



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 7

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**Title:** Rights of Way group update

#### A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED

1. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. Application dated 10 October 2014. The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections have been referred to the Secretary of State for determination; **Outcome to be determined by written representations after August 2020.**
2. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Order confirmed and advertised.**
3. **Chenies, Chalfont St Peter, Denham** – application to record Shire Lane as part restricted byway and part byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 14 March 2016. Connected with No.2 above. Order confirmed and advertised.**
4. **Great and Little Kimble and Ellesborough** – Prohibition Order along BOAT Nos. 40, 40A and 62. **Prohibition order made and came into force from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.**
5. **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.**
6. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Application presented to Committee and accepted. Order made and advertised. To be 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 prioritise certain applications under the following circumstances:

- I. The evidence in support (either fully or in part) of the application is that of User Evidence
- II. There is a threat of development affecting the claimed route
- III. If the evidence in support of the application is shared with another application within the chronological list and it would be efficient to investigate the applications concurrently

1. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record route between public footpath No. 14 and No. 15 Parish of Chepping Wycombe. **Application dated 14 September 2015. Investigation not started; discussions 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. Under investigation.**
4. **Hazlemere** - application to record various routes in the field adjacent to Public Footpath No. 8 and Public Bridleway No. 6, Parish of Hazlemere as Public Footpaths. **Application dated 23 April 2016. Under investigation.**
5. **Leckhampstead** - Application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 5 (part) to Public Bridleway and add a route which connects with No.5 as Public Bridleway. **Application dated 21 June 2016. Under investigation.**
6. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Application received 20 December 2016.**
7. **High Wycombe** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Pinewood Road and Public Footpath No. 93. **Application received 3 October 2017.**
8. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application received 9 October 2017.**
9. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017.**
10. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement – Awaiting acknowledgement and addition to the register of applications. **Investigations not started.**

11. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**
12. **Buckingham** – application to add a Public Bridleway to the Definitive Map following the dismantled railway walk from the A421 to Tingewick Road. **Application dated 14 May 2019.**
13. **Chalfont St Peter** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map at Windmill Farm connecting Public Footpath No 19 with Footpath no 55. **Application dated 17 July 2019.**
14. **Chesham** – application to add various routes south of Nashleigh Hill to the Definitive Map connecting with Public Footpath nos. 117, 37 and 67. **Application dated 23 August 2019.**
15. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 23 August 2019.**
16. **Quainton** – 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. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1/05/2020.**
29. **Chesham** – application to add a claimed footpath to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1/05/2020.**

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

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order Made; awaiting completion of works.**
2. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting signed creation agreement.**
3. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop-Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Order confirmed. Additional creation order to be made in due course.**
4. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **Order confirmed. Cycle Track Order in informal consultation period.**
5. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Order abandoned.**
6. **High Wycombe** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 27. Wycombe District Council planning matter. Order made and confirmed by WDC. **Awaiting developer works before bringing Order into effect.**
7. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site.**
8. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 – **Confirmed Order advertised. Awaiting works.**
9. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 & 4 – **Under investigation..**
10. **Chesham** – Application to extinguish part of the width of Footpath No. 114 – **Order made and objection received and being considered. CASE ON HOLD.**
11. **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.**
12. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order Confirmed**

13. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 21. **Order confirmed. Advertise to bring into effect.**
14. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be completed.**
15. **Aylesbury** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 7. **Order confirmed and advertised. CASE CLOSED.**
16. **Thornborough** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **Order made, to be advertised.**
17. **Slapton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **CASE CLOSED.**
18. **Lane End** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 14. **Order confirmed.**
19. **Beachampton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Under investigation.**
20. **Stowe** – Application to divert Footpath No. 13. **Under investigation. ON HOLD.**
21. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 25. **Order Made. Objections received. Submitted to the Secretary of State for determination.**
22. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Under investigation.**
23. **Stowe** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 2. **Under investigation.**
24. **Chepping Wycombe** – Application to divert Footpath No 45. **Order confirmed.**
25. **Waddesdon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 7A. **Under Investigation.**
26. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be made.**
27. **Aston Abbot** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1. **Under investigation.**
28. **Stowe** – Application to divert bridleway no 19, 21 and 23. **Under investigation.**
29. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed, awaiting works.**
30. **Shabbington** - Application to divert Footpath No. 9. **Order to be confirmed.**
31. **Wexham** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
32. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Order made and objections received.**
33. **Bierton with Broughton** - Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Under investigation.**

34. **Fulmer** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
35. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Under investigation.**
36. **Great Marlow** – Application to divert Footpath No.3. **Under investigation. ON HOLD – enforcement action.**
37. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert Footpath No.23. **Under investigation.**
38. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpath No.3. **Order to be made.**
39. **Hughenden** – Application to divert Footpath No.9. **Under investigation.**
40. **Princes Risborough** – Application to divert footpath No.26. **Order to be made.**
41. **Buckland** – Application to divert footpath No. 7 – **Application received.**
42. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Application received.**
43. **Wingrave** – Application to divert footpath No. 11 – **Application received.**
44. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Application received.**
45. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert footpath No. 23-2 – **Application received.**

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

46. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**
47. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Investigation not started.**
48. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Application rejected – Trigger Event.**

#### **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**

49. Since the last LAF meeting HS2 has been given the formal go-ahead and recent national news announced construction of the line has started, even though some stations and 'enabling work' has been underway for some time. The number of

rights of way closures and diversions as a result of construction remain relatively stable at present. A full list of significant impacts is on the website, but minor diversions or interference such as contractor vehicles using footpaths, are not covered here:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/changes-to-public-rights-of-way/>

50. Western Rail Access to Heathrow impacts upon Iver Footpath 15 (IVE/15/1) as well as new footpaths secured within a s106 Agreement with the minerals extraction company Cemex at their site on the eastern side of Slough. The timing of the Development Consent Order submission for the new railway is uncertain due to Covid-related delays at the DfT.
51. East West Rail: extensive rights of way closures commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for up to 3 years due on the new railway line between Oxford and Milton Keynes. Those parishes and the number of footpaths closed are Addington (2); Charndon (5); Little Horwood (1); Marsh Gibbon (1); Middle Claydon (1); Mursley (3); Newton Longville (3); Poundon (3); Steeple Claydon (3); Swanbourne (3); Twyford (4); and Winslow (2). Although awareness of the project was good, there was no prior warning of works commencing until barriers were erected, which came as a surprise to residents. The council has communicated with Network Rail to stress the importance of public relations and that routes should be re-opened early where opportunities arise. A full list of closures is on the website:  
<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/changes-to-public-rights-of-way/east-west-rail-phase-2-temporary-public-rights-of-way-closures/>
52. Two footpaths (DOR/8 and DOR/17) crossing land owned by Eton College's Dorney Rowing Lake now have formal Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders in place following anti-social behaviour issues experienced during the Coronavirus restrictions. One footpath is part of National Cycling Network. The order came into force on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for a period not exceeding 6 months or until works are completed to erect perimeter fencing, whichever is earlier.
53. The Chiltern Society's Donate-a-Gate partnership scheme with the council has seen 9 new donors since 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 totalling 11 proposed new gates. A limited number of installations has taken place during the Coronavirus restrictions as the Chiltern Society volunteer work parties were cancelled and the council's maintenance team have had limited capacity. Some private contractor labour has been used. At present The Chiltern Society volunteers are unable to install gates due a backlog of summer vegetation clearance and some skilled personnel continuing to be unavailable.
54. The Ramblers Donate-a-Gate project (North Bucks RIPPLE) has also been on hold during the Coronavirus restrictions, but work parties to install gates resumed in August 2020.

## F. ROW OPERATIONS UPDATE (Joanne Taylor)

- 1 **The current staff structure** is 6.4 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officers and 1.4 Bridge Structure Inspectors.
- 2 **BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey** – Final results for 5% network survey carried out between December 2019 and February 2020 are as follows:

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

### 3 Capital projects update:

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



Concentration of replacement Bridges - Middle Claydon Bridleway 18 - Three Points Lane – Plastic Construction	Bridge replacements
Completed	
Little Missenden Bridleway 8 -Featherbed Lane	Surfacing project - two year project
Project to be assessed	
Phoenix Trail - sustrans Byway 1 Longwick.	Surface
Completed	
Chalfont St Giles Footpath No 29	Bridge Failure: 13.5 FB replacement
Completed	
Buckland Public Footpath No 7	Bank Steps
Completed	Surface

#### 4 Additional possible in year capital projects.

These projects are under review for capital works, works will be prioritised against risk and severity, any works not completed in year will be rolled into next year.

##### Thames Path Marlow FP1

Further surfacing and minor bank work along the Thames Path – joint project with the National Trails Project Office.

##### Replacement of Equestrian Bridge – Denham BW52

A large footbridge across the Colne on Denham BW 52 has completely failed and requires urgent replacement. It has been necessary to close the route as the back of the bridge is broken and it is too dangerous to cross.

##### Replacement of Footbridge on Amersham FP17

This is a 7-metre span bridge requiring metal bearers and wooden deck. The route will be closed temporarily while works are ongoing.

##### Marsworth FP8

Path surface erosion damage.

##### Chalfont St Giles BW 60

Damaged surface repair required.

##### Denham BW 46

Damaged surface requires repair with stone/road planings

Buslins Lane - Chartridge

Bridleway requires patching with planings

Church Lane - Bledlow Ridge

Damaged surface requires regrading of stone and patching

**5 Fawley Bridge**

In December 2019 the landowner installed a temporary replacement structure. Discussions are still ongoing regarding replacement this bridge with a wider structure.

**6 Annual Clearance**

The Council commissioned two extra clearance crews for 10 weeks over the summer to work on the rights of way annual clearance schedule. All scheduled clearance jobs were completed by the mid-August, but additional clearance works reported by the public are still ongoing.

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