



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Title:** Rights of Way group update

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

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

### A. DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM – OUTSTANDING CASELOAD (HELEN FRANCIS)

Cases to be determined by Rights of Way Committee and proposed timeframe\*

\*NOTE: This report provides an idea of what applications are forthcoming. It is subject to change and dates should not be relied upon.

1. **High Wycombe** – application to register the land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh as a Town or Village Green – **Public Inquiry held in March 2017 awaiting the Inspector’s recommendation to take to September 2017 Committee.**
2. **Wooburn** – application to register the land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End as a Town or Village Green - **scheduled for mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
3. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record a public footpath between public footpath nos. 14 and 15 – **scheduled for September 2017 Committee meeting.**
4. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court – **scheduled for early-2018 Committee meeting.**
5. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street – **scheduled for early-2018 Committee meeting.**
6. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane – **scheduled for mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
7. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic – **scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
8. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** - application to record the route through Wellington House passageway as a Public Footpath. **Creation Agreement signed, application will be rejected at Committee because the claimed route is a Public Footpath - scheduled for September 2017 Committee meeting.**

9. **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 – **scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
10. **Chesham** – application to add a public footpath from Fair Leas to Asheridge Road, Parish of Chesham – **scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
11. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence - **scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
12. **Quinton** – application to upgrade footpath 14 to bridleway status – **scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
13. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of Public Footpath 52 **scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
14. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade Public Footpath Nos. 11 and 12 to public bridleway status – **scheduled for mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
15. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6 – **scheduled for mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
16. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 1 to restricted byway status – **scheduled for mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
17. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status – **scheduled for mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
18. **Chenies** – application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic – **scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**
19. **Leckhampstead** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 13 and 18 to Public Bridleway and add a route as Public Bridleway - **scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**
20. **Leckhampstead** - application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 5 (part) to Public Bridleway and add a route which connects with No.5 as Public Bridleway – **scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**
21. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford – **scheduled for early-2020 Committee meeting.**

#### **B. Forthcoming Public Inquiries / Public Hearing**

22. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath connecting with Public Footpath 11 Edgcott – **application accepted at Committee, an order was made and advertised, order to be determined by Public Inquiry – 10 October 2017.**
23. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath – **application accepted at Committee, an order was made and advertised, order to be determined by Public Inquiry – 18/19 July 2017.**

#### **C. Cases determined and in process**

24. **Great Missenden** – application to record a route across Widmer Fields and Lawrence Grove, Prestwood – **application accepted at Committee meeting, the Order has been advertised and an objection has been received, the order and objection will be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
25. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway – **application accepted at Committee meeting, Order to be advertised shortly.**
26. **Chenies, Chalfont St Peter, Denham** – application to record Shire Lane as part restricted byway and part byway open to all traffic – **application accepted at Committee meeting, Order to be advertised shortly.**

#### **D. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS**

27. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2 – Order made, objection period finishes 14 June 2017.
28. **Biddlesden and Turweston** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 6 and 8 – Awaiting the draft Order.
29. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Public Bridleway N. 13 (part) – Awaiting the draft Order.
30. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths No. 29 (part) and 31 and Stopping up of Footpath No.30 (part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – Order made. Awaiting completion of works.
31. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – awaiting applicant for further details.
32. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – Under consultation.
33. **High Wycombe** - Application to extinguish Footpath No. 27. WDC planning matter. Order made. Awaiting completion of works.
34. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – Order abandoned – **CASE CLOSED.**
35. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – Order made. Awaiting completion of works.
36. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27 - Awaiting completion of works on site, hoping to be done over the summer.
37. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No.21 - Order made. Objection period finishes 14 June 2017.
38. **Lane End** – Application to divert Footpath No. 9 – Under consultation.
39. **Flackwell Heath** – Application to divert Footpath No. 47 – Under consultation.
40. **Calvert Green and Steeple Claydon** – Temporary diversion of Footpath 5 and 17 for mineral extraction – Under consultation.

41. **Iver** – Temporary diversion of Footpath 15 for mineral extraction – Investigation not started.

42. **Tingewick** – Diversion of Footpath No. 2 – Under consultation.

43. In addition to the above caseload, we continue to work on the following:

- Village Green and Common Land enquiries from the public and landowners; including statutory searches for Public Rights of Way and Common Land/Village Green;
- Definitive Map anomalies / drafting errors;
- Development and maintenance of specialist GIS software – possibility of CAMS Web, looking at what benefits it would bring the Local Land Charges and Definitive Map Team as well as Rights of Way Operations;
- Process Traffic Regulation Orders on Public Rights of Way – approximately **30-35 per year**. In addition to the normal number of TROs the team deals with, we have closed an **additional 79** routes as part of a project being undertaken by National Grid to replace overhead cables from the north of the county to the south;
- Process and record Landowner Deposits to protect their land from future Rights of Way / Town and Village Green applications – recent increase in numbers received; approximately **30-35 per year**;
- Technical support and expertise to colleagues across the service;
- Work in partnership with Network Rail on the East West Rail project to secure the closure of approximately 17 level crossings which provide access for Public Rights of Way; &
- Review impact the forthcoming Deregulation Act 2015 will have on Buckinghamshire and its Rights of Way processes.

### **Background Papers**

None

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

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

44. A Chilterns HS2 Review Group has been set up to identify measures for environmental enhancement in addition to the mitigation proposed by HS2. Examples include woodland planting, balancing ponds, design of footpath diversions, ecological and landscape connectivity, viaduct design and vent shaft design. A Stakeholder Workshop took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 to help identify additional projects for funding in the Chilterns around the HS2 route. Many access projects were suggested and will be prioritised over the coming months alongside those relating to biodiversity and heritage. More information will follow in due course.

45. We omitted to notify members at the March Local Access Forum that National Grid are undertaking upgrades to electricity pylons through the county which involves 76 temporary path closures. Apologies for the omission at the last meeting. A map indicating actual closure dates is available on request and a list of path closures is on the website. Routes will be closed for approximately 2 to 6 weeks, but on occasion up to 10 or 20 weeks during each formal 6-month Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO). Notices have been on site since late April 2017. The paths will be 'physically' closed when works are being undertaken.

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/rights-of-way/mapping-the-network/temporary-traffic-regulation-orders/>

46. A number of planning applications have been received by Aylesbury Vale District Council from HS2 for environmental mitigation. These include at two locations the creation of a wetland habitat across public footpaths. We are in the process of objecting on the grounds that winter conditions in such a habitat are likely to be water-logged unless the footpaths are constructed on a causeway, diverted out of the area or the wetland habitat moved off the rights of way.

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

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

47. I can report that from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 the Rights of Way Operations Team has been transferred from Transport for Buckinghamshire within the Ringway Jacobs Highways contract to Environment Service within Transport, Economy and Environment Service. The team are now employed by Buckinghamshire County Council. The current staff structure is 6 FTE staff: 1 RoW Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officer and a Bridge Structure Inspector. At the time of writing this report the team had 4 FTE, with 1 vacant post and one member of staff on maternity leave.

48. Appendix 1 shows the Rights of Way Operations output from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and includes a break-down of works undertaken by volunteers.

49. Coming projects likely to be completed during this financial year are:

- replacement of the deck on an equestrian bridge on Denham BW52 (currently closed in the interests of safety);
- replacement of a footbridge on Wendover FP9 (currently closed in the interests of safety);
- replacement of a footbridge on Preston Bissett FP18 (currently closed in the interests of safety);
- repairs to a large 7 metre long bridge on Dorney FP1;
- repairs to the surface of the Thames Path in Marlow (near Temple); &
- repairs to Bridleway 8 in Hillesden, subject to the issuing of a badger licence.

50. I am pleased to confirm the reopening of Bridleway 24 Chetwode with the replacement of the equestrian bridge across the county boundary with Oxfordshire. The Bridleway has been closed for 2 years in the interests of safety. This was a joint project between Bucks CC, Oxon CC and the landowner with the costs of the repair split evenly 3 ways.

51. Members of the Forum will recall the Devolvement Project makes funds available to parish councils in order to undertake summer path clearance. The number of parishes taking part in 2017/18 will be 86 which is similar to 2016/17. A list of parishes is available on the county council's website at:  
<http://old.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3716655/Best-Case-T2-calculations-2016-01-20.pdf>

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