



## Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum agenda

Date: Wednesday 1 March 2023

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 LEADER) (Vice-Chairman), S Broadbent, Mr G Casperz (Disabled Ramblers), Mr A Clark (Chiltern Society), Mr N Harris (National Trust) (Chairman), Ms A Heath (British Horse Society), Mr C Hurworth (Trail Riders' Fellowship and MPV users), Mr R Jennings (Cycling UK), R Johnson (Ramblers Association), Mr A Lambourne (Parish Councils), Mr G Thomas (Independent), A Turner and Mr B Worrell (British Driving Society Beds, Bucks and Herts)

***There will be a ten-minute break at 11am***

Agenda Item	Page No
<b>1 Election of Chairman</b>	
<b>2 Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>3 Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>4 Matters Arising</b>	<b>3 - 8</b>
<b>5 HS2 Additional Projects Fund</b> Neil Jackson, Conservation & Landscape Officer; joined by Annette Weiss, Head of Engagement and Partnerships, Chiltern Conservation Board.	<b>9 - 18</b>
<b>6 Ridgeway 50th Anniversary Celebrations</b> Sarah Wright, Ridgeway National Trail Officer.	<b>19 - 20</b>
<b>7 Slow Ways</b> James Spratley, Strategic Access Officer, Buckinghamshire Council.	<b>21 - 22</b>

- |           |   |                |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Rights of Way Group Update</b><br>Claire Hudson, Definitive Map and Highways Searches Team Leader;<br>Jonathan Clark, James Spratley Strategic Access Officers; and Joanne Taylor, Rights of Way Operations Team Leader. | <b>23 - 40</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>LAF Members' Report</b>  | <b>41 - 42</b> |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Dates of the Next Meetings</b><br>10am Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF   |                |
- 19th July 2023
  - 1st November 2023

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: Harry Thomas at [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).



## Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum held on Wednesday 2 November 2022 in The Paralympic Room, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.04 am and concluding at 11.33 am.

### Members present

Mr D Briggs (Vice-Chairman), S Broadbent, Mr G Casperz, Mr A Clark, Mr N Harris, Ms A Heath, Mr C Hurworth, Mr R Jennings, R Johnson, Mr A Lambourne, Mr G Thomas and A Turner

### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies

Members heard apologies from Mr R Pushman.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor S Broadbent declared an interest as the Chairman of the East-West Rail Partnership.

#### 3 Matters Arising

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

The Local Access Forum paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Mr R Pushman for his dedication, balance, and stewardship of the Forum over the years. The Vice-Chairman, Mr D Briggs took on the Chairman's responsibilities for the duration of the meeting and expressed the hope that a new Chairman would be in post before the next scheduled meeting, and that new Members would be interested to join the Forum.

#### 4 Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans & High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy Consultations

Jonny Fuller (Senior Transport Strategy Officer) gave a presentation to the Forum concerning the two consultations detailed in the accompanying report. The slides would be appended to the Minutes of the meeting. The following key points were raised in his presentation:

- The consultations had begun on 14<sup>th</sup> October and would run until 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- The High Wycombe Transport Strategy would be underpinned by three key themes
  1. Connecting Locally - Allowing everyone to access key destinations, services and travel hubs by providing and promoting attractive alternatives to cars.
  2. Connecting Regionally - Support the movement of people and goods within the Thames Valley and to London, Heathrow Airport, Oxford and beyond.
  3. Connecting Green Spaces - Enhancing health and wellbeing by providing safe, accessible routes to and throughout High Wycombe and its natural surroundings.

The Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) had been developed alongside the Transport Strategy, and was a government-endorsed approach to identifying walking and cycling infrastructure improvements across a ten-year period.

Five concepts had been used to develop the LCWIP

1. Walkable Core (Town Centre) – Improvements to infrastructure for walking and cycling in the town centre, but also things like signage and public realm improvements.
2. Main Radial Routes – Improvement to the main road corridors out of High Wycombe as well as walking and cycling access to key business park locations and key employment hubs across the town.
3. Healthy Neighbourhoods – The primary focus of the plan, which sought to build a network of new routes within Totteridge and Desborough.
4. Wider Network and Strategic Routes – Improving links to surrounding settlements.
5. A Cohesive and Connected Network – The longer-term strategy. Exploring behaviour change programmes, working with schools and businesses to make use of routes as they develop.

Regarding rights of way improvements specifically, the following points were raised:

Proposals seek to improve accessibility, safety and comfort for all users.

Improvements can include (re-)surfacing, improving accessibility (i.e. altering and

widening access points) and clearing vegetation.

Equestrians must be taken into consideration when developing proposals (i.e. route width, type and location of road crossings, surfacing materials).

Individual proposals will be subject to design and further engagement.

Those wishing to respond to the consultations were encouraged to do so online at the [Your Voice Bucks](#) page, or via email at [transportstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:transportstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Printed copies of plans and surveys would be made available at High Wycombe library throughout the consultation period, and two drop-in sessions would be held.

The first on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 from 10:30am-2pm at Eden Shopping Centre. The second at High Wycombe Library on the 18th of November 2022 from 10am-4pm.

Following questions, Jonny confirmed the following:

The plans outlined for High Wycombe preceded the county-wide Local Transport Plan (LTP) which was still being prepared for implementation in the longer term.

Funding for the LTP would be primarily sourced externally, as opposed to receiving council funding.

Questions in the public consultation on the LCWIP related to the five concepts outlined in the presentation, as well as offering the opportunity to raise awareness of individual schemes not currently included in the outlined plan for consideration.

It was hoped that there would be a high level of response to the consultations with a variety of public perspectives. To this end, the methods to promote it had been wide-ranging, with emails, posters, drop-in sessions, newsletters, and interviews all utilised as a means to raise awareness and encourage participation.

## **5 Rights of Way Group Update**

Attention was drawn to the report circulated as part of the agenda reports pack and any questions were invited.

Following questions related to the Definitive Map Applications section of the report, Helen Francis (Definitive Map Officer) then confirmed the following:

The expected waiting time for the team to assess an application stood at four years, primarily owing to lack of resources. The team was training new members, and sending more applications to be determined by the Secretary of State in an increased effort to work through the existing backlog. The Forum was agreeable to the suggestion that this demonstrated the need for more resources in the

department.

The delay in determining applications had also been caused by the need to hold public inquiries in cases where appeals had been lodged. With limited budget and resources, these had to be staggered, which could push determination dates back still further. It was hoped that if the current team remained in post, then the backlog would be diminished as applications were processed more quickly.

Jon Clark (Senior Strategic Access Officer) gave an overview of Appendix A accompanying the Strategic Access Update section of the report to the forum. This indicated two areas where planning applications made under the HS2 Act would precede Schedule 4 applications to divert public rights of way over bridges. The first would form part of the Buckinghamshire Cycle Way running northwest from Wendover and connect Elseborough Road and Nashleigh Lane. Jon confirmed that it would be a Type 1 stone surface track, and he was awaiting discussions with HS2 regarding its final access status.

The second concerned the A4010 Risborough Road underpass which would become a three-metre wide, two and a half metre tall underpass for cyclists. The underpass would provide a new link into Stoke Mandeville. It was hoped that the Buckinghamshire Cycling, Walking & Infrastructure Plan would consider the possibility of a further link southeast of that point towards Risborough.

After questions, the following was clarified:

Conversations would be held with HS2 regarding the possible takeover of maintenance tracks running along the line, though this would likely be done on a case-by-case basis.

Jon informed the forum that Savannah Fradley had been promoted to Rights of Way Officer. Savannah's vacant post had already been filled full-time by James Dixon. Additionally, Sophie David would be leaving the team at the end of December 2022. Recruitment for Sophie's replacement was underway.

The results of the BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey for winter 21/22 were as follows:

Percentage of paths rated 'Easy to Use'	73.5%
Percentage of structures rated 'Easy to Use'	92.7%
Percentage of paths signed from road	92.6%

The 22/23 winter's 5% survey would be undertaken using volunteers and officers, with results available at the March 2023 LAF meeting.

Berry Hill Footbridge, Taplow Public Footpath [TAP/12/1] would re-open in Summer 2023. Environment Agency works on the Jubilee River had caused a delay to the initial installation timetable.

Summer clearance had been aided by the parishes in conjunction with the Rights of Way teams, and two external contractors. 80km of clearance had been completed this year. It was hoped that some further clearance could be accomplished over Winter.

The rejuvenation of the Bernwood Jubilee Way [BJW] 61-mile Historic Trail had been delayed owing to the sad news of Her Late Majesty the Queen's death.

An event to celebrate fifty years of the Ridgeway National Trail would be held in September 2023. Further information could be found [online](#). Sarah Wright (Ridgeway National Trail Officer) had requested that anyone who had identified parts of the trail that were not up-to-standard to get in touch with her to make her aware.

Following questions, Jon confirmed the following:

The summer-clearance continued to be well supported by many of the parishes involved. Jon would speak to Joanne Taylor (Team Leader, Rights of Way) to ascertain how the scheme was funded but was confident it remained the same as had been the case previously. It was hoped that some of the money given to parishes operating under devolved services could be used towards clearance efforts, either conducted by themselves or through external contractors.

## **6 LAF Members' Report**

Gavin Casperz (Disabled Ramblers) agreed to bring more samples of Flexi-Pave to the next scheduled meeting of the forum. Flexi-Pave had been discussed at the previous meeting as a resurfacing option for rights of way.

The application to install a lift and ramps to link north and south-bound platforms at Great Missenden station, supported by the forum, had been delayed from Spring 2022 to September 2022 and more news was expected from Network Rail in early 2023.

Richard Jennings (Cycling UK) had attended the opening of the new Berryfields to Buckingham Cycle Way and fed back that it was a well-designed cycle route which provided a convenient means for local people working at Aylesbury prison to get to and from work. Councillor Broadbent confirmed that he had already seen the route in use and hoped that bins could be installed along the route to ensure that it was kept clean.

Jon confirmed that the recommendation of the forum made at the last meeting to keep Footpath HWU/80/1 closed via a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) had been adopted and implemented by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing. However, as the continued closure would prevent the collection of evidence to demonstrate that the footpath was no longer needed for public use under s118 of

the Highways Act 1980, it would not be possible to order an indefinite closure.

## **7 Any Other Business**

James Spratley (Strategic Access Officer) read out an update in relation to a long unattended fallen tree limb near a bridleway following a query from Alison Heath (British Horse Society). The update read as follows:

*'We are sorry for the time it has taken for this tree adjacent to the bridleway to be dealt with and do appreciate that it is causing an obstruction. Unfortunately, there was confusion to begin with as to who is responsible for this tree. This matter has now been rectified and responsibility has been established. The Arboricultural Officer and Asset Management Team at the Council have asked a tree surgeon to remove the fallen tree limb and carry out any other works necessary to make the tree safe. We can expect this to be done shortly. If there are any further queries with regards to this matter, please direct these to Savannah.'*

It was hoped that the matter would be resolved within the following two weeks.

James confirmed that two rights of way crossings (the Charndon crossing and the Swans Way crossing near Swanbourne) had opened over the East-West Rail line already, with more identified. The aim was for all rights of way crossings to have opened by early January 2023.

Councillor Steve Broadbent informed the Forum that he had been in regular dialogue with the Chief Executive of East West Rail, Beth West, in his capacity as Chairman of the East-West Mainline partnership which represented all local authorities across the route. He hoped to secure a guarantee that the proposed spur to Aylesbury along the route would go ahead to the benefit of businesses in the area. Councillor Broadbent had written on behalf of the partnership to the new Secretary of State for Transport to ensure that the momentum pushing for the spur was not lost in the recent government departmental reshuffling. Councillor Broadbent also put on record his thanks to officers for their hard work on the hand back protocol.

## **8 Dates of the Next Meetings**

1st March 2023

12th July 2023

1st November 2023

Each meeting would take place at 10am in the Paralympic Room, The Gateway Aylesbury HP19 8FF.





BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

## Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 4

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Title:** HS2 Additional Mitigation Fund

**Author:** Neil Jackson, *Conservation & Landscape Officer, Chilterns Conservation Board*

**Contact Officer:** Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

The Chilterns HS2 Review Group comprises Buckinghamshire Council, Chilterns Conservation Board, Natural England, Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd.

The group was established by assurance from the HS2 Select Committee in response to proposals from the Chilterns Conservation Board; and district/county councils that existed at the time.

The Group has overseen the creation of Detailed Design Principles [see [The HS2 Review Group - Chilterns AONB | Chilterns AONB](#)]; and now allocates and oversees expenditure of a £3m Additional Projects fund on land situated within 3km either side of the HS2 route as it passes through the AONB.

Local Access Forum members will be provided with an outline of the following projects:

1. Landscape and Biodiversity Connectivity [£500,000]
2. Ridgeway Riding Route [£136,000]
3. Wendover Canal Towpath Upgrade [671, 500]
4. Misbourne Greenway [£330,000]

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# HS2 Additional Projects Fund

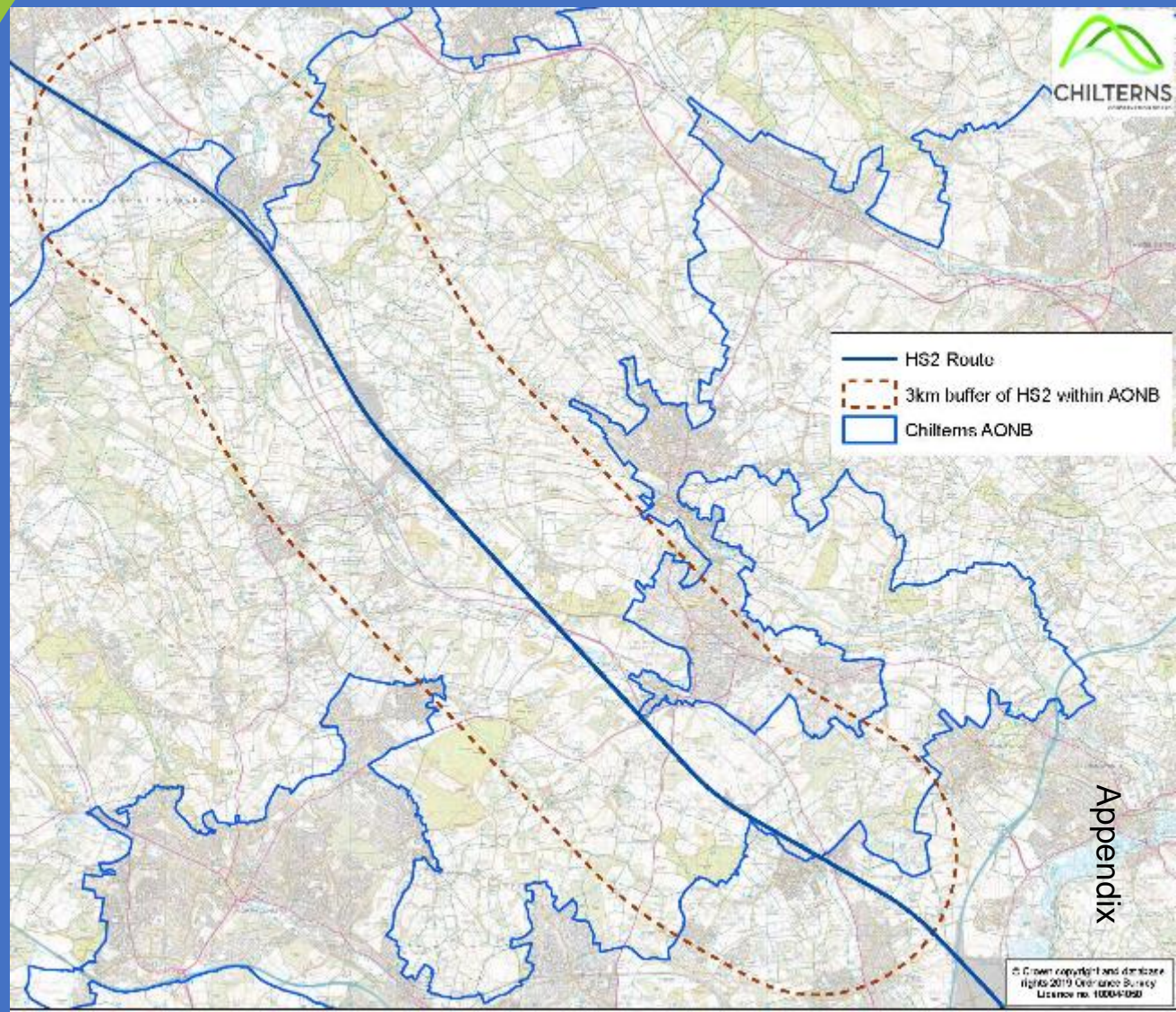
Neil Jackson  
Conservation and Landscape Officer

February 2023

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**CHILTERNs**  
CONSERVATION BOARD



# Chilterns AONB Review Group

The Chilterns HS2 Review Group was established by assurance from the HS2 Select Committee in response to proposals from the Chilterns Conservation Board, Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern, Wycombe and Aylesbury Vale District Councils. The Review Group is comprised of local authorities in the Chilterns affected by HS2, the CCB, Natural England, Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd.

The group had 2 main purposes:

- To oversee the creation of Detailed Design Principles

Link on this page: [The HS2 Review Group - Chilterns AONB | Chilterns AONB](#)

- To allocate a budget of £3m available local environmental integration and enhancement measures as **Additional Projects** within 3km either side of the HS2 route as it passes through the AONB.

# The Additional Projects Fund

To date, the Review Group has agreed funding for 4 projects:

## 1. Landscape and Biodiversity Connectivity

**£500,000** overseen by CCB working with farmers and landowners. Projects include willow pollarding, hedge creation and restoration, woodland planting wildflower rich grass margins established to increase pollinator numbers, owl and kestrel boxes, new signage to help visitors recognise, enjoy and respect the farming and wildlife they see while enjoying walks across the area.

## 2. Ridgeway Riding Route

**£136,000** awarded to the Ridgeway National Trail - ambitions to adapt 7 sections (between North Stoke and the Ashridge Estate) of the existing rights of way network, to provide links with sections of the Ridgeway National Trail already open to horse and bike riders.

## 3. Wendover Canal Towpath Upgrade

**£291,500** awarded April 2021, further **£380,000** awarded November 2022 to upgrade the badly deteriorated towpath within the parishes of Wendover and Halton.

## 4. Misbourne Greenway

**£330,000** awarded to complete the final 1km of the 4km route between Great Missenden and Wendover after delays and inflationary pressure meant that the original DfT award would not be sufficient to complete the route.

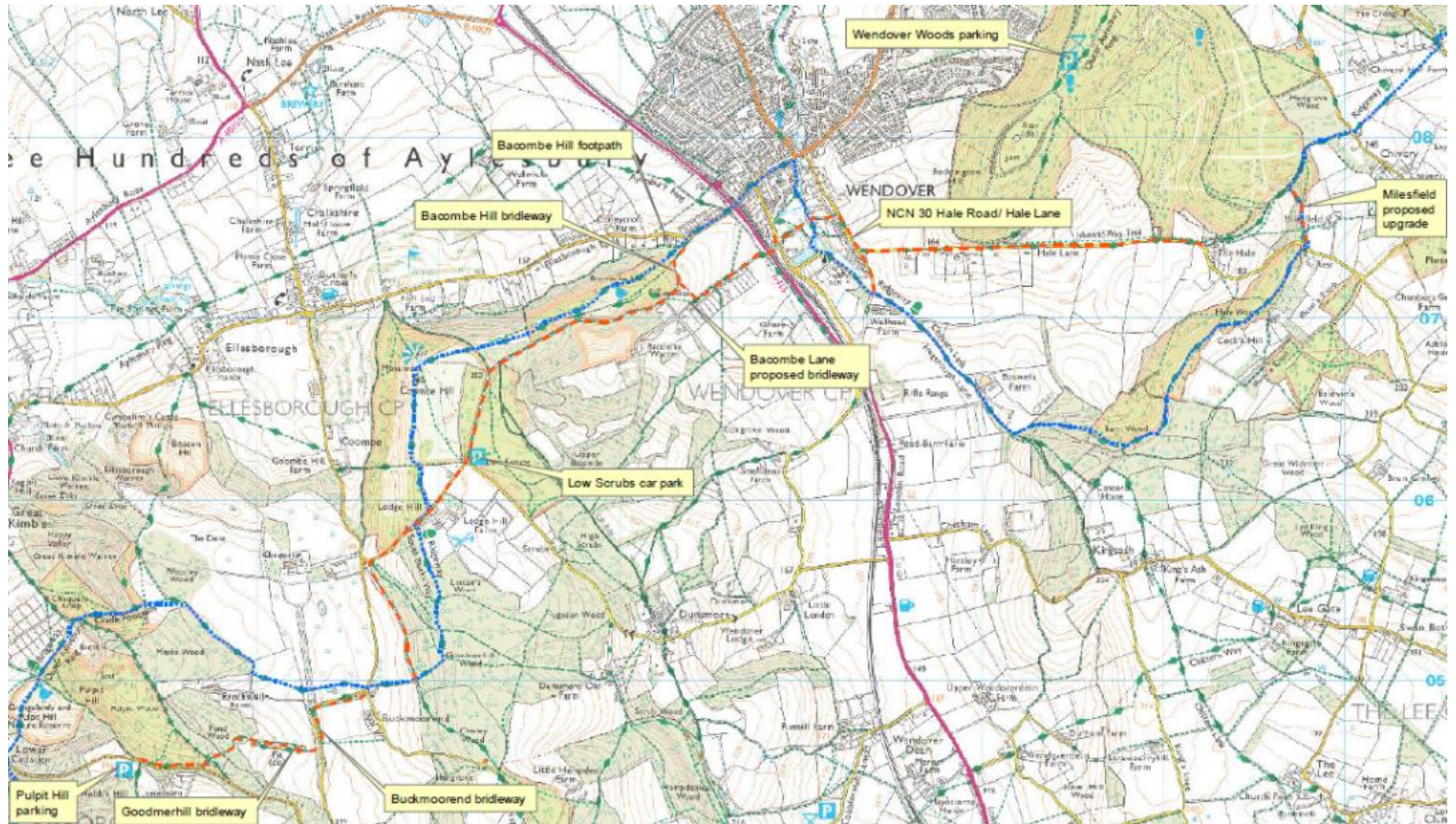
**£1,137,500** of the total allocated funds of **£1,637,500** awarded to access projects  
= **38%** of total AP fund.

## Ridgeway Riding Route

This project will be realised in phases over several years. The first phase launched in Dec 2019 with a grant from HS2 Ltd for a route between Pulpit Hill (near Princes Risborough) and Chivery (near Wendover). Working with landowners, the funding is enabling signage, surface improvements, cycle stands, hitching posts and benches



- improvements to the Ridgeway for walkers around Bacombe Hill,
- greater continuous length open to cyclists and horse riders via Milesfield,
- connection to one of the country's leading off-road cycling centres at Aston Hill
- better connected and safer routes for cyclists and horse riders along the Ridgeway Riders Route.
- Local tourism-related businesses will benefit from more cyclists and horse riders passing through or near Wendover



## Wendover Canal Towpath Upgrade

The Wendover Arm Trust have gained support from almost 30 different national and local groups to upgrade the badly deteriorated towpath within the parishes of Wendover and Halton.

The towpath serves Wendover residents and is in close proximity to schools, care homes. The upgrade will provide access for walkers, runners, cyclists and those with reduced mobility and will form an important part of the ambitious Grand Union Canal Triangle between Aylesbury, Wendover and Tring – 22km of towpath linked by 6km of right of way through Weston Turville.

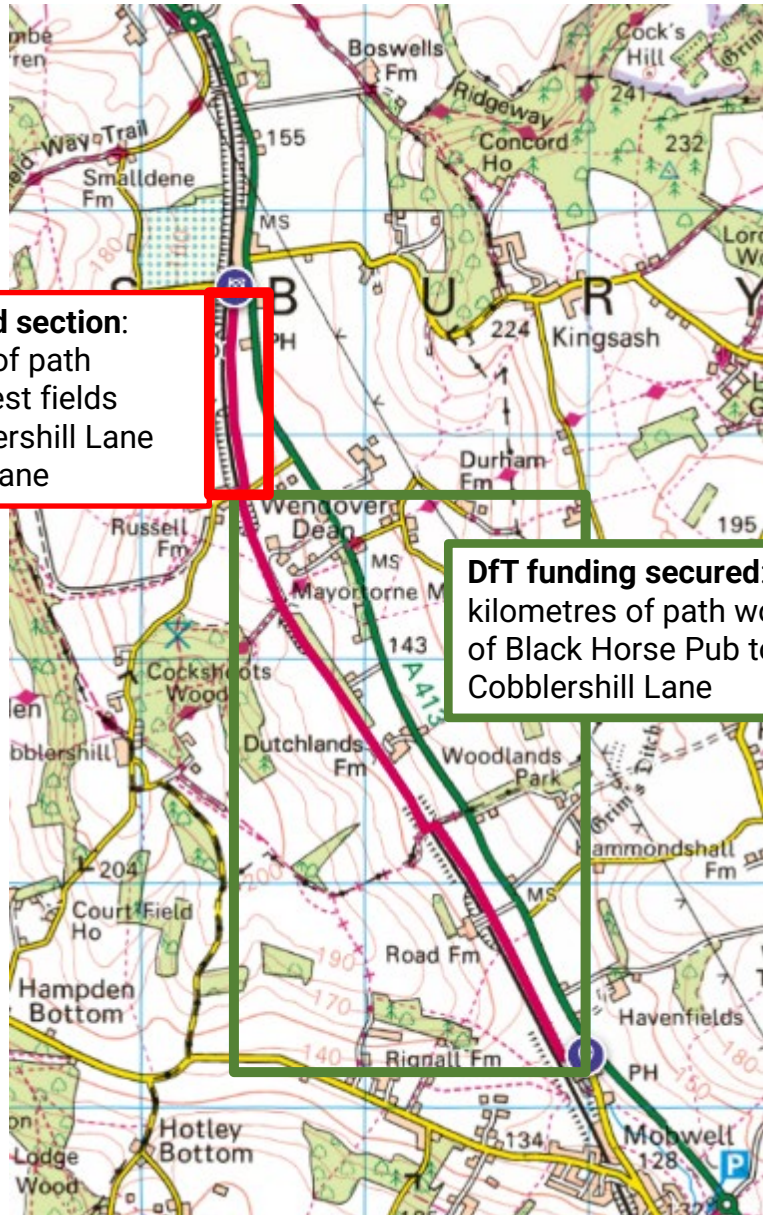




## Misbourne Greenway

The Misbourne Greenway is a proposed walking, wheeling and cycling route along the Misbourne valley between Uxbridge and Wendover. When complete, it will form part of Buckinghamshire Council's vision of a Buckinghamshire Greenway covering the length of the county.

AP funding will allow completion of the final 1km with all the works constructed in one continuous phase from February 2023.



**HS2 AP funded section:**  
one kilometre of path  
through Firecrest fields  
north of Cobblershill Lane  
to Dunsmore Lane

**DfT funding secured:** three  
kilometres of path works north  
of Black Horse Pub to  
Cobblershill Lane

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

## Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 4

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Title:** *Celebrating 50 years of the National Trail in 2023*

**Author:** *Sarah Wright – Ridgeway National Trail Officer*

**Contact Officer:** Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

The Ridgeway Board invites Local Access Forum members to enjoy events along the Trail throughout 2023: discovering and celebrating the history, myths and memories of the route – please visit the National Trail web page:

[https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en\\_GB/ridgeway\\_anniversary2023/](https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/ridgeway_anniversary2023/)

The main event will be in September 2023 at Coombe Hill. Date TBC.

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## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 4

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Title:** Slow Ways

**Author:** James Spratley, Strategic Access Officer

**Contact Officer:** Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

Slow Ways is an initiative to create a national network of walking routes connecting all of Great Britain's populated places. It aims to inspire and support more people to walk further and more often, for more purposes than they do currently. The Slow Ways network combines the existing network of public rights of way, permissive paths, ways, trails, and roads to allow for people to plan and go on walking journeys.

Emerging in the Spring 2020 lockdown and directed by the Chief Exploration Officer Daniel Raven-Ellison, the Slow Ways volunteers have mapped over 8000 Slow Ways that stretch for almost 120,000km. The Slow Ways map is currently available to access online (<https://beta.slowways.org/>) alongside a Journey Planner and Routing tool which helps the user to chart the stages of a medium-to-long distance walk (see Appendix A & B).

The promotion of walking as a transport mode has significant benefits which are closely aligned with Buckinghamshire Council's key priorities, namely strengthening our communities, protecting the vulnerable, improving our environment, and increasing prosperity.

#### **Community benefits of Slow Ways**

Slow Ways is sharing a positive, empowering, rewarding and inclusive project at a time of national crisis and recovery. It offers a source of community engagement, focus, identity and pride. It has the potential to increase the use of currently under-used parts of the PROW network which will lead to improvements through the submission of maintenance requests and reports. Slow Ways connect people to 'nearby nature', heritage, places and communities.

#### **Health benefits of Slow Ways**

Slow Ways improve health and wellbeing by encouraging physical activity for short trips and longer journeys. They create opportunities for people to connect with friends, family and colleagues. Encouraging people not to rush, connect with nature, and enjoy their journeys supports better mental health.

### **Environmental benefits of Slow Ways**

Slow ways reduce pollution and emissions through active travel options as an alternative to carbon-based transport. They contribute to the decarbonisation of local and national transport systems and helping to address the climate emergency.

### **Transport benefits of Slow Ways**

Slow Ways supporting more people to walk more of the time, for more purposes. In doing so they promote a greater use of existing paths, trails, networks, and the connections between them. They provide safe, direct and enjoyable routes between neighbouring towns and cities. They also serve to link active travel to public transport hubs.

### **Economic benefits**

Slow Ways saving people money by encouraging an inexpensive form of travel and can encourage economic activity by inspiring visits to, and stays in, more places.

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 I had an initial conversation with Slow Ways to discuss areas in which Buckinghamshire Council and Slow Ways could partner and collaborate, which in the future could involve trialling the country's first waymarked routes, the production of paper maps of local Slow Ways for schools and initiatives such as Health Walks.

At present however the priority for Slow Ways is to walk, review and verify all the routes. Becoming the first county to fully verify their Slow ways network is a specific and achievable goal and could bring positive publicity to the area through local and national which have also been promoting Slow Ways.

To verify a route a volunteer must complete a survey sheet on a selected route (see Appendix D). This includes information on the gradient, surface, obstacles, and ability to complete using a wheelchair or a pushchair. Training information is available on the website ([https://beta.slowways.org/Page/how-to#survey\\_place](https://beta.slowways.org/Page/how-to#survey_place)).

As the Local Access Forum exists to advise Buckinghamshire Council on the improvement of public access to the countryside and public rights of way, I would appreciate the LAF's thoughts on Slow Ways and whether we should promote this organisation.

A map of all the Buckinghamshire Slow Ways and a factsheet have been included as Appendix C.



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Title: Rights of Way Group update

### 1. DEFINITIVE MAP

#### A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED

1. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Confirmed by Secretary of State with modifications. CASE CLOSED.**
2. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Confirmed Secretary of State. CASE CLOSED.**
3. **High Wycombe** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Pinewood Road and Public Footpath No. 93. **Application accepted, order to be made.**
4. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application accepted, order to be made.**

#### 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	2023	
Applications received for Definitive Map Modification Orders	2	14	4	4	5	12	12	7	0	
Application determined (accepted or rejected)					1	1 determined	1 determined	1 determined	3 (being prepared for determination)	
Applications completed (order confirmed or not confirmed)					1	1	0	3	0	
					No data collected					
Applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders										
Apps. waiting to be investigated	46									
Apps. under investigation	6									
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	0									

- 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. **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.**
  3. **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.**
  4. **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.**
  5. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Under investigation.**
  6. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017. Under investigation.**



7. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement – Awaiting acknowledgement and addition to the register of applications.
8. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**
9. **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.**
10. **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.**
11. **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.**
12. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 27 August 2019.**
13. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started.**
14. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started.**
15. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started.**
16. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started.**
17. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
18. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
19. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016.**
20. **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.**
21. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27/03/2017.**

22. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17/01/2020.**
23. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19/02/2020.**
24. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 07/03/2020.**
25. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15/03/2020.**
26. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1/05/2020.**
27. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27/01/2020.**
28. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23/10/2019.**
29. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7/12/2020.**
30. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
31. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
32. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
33. **Marlow** – application to add public footpath off Liston Road. **Application received 20/12/2020.**
34. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Lane. **Application received 03/03/2021.**
35. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application Received 17/05/2021**
36. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21/06/2021**
37. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**
38. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Claimed Restricted Byway and Upgrading to a Restricted Byway, Moreton Road to Moreton Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**

39. **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.**
40. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway – **Application received 14/09/2021.**
41. **Little Marlow** – application to add public footpath around Roach Lane. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
42. **Little Marlow and Marlow** – application to add public footpath along A404. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
43. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpath along Crowne Plaza. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
44. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpaths, west of Westhope. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
45. **Little Marlow** – application to upgrade footpath no. 20 to public bridleway. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
46. **Weedon** – application to add public footpath along Northcroft. **Application received on 09/03/2022.**
47. **Latimer** – application to add Restricted Byway from Kiln Lane to Tylers Hill Road. **Application received 22/03/2022.**
48. **Little Missenden** – application to register circular footpath off Stoney Lane. **Application received 25/03/2022.**
49. **North Marston** - application to add public footpath off Quanton Road. **Application received on 19/07/2022.**
50. **Wooburn** – application to add public footpath along River Wye. **Application received on 23/08/2022.**
51. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to add Public Bridleway from Stockwell Lane to Bridleway No. 14 – **Application received on 21/09/2022.**
52. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to upgrade Public Bridleway No. 14 to restricted byway. **Application received on 21/09/2022.**

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

Summary:

Applications for Public Path Orders	46
Apps. waiting to be investigated	1
Apps. under investigation/Orders made	19
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	1
Cases closed	7
Awaiting works by applicant	18

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order made, awaiting completion of works.**
2. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting signed creation agreement.**
3. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **Order confirmed. Cycle Track Order Made. Objections Received, to be sent to DFT for determination.**
4. **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.**
5. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Order abandoned. Diverted under Transport for Works Act. CASE CLOSED.**
6. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 –**Order revoked. New corrected order to be confirmed.**
7. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 and 4 – **Extinguishment of FP 3 confirmed. Diversion awaiting works.**
8. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
9. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be completed.**
10. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 25. **Confirmed by PINS. CASE CLOSED.**
11. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
12. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed. Awaiting works.**

13. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed, awaiting works.**
14. **Wexham** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
15. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Confirmed by Secretary of State. Awaiting works.**
16. **Bierton** - Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
17. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Order made. Objection received. Referred to Secretary of State.**
18. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Confirmed by Secretary of State. Awaiting works.**
19. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
20. **Oakley** – application to divert footpath No. 29 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
21. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Order made. Objections received. Being submitted to Planning Inspectorate.**
22. **Kingsey** – diversion of footpath No. 1 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
23. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
24. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
25. **High Wycombe/Hughenden** – creation agreement off Brands Hill Avenue – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
26. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
27. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2 – **Order made. Objections received.**
28. **Maids Moreton** – Diversion of Footpath No.3 – **Order to be made.**
29. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes – **Agreement signed. Awaiting works.**
30. **Great Horwood** – bridleway to be created off A421 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
31. **Lacey Green** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 48 – **Under investigation.**
32. **High Wycombe** – Diversion of Public Bridleway No. 156 – **Under investigation.**

33. **Biddlesden** – Diversion of Public Bridleway no. 5 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
34. **Chalfont St Peter** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **Application rejected. CASE CLOSED.**
35. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. FP1(F) – **Order to be made.**
36. **North Marston** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 18 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
37. **Marsh Gibbon** – East West Rail creation of Footpath No. 5 – **Awaiting signature.**
38. **Great and Little Hampden** – Diversion of Footpath no. 43 – **Order to be confirmed.**
39. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16 - **Order to be confirmed.**
40. **Wexham** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 7 – **Under investigation.**
41. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Public Bridleways 6 and 7 and Bridleway 38 and 39, Oakley – **Investigation not started.**
42. **Swanbourne** – East West Rail creation of public footpath No. 17 – **Under investigation.**
43. **Wendover** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 18 – **Order to be made.**
44. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **Order to be made.**
45. **Radnage** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 5 - **Under investigation.**
46. **Whitchurch** – Diversion of Footpath no. 47 - **Under investigation.**

#### **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. **Advertised – objections under considerations.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Report to be written.**

4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **Public inquiry arranged for March 2023.**

5. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Public inquiry arranged for February/March 2023.**

## **2. STRATEGIC ACCESS**

### **1. RAF Halton**

Officers attended a planning meeting to discuss the high-level strategic layout for RAF Halton in preparation for a draft Supplementary Planning Document that shapes development for around 1000 new homes after the MOD vacates. Multi-user routes were discussed linking the development to existing communities at Halton village; the Wendover Canal; the John Hampden and John Colet Schools; and Wendover Woods.

### **2. The Buckinghamshire Greenway [Wendover section]**

The length between Wendover and Great Missenden is currently being constructed and will be open mid-summer 2023. The requirement to divert Footpath GMI/70/4, which removes pedestrians from passing across the railway line at Road Farm, Great Missenden, has been confirmed by the Secretary of State and will be closed [and diverted towards Town End Farm, Aylesbury Road] when the greenway is brought into use.

### **3. East West Rail**

Officers from rights of way maintenance, definitive map, and strategic access continue to work at pace to inspect and reopen ROW closed to allow construction work to proceed. The following routes are now open to the public and a map is available in Appendix E. *[All footpaths unless stated; from the top, listed west to east]:*

- Poundon POD/4/1
- Steeple Claydon SCL/1/5
- Verney Junction - Middle Claydon MCL/2/2 & MCL/3/4
- Winslow WIS/5/4 & Addington ADD/11/2
- Winslow WIS/6/1
- Swanbourne SWA/1/3
- Little Horwood LHO/20 & Mursley MUR18/1 *[restricted byway]*

## **4. OPERATIONS**

### **1. The current staff structure**

The structure allows for 7 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 3 Area ROW Officers, 2 Assistant ROW Officers and 1 Bridge Structure Inspector. Congratulations to Phill Fox on his appointment as the new Area Rights of Way Officer covering the south-east Buckinghamshire. Phill previously worked part-time on the ROW Capital Works schemes but is now full-time. Appendix F shows new ROW Area Map.

### **2. BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey**

The 5% network survey is ongoing with insufficient data to provide interim results.

**3. Capital projects update** - list of recently completed and current Rights of Way capital projects *[see Nov 2022 LAF report for works completed up to 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2022]*.

Route No. & Parish	Works	Stage
Denham Bridleway 52 [DEN/52/1]	Large equestrian bridge replacement	Out for tender/ quotes for supply and build.
Stoke Poges Footpath 9 [STP/9/1]	Replacement Bridge Structure	Work ordered – completion imminent
Chesham Footpath 135 [CHS/135/1]	resurfacing	Works complete

#### 4. Rights of Way revenue works 2022/23

It has been possible to fund a small number of winter clearance jobs to remove thick vegetation on several paths over the winter, and the replacement of a flight of concrete steps in High Wycombe.

#### 5. Bernwood Jubilee Way [BJW] 61-mile Historic Trail

The web pages have been rebranded for the rejuvenated BJW route, as per the link below and the route re-waymarked. Any roadside signposts requiring new finger arms will be updated over the coming year. <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/cycling-and-walking/walking-and-cycling-routes/walking-and-cycling-route-map/bernwood-jubilee-way-walking-routes/>.

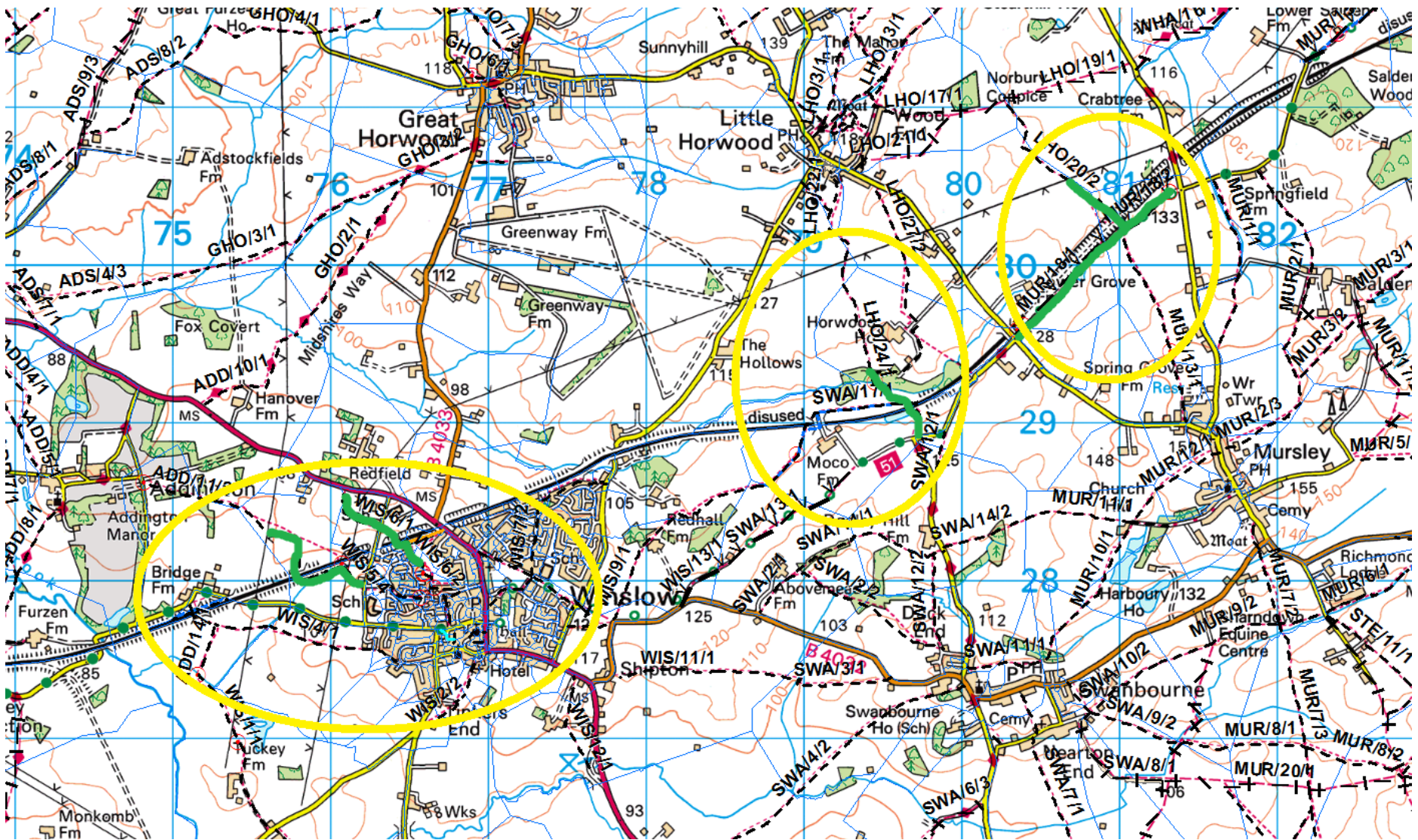
#### 5. Balfour Beatty

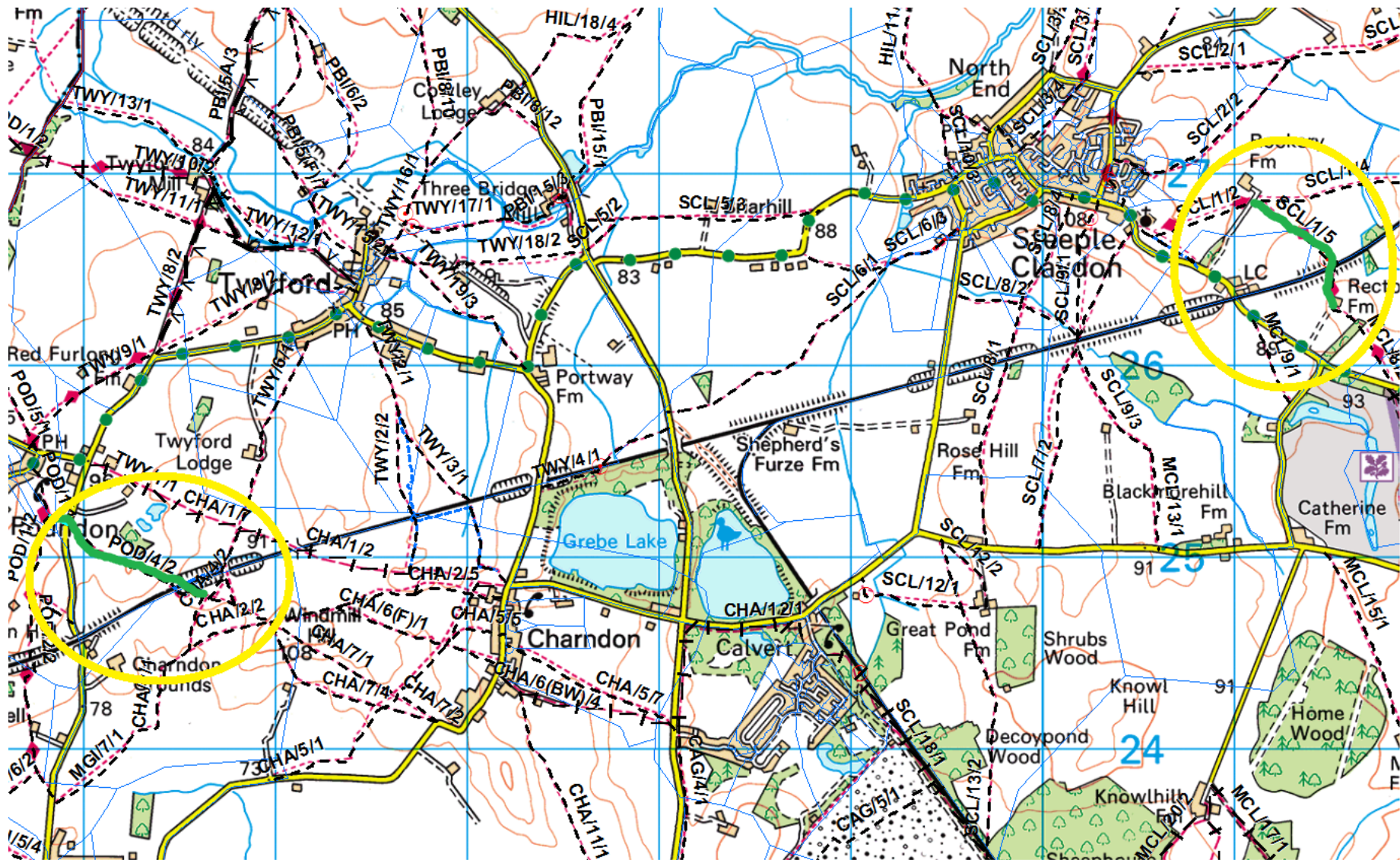
From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 the council's highways contract with Ringway Jacobs ends and a new contract will commence with Balfour Beatty. The two dedicated rights of way crews, working out of Amersham and Gawcott, will continue under the new contract.

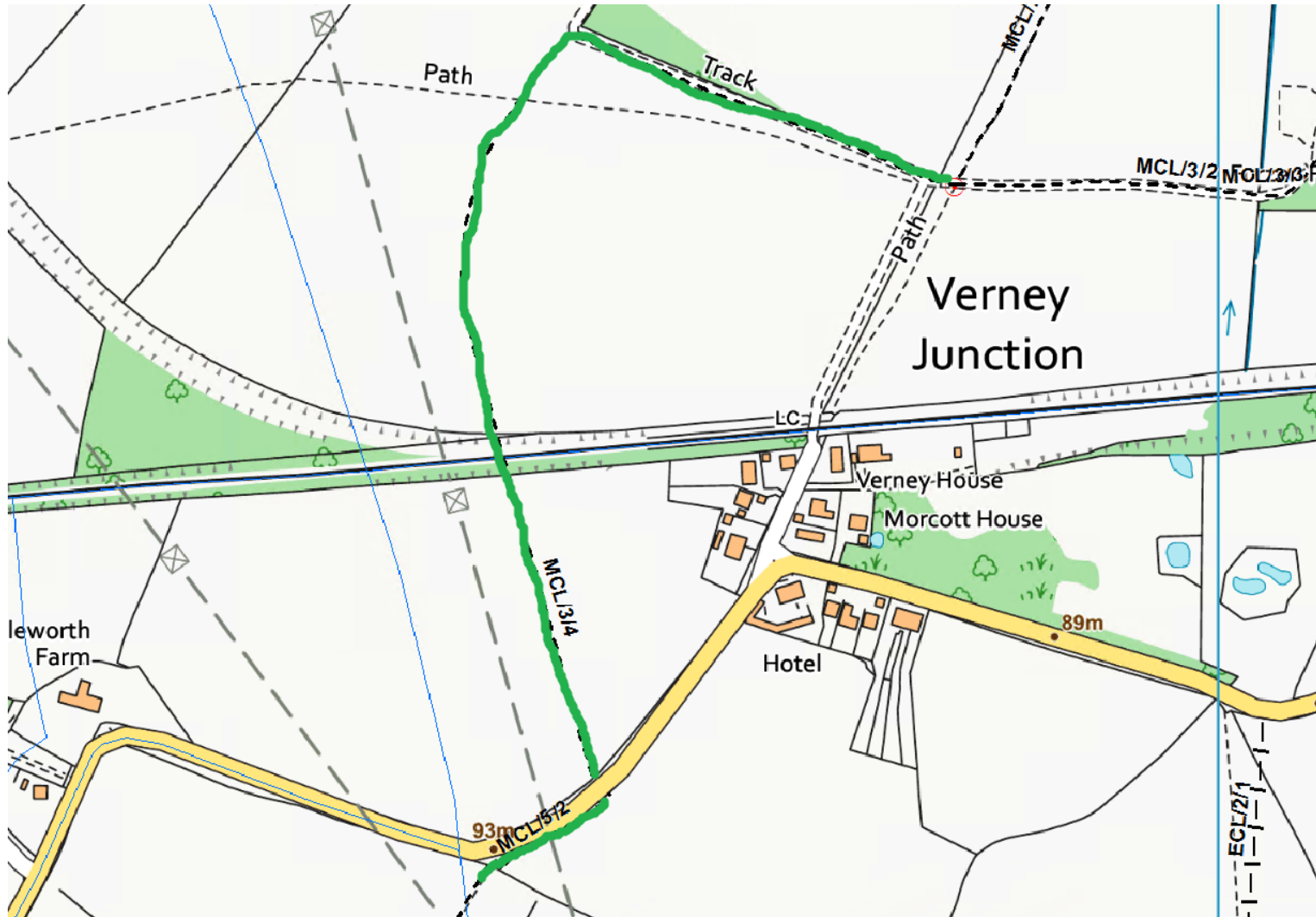
#### 6. Summary of Maintenance

See APPENDIX G.









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**Buckinghamshire Council - Rights of Way  
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out  
Between 1/04/20 and 3/02/23**

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	Aprl 20- Mar21	Aprl21-Mar22	1 Aprl22-Feb23
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	19	33	15
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	120km/345	120km/450	km 100/360
Bridge	Installed or repaired	81	65	57
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	119	187	132
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	38	47	28
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	79	163	80
Intimidation+animal/per	Intimidation - resolved	35	25	20
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	28	26	8
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	22	36	16
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	143	154	90
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	44	26	12
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	269	316	291
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	6	4	
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	113	77	60
Other	Delivery of materials	20	29	26
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	163	155	101
Gap	structure removed To Gap	22	13	24
Stile	Installed or repaired	177	216	132
Stile	Stile To KG	39	48	19
Stile	Stile To PG	62	55	13
Terrain	Bank Steps	12	6	2
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	55	88	57
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	167	230	154
Issues Signed off		2071	2451	1636
Improvements	To aid mobility access	202	279	104
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	<b>75%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>74%</b>
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	<b>94%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	<b>94%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/12	799		
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 31/03/2022		3199	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 03/02/2023			3318
Priority A issues	No of Issues recd/dealt with	<b>212/182</b>	<b>187/184</b>	<b>151/158</b>
Priority B/C issues	No of Issues recd/dealt with	<b>2337/1709</b>	<b>2104/2076</b>	<b>1477/1335</b>
Priority D (low)	No of Issues recd/dealt with	<b>142/107</b>	<b>168/110</b>	<b>159/91</b>

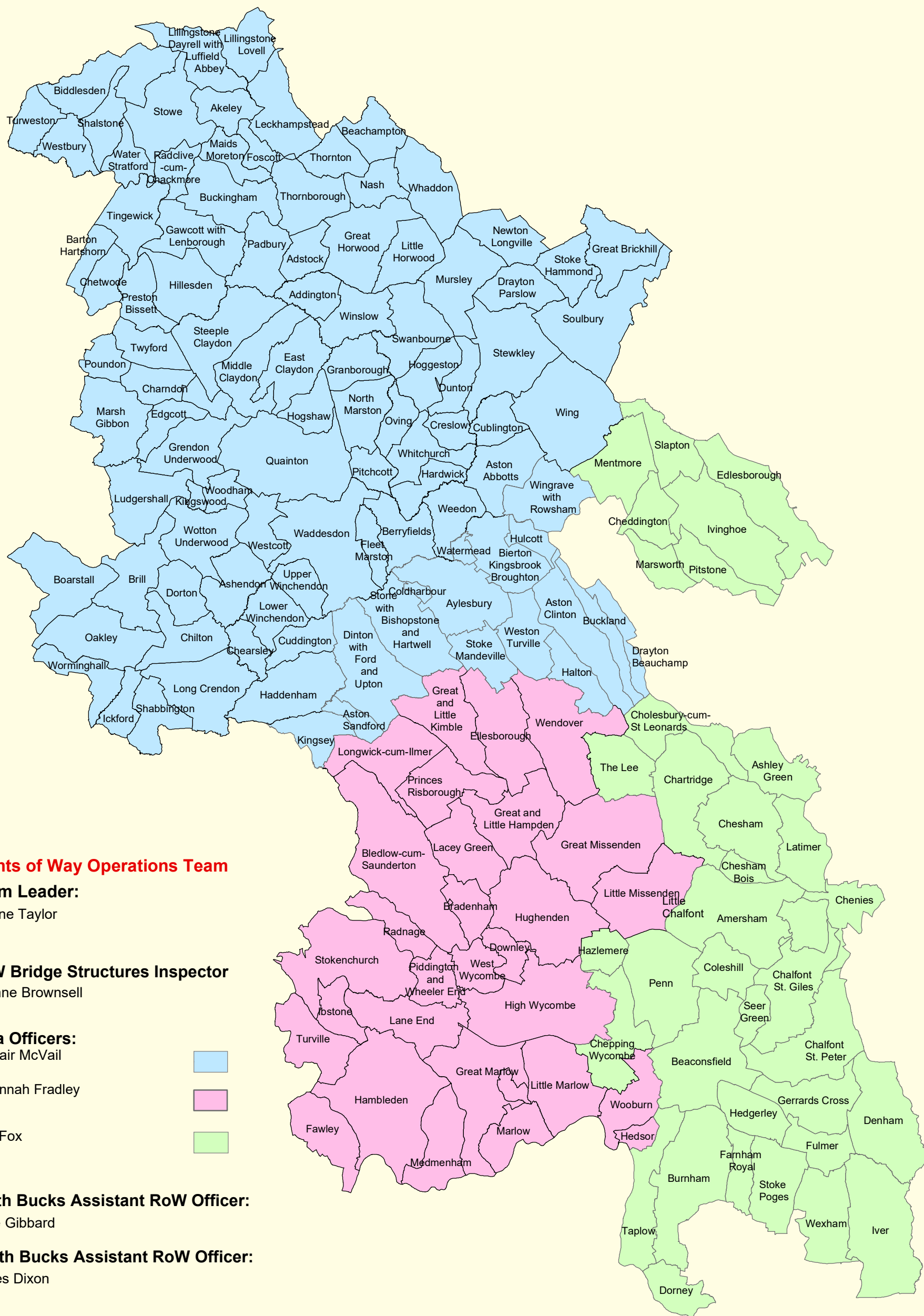
**Above includes**

**Volunteer Jobs Completed**

<b>Clearance direct from BCC</b>	<b>61/20km</b>	<b>137/10.3km</b>	<b>68/10.7</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Jobs</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Waymarking and signs</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Gates Repaired and installed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Bank Steps</b>			
<b>Stiles replaced and repaired</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Trees removed</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>277</b>

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# RIGHTS OF WAY AREAS AND PARISHES



**Rights of Way Operations Team**

**Team Leader:**

Joanne Taylor

**RoW Bridge Structures Inspector**

Corinne Brownsell

**Area Officers:**

Alastair McVail

Savannah Fradley

Phill Fox



**North Bucks Assistant RoW Officer:**

Rose Gibbard

**South Bucks Assistant RoW Officer:**

James Dixon

Walton Street Office, Walton Street,  
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UY  
Tel: 01296 382416

Correct as at 31 January 2023

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## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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## AGENDA ITEM 6

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Title:** LAF members' report

**Author:** Jonathan Clark and James Spratley, Strategic Access Officers

**Contact Officer:** Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

### 1. Social Media

National Trails recently shared their methodology for using influencers to promote The Countryside Code. After identifying people with a wide following on social media who advocate for related causes, they were approached to become Countryside Code Champions. These include Haroon Mota [the founder of Muslim Hikers and active Inclusion Network]; Ben Andrews [an Organic farmer from Herefordshire who promotes his local trails and birdlife]; and Amanda Owen [a well-known Shepherdess and author]. Their social media posts have included YouTube videos and Instagram posts. We would welcome any ideas from members wishing to promote responsible usage of the countryside in a similar way.

### 2. The National Outdoor Expo [18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022]

This event will be held at the NEC Birmingham with talks from many high-profile speakers including Ray Mears, Ben Fogle, and Claire Lomas MBE alongside a host of exhibiting brands, partners, and workshops.

### 3. Ridgeway Delivery Group meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 [Brian Worrell]

The Ridgeway National Trail Delivery Group [RNTGD] met remotely on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022, attended by Brian Worrell. Here is Brian's update:

- a) 2023 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ridgeway National Trail and as such many improvements and events are planned to celebrate this milestone.
- b) West Berkshire Council have trialed a new method of surface repair called cut-and-fill. The benefit of this method is an efficient use of resources, with little or no imported additional material. A similar method was used on Bacombe Hill in Buckinghamshire using limestone for resurfacing in conjunction with nature conservation practices.

- c) New signage is being designed for the Ridgeway designed around 'Leave no Trace' and 'Be Nice, Say Hi' with the acorn symbol.
- d) Natural England are preparing a specific cyclists code of practice much like the Countryside Code.
- e) The RNTGD have requested that Buckinghamshire Council's winter clearance and mowing schedules are completed in good time as there is expected to be significant interest in using the Ridgeway National Trail in this anniversary year.
- f) The Ridgeway featured on The Guardian's travel list [No 8] of places to holiday in 2023. The photo includes a Chiltern's Donate-a-Gate.
  - a. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2023/jan/14/where-to-go-on-holiday-in-2023-23-great-travel-ideas>
- g) Grant Funding 24/25
  - a. Ivinghoe Beacon surfacing project – Ridgeway itself and path to nearby car park. Match-fund with National Trust and Buckinghamshire Council. Sarah to contact National Trust at Ashridge ASAP.
  - b. Chequers footpath – improve the slippery sections through registered parkland. Match-fund with Buckinghamshire Council.
  - c. Grangelands bridleway entrance – improved slope, access and drainage. Match with Buckinghamshire Council.

#### **4. Venue and dates of next meetings**

Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF - 10am  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023; and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.