



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2020 AT 10.00 AM  
MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

### **AGENDA**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>1 Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3 Minutes of the Meeting/ Matters Arising</b>	<b>3 - 8</b>
<b>4 Misbourne Greenway</b> To be presented by Mr J Mayhew, Lead Growth & Strategy Officer, BCC.	<b>9 - 14</b>
<b>5 Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 – 2030: update</b> To be presented by Mr P Fox, Interim Definitive Map Team Leader, BCC.	<b>15 - 16</b>
<b>6 ROWIP Planning Addendum</b> To be presented by Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer, BCC.	<b>17 - 18</b>
<b>7 Rights of Way Group Report</b> To be presented by: Mr Phillip Fox, Interim Definitive Map Team Leader; Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer; and Ms J Taylor, Operations Team Leader.	<b>19 - 26</b>
<b>8 LAF Members' Report</b> To be presented by Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer, BCC.	<b>27 - 36</b>
<b>9 Any Other Business</b>	
<b>10 Date of Next and Future Meetings</b>  <b>10am, Mezz 1:</b>  - 15 July 2020 - 04 November 2020 - 03 March 2021 - 14 July 2021	





# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

## *BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM*

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.28 PM.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr R Pushman, in the Chair

Mr R Jennings, Mr D Briggs, Mr N Harris, Mr C Hurworth, Mr A T A Lambourne, Ms A Heath, Mr A Clark, Mr B Worrell and Mr C Harriss

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr J Clark, Ms J Taylor, Ms A Williams, Ms E Hackling and Mr P Fox

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr G Caspersz, Mr P Turner, Mr B Chapple and Mr J Elfes.

The Chairman welcomed Ms P Natrass, British Horse Society, to the meeting.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING/ MATTERS ARISING**

Matters arising:

##### **Item 5**

- Mr A Clark, Chiltern Society, highlighted that the society did not receive path copy orders. The Chairman responded that the matter would be handled in the main agenda item.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2019 were AGREED as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.**

#### **4 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020 - 2030: DRAFT CONSULTATION**

Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council, presented the consultation and highlighted the following:

- The draft consultation was published on the BCC website on 1 October 2019 and was open to the public.
- Officers and members of the public had the opportunity to comment on the consultation. Edits would be made based on the comments received.
- Comments could be submitted either verbally or in writing. The deadline was 24 December 2019.

The following points were highlighted in response to questions raised by members of the forum:

- Praise was given by members of the forum to the officers that had worked on the consultation.
- It was highlighted that theme six did not include details on how the service would collaborate with parish councils to implement the plan. Concerns were expressed that this was an ambition as opposed to a reality.
- Investment would be needed to improve the software and access to the website for members of the public. The website was not user friendly and promoted routes were not kept up to date, but there was no mention of the resources required to improve this.
- It was highlighted that the Greenway was not reflected in the report as it had only emerged in the last year.

**RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the consultation.**

## **5 RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT**

Mr P Fox, Rights of Way Structure Inspector and Interim definitive Map Team Leader, Buckinghamshire County Council, presented the report and highlighted the following:

- Mr Fox gave a brief summary of the report and highlighted recent cases and definitive map applications.
- The list had increased and a contractor had been brought in to manage it.
- A member of the forum enquired as to what the progress was on item 4-Tingewick. In response it was highlighted that legal services had been consulted and that comments received from the Riders Association had to be incorporated into the order.
- A draft order for a pathway going through National Trust owned land had not been advertised due to issues highlighted by the association. There was currently a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) in place to stop four wheeled vehicles travelling on the land due to safety risks.
- A member of the forum enquired as to whether the TTRO included or excluded carriages. Ms J Taylor, Rights of Way Team Leader, would find this out following the meeting and feedback.

**ACTION: Ms Taylor**

- It was highlighted that there was an ongoing situation with the condition of stiles. Fences had disappeared and members of the public were using the gaps to walk through. A member of the forum expressed that she had experienced the opposite issue and that members of the public were erecting their own stiles in the existing gaps.
- A member of the forum highlighted that "footpath number 2" had disappeared from the definitive map list but continued to be an issue. Clarification was given that the diversion order had been discontinued at the time of the

meeting.

- A member of the forum emphasised that the Chiltern Society did not receive copies of diversion orders, despite being told it was a statutory requirement. It was clarified that notifications should be received when diversion orders were made, not when applications were received. It was confirmed that the Chiltern Society would be consulted prior to diversion orders being made.
- If there were a lot of objections during the informal consultation phase then a diversion order did not have to be taken forward.
- Public path orders were up to date.
- A member of the forum asked about the impact of the number of routes no longer available for four wheeled drivers. It was clarified that there was not a high number of four wheel drive routes in Buckinghamshire regardless, and that the main clearers were the Chiltern Society.
- The process maps in statutory guidance would be circulated following the meeting.

**ACTION: Ms Taylor**

**RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the report.**

## **6 LAF MEMBERS' REPORT**

Mr Clark, Strategic Access Officer, presented the report and highlighted the following:

- An independent review was underway to decide if HS2 work would continue but construction work continued in the meantime.
- The main contractors were dealing with archaeology and fencing, but were also focused on keeping footpaths and highways open.
- Great Missenden and Quanton had been affected by overhead power works resulting in path closures.
- The Ramblers had attended a parliamentary committee to oppose the closure of Old Shire Lane, Chalfont St Peter. An alternative bridleway was proposed but rejected by parliament.
- A member of the forum highlighted that a footpath in Great Missenden had been closed for a year but no work had taken place which members of the forum considered to be unacceptable. Mr Clark would register the concern with the HS2 Team.

**ACTION: Mr Clark**

### **Greenway**

- Greenway was a vision to create a new, multi-user cycle routes. The scheme was member led and a letter had gone to Central Government to fund the new route, running from north to south from Uxbridge to Silverstone, and east to west from Banbury to Milton Keynes.
- Currently HS2 work would get in the way of the project. Discussions were taking place with HS2 as to how they could redesign their structures. Representation had also been made for equestrian use.
- The project was a top priority for Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC).
- Improvements around Hertfordshire canal between South Harefield and Denham was part of HS2 mitigation.
- It was highlighted that a bridleway should be a minimum of 4 metres wide and a footpath should be 2 metres wide. Greenways should be 6m wide with grass verges for walkers and horse riders.
- A written response was being commissioned in order to engage with colleagues in Hertfordshire County Council to encourage them to participate in

a similar scheme.

- The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway consultation would be delayed until the new year due to the general election.

**ACTION: Mr Clark**

#### **Maintenance Update** – Joanne Taylor, Team Leader Operations

- It was highlighted that the figures included in the report were reflective of the expectations for the mid-year period.
- The number of Chiltern Society volunteer hours had decreased from previous years, but extra volunteers had been added through the Ramblers Ripple scheme.
- The service was awaiting the results of the latest Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) survey. The results were late and there were plans in place to conduct a 5% BVPI test survey each year as opposed to two separate tests.
- The amount of outstanding issues reported had increased by 40% in 2019.
- The capital projects list included in the report was highlighted.
- A method of installing structure continued to be reviewed for the Fawley Footpath. There was sensitivity around the site with a protest march due to take place. Mr Clark would liaise with the Chairman to co-ordinate a written statement to the council on behalf of the forum.

**ACTION: Mr Clark, Ms Taylor**

- A suggestion was made that BCC issued information to the general public to explain how to report access and rights of way issues in an attempt to avoid negative press.

#### **Equestrian Reference Guide**

- The Equestrian Reference Guide was a strategy adopted by Hampshire County Council and was available on the [Hampshire County Council website](#).
- The document was guidance for planners and developers, detailing issues around equestrian needs.
- The strategy was being looked into by Hertfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire County Council.
- BCC would revisit the item in March 2020. During the March 2020 meeting members of the forum would look into the need for a similar strategy in Buckinghamshire so it could be submitted to local planning departments.
- The document would benefit any member of the public in the county responding to a local planning consultation.

#### **Buckinghamshire Council: Unitary Update**

- Following the formation of the unitary council, the Rights of Way team would likely sit under Highways and Technical Services.
- It was unknown what service area the Definitive Map team would come under.
- The Local Access Forum would continue in the unitary council.

**RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.**

### **7 NEW BRITISH STANDARD FOR GAPS, GATES AND STILES (BS 5709: 2018)**

Mr C Beney and Mr T Bindoff, who sat on the Committee for the 2018 British

Standard, delivered a presentation appended to minutes. Following the presentation the following points were highlighted in response to questions raised by members of the forum:

- The York Horse Trial did not include gates for carriage drivers in their standard. The example in the standard was no longer appropriate for modern carriages and needed to be revised.
- The British Horse Society (BHS) recommended the Kent carriage gap. The recommendation had been withdrawn and was in the process of being reviewed.
- One of the key points studied in the York Trial was the number of hoof prints next to each gate. The easier the gate was to access, the less damage would be done to the path.
- A member of the forum asked if there was anything in the British Standard to deal with the use of arsenic on gates. In response it was highlighted that the standard was a functional standard, but a small scale trial was about to be undertaken to test methods of treatment.
- It was highlighted that if bridleway structures were unlawful then legal action would be taken.
- Historically, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) did not keep a full record of all previous Section 147 Agreements.

**RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the presentation.**

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **9 DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

4 March 2020, 10:00am, Mezzanine Room1  
15 July 2020, 10:00am, Mezzanine Room1  
4 November 2020, 10:00am, Mezzanine Room 1

**Chairman**





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 4

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Title:** Buckinghamshire Greenway including the Misbourne Greenway

**Author:** Jack Mayhew

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

Comments and support is sought from the Local Access Forum the concept of the Buckinghamshire Greenway and Misbourne Greenway.

### Buckinghamshire Greenway

This is a strategic vision for a walking and cycling route stretching from Milton Keynes and Brackley to Uxbridge and Heathrow Airport (see Appendix 1). It has the potential to unlock economic growth through increased connectivity and tourism benefits; reduce congestion on the road network through modal shift; and dramatically improve public health outcomes through increased physical activity. While the Greenway provides the spine, with the main growth hub centred in Aylesbury, a network of local links between towns and villages would connect people and places which are currently isolated and inaccessible by non-car modes. Building on Buckinghamshire's heritage as 'Birthplace of the Paralympics', the route would be disabled accessible and would offers opportunities for boosting cycling tourism and access to the AONB.

The first phase of the route, between Aylesbury Garden Town and Waddesdon Manor was completed in 2018, with over 70,000 trips recorded within the first year. Sustrans has recently allocated a further £2m for construction of two sections of Buckinghamshire Greenway by 2021, a river crossing within Aylesbury Garden Town ("the Haydon Hill link") and part of the southern section of the route ("the Misbourne Greenway").

### Misbourne Greenway

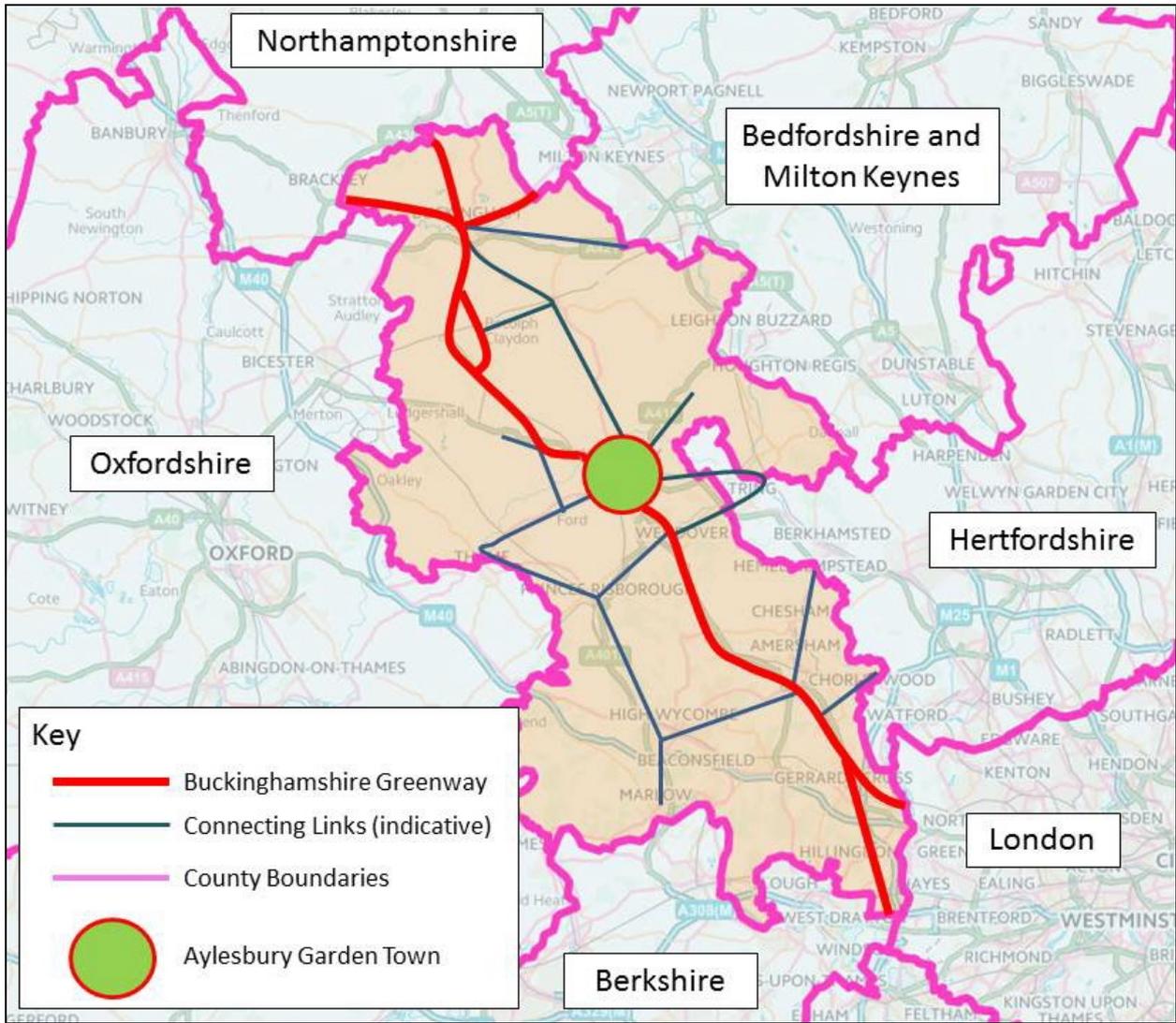
This stretch connect Wendover and Uxbridge (see Appendix 2), with partners including the National Trust, Sustrans, Chiltern Society and Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (BLEP). A planning application has recently been submitted by Greeways and Cyleroutes for the Wendover to Great Missenden. The Chiltern Society have given an 'in principle' agreement to take on the majority of path maintenance, with Sustrans being responsible for more major surfacing repairs.

There is good support from walkers and cyclists, but with no provision for access by equestrians there is evident concern from the horse riding community.

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

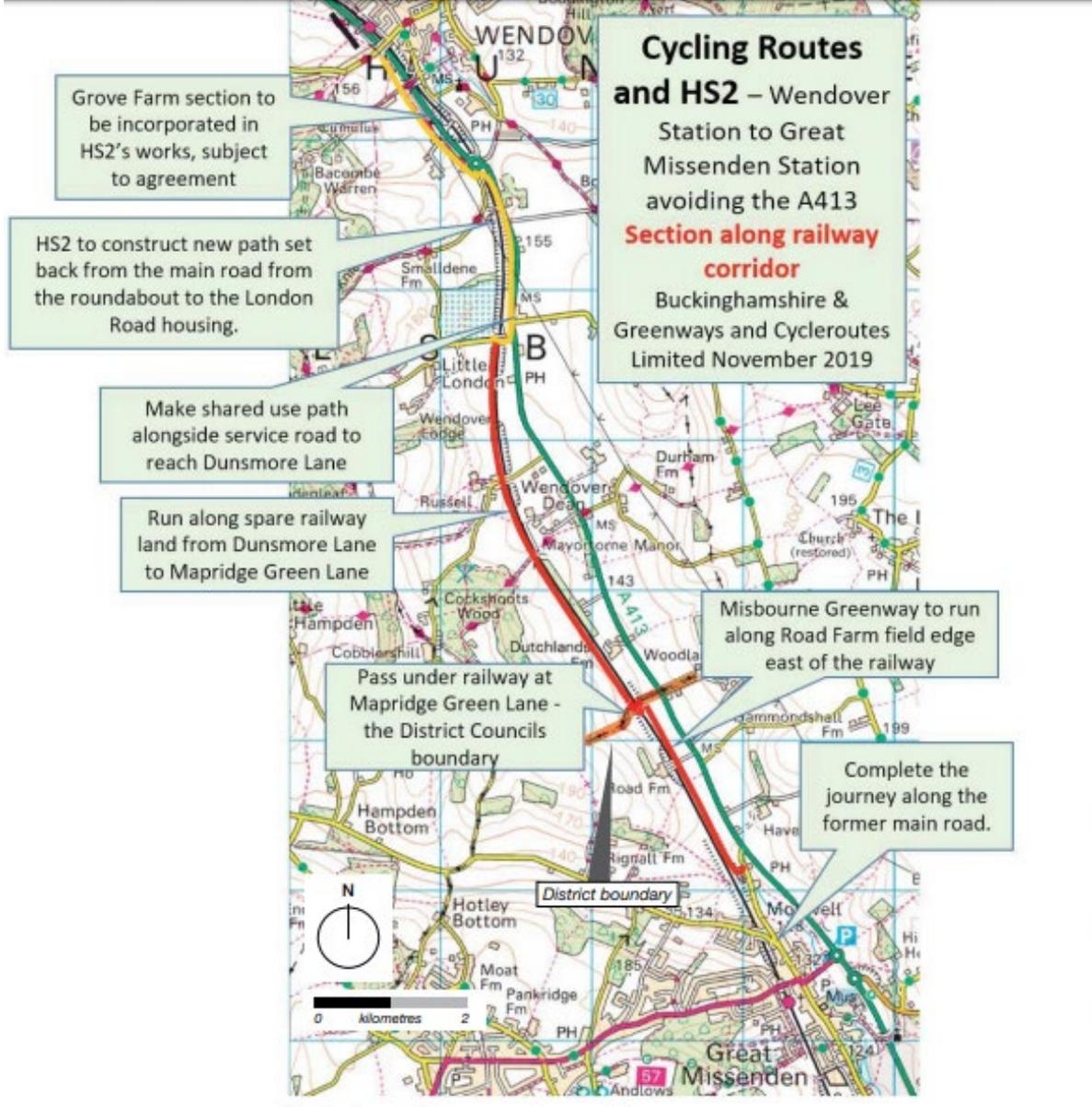


Appendix 1: Buckinghamshire Greenway Concept Map





APPENDIX 2 – Proposed Route of the Misbourne Greenway between Wendover and Great Missenden







## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 5

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Title:** Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 – 2030: update and feedback

**Author:** Phillip Fox

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

The new Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030 (ROWIP) was presented to and approved by the Transport, Economy & Environment Leadership Team on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020. It was also presented to the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Board on 10<sup>th</sup> February and the Corporate Management Team on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The plan will be presented to the Chief Executive Implementation Group on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 as the next stage in the approval process.

In light of the council becoming a unitary authority on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 the plan will be published by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and there is likely to be a 'Year-1' Delivery Plan (April 2020 to April 2021) which the Local Access will be able to comment upon. Thereafter, the aspiration will be to increase Delivery Plan periods to 3 years.

A review of the maintenance and enforcement Matrix will be done at a later date with full consultation with the Local Access Forum.

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

It is intended to have a public launch of the RoWIP 2020 – 2030 once the new Unitary Council has been elected in May 2020. The Local Access Forum members would be VIP invitees at a possible launch and therefore feedback is sought on the shape and scale of such an event.

**For further information please contact: Phillip Fox 01296 383342**





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 6

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Title:** ROWIP Planning Addendum review

**Author:** Jonathan Clark

**Contact Officer:** Christina Beevers (01296 383246)

An equestrian reference guide, produced by Hampshire's Countryside Access Forum (their LAF), provides advice for transport planners and developers when planning residential or other developments on or near bridleways. The Herts LAF and the Herts BHS Access Group are also looking at producing one.

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/Equestrians-in-Hampshire.pdf>

In the run-up to the November 2019 LAF Alison Heath suggested the Buckinghamshire LAF produce something similar. However, in light of the ROWIP Planning Addendum due for an update, on which members have provided advice recently, the BHS Access Field Officer, Petronella Natrass and Alison Heath, have suggested, with LAF resources being limited to produce a similar, equestrian advice can be encompassed within the ROWIP Planning Addendum. While this document couldn't go into such great detail as the Hampshire document, it could reference other guidance and secure advice under the ROWIP umbrella.

For information, there are also 17 advice leaflets on the BHS website under 'Recommendations for standards and specifications of structures and surfaces' ([www.bhs.org.uk/accessadvice](http://www.bhs.org.uk/accessadvice)), where information for planners and developers can be found under these headings:

- Vehicle barriers
- Bridges, fords, gradients and steps
- Dimensions for width, area and height
- Surfaces (also Rubber Crumb)
- Road Crossings
- Multi-user paths
- Developers and Planners

LAF members advice is sought on the how the council should proceed.

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





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 7

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Title:** Rights of Way group update

**Authors:** Phillip Fox, Interim Definitive Map Team Leader; Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer; and Joanne Taylor, Team Leader – Rights of Way Operations

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

### DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM

#### The Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Liaison Group with the outstanding Definitive Map caseload undertaken by the Definitive Map Team.

#### A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

1. **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 have been referred to the Secretary of State for determination. Public Inquiry to be held in August 2020.**
2. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Order confirmed and advertised.**
3. **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. Connected with No.2 above. Order confirmed and advertised.**
4. **Great and Little Kimble and Ellesborough** – Prohibition Order along BOAT Nos. 40, 40A and 62. **Draft Order advertised, objections received and under consideration. Amendments to the Order have been made and are awaiting comments before being made.**
5. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Order made and to be advertised from 14 February 2020.**
6. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Application presented to Committee and accepted. Order made and advertised.**

## **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. Under investigation.**
  3. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 26 February 2016. Under investigation.**
  4. **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. Under investigation.**
  5. **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. Under investigation.**
  6. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Application received 20 December 2016.**
  7. **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.**
  8. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application received 9 October 2017.**
  9. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017.**
  10. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement – Awaiting acknowledgement and addition to the register of applications. **Investigations not started.**
  11. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**

12. **Buckingham** – application to add a Public Bridleway to the Definitive Map following the dismantled railway walk from the A421 to Tingewick Road. **Application dated 14 May 2019.**
13. **Chalfont St Peter** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map at Windmill Farm connecting Public Footpath No 19 with Footpath no 55. **Application dated 17 July 2019.**
14. **Chesham** – application to add various routes south of Nashleigh Hill to the Definitive Map connecting with Public Footpath nos. 117, 37 and 67. **Application dated 23 August 2019.**
15. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 23 August 2019.**
16. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started.**
17. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started.**
18. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started.**
19. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started.**
20. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
21. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
22. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016.**
23. **Leckhampstead** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 13 and 18 to Public Bridleway and add a route as Public Bridleway. **Application dated 26 May 2016.**
24. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford.
25. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17/01/2020.**

**C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS** – decisions made by officers through their delegated powers.

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order Made, awaiting completion of works.**
2. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting signed creation agreement.**
3. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Order confirmed. Additional creation order to be made in due course.**

4. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **Order confirmed. Cycle Track Order to be made following diversion.**
5. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Order to be abandoned.**
6. **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.**
7. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – **works completed, awaiting adoption of alternative route. Order to be confirmed.**
8. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site.**
9. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **CASE CLOSED.**
10. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 – **Confirmed Order advertised. Awaiting works.**
11. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 – **Under investigation.**
12. **Chesham** – Application to extinguish part of the width of Footpath No. 114 – **Order made and objection received and being considered. CASE ON HOLD.**
13. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3, 4 and 6 under the Town and Country Planning Act – **Order made, confirmed awaiting works to bring into effect.**
14. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Order confirmed.**
15. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order made and advertised.**
16. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 21. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be completed.**
17. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be completed.**
18. **Aylesbury** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 7. **Order confirmed and advertised.**
19. **Slapton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 14. **Order confirmed.**
20. **Thornborough** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **Under investigation. ON HOLD.**
21. **Slapton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **Order made, awaiting works.**
22. **Lane End** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 14. **Order made and advertised.**
23. **Beachampton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Under investigation.**
24. **Stowe** – Application to divert Footpath No. 13. **Under investigation. ON HOLD.**

25. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 25. **Request sent to make an order.**
26. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Under investigation.**
27. **Stowe** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 2. **Under investigation.**
28. **Chepping Wycombe** – Application to divert Footpath No 45. **Order made and advertised.**
29. **Waddesdon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 7A. **Under Investigation.**
30. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Request sent to make an order.**
31. **Aston Abbot** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1. **Under investigation.**
32. **Stowe** – Application to divert bridleway no 19, 21 and 23. **Under investigation.**
33. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Sent off to legal to make an order.**
34. **38. Shabbington** - Application to divert Footpath No. 9. **Sent off to legal to make an order.**
39. **Wexham** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
40. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Under investigation.**
41. **Bierton with Broughton** - Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Under investigation.**
42. **Fulmer** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
43. **Weston Turville** - Application to divert Footpath No. 11. **Under investigation.**
44. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Under investigation.**
45. **Great Marlow** – Application to divert Footpath No.3. **Under investigation.**

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

1. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**
2. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Investigation not started.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Investigation not started.**

#### **Background Papers**

None

**For further information please contact: Phil Fox 01296 383342**

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

1. HS2 Ltd are accelerating work across the county, undertaking archaeology, ecology, overhead electricity pylon and gas main diversions; hedgerow clearance; and fencing works cordoning off the areas of land required to construct the railway. This has resulted in a greater impact on the network and walkers particularly. The council are waiting on a government report on whether HS2 will go ahead, but it seems unlikely the project will be cancelled completely. There are some issues with gates appearing on the network (WEN/13A/1) and this is being followed up on a case-by-case basis. There are some full closures which remain in place, such as Shire Lane, Denham (DEN/3/1); footpaths around Bishopstone (SBH/29/1 and SMA/11/2) and south-east of Steeple Claydon (SCL/6/3; and TWY/5/1); but in general paths remain open or slightly diverted around works. There is little the authority can do with full, long-term closures, for example, where overhead power cables are relocated by National Grid, but the length of closures is always challenged. The list of closures or diversions on the council's website is regularly updated:  
<https://www.bucksc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/changes-to-public-rights-of-way/>
2. The Ridgeway National Trail Officer has been successful in applying for funding from the HS2 mitigation fund towards access improvements and possible upgrades of footpaths to bridleway around Wendover to create part of the Ridgeway Bridleway from Bacombe Lane into Wendover and through Wendover Woods. The LAF will be updated as matters progress.
3. Members may recall the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway is a proposed new road between Oxford and Cambridge linking Milton Keynes, passing through Buckinghamshire and linked to housing development. Since the general election the council is awaiting news either on the next stage of the consultation or a possible formal review of whether the government wishes to proceed with the project. The formal position of the county council is to oppose.
4. Local Plan updates: while the Wycombe Local Plan was published in August 2019, the Princes Risborough Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is due for publication shortly. The Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan awaiting a formal hearing date as part of the 'Examination in Public' process. The AVDC Local Plan is with the Inspector to see if the plan is deemed sound, following recent updates.
5. A planning application has been submitted to AVDC (PL/19/4427/FA) and CDC (PL/19/4427/FA) by Greenways and Cycleroles Ltd for a walking and cycling route between Wendover and Great Missenden. This is part of a wider ambition to provide a link through the county generally along the alignment of HS2 between Uxbridge and Brackley. A short section in Wendover uses Bridleway WEN/57/1 off Bacombe Lane and the council will seek improvements for equestrians, but the majority remains on Network Rail land on a permissive basis. As such, being so close to the railway, Network Rail has unfortunately disallowed equestrians.
6. The Chiltern's Donate-a-Gate has seen 2 new donors since 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 totalling 3 gates. The Ramblers Donate-a-Gate project through RIPPLE's (North Bucks) continues to provide significant funds to purchase new gates, including a payment of £2,000 on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020. They installed 30 gates in the 6 months 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

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

#### **F. ROW OPERATIONS UPDATE (Joanne Taylor)**

35. **The current staff structure** is 6.4 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officers and 1.4 Bridge Structure Inspectors.

36. APPENDIX 3 shows the Rights of Way Operations output from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to the 31st March 2019, and it includes a break-down of works undertaken by volunteers. A third column has been added including work completed up to the end of September 2019.

37. **BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey – Results –** Interim results for 5% network survey carried out over December 2019, January and February 2020 are as follows:

<b>Paths Rated easy to use</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Structures rated easy to use</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Routes with Roadside Signs</b>	<b>95%</b>

38. **Capital projects update:**

<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>Expected work Type</b>
<b>Chesham Kitty's Bridge FP107</b>	Bridge
<b>Completed first quarter</b>	
<b>Fawley Footbridges Footpath 12</b>	Bridges x 5
<b>Accessible bridge to be installed</b>	
<b>Thames Path works – Marlow</b>	Re-surface of section of the National Trail - joint project
<b>Work Completed second quarter</b>	
<b>Two horse bridges Ashendon Bridleway 11</b>	Bridges x 2
<b>Completed</b>	
<b>Little Marlow FP4 bridge renovation (re-deck) possible replacement of bearers.</b>	Bridge
<b>Work brief to quotation</b>	
<b>Coleshill FP 3(F) bridge replacement- 10m long bridge- deck failure</b>	Bridge
<b>Bridge preconstructed await access to site</b>	
<b>Cublington Footpath 1</b>	Bridge replacement
<b>Work brief to quotation</b>	
<b>Wing Footpath 18</b>	Bridge replacement
<b>Work brief to quotation</b>	
<b>Concentration of replacement Bridges - Middle Claydon Bridleway 18 - Three Points Lane</b>	Bridge replacements

<b>Pre-construction complete - Bridges ready to move into site during weather window</b>	
<b>Little Missenden Bridleway 8 - Featherbed Lane</b>	Surfacing project - two year project
<b>Project on hold due to ground conditions</b>	
<b>Phoenix Trail - sustrans Byway 1 Longwick.</b>	Surface
<b>Completed second quarter</b>	

**39. Additional in year capital projects found.**

Buckland Public Footpath Number 7

This is for replacement of steps down an embankment. The current steps have started to fail and are becoming dangerous to use and will have to be removed and replaced.

Chalfont St Giles Footpath Number 29

A large 13.5 metre footbridge on Chalfont St Giles Footpath CSG/29 requires urgent replacement. It has been necessary to close the route as a number of planks have rotted through, which is a danger to users.

**40. Fawley Bridge**

In December the landowner installed a temporary replacement structure. Discussions are still ongoing regarding replacement of this bridge with a wider structure.

**41. Purchase of hedge cutting arm – tractor mounted**

Operations team has a 7 year lease on a hedge cutting flail. This cuts overgrowth and side growth and has been used for the first time this year. This will be used on suitable sites over the autumn and winter for cutting back overgrowth and undergrowth, particularly useful as it has a 3 metre reach. The machine will be removed from the tractor and replaced with a surface mowing flail at the start of the nesting season and put back on again in the autumn at the close of nesting season.

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



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 8

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Title:** LAF members' report

**Author:** Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer

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

### **Rowsham and Hulcott Solar Park**

Member for Disabled Ramblers, Gavin Caspersz, has been consulted as a local resident on a proposed solar park on land south-east of Rowsham and east of Hulcott – see Appendix 4.

He would like the development to fund rights of way improvements, in particular a new ramped bridge over the River Thames along Footpath WIG/2/2 to replace the existing narrow arrangement. Gavin has requested this is raised at the LAF to seek support via a letter to the developer.

### **The Chilterns Conservation Board's Chilterns Walking Festival**

Annette Weiss of the Chilterns Conservation Board has written to the Forum for advice, summarised below.

*The Chilterns Walking Festival takes place 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. We are trying to get funding to make them more diverse – we undertook a recent survey of Chilterns Walking Festival participants (sample of 198) and discovered that only 1.5% classify themselves as disabled (although 13% have issues which restrict their access to the countryside) and only 3% of participants are from ethnic minorities. We are keen to make our walks more inclusive and reach new audiences who are not currently engaged. With this in mind, we are looking at various funding options to increase participation from hard to reach groups, such as the National Lottery Awards for All. If anyone knows of any local grants please let us know.*

### **Local Access Forum Annual Review – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

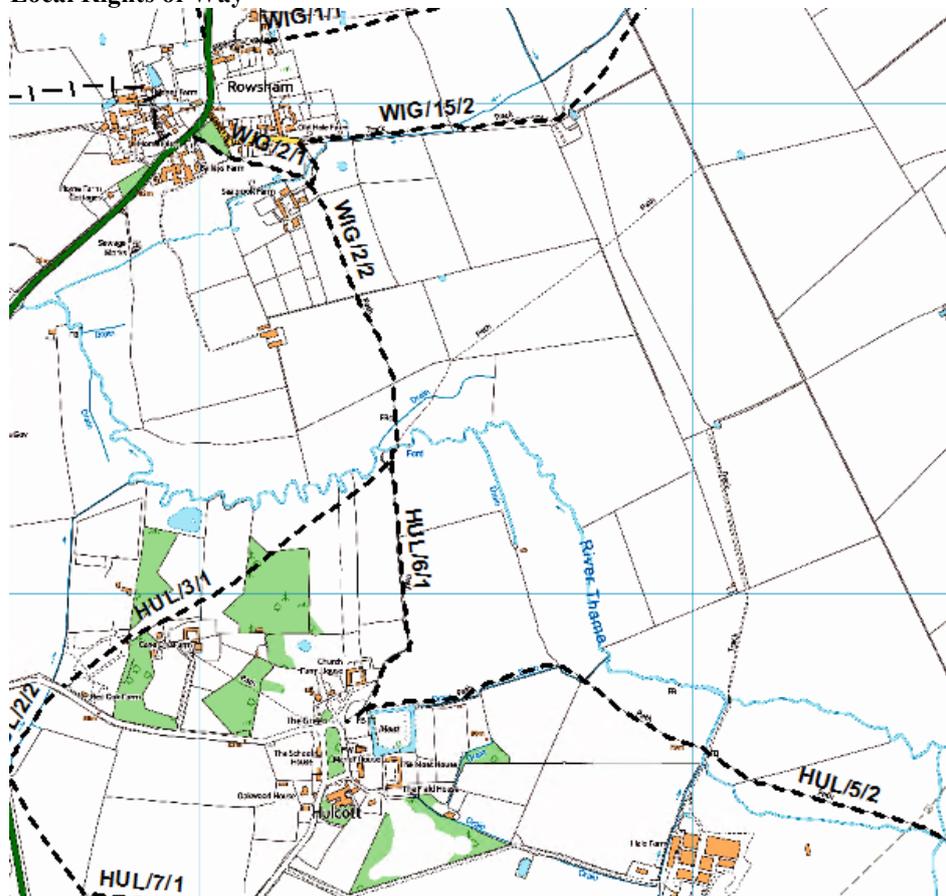
This year's annual review, to be submitted to Natural England, has been drafted and comments are welcome (Appendix 5).



**APPENDIX 5 - Site of Proposed Hulcott Solar Park**



**Local Rights of Way**





## Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

### April 2018 to March 2019

Name of LAF	<b>Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum</b>
Name of LAF Chair	Richard Pushman
Name of LAF Secretary	Jonathan Clark

Total number of LAF members	14
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	7
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	2
Number of members representing other interests	5

Number of full LAF meetings held	3	Number of sub-group meetings held	0
Number of working groups led by others	0	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	1
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?	0	How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	£0.00
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			95

#### Partners your LAF worked with during 2016/17 (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships		Local Enterprise Partnerships	
Health and Wellbeing Boards		LEADER funding Local Action Groups	

**LAF achievements/making a difference?**<sup>1</sup> Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

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

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2018 to March 2019

The main work of the LAF in this year has been providing advice and guidance in the consultation and drafting of the new ROWIP - 2020-2030 and help reviewing the existing ROWIP.

The LAF continued with their role to provide independent strategic oversight of public access in the county and overview and scrutiny of the work and performance of the rights of way teams. This will continue in the year ahead prior to publication anticipated in March 2020.

The July 2018 LAF was in the form of a workshop overviewing 8 chapters and - line by line - the plan's aims and objectives. The LAF highlighted successes, short-comings and lessons learned of the council's performance over the plan period. This was important in order to mark progress to inform the development of ROWIP 2. Fundamentally, the LAF reviewed the extent to which the rights of way network was improved for walkers, cyclists, equestrians, the partially sighted or those with reduced mobility was assessed and provided direct evidence to the subsequent ROWIP summary report.

The LAF were represented at the annual meeting of the Chiltern Society Area Secretaries and Rights of Way maintenance Team which reviews partnership working practices, reporting issues, surveying and weekly volunteering work parties.

Four members attended a BBQ and networking event at Black Park Country park celebrating the county's volunteers and providing opportunities to network.

The LAF provided advice on the requirements of the updated CAMS reporting system which many member organisations use to highlight issues on the network.

One LAF member led walks at the spring and autumn 2018 Chilterns Walking Festival.

The LAF regularly hears regular officer updates for which the members monitor progress and provide advice on the work of the Definitive Map, Maintenance and Strategic Access teams and how their work is prioritised.

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	1	The Oxford Cambridge Exrassway and Growth Arc proposals were presented to the Forum for feedback on the proposed route choice. Comments were also sought on the council's baseline ROW strategy to mitigate the impacts.
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	0	0	.

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2018 to March 2019

Public open space (public space protection orders)	0	0	
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	0	
Planning applications /Housing development schemes	0	0	
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	0	
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	1	1	1. The LAF provided advice to the Slough Local Plan, Issues and Options Consultation regarding improved bridleway connections and access across the county boundary between authorities, in particular a road crossing between Black Park and Langley Park.
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	1	1	LAF members commented upon proposed diversion routes as part of the East West Rail project.
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off	0	0	
Right of Way Improvement Plan reviews	3	3	The LAF provided advice at every LAF this year: both reviewing the success of the existing ROWIP and on the timetable, structure, priorities and shape of the new ROWIP.
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	1	1	1. Slough Local Access Forum consulted the LAF on a proposed multi-user bridge between Black Park and Langley Park, near Slough.
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	1	1	The Ridgeway Officer and Cycling UK consulted the LAF on a Circular Routes Vision,

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2018 to March 2019

			on promoting walks and rides that connect with The Ridgeway, highlighting landmarks and highlights that visitors may be interested when exploring the trail corridor.
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	0	0	
Parish Council or other grant schemes	1	1	The Programme Manager for the HS2 AONB Review Group, Chilterns Conservation Board, had been looking to allocate £3m environmental mitigation from HS2 along a 3km corridor either side of the new railway through the Chilterns, including improvements to access and recreation and wanted to consult members.
Access for people with reduced mobility	0	0	
Commons, village greens	0	0	
Open Access land restrictions	0	0	
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	1	2. The Ridgeway Officer consulted the LAF on the Riding Route, providing access for cyclists and horse riders to connect between Goring on Thames and Ivinghoe Beacon.
NNR dedication	0	0	
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	0	
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	0	0	

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2018 to March 2019

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):

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

1. To be closely involved in the launch of the new ROWIP 2020-2030.
2. Maintaining the profile of the LAF to ensure they remain an important consultee on access to shape positive influences, such as Aylesbury being awarded Garden Town status. This is set against ensuring opportunities are seized to both improve and protect access in light of significant housing growth and and major development, such as HS2, East West Rail and the Oxford to Cambridge Growth arc.
3. Maintain a relevant and experienced membership.

**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?**

The four district and county authorities are proposed to be merged into one unitary authority on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Members have been invited to comment, pending a decision by the Sec State, but as the LAF remains statutory and independent it is envisaged these organisational and political changes will have little impact on the running or influence of the Forum.

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

The National Land Access Centre had been launched by Natural England opened by Lord Blencathra at Aston Rowan, and attended by two LAF Members. A written guide was provided for as training material.

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

<sup>2</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2018 to March 2019

None

### Comments from the Appointing Authority

The Forum took positive ownership reviewing The Buckinghamshire ROWIP 2008-2018. A workshop was held to review success and learn lessons in the lead-up to production of the new plan. The LAF also played close and positive role shaping the content and priorities of the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030. This work will continue throughout 2019.

The LAF continues to provide well-informed and relevant advice to the council. Members are active both in a professional and volunteering capacity to improve access. They undertake other access work, such as surveying, leading walks, practical work and sitting on other steering groups, such as National trails and other forums and bodies that positively inform their advice and networks.

Membership numbers continue to remain stable and meetings are positive and productive

We are pleased to see a new cycling representative join the forum from Cycling UK and have been lucky to have the Cabinet & Deputy Cabinet Members for Planning & Environment sitting on the Forum.

The council's Democratic Services continue to help LAF meetings with secretarial support while funding continues for meeting refreshments and provide a Speech-to-Text reporter for a LAF member with hearing difficulties.

### Comments from LAF Chair

### Any other comments

None

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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.