



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

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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