



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016 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> To declare any personal and prejudicial interests.	
<b>3 Action Notes/ Matters Arising</b> To agree the minutes from the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016	<b>3 - 8</b>
<b>4 Rights of Way Group Report</b> Updates from: Helen Francis, Definitive Map Team Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Advisor Joanne Taylor, Operations Team Leader	<b>9 - 22</b>
<b>5 LAF Members Report</b> LAF Members report attached.	<b>23 - 86</b>
<b>6 Any Other Business</b>	
<b>7 Date of Next and Future Meetings</b> The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10am. Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury.	





# 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 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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**







## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 4

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Title:** Rights of Way group update

**Authors:** Helen Francis, Jonathan Clark and Joanne Taylor

**Contact Officer:** Christina Beevers (01296 382938)

### A. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (HELEN FRANCIS)

#### A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY RIGHTS OF WAY 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, a Public Inquiry was completed on 1 February 2016. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
2. **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 was to be held 15-16 December 2015 but adjourned to 10-12 May 2016. **Inquiry adjourned until 13 September 2016 with a possible Creation Agreement being explored before this date.**
3. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **Awaiting Legal Services to advertise the made Order.**

#### B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE.

All Definitive Map Modification Applications are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. However, where there is a particular need of an application to be investigated urgently, then the county council may exercise its discretion to deal with that application.

4. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Application dated 10 September 2013. To be determined during 12 July 2016 Committee meeting.**

5. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Application dated 5 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2016 Committee.**
6. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2016 Committee.**
7. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2017 Committee.**
8. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Application dated 10 October 2014. To be determined during 12 July 2016 Committee meeting.**
9. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2017 Committee.**
10. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record route between public footpath No. 14 and No. 15 Parish of Chepping Wycombe. **Application dated 14 September 2015. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2017 Committee.**
11. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street. **Application dated 6 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2017 Committee.**
12. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2018 Committee.**
13. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2017 Committee.**
14. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Application priority raised as affected by HS2 – scheduled for late 2016 Committee.**
15. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2018 Committee meeting.**
16. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 - scheduled for mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
17. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
18. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 26 February 2016 – scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**

19. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016 – scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
20. **Chenies, Chalfont St Peter, Denham** – application to record Shire Lane as part restricted byway and part byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 14 March 2016. Application priority raised as affected by HS2 – scheduled for late-2016 Committee meeting.**
21. **Hazlemere** - application to record various routes in the field adjacent to Public Footpath No. 8 and Public Bridleway No. 6, Parish of Hazlemere as Public Footpaths. **Application dated 23 April 2016 – scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
22. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to record the route through Wellington House passageway as a Public Footpath. **Application dated 23 May 2016. Application re-prioritised as affected by development – scheduled for late-2016 Committee meeting.**
23. **Leckhampstead** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 13 and 18 to Public Bridleway and add a route as Public Bridleway. **Application dated 26 May 2016 – scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**

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

24. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert public footpaths No 5 & 6 under the Town and Country Planning Act – **awaiting a made Order.**
25. **Chartridge** – Application to divert BW21A – **awaiting a confirmed Order.**
26. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No.17 - **awaiting a made Order.**
27. **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.**
28. **Little Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No 4 – **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**
29. **Maids Moreton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**
30. **Quinton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Awaiting a made Order.**
31. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No 6. **Order Made. ON HOLD until further notice.**
32. **Swanbourne** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12/14. **Awaiting a confirmed Order.**
33. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Awaiting completion of footways before Order can be confirmed.**
34. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – **Awaiting completion of footway before Order can be confirmed.**

35. **Wingrave with Rowsham** – Application to Divert/ Extinguish Footpath No.1 (part). **Awaiting a confirmed Order.**
36. **Bierton with Broughton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 7B (part). **Under consultation.**
37. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 13 (part). **Awaiting more detailed information from the developer.**
38. **Ashley Green** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2B (part). **In discussion with applicant.**

#### **D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS**

39. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **Further investigation required.**
40. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**

#### **Background Papers**

None

**For further information please contact: Helen Francis 01296 387123**

#### **E. EAST WEST RAIL (EWR) UPDATE - JUNE 2016**

41. The County Council's Definitive Map and Rights of Way consultation response to Network Rail's (NR) EWR phase 2 PROW crossing diversion proposals was made in October 2015. We have completed the detailed diversion assessments with the NR EWR Project Team staff to identify and capture the ancillary works, including the installation of pedestrian gates, footbridges, surfacing, way-marking and sign-posting, that will be required of NR on parts of the diversion routes beyond the crossings themselves.
42. We have clarified with Network Rail those crossing diversions where the county council is requiring changes to the diversion routes originally proposed by Network Rail at a small number of crossings and await NR's confirmation of these changes.
43. The consultation on the s.119A Highways Act rail crossing diversion application (Swanbourne Old Station crossing) for public footpaths No. 27 Little Horwood and No. 20 Swanbourne has been completed and we are currently awaiting the making of the diversion Order by our legal services.
44. Aylesbury to Princes Risborough - This section of the route has been taken out of the scope of Phase 2 of the scheme. Original plans involved substantial work to allow an increased line speed of 80 mph along this section of line, however following further modelling it has been concluded that these improvements are not required to achieve the planned service and that the associated construction work, including the diversion of the existing at grade public rights of way crossings is no longer required.
45. The next key milestone for Network Rail's programme known as "GRIP 3" is due for completion by December 2016. This includes further development of the emerging design work to inform costed options for the Department for Transport (DfT) and others to consider and confirm appropriate funding. It will be at this point that more informed decisions on the financing and associated programme dates for EWR can be considered and taken by DfT. In the meantime the next stage of public

consultation for the EWR Transport & Works Act proposals is anticipated to be held in autumn 2016.

46. Members will be aware, EWR services were planned to start in March 2019, but the precise delivery date is now uncertain. The *'Report from Sir Peter Hendy to the Secretary of State for Transport on the re-planning of Network Rail's Investment Programme'*, lists EWR as a project '*...with significant delivery in CP5 [2014 to 2019] and completion in CP6 [2019 to 2024]*'. For further updates/information and to submit comments contact: <http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/>

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

47. Recent discussions have taken place with HS2 on a Transport & Works Act Order being proposed to install railway sidings for the landfill site at Calvert. This legal mechanism is being used as it's too late to secure changes in the HS2 Bill process. Further diversions will take place affecting three rights of way, but network connectivity should be largely unaffected. A plan indicating the proposals is enclosed in Appendix 1.
48. A planning application for a new walking and cycling route linking Aylesbury Vale Parkway station to Waddesdon village and Manor House has been submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC). It is hoped this will form part of a wider National Cycleway between London and Birmingham, but this local connection is being taken forward as a 'quick win', and could be worth around £1.2 million from the Department of Transport. Alan Lambourne attended the public meeting, held in Waddesdon on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016, which indicated overwhelming support. Comments can be made on the AVDC planning portal under reference 16/01759/APP: <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications//search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>
49. The number of planning applications affecting rights of way has increased markedly, from 219 Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to 260 Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This is an important area of work as it can attract hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of investment in the network on paths linked to development sites.
50. Comments have been made on consultations on Wycombe District Council's 'allocated sites' at Gomm Valley, Abbey Barn South, Terrier's Farm (all High Wycombe) and Slate Meadow (Bourne End).
51. The number of new donors to the Chiltern Society's Donate-a-Gate scheme now stands at 339. The spring edition of Chiltern News included donating a gate under '51 things to do in the Chilterns' in the Society's 51<sup>st</sup> year.

**For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695**

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

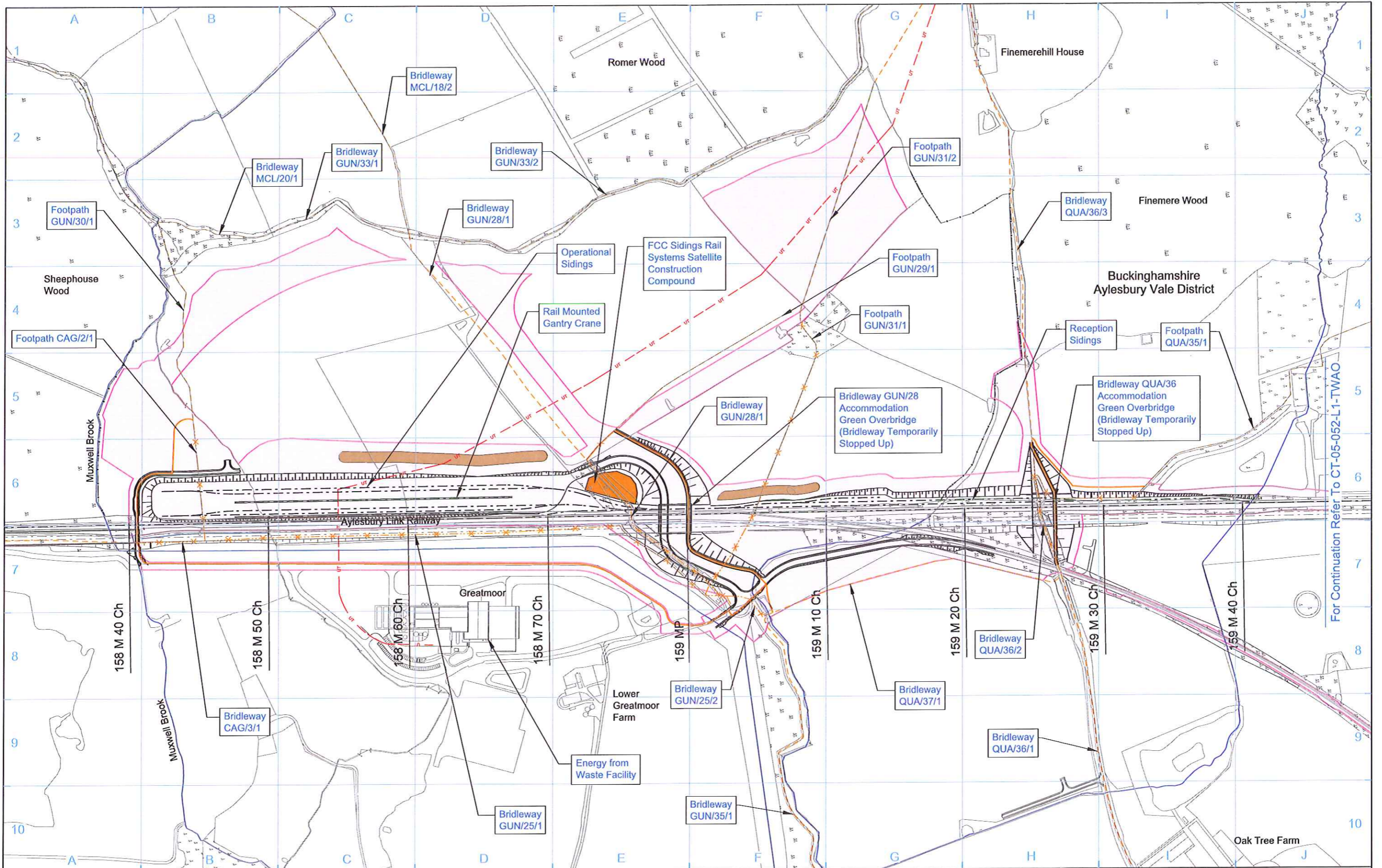
52. A 'Summary of Works' is attached to this report in Appendix 1a, outlining work carried out by the Rights of Way Operations Team between 1st April 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and 1st April 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
53. The bridge inspection project commenced in August 2015 with the intention that 400 bridge structures would be inspected up to the 31st March 2016 (end of financial year). Inspections are made on a priority basis, selecting first bridges on byways, restricted byways and bridleways, as they pose the greatest liability and potential

danger to the public if they fail. Full assessments are carried out to inform likely funding sources for repairs. Unfortunately it has become obvious that not all bridge structures have been recorded during earlier surveys. The total number of bridges inspected last financial year was 411, of these 54 were not recorded on the database. There is a plan to carry out a further 400 bridge inspections during the forthcoming financial year, but this target depends on staff and financial resources. With a number of vacancies within the team it has been necessary to review how this target can be achieved. One solution would be to seek assistance from volunteers to survey small sleeper bridge structures. However, volunteers would require training and equipment to carry out bridge surveys on behalf of Transport for Buckinghamshire.

54. Members of the Forum will recall that the Devolvement Project was 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. Funding was given to parish councils wishing to employ their contractors to undertake rights of way clearance work. Over 20 parishes took part in the scheme in 2014/15 amounting to 80 km of clearance in those parishes. The 2015/16 devolvement scheme had 45 parishes, carrying out approximately 170km of rights of way clearance, and the agreements also included other highway clearance and maintenance works. The latest information on the Devolvement Project for this coming financial year is that there are 86 parishes undertaking rights of way summer clearance as part of that agreement (Appendix 1b).
55. It is necessary to update the group on the current staffing levels in the Rights of Way Operations team. The current structure outlines positions for 7 FTE staff, 1 RoW Team Leader, 3 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officer and a Bridge Structure Inspector. The South Area RoW Officer post became vacant in August 2015. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints it will not be possible to recruit for that post at this current time. Additionally the Rights of Way Officer for Central Bucks, Rosie Taylor has a new position within Transport for Buckinghamshire and regrettably no longer works for Rights of Way. The current proposal is that this position will be advertised internally within the next couple of weeks.

**For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410**

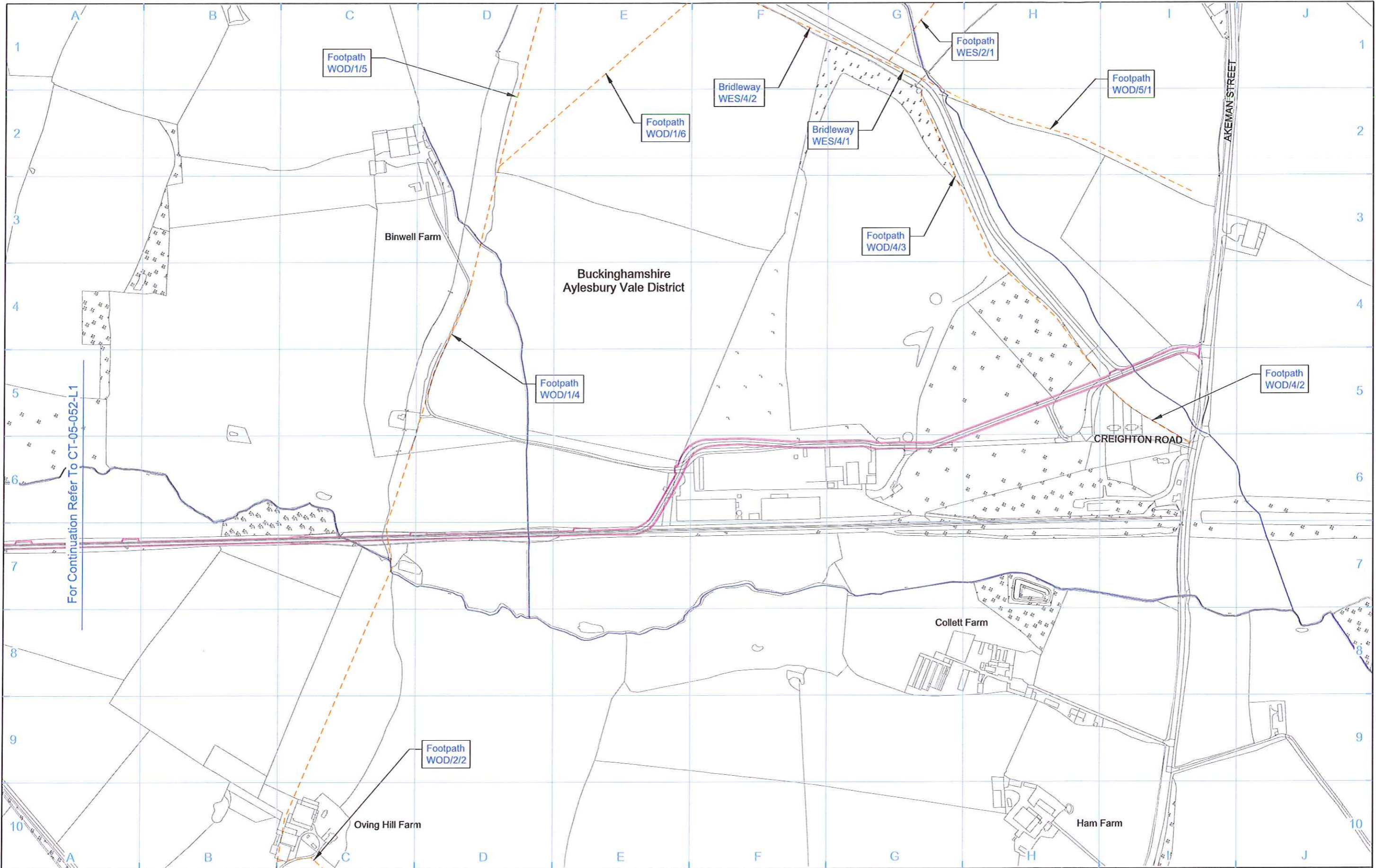




For Continuation Refer To CT-05-052-L1-TWAO

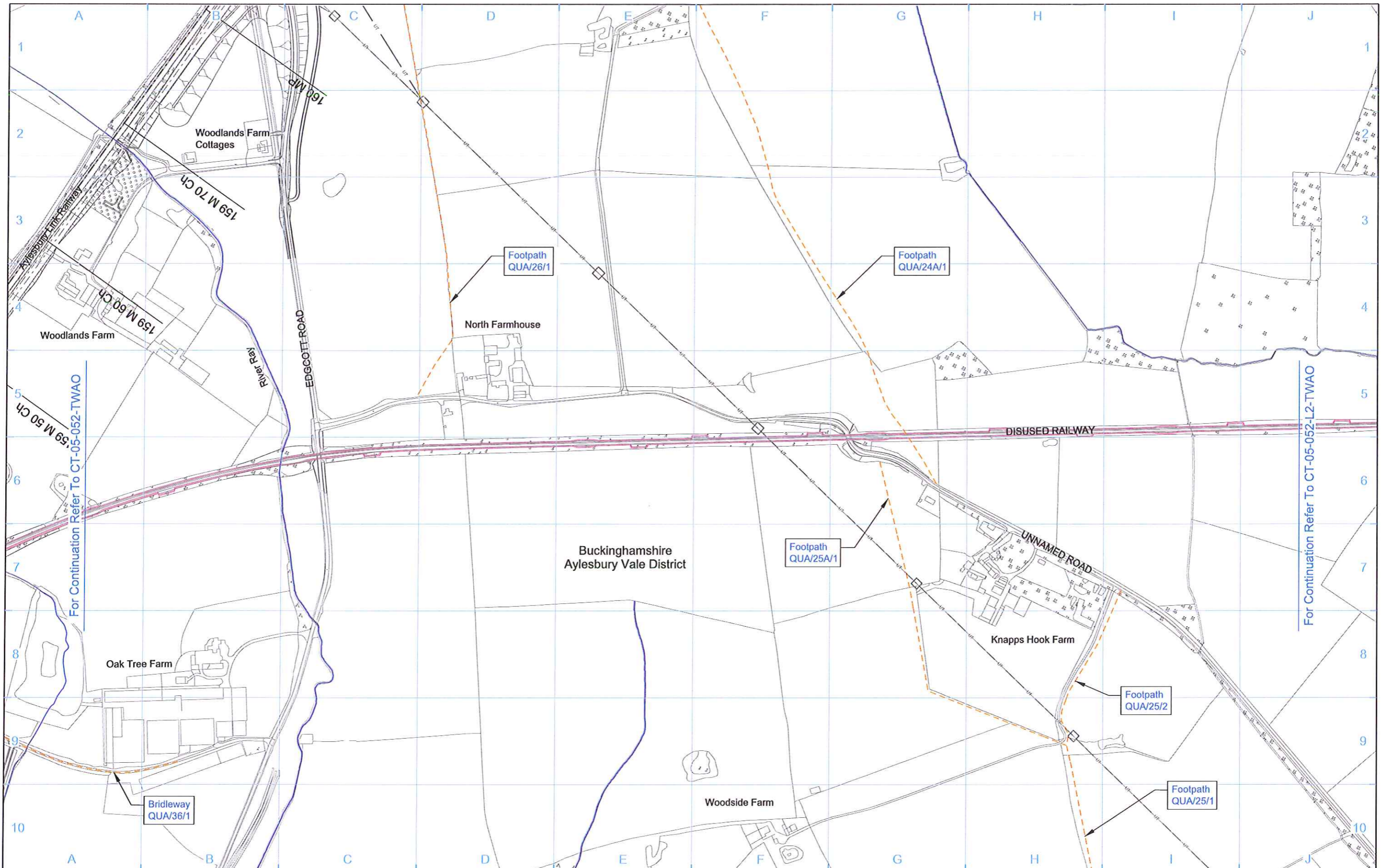
<b>Legend</b> 			Map Number <b>CT-05-052-TWAO</b>	 <small>HS2 Ltd accept no responsibility for any circumstances, which arise from the reproduction of this map after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it is issued in part or issued incomplete in any way.</small> <small>Registered in England. Registration number 06791668 Registered office: One Canada Square, London, E14 5AS</small> <small>© Crown copyright and database rights 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100049190.</small> <small>Scale at A3: 1:5,000</small>  <small>Doc Number: C222-ATK-EV-DPL-020-051299-TWAO P00.3 Date:</small>
Map Name <b>Construction Phase TWAO - High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) (Greatmoor Railway Sidings)</b>				





For Continuation Refer To CT-05-052-L1

<b>Legend</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Building</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ff9933; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Satellite construction compound</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ff6633; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Temporary material stockpile</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Engineering earthworks</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 2px solid pink; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Land potentially required during construction</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed purple; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Community forum boundary</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Existing watercourse</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid green; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Construction traffic route</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed orange; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Existing public right of way (PRoW)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid orange; margin-right: 5px;"></span> New, diverted or realigned PRoW</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed orange; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Stopped-up PRoW</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed pink; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Temporary PRoW diversion / realignment</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Temporary highway diversion / realignment</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> UT - Main utility works</li> </ul>				<p>Map Number <b>CT-05-052-L2-TWAO</b></p> <p>Map Name <b>Construction Phase TWAO - High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) (Greatmoor Railway Sidings)</b></p>	<p>HS2 Ltd accept no responsibility for any circumstances, which arise from the reproduction of this map after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it is issued in part or issued incomplete in any way.</p> <p><b>hs2</b></p> <p>Registered in England. Registration number 06791688 Registered office: One Canada Square, London, E14 5AB</p> <p>Scale at A3: 1:5,000</p> <p>© Crown copyright and database rights 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100049190.</p> <p>Doc Number: C222-ATK-EV-DPL-020-051297-TWAO P00.1 Date:</p>
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Legend			
	Building		Community forum boundary
	Satellite construction compound		Existing watercourse
	Temporary material stockpile		Construction traffic route
	Engineering earthworks		Existing public right of way (PRoW)
	Land potentially required during construction		New, diverted or realigned PRoW
	Stopped-up PRoW		Temporary PRoW diversion / realignment
	Temporary highway diversion / realignment		UT - Main utility works
	Chainage (e.g. 158M 10Ch)		Rail alignment

Map Number  
**CT-05-052-L1-TWAO**

Map Name  
**Construction Phase  
TWAO - High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) (Greatmoor Railway Sidings)**

**hs2**

Registered in England. Registration number 06791688  
Registered office: One Canada Square, London, E14 5AB

Scale at A3: 1:5,000

0 50 100 150 200 250 Metres

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# Buckinghamshire County Council - Rights of Way

## Summary of Maintenance Carried Out Between 1/04/15 and 31/03/16

TYPE	DESCRIPTION		
		Apr14 - Mar 15	Apr15-Mar16
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	6	9
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	133km	159km
Bridge	Installed or repaired	39	61
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	149	233
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	10	7
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	91	97
Intimidation + animal	Intimidation - resolved	13	30
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	3	6
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	6	4
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	71	117
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	10	20
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	236	193
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	9	19
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	107	133
Other	Delivery of materials	27	44
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	35	44
Stile	Installed or repaired	163	217
Stile	Stile To Gap	15	32
Stile	Stile To KG	61	76
Stile	Stile To PG	36	62
Terrain	Bank Steps	5	14
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	44	74
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	126	148
Authorisation	New Structure HA80 sec 147	2	2
Issues Completed	Since 1st April 2015		2198
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	1750	1368
Volunteer Hours	RA Only		445
Improvements	To aid mobility access	191	257
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	84%	64%
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	94%	90%
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	96%	95%
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 31/03/16	1531	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 17/06/16		1565
% of issues in targ time	Category C issues on Matrix	76%	72%

### Chiltern Society Jobs Completed

#### Type

Clearance direct from BCC	135 jobs/29km
Miscellaneous Jobs	10
Waymarking and signs	101
Gates Repaired and installed	46
Bank Steps	6
Stiles replaced and repaired	71
Trees removed	47
<b>1368 hours</b>	<b>416 jobs completed</b>



List of Parishes in Devolvment Project 2016 to 2017

T2	Akeley PC	T2	Cuddington PC	T2	Hughenden PC	T1	Pitstone PC
T1	Adstock PC	T1	Denham PC	T1	Lacey Green PC	T2	Preston Bissett PC
T1	Amersham TC	T1	Dinton with Ford & Upton PC	T2	Lane End PC	T1	Princes Risborough TC
T2	Ashendon	T1	Dorney PC	T1	Little Chalfont PC	T1	Quainton PC
T2	Aston Abbotts PC	T2	Downley PC	T2	Little Horwood	T1	Seer Green PC
T1	Aston Clinton PC	T1	Drayton Parslow PC	T1	Little Marlow PC	T2	Shabbington PC
T1	Aston Sandford PM	T1	East Claydon PC	T2	Long Crendon PC	T1	Slapton PC
T1	Aylesbury TC	T2	Edlesborough PC	T1	Longwick cum Ilmer PC	T1	Stewkley PC
T2	Beaconsfield TC	T1	Ellesborough PC	T2	Ludgershall PC	T2	Soulbury PC
T1	Bierton with Broughton PC	T2	Farnham Royal PC	T2	Maid's Moreton	T1	Stoke Hammond PC
T1	Bledlow cum Saunderton PC	T1	Gerrards Cross PC	T2	Marlow TC	T1	Stoke Mandeville PC
T1	Bradenham PC	T2	Granborough PC	T2	Marsh Gibbon PC	T2	Stokenchurch PC
T2	Brill PC	T2	Great Brickhill	T1	Mentmore PC	T1	Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell PC
T1	Buckingham TC	T2	Great Horwood	T1	Mursley PC	T1	Swanbourne PC
T2	Chalfont St Giles PC	T2	Great Marlow PC	T2	Nash PC	T2	Waddesdon PC
T1	Chalfont St Peter PC	T2	Grendon Underwood PC	T1	Newton Longville PC	T1	Watermead PC
T2	Cheddington PC	T1	Haddenham PC	T2	North Marston PC	T2	Weedon PC
T2	Chesham Bois PC	T2	Hambleton	T2	Oakley PC	T1	West Wycombe PC
T2	Chesham TC	T1	Hardwick PC	T1	Oving PC	T1	Weston Turville PC
T2	Cholesbury cum St Leonards PC	T2	Hazlemere PC	T2	Padbury PC	T2	Wingrave w Rowsham PC
T1	Coldharbour PC	T2	Hillesden PC	T1	Penn PC	T1	Winslow TC
						T2	Wooburn & Bourne End PC
						T1	Worminghall PC





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 5

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Title:** LAF members' report

**Author:** Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access

**Contact Officer:** Christina Beavers (01296 382938)

### Open Access

1. A parcel of common land (CL217) near Frieth (RG9 6NR) has been fenced off (see Appendix 2a), on land crossed by Footpath 15 Hambledon Parish, without permission under section 38 Commons Act 2006. The Forum have offered to help resolve the case following complaints to the parish council, who are represented at today's meeting by the clerk. A site visit took place with LAF member Andrew Clarke on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 where the owner was met who happened to be gardening. The common land is very small, (0.12 acres), has no commoner's rights and is mostly classified as 'excepted' land under CROW Act 2000 open access legislation as it's within 20 metres of a dwelling Appendix 2b. The fence does not obstruct the public footpath as shown in the photos Appendix 2c. Further advice has been sought from the Open Spaces Society on how to regularise the fence or enforce removal. It may be possible for the owner to de-register the common, but we have no evidence suggesting it has been wrongly registered. Advice is sought from the Forum on how to proceed.

### Restoring the Record Project

2. This LAF project aims to progress work towards achieving better access in the county before the definitive map is closed for new applications on the basis of historical documentary evidence. A total of 45 people have volunteered from parish councils and user groups to research lost rights of way, before the definitive map cut-off date on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. Feedback from the training day on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and led by Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks was very positive. People were able to meet Ross Osborn, the volunteer co-ordinator, to allocate areas and make commitments. Spatial coverage in the county is shown in Appendix 3. A number of positive outcomes have followed the training day, including:
  - agreement from the Centre of Buckinghamshire Studies to provide an annual photography ticket to volunteers;
  - the project has been added to the Chiltern Conservation Board's directory of volunteering opportunities;

- publication of the 'List of Streets' on the county website and provision of a spreadsheet on request;
- an article circulated to parish councils and Bucks Older Person's Action Group (BOPAG) Appendix 4.
- The purchase of 2 copies of 'Rights of Way: Restoring the Record' books, now available in Aylesbury and High Wycombe libraries.

However, a number of issues have been raised which require the forum's advice:

- Recruiting more volunteers, especially in north Bucks;
- Providing a web-based electronic database of information;
- Issues raised by LAF member Alison Heath (Appendix 5a), the chairman's response (Appendix 5b) and Alison's additional response (Appendix 5c); and
- LAF member Andrew Clarke has asked if applications can be made in the name of the Local Access Forum rather than individuals.

### **Little Chalfont Nature Park**

3. Immediately following the March LAF meeting, advice was sought by the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust from LAF member for the National Trust, Neil Harris, and LAF member for Disabled Ramblers, Gavin Caspersz on provision of disabled access at the emerging Little Chalfont Nature Park. The parish council will take over the maintenance of the park, but wanted to ensure that work to accommodate disabled access at the site was sufficient to avoid a claim under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (repealed and replaced by the Equality Act 2010). A letter from the charity summarises their position (Appendix 6a) and a reply was sent in time for the opening of the Nature Park in April 2016 (Appendix 6b). Gavin has offered to survey the site and can provide feedback to the charity in due course.

### **District Council local plans**

4. AVDC and Wycombe are consulting on their draft local plans over the coming weeks, with a Wycombe deadline in 2 weeks' time. Members should be aware of the proposals as they are detailed and wide-ranging, shaping development over a number of years. Comments are invited in the next 10 days for the chairman to compile a formal LAF response. South Bucks and Chiltern are combining their local plan which will be consulted upon in October 2016.

### **Ongoing Projects**

5. LAF member for disabled access, Gavin Caspersz, has secured £500 from Wingrave with Rowsham parish council to undertake installation of two new gates, drainage works and levelling a Thames Water manhole cover to improve disabled access on Wingrave Footpath 1, located at the end of Castle Street, Wingrave. This has now been completed in consultation with the local farmer, David Murrell.

### **Joint work with Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) and Slough LAFs**

- LAF member for disabled access, Gavin Caspersz has attended a number of meetings with neighbouring authorities in the south Buckinghamshire, the most recent of which, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016, he was unable to attend. A further joint meeting is arranged at Maidenhead Town Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, with Slough and Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) LAFs present. Items discussed relevant to Bucks include:



- Joint LAF training session: this will be held from 10am to 4pm on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Maidenhead Town Hall, with lunch provided. Richard Pushman and Gavin Caspersz have volunteered to attend and there is one more space. The course will be run by the Institute of Public Rights of Way Management (IPROW) and will cover the following topics, as suggested by the local LAF chairs group:
  - PROW basics and the role of the LAF
  - Impact of the Deregulation Act 2015
  - Access for disabled users
  - Right of way claim process and investigation
  
- Jubilee River network: the introduction of equestrian access along the Jubilee River between Taplow and Eton was discussed, but nothing could be progressed until the EA reply to the proposals. This has now been received so further discussions to resolve these issues will be discussed on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, where other LAF members are welcome to attend.

### **Correspondence**

6. LAF member for the BHS, Alison Heath, wrote to the council asking about a Pegasus crossing along a bridleway in Wexham which crosses the A412 between Black Park and Langley Park. Alison's letter and the reply from Transport for Buckinghamshire are enclosed in Appendix 7.
  
7. The LAF have supported two bids by the Chilterns Conservation Board: the Chiltern's Walking Festival (Appendix 8a), for which there is a project brief outlined in Appendix 8b; and the Chiltern's Landscape Partnership (Appendix 9a), for which there is a partner's letter (Appendix 9b) and project brief (Appendix 9c).
  
8. Independent LAF member, Glyn Thomas, requested further information on the Pegasus crossing of the A413 at Buckingham Park, Aylesbury and the likely installation date. A response from Strategic Planning in April 2016 is included in Appendix 10.

### **North Bucks rRIPPLE Donate-a-Gate**

9. Advice was sought from the LAF at the March 2016 LAF by Bill Piers, from the North Bucks rRIPPLE group (ramblers Repairing and Improving Paths for Pleasure Leisure and Exercise), planning a Donate-a-Gate scheme in north Buckinghamshire. The scheme is now launched and the group have been installing gates over the last 4 months at a rate of 1/week. Regular requests for work are being received from the Rights of Way Team, with sufficient to see them through the summer and beyond. The number on incoming donations is slow, but people are beginning to take an interest, such as The Haddenham U3A Walking Group (£250). More information on donating can be found here: <http://www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.html> and an application form is enclosed (Appendix 11). Since Bill's presentation the Chairman has written to all 7 Local Area Forum Chairmen in the Aylesbury Vale district area (Appendix 12), and the LAF's advice sought on how to further promote the scheme.

### **Membership**

10. Stephen Thorns has provisionally expressed an interest in representing cycling on the Forum and will introduce himself at the start. He has a business in Thame and is

part of a fairly large, but informal group of cyclists that enjoy mountain biking in the Chilterns. He has also been a Ridgeway National Trial volunteer for two years.

### **Annual Report**

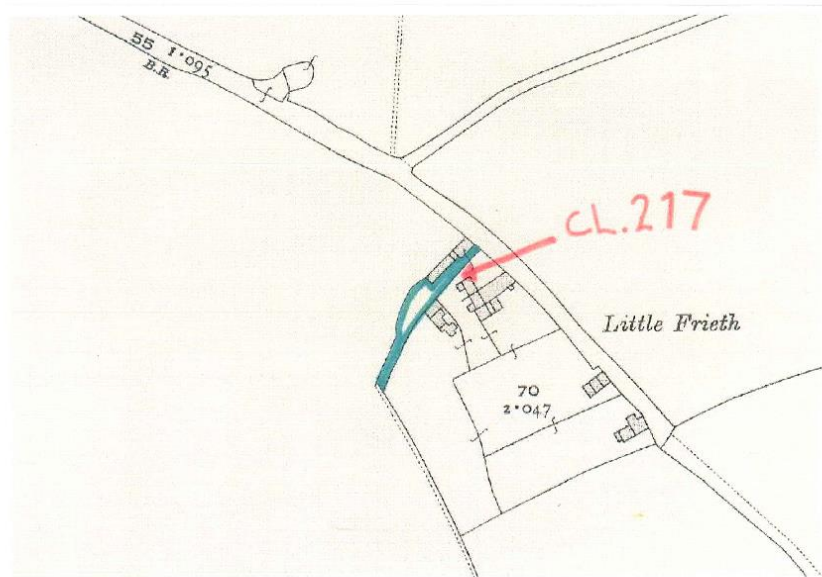
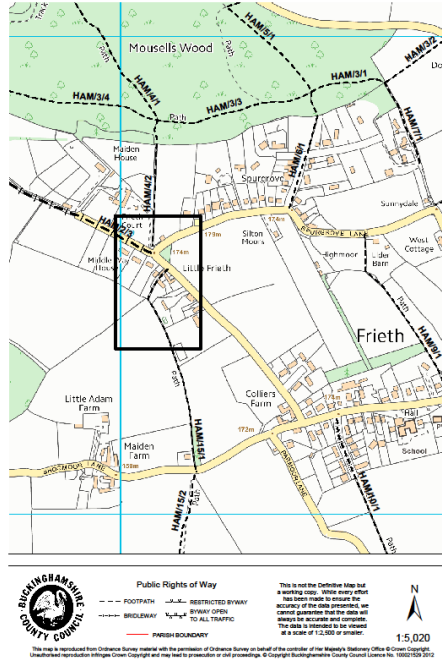
11. The Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report for April 2015 – March 2016 has been drafted and members are asked to review and agree the content. Natural England's submission deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 (Appendix 13).

### **LAF News**

12. The latest edition of Natural England's quarterly Newsletter is enclosed in Appendix 14.

### **LAF dates for 2016 & 2017**

13. Dates of the next meetings are in Mezz 1 on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016; 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016; 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017; 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017; and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.







Backlins

The Flat Roofed House

The Cottage

Old Well Cottage

Apple Tree Cottage

Whirsun

Rowan Cottage

Creighton

HAM/15/1

Chilterns

Light

Fermain

Agenda Item 5 Appendix 2



### Frieth Common land photos

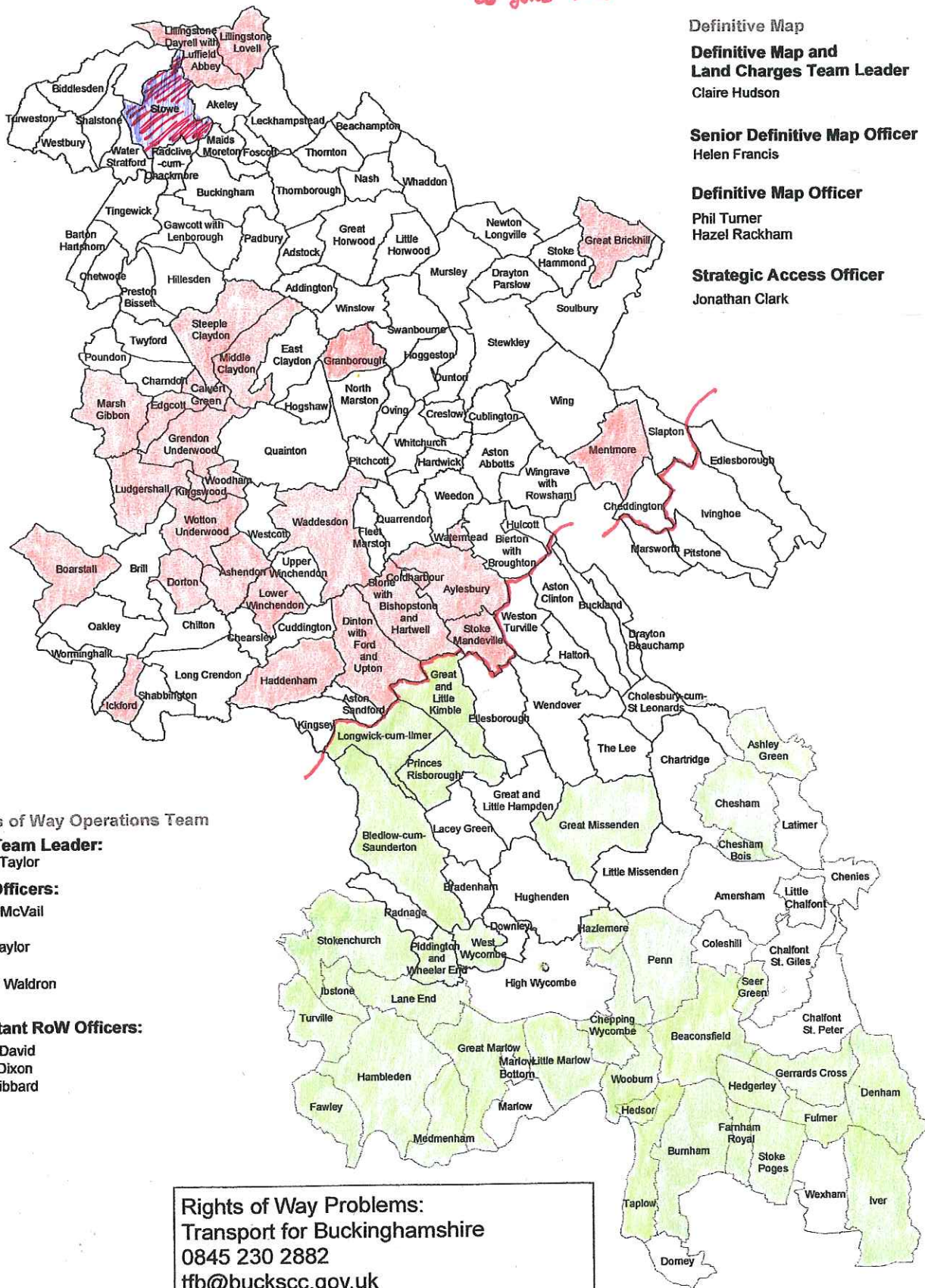






# RIGHTS OF WAY AREAS AND PARISHES

CONFIRMED PARISHES  
06 JUNE 2016



**Definitive Map**  
**Definitive Map and Land Charges Team Leader**  
 Claire Hudson  
**Senior Definitive Map Officer**  
 Helen Francis  
**Definitive Map Officer**  
 Phil Turner  
 Hazel Rackham  
**Strategic Access Officer**  
 Jonathan Clark

**Rights of Way Operations Team**

**Area Team Leader:**  
 Joanne Taylor

**Area Officers:**  
 Alastair McVail

Rosie Taylor

Corinne Waldron

**Assistant RoW Officers:**

Sophie David  
 James Dixon  
 Rose Gibbard

**Rights of Way Problems:**  
 Transport for Buckinghamshire  
 0845 230 2882  
 tfb@buckscc.gov.uk

County Hall,  
 Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UY  
 Tel: 0845 3708090  
 DX 97401 Aylesbury2  
 email:row@buckscc.gov.uk

**Definitive Map / Strategic Access Enquiry**  
 0845 370 8090  
 row@buckscc.gov.uk

Correct as at 1 February 2016





## Footpaths and Bridleways — Restoring the Record

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 it will no longer be possible to use documentary evidence to claim 'lost ways'. Any path, track, alleyway, bridleway, cut-through, etc. not registered on the definitive map could be in danger of being lost forever. Even old and still well-used, but officially unrecorded, paths and tracks may at risk. The ancient maxim on which many past claimants have relied: 'once a highway always a highway' will be history.

What does that actually mean to those of us who walk, cycle or horse ride along our local public footpaths and bridleways? Simply...if it isn't registered, an owner could put a gate or fence across it and prohibit all entry to the public – quite legally – and think how that could hinder our access to the countryside.

Here are just a few questions worth considering, just in your parish:

- Are there old lanes not currently used, but could potentially be useful in the future?
- Do you remember a route you walked as a child that is not currently accessible?
- Why does that footpath or bridleway suddenly end at the parish or county boundary or why
- does that bridleway suddenly end and become a footpath?
- Are all public footpaths and bridleways accurately mapped by the Ordnance Survey?
- Do routes you use join the metalled highway or is there a strip of gravel not marked as a footpath or bridleway on the map?
- Is that track or hollow way you use through your local wood actually a definitive path?

After 2026 historic map and documentary evidence will be inadmissible to claim 'lost' or existing routes not on the definitive map (though it will be possible to claim paths on the basis of 20 years, unopposed, use).

The basic message is starkly simple – the risk is that we take our access to the countryside for granted; we use routes for recreation and as a means of linking

places together; but if we don't check what we already have, or what has been used in the past, we could lose it. If we don't re-research what we use now and have done in the past, we may never get another chance to register it in future.

Do you have any old maps, letters, books or photos which show that paths once existed? They could be very important. Verbal memories also often provide worthwhile clues!

Fortunately, the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers and British Horse Society, among others, and our parish council are taking an initiative to do what they can for the benefit of local parishes and our neighbours to secure unrecorded paths for future generations to enjoy. Will you help us, please?

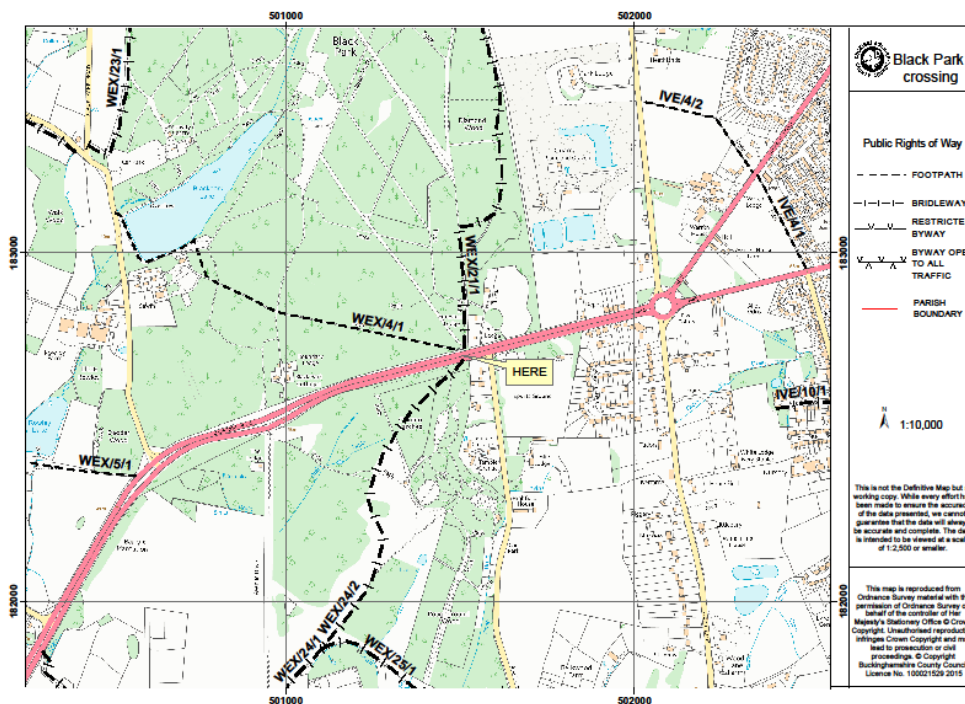
We need all sorts of help, whether it's people to check maps, walk paths, sharing your memories and knowledge of paths, do research and get new links approved – this is both a countywide and countryside initiative.

If you are interested and are prepared to help, contact Ross Osborn (rossosborn41@gmail.com or call 01494 881641) or you can contact Andy (details on the back) who can either put you in contact with your local volunteer, or will send you all the information you need to know to start out on this potentially fascinating detective hunt.

Ross Osborn







View looking north towards Denham



View looking south towards Slough



15<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Mr Pushman,

I am contacting you as the chairman of our Local Access Forum. I am a member of the Forum representing equestrians or rather the British Horse Society. I have been the BHS Bucks County Access and Bridleways Officer for the last three years and have been particularly interested in research into historical records to ensure rights of way are recorded at the correct status on the Definitive Map. I am a retired librarian (I was a curator in the British Library) and since my retirement have been doing research in the National Archives in connection with a biography which has now been published as a research monograph. With some time to spare I turned my attention to researching rights of way and have already submitted five DMMOs.

I attended the Restoring the Record training day on May and it appeared to be a great success judging from the numbers attending. However it did make it quite clear to me that research into rights of way along the lines of 'restoring the record' is not much use for those who are interested in putting lost footpaths on to the Definitive Map. Research along the lines recommended by our trainers on the day, Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks, mainly relates to ensuring that rights of way with higher rights than footpaths - bridleways and restricted byways - are correctly recorded on the Definitive Map. A lot of the evidence used in this type of research is not very relevant to research into lost footpaths. In view of this those attendees at the training course who were more interested in footpath research may have found the day did not meet their expectations.

I do feel that we have not thought through our project 'Restoring the Record'. To me it appears trying to combine research into lost footpaths with work along the lines of 'restoring the record' work will not work. We cannot ask our volunteers to do both.

As for me I am very happy working to use historical evidence to ensure that all rights of way are recorded at their correct status but, even after the training day, I am still completely lost when it comes to footpaths. This is not to say that I am not interested in footpaths. I think the project should be put on the agenda for the next forum. It was a mistake to ask for volunteers to come forward in the way we have done and then go on to ask them which parishes they were interested in. Some volunteers are really only interested in footpaths while others want to work along the lines of 'restoring the record' research. In short we should have had two projects not one.

I hope we can find a way forward but I think much more thought and planning needs to be put into the project or possibly projects. I am copying this message to Ross Osborne, our co-ordinator. I feel he has been given an extremely difficult job and I am sure he also has concerns about the project as it stands.

Kind regards,

Alison Heath

LAF member and BHS County Access and Bridleways Officer for Bucks

(By email)





## 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

Legal & Democratic Services, County Hall, AYLESBURY, HP20 1UY



**From:** Alison Heath [mailto:[alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk)]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2016 11:39  
**To:** Pushman (External), Richard  
**Cc:** ross osborn; Clark, Jonathan  
**Subject:** Rights of Way - historic research

Dear Mr Pushman,

Thank you so much for your response to my concerns about the organisation of this research. I do understand that some historic evidence is useful for those who are researching lost footpaths, but it cannot be used to the same extent with regard to research on tracks with higher rights. It is not for nothing that bridleways used to be called bridle roads. They were roads and left a bigger imprint than footpaths. Those who are trying to get higher rights on certain routes recorded have access to more historical evidence such as the old travellers' maps for Bucks, which date back to the eighteenth century, and the tithe maps which are of little or no use for research into lost footpaths.

This means that research for tracks with higher rights than footpaths needs to be conducted on a larger scale than footpath research. Volunteers have been asked to say which areas they are interested in researching - parishes or clusters of parishes. While this may be ideal for research into lost footpaths it does not serve the interests of those who are mainly interested in researching routes with higher rights.

Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks recommend that research should be carried out on a systematic basis and that researchers should draw up their own research maps to record the tracks of interest to them and their progress in carrying out research on them. This enables researchers to communicate with other researchers and prevents research being duplicated. These maps are based on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps. My particular research area is based on the Explorer Map 192 at present i.e. Buckingham & Milton Keynes. I do think we need to rethink what we are doing here so that the research can be properly coordinated.

I note that you refer to the lack of bridleways highlighted in ROWIP. It also notes the fragmented nature of the bridleway network. I am finding that all the DMMO applications I have so far put in are helping to create important connections between bridleways so historic research appears to be of particular importance in helping to create a connected bridleway network.

I have one other concern about the research as it is now operating. All researchers have been asked to work on both footpaths and bridleways. While I am happy to look for lost footpaths in the parish where I live (Hogshaw) because I walk as well as ride here I would not be able to research footpaths in an area which is not familiar to me. With this in mind I think it is unfair to ask volunteers to research both footpaths and bridleways in the area they want to cover if their real interest is in routes with higher rights. As I have said, these volunteers need to research a larger area, not just clusters of parishes.

Lastly the ROWIP refers to safety issues and the need to take walkers, horse riders and cyclists off busy roads. This is of particular importance with regard to horse riders. Much publicity has rightly been given to accidents relating to cyclists but the statistics are even more horrifying for horse riders. While the government figures for

hospital admissions for accidents with vehicles (2012-3) was 2820 for cyclists it was 4052 for horse riders.

I will of course continue with my research into routes with higher rights in north Bucks and keep Ross Osborn informed of what I am doing. I am very ready to co-operate with anyone working in the area I have outlined and to share what experience I have with other researchers.

I am sorry to bother you with another long email but I do feel it is important that we put our thoughts down in writing.

Kind regards,

Alison Heath

LAF member and BHS County Access and Bridleways Officer for Bucks

#### Note from the highway authority

The LAF project is to research definitive rights, see if there are any errors and to 'restore the record' – whether that be identifying missing routes or seeking to change the status of an existing route. Volunteers will be able to research 'whole routes' that cross parish, district and county boundaries and communicate between each other to eliminate duplication of effort.

The volunteers do not have to be experts; the vast majority of applications received are from every-day people who are not experts in rights of way or historical research. They just need to present to us their findings and why they think the definitive map is wrong; we will do the rest. It is hoped the training has given the volunteers an idea about the documents they can research and the confidence to make an application. They do not have to look at every piece of evidence, so it is hoped this will not put people off. While familiarity with an area can help, it is assumed both footpath and bridleway research can be done 'remotely' by comparison between the definitive map and reference to the historical data.

Feedback from participants of the training day has been very positive.



# Little Chalfont Nature Park

## The Issue

- The Little Chalfont Charitable Trust (LCCT) is delivering the Nature Park as a community project, funded by private donations and grants.
- The Parish Council will take over the operation and maintenance of the park on opening.
- Before doing so, it requires confirmation that it will not open itself to a claim for discrimination under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

## The case for the situation being reasonable

1. The project has, from the outset, been one that provides access to all, irrespective of age, mobility or other disability.
2. It had been the intention that an access road through the woodland, leading to the rare meadow, together with tarmac paths around the meadow, would be laid before the park was opened but, as insufficient funds have been raised and the project has been running for 3+ years, it has been decided to open this year (late Spring) with all proposed features installed, except the paths around the Park.
3. Many individuals in the community have donated and we do not wish to deprive them of this very special amenity.
4. The LCCT is to give an absolute commitment to the Parish Council that the tarmac meadow paths will be laid as soon as the money has been raised.
5. The access road, gates and fencing are currently being installed. They facilitate access and the gate for public access has been designed for wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc. **Access to all is therefore available – and encouraged.**
6. A potential downside is that there will be only be mown grass paths within the meadow to guide people around (and avoid damage to the grasses & wild flowers) during the Spring and Summer, until such time as the funds are raised. The mown paths (and the meadow itself in the autumn & winter) may be more difficult to navigate for those less able.
7. It planned to have a suitable notice at the entrance to make those with disability aware that, pending the funds to create tarmac paths, care needs to be taken in navigating around the meadow and through the woodland. (No hard-surfaced paths are planned for the woodland).

## Other information

- An extensive web site is available at [www.naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk](http://www.naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk)

- This is a balanced amenity that will both conserve & protect the semi-natural ancient woodland, plus the rare meadow (unimproved land designated as MG5 grassland with wild flowers) **and** provide a tranquil area for the whole community to use.
- On opening, there will be a picnic area on a part of the park which does not have the rarity of the meadow, with wheelchair friendly picnic table, together with carved benches (with birds/animals), display boards to describe a) what can be seen on the meadow and b) the history of the site and a mushroom seating + ‘throne’ as a storytelling area.
- Together with a Learning Zone on the web site, the Nature Park will be promoted, initially with local primary & secondary schools, for learning field trips. Preparations are well advanced and we are working with Dr Challoner’s High School, an immediate neighbour to the park.
- Recent applications to BIFFA & SITA Trust for the balance of the money to deliver the project have not been approved – mainly it is understood, in view of the large number of other applications. The trustees continue to actively pursue all other fundraising opportunities.

## **Conclusion**

It is the conclusion of the trustees of LCCT that everything is being done that is **reasonably** possible, including the commitment to lay the paths as an improvement to the amenity and that no-one is being precluded from accessing the park.

## **Sought**

Formal confirmation from an ‘expert in the field’ of the DDA & other linked legislation that the Parish Council will not open itself to a claim by being in breach of the DDA.

Roger Funk  
Trustee

01494 762260

[rogerfunk@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerfunk@btinternet.com)

## Advice to Little Chalfont Parish Council

You seem to have done all you can to make the site as accessible as possible. You have planned from the outset to make it 'accessible for all', rather than it being an after-thought and trying to 'retro-fit' structures and design. It's free to access without any charges being made for disabled people, i.e. the 'service' you are providing for able-bodied people costs the same for disabled people.

You have provided resting places for those with, for example, walking distance problems (arthritis or pregnant women), have provided a specific picnic bench accessible for a wheel chair. The site is relatively level and is accessible from the highway (footway network); there are no kerbs without being 'dropped'; and there are no gates that can't be opened from a wheelchair or mobility scooter (see below\*). There are some formal surfaced paths around the site so a certain percentage of the site is accessible for wheelchairs, with the intension to provide more surfaced paths when funds allow. There are no steps along any of the paths, but if these are necessary in future then adjoining ramps can be provided at the correct gradient. The grass paths will be regularly mown so mobility scooters can use the paths and stronger wheelchair users can use these more challenging path surfaces.

\*You mentioned a pedestrian gate at the entrance to the site. Is this really necessary? Why not have just a 1m gap so wheelchairs and mobility scooters can just wheel in without stopping. This would overcome any problems leaning forward and fiddling with gate latches from a mobility scooter or wheelchair, or in future if the gate latch becomes stiff if one of the posts drops.

In your case, a lack of funds is a legitimate defence to any DDA challenge, but what you have been able to provide *is* accessible. Challenges tend to come when wheelchairs can't even access a site, or when charges are made for disabled people while others access for free (e.g. Ryan Air).

Gavin has said he would be happy to come and assess the site. His email is: [gavincaspersz@glasswa.com](mailto:gavincaspersz@glasswa.com)

There is also a Chiltern Disability Focus Group who you could consult: <https://isa.chiltern.gov.uk/democracy/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=244>





**From:** Dando, Simon  
**Sent:** 20 June 2016 11:37  
**To:** Clark, Jonathan  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Pegasus Crossing on the A412

### **TfB Schemes**

While I understand the views of those requesting the Pegasus crossing, given the limited funds and the county needs, this scheme is regrettably not a priority (from either the perspective of safety or signal improvement). This is based on the application of national guidance which requires the prioritisation of schemes based on recorded collision data. There have been no reported injury collisions at the crossing point or the approaches in the last 5 years.

### **LAF Funded Schemes**

We are not aware of any outline request being put forward to the Local Area Forum. There may be an opportunity for this scheme to be discussed and prioritised with wider local residents, however I would highlight the construction of a Pegasus crossing may well exceed £300k, which will far exceed the funding available to the LAF.

### **Alternative Funding**

We are also aware such a scheme would be outside the scope and proposals for the Pinewood Development, and hence S106 or other such similar funding would not be applicable.

Given the above, unless private funding is available, this scheme is highly unlikely to proceed.

**Simon Dando**  
Contract Director  
Transport for Buckinghamshire

**From:** Alison Heath  
**Sent:** 14 March 2016 15:10  
**To:** Clark, Jonathan  
**Subject:** Pegasus Crossing on the A412

Dear Jonathan,

For some time there has been a campaign to get a Pegasus crossing over this very dangerous road in the Slough area.

Last time I raised the matter at a LAF meeting you told me that it had been ruled out as there were no speed limits on the road and a bridge was too expensive. Some people in the British Horse Society remain very concerned about this crossing as it is extremely dangerous.

We cannot find any guidelines about the siting of Pegasus crossings - it appears that whether or not it is safe to proceed is a matter for the highway engineers. Please could you give us more details about the decision not to proceed with this crossing? Is it because there is no speed limit, are the sight lines poor and so on?

I think a lot of people will remain concerned about the situation where the A412 cuts right through an important recreational area separating Langley Park from Black Park, with no provision for vulnerable users to cross the road.

Kind regards,

Alison Heath

BHS CABO for Bucks

## 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.*

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Annette,

### **Celebration of Chilterns walking: a 3-year programme of walking festivals and events**

Thank you for consulting the Local Access Forum with your project brief towards a Leader bid for walking festivals and events beginning April 2017.

On behalf of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, I am delighted to offer our support which we hope will bring wider benefits to communities within Chilterns: by improving health, encouraging greater use of the rights of way network and open access land, promoting greater understanding and appreciation of the Chilterns landscape and attracting greater tourism income.

We would be delighted to hear more as the application progresses and will be pleased to offer further advice and support and in any way we can.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Pushman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Richard Pushman (Chairman)





## **Chilterns Celebration of Walking**

### **Project Brief for Project Management input to 3 year programme of Chilterns Walking Festivals and events**

Issued by the Chilterns Conservation Board, April 2016

#### **Project Background**

This brief is issued by the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB), the statutory body charged with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and increasing public understanding and enjoyment of them. The CCB is planning to develop an exciting 3 year programme to promote walking in the Chilterns through a series of Walking Festivals and events, starting April 2017. It is the first event of its kind in the Chilterns. It is dependent on funding from the Leader programme, the outline application was successful and a full application will be submitted on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The CCB will be outsourcing the project management and is inviting quotes.

#### **The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

The Chilterns was designated as an AONB in 1965, in recognition that the landscape is amongst the finest in the country. The Chilterns lie only a few miles to the north-west of London and yet they have a very rural character. The gently rolling hills are swathed in woodland and chalk downland and provide a haven for wildlife including rare flowers like the Chilterns gentian and the spectacular red kite. In the valleys attractive villages with their traditional brick and flint cottages nestle around medieval churches.

Prehistoric trackways such as the Ridgeway and the Iron Age hill forts scattered along the Hills give a sense of the ancient history of the Chilterns. Today, the area continues to provide a living for farmers and foresters and is home to 80,000 people.

The Chilterns offers excellent walking opportunities: over 2,000km of rights of way and many promoted routes, including two National Trails (see appendix 1 for further information).

#### **Proposal for a 3 year programme of Chilterns Walking Festivals and Events**

The 3 year programme will promote walks and outdoor events in many different locations across the Chilterns, building on the wealth of existing guided walks and events and introducing new themed walks (eg Food and

Drink, Hidden Heritage, Hillforts, Midsomer Murders), promoting them to a wider audience. The project will aim to attract visitors from outside the area and increase the number of overnight stays in the Chilterns and thereby increase visitor spend.

The Chilterns Walking Festivals will provide opportunities for a regional/national promotion campaign, working with the rail companies and the London press to attract a far wider and bigger audience than could be achieved by local events each working individually. It is estimated that the project will attract 10,000 participants over the 3 year period, at the same time increasing the visibility of the Chilterns to far greater audiences. **See appendix for further details.**

### **Seeking project manager: Services Required**

The project will be hosted and overseen by the CCB. However the CCB will be outsourcing the project delivery. The project manager role will involve close working with staff at the CCB and you will be based at the CCB's office in Chinnor. The role will encompass the following tasks:

- Working with 20 or so partners to encourage them to put on walks and events during the Festival periods (70+ walks expected for a 15 day Festival). Initiating new themed walks and events.
- Collating details of guided walks and events (existing and new) and incorporating them in the Festival programmes.
- Designing/adding new web pages to promote the Walking Festival (likely to be hosted on Chilterns AONB website), using a standard content management system. This will involve writing content, uploading information and photos. Also routine uploading of walks and events. .
- Raising income by seeking sponsorship and other fundraising
- Working with volunteers and organisations such as the Chiltern Society who will be leading some of the walks.
- Liaising with walk leaders, briefing them, gathering feedback. Ensuring walk leaders have Chilterns leaflets/branding
- Working with the CCB, the Chilterns Tourism Network and other partners to promote the programme of Festivals and events through the Chilterns AONB and Visit Chilterns website, social media, Press and partners.
- Devising a marketing plan and publicising the Festivals using social media and other communications (there will be some additional specialist input from a PR professional).
- Administration to support the programme.
- Developing and managing an on-line booking system if applicable.

There will be 6 distinct Festival periods within the 3 years as follows:

April/May 2017 (15 days)	Sep/Oct 2017 (9 days)
April/May 2018 (minimum 15 days)	Sep/Oct 2018 (9 days)
April/May 2019 (minimum 15 days)	Sep/Oct 2019 (9 days)

The bulk of the time-input will be in the first year when the initial set-up needs to be done, eg setting up the website, establishing contacts, programme design, branding. This will establish a model for future roll-out and it is

expected that volunteer input will increase over time. Approximate time distribution over the 3 years is shown below:

Year one 60% time input  
Year two 30% time input  
Year three 10% time input

It is expected that there will be a concentration of time-input leading up to each of the 6 Festivals. Working hours will be subject to discussion. Regular working at the CCB office is desired.

### **Type of person we are looking for/types of skills required**

- Previous project management skills
- Experience of creating events programmes
- Experience in generating sponsorship/funding/building resources
- A 'people person' with good interpersonal skills
- Understanding/knowledge of countryside access/tourism
- Proficient with using content management systems
- Marketing and promotion skills - and proficiency in using promotional tools and communications such as social media
- Understanding/knowledge of the Chilterns

### **Budget**

The budget for project management for the 3 year programme is £25,000. This is inclusive of VAT and travel expenses.

### **Your Proposal must include the following;**

- Your day rate including VAT (if applicable) and how many days of your time you are offering.
- Your CV (with contact details for two references)
- Examples of previous relevant work
- Demonstrate your understanding and knowledge of the Chilterns destination and of walking/countryside/outdoor recreation.

This brief is intended to obtain competitive quotes demonstrating value for money. Please let us know if you are planning to submit a quote. **The deadline for proposals is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May and should be emailed to Annette Venters at the Chilterns AONB [aweiss@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:aweiss@chilternsaonb.org)**

The quotes will be included with the full application submission. **If the full application is successful then we will be interviewing shortlisted candidates.** Interviews are likely to take place in early July and the successful candidate would be expected to start in autumn 2016 to give sufficient lead-up to the first Festival.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Annette Venters on tel 01844 355508 [aweiss@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:aweiss@chilternsaonb.org)





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Kath,

### **Central Chilterns Landscape Partnership: Chalk Cherries & Chairs**

Thank you for consulting the Local Access Forum with a project summary towards a Stage 1 HLF Landscape Partnership bid by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

On behalf of Local Access Forum, I am delighted to offer our support by signing-up to the statement of intent on joint working. We envisage our role will be advisory, relating to public walking, cycling and equestrian enjoyment of the central Chiltern's landscape.

We hope the project will encourage greater access by breaking down barriers preventing people engaging with and accessing the countryside, leading to the creation of more permeable links between town and country. This will enhance the appreciation and understanding of the landscape and in doing so provide health benefits to those communities targeted by the project.

We would be delighted to hear more as the application progresses and will be pleased to offer further advice and support, either through member attendance at project workshops or debates during our regular meetings.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Pushman (Chairman)





The Lodge  
90 Station Road  
Chinnor  
Oxfordshire OX39 4HA

Tel: 01844 355524  
Email: kdaly@chilternsaonb.org  
www.chilternsaonb.org

**Chairman:** Ian Reay  
**Chief Officer** Sue Holden

Date 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Dear colleague,**

### **Central Chilterns Landscape Partnership - Chalk, Cherries and Chairs**

Further to my letter of 18<sup>th</sup> March I am pleased to confirm that we have made good progress in putting together a Stage 1 HLF Landscape Partnership proposal for the Central Chilterns (see summary attached), and I am now writing to invite you to confirm your support for the development of this project.

HLF Landscape Partnership bids are a 2 stage process - at this first stage, if successful, we would secure a grant to fund a development officer who would then work up the full project proposals. The development stage can take up to 2 years, although we would aim to do it in less.

In order to submit a Stage 1 bid we need to demonstrate to HLF:

- that we have a committed partnership
- that partners are supportive of the principles of having a Landscape Partnership in the Central Chilterns, and supportive of the proposed Aims of the project
- that we have confirmation from each partner of how they envisage being involved in the development phase.

### **What do we need?**

#### **1. Development Partners**

Being a Development Partner implies you will contribute in some way to the development of the project. The input will vary from partner to partner, and could range from providing comments, advice and / or attending further workshops, to leading on development of particular strands of the project and sitting on the Partnership Advisory Group. **Agreeing to be a partner for the development stage does not necessarily commit you to involvement in the full project.**

We are asking those who are willing to be **Development Partners** to sign up to the Statement of Intent on Joint Working (see attached) to indicate their willingness to help shape the bid during the Development Stage. In order to be successful in securing a development grant it is crucial that we can demonstrate that we have a committed partnership.

As part of the Statement of Intent, please include a short statement of support for the project, and note the ways in which you would be willing to support the development of the Stage 2 bid (this may include cash match funding, in-kind contributions of time or resources, advice and information, sitting on the Advisory Group etc.)

## 2. Match Funding for the Development Stage

We are aiming to show 20% match funding for the Development Stage, and have asked that those partners who are able to, provide around £500 match funding. This all helps to show HLF that the project has the buy in of a wide partnership.

### When do we need it by?

We will need your completed statement of intent back by **6<sup>th</sup> May**. If you are interested in being a partner but not able to make this deadline please do get in touch.

Any queries at all please contact me or my colleague, Cathy Rose  
([crose@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:crose@chilternsaonb.org) 01844 355 506)

Kind Regards



Kath Daly  
Countryside Officer  
[kdaly@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:kdaly@chilternsaonb.org)  
01844 355 524

**Central Chilterns HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme -  
Chalk, Cherries and Chairs  
Scheme Summary**

**Background Information:**

It is envisaged that the Central Chilterns Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) will deliver outcomes across an area of around 250 km<sup>2</sup> of the Central Chilterns through a 5 year scheme, total value around £2.5m. The scheme will comprise 6 programmes, with over 20 interrelated projects designed and delivered by multiple delivery partners. Together these projects will address the scheme aims, bringing long-term and sustainable benefits to the area. The Chilterns Conservation Board will be the lead applicant and accountable body.

**Sceme Aims:**

1. To restore, enhance and record wildlife habitats, landscape features and cultural heritage of the Central Chilterns.
2. To encourage people to investigate and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the Chilterns, so that a wider range of people are inspired to care about it and are equipped to protect it in the future.
3. To strengthen the capacity of local communities to care for, protect and enhance local landscapes and wildlife habitats.

**Theme A: WILDLIFE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE**

**Programme 1: Connecting, restoring and enhancing wildlife habitats**

This programme will deliver landscape-scale conservation activity which contributes to achieving the Lawton Review aims of “more, bigger, better and more joined up” spaces for wildlife.

Increased ecological connectivity and resilience in the face of climate change and housing and infrastructure development has been identified as a priority. Projects will be developed with farmers, woodland owners and other land owners / managers, environmental NGOs, local interest groups, communities and volunteers to improve habitat management; link and buffer existing wildlife habitat and create wildlife rich corridors and stepping stones; and to develop approaches to positively manage / adapt to landscape change.

Core delivery areas for this programme will be Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (see map attached) and also those areas where habitats are at the greatest threat of being fragmented or degraded for example along the HS2 corridor and in areas of housing growth e.g. Princes Risborough.

**Programme 2: Conserving and recording landscape features**

This programme will focus on identifying, recording and conserving characteristic landscape features with particular focus on hedgerows and boundary features, traditional orchards, historic routes and trackways, ancient woodlands, veteran trees, relict wood pasture. It will focus in particular on landscape features and heritage at risk, particularly those in urban fringe areas or threatened by housing and infrastructure development and climate change.

**Theme B: PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPE**

There will be 2 programmes addressing this theme, both of which contribute to inspiring a wider range people to learn about, understand, enjoy and care about the distinctive landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

### **Programme 3: People and landscape – investigating and celebrating the past**

This programme will achieve increased engagement through projects to investigate, explore and celebrate the relationship between people and this landscape over the centuries, looking at how the area’s natural resources have supported communities and local industries and how in the process, people have helped to shape the landscape.

This programme will be delivered through a range of workshops, community investigations and interactive initiatives including oral histories and face-to-face interpretation.

### **Programme 4: People and landscape - inspiring new connections**

This programme will explore ways to help people relate to the landscape today and break down barriers that currently prevent people from engaging with the countryside. Activity in this strand will be particularly (but not exclusively) targeted at the more urban, ethnically and culturally diverse centres of population This will involve a wide community partnership approach engaging new groups and individuals and working with a range of statutory partners such as local authorities, emergency services, Public Health and community based organisations. The programme will bring benefits to local communities and individuals in terms of health and well-being, skills, confidence and knowledge, as well as directly and indirectly benefiting the heritage of the area.

Projects will be developed around the themes of food, wood products, citizen science and natural environment and health.

Skills training / traineeships will support delivery of the projects in all programmes, and in the process will help people become more employable in the longer term. Heritage and land management skills developed by people participating in the project will enable them to continue to care for and manage the landscape beyond the end of the project. Other skills which could be transferred include social media for small businesses, marketing and PR.

## **Theme C: COMMUNITY AND LANDSCAPE**

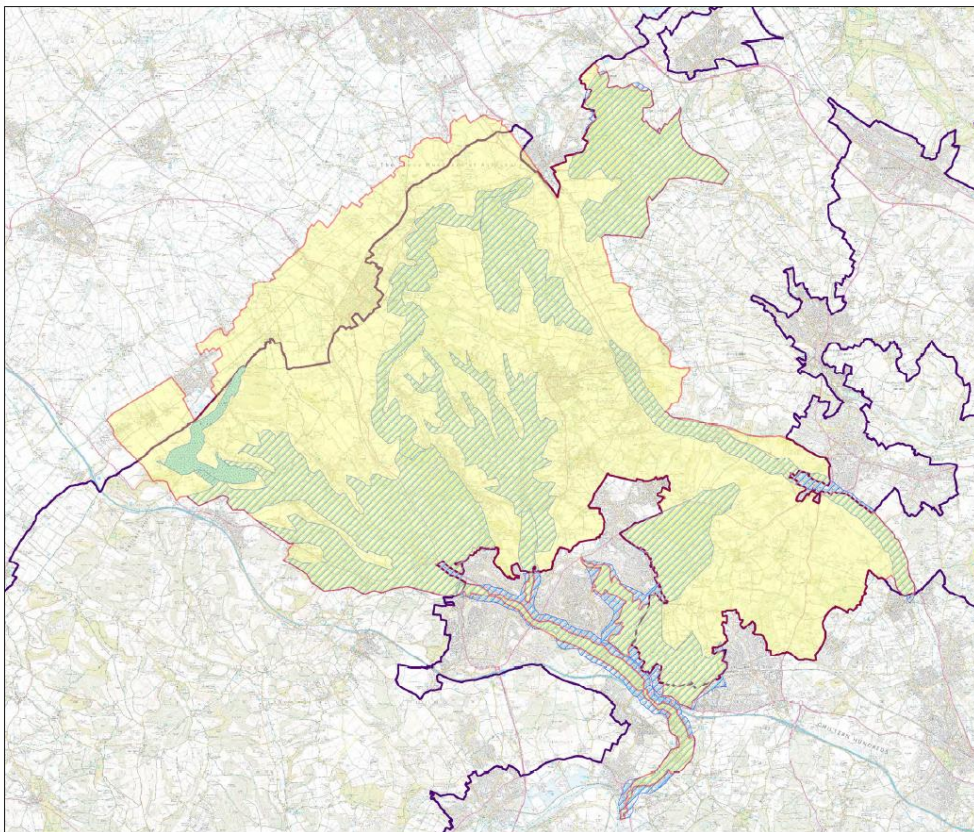
### **Programme 5: Our changing Chilterns - planning for the future**

This programme will build the capacity and confidence of local communities to care for, protect and enhance the special places and landscapes of their local area whilst contributing to a more sustainable future. The programme will work with local communities, special interest groups and town and parish councils to raise awareness of the drivers for change in the landscape. It will engage them in helping to shape the future of their local environment.

Activity will include mentoring and training; neighbourhood planning toolkits; creation and development of local community ‘friends of’ groups, and establishment of a ‘Chilterns Champions’ scheme of local volunteers who actively care for and protect local heritage and encourage others to get involved.

### **Programme 6: Community assets - community spaces**

The programme will support the creation of new community spaces including community orchards and woods where people can form a deeper connection with the landscape, for example through use of Community Land Trusts. The programme will also identify ways of supporting existing shared community assets such as village halls and locally managed green space. The use of local products for community benefit will be encouraged e.g. wood fuel from community woods to heat village halls.



- Central Chilterns(3)
- BOAs**
- NAME**
- Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers
- Chiltern Escarpment
- Chilterns Escarpment North
- Dunsmore woods
- Gomm Valley
- Radnage Valley
- Upper Hughenden valley
- Wendover Woodlands
- CTA
- Chiltern AONB Boundary

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Central Chilterns - Landscape Partnership area





A contribution of £80,000 was provided by Taylor Wimpey on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, in lieu of a Section 278 obligation to install a Pegasus crossing on the A413. I am currently working to determine whether this contribution is sufficient to provide the crossing, whether there is scope for providing a toucan crossing rather than a Pegasus and, given that the envisaged bridleway opposite Buckingham Park never materialised, whether delivery of this scheme would bring benefits worth the potential traffic impact on the A413. If these issues can be resolved, the crossing scheme will be transitioned to the BCC Regeneration and Infrastructure team to commission for delivery. As this contribution was received in lieu of a S278, there is no definitive time factor for repayment.

Kind regards,

**Jack Mayhew**

Growth & Development Strategy Officer  
Transport, Economy and Environment

Buckinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
Walton Street  
Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

Direct Telephone: 01296 531396




	<h2>The Ramblers' Association</h2> <h3>Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Area</h3>
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**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 50 mm. If donating more than one gate, different inscriptions can be provided on different plaques for different gates.

 <p>Donate a Gate Scheme</p>	<h2>Donated by Mr &amp; Mrs Somebody</h2> <h3>In memory of Somebody Else</h3> <p>Installed by North Bucks rRIPPLE volunteers</p> <p><a href="http://www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk">www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk</a></p>
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The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company registration number: 4458492. Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1093577. Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

The scheme organiser is:

Bill Piers, NB rRIPPLE Co-ordinator, 48 Stokes End, Haddenham, Bucks HP17 8DX.

Tel 01844 290923; 07799 110128 or [williamjsbpiers@gmail.com](mailto:williamjsbpiers@gmail.com)

## Gift Aid It

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 (6 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 [williamjsbpiers@gmail.com](mailto:williamjsbpiers@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.

**N.B.: For groups donating a gate**, such as walking groups, whereby a number of different people are all contributing to raise the necessary £250, **please collect centrally and submit one payment to The Ramblers**. Unfortunately it is really difficult for the treasurer to keep track of multiple electronic bank transfers or cheques. Your assistance is much appreciated - Many thanks.

Form revision 160620

## 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.*

22<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Local Area Forum Chair,

### **North Bucks Donate-a-Gate Scheme**

At our meeting in March 2016 we had a presentation from a member of the Ramblers, Bill Piers, who runs an active volunteer group helping to maintain public rights of way in north Buckinghamshire, essentially any parish within the Aylesbury Vale district. They are called North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise).

At the time, Bill wanted our advice on launching a new 'North Bucks Donate-a-Gate scheme', similar to the Chiltern Society's partnership with the county council that has so successfully attracted over £100, 000 worth of private investment and encouraged many improvements on the rights of way network in the south of the county.

The scheme has recently been launched and details of how to apply can be found via the web link at the bottom of this letter. The cost is £250 for a metal gate and this includes an optional stainless steel commemorative plaque designed by the donor.

I wondered if you could mention the scheme at your next Local Area Forum meeting as a way of helping kick-start interest from parish councils, walking groups and individuals? Bill's volunteers have been working hard installing gates (and repairing stiles) at a rate of 1 per week over the last 4 months, so they have a good choice of locations for potential donors. Individual parish locations can also be investigated.

If you are able to help these volunteers and attract more investment in the county's footpath network it would be greatly appreciated. An application form is attached for your information.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Pushman (Chairman)

<http://www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.html>



# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

Agenda Item 5 Appendix 21

## April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	<b>Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum</b>
Name of LAF Chair	Richard Pushman
Name of LAF Secretary	Christina Beevers

Total number of LAF members	13
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	6
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	2
Number of members representing other interests	5

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	1
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?	0	How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	£540.00
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			350

**Partners your LAF worked with during 2015/16** (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"/>

**LAF achievements/making a difference?**<sup>1</sup> 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. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

Successfully lobbied for the removal of fencing on a piece of common land in Latimer, Buckinghamshire, without the need for enforcement action, attracting positive publicity for the Forum.

Volunteered to mediate in a case involving fencing on a common in Frieth, Buckinghamshire after complaints to the parish council. This case is ongoing.

Working in partnership with neighbouring authorities such as Slough borough council and Royal Borough Windsor and Maidenhead LAFs to manage improvements along the Jubilee River.

Successfully registered the Disabled Ramblers as a good cause on the Aylesbury Vale Lottery.

Successfully bid to Wingrave parish council for £500 worth of access improvements, installing two gates, leveling a manhole cover and a installing drainage solution.

The main role of the LAF is independent strategic oversight access, but the LAF has volunteered to become involved in a number of specific projects as outlined above.

**What activity did your LAF undertake to help record historical PROW before 2026?**

<sup>1</sup> These achievements form an important part of the national annual report that is submitted to Defra/Minister and help to promote the work and good practice of LAFs

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

The LAF have undertaken a 'Restoring the Record Project' in this financial year. A total of 45 volunteers and 1 project co-ordinator have been recruited and a full training day, led by Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks was organised. The LAF worked in partnership the Buckinghamshire Archives to provide part of that training, arranged for a photo pass scheme for volunteers, and worked closely with parish councils. \*Volunteer hours are difficult to quantify, but include at least: 40 volunteers at 7 hour at the training day (280hrs); and 5 hrs per week volunteer co-ordinator work for 13 weeks January to March (65hrs).

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	Optional Detail
Green Infrastructure strategies			
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	4	1	Consults: 1. East West Rail; 2. Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid; 3. A355 relief road; 4. M4 Smart motorway; Adv: 5. LTP4
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	0	0	
Public open space (public space protection orders)	0	0	
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	0	
Planning applications /Housing development schemes	0	0	
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	1	1. Waddesdon cycleway planning application - public meeting (adv.)
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0	0	
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	0	0	
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off	0	1	1. Restoring the Record presentation by Phil Wadey (adv.) and insigated a 45-strong volunteer group to investigate claims
Right of Way Improvement Plan review	0	0	
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	0	1	1. Written to the Environment Agency pressing for formal equestrian access to the Jubilee River multi-user route (adv.).
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	0	1	1. mediated in a clay pigeon shoot and equestrian access issue in Quainton
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	0	1	Provided advice to the Ridgeway National Trail Officer on MPVs and carriage driving access.



# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

Parish Council or other grant schemes	0	1	Wingrave parish council grant scheme (adv.)
Access for people with reduced mobility	0	2	1. physical disabled access gate improvements at Wingrave; 2. advised Little Chalfont parish council on compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 on planning for a nature park
Commons, village greens	0	2	1. Pinner Green common & 2. CL217 Frieth
Open Access land restrictions	0	0	
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	0	1. Ridgeway National Trail stratgic links
NNR dedication	0	0	
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	0	
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	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	1	1. Royal Forestry Society (c).

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

The LAF have lobbied for a Pegasus crossings on the A418 in Aylesbury and requested information on a bridleway crossing of the A412 in Wexham .

**What are your top priorities for the year ahead?**

1. Maintaining momentum for the Restoring Lost Ways Project and recruiting more volunteers;
2. Seeking a new LAF members.

**Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAFs operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?**

None.

**Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work program for next year?**

Better education on the Deregulation Act 2015 and it's effect on rights of way

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>2</sup>

None

### Comments from the Appointing Authority

The long-standing chairman stood down this year and was replaced by a retired county and district councilor, Richard Pushman, who has a wealth of experience in local government. Membership on the whole has remained stable. Advice from the LAF has been robust and well-informed, with close scrutiny of the work undertaken by the council's ROW teams. The most successful LAF work has been to take onboard advice from Phil Wadey on the 2026 cut-off and act upon it, committing to lead on the co-ordinated recruitment of volunteers to investigate lost ways. It is notable for being involved in a number of disabled access initiatives and being willing to act upon problems brought to the Forum relating to common land. Nothing came forward in this year to enable direct engagement with LEPs, the LNP, HWBB and LEADER, but the LAF would be pleased to provide advice and support to access project bids through these structures.

### Comments from LAF Chair

I was somewhat surprised to be proposed as chairman of the Local Access Forum on the retirement of John Elfes, who had filled that role with both considerable experience and much courtesy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the years of dedication and hard work that he has put into the Buckinghamshire LAF. Throughout my life I have been a keen protector of our rural heritage and its environment and firm in the belief that free access to its benefits are essential for the well being of all citizens.

You will read elsewhere in this annual report of the work undertaken by the Forum over the past year and of the time and effort expended by both members and officers. Much of this effort has been provided on a voluntary basis and without this support our access to the pleasures of our countryside would be lost, we have much for which to thank them.


### Any other comments

None.

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<sup>2</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.


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ENGLAND


 Photograph by Jim Milner

# LAF NEWS

## 2015/16

Issue 9

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to issue 9 of the LAF newsletter – the first after the two national conferences in Leeds and Bristol and, I'd like to say straight away, how great it was to see so many LAFs and LAF members at the two events. I hope you found the talks and workshops as interesting and stimulating as I did and the article on the conferences in this edition summarises what went on.

In this edition we also have articles on: the effects of last winter's severe weather on access networks and possible new approaches to a changing climate and how a Heritage Lottery Fund project is helping to revitalise The Teesdale Way - once again highlighting the breadth and depth of interest and knowledge that resides within our forums.

From our side there is an update on the Coastal Access programme and there's also a reminder from Rob about completing your Annual Review Forms which do provide us and Defra with much useful information and help us keep in touch with what's going on throughout the LAF community.

So I hope you enjoy this issue but I'd like to make an early appeal for articles, or suggestions for articles, for the next edition since the more material there is from the forums the more that must reflect what LAFs consider newsworthy and informative.

Andy Mackintosh, Natural England

### In this issue...

[LAF conferences](#)

[Time to follow another path](#)

[River Tees rediscovered](#)

[Annual reporting](#)

[England Coast Path](#)

## National LAF conferences

After consulting LAFs via an online survey, Natural England organised 2 national LAF conferences for 2015/16 in Bristol and Leeds. The Bristol 'South' conference was held on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at Natural England's Bristol office and the Leeds 'North' conference was held on 1st March 2016 at the Oxford Place Centre. All LAFs were asked to nominate a representative to attend a conference (in addition to members doing talks or running workshops).

In the online consultation we invited LAF members to suggest the topics of most interest to them and this resulted in a programme with a range of speakers and workshop facilitators from the LAFs, Defra and from other organisations with an interest in public access.

### Presentations



Jonathan Tweney - Defra presentation, Bristol

After an introduction by the conference Chairs (Matt Heard in Bristol and Liz Newton in Leeds), both conferences kicked off with a Defra presentation on the Deregulation Act, Rights of Way Reform Package. These presentations were delivered by

Jonathan Tweney in Bristol and Bryony Thorpe in Leeds. The talks included an overview of the progress of the Deregulation Act and information about the changes to the Definitive Map Modification Order process and regulations along with a lively Q&A session at the end.

Again at both conferences the second talk of the day to all delegates was by John Cuthbertson, Vice Chairman & Rambles Organiser for the Disabled Ramblers who spoke about the various barriers on the rights of way network which are encountered by the disabled. The presentation included many photographs and some videos of the use of 'Trampers' which some disabled ramblers are able to use to better get around in the countryside and John kindly brought a 'Tramper' along to both of the conferences for delegates to see in the flesh.

John writes:

*"The Disabled Ramblers helps the less mobile regain access to*

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*the countryside. To do this they have had to campaign for the removal of man-made barriers. While they have had some success with this, the disabled now find themselves thwarted by replacements which are just as effective in limiting the paths they can use; often due to the perception that the disabled wouldn't be able to or wouldn't want to go there."*



John Cuthbertson - Disabled Ramblers presentation, Bristol

After lunch, the first presentation in Bristol was by Nicola Greenwood, Access and Bridleways Officer, Wokingham who spoke about how stakeholders could try and influence their local authorities in order to try and improve their off-road networks, in this case, bridleways. Nicola gave a number of tips and steps to take to try and deliver new and improve existing rights of way.

The post-lunchtime presentation in Leeds was by Anthony Francis-Jones, British Horse Society Access Officer for Telford and Wrekin, and Telford and Wrekin Local Access Forum's Chairman who focused on what can be achieved in an urban/semi urban area.

Anthony writes:

*"My talk was a brief overview of what came to be achieved in an urban area by working closely with the local (highway) authority. The presentation explained successful methods to create multiuser routes and bridleways as well as how to reduce the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Orders. A case study in Telford, Shropshire was used as an example."*

In Leeds this was followed by a talk from Sue Taylor-Green from the British Horse Society and Ulnes Walton Bridleways Association on creating new peri-urban multi-user routes/bridleways. The presentation gave guidance and good practice on how the association managed to develop the bridleway network in their area.

Sue writes:

*"The presentation was about the development of Ulnes Walton Bridleways Association (UWBA) and its work with the local council and various funding bodies, both to overcome an initial 'horse*

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*hostility' attitude and to gain alternative finance to create new routes."*

At both conferences, the final main presentation of the day was delivered by John Dennis who gave examples to try and inspire LAFs to investigate potentially alternative sources of funding for their access projects including active living and other sports related examples.

## Workshops

John Richardson and Alan Kind from LARA (Land Access and Recreation Association) delivered a workshop on the use of



John Richardson and Phil Wadey, Bristol

recreational vehicles on the rights of way network at both conferences. The workshop focussed on the rapidly evolving influence of social media, and its impact on communication and behaviours, with relation to recreational vehicle use.

Also at both conferences, Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks from the Open Spaces Society ran a workshop regarding the need to get paths recorded accurately on the definitive map of rights of way by 2026.

Dementia Adventure delivered a workshop at both conferences (Rachel Niblock in Bristol and Kath Pyke in Leeds) looking at the benefits of dementia inclusive walks.

Kath writes:

*"The workshops looked at the benefits and discussed how to take the fear out of supporting people living with dementia to go for a walk; drawing on the success of dementia inclusive walk programmes from around the country including a LAF project in Lincolnshire".*

The final workshop held at both conferences was from Peter McKay from Herefordshire LAF which discussed the topic of registering white roads to help increase the awareness of the legislation.

## Links

[Dementia Adventure](#)

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# LAF News

At the Bristol conference, Bekki Redshaw and Keeley Rolfe from respectively Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks ran a workshop on Devon's Naturally Healthy Project.

Also just at the Bristol conference, Seamus Elliott and Martin Sullivan from Norfolk LAF ran a workshop on setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which have the potential to raise funding for Rights of Way Improvement Plan projects and other outdoor access.

The final Bristol only workshop was delivered by Richard Holmes from Gloucestershire LAF looking at the subject of disability access and the experiences of the Gloucestershire Disability Access sub-group.



Jane Beech and Richard Holmes, Bristol

Richard writes:

*"The workshop aimed to build on the LAF Toolkit (Disability Access) and to share achievable and practical ideas to enable LAFs to improve access for people with disabilities."*

For the workshops only held in Leeds, Audrey Christie, Durham County Council; Geoff Hughes, Durham LAF and Jim Philips from Ethos Enviro Planning ran one looking at access prioritisation, a strategic approach to managing local paths in County Durham.

Also just at the Leeds conference, Ted Liddle from Northumberland LAF lead a workshop on how the mountain biking route the Sandstone Way was created and developed

Another Leeds only workshop was ran by John Sugden from Redcar & Cleveland LAF on the subject of whether it's really trespass to ride or cycle on a footpath.

Mary Mills and Brian Cluff from Nottinghamshire LAF also ran a workshop in Leeds on Nottinghamshire Guided Walks Partnership and their programme of walks.

In addition to the talks and workshops there was a final session in the conference main rooms led by the conference Chairs: in Bristol this comprised of a workshop roundup where all the workshop leads gave a brief overview of what was covered at their

## Links

[Naturally Healthy](#)

[Sandstone Way](#)

[Nottinghamshire Guided Walks](#)

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# LAF News

workshops; in Leeds there was a Q&A session where delegates were able to ask questions of the various speakers and Natural England.

Many thanks to all of the speakers and workshop leads who kindly gave their time and brought their expertise and enthusiasm to both of the LAF conferences.

## Feedback

130 delegates in total attended the conferences with representatives from 72% of the LAFs.

Feedback forms were produced and circulated to the delegates of both conferences and from them 96% reported that the content did meet their expectations (4% reported neither yes or no).

Additionally 96% reported on the feedback forms that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the conference organisation with 4% saying they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

The lively discussions within the workshops and informally in the margins of the conferences, along with positive feedback from delegates, clearly demonstrated that the events were worthwhile and appreciated.

For more information about both of the conferences including all of the presentations used, notes collected, statistics, feedback and audio recordings, please follow the link to the right:

## Time to follow another path?

By Ian Jackson, geologist and member of the Northumberland Joint Local Access Forum

The consequences of this winter's flooding for people of northern England have been devastating. Water and debris from overflowing rivers and streams have wrecked homes and businesses. Major road and rail transport links have been severed and will take months and millions to repair. But in this largely rural landscape there is another casualty.

For sure it's not one with such an awful personal cost, but as spring and summer follow winter, it is one that will affect many of us who take our time-out in the countryside. Across all the northern counties paths and bridges have been swept away by water and landslides.

In Northumberland the storms of December have caused

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[LAF Conferences](#)

[Article originally published on the Northumberland National Park website](#)

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# LAF News

significant damage; over 34 rights of way are at best interrupted and at worst impassable.



Allen banks bridge damaged in the flooding

The cost of repair of this winter's destruction is estimated to be almost half a million pounds, far exceeding budgets the Council and the National Park set aside for dealing with their existing (and long) list of paths needing maintenance. The loss of local amenity is bad enough but the economies of these northern rural counties depend on tourism, and access to the countryside is, fundamentally, why the tourists come.



Access interrupted due to a damaged bridge in the Northumberland National Park

As with the response to damage to buildings and transport in northern England, there has been no crying over spilt milk. A short-lived period of shock has quickly been followed by stoic, down to earth and practical action. Paths have been walked, damage has been surveyed, repairs are being costed and bids for emergency funding made to central government. In the months ahead Council and Park personnel, reinforced by volunteers, will start to prioritise and mend the damage. It will however take a long time and in some cases decisions may be taken that maintaining a particular

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# LAF News

route is no longer tenable.

This begs a more fundamental question, one which is taxing the minds of Rights of Way professionals and those who advise them in local and national bodies. That question is: if these extreme weather events are, as predicted, likely to become more common, then do we need to recognise that some of the paths we have come to know and love may no longer be sustainable?

It is obvious that the nation cannot afford to waste money on restoration schemes that may be washed away in the next storm. The bottom line is that our future strategies for access to the countryside must now also consider alternative routes as well as protection and repair. Our Rights of Way may be much less high profile than disappearing ice caps and glaciers but this winter shows that they are no less vulnerable to a climate which is changing.

## River Tees Rediscovered

By Beryl Bird, Tees Valley Local Access Forum Development Officer



River Tees in Darlington Borough

The Teesdale Way is a 92 mile walking trail, rising in Cumbria to the west and from Cow Green Reservoir in Upper Teesdale through County Durham and Teesside to the North Sea coast at Warrenby in Redcar. For much of the trail it follows the River Tees.

The development and promotion of the Teesdale Way is a key component of River Tees Rediscovered; a £3.7m programme supported under the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Programme. The programme is managed by Groundwork North East in conjunction with the Local Authorities of Darlington, Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland, and several other project partners. The Tees Valley Local Access Forum is also contributing to this work which began in earnest in 2014.

The Teesdale Way and Heritage Trails Project will deliver improved signage, surfacing and path furniture on the Teesdale Way and along a series of linked countryside and urban trails. The project will also help to interpret and celebrate the fascinating local industrial and natural heritage of the area, and promote the Teesdale Way to local residents and visitors.

The vision for the wider River Tees Rediscovered programme is impressive:

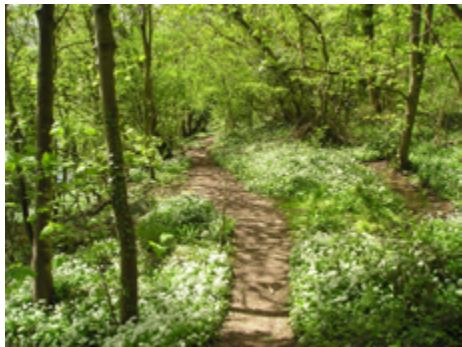


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Re-surfacing work in Darlington Borough on the Teesdale Way

to alter how the hundreds of thousands of people who live by the Tees from rural Piercebridge, near Darlington to the steelworks at Redcar, interact with the river.

The River Tees Rediscovered programme runs over 5 years. A diverse range of projects is being delivered, including schemes which will conserve and enhance natural environment and heritage features, improve public access to nature and heritage, celebrate and provide opportunities for

and interpret the area's heritage, people to get actively involved.

Graham Clingan, Greenspace Strategy & Partnership Manager at Stockton on Tees Borough Council brought the TVLAF AGM in March 2016 up-to-date with improvements along each section of the route as it passes through each Local Authority area; from the open scenic views through Darlington through to industrialised Middlesbrough and Redcar.



Permissive footpath near Middlesbrough FC training ground

In Darlington a new permissive footpath has been created at the Middlesbrough Football Club's training ground at Rockcliffe, linking the riverside path to the existing RoW network; in addition some 550 metres of footpath have been re-surfaced at Carlbury and Broken Scar. Future plans include new finger posts with the agreed livery of a Teesdale Way Dipper, 25 new gates or kissing gates and three sections of new boardwalk.



Princess Diana Bridge at Stockton on Tees

At Stockton on Tees new kissing gates, signage and boardwalks have been installed on sections of the Teesdale Way near Yarm and

Aislaby, and the route taken from the Princess Diana Bridge to the Tees Barrage now boasts LED lighting. Planned works include new boardwalks at Newsham Wood and Newsham Park.

Two major projects have been completed within Redcar and Cleveland Borough; the steel footbridge at the Wilton Steel Works (costing £100K) crossing the main east coast railway line safely, and could not have been achieved without considerable financial assistance from the Coastal Communities Fund and Tata Steel. This is an example



Wilton Steel Works – new Tata Steel Bridge on Teesdale Way in Redcar and Cleveland Borough

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# LAF News

of the joined up thinking that has that has led to the enormous improvements in public access to and beside the river.

The regular flooding that has taken place at Dabholm Beck in Redcar has also been addressed with the dredging of the beck at this point by the Environment Agency.



New stepped path down to the River Tees

In total more than 20 Heritage Trails are to be developed linking into the Teesdale Way. The route also links onto the England Coast Path at the Newport Bridge on the Stockton/Middlesbrough boundary. Plans are also being developed to extend the Coast Path northwards from Newport Bridge and the Transporter Bridge towards Hartlepool, again with support through the River Tees Rediscovered programme.

At Middlesbrough re-surfacing works have taken place between the riverside Teesaurus Park and the iconic Newport Bridge, and more than 20 new Teesdale Way Dipper signposts/waymarks will be installed, as the route passes through Middlesbrough, in the next few weeks.

Naturally the Forum members were delighted with progress, some having actively played a part in the initial bid, and others having help devise the most appropriate route for the walks already underway. But the project is a long way from completion and much good work will continue, to share the story of the River Tees with the people of Tees Valley.



Teesdale Way Dipper Sign

## LAF Annual reporting for 2015-16

The new annual reporting process and Annual Review Form (ARF) to cover the financial year April 2015 to March 2016 was circulated to all of the LAF Secretaries on the 26th April and was also uploaded to the LAF Huddle workspace on the same day. This year's deadline for submitting either a completed ARF, annual report, or both to Natural England is 31st July.

Please encourage your LAF to submit an Annual Review Form as the more LAFs do this, the stronger the resulting national report will be that is submitted to Defra and the Minister in order to help demonstrate the value of LAFs and their work.

## England Coast Path update

By Sue Shipston, Natural England

Natural England is currently establishing a 2,700 mile continuous path around the entire English coastline by 2020. Work is already under way on more than half the path.

In March some of Somerset's most spectacular coastline opened to the public for the first time – 58 miles of new and improved coast

## Links

*Huddle specific links*

[Annual Review Form 2015 - 16](#)

[Previous National LAF Annual Reports](#)

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path from Brean Down to Minehead. The longest section to be added to the national route so far was opened by Natural England's Chairman, Andrew Sells, at a ceremony in Doniford.

A further 134 miles of new routes are due to open in Kent and North Yorkshire this summer.

Neil Constable ECP Programme Manager said:

*"The 'Somerset' stretch of the England Coast Path has been challenging and satisfying in almost equal measure. As the first 'long' stretch to be taken on, it presented a host of interesting features: the 9 km of Brean Sands, the realignment at Steart to create more than 400 hectares of new wetland habitat, preparation and planning for Hinkley C, and even a steam railway to name but a few - all topped off with the second highest tidal range in the world.*

*The satisfaction comes from literally plotting a way through a remarkable and varied length of coast so that it does not impact on business, privacy or wildlife but does establish a genuine coastal footpath. Needless to say this takes time. We worked with nearly 300 owners and occupiers to draw up the proposals which come to fruition today and which will see a true coast path from Brean Down near Weston all the way to Minehead, including some five miles of new route where existing paths have historically turned inland."*

In Doniford, as part of the new route, a 15-metre footbridge has been built over the river Swill. For the first time, this provides an easy-access walking route between the two sides of the village, allowing those staying at several nearby caravan sites to walk safely to Doniford Farm shop and café, the nearby halt for the West Somerset Railway or onwards down the coast. It is also the first time such a major piece of infrastructure has been built for the England Coast Path.



Burnham-on-Sea Low lighthouse  
© Sarah Littler

Walkers can enjoy several new sections of path between Watchet and East Quantoxhead, which opens up spectacular new views over the Bristol Channel. Somerset Wildlife Trust has also provided seven new interpretation boards along the stretch, to reveal more about the stunning wildlife and landscape features that walkers will be able to see and enjoy along 'Somerset's brilliant coast.'

This new access joins existing coastal footpaths to create a stretch of high-quality, well-signposted coastal National Trail. Natural England consulted local landowners, businesses and local people, working closely with Somerset County Council to plan and create the route.

### Find out more about the England Coast Path

The eight Natural England delivery teams around the country work closely with local authorities, land owners and occupiers, communities, interest groups and others to ensure the best and most appropriate alignment for the new coast path.

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# LAF News

You can see what our teams are working on and check the latest progress in your area on [GOV.UK](#)

Or contact your local delivery hub:

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