

# 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.*

19<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and good to hear from you.

We've heard from a number of people who attended the training day and feedback from volunteers has been very positive, if slightly daunted by the task in hand. Nonetheless, we have ten years left and positive support from the LAF, county archives and user groups such as the BHS, OSS and Ramblers. The latter three have offered to pay for an annual photography ticket at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, which I hope will help.

You raise the issue of research towards seeking lost footpaths as well as bridleways. As you can imagine, this is not my area of expertise, so I have consulted with Jonathan and the definitive map team at county. They tell me they often receive claims for footpaths on the basis of historical evidence, so it's not unusual and certainly possible to do so. I know the majority of the rights of way network in Buckinghamshire, by length, is made up of footpaths, with a distinct lack of bridleways, highlighted in ROWIP.

Phil Wadey does represent the BHS, so imagine there may have been a slant in his presentation towards higher rights, but I don't think this was the intension. Footpaths can and will be claimed as part of the project.

The reason for splitting the research into parishes or clusters of parishes is that this seemed the most logical. Dividing volunteers across large areas to research either bridleways or footpaths wouldn't have worked as well, I don't think.

I understand you are already researching some cases in north Bucks. I hope you will continue with this work, but liaise with other volunteers to make sure there is no duplication of effort in the areas they have volunteered. Co-ordination seems to be the key.

I am happy to raise your questions for members to discuss at the next meeting, but in the meantime, thank you for your efforts in this area and best of luck with your research.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pushman

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