



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018 AT 10.00 AM
MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

AGENDA

Agenda Item	Page No
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Action Notes/Matters Arising To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017.	3 - 8
4 Review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-18	9 - 10
5 Rights of Way Group Report Updates to be provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helen Francis, Definitive Map Team• Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer• Joanne Taylor, Operations Team Leader	11 - 18
6 LAF Members' Report	19 - 50
7 Date of Next and Future Meetings Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 10.00 am• Wednesday 7 November 2018 at 10.00 am	
8 Any Other Business	



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 11.45 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr R Pushman, in the Chair

Mr D Briggs, Mr J Elfes, Mr C Hurworth, Mr A T A Lambourne, Mr G Caspersz, Mr G Thomas, Ms A Heath and Mr B Worrell

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr J Clark, Mr J Dixon, Mrs H Francis, Ms J Taylor and Ms S Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr N Harris. Mr S Thorns had tendered his resignation.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ACTION NOTES/ MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

4. NEW BARRIERS TO DISABLED ACCESS

Mr J Cuthbertson, Chairman of the Disabled Ramblers, attended the meeting to provide an update. During discussion key points were highlighted as follows:

- The County Council, along with other organisations, had been working to improve disabled access across the County. The Disabled Ramblers group had assessed routes for the County Council.
- Mr Cuthbertson outlined examples of barriers to access such as steps, narrow bridges, stiles, kissing gates, horse stiles, motor bike inhibitors and chicken wire which caused punctures. However, it was noted that some gates

required padlocking by farmers to prevent stock escaping.

- The Disabled Ramblers attended the bridle gate trials to test out various gates; the results had been incorporated into BS5709 which was the British Standard for gaps, gates and stiles.
- Mr Cuthbertson explained that although the Disabled Ramblers predominantly catered for people with mobility issues; a person with a disability such as blindness would be able to go on a ramble if they had someone to accompany them.

The following questions were raised:

- It was queried why there was no mention of the Disabled Ramblers using routes in the New Forest, which was an area that was well equipped with good pathways. Mr Cuthbertson agreed that the pathways were ideal and that rambles had been run in the area.
- A member of the forum asked if charging the scooters was an issue. Mr Cuthbertson explained that a scooter would normally run for up to 30 miles on flat surfaces and 10-12 miles on difficult terrain. The scooters (Trampers) were transported in wheelchair accessible vehicles and charged at accommodation overnight.
- It was noted that high visibility jackets were worn by people at the front and back of the column and that the group avoided roads where possible and kept well away from horses.
- It was noted that the Trampers could generally get through gaps a metre wide.
- It was queried why disabled people were unable to use a quad bike. Mr Cuthbertson advised that it was illegal to ride a quad bike on a public right of way. The Trampers were very stable and easy for new people to learn how to use but did cost approximately £7,000.
- Mr G Caspersz added that he had recently led some disabled rambles during the Chilterns Walking Festival. He highlighted that Coombe Hill, The Ridgeway, canal tow paths and many other local footpaths were all accessible by a normal disability scooter. Any work done on gates and paths would form a legacy and Mr Caspersz encouraged everyone to support the work.
- It was queried whether the Disabled Ramblers had worked with other organisations. It was confirmed that they had worked with Trail Riders and other routes were being explored.
- The membership of the Disabled Ramblers was approximately 200 people. .

The Chairman thanked Mr Cuthbertson for the update.

5. RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT

Ms H Francis, Definitive Map and Land Charges Team Lead, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Rights of Way Group. During discussion key points were highlighted as follows:

Definitive Map Team report

- Item A; CAMSWEB was moving ahead.
- Item B; New Statement of Priorities. A member of the group commented that in paragraph 1, it mentioned “reduced staff resources”. It was clarified that the team leader was on maternity leave and that one member of staff was currently on long term sick which had caused the reduction in staff.
- It was noted that A new Statement of Priorities (Appendix A) should read Appendix 1.
- Item C; Matters Previously Determined by Committee. Edgcott; the public enquiry had been held and it was hoped that the application would be successful.
- Item D; Definitive Map Applications to be investigated and reported to Committee. Two further definitive map applications had been received for Stokenchurch and High Wycombe, making 21 outstanding applications for claimed routes.
- It was asked if the date of 2020 would slip. Ms Francis advised that this was possible but that any new applications received had been prioritised.
- Item E; Public Path Orders. The Public Path Orders were mostly the same although it was noted that Number 5, Weston Turville, was currently in consultation.
- Public Path Orders; Item 7; The Chairman noted that the application to extinguish the footpath had gone ahead by Wycombe District Council, despite the previous feedback from the Local Access Forum.
- Item F; Village Green Applications. It was noted that one more application had been received.

Strategic Access Update – Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer, asked for any questions on his update. The following points were raised:

- **Appendix 2, Buckinghamshire Public Rights of Way – Planning and Development advice.** A member of the group commented that there was no mention of carriage drivers and others users in paragraph one. It was agreed that the sentence should include “all legal users’ rights of way”.

ACTION: Ms H Francis

- **Item 25 – North Bucks RIPPLE group.** It was queried why all the gates were not now pedestrian gates. Mr Clark clarified that the County Council was beholden to landowners who were within their rights to keep the stile. Some landowners were nervous about pedestrian gates without a refuge due to the possibility of stock escaping.

Rights of Way Operations Update

- Ms J Taylor, Rights of Way Team Leader, provided an update on the current staff structure of 6 FTE.
- Internal candidate had been appointed as Rights of Way officer.

- Ms A Heath noted that repairs to bridleways were being left until they posed a danger, in particular one of the bridleways in Marlow and Wexham 26. Wexham 26 had been raised as an issue and had now resulted in an accident where a horse had been badly injured. Ms Heath advised that the rider was proposing to pursue legal proceedings against the County Council. Ms Taylor explained that there was a limited budget for these types of works and that a bid for money for capital improvement works had been submitted and that Wexham 26 was included in the bid. Ms Taylor clarified that the accident did not occur on the bridleway, but on land owned by the County Council. The claim was being dealt with by the insurance team. Ms Taylor advised that the problem in Marlow had been identified; the surface had eroded and this was on the list for repair. It was noted this could be carried out in a couple of years if it became a capital project.
- Concern was expressed over the high number of outstanding issues detailed in Appendix 3 – Rights of Way Summary of Maintenance Carried Out. Ms Taylor advised that the highest number recorded was 4,000, and the lowest was 800. It was agreed that the number was rising.
- The low number of paths rated easy to use was commented on as being disappointing. Ms Taylor explained there had been difficulties issuing the surveys to volunteers, but it was important that the surveys were carried out as it benchmarked the quality and condition of the rights of way work.

6. LAF MEMBERS REPORT

Mr Clark, provided the following updates;

- Item 2, the closure of Footpath 80 in High Wycombe. This had been consulted on by Wycombe District Council and that, despite objections to the closure, it was decided that the anti-social behaviour was a greater concern.
- No appeal against the decision had been received.

Following discussion the Chairman agreed that this would not be taken any further.

Item 4; East West Rail; Mr Clark clarified that the categories were parishes.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr D Briggs made a plea for more cycle ways across the County which the Chairman endorsed. It was highlighted that a cycle route was planned to run alongside the HS2 route.
- Mr Clark apologised for not posting out the meeting papers and agreed to send out future papers.

ACTION: Mr Clark

- Mr Clark agreed to look into possible routes for funding by Sustrans.

ACTION: Mr Clark

8. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS – 21 MARCH 2018.

Date of Next and Future Meetings – 21 March 2018.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 21 March 2018

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2018 review

Author: Jonathan Clark

Contact Officer: Sally Taylor (01296 531024)

Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires the county council to assess and review the ROWIP no more than 10 years after publication. The Buckinghamshire ROWIP (2008-2018) expires at the end of 2018 and the council would like to consult the Local Access Forum for advice on the structure and content of a review. The existing document can be found here:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/future-of-rights-of-way/rights-of-way-improvement-plan/>

This review will be an opportunity to highlight successes and short-comings of the council's performance over the plan period. Ultimately, the review should address the extent to which the rights of way network has been improved for walkers, cyclists, equestrians, the partially sighted or those with reduced mobility in the last 10 years; and to mark progress that will inform the development of the council's 2nd ROWIP.

Some questions the review might ask:

- How successful was the Plan in delivering the outcomes set at the end of each chapter and was the structure of the document helpful?
- To what extent were the targets set in the Plan ambitious and were these targets based on evidence?
- Which elements of the Plan were useful, successful and informative to the work carried out by the council / volunteers that could be included in ROWIP 2?
- Has the council sustained adequate investment to maintain and improve the county's rights of way network in the plan period?
- Has the council provided better information on rights of way; has it created useful new routes to address fragmentation; and have communities and voluntary groups been involved in improvements?

The council also seeks advice on a realistic target date for producing the review and who should be consulted?

For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 21 March 2018

Title: Rights of Way group update

Authors: Helen Francis, Interim Definitive Map and Local Land Charges Team Leader; Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer; and Joanne Taylor, Team Leader – Rights of Way Operations

Contact Officer: Sally Taylor (01296 531024)

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

1. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections were referred to the Secretary of State; Public Inquiry held 10 October 2017, the Order was not confirmed, CASE CLOSED.**
2. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Application dated 10 September 2013. The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections were referred to the Secretary of State; Public Inquiry held 18 July 2017 and 21 and 22 November 2017, the Order was not confirmed, CASE CLOSED.**
3. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Application dated 10 October 2014. The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections will be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
4. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Order to be made shortly.**
5. **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. Order to be made shortly.**
6. **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. Rejected by the Rights of Way Committee at its meeting on 8 February 2018, as the route was recorded on the Definitive Map by Creation Agreement. CASE CLOSED.**

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

All Definitive Map Modification applications are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. However, we will prioritise certain applications under the following circumstances:

- I. The evidence in support (either fully or in part) of the application is that of User Evidence
 - II. There is a threat of development affecting the claimed route
 - III. If the evidence in support of the application is shared with another application within the chronological list and it would be efficient to investigate the applications concurrently
1. **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, discussions with developer regarding a Creation Agreement.**
 2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee.**
 3. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street. **Application dated 6 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee.**
 4. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2018 Committee.**
 5. **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.**
 6. **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.**
 7. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Application received 20 December 2016 – scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
 8. **High Wycombe** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Pinewood Road and Public Footpath No. 93. **Application received 3 October 2017 – scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
 9. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application received 9 October 2017 – scheduled for mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
 10. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017 – scheduled for mid-2019 Committee meeting.**

11. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Application dated 5 December 2013. Under Investigation – direction received from the Secretary of State to deal with the application by June 2018.**
12. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2019 Committee.**
13. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2019 Committee.**
14. **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 late-2019 Committee.**
15. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2012 Committee meeting.**
16. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 - scheduled for early-2020 Committee meeting.**
17. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 – scheduled for early-2020 Committee meeting.**
18. **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 mid-2020 Committee meeting.**
19. **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 mid-2020 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. **Application dated 21 June 2016 – scheduled for mid-2020 Committee meeting.**
21. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford – **scheduled for late-2020 Committee meeting.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order Made, waiting for completion of works.**
2. **Biddlesden and Turweston** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 6 and 8. **Order made and advertised, no objections received, awaiting completion of works.**
3. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 13 (part). **Order made and advertised, no objections received, awaiting completion of works.**

4. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Order made, awaiting completion of works.**
5. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **in discussion with applicant and neighbouring landowner.**
6. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Instructions to Legal to draft Order.**
7. **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.**
8. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – **Awaiting completion of work on site.**
9. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site**
10. **Lane End** – Application to divert Footpath No. 9 – **Order made and advertised, no objections received**
11. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Instructions to Legal to draft an Order**
12. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 - **Instructions to Legal to draft an Order**
13. **Chepping Wycombe** – Application to divert Footpath No. 47 – **Draft Order awaiting checking**
14. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1 – **Investigation not started**
15. **Calvert Green and Steeple Claydon** – Application to temporary divert Footpaths No. 5 and 17 for quarry works – **Instruction to Legal to Draft Order.**
16. **Iver** – Application to temporary divert Footpath No. 15 for quarry works – **In objection period.**
17. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2 – **Draft Order awaiting checking.**
18. **Ibstone** – Application to divert Footpath No. 16 – **Under Investigation.**
19. **Chesham** – Application to extinguish part of width of Footpath No. 114 – **Investigation not started**
20. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert Footpaths No. 3, 4 and 6 – **Investigation not started**
21. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 – **Investigation not started**
22. **Stone and Bishopstone** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Investigation not started**
23. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 35 - **Investigation not started**

24. **Fulmer** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2 - **Investigation not started**

D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

1. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **Public Inquiry held 15-17 March 2017, will be presented to the next Rights of Way Committee on 13 March 2018.**
2. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**

Background Papers

None

For further information please contact: Helen Francis 01296 387123

E. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

1. HS2: rights of way closures – to date these are minimal, but more will come into effect in 2018. The closures are for environmental mitigation, archaeology and electricity works, for example, Denham Bridleway 3 alongside the M25 near Maple Cross (Chalfont Lane) will be closed for several months, though this is likely to continue into the construction phase, which will mean the bridleway is closed for a further 7 years. In other areas, HS2 contractors are trying to keep routes open for as long as possible. Plans are being drawn-up for works to construct the Great Missenden Haul Road above the A418 Missenden bypass roundabout, which commences this year.
2. HS2 Schedule 17 Applications – these are similar to planning applications involving HS2 contractors consulting the council on detailed design, access routes, fencing and gates. At present they only relate to mitigation works. The council can comment, but not object or apply 'conditions'. There have been issues around using metal protective matting on a bridleway, and proposals to install non-British Standard gates, but these have been resolved. The rights of way team are paid per hour to process these applications.
3. Heathrow 3rd Runway – preliminary discussions have taken place with Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL), mainly looking at displacement and loss of recreation and access, route severance around the development footprint, and the effects of construction and operation of the Heathrow Project. At present they are undertaking data collection and looking at potential opportunities for improvements to existing routes and creating new routes, both on the rights of way and vehicular highway networks. The rights of way team are paid per hour to undertake work requested in this area. The first public consultation commenced in January 2018.
4. Oxford to Cambridge Expressway – this is a proposed new road between Oxford and Cambridge, passing through the county and linking with Milton Keynes. The inaugural meeting of the Strategic Environment Forum took place in December 2017 aiming to start building relations between Highways England and stakeholders. Concerns have already been shared with Highways England around rights of way crossings, bridges and diversions, and the officer has raised the possibility of improved routes and higher rights.
5. The North Bucks RIPPLE group (Ramblers volunteers) celebrated their 100th gate since starting work in April 2016. Kate Ashbrook did a press release, and coverage

from Mix 96 is enclosed in Appendix 1. More details about their Donate-a-Gate Project can be found via this link:

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

For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695

F. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)

1. I can report current staff structure is 6 FTE staff: 1 RoW Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officers and 1 Bridge Structure Inspector. All posts are currently filled. The team is pleased to welcome Savannah Fradley as the new Assistant Rights of Way Officer for the Southern of the county. Savannah joined us on the 5th March 2018.
2. Appendix 1 shows the Rights of Way Operations output from 1st April 2016 to 1st March 2018, and it includes a break-down of works undertaken by volunteers.
3. I can report on the outcome of the additional projects to be completed this financial year:
 - replacement of the deck on an equestrian bridge on Denham BW52 (currently closed in the interests of safety); works ordered and programmed for completion March 2018;
 - replacement of a footbridge on Wendover FP9 (currently closed in the interests of safety); works ordered and programmed for completion March 2018;
 - replacement of a footbridge Preston Bissett FP18; works ordered and programmed for completion March 2018 (currently closed in the interests of safety);
 - repairs to the surface of the Thames Path in Marlow (near Temple) – completed;
 - repairs to Bridleway 8 in Hillesden, subject to the issuing of a badger licence – completed – however further problems found with more setts under the route, closure now in place;
 - Grubbins Lane – Lacey Green Restricted Byway, re-surfacing by owners, with BCC contribution – completed;
 - Denham FP19, clearance and resurface works undertaken by parochial church council – with BCC contribution completed;
 - Stoke Lane bridleway in Great Brickhill, resurface works undertaken; and
 - 12 larger clearance works undertaken by contractors across various sites-completed.
4. Capital money has been acquired for works to be carried out on the following paths in the next 12 months.
 - Iver bridleway number 30 bridge replacement;
 - Chesham FP107 bridge renovation;
 - Great Missenden FP33 A413 steps;
 - Bledlow BW59 surface works;
 - Ellesborough BW51 surface works; and
 - Wexham BW26 surface works.
5. Rights of Way Bridge structure routine inspections. Over 300 bridge structures will be inspected this financial year. Due to staff resources this is a less than the

400 inspections anticipated. I can report there are currently 77 bridge repairs/replacements outstanding across the county.

6. After lengthy negotiations the Reed's bridge in Iver is due to be replaced by the Canal and River Trust as a footbridge in the summer of 2018. In addition, the long-closed bridge along Bridleway IVE/30 should be replaced during the next financial year. This should dramatically improve rights of way access to this area. Both bridges have been closed for 3 years.

For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

Date: 21 March 2018

Title: LAF members' report

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer

Contact Officer: Sally Taylor (01296 531024)

Correspondence

1. The British Horse Society (BHS), Byways & Bridleways Trust, Ramblers and Open Spaces Society have written a paper entitled 'How can public access be improved post Brexit' [Appendix 2](#). This was present to the Defra Minister, Michael Gove, and copies sent to all Local Access Forums from Rachel Fraser of the BHS Access and Rights of Way Department - rachel.fraser@bhs.org.uk;
2. Alison Heath, LAF member representing the BHS, has written to the council regarding the surfacing along a bridleway in Haddenham called Green Lane ([Appendix 3](#)). The parish council have proposed to surface with bitumen as part of a plan to link the town to Aylesbury with a cycle route. The BHS advocate a new surface called Flexi-pave, composed of 'rubber crumb' which is less stressful on horses' joints than bitumen, but provides a relatively hard surface for walkers and cyclists. Further views and discussion on this subject is sought from the Forum.
3. Jacky Akam, Landscape Partnership Development Manager at the Chilterns Conservation Board, wrote to the Chairman following his attendance at a public event to promote the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership Project. Jacky requested a letter of support from the LAF that could accompany future funding bids, including to the Heritage Lottery and HS2 Community and Environment Fund (CEF). A background paper on the project is enclosed in [Appendix 4](#), with relevance to access outlined in 'Project B4 – Routes to the Past', and Richard's response is enclosed in [Appendix 5](#).

Public Spaces Protection Order

4. Chiltern District Council are consulting the Local Access Forum on a Public Spaces Protection Order. Members may recall the proposed Order in High Wycombe in 2017. This application is for restrictions in Chiltern District owned car parks, mainly relating to anti-social behaviour around misuse of vehicles, but there is mention of restrictions on cycling – see [Appendix 6](#). Member's views are sought.

Traffic Regulation Orders

5. Since the bridleway through Pulpit Wood (SP 835, 047) was upgraded to 'byway open to all traffic' in 2012 there has been an increase in 4 x 4 vehicles resulting in severe rutting and excessive mud, rendering the route through Pulpit Wood inconvenient for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Local Access Forum resolved on 8th March 2017 to recommend a Traffic Regulation Order for Byway 40 & 40A Great & Little Kimble Parish to ban 4x4 vehicles all year round, but allow motorbikes between June and October. This decision was taken to the Rights of Way Committee on 8th February 2018 where members agreed with the Local Access Forum's assessment. A legal Order will be made in due course and bollards installed to prevent future 4x4s. Andrew Clark requested the matter be raised today.

Annual Report

6. The Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report for April 2016 – March 2017 has been drafted and members are asked to review and agree the content. Natural England have not requested a report for this period, but one has been produced for continuity, to record progress, and publicise the Forum's achievements on the website ([Appendix 7](#)).

Highways Improvement

7. A new surfaced track along the verge of the A413 was installed by the council between Aylesbury (the Buckingham Park roundabout SP 816, 160) and the junction with New Road, Weedon (SP 808, 176) – green line on [Appendix 8](#). This compliments an existing surfaced route (blue line) along New Road to connect Weedon residents with Aylesbury and the A413 bus stop. LAF member Glyn Thomas has suggested the section along New Road needs renewing / maintaining as it has become grassed-over and hopes the existing surface along the A413 can be maintained in future. Members' views are sought on the best way to secure a renewed surface along New Road to provide a seamless connection for walkers and cyclists between Weedon and Aylesbury. See also photos in [Appendix 9](#).

LAF dates for 2018

8. Future LAF meeting dates are: 25th July and 7th November 2018

**Buckinghamshire County Council - Rights of Way
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out
Between 1/04/16 and 1/03/18**

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	Aprl 16 - Mar 17	Aprl17- Mar 18
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	55	8
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	135km	75km
Bridge	Installed or repaired	82	24
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	139	171
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	17	16
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	95	69
Intimidation + animal	Intimidation - resolved	28	15
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	10	7
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	17	5
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	211	80
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	30	8
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	277	230
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	27	11
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	131	94
Other	Delivery of materials	45	29
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	45	24
Stile	Installed or repaired	226	141
Stile	Stile To Gap	17	8
Stile	Stile To KG	56	45
Stile	Stile To PG	79	34
Terrain	Bank Steps	19	6
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	117	51
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	171	129
Authorisation	New Structure HA80 sec 147	6	nil
Issues Signed off	Since 1st April 16 - 31Mar 2017	2443	
Issues Signed off	1st April 17 to 1 Mar 18		1506
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	1717	1341
Volunteer Hours	RA Only	698	717
Improvements	To aid mobility access	247	156
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	66%	76% interim
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	97%	91% interim
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	89%	92% interim
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 31/03/17	1114	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 1/03/18		1480
% of issues in targ time	Category C issues on Matrix	73%	47%
% of issues in targ ave.	% Enf issues in targ time in mth	74%	69%

Above includes

Clearance direct from BCC
Miscellaneous Jobs
Waymarking and signs
Gates Repaired and installed
Bank Steps
Stiles replaced and repaired
Trees removed
Total Jobs
Hours

Volunteer Jobs Completed

149 jobs/36km 94 jobs/24.5km
17 4
121 88
67 75
7
75 52
69 66
536 jobs 379 jobs
2415 hours 2058 hours



The Byways and Bridleways Trust



How public access can be improved post Brexit

Proposals from the British Horse Society, Byways and Bridleways Trust, Open Spaces Society and Ramblers for the redirection of agricultural funds to give public benefit, October 2017

- 1 The United Kingdom's departure from the EU provides an opportunity to model funding schemes for agriculture to ensure that public money achieves maximum public benefit and promotes public wellbeing.
- 2 Public benefit should include public access, whether by paths or open access to land (freedom to roam), because such assets support local economies, and improve people's health, wellbeing and safety. Public access also helps to connect those who use paths for whatever reason (non-motorised transport, for health reasons and for recreation) and those who own and manage the land. Naturally we advocate the public exercise its rights and freedoms responsibly and with respect for landowners, land managers and other users.
- 3 Any new scheme should include financial support for landowners who provide additional access or improvements to existing access.

Proposal 1. Additional access

- 4 Payments should be available for the provision of new access, either along defined paths or as freedom to roam, or both. It should be well publicised. It should be targeted and selective, with bids from farmers and land managers assessed against criteria, such as public demand, achievement of the objectives of the rights of way improvement plan, linking up existing routes, or improvement of safety (for example, enabling walkers and riders to avoid using roads, especially those which are busy, or have limited visibility).

- 5 Encouragement should be given for creating bridleways or restricted byways so that maximum public benefit is provided. The provision of circular off-road routes is of particular benefit for equestrians as they limit the amount of riding on roads. In the case of access land, there could be an increased number of access points, or additional access points provided across boundaries within the access area, and the provision of higher rights access on access land.
- 6 Providing higher rights on existing rights of way (the difference in subsidy between footpaths and bridleways or restricted byways should be substantial to encourage upgrades where it is appropriate for all users).
- 7 Ideally the new access will be permanent, consisting of definitive rights of way, or land dedicated for access under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or as a village green under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006. Additional spreading room adjacent to the coastal path in England could be rewarded. However, long-term permissive access is often better than no access at all.

Proposal 2. Enhancing existing access

- 8 There should be rewards for enhancing existing access. For example, this could include:
 - improvement in path widths,
 - regularly mowing a headland path and preventing encroachment by vegetation,
 - mowing and marking a path across grass leys,
 - mowing, regrading and rolling green lanes,
 - improving the accessibility of gates and stiles,
 - additional or improved waymarking and signposting,
- 9 Enhancements of existing access would be optional extras which farmers and land managers could elect to adopt. They would be applied to existing public rights of way and access land, and the farmer would receive standard annual payments per length of path adopted. Because the enhancements would be applied to existing public rights of way and access land, farmers could opt into the scheme without prior negotiation, and the scheme would have low administration costs.

Proposal 3. Cross compliance

- 10 It is important that those who receive grants and have existing rights of way on their land should ensure that all legislation is complied with, keeping paths clear of obstruction, reinstating them after ploughing etc.
- 11 It will be necessary to work out a cross-compliance regime that is fair to both land managers and the public, once the future is clearer.

31 October 2017

British Horse Society, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2XZ
Byways and Bridleways Trust, c/o 57 Bowers Mill, Branch Road, Barkisland HX4 0AD
Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA
Ramblers, 2nd Floor Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

From: Alison Heath [mailto:alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 23 February 2018 20:03
To:
Cc: Pushman (External), Richard
Subject: Thame to Aylesbury Bicycle Track

Dear Jonathan

I am very concerned that interested people like myself never knew anything about the decision to upgrade The Green Lane, Haddenham to a bicycle track. It only came to my attention when local riders began to contact me for information about changes to their bridleway. It has clearly caused much distress to local residents of Haddenham who have felt that they have not been informed and properly consulted about it. Some people only came to know about what was going on when the work on widening and putting tarmac on the bridleway was set in motion. Incidentally, as I have pointed out before, the BHS is very opposed to tarmac being used on bridleways and would prefer an unsealed surface such as Flexi-Pave, which is made of rubber crumb and is porous.

In view of this I would like to propose that we have a discussion about the plans for this bicycle track and also any others in Bucks which make use of public rights of way. I do feel that as the British Horse Society County Access and Bridleways Officer for Bucks I should have had some advance notice of your plans and the chance to have some input. Perhaps other key people working in the access area may feel this same.

Ideally I think, where appropriate, bicycle tracks should be designed as multi-user routes rather than just made for cyclists. There is a great shortage of joined up bridleways in some areas especially in the area through which this track will go.

Kind regards

Alison Heath

BHS County Access and Bridleways Officer for Bucks

Introduction

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs is a Landscape Partnership bringing together diverse organisations and communities in the central Chilterns to work together towards a vision of:

“A healthy, resilient, connected landscape; with its unique natural, historical, and cultural heritage cherished by present and future generations”

Landscape has character, it is alive and evolving and the iconic chalk landscape of the central Chilterns provides a sense of place and time. Landscape is comprised of many layers including geology, nature, farming, history and culture.

The central Chilterns landscape is rich in wildlife, cultural heritage and tranquil green places for people to unwind. But this landscape is under enormous pressure; with unprecedented housing and infrastructure growth, including High Speed 2; ancient woodlands divided up and sold off; wildlife habitats severed and fragmented; traditional orchards and wood pasture disappearing.

The Chalk, Cherries and Chairs partnership aims to:

1. Restore, enhance and record wildlife habitats, landscape features and cultural heritage of the Central Chilterns
2. Create new opportunities for people to investigate and celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of the Chilterns, inspiring a wider range of people to become stewards for their local heritage
3. Strengthen the capacity of local communities to take action for their local landscapes and natural heritage

The Chilterns Conservation Board were awarded a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Landscape Partnership Scheme. The development team are working with over 30 local organisations to develop detailed plans for many exciting projects across these 3 aims to have a real impact in the Central Chilterns.

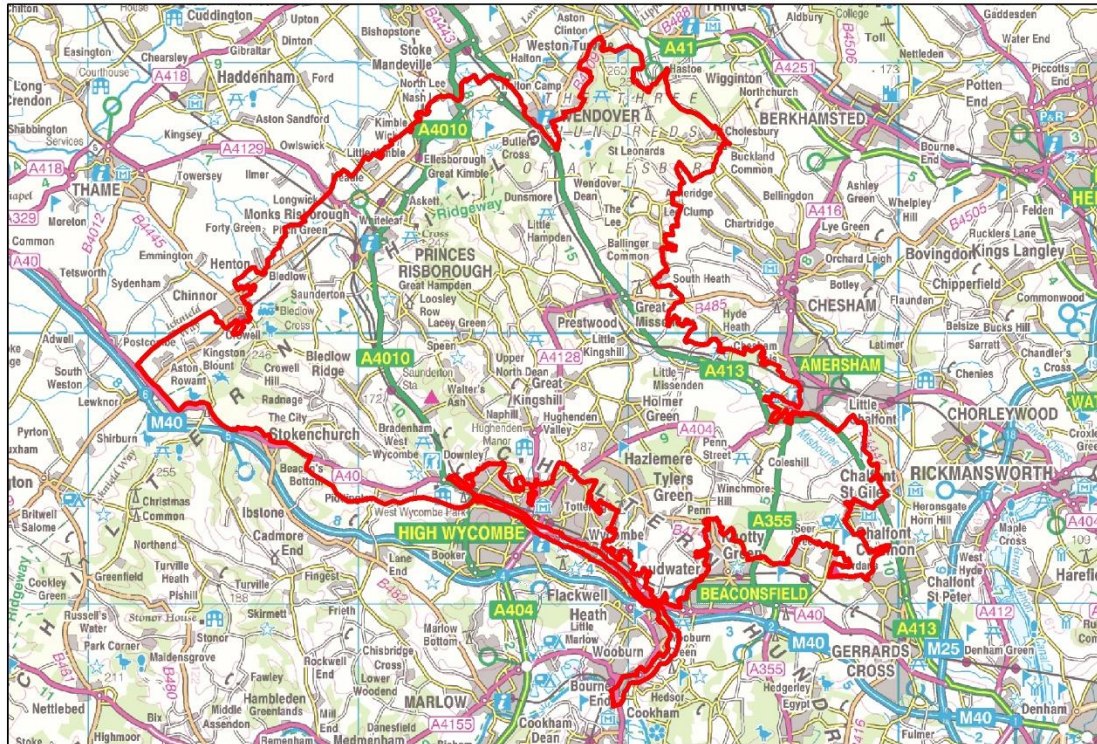
The team will submit the Stage 2 application to HLF in Summer 2018. If successful, the delivery of the 5-year Landscape Scheme will start early in 2019 and bring an investment of £2.8m to the Central Chilterns.

Key to the success of the scheme will be involving local people in getting active in caring for their local countryside; helping local communities become champions for their own local heritage and green spaces.

Landscape conservation discovers, protects and restores historical and cultural connections, it re-builds and strengthens connections between people, place and heritage, to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the social, health and economic benefits this special landscape provides.

A landscape-scale approach to wildlife conservation will leave a legacy of better connected, managed and more resilient wildlife habitats. Land managers and volunteers will have the skills and understanding to care for a changing landscape. A strengthened partnership will ensure the legacy lasts.

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership Scheme Area



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Theme A WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPE

Projects within this theme will contribute to achieving the Lawton Review aims of 'more, bigger, better and more joined up' spaces for wildlife. Landscape-scale conservation activity will increase habitat quality and connectivity by linking and buffering existing wildlife habitat and creating wildlife rich corridors and stepping stones. Volunteering will be an integral part of this theme.

Project A1 Landscape Connections

This project will deliver habitat restoration, creation and enhancement in key geographical areas to achieve greatest biodiversity gain within the Central Chilterns. It will focus on species-rich grassland, arable margins, woods, hedgerows, and wetland habitats.

Work will be carried out on farms & other private landholdings, local wildlife sites, nature reserves and publicly owned land. Landowners and managers will be offered a package of advice and support appropriate to the needs of their land, from a menu including:

- Habitat management planning
- Ways to improve condition and manage landscape features such as hedgerow trees
- Habitat/species surveying
- Capital works
- Volunteer work parties
- Kit and equipment loans
- Grazing solutions
- Bespoke advice for equine landowners
- Initiatives to support pollinators

- Ways to manage the impact of Glis Glis and Deer
- Collaborative approaches to woodland management for small woods owners
- Training opportunities

Project A2 Rough Around the Edges

This project will deliver habitat restoration, creation and enhancement on a smaller scale through engaging, energising and supporting local community groups to own and develop local projects on local sites with the overall aim to strengthen wildlife corridors and 'stepping stones' in the landscape.

The project will:

- Create partnerships for wildlife-friendly golf courses, churchyards and road verges.
- Encourage and support local community groups to create new local wildlife spaces and improve monitoring on existing sites to inform future management.
- Raise awareness of the Rough Around the Edges concept and reward local groups for delivering local projects.

Project A3 Water in a Dry Landscape

This project will focus on key freshwater habitats off the main river courses, by:

- Working with land owners and managers to survey and carry out practical habitat improvement.
- Discovering more about Chiltern escarpment headwaters and how to improve them
- Mapping and restoring ancient ponds
- Installing new ponds
- Looking to reintroduce Water Vole on the River Misbourne above Little Chalfont.

Project A4 Chilterns Orchards

This project will celebrate the cultural heritage of orchards in the Central Chilterns. It will provide a way for local people to form a deeper connection with their local landscape, whilst improving and increasing wildlife habitat. It will involve:

- Mapping old orchard sites and training volunteers to find those still existing
- Provide training and management advice for orchard owners & assisting owners to restore traditional orchard habitat and plant new orchards
- Working with communities to plant new orchards; and to set-up, train and support groups
- Researching the cultural and economic history of cherries in the Chilterns
- Supporting groups to celebrate the cultural heritage of orchards with their communities

Project A5 Moving the Earth

This project will promote greater understanding of the influence of soils, geology and extractive industries on the landscape. It will be a doorstep project to bring to life Chinnor quarry by:

- Working with partners to create and restore wildlife habitat on site and link habitat to nearby Local Wildlife Trust sites
- Tell the story of the extractive industry and its connection to local communities
- Increase walking, information and access by incorporating the Ridgway National Trail into circular routes

Project A6 Tracking the Impact

Targeted wildlife and landscape surveys and recording to support all the natural environment projects. Using key ecological indicators specific to the Chilterns identified during development, this project will track the impact of projects on both a site and landscape scale as well as inform ongoing habitat management.

Tracking the Impact will:

- Agree key ecological indicators to track progress on specific sites and wider landscape impact
- Design site and landscape survey programmes
- Support the expansion of existing national specific survey programmes
- Roll out of new citizen science surveys
- Co-ordinated recruitment and training of new volunteer surveyors

Theme B HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

The area has a rich industrial heritage - famed for its cherry orchards, its brick and tile making and the world-renowned Wycombe chair making industry. The Scheme will create lots of opportunities for people to investigate these rural industries and to piece together how they have helped to shape the landscapes we know today

Projects will identify, record, conserve and record characteristic landscape elements including ancient woodlands, wood pasture, traditional orchards, hedgerows, boundary features and historic routeways.

Projects will actively engage different generations and cultural groups. The projects will create a beautiful and enduring record to inform and inspire future visitors and land managers.

Project B1 Woodlanders Lives and Landscapes

A discovery of the lives of the rural communities associated with the furniture industry of the central Chilterns. The project will document how these people's lives and work have shaped the landscape we see today by:

- Establishing a research programme carried out by community groups and volunteers with training. The research will capture memories; discover and understand the lives and stories of the families, their traditions, songs, games, food, clothes, churches, education and so on.
- Contributing findings to a web-based resource, including a digital map of stories and sound.
- Developing a range of ways, the wider audience can engage with the findings; eg. exhibition display to tour, digital materials, schools information, events, festivals, and updating walking routes.

Project B2 Celebrating Crafts and Heritage Skills

This project will inspire people about the distinctive natural and cultural heritage of the area by celebrating heritage crafts and skills. It will deliver:

- A programme of events, demonstrations, hands-on experience,
- Workshops and training courses on rural crafts and heritage skills such as wood turning, hedge-laying, scything, basket-making, lace-making and blacksmithing
- Networking and support for local crafts people
- Opportunities for young people to learn new skills and bring traditional crafts up-to-date.

Project B3 Cherry Tales

A spoken-word project using memories of the cherry orchards and central Chilterns dialects, both of which are in danger of dying out, to inspire new works. It will be a cross-generational project to:

- Increase awareness of the legacy of cherry orchards that were once a key feature of the central Chilterns landscape
- Produce new stories and performances inspired by local dialect
- Use the arts to bring lasting stories to a new audience

Project B4 Routes to the Past

This project will investigate, record, interpret and celebrate ancient routeways and their role in shaping the landscape with local communities.

The project will:

- Inspire local people to discover ancient Holloways, their origins, names, use & importance for movement of livestock, people, resources, and wildlife
- Digitize and share the results
- Implement sensitive access enhancements to ancient routeways

Project B5 The Mystery of Grimm's Ditch

Despite previous research, it is still unclear what the Grimm's Ditch earthworks were for, what form they took and how old they are. Was this a permeable boundary or a defensive feature?

This project will raise awareness and understanding and enhance the protection and management of archaeological features such as Grim's ditch. Through community engagement it will:

- Investigate using Lidar & possible excavation.
- Engage local heritage groups in fieldwork
- Use HS2 archaeological investigation for positive information/interpretation
- Work with landowners to improve management and increase access to sections of Grim's ditch
- Disseminate and share results with the wider community through digital interpretation, online resources and site-based displays/walks

Project B6 People and Mills

A community engagement project to increase awareness, knowledge, involvement and ownership by local people of the river Wye and the social and cultural heritage of its Mills. Particular effort will be made to engage with people who have not traditionally been involved, especially those within neighbouring urban areas of High Wycombe:

- A programme of volunteering and activities across different sectors of the community; such as oral histories, drama, dance & music, practical conservation, art, outdoor cooking & eating, digital & social media.
- Interpretation created through the activities, exploring the natural and cultural heritage.
- A link to shared heritage between Wycombe's milling history with that of Kashmir/Punjab paper milling from 15th century

Theme PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPE

Projects in this theme will empower local communities to look after their local special places and landscapes by engaging effectively with the planning system, catalysing local volunteering, and caring for local green space.

Projects will promote a stronger sense of place, help people relate to today's landscape and break down barriers preventing people from engaging with the countryside. We will target the more urban, ethnically, and culturally diverse centres of population where there are opportunities to work with community groups to protect and celebrate heritage features.

Project C1 Planning for the Future

A project to provide communities with the knowledge and tools to look after their local special places. It will deliver:

- Guidance and advice on engaging with the planning system for communities, parish councils and special interest groups
- An interactive guide to understanding the special landscape of The Chilterns AONB
- A Series of workshops presenting the information and how to use the guide.
- Potential for paid or free follow-up visits in the LPS area
- Landowner Guides to complement the interactive guide.

Project C2 Chilterns Champions

A project to recruit, train, support, recognise and reward volunteers working across the Central Chilterns to care for their natural and historic landscape.

The project will:

- Increase number of volunteers working with partner organisations across the area
- Mentor and support local people (e.g. volunteers, landowners, naturalists) to champion and lead community action to care for, protect and raise awareness of local heritage

Project C3 Soundscapes - can we 'hear the Chilterns?'

A community engagement project to build a sonic map, recording sounds that define the central Chilterns. It will:

- Provide a platform for people to investigate and celebrate their natural and cultural heritage by considering how their environment currently sounds, might have sounded in the past, or may sound in the future.
- Encourage new audiences to collect sound impressions or develop creative responses to the central Chilterns through the medium of sound or music.

Project C4 Chalks, Cherries and Chairs Festival

An annual fortnight of Chalk, Cherries and Chairs events across the Central Chilterns with a range of partners:

- A programme of events designed to be as inclusive as possible, making heritage accessible to all through a wide range of mediums including music, poetry, walks, talks, storytelling, re-enactments, performances, food & drink, competitions, film and photography
- A show-case for heritage groups and other organisations
- A platform to share information about LPS projects
- A market-place for volunteering opportunities

Project C5 Coming Alive

A digital Interpretation project. Using a wide range of creative techniques to disseminate and deliver the output of other projects, particularly heritage. Local people will be involved in creating the output:

- Geo-located sounds, poems, photos, films
- Digital/web-based interpretation and mapping. Using Lidar information and landscape character mapping

Project C6 Schools Settlements

A project working with local primary schools to teach children about settlement patterns. It will use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

It will enable children to learn:

- Why people chose to settle in parts of the Chilterns – what were the topographical features that drew them there
- How industrial change has changed settlements
- How human decision making has affected our settlement patterns forever

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Partnership Advisory Group

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
Buckinghamshire County Council
Bucks & MK Natural Environment Partnership
Buckinghamshire and MK Environmental Records Centre (BMERC)

Bucks New University
Chiltern Rangers CIC
Chiltern Society
Community Impact Bucks
Independent Landscape Architect

Other partner organisations:

Amersham Museum
Bucks Visual Arts Group
Buglife
Butterfly Conservation
Chilterns Chalk Streams Project
Chiltern District Council
Chiltern Woodlands Project
Forestry Commission
Mid Shires Orchard Group
National Farmers Union
National Trust

Natural England
Oxfordshire County Council
Plantlife
River Thames Conservation Trust
Ridgeway Partnership
Thames Valley Records Centre
University of Reading
Woodland Trust
Wycombe District Council
Wycombe Museum

Contacts

You can contact the development team at the Chilterns Conservation Board on 01844 355527

Jacky Akam - Chalk, Cherries & Chairs Development Manager

jakam@chilternsaonb.org

Nick Marriner - Chalk, Cherries & Chairs Development Officer

nmarriner@chilternsaonb.org

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with 13 members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

16th February 2018

CHALK, CHERRIES & CHAIRS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Dear Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Development Team,

On behalf of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, I would like to offer our support to the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Scheme. At our meetings last year and at your recent public event in Prestwood I was interested to hear about your evolving project. The Local Access Forum are interested in those elements aiming to encourage greater access to the countryside, together with a better understanding and knowledge of the Chiltern's cultural heritage, in particular those in Project B4 – Routes to the Past.

As you may have heard, we are overseeing the Buckinghamshire Restoring the Record Project (RTR), mirroring the national scheme of the same name. Evidently, there is cross-over where the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs volunteers record landscape features such as sunken lanes and RTR volunteers will be researching the same historic routes to seek unrecorded rights. I know we have encouraged our volunteers to engage with your project and I hope this has been of mutual benefit.

If you require any further countryside access advice for your project we'd be delighted to invite one of your team to our regular meeting.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Pushman (Chairman)

From: Ian Snudden @ Chiltern [<mailto:ISnudden@chiltern.gov.uk>]
Sent: 14 February 2018 17:03
Subject: Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation - Chiltern DC Car parks
 [OFFICIAL]

Dear Sir/Madam

Following reports of Antisocial Behaviour associated with some car parks within Chiltern District, Chiltern District Council propose to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to cover all the car parks within the area to combat this unwarranted behaviour.

The activities which are to be prohibited are: the use of a motor vehicle or creation of noise from a motor vehicle, or behaviour by a person in a way likely to cause nuisance or annoyance to a member of the public, or a risk of harm, damage or injury to a person or property.

The following Restrictions are proposed to apply:

3.1 No person being a driver of, or in control of a motor vehicle in any part of the Restricted Area, shall:

- Rev an engine of a motor vehicle;
- Exceed the speed limit displayed in the relevant car park;
- Suddenly or rapidly accelerate a motor vehicle;
- Race with any other motor vehicle;
- Leave the engine of a motor vehicle running on idle other than when queueing to park or depart;
- Perform any motor vehicle stunts;
- Sound a horn repetitively; or
- Play music audible outside of the motor vehicle

3.2 No person in any part of the Restricted Area shall:

- Use behaviour towards another person reasonably perceived to be threatening, aggressive or intimidating;
- Use foul or abusive language; or
- Gather or loiter with any other person(s) without reasonable excuse
- Maintain, repair, service, or wash any vehicle or part thereof other than to the extent reasonably necessary to enable the vehicle to depart from the Restricted Area
- Use any part of the Restricted Area for skating (whether using in-line or roller skates), skateboarding, or cycling
- Sleep, cook, or camp in any part of the Restricted Area

Please click on the link below to the website where you can read about the consultation process and view the draft Order. <http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/PSPO-Consultation-carparks>

Closing date of **30th March 2018**

If you have any resulting questions regarding this consultation please contact communitysafety@chiltern.gov.uk

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

Name of LAF	Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum
Name of LAF Chair	Richard Pushman
Name of LAF Secretary	Jonathan Clark

Total number of LAF members	13
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	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?	0.8	How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	£1,220
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			50

Partners your LAF worked with during 2016/17 (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?¹ 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?

¹ 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 2016 to March 2017

The main role of the LAF is to provide independent strategic oversight of public access in the county, but the LAF has volunteered to become involved in a number of specific projects as outlined below. Combined, these have had a positive outcome for public access.

The LAF mediated on a common land issue in Frieth whereby a small parcel of common had been fenced-off into a garden. Though this action was ultimately unsuccessful, the aim was to avoid expensive enforcement action.

The LAF supported two Chilterns Conservation Board bids: the Chiltern's Walking Festival; and Chiltern's Landscape Partnership.

The LAF provided advice to the North Bucks Ramblers Group (rRIPPLE) planning on setting-up a Donate-a-Gate scheme. Now launched, group have raised over £4500 in donations and have installed over 100 new gates.

The LAF have worked in partnership with neighbouring authorities such as Slough borough council and Royal Borough Windsor and Maidenhead LAFs on a broad range of strategic issues, such as access improvements along the Jubilee River and on recruiting 'Restoring the Record' volunteers.

The Disabled Ramblers continue to receive funding as a 'good cause' from the Aylesbury Vale Lottery.

Two LAF members led walks as part of the Chilterns Walking Festival.

The LAF successfully lobbied the council to purchase the CAMSWeb GIS software to help improve public and volunteer problem reporting and feedback.

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	0	0	
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	1	3	1. Provided advice to Highways on their new 'Maintain My Street' reporting system; 2. to East West Rail's highway crossing points at a public meeting; and lobbied the council for a Pegasus crossing
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	

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

Planning applications /Housing development schemes	0	0	
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	0	
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0	3	1. Wycombe District, 2. Aylesbury Vale District and 3. Slough Borough draft local plans
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	0	0	
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off	1	1	Provided advice on web-based information and data sharing
Right of Way Improvement Plan reviews	0	0	
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	1	1	1. Creation of a new cycleway between Aylesbury and Waddesdon Manor
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	1	1	Provided disabled access advice to Little Chalfont Charitable Trust on a local nature park.
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW			
Parish Council or other grant schemes	0	0	
Access for people with reduced mobility	0	0	
Commons, village greens	0	1	Frieth Common CL217
Open Access land restrictions	4	4	Review cases: 2012026254, 2006070033, 2006040177 & 2006100011.
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	1	Ridgeway National Trail management
NNR dedication	0	0	
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	0	

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

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	0	

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

The LAF were consulted on the proposed changes to the council's online highways defect reporting system, based on GIS mapping, and comments were made on improvements to the rights of way area of the proposals. This discussion ultimately led the the LAF recommending purchase of the CAMS Web online GIS system specifically for rights of way.

The LAF also lobbied the council to improve its turn-around of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) - 3 years - and village green applications, but this was unsuccessful.

Following a letter to all LAFs from the BHS, the Bucks LAF lobbied the council regarding it's position on maintaining the List of Streets under Section 36. After investigation the LAF were assured the council would not remove any route off the List of Streets without a legal Order through the Magistrate's Court.

The LAF were consulted by the Ridgeway Officer on general management of the trail, it's promotion, funding and use by MPVs.

What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

1. Maintaining the profile of the LAF to ensure they remain an important consultee on access;
2. Maintain a relevant and experienced membership and recruit a new person to represent cyclists.

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?

No

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

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

None

Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies²

None

Comments from the Appointing Authority

Membership numbers remain relatively stable and we are grateful to Forum for their excellent advice over the year. A wealth of experience in public access and local government remains and we are privileged to have such long and wide ranging experience. Advice from the LAF is always well-informed, with close scrutiny of the work undertaken by the council and ROW teams. Council resources have inevitably been stretched recently and this sometimes results in a disconnect between member's expectations and what the council can achieve, for example on DMMO timescales. It is pleasing to note the Forum's robust comments to consultations, for example, to Wycombe District Council's PSPO, though this decision ultimately went against members' advice. Forum members are notable for being actively involved in access outside of meetings, by leading walks at the Chiltern's Walking Festival, raising money for disabled access improvements and attending a number of East West Rail consultation events

Comments from LAF Chair

This is my second year of chairmanship of the Local Access Forum and I must thank all the committee members for their continued and helpful support over the past year. These thanks are also extended to the support officers and the considerable number of volunteers whose efforts contribute so much in maintaining our access to the beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside we are privileged to enjoy. The county is indeed fortunate to have a large network of public footpaths, many of which we rely for maintenance on the efforts of volunteers and dedicated leaders. We continue to support partner organisations, such as the Chilterns Conservation Board and the Chiltern's Walking Festival in their efforts to support and encourage the public to access and enjoy the countryside. You will read elsewhere in the Annual Report of the work achieved over the past year and my repeated thanks to those whose efforts have achieved these encouraging results.

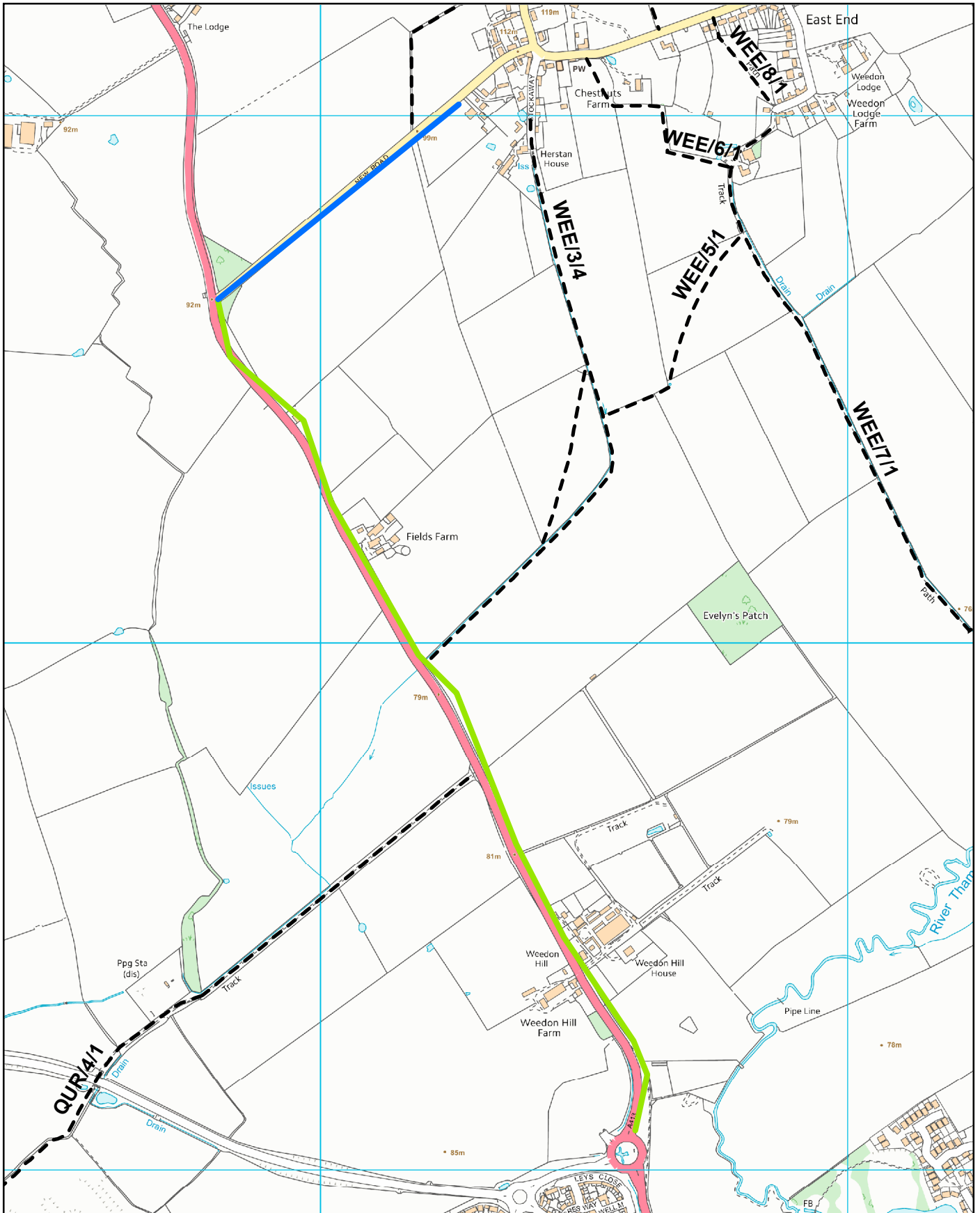
² The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

Any other comments

None



Public Rights of Way

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

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



1:10,000

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A413– existing route



A413 Link to bus stop



New Road – grassed over surface from A413



New Road – grassed over surface from Weedon