



Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum agenda

Date: Wednesday 3 November 2021

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Paralympic Room, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

Membership:

Mr D Briggs (NFU, CLA, farming, Chairman of the Bucks CLA, Chairman of the Chilterns) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S Broadbent, Mr G Casperz (Disabled Ramblers), Mr A Clark (Chiltern Society), Mr J Elfes (Ramblers Association), Mr N Harris (National Trust), Ms A Heath (British Horse Society), Mr C Hurworth (Trail Riders' Fellowship and MPV users), Mr R Jennings (Cycling UK), Mr A Lambourne (Parish Councils), R Pushman (Bucks Conservation Trust & Bucks Heritage Champion) (Chairman), Mr G Thomas (Independent), Cllr A Turner and Mr B Worrell (British Driving Society Beds, Bucks and Herts)

Agenda Item	Page No
<i>There will be a 10-minute break at 11am</i>	
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Declarations of interest To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting / matters arising To confirm the minutes from the meeting held on 14 July 2021	3 - 8
4 LAF site visit: Bridleway WEN/1/1, Bacombe Hill SSSI & Grangelands SSSI To be presented by Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer	9 - 18
5 Buckinghamshire Cycleway To be presented by Ben Feeney-North, Transport Strategy Officer, Planning Growth and Sustainability	19 - 22
6 ROWIP Action Plan Year-1 Report (Themes 3 – 6) To be presented by Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer	23 - 24

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|-----------|--|----------------|
| 7 | Rights of way group report
To be presented by Helen Francis, Interim Definitive Map and Highways Searches Team Leader; Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer; and Joanne Taylor, Rights of Way Operations Team Leader | 25 - 40 |
| 8 | LAF members' report | 41 - 48 |
| 9 | Any other business | |
| 10 | Date of next meetings
2 nd March 2022; 13 th July 2022; and 2 nd November 2022 | |

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Rebecca Binstead on 01296 585244, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, HP19 8FF - Aylesbury, commencing at 10.02 am and concluding at 11.42 am.

Members present

Mr D Briggs (Vice-Chairman), Mr G Casperz, Mr A Clark, Mr N Harris, Ms A Heath, Mr R Jennings, Mr A Lambourne, Mr R Pushman (Chairman), Cllr A Turner and Mr B Worrell

Others in attendance

Mr J Clark, Mrs H Francis, Ms S Wright and Mrs E Hackling

Apologies

Cllr S Broadbent, Mr C Hurworth and Mr G Thomas

Agenda Item

2 Declarations of interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting / Matters arising

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4 Byway Prohibition Order Permit Scheme

Helen Francis (Interim Definitive Map and Highways Searches Team Leader) asked Members for comments on the permit scheme which has been in operation on byways open to all traffic Nos 40 and 40A, Greater Little Kimble and No. 62, Ellesborough. The effect of this order was to prohibit all types and levels of motor vehicles throughout this year, with some exceptions including those with a permit. These permits were due to expire on 1st August 2021 and the team were interested in feedback on:

- Whether they have been effective in addressing previous damage and encouraging responsible behaviour
- Whether it's recommended to continue with the scheme
- If it should be kept under review

Opening the discussion, Andrew Clark (Chiltern Society) sought clarification on the type of user applying for permits. Ela Hackling confirmed that it was a mixture of local residents and those outside of the county, with most being members of Trail Riders.

Concern was raised over whether remedial work will be done to tackle the damage that has already been caused to the bridleway. Neil Harris (National Trust) confirmed that the surface of the byway has improved since the order, but work would be undertaken to remove some tree stumps and improve the safety of the byway.

David Briggs (Vice Chairman) suggested the implementation of conditional permits on the basis of weather and surface conditions, to prevent damage. It was explained that the terms and conditions for using the permits are designed to encourage responsible usage. The permit system running in both Hertfordshire and Kent has largely stopped damage of this type.

RESOLVED: Members supported of the continuation of the permit scheme and it's effectiveness in reducing damage to the byways.

5 Rights of Way Enforcement Policy 2021

Jonathan Clark presented the item on behalf of Joanne Taylor. The renewed enforcement policy outlined the legislative powers available to the council taking enforcement action and detailed what those breaching the law may expect. It also gave the public an indication of the timescales expected resolve the issue. The policy had been approved by the council's leader, Cllr Martin Tett, but the document was fluid and open to changes. Jonathan Clark invited the Members of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum to comment on the item.

Neil Harris noted that the Gaps Gates and Stiles BS5709: 2006 item in the Guidance Documents section had been superseded by Gaps Gates and Stiles BS5709: 2018. Andrew Clark sought clarification on the timescales in the rights of way enforcement procedure and how it aligns with the rights of way improvement plan 2020-2030 management matrix. Jonathan Clark confirmed that the timescales will be specified and brought into alignment with the management matrix when this is review next year.

6 Ridgeway Riding Route: draft Wendover audit report, off-road cycling

Sarah Wright (Ridgeway National Trail Officer) informed Members of an audit of Wendover for the provision of off-road cycling. This was part of a funded project called the 'Ridgeway Riding Route' but also included recommendations beyond the scope of the Ridgeway Partnership's remit. The audit looked at the existing Wendover Neighbourhood Plan 2020 and the Aylesbury Garden Town Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan 2019. It was found that tourism is an important part of the community and residents were in favour of encouraging cycling as a form of sustainable travel to reduce traffic, congestion and pollution. Moreover, Wendover's

surrounding terrain allows for a variety of trails for mountain bikers ranging in difficulty. Sarah Wright explained that the poor on-road provision and road safety concerns were a barrier to accessing Wendover and connecting off-road routes. Members were also made aware of the proposed off-road cycling routes, including the Buckinghamshire Greenway, with the intention to be non-traffic and locating Wendover as a key settlement within those routes.

The audit also focused on partnership with stakeholders and Sarah drew Member's attention to Chiltern Railways and their interest in offering cycle hire from their stations. A similar offer was supplied by OTEC Bikes providing bike hire services for pick up and drop off at London train stations. The audit noted this as a potential area for growth alongside developing the provision for electric bikes, such as charging points. The Members were informed of the Plus Bike Scheme by Network Rail to encourage cyclists to utilise trains through YouTube videos. Councillor Alan Turner explained that Buckinghamshire Council was meeting with Chiltern Rail to discuss improvements to the station in Prince's Risborough and it would be a good opportunity to promote cycling infrastructure such as pumps.

Members were shown the existing provision for cyclists in Wendover, including facilities such as cycling tool stations, benches, and crossing points. Sarah explained that more work needs to be done in terms of the road environment, as cyclists are pushed into difficult road conditions around the town centre. One recommendation was utilising Back Lane to cater for cyclists, as it has low levels of traffic. The audit also noted the importance of ensuring that access points from Wendover to the trails are accessible to cyclists. Members were also informed as to how businesses can engage with cyclists such as providing cycle parking nearby to where their customers will be sitting. Examples include the Cherry Tree in the Chilterns, who had cycling racks, a tool station and tyre pump.

Sarah invited Members to comment on the report and cycling in Wendover. Members were supportive, but concerns were raised over tarmacking bridleways or restricted byways, due to its negative effects on the environment, aesthetics, and lack of consideration of the needs of other users. Alison Heath (British Horse Society) informed Members of a potential surface called rubber crumb. It had been used in Milton Keynes and had the benefits of being porous and environmentally friendly. Sarah confirmed that the report was a draft and would take Member's feedback into consideration before it is finalised. Information and recommendations on suitable surfaces would be included.

Andrew Clark asked how the scheme can progress and how it can be implemented. Sarah explained that the audit has produced a broader set of recommendations beyond the remit of the Ridgeway Partnership and suggested that the Members distinguish between ones that the Ridgeway Partnership can cover and ones that can be taken forward with other partners. Sarah also presented Members with possible funding sources, such as the HS2 Community and Environment Fund and HS2 Business Grant Stream.

Richard Jennings (Cycling UK) raised concern over the lack of coordination between cycling schemes, such as the Wendover Cycle Way Improvement Scheme. Jonathan Clark notified Members of the council's Strategic Transport Team, whose officers were aware of the audit report. Buckinghamshire Council were developing a county-wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWHIP) which would be consulted on later this year and could provide a platform to draw the schemes together. Any updates on this would be brought to the November Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum and Jonathan would look into inviting a representative from the council's Strategic Transport Team to a future meeting.

Karen Haining (member of the public with an interest in horse riding) requested that education needs to be a part of any promotion, to inform cyclists of responsible behaviour, especially on multiuse routes. Sarah confirmed that multiple organisations, including the bike hire companies, train stations, and Wendover Parish Council were making sure promotion comes hand in hand with education. The Members noted an addition to the report to include working with local schools to include off-road cycling with the cycling proficiency test.

Allison Heath (British Horse Society) flagged an issue of some gates on the National Trail not meeting with British Safety Standards. Sarah agreed that any concerns would be addressed immediately.

7 Rights of Way Improvement Plan: Year 1 Action Plan report (Chapters 1 and 2)

Members received a report from Jonathan Clark on the Rights off Way Improvement Plan. It was noted that the report was a 'self-assessment' and required scrutiny and feedback from the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum.

Jonathan explained the impact Covid-19 had on the team, with the Ramblers and Chiltern Society volunteers out of action for almost eight months. Additionally, the council's contractors stopped work for about eight weeks and when they did return, were only part time or had staff redeployed. Internally, the Definitive Map team leader has also been on maternity leave, but the team is expected to return to full capacity in 2022.

Helen Francis informed Members that the team were working on clearing the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Orders by training another member of staff. It was planned to recruit someone temporarily to backfill Helen's post, but the recruitment process was unsuccessful. Helen explained that there will be delays until the staff member is back from maternity leave in January 2022. Nevertheless, the team were now able to work more efficiently as internal processes have been streamlined, with delegated power for decision-making given to senior officers, instead of the need for formal committee approval.

Richard Jennings requested a status update of the Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) to understand how many were completed or in progress. Helen confirmed that they would work on marking completed DMMOs as resolved.

8 Rights of way group report

Jonathan introduced the Rights of Way group update. Members noted the inclusion of a summary table of the current case load and what the team had achieved in previous years. Helen explained that four DMMO applications were being determined by the Planning Inspectorate. There was a backlog of applications as capacity was reduced by a member of staff going on maternity leave, although staffing levels had recently improved. Members of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum agreed to raise their concerns with the Planning Inspectorate regarding the backlog of DMMO cases referred for determination by the Secretary of State and to raise the matter local Members of Parliament.

Brian Worrell asked for clarification regarding Buckinghamshire DMMO applications, and if they were received before the cut-off date on 1 January 2026 would they still be valid and processed. Jonathan Clark confirmed they would be valid.

Jonathan Clark informed Members of the impact of HS2 on the countryside. Most of the rights of way along the HS2 line had been closed and there was a link on the [Buckinghamshire Council website](#) detailing all of the closures. Jonathan explained that the disruption would be most keenly felt around Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville.

Concern was voiced over the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and its use of existing rights of way. Jon confirmed that, where possible, cyclists would be separated from horse riders where there was sufficient widths. Otherwise, use of suitable shared surfaces such as rubber crumb would be considered. Brian Worrell (British Driving Society Beds, Bucks and Herts) stressed the importance of having split usage rather than cyclists dominating bridleways.

9 LAF members' report

Jonathan Clark introduced the LAF members' group report by highlighting walks led by Gavin Casperz and Andrew Clark at the Chiltern's Walking Festival. The Chiltern Society have opened discussion with contractors for HS2 looking to divert the Chiltern Way. Andrew Clark informed Members that they have way-marked both the Chiltern Way and the Chiltern Heritage Trail across the HS2 line. These will remain open, along with the Waddesdon Greenway.

Members were made aware of the structural changes to the Definitive Map team into transportation rather than planning. In addition, the online forum for LAF members nationally, 'Huddle', has been discontinued.

10 Any other business

None.

11 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3rd November 2021

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 3rd November 2021

Title: Rights of Way Enforcement Policy 2021

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer; & Sarah Wright, Ridgeway National Trails Officer

Local Access Forum members were invited on a site visit to inspect surfacing organised by the Ridgeway National Trail Officer at Bacombe Hill Wendover. This followed an award by the Chilterns Conservation Board for HS2 funding. The routes surfaced are illustrated in APPENDIX 1.

Attendance:

Gavin Caspersz – Disabled Ramblers [on mobility scooter]
 Karen Haining - (substituting Alison Heath) – British Horse Society
 Juliette Dean – British Horse Society [on horse]
 Sarah Wright – Ridgeway National Trails Officer
 Jonathan Clark - Buckinghamshire Council Strategic Access Officer

Written representations

Alison Heath - British Horse Society
 Bruce Archibald - Mountain biking guide [on behalf of Richard Jennings, Cycling UK]

Summary of works

Surfacing of Bridleway WEN/15/3 (Ridgeway Riding Route 200m; £12,000) and Footpath WEN/15A/2 (Ridgeway National Trail 125m £5000) with Smiths limestone (Bletchington, Oxfordshire) topped with fines; clearing overgrown vegetation; and draining water into reinstated soakaways.

Advice and feedback

Overall works and the surfacing were welcomed as an improvement to the previous situation where water had eroded the bridleway into a steep V-shape down to the bedrock with sharp flints protruding, catching cyclist's tyres and pedals.

Concern was expressed regarding likely washout of the surface during heavy rainfall, similar to Hogtrough Lane, Wendover, another bridleway on the Ridgeway washed out around 10 years ago. The reinstated soakaways and French drains would certainly

mitigate the flow of water, but the deep, sunken nature of the lane, steep slope and loose material will mean this likely to be unavoidable.

Horse riders suggested the size of stone (10mm -20mm) and rounded edges used in the 'fines' was small enough not to catch in horses' hooves. This was positive feedback.

The piling-up of stones near the widened track over the French Drain was heavy, causing mobility scooter wheels to spin. This has been fed-back to the contractor and the surface has now been compacted with additional fines. This should improve with light rainfall to bind the limestone.

Horse riders suggested appropriate signage should be installed to mitigate fast downhill cyclists to slow down and share space with other users. A number of example signs were discussed, but no decision was made. Further advice is sought from the Local Access Forum on appropriate signage (Appendix B) to manage behaviour.

Cycling suggested the resulting widening and flattening of the bridleway could lead to faster descents, suggesting a need for some signage, on which they are happy to provide further advice.

Concern was expressed regarding the Ellesborough Road which is dangerous for horses without segregation. It's likely to be the limiting factor for equestrians who wouldn't use the newly surfaced route as a result. This isn't unusual in Buckinghamshire, but a particular issue for family cyclists and inexperienced riders. It was suggested there needs to be a field-edge or widened footway to facilitate connections. Officers agreed they would speak to the HS2 team to see if an off-road route could be designed, such as the temporary connection to Bacombe Lane, or additional funding sought.

Gavin (Disabled Ramblers) surveyed the Ridgeway through Bacombe Hill SSSI (Footpath WEN/15/A/2), as far as possible, but was restricted by steps and lumpy terrain. A 70m section was identified as needing further surfacing works and removal of steps which would require an additional funding bid.

Grangelands SSSI

Karen Haining joined officers through Grangelands SSSI to provide advice on gates which are difficult to open. It was agreed these needed fully replacing. She also identified a dangerous crossing, which officer's thought could be resolved by allowing a direct crossing of Cadsdean Road opposite the turning for The Plough. The Wildlife Trust have been contacted and a further site visit arranged for 22nd October 2021.

The National Trail Officer thanked everyone for attending and providing such useful feedback. An article was provided for Wendover Parish Council, Wendover News and National Trail newsletter.

https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/the-ridgeway/news/

Signage advice

Please see APPENDIX 2 for some examples of signage that might be appropriate for Bacombe Hill. More generally The Ridgeway Officer aims to promote a code of conduct as part of the Ridgeway Riding Route project and Cycling UK were promoting a code in

June 2021: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/cycling-guide/off-road-cycling-code-conduct>

Suggested wording

Heading downhill:

SLOW FOR BEND – with bicycle symbol; installed before bend.

SLOW WHEN PASSING OTHERS – combined with an illustration of a horse rearing up with a cyclist speeding past; installed where decline starts and before bend.

Heading uphill:

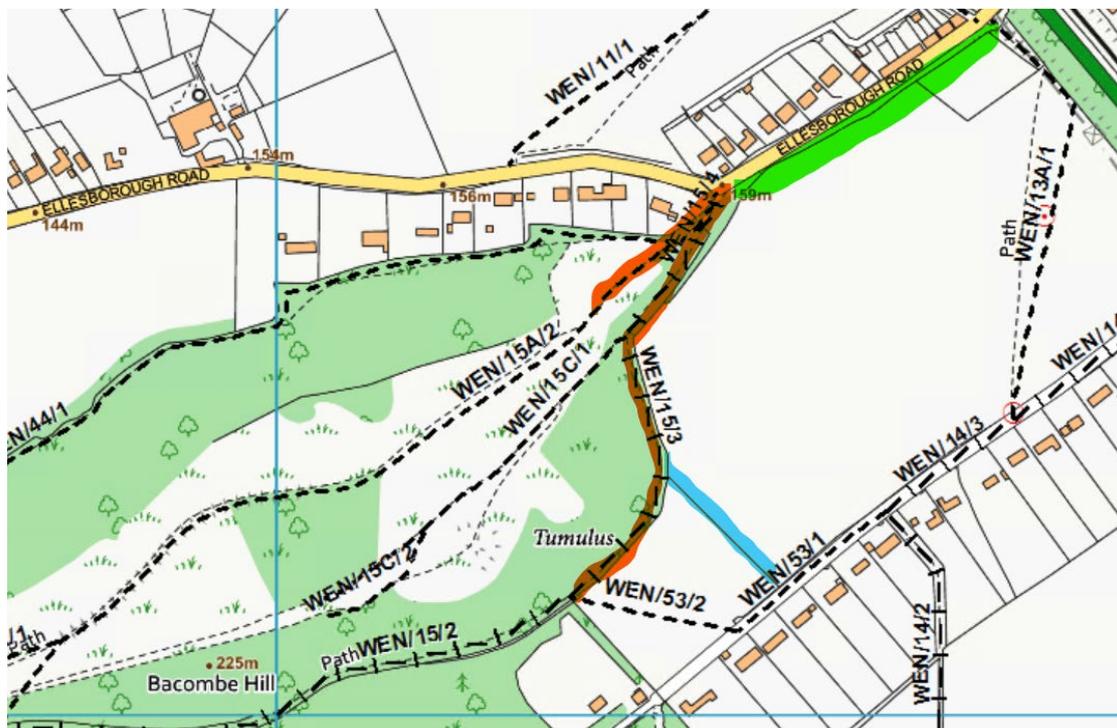
BE ALERT TO DOWNHILL CYCLISTS – soon after incline starts.

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APPENDIX 1
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SITE VISIT - BACOMBE HILL, WENDOVER
9th SEPTEMBER 2021



L-R: Karen Haining, Savannah Fradley, Gavin Caspersz, Sarah Wright, Jonathan Clark, Cathy Caspersz & Juliette Dean



RED = SURFACED ROUTES
BLUE & GREEN = BHS SUGGETSED SAFE LINKS



Finished surface within sunken lane



One of two poor gates at Granglands SSSI recommended for replacement by the BHS

TELLURIDE TRAIL ETIQUETTE



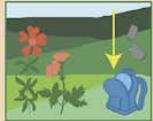
SHARE THE TRAILS
Slow down, communicate and be courteous to other trail users.





BE PREPARED
Plan ahead and be self-sufficient. Bring water, food, layers, start early and have a plan B.





LEAVE NO TRACE
Pack out what you pack in. Dispose of trash and waste properly (that goes for pet waste too).







STAY ON THE TRAIL
Keep singletrack single and respect the surrounding environment and landscape.



BE A GOOD TRAIL STEWARD
Only use open/legal trails. Encourage your friends and family to be good trail stewards.





Scan this QR code for more etiquette info



YIELD TO OTHERS
Let fellow trail users know you're coming. Strive to make each pass safe and courteous.







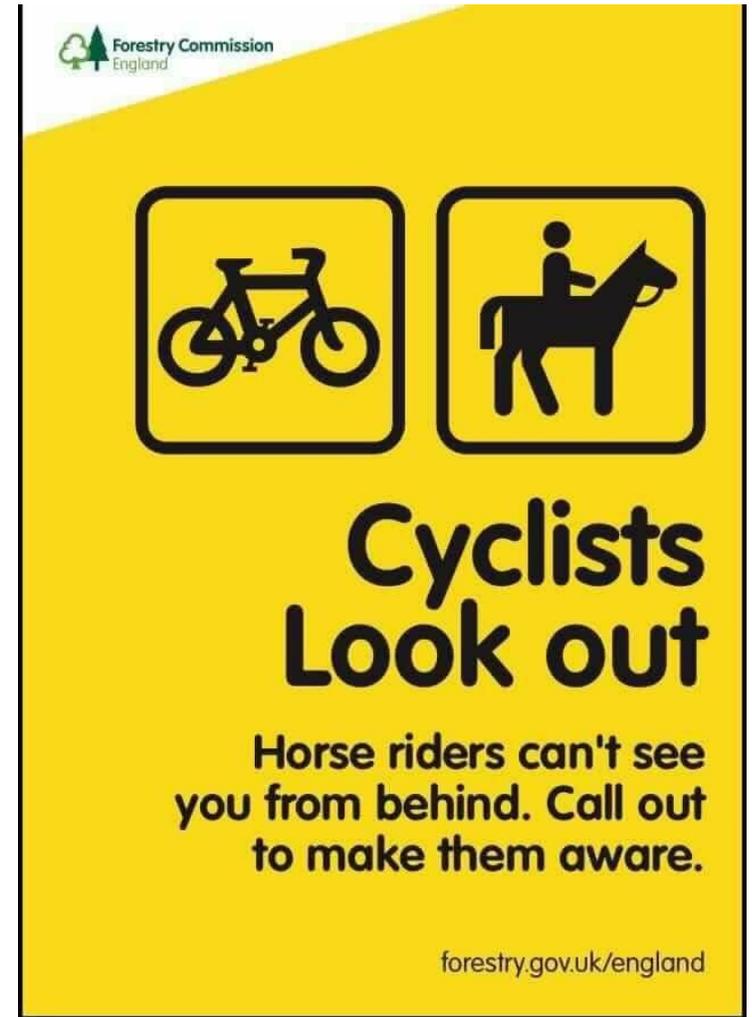


Making the message easy to digest

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Canal and Rivers Trust and Forestry Commission examples



Horse riders and cyclists

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Give the horse and rider time to react to your call of 'Hi'



Never pass on the inside of a horse

Be aware of pinch points in the track or on the road ahead





**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 3rd November 2021

Title: Buckinghamshire Greenway

Author: Benjamin Feeney-North (01494 475512)

The Buckinghamshire Greenway is a vision aiming to provide improved off-road travel for as many different users as possible along the spine of the county. The route will run from the Colne Valley Park, Denham in the south-east to Buckingham and Silverstone in the north-west. The outline route is shown in APPENDIX 3.

The Greenway will connect with existing and planned leisure and active travel routes in Buckinghamshire and beyond. This will help to spread the benefits of the Greenway to all areas of the county.

The Greenway vision aims to improve active travel opportunities, such as access to employment and education; to enhance leisure and tourism, and provide safer alternatives for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and persons with reduced mobility.

The route is divided into sections to aid delivery and funding:

- Misbourne Greenway – Colne Valley to Great Missenden
- Misbourne Greenway – Great Missenden to Wendover
- Wendover to Stoke Mandeville and Aylesbury
- Aylesbury to Waddesdon and Westcott
- Waddesdon to Calvert and Claydon House
- Calvert to Buckingham, Silverstone and Brackley

Some of the route passes across land in public ownership, which will hopefully aid delivery, subject to tenancy agreements. Other sections are reliant on negotiations with private landowners to dedicate bridleways or provide long-term permissive agreements, such as the Waddesdon Greenway.

The Local Access Forum are invited to provide advice and feedback to endorse the proposals.

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Buckinghamshire Greenway

The **Buckinghamshire Greenway** is an accessible, high-quality active travel route that will connect people and communities running the full length of the county.

It will be the walking and cycling backbone for everyday trips in Buckinghamshire, connecting with both existing active travel routes and other new routes currently in development. The Greenway will also link up with rail and bus services.

The Greenway will:

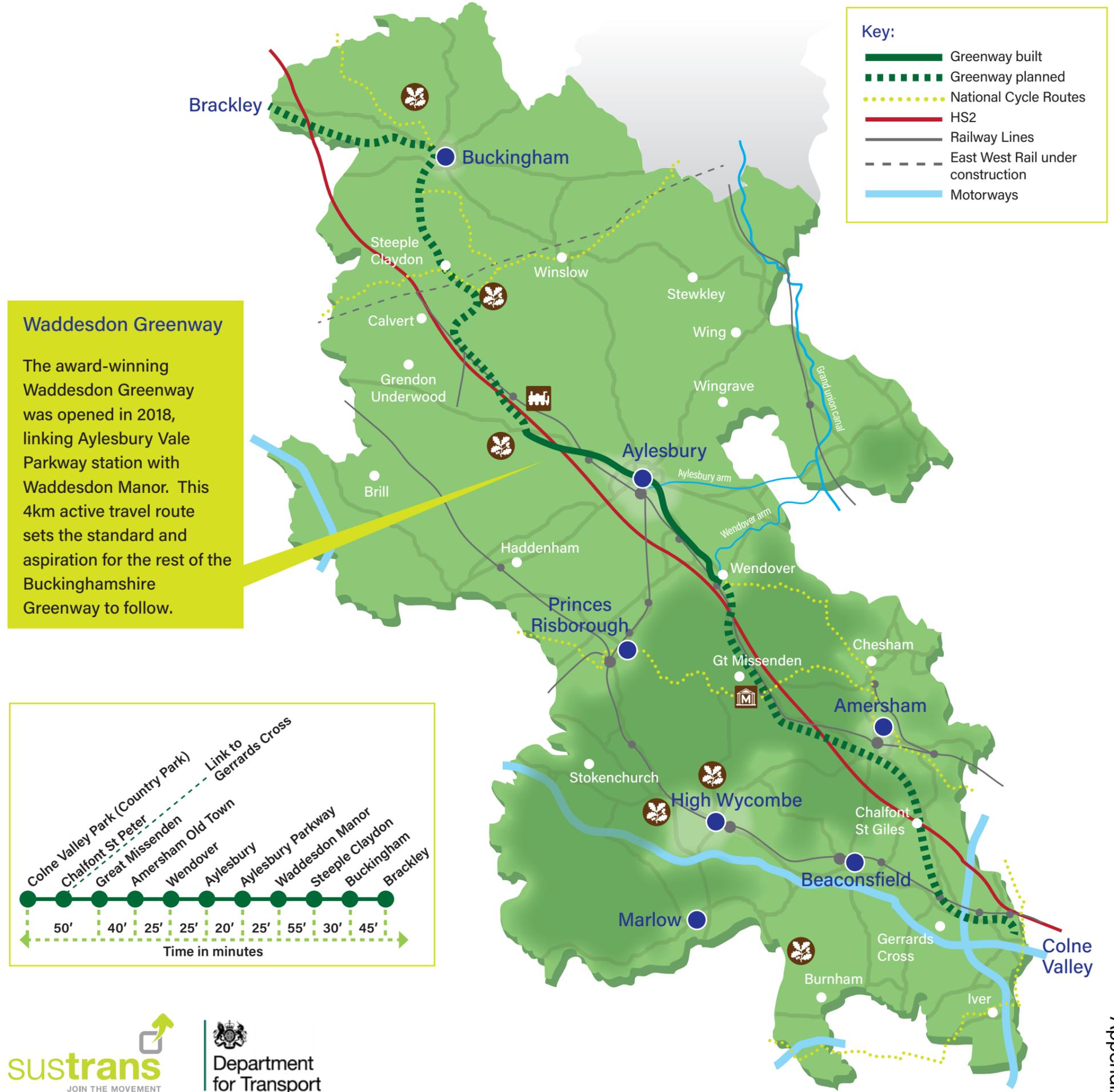
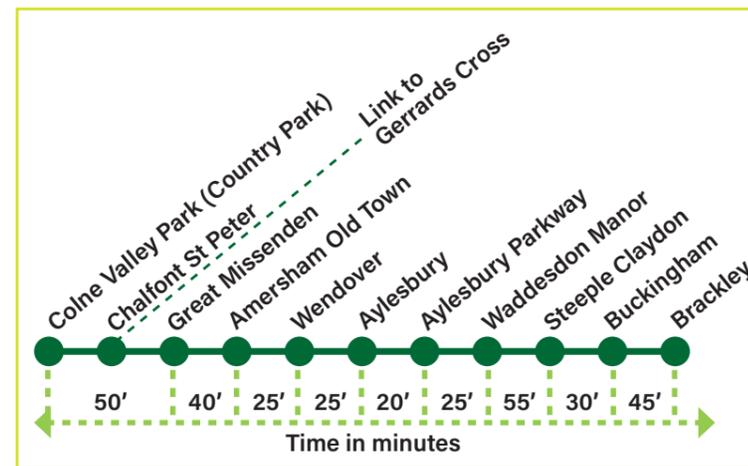
- Open up new opportunities for the people of Buckinghamshire to access education and employment;
- Provide an attractive and safe active travel alternative to local car journeys;
- Be a local leisure and tourism asset for Buckinghamshire, running through the Chilterns AONB and to key tourist destinations.

The Greenway also supports the vision for a north-south National Cycleway connecting London and the West Midlands, and communities in between.

Buckinghamshire Council is working with communities and local organisations, Sustrans and the Department for Transport to bring the **Buckinghamshire Greenway** vision to life.

Waddesdon Greenway

The award-winning Waddesdon Greenway was opened in 2018, linking Aylesbury Vale Parkway station with Waddesdon Manor. This 4km active travel route sets the standard and aspiration for the rest of the Buckinghamshire Greenway to follow.



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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 6

Date: 3rd November 2021

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan: Year 1 Action Plan report (Themes 3 to 6)

Author: Jonathan Clark – Strategic Access Officer

Contact Officer: Rebecca Binstead (01296 585244)

Apologies, the action to report upon the Year-1 Themes 3 – 6 has not been possible due to staff work pressures. This will be presented to the 2nd March 2022 LAF meeting.

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**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

Date: 3rd November 2021

Title: Rights of Way Group update

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED

1. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Order made. Objection received, referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**

2. **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. Referred to Secretary of state for determination.**

B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED (DMMO)

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

Summary:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications received for Definitive Map Modification Orders	2	14	4	4	5	12	7	
Application determined (accepted or rejected)					1		4 (being prepared for determination)	
Applications completed (order confirmed or not confirmed)					1	1		

No data collected

Applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders	
Apps. waiting to be investigated	38
Apps. under investigation	8
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	2

- 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 are ongoing with developer regarding a potential 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. Decision report being prepared.**
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. Decision report being prepared.**
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. Decision report being prepared.**
6. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Application received 20 December 2016. Report completed, sent to legal for sign off.**
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. Under investigation.**
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.
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 27 August 2019.**
15. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 27 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 **Application received 27/03/2017.**
25. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17/01/2020.**
26. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19/02/2020.**
27. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 07/03/2020.**
28. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15/03/2020.**
29. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1/05/2020.**
30. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27/01/2020.**
31. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23/10/2019.**
32. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7/12/2020.**
33. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
34. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
35. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park – **Application received 21/12/2020.**
36. **Marlow** – application to add public footpath off Liston Road. **Application received 20/12/2020.**
37. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Lane. **Application received 03/03/2021.**
38. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application Received 17/05/2021**
39. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21/06/2021**

40. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**
41. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Claimed Restricted Byway and Upgrading to a Restricted Byway, Moreton Road to Moreton Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**
42. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell and Great and Little Kimble** – application to add public bridleway from Moreton Lane, Bishopstone to Marsh Hill Lane, Great Kimble. **Application received 14/09/2021.**
43. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway – **Application received 14/09/2021.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS (PPO) – decisions made by officers through their delegated powers.

Summary:

Applications for Public Path Orders	
Apps. waiting to be investigated	3
Apps. under investigation/Orders made	33
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	5
Awaiting works by applicant	19

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. Creation order to be made.**
4. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **Order confirmed. Cycle Track Order Made. Objections Received, to be sent to PINS for determination**
5. **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.**
6. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site.**
7. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 – **Confirmed Order. Awaiting works.**

8. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 & 4 – **Order to be made.**
9. **Chesham** – Application to extinguish part of the width of Footpath No. 114 – **Order made and objection received and being considered. CASE ON HOLD.**
10. **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.**
11. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
12. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be completed.**
13. **Beachampton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
14. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 25. **Order Made. Objections received. Submitted to the Secretary of State for determination.**
15. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Under investigation.**
16. **Waddesdon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 7A. **Order Made. No Objection. Awaiting Works.**
17. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed. Awaiting works**
18. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed, awaiting works.**
19. **Wexham** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
20. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Order made and objections received. Submitted to Secretary of State.**
21. **Bierton** - Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
22. **Fulmer** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
23. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpath No.3. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
24. **Buckland** – Application to divert footpath No. 7 – **Order made. No Objections. Awaiting Works**
25. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Order made. Objection received. To be referred to Secretary of State.**

26. **Wingrave** – Application to divert footpath No. 11 – **Order Confirmed. Awaiting works to be brought into effect.**
27. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Order to be made. Objections received. To be referred to Secretary of State.**
28. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert footpath No. 23-2 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
29. **Little Horwood** – application to divert footpath No.4 – **Order Made. No Objections. Awaiting Works**
30. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5 – **Order to be made.**
31. **High Wycombe** – application to divert footpath No. 59 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be brought into effect. Additional footpath creation agreed.**
32. **Oakley** – application to divert footpath No. 29 – **Order Made.**
33. **Winslow** – cycle track order to be made – **Order to be made.**
34. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Rejected.**
35. **Kingsey** – diversion of footpath No. 1 – **Order Made.**
36. **Steeple Claydon** – creation agreement connecting existing footpath with Queen Catherine Road – **Creation Agreement completed. Awaiting works.**
37. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6 – **Order to be Made**
38. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10 – **Order to be Made**
39. **Cholesbury-cum- St Leonard** – creation and extinguishment of footpath no. 48A – **Order to be made.**
40. **High Wycombe/Hughenden** – creation agreement off Brands Hill Avenue – **Under investigation.**
41. **Radnage** – Diversion of Footpath No.5 – **In Consultation**
42. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1 – **Investigation not started**
43. **Wing** – Diversion of footpath No. 29C – **Order to be made.**
44. **Oakley** – Diversion of footpath No. 7 – **Order to be made.**
45. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2 – **Investigation not started**

46. **Maids Moreton** – Diversion of Footpath No.3 – **Investigation not started.**

D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

Summary:

Applications for Village Greens	
Investigation on hold	1
Under investigation	4

1. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started. On Hold.**
2. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **To be advertised.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Application advertised.**
4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **To be advertised.**
5. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Application advertised.**

To note

As part of the transition to the new Buckinghamshire Council, the Rights of Way Committee has been removed. Officers now have delegated powers to determine applications which would have previously been determined by the Rights of Way Committee i.e. Definitive Map Modification Order Applications and Village Green Applications.

E. Strategic Access Update

1. The Aylesbury Gardenway is a proposed circular route proposed around Aylesbury, to include landscape enhancements, surfacing, greater public access, community benefits and environmental improvements. Progress on the scheme was presented to the Garden Town delivery Board in October 2021. The 16-week community engagement has been completed and Garden Town team have started meeting landowners and developers seeking commitments around delivering the 20km route, based on the proposed outline design (APPENDIX 4). Further 'outer loops' have been proposed which may come forward in future phases. A final report and design brief are due to complete by mid-December 2021. The route will be parcelled-up to aid funding bids, but the first phase may come via a government 'levelling up' funding which would showcase the route for later applications. It is also hoped to embed the Gardenway into strategic planning via a Supplementary Planning Document. The LAF will continue to be consulted and update on this route. www.aylesburygardenway.com

2. The Buckinghamshire Council Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is a county-wide cycling strategy. This will be separate to the Aylesbury Gaden Town and High Wycombe LCWIP's. The countywide LCWIP will identify and assess priority strategic and aspirational walking and cycling routes across the county. This plan will help to guide future investment decisions and ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to the promotion of active travel across the county. It will help to focus priorities for funding while ensuring that it contributes to wider objectives of increasing accessibility, reducing carbon, improving health, and supporting town centre regeneration. The project is at early stages. It's not anticipated to be at the consultation stage by the November 2021 LAF meeting, but perhaps more of an introduction to the LCWIP.
3. The High Wycombe LCWIP has been developed by the Transport Strategy Team and will be consulted upon before being adopted as policy. It is envisaged the consultation will commence on 5th November 2021, subject to local member agreement and a key decision. Having engaged with the British Horse Society when developing the LCWIP and there is a specific note included regarding the need for any PROW improvements to consider the needs of equestrians. The LCWIP is town-wide so doesn't go into the detail of suggesting surfacing materials at this stage.
4. The Chiltern Society's Donate-a-Gate partnership scheme with the council has seen 3 new donors since the 14th July 2021 LAF meeting, bringing the total to 464 donors and 612 gates. There remains around £5,000 Gift Aid income which can fund additional gate installations in 2022 within the Chilterns.
5. The Ramblers Donate-a-Gate project (North Bucks RIPPLE) is back to full strength and installing around 1 new gate per week to replace stiles.

F. ROW OPERATIONS UPDATE (Joanne Taylor)

- 1 **The current staff structure** allows for 6.5 FTE staff: Currently in post we have, 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 1.6 Assistant RoW Officers and 1.5 Bridge Structure Inspectors (=6.1 posts filled). At this current time Sophie David is on maternity leave, and Savannah Fradley will be acting-up in the post of Rights of Way Officer (South).
- 2 **BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey** – results for the 5% network survey, carried out between November 2020 and February 2021 are as follows:

Paths rated easy to use	75%
Structures rated easy to use	94%
Routes with roadside signs	94%

- 3 **Autumn Survey** – Due to the current work load we are looking to carry out the 5% survey of the condition of the network later in the year. Putting together the

survey, distributing the survey, and then inputting the results is very time consuming and is heavily reliant on volunteer effort.

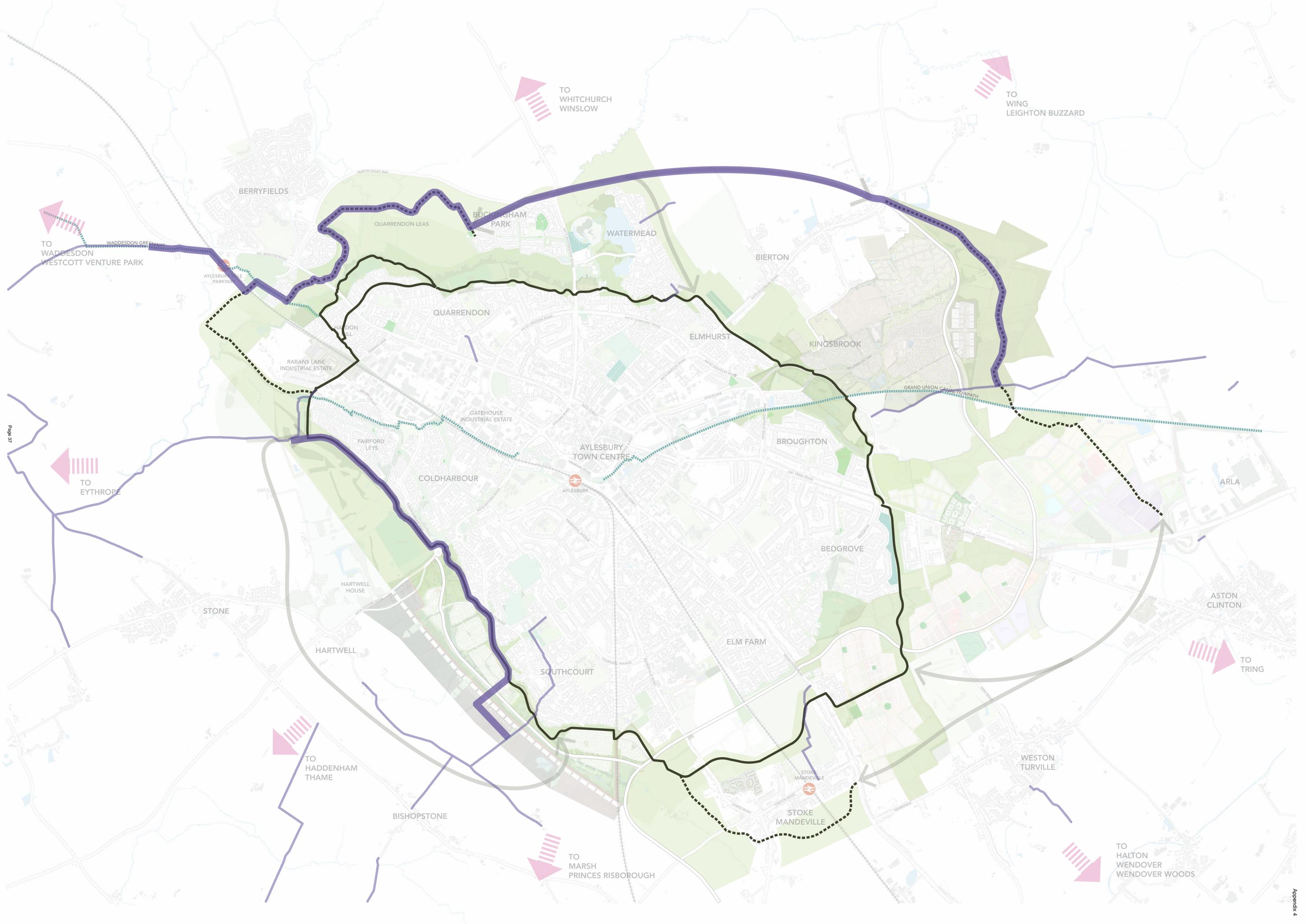
4 Capital projects update: List of current Rights of Way capital projects

Route No. & Parish	Works	Stage
Claydon Bridleways	6 plastic Bridges	Completed
Denham Bridleway number 52	Large equestrian bridge replacement	Design Engineer engaged- remove broken bridge winter – full replacement spring/summer 2022
Fawley Footpath No 12 Bridge Replacement	Accessible bridge to replace landowner's structure	Ongoing
Waddesdon Footpath 10	Sluice bridge renovation	Completed
Marlow - Thames Path	Surface works and bridge renovation	Bridge works complete. Awaiting contractor programme on two sections of repair
Wendover Ridgeway	Clearance and resurface works	Bacombe completed
Chesham FP114	Resurface 60 M	Project scoped – contractor engaged
Chartridge BOAT 38A	Resurface 100 M	Site to be assessed
Chartridge BW 20A	Level and resurface 150 M	Site to be assessed
Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards BW51	Insert Channel Drains	Site to be assessed
Gt Marlow BW23	Level and resurface 150M	Site to be assessed
Pitstone FP2	Adjust surface levels 60M	Completed
Westcott BW26	Level and resurface 90M	Completed
Halton FP8A	Adjust surface levels install handrail 150M	Site scoped - Contractor engaged
Taplow BW2	200-400M of clearance and surface works	Site to be assessed
Hambleden FP28	Approx. 200M missing handrail	Site scoped Contractor to be engaged
Wing FP19	9.5 M footbridge replacement	Completed
Vale Bridges	3 x larger footbridges to replace in AV area	Completed (additional bridges maybe found)
Chalfont St Giles BW60	Resurface works	Project scoped – contractor engaged

Denham BW46	Resurface works	Held
Marsworth FP8	Resurface works	Held
Stokenchurch BW7A	Resurface works	Held
Little Missenden - Featherbed Lane BW24	Resurface works	Held

- 5 **Fawley Bridge** - in December 2019 the landowner installed a temporary replacement structure. Discussions are still ongoing regarding replacement of this bridge with a wider structure.
- 6 **Annual Clearance** - the Council commissioned two extra clearance crews for 12 weeks during summer 2021 to work on the rights of way annual clearance schedule. All scheduled clearance jobs have now been completed. Additional clearance works reported by the public including winter clearance works will continue over the autumn and winter.
- 7 **Summary of Maintenance** – see APPENDIX 5.

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**Buckinghamshire Council - Rights of Way
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out
Between 1/04/19 and 7/10/21**

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	Aprl 19- Mar 20	Aprl 20- Mar21	1 Aprl21-Oct21
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	31	19	15
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	149/361	120km/345	90km/181interim
Bridge	Installed or repaired	78	81	39
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	163	119	53
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	49	38	30
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	104	79	94
Intimidation+animal/per	Intimidation - resolved	22	35	14
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	8	28	15
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	16	22	20
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	115	143	106
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	15	44	11
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	276	269	164
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	6	6	1
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	129	113	40
Other	Delivery of materials	43	20	12
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	103	163	89
Stile	Installed or repaired	177	177	126
Stile	Stile To Gap	16	22	8
Stile	Stile To KG	50	39	27
Stile	Stile To PG	52	62	27
Terrain	Bank Steps	9	12	2
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	57	55	60
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	167	167	75
Issues Signed off		2047	2071	1209
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	1305	TBC	TBC
Volunteer Hours	Iver Volunteers	38	TBC	TBC
Volunteer Hours	RA Only	1160	TBC	TBC
Improvements	To aid mobility access	222	202	156
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	65%	75%	75%
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	88%	94%	94%
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	94%	94%	94%
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/12	799		
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 31/03/18	1498		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/19	1740		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/2020	2450		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/2021		3100	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 07/10/2021			3346
Priority A issues	No of Issues recd/dealt with		212/182	74/34
Priority B/C issues	No of Issues recd/dealt with		2337/1709	1287/443
Priority D (low)	No of Issues recd/dealt with		142/107	68/9
% of issues in targ time	Category C issues on Matrix	74%	tbc	tbc
% of issues in targ ave.	% Enf issues in targ time in mth	74%	tbc	tbc

Above includes**Volunteer Jobs Completed**

Clearance direct from BCC	85/15km	61/20km	26/1.1km
Miscellaneous Jobs	24	9	7
Waymarking and signs	78	59	49
Gates Repaired and installed	105	4	34
Bank Steps			
Stiles replaced and repaired	16	18	9
Trees removed	17	17	3
Total Jobs	325	168	128
Hours	2472	tbc hours	tbc hours

**Buckinghamshire Council - Rights of Way
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out
Between 1/04/19 and 7/10/21**



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 8

Date: 3rd November 2021

Title: LAF members' report

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer

Contact Officer: Rebecca Binstead (01296 585244)

1. CROW Act Open Access consultation (West Wycombe Hill) - National Trust felling licence application to Forestry Commission to control Ash Dieback trees [Sept 2021].

See APPENDIX 6. Neil Harris reports: *this work will only be removing the diseased ash trees growing adjacent to rights of way on West Wycombe Hill. Any trees that show signs of recovery or have less than 50% crown dieback will be retained. West Wycombe Hill is predominantly secondary woodland, much of which has grown up on the grassland after the demise of rabbits after myxomatosis. The work will also benefit grassland plants and insects associated with calcareous soils and most importantly keep visitors safe.*

By written representations, members decided no formal closure was necessary, but local management of walkers would be undertaken during felling.

By early October 2021, most of the felling work had taken place, with just removal of arisings to take place, especially on the grassland areas.

2. CROW Act Open Access consultation on 5-year review proposing to maintain restrictions for shooting (Wayside Farm, Bledlow Ridge) and restricting walkers to a fenced, permissive path when grazing with cattle & calves (Chawley Manor Farm, West Wycombe).

Natural England sought input from the Local Access Forum regarding whether the existing land management restrictions are still necessary? The landowner states they are still necessary. What is the situation with regards to the fenced route, is it still passable?

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/open-access-restriction-at-wayside-farm/>

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/open-access-restriction-at-chawley-manor/>

The matter was addressed by written representations and a summary of those comments are contained in the Chairman's response (APPENDIX 7).

3. The 2026 cut-off date introduced by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000; and Definitive Map Modification Orders determined by the Planning Inspectorate under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1980.

Following members resolution to make representation regarding the 2021 cut-off date and concern regarding resources with the Planning Inspectorate to deal with outstanding DMMO's, a letter was drafted and signed by Richard Pushman to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (APPENDIX 8).

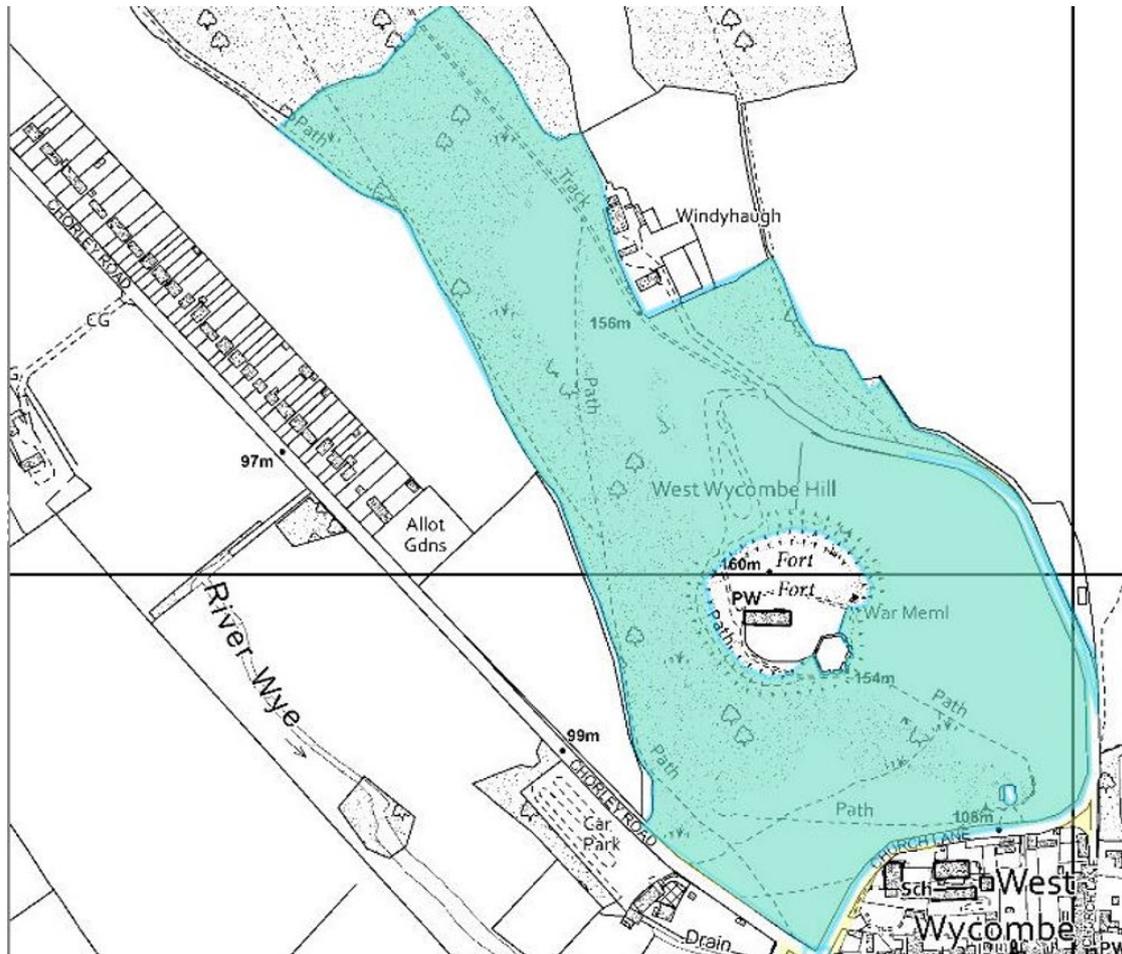
4. Venue and dates of next meetings

Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF

2nd Mar 2022; 13th Jul 2022; and 2nd Nov 2022

APPEXDIX 6

West Wycombe Hill Open Access land



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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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

5th October 2021

Dear Mr Morris,

Wayside Farm and Chawley Manor Farm Open Access Restriction consultation

Thank you for inviting comments from the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum on the above restrictions. This response is a summary of members' written representations as our meeting schedule falls outside Natural England's consultation period.

Members' concerns relate to: 1) overgrowth along the fenced-off permissive footpath; and 2) the necessity to segregate cows from the public.

We acknowledge the site's remoteness which reflects the relatively low public use. However, there seems no sense applying a restriction to use the permissive path while it remains overgrown and inaccessible. It would only be viable if the landowner agrees to mow it regularly, otherwise there is no reason for it.

The cows and calves are only likely to be grazed for part of the year and their presence shouldn't be a reason to deter or restrict public access, just for people to be aware of their presence. It seems unlikely people will use the site for open access purposes when cows are grazing as they are a natural deterrent, and we believe the vast majority of the site's use is as a through-route between roads. For these reasons we disagree there is a need to segregate cows and public from sharing the same space.

Members certainly accept they do not want the public on the land when there is a shoot in progress.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Pushman (Chairman)

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

18th October 2021

Dear Michael,

The 2026 cut-off date introduced by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000; and Definitive Map Modification Orders determined by the Planning Inspectorate under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1980.

At the 14th July 2021 meeting of Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum (LAF) members discussed the current situation regarding the 2026 cut-off date for historical evidence to determine Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's).

In 2015/16 the Buckinghamshire LAF co-ordinated the training of over 100 volunteers to investigate evidence in advance of the 2026 cut-off, but the vast majority were intimidated by the complexity of the process and time commitments, so relatively few applications have materialised. The eventual number of applications submitted before the 2026 cut-off could be insufficient to address the number of valid claims in the county, at least at current rates. With this in mind, we believe the 2026 cut-off should be reviewed with a view to being extended, as we understand the legislation allows.

It also came to light that a DMMO's referred to PINS by Buckinghamshire Council was submitted over 12 months ago, with no indication when it might be addressed. While we are reassured DMMO's submitted to local authorities prior to the 2026 cut-off date will be valid, there is a concern resources at national level may be insufficient to address DMMO's when referred to PINS for a decision.

Byways and bridleways in Buckinghamshire are particularly fragmented and one of the main tools for reconnecting the network for cyclists and equestrians is through the DMMO process. Any delays in the DMMO process lengthens the time the network is disconnected, which is a concern to the LAF.

Some applicants in Buckinghamshire have applied for a Schedule 14 direction from the Secretary of State when no decision has been made by the local authority for over 12 months, but no process is in place for delays at national level. We therefore seek reassurance that resources are in place at PINS to address DMMO cases in the coming years, otherwise there is a risk the public's confidence in the system will be eroded.

Yours faithfully,

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

Richard Pushman (Chairman)