



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2016, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 11.40 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr R Pushman, in the Chair

Mr D Briggs, Mr J Elfes, Mr N Harris, Mr C Hurworth, Mr A T A Lambourne, Ms N Glover, Ms A Heath, Mr A Clark and Mr W Whyte

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr G Caspersz and Mr G Thomas

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MATTERS ARISING/ ACTION NOTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 04 November 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

In respect of the action relating to the Pegasus crossing on the A413 Mr J Clark advised he had made contact with BCC colleagues who are looking into feasibility.

ACTION: To have an update for the next meeting, or as soon as available. Mr J Clark

In respect of the action relating to LAF membership from Bucks Association of Local Councils, Mr J Clark advised he had written, but is awaiting a reply.

ACTION: To chase a response. The chairman

4. THE RIDGEWAY PARTNERSHIP

Ms S Wright- Ridgeway Project Officer gave a presentation:

The presentation has been attached for information, Ms S Wright responded to questions as per below section:

Questions and Comments

LEADER receives more applications than they have funding for. Could Ridgeway highlight the lack of accommodation in the area when the application goes forward?

Yes this could be highlighted; Ridgeway were currently trying to work with the farm and land owners to deal with the situation.

It is important for horses to be able to ride along the Ridgeway; will there be enough parking for the horseboxes?

One of the objectives would be to liaise and work more with farmers and landowners to cover this, there would always be further capacity for this. If Members have any ideas on where horse box parking would be beneficial, please let Sarah know.

There is currently no indication of where you would be likely to meet vehicles on the route, could this be added?

In the past vehicles were permitted on the ridgeway more vastly, this had now been restricted and there were now fewer sites that you would meet vehicles.

Previously, there were issues of damage to surfaces by agricultural issues, had this still been a more recent issue?

Yes this had still been an issue, but there could be more done by talking to and working with local farmers and landowners to resolve those issues.

Regarding corporate sponsorship on the Ridgeway, how could this be covered without making the ridgeway look like a fairground?

Most advertising would be on leaflets, posters and the website, very little would go on the actual trail.

Could parts of the ridgeway be extended/widened to allow for driving and horse carriages as currently there is not enough room to pass safely?

The Rights of Way team were looking at areas being upgraded, there could be potential for this to be looked into at that time.

The Ridgeway has been progressively closed down to drivers- Would there be a clear plan for restrictive by-ways on the ridgeway. Would there be a plan to handle that?

There have been applications coming through in the Oxford area to review it, Ridgeway would need to go back and look if similar applications had come through in Bucks for that to be investigated.

Had the idea of sponsorship signs on the Ridgeway if they were tastefully done? Could companies potentially sponsor a stretch of each walk?

All options were being considered but the main aim was to keep all looking as natural as possible. Ridgeway have been looking at the option of different companies sponsoring different walks but a stretch of each walked could be considered.

5. DONATE-A-GATE NORTH

Mr B Piers gave a presentation on the Donate-a-Gate scheme:

The presentation has been attached for information and key points are summarised below:

- Work had been done to make a stile free walk through country side
- Initial repairs were being made on stiles to make them easier to use
- There were only 3 people working on the project
- Ramblers have paid for some new tools for the project
- Farmers and landowners have been very happy with the gates and have been willing to help
- Plaques have been fitted to the gates with the sponsor name on.
- Work has been done in Wing ready to commence work on the next round of gates
- An order for 7 gates had been placed for the North side of Wing.
- The price of a single gate is £125.00 and a kissing gate is £180
- There had been a recent query from Wingrave Parish around whether a gate could be fitted near the Macintyre School as some of the children had been struggling to use the stiles.
- £772.18- in expenses had been paid from Ramblers year to date.

Questions and Comments

Members commented this was a very commendable scheme and congratulated Mr B Piers on the efforts made to date. Questions were answered as below:

Would there be the potential to extend this scheme to South Bucks?

No, South Bucks came under another organisation

Who would be liable for fencing by the new gates?

Mr B Piers had been liaising with the landowner prior to work commencing. As to who would be responsible, normally the farmer would be liable for the fencing but all would work collaboratively to ensure that the right fencing would be used as to not misshape the gate

Were there insurance policies in place to cover accidental damage?

£10 million of insurances were in place to cover accidental damage

Was there a waiting list of gates wanted, if funding would be available?

Today was the launch of the scheme; the Donate-a-gate team were awaiting a list of gates that had been donated.

Who replaces/ repairs the in scripted signs if damaged or vandalised?

The Ramblers would be liable and would repair/replace them.

A Member suggested that Mr B Piers writes to the County Councillors and request that the Donate-a-gate scheme be mentioned in meetings to promote it.

6. RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT

The Rights of Way Group Report could be seen with the agenda pack:

Mr P Turner presented the Definitive Map Update and the East West Rail Update. Key Points were summarised below:

- **A Member queried whether item 19 (Lillingstone Dayrell) was subject to a byway claim.** Ms C Hudson advised she would check this and provide a response at the next meeting.

ACTION: To clarify whether point 19 was subject to a byway claim, Ms C Hudson

- In terms of the East West Rail update it was advised that the planning application for the proposed cycle route between Aylesbury and Waddesdon, should be made by April/May 2016. This route was identified through HS2 discussions and was being led by John Grimshaw from John Grimshaw Associates. All landowners have been very cooperative of this proposal and provisions had been made around the crossings.

Ms J Taylor presented the Rights of Way Operations Update and summarised the below points:

- The summary of maintenance carried out between April 2014 to February 2016 could be seen with the report in the agenda (it was identified this was incorrectly titled February 2015). Specific numbers were made available for Members in this document. Figures which related to the Chiltern Society jobs were also included on the summary page.
- **A Member identified that the number of issues were still increasing and had doubled from four years ago.**
It was explained that this was due to budget and staff resources
- **In respect of the 5 bridges that were closed due to public safety, these were all bridges that could not be repaired in house so would need to go out to sub-contractors. The location of the 5 bridges are:**
 - Iver Bridleway No. 30 – Bridge Failed (anticipate complete replacement)
 - Chetwode Bridleway No. 24 – Bridge Failed (anticipate complete replacement)
 - Denham Bridleway No. 52 – Bridge Failed (renovation/repair – new deck)
 - Ickford Footpath No. 16 – Bridge Failed (complete replacement)
 - Preston Bissett Footpath No. 18 – Bridge Failed (renovation/repair bearing timbers)
- **A query was raised whether there was any way of categorising the issues listed on the database.**
Ms J Taylor advised this could be potentially be done by type of issue and would explore this.

7. LAF MEMBERS' REPORT

Mr J Clark presented the LAF Members report which was attached to the agenda, points are summarised below:

- There was one open access issue which was a parcel of common land near Frieth and had been fenced off along the South East side of footpath 15. All Members agreed to an initial site visit before proceeding with any action. Mr J Clark agreed to organise. Along with the Chairman, Mr N Harris and Mr A Clark agreed to attend the visit.

ACTION: To organise a site visit, Mr J Clark

- The Restoring the Record project had moved forward successfully. The project now had 40 volunteers and a training day had been set up for 6th May 2016
- Members were updated that Mr G Caspersz had proposed and been successful in adopting the Buckinghamshire Ramblers as a recipient for Aylesbury Vale Lottery Charitable allocations.

- Mr J Clark advised that he would provide an update at the next meeting in relation to memberships coming up for renewal.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Member advised that Chilterns AONB are planning Walking Festivals, there are 10 days in the festival and the first one is due to be held in April 2017. Members were encouraged to submit any suggestions to the Chilterns AONB.

9. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is being held on Wednesday 20 July 2016, 10am. Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury,

Chairman



RIDGEWAY UPDATE TO BUCKS LAF

THE PARTNERSHIP AND THE BENEFIT CORRIDOR

Wed 23rd March 2016

Sarah Wright

Ridgeway Project Officer

Working for The Ridgeway Partnership

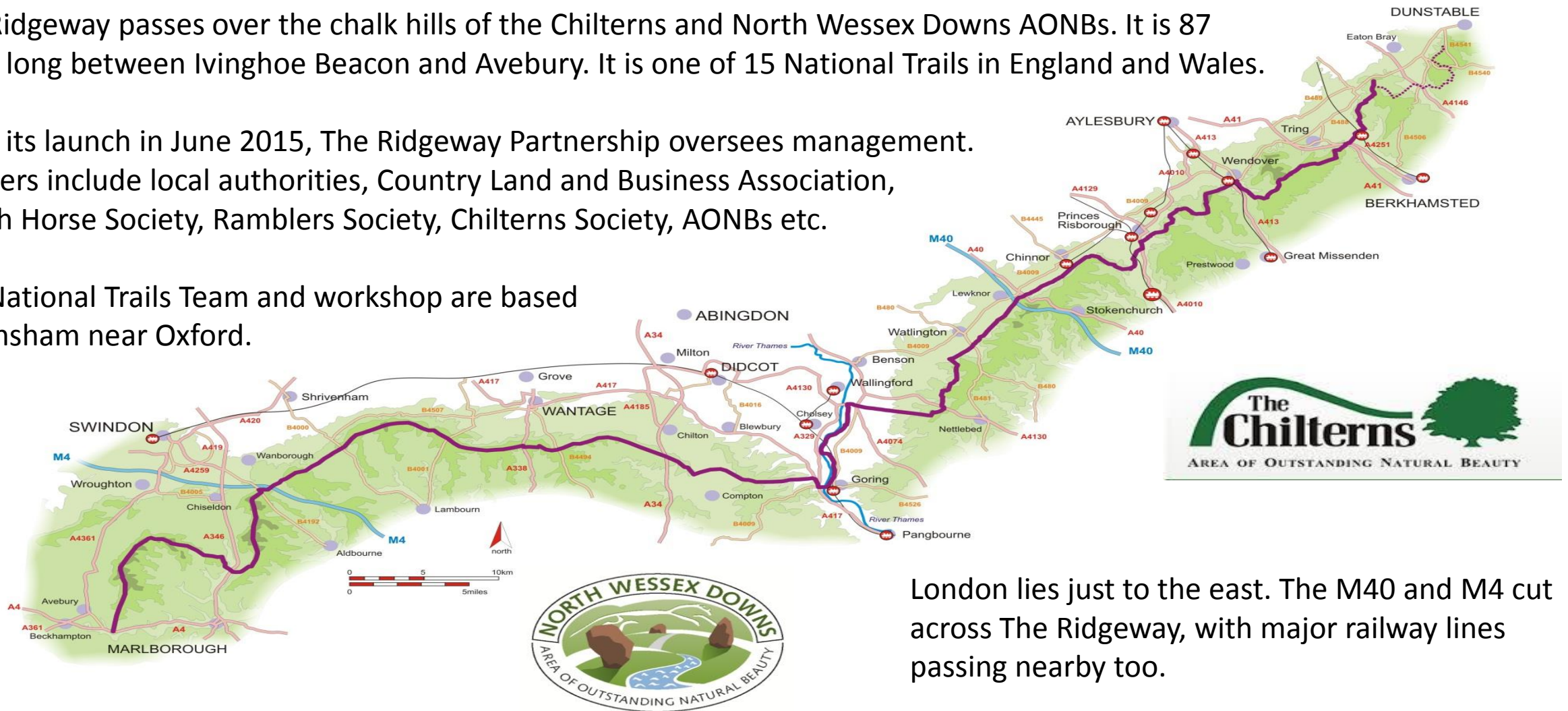
The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



The Ridgeway passes over the chalk hills of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONBs. It is 87 miles long between Ivinghoe Beacon and Avebury. It is one of 15 National Trails in England and Wales.

Since its launch in June 2015, The Ridgeway Partnership oversees management. Partners include local authorities, Country Land and Business Association, British Horse Society, Ramblers Society, Chilterns Society, AONBs etc.

The National Trails Team and workshop are based at Eynsham near Oxford.



London lies just to the east. The M40 and M4 cut across The Ridgeway, with major railway lines passing nearby too.

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



Natural England's 4 Es (New Deal 2013)

EXPERIENCE

Enable as many people as possible to enjoy a variety of walking and riding experiences along National Trails and through the English landscape.

ENHANCEMENT

Make constant improvement to the Trail and its associated routes. Contribute to the enhancement of the landscape, nature and historic features within the Trail corridor.

ENGAGEMENT

Build and sustain a community of interest in caring for the Trail and the landscape through which it passes.

ECONOMY

Creates opportunities for local businesses to benefit from the use of Trails.



The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



Practical maintenance and enhancements

- Condition monitoring and visitor feedback.
- Infrastructure: waymarking, map boards, gates, water taps.
- Surface repairs/enhancements.
- Vegetation clearance.

Public engagement

- Information and interpretation to promote and enrich visitor experience – virtual, paper and on the Trail.
- Encouraging sustainable events.
- Working with interest groups including landowners, tourism and recreation industry, local businesses and communities.
- Attracting volunteers and donors/sponsors.

Securing a sustainable future

- Conservation of natural, historic and landscape features.
- Facilitating sustainable use and management.
- Developing income streams to support ongoing work.
- Improving linking routes to communities and businesses.

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



Who does the work?

National Trail Team

- Sarah Wright – Ridgeway Project Officer (5 days a week, 30 hours)
- Sara Piggott – Volunteer Task Team and Project Co-ordinator (1.5 days a week)
- Andy Mawer – Volunteer Task Assistant (1 day a week)
- Elaine Townson – Visitor Information and Admin Assistant (1 day a week)

Volunteers managed by NT Team and others
Partners
Contractors

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



**5 Ridgeway themes for
Partnership projects and
public engagement**

**Natural
Ancient
Sporting
Living
Creative**



STRATEGIC LINKS

**Connecting The Ridgeway
to visitor services**



Strategic links are good quality routes or accessible areas linking the Ridgeway to settlements and key visitor services/attractions for the benefit of as many Ridgeway users as possible.

The Ridgeway Partnership selects and maintains these routes at their discretion.

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



- visitor attractions (nature reserves, museum, art gallery, theatre, country park, playground, viewpoint, ancient monument);
- transport services (train stations, bus stations, key bus stops, car parks).
- accommodation providers (campsites, farm stays, B&Bs, inns, self catering, stables);



- places to eat and drink (café, restaurant, pub);
- places to obtain essential items, services, gifts and information (post office, bank, tourist information office, supermarket, cycle hire/repair shops, farriers etc or town/village centre);
- public toilets;

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



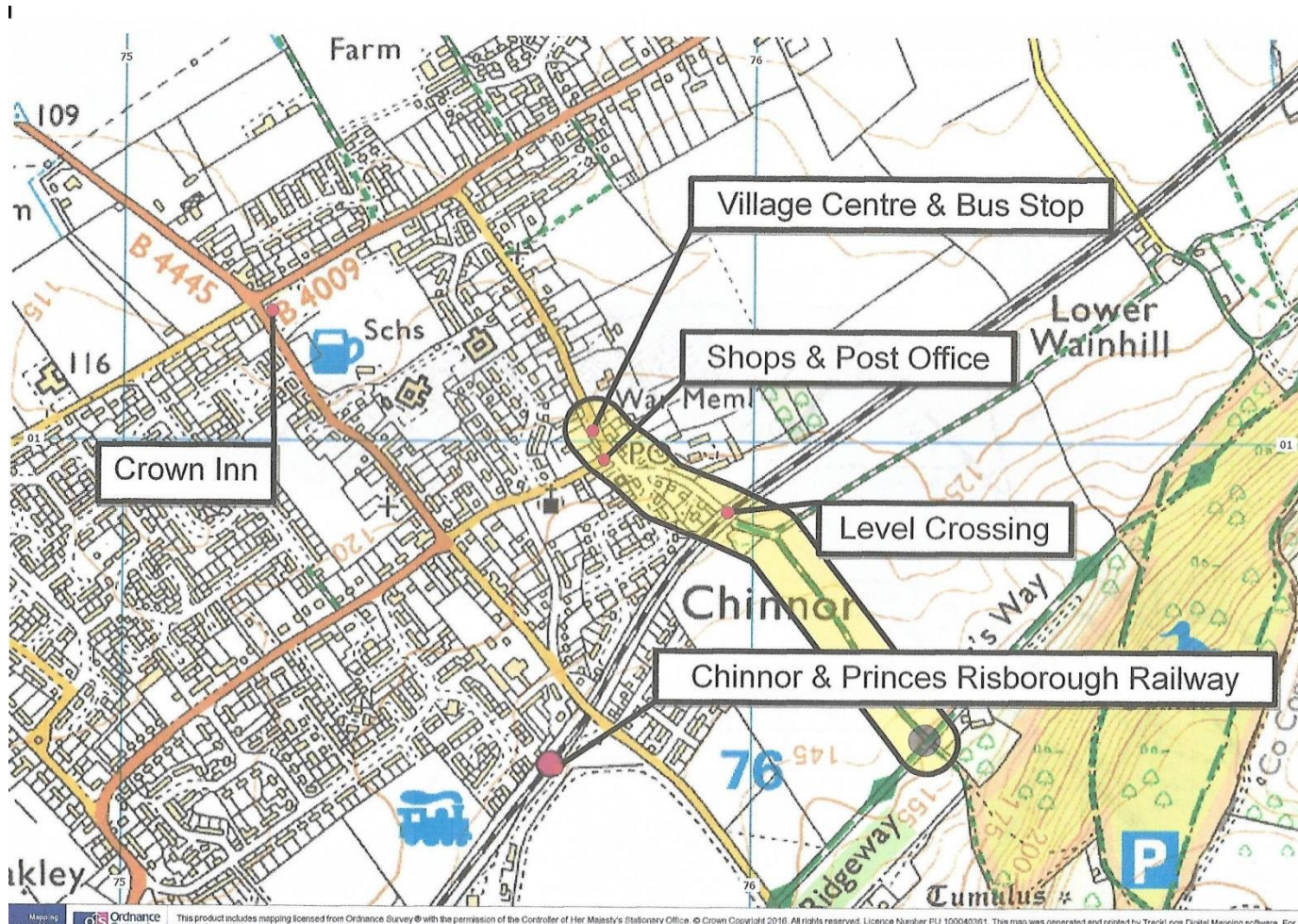
3km distance for walkers

5km distance for cyclists and horseriders

Higher priority– settlements with large population; already popular linking routes; existing reports of link ‘needed’, popular stop off points listed in Trail guides; settlement providing numerous visitor services/attractions; popular visitor attractions.

Medium priority – settlement providing a few visitor services/attractions; key visitor service in a remote area, e.g. village shop, campsite.

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



Mike Fox's example

Bridleway Chinnor/45
Keen's Lane
High Street





How can the Bucks LAF and The Ridgeway Partnership work together?

- Share expertise and learning, e.g. feedback on informal and formal consultation documents.
- Propose priorities and target areas for work/resources, e.g. planning for 2016-17.
- Joint promotion, e.g. share each other's newsletters, Twitter.
- Pool resources including people's time and money to deliver joint projects, e.g. annual visitor survey.
- Bid for money to deliver joint projects, e.g. strategic links upgrades.
- Other?

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



Ridgeway Project Officer - Sarah Wright

sarah.wright@oxfordshire.gov.uk

07825 314791

To report a problem on The Ridgeway, tell the National Trail Team and/or the local highway authority -

ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk

01865 810224

If urgent, call 07825 314791

If you see a crime in progress on The Ridgeway, call 999. Otherwise, call 101.

For visitor info and other enquiries:

ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk

01865 810224

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway

Twitter: @TheRidgeway1972

North Bucks rRIPPLE

From this to this in 1 year



Stile to Donate a Gate



Tools



Activity Reports / Before & Afters



10/6/15 SP683075 East



17/6/15 SP685074 West



24/6/15 SP806248



1/7/15 SP803245

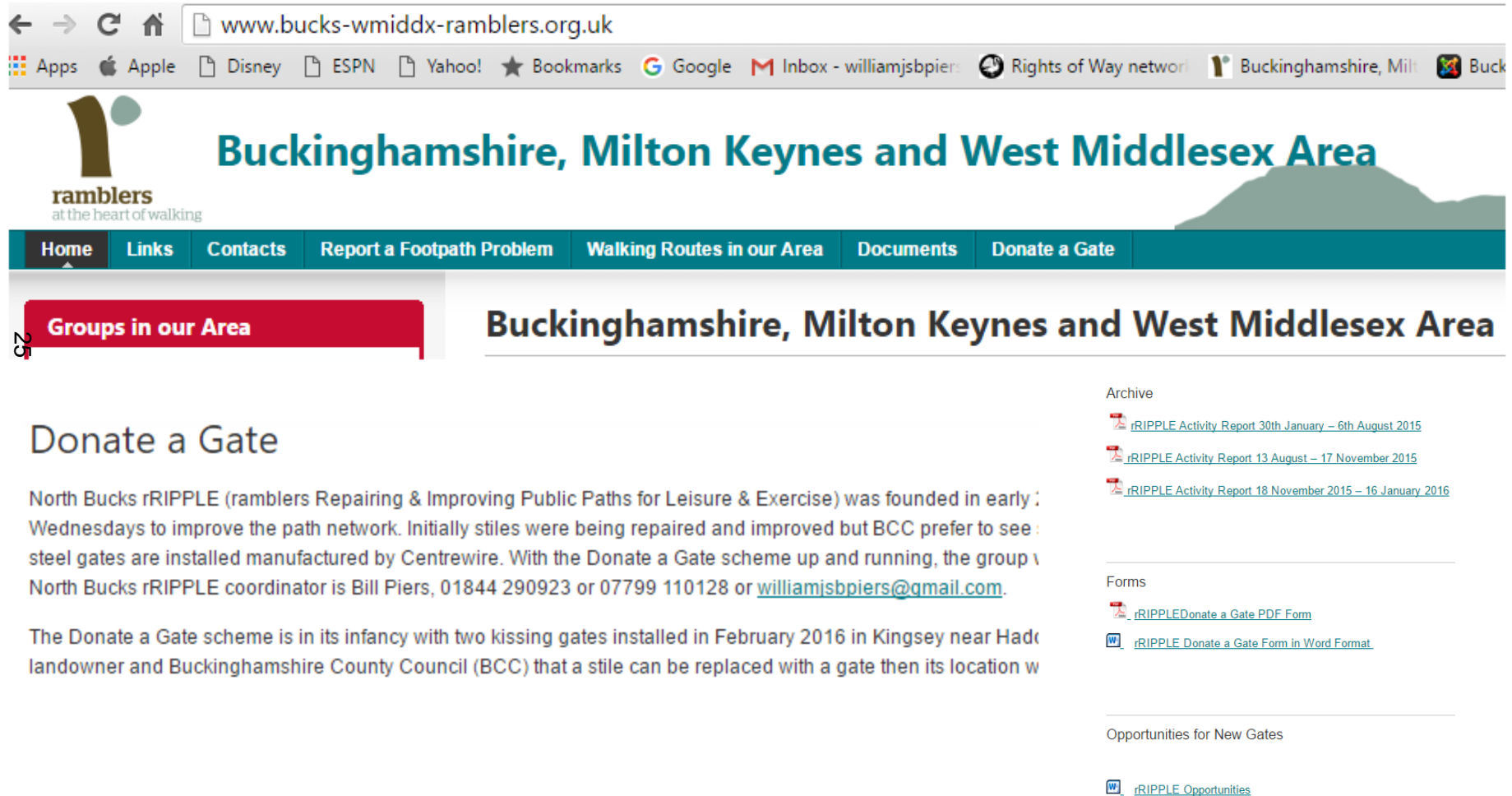


SP825204 West



SP825204 Bridge

Donate a Gate Application Form on Ramblers' Area Web Site



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk. The website header features the Ramblers logo (a stylized 'r' with a green dot) and the text "ramblers at the heart of walking". The main heading is "Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area". A navigation menu includes "Home", "Links", "Contacts", "Report a Footpath Problem", "Walking Routes in our Area", "Documents", and "Donate a Gate". A red banner below the menu reads "Groups in our Area". The main content area has a heading "Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area" and a sub-heading "Donate a Gate". The text describes the North Bucks rRIPPLE group, its purpose, and contact information for Bill Piers. A sidebar on the right contains an "Archive" section with three activity reports and a "Forms" section with two links for application forms. At the bottom, there is a section for "Opportunities for New Gates" with a link to "rRIPPLE Opportunities".

www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk

Apps Apple Disney ESPN Yahoo! Bookmarks Google Inbox - williamjsbpier Rights of Way network Buckinghamshire, Mil Buck

ramblers
at the heart of walking

Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area

Home Links Contacts Report a Footpath Problem Walking Routes in our Area Documents Donate a Gate

Groups in our Area

Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area

Donate a Gate

North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise) was founded in early Wednesdays to improve the path network. Initially stiles were being repaired and improved but BCC prefer to see steel gates are installed manufactured by Centrewire. With the Donate a Gate scheme up and running, the group North Bucks rRIPPLE coordinator is Bill Piers, 01844 290923 or 07799 110128 or williamisbpier@gmail.com.

The Donate a Gate scheme is in its infancy with two kissing gates installed in February 2016 in Kingsey near Had

landowner and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) that a stile can be replaced with a gate then its location w

Archive

- rRIPPLE Activity Report 30th January – 6th August 2015
- rRIPPLE Activity Report 13 August – 17 November 2015
- rRIPPLE Activity Report 18 November 2015 – 16 January 2016

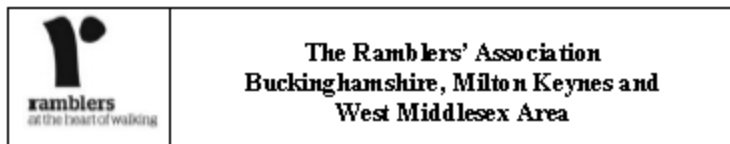
Forms

- rRIPPLE Donate a Gate PDF Form
- rRIPPLE Donate a Gate Form in Word Format

Opportunities for New Gates

- rRIPPLE Opportunities

Application Form



North Bucks rRIPPLE
ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise

'Donate a Gate'

Please enter your details in the boxes provided:

TITLE (e.g.: Mr, Mrs etc)		Name:	
Address:			
Postcode:			
Telephone: Home:		Mobile:	
Email:			
Gift Aid: I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and wish Ramblers to claim gift aid on my donation (please delete if not applicable).			
Signed: (Your signature can be typed if submitting electronically):			
Date:			

Optional: free inscribed plaque to be attached to the gate. It is not mandatory to have a plaque. Please enter below in the space provided what you would like in the way of an inscription on the plaque on your donated gate. The shape and size of the plaque will be approximately as shown at 175 x 60 mm. If donating more than one gate, different inscriptions can be provided on different plaques for different gates.

		Donated by Mr & Mrs Somebody In memory of Somebody Else	
Donate a Gate Scheme		Installed by North Bucks rRIPPLE volunteers www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk	



The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company registration number: 44529432. Registered Office in England and Wales number: 1092977. Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelot House, 31-33 Abbot Embankment, London SE1 7NR

The scheme organiser is:
Bill Piers, NB rRIPPLE Co-ordinator, 48 Stokes End, Haddenham, Bucks HP17 8DX.
Tel 01844 290923; 07799 110128 or williamspiers@gmail.com

Gift Aid De

The scheme qualifies under Charity Gift Aid rules, whereby Ramblers can claim back tax from the Inland Revenue. Note: Gift Aid applies if you pay income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax deducted from your donation.

If you cease to pay tax, please inform the scheme organiser. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further relief on your self-assessment form.

By signing this form I agree to the following terms and conditions:

- My donation does not bestow upon me any right of ownership of the gate unless I am the landowner.
- Maintenance of the gate is the responsibility of the landowner.
- As the gate donor, I am responsible for the maintenance of the plaque. (NB rRIPPLE will replace plaques if required. The cost of replacement plaques, around £25, will be borne by the donor.)
- The type of gate to be installed will be the most suitable for the location as determined by the Bucks County Council (BCC) Rights of Way Department. BCC prefers galvanised steel gates to timber gates and simple pedestrian gates over kissing gates.
- Gate locations will be determined/agreed by the BCC Rights of Way Department.
- NB rRIPPLE is unable to agree specific locations, but a list of locations for which permission has been obtained to install a gate can be supplied on request. However, any request for a specific location within North Bucks will be passed to the Bucks County Council Rights of Way Department.
- Gate installation will be completed as soon as possible as part of the normal NB rRIPPLE work programme.
- The scheme organiser will contact the donor to confirm the installation has been completed and the location of the gate.
- The Ramblers will be the sole arbitrator if an inscription is considered unsuitable by the scheme organiser.

I wish to donate (number of) gate/s at £250 per gate.
Preferred location (if fig map ref) parish:

Payment by electronic transfer is preferred:
Account name: The Ramblers Association (BU)
Account No: 20116275
Account sort code: 60-83-01

I have made an electronic transfer payment of £
Please submit this completed form to Bill Piers at williamspiers@gmail.com.

Alternatively, please send a cheque made payable to: The Ramblers Association (BU) together with this completed form to Bill Piers at the address above.

Optional free stainless steel plaque

Design not “set in stone”



ramblers
at the heart of walking

**Donate a Gate
Scheme**

Donated by Mr & Mrs Somebody
In memory of Somebody Else

Installed by North Bucks rRIPPLE volunteers

www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk

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DaG Opportunities

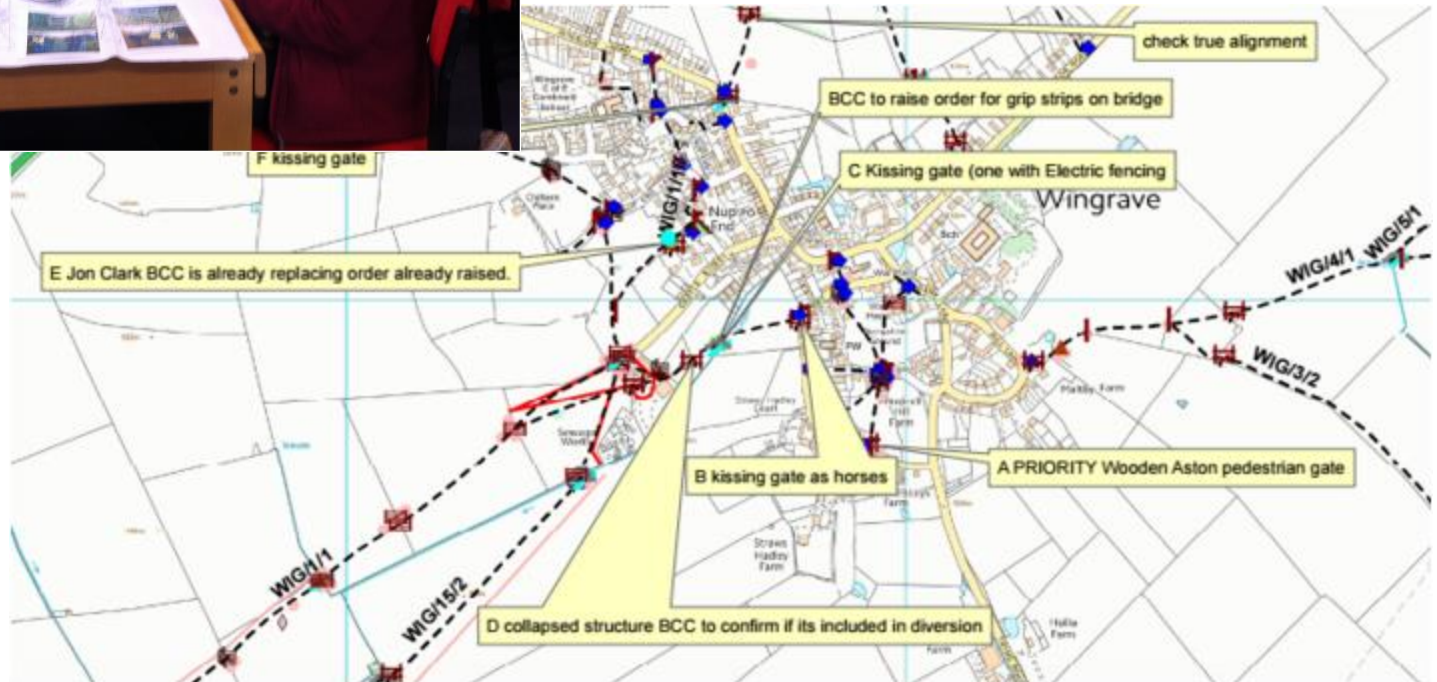
Potential donors include: Ramblers' Walking Partnership;
CPRE; Local businesses, groups or individuals;
Parish Councils; BCC etc.

North Bucks rRIPPLE Donate a Gate Opportunities & Progress Monitor

Date 22/02/2016

Gate No.	Date donation received	Location Agreed SPxxxxxx (Date agreed)	Donation confirmed	Artwork ordered	Artwork received	Artwork sent to donor	Artwork approved	Plaque ordered	Plaque made	Gate ordered	Gate Installed	Gate completed	Notes
1	12/02/16	738072 North of Tythrop Park Farm, Kingsey									17/2	17/2	Kissing gate - No plaque required
2	12/02/16	736071 North of Tythrop Park Farm, Kingsey											Kissing gate - No plaque required
3		729068 NE Keepers Cottage, Kingsey (20/02/16)											Donor needed for single Marlow gate

Wing/Hoggeston/Wingrave/Dinton



Expenses

Ramblers for consumables and mileage @ 28p/mile:

20/8/15 £309.68

21/11/15 £73.66

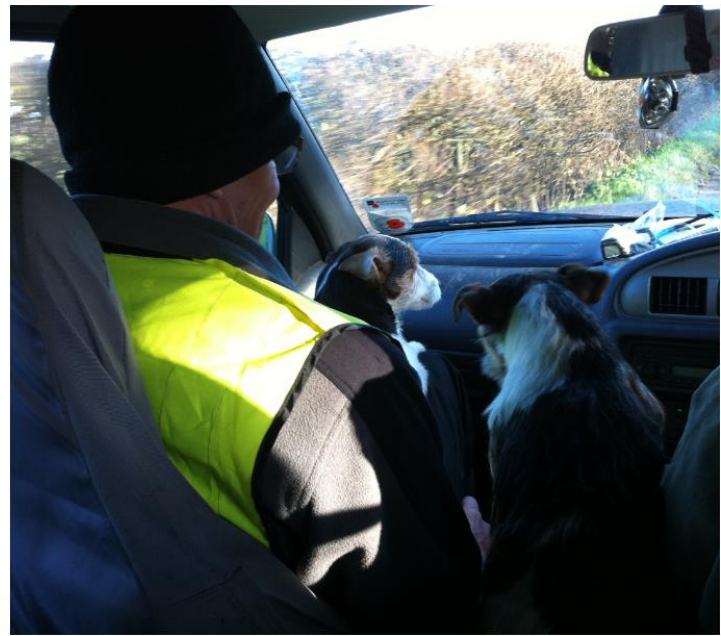
15/3/16 £239.37

Ramblers HQ Award for tools:

5/3/16 £149.47

Grand total: £772.18

Questions



Potential number of DaGs

- Total number of stiles county wide is 4,846
- Total number of stiles in the AVDC area is 3,352 (70% of stiles are in the north of the county)
- Number of gates and kissing gates = 1,986
- Number of stiles in need of repair = Anybody's guess; NB rRIPPLE guess = several hundred

What about fencing?



