access land. "The forum pursued this with determination and we are grateful to Chiltern District Council for ensuring the fence was removed. "It is excellent that Pinner Green Common, which although small is nevertheless of public value, is open once more for people to enjoy."



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

*The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.*

13<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum would like to invite a member of your parish council or organisation to join a working group of volunteers taking part in historical research towards achieving more joined-up public access on the rights of way network.

Section 53 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 outlined the government's intention to close the definitive map on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to certain claims for new footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways, so as each year passes, the urgency to start work becomes greater. The aim will be to review historical rights to see if these can be useful, or potentially useful, to today's walkers, cyclists, horse riders and carriage drivers. It will also join missing links to the adopted highway network where recording these might have been omitted in the past. Routes could be recreational, in order for people to seek fresh air and exercise near to where they live, or as a means of sustainable transport, such as travelling to work or accessing local shops and services. Either way, the proposed new routes will help to complement existing access and try to fill gaps in the rights of way network before time runs out and potentially useful paths are lost.

If you would like to nominate a person from your parish or organisation they should ideally have some knowledge of historical map evidence for claiming new rights of way and a commitment to spending time on the project, in particular researching evidence in the county archives. If experience is limited then training can be provided.

Please register an interest at the reply address below and if possible provide contact details of the selected volunteer.

Yours sincerely,

John Elfes

Please reply by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to: Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, C/O Legal & Democratic Services, County Hall, AYLESBURY, HP20 1UY



All Buckinghamshire parish councils

Byways & Bridleways Trust - [notices@bbtrust.org.uk](mailto:notices@bbtrust.org.uk)

Iver and District Countryside Association - [family@grahamiver.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:family@grahamiver.fsnet.co.uk)

Open Spaces Society - [christinehunter@oss.org.uk](mailto:christinehunter@oss.org.uk)

British Horse Society ([alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk))

Booker Common & Wood Protection Society - [rita.luxton@bcwps.org.uk](mailto:rita.luxton@bcwps.org.uk)

Groundwork South (Colne Valley) - [spomeroy@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:spomeroy@groundwork.org.uk)

Aylesbury & District Ramblers - [roy.johnson5@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:roy.johnson5@tiscali.co.uk)

Chiltern Society - [office@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:office@chilternsociety.org.uk)

Alan Kind - [mondard@mac.com](mailto:mondard@mac.com)

Chiltern Harness Driving Club - [brian.worrell@ridgelea.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:brian.worrell@ridgelea.freeseve.co.uk)

Ramblers - [walking.environment@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:walking.environment@ramblers.org.uk)

Buckinghamshire Ramblers - [ashbrookk@aol.com](mailto:ashbrookk@aol.com)

Marlow Society – [rtewksbury@aol.com](mailto:rtewksbury@aol.com)

TRF - [conservation@trf.org.uk](mailto:conservation@trf.org.uk) & [chairman@hertstrf.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hertstrf.org.uk)

LARA – [admin@laragb.org](mailto:admin@laragb.org)

NFU - [tom.ormesher@nfu.org.uk](mailto:tom.ormesher@nfu.org.uk)

CLA - [tim.broomhead@cla.org.uk](mailto:tim.broomhead@cla.org.uk)

Byways & Bridleways Trust - [notices@bbtrust.org.uk](mailto:notices@bbtrust.org.uk)

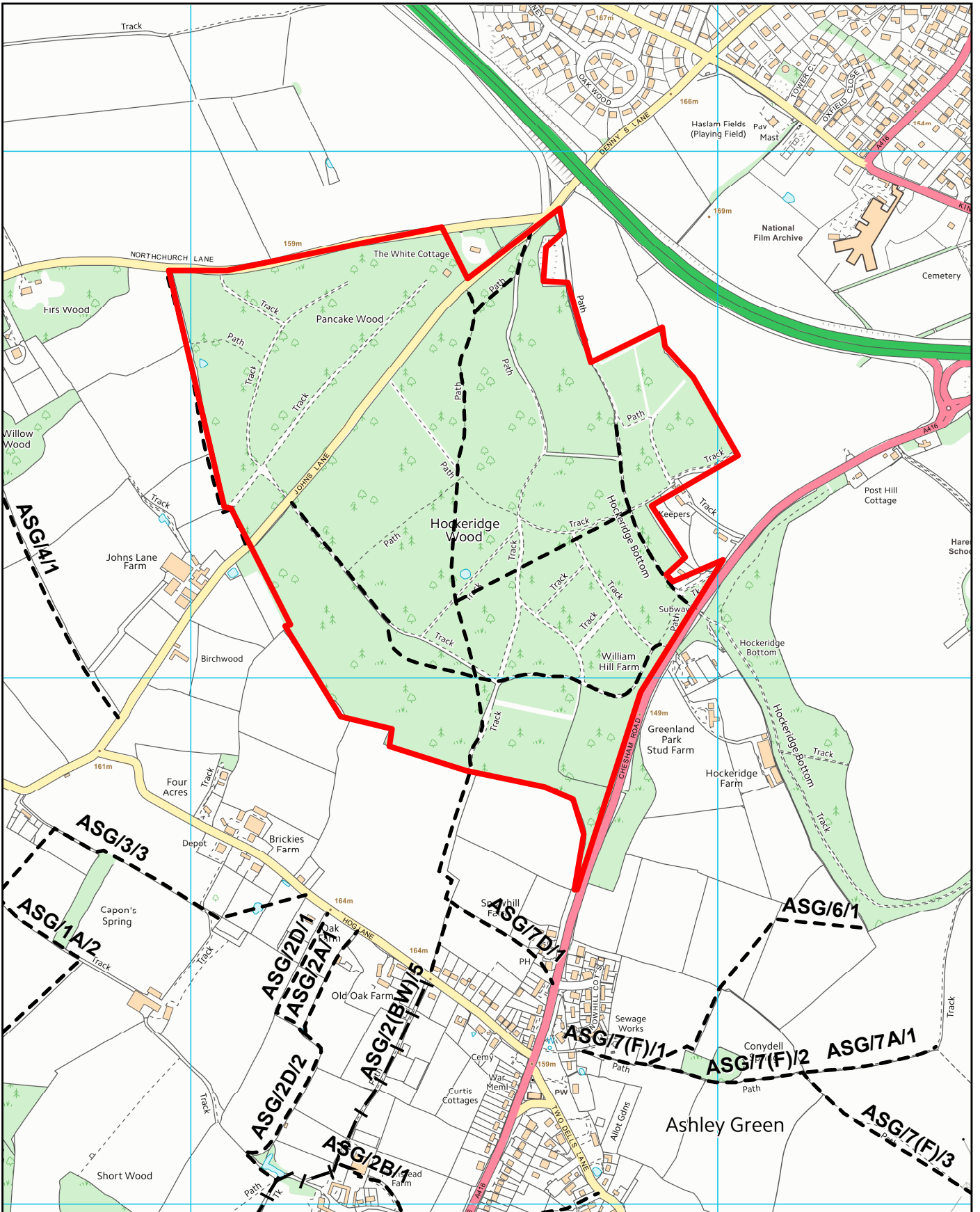
Mr Phil Wadey - [phil.wadey@talktalk.net](mailto:phil.wadey@talktalk.net)

Sustrans - [peter.challis@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:peter.challis@sustrans.org.uk)

Tom Bindhoff - [gtbindoff@btinternet.com](mailto:gtbindoff@btinternet.com)







Public Rights of Way

- FOOTPATH
- |-|- BRIDLEWAY
- RESTRICTED BYWAY
- |-|- BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC
- PARISH BOUNDARY

This is not the Definitive Map but a working copy. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented, we cannot guarantee that the data will always be accurate and complete. The data is intended to be viewed at a scale of 1:2,500 or smaller.



1:10,000

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## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

*The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is the statutory advisory body on all matters relating to Access to the Countryside*

Mr Peter Thorn  
RBWM Local Access Forum  
Town Hall  
Maidenhead  
SL6 1RF

12<sup>th</sup> August 2015

And

Mr David Munkley  
Slough Local Access Forum  
51 Bath Road  
Slough  
SL1 3UF

Dear Peter and David,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the proposal to create a multi-user route network for walkers, cyclists and horse riders along the Jubilee River between Eton Wick, Dorney and Maidenhead.

The Local Access Forum discussed the proposals at their meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 are keen to pursue all routes outlined in your letter, including bronze, silver and gold options. We can pursue the aim of dedicating bridleways, with the consent of the appropriate landowners and highway authority, or secure permissive rights if there are major obstacles to formal rights of way.

It is hoped the paths can also be available to disabled users and I'm sure you would support us in this aim.

To this end we would be pleased to offer a representation from the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum to attend a site meeting to discuss the future use and status of these paths, either during September or October 2015.

Yours Sincerely,

John Elfes,  
Chairman, Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum  
143, White Hill, Chesham, BUCKS HP5 1AT.



# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

Name of LAF	<b>Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum</b>
Name of LAF Chair	John Elfes
Name of LAF Secretary	Jonathan Clark

Total number of LAF members	13
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	7
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	3
Number of members representing other interests	3

**1. LAF achievements?** (Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area)

The LAF were successful in lobbying the local district council to enforce the removal of fencing on open access land, achieving easier access to the land from all directions and ensuring better access to the local rights of way network. This has been ongoing for 2 years, but was achieved in this reporting period. Some useful publicity was also achieved through the Open Spaces Society.

The chairman attended and contributed in a workshop aimed at improving the future management and promotion of the Ridgeway National Trail. He identified possible joint working, shared knowledge and helped steer future policy.

The LAF provided important support to the county council and district council in their ambition to create a new bridleway along a disused railway line at Bourne End under section 26 Highways Act 1980.

The LAF provided advice on a Dog Control Order at Burnham Beeches NNR.

The disabled access member has been active in creating a new mobility scooter route between two rural villages; has tested and given advice on creating additional disabled access routes in the county; and has led a number of disabled rambles.

The LAF has joined a sub-regional LAF group including neighbours in Slough and RBWM seeking to improve access across authority boundaries.

The LAF were successful lobbying the county council highways department to install a pegasus crossing seeking safer access for vulnerable users between two communities in Aylesbury, when the council were otherwise considering returning the s106 money back to the developer.

The LAF contributed to a Network Rail consultation on the proposed closure and diversion of 16 crossings on the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury branch line and 26 crossings on the Bletchley to Biscester line in order to improve safety. The LAF response strengthened the case for securing more convenient crossings for the public across these lines.

The vice-chairman wrote to the county council to support a Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid to the Department for Transport (ultimately unsuccessful) for better walking access on the highway network.

**2. What are the main challenges affecting your LAF's ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?**

The main challenge might be time commitments working on projects outside the 3 meetings per year.

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

### 3. What are your top three priorities for the year ahead?

Advice to Network Rail on their closure programme is likely to focus on more detailed solutions as part of the East West Rail closures and diversions programme.

The LAF are setting up a working group to start the process of making claims for new rights of way on the basis of historical evidence in the run-up to the closure of the definitive map in 2016

The LAF will continue to work in partnership with neighbouring authorities in the south of the county to improve access to the Jubilee River network near Maidenhead and access along the Slough Arm of the Grand Union Canal

The momentum of creating greater disabled access in the county likely to continue and grow through 2015/16 reporting period.

### 4. Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities?

Greater knowledge of the achievements that can be made by the Local Access Forum would be helpful; and basic training would be useful for new members on the workings and structure of LAFs. IPROW have suggested training in 2016 and we will be interested in taking part.

### LAF activity in 2014/15

Number of full LAF meetings held	3	Number of sub-group meetings held	0
Number of working groups led by others	0	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	0.25

### Partners the LAF worked with during 2014/15 (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice
Green Infrastructure strategies	0	0
Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)	0	0
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	0	2
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	0	0
Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)	0	1
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	1
Planning applications	0	0
Housing development schemes	0	0
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0	0
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	1	1
Right of Way Improvement Plan review	0	0
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	1	2
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	0	0

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

Definitive map and recording PROW	0	0
Parish Council or other grant schemes	1	1
Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?	0	4
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	0	0
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	0	0
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	0
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	0
Open Access land restrictions	0	0
Coastal Access/National Trails	0	1
NNR dedication	0	0
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.	0	0
Forestry and woodland	0	0

Any other LAF activity (please specify)

We provided advice to a landowner in Quanton to resolve a local issue between horse riders and a local shooting syndicate.

We provide ongoing advice to the ROW maintenance team, but particularly in this year we advised them on the targets for their 'Priority Matrix' when funding had been cut.

### 5. Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>1</sup>

Chiltern district council wrote to confirm the removal of fencing on their land blocking access to a piece of common land in Latimer.

### 6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

<sup>1</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

The lobbying and advice from the LAF have been excellent and resulted almost invariably in successful outcomes. Issues do take time to resolve, which is the nature of rights of way problems. Advice to the county council teams working on rights of way has been useful and valued and the LAF continue to closely scrutinise the work of the ROW maintenance team. Further project work is limited by the amount of time members can commit to working outside the normal meeting schedule. Committing to lead on forming a voluntary group to record lost ways in the run up to the 2026 cut-off date will demand more time. We were disappointed not to secure membership from the local National Farmers' Union, but they did offer to provide advise as issues arise. On the other hand we have appointed three promising new members respectively representing equestrians, cyclists and Chiltern Society.

### 7. Comments from LAF Chair

I endorse the report and would like to record my appreciation of the support I have had from LAF members, and particularly from our hard working officer Jon Clark. Our ability to effect improvements to access to the countryside is now severely limited by budget cuts, which fallen very heavily on Rights of Way.

John Elfes, Chairman

### 8. Any important information to bring to the attention of Natural England

After many years service, John Elfes, the chairman since the LAF was formed, is due to stand down and elections will take place to replce him at the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### 9. Any other comments

None