



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 2nd November 2022

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. **Confirmed by Secretary of State with modifications.**
2. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Confirmed Secretary of State.**
3. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**

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	12	7
Application determined (accepted or rejected)					1	1	1 determined	5 (being prepared for determination)
Applications completed (order confirmed or not confirmed)					1	1	0	3
					No data collected			

Applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders	
Apps. waiting to be investigated	46
Apps. under investigation	8
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. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Decision report being prepared.**
 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. **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. Decision report prepared. Send off comments.**
 7. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Under investigation.**

8. **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.**
9. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement – Awaiting acknowledgement and addition to the register of applications.
10. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**
11. **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.**
12. **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.**
13. **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.**
14. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 27 August 2019.**
15. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started.**
16. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started.**
17. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started.**
18. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started.**
19. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
20. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
21. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016.**
22. **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.**

23. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27/03/2017.**
24. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17/01/2020.**
25. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19/02/2020.**
26. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 07/03/2020.**
27. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15/03/2020.**
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 footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27/01/2020.**
30. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23/10/2019.**
31. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7/12/2020.**
32. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
33. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
34. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park – **Application received 21/12/2020.**
35. **Marlow** – application to add public footpath off Liston Road. **Application received 20/12/2020.**
36. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Lane. **Application received 03/03/2021.**
37. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application Received 17/05/2021**
38. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21/06/2021**
39. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**

40. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Claimed Restricted Byway and Upgrading to a Restricted Byway, Moreton Road to Moreton Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**
41. **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.**
42. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway – **Application received 14/09/2021.**
43. **Little Marlow** – application to add public footpath around Roach Lane. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
44. **Little Marlow and Marlow** – application to add public footpath along A404. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
45. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpath along Crowne Plaza. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
46. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpaths, west of Westhope. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
47. **Little Marlow** – application to upgrade footpath no. 20 to public bridleway. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
48. **Weedon** – application to add public footpath along Northcroft. **Application received on 09/03/2022.**
49. **Latimer** – application to add Restricted Byway from Kiln Lane to Tylers Hill Road. **Application received 22/03/2022.**
50. **Little Missenden** – application to register circular footpath off Stoney Lane. **Application received 25/03/2022.**
51. **North Marston** - application to add public footpath off Quanton Road. **Application received on 19/07/2022.**
52. **Wooburn** – application to add public footpath along River Wye. **Application received on 23/08/2022.**
53. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to add Public Bridleway from Stockwell Lane to Bridleway No. 14 – **Application received on 21/09/2022.**
54. **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	44
Apps. waiting to be investigated	2
Apps. under investigation/Orders made	21
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	2
Cases closed	2
Awaiting works by applicant	17

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. **To be abandoned. Diverted under Transport for Works Act.**
6. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 – **Order revoked. New corrected order made.**
7. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3, 4 & 5 – **Order to be made. Footpath 5 added to proposal.**
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. Advertised to bring it into effect.**
11. **Hambleton** – 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. Awaiting works.**
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 – **Order made. Objections received. Awaiting decision from Secretary of State.**
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 Made. Awaiting works.**
21. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Order to be made. Objections received.**
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 to be confirmed.**
26. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
27. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2 – **Order made.**
28. **Maids Moreton** – Diversion of Footpath No.3 – **Under investigation.**
29. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes – **Agreement created, to be signed.**
30. **Great Horwood** – bridleway to be created off A421 – **Order to be confirmed.**
31. **Brill** – Diversion of Public Bridleway No. 2 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
32. **Lacey Green** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 48 – **Under investigation.**

33. **High Wycombe** – Diversion of Public Bridleway No. 156 – **Under investigation.**
34. **Biddlesden** – Diversion of Public Bridleway no. 5 – **Order made, to be advertised.**
35. **Chalfont St Peter** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **Under investigation.**
36. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. FP1(F) – **Under investigation.**
37. **North Marston** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 18 – **Order made.**
38. **Marsh Gibbon** – East West Rail creation of Footpath No. 5 – **Awaiting signature.**
39. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16 - **Order to be made.**
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 – **Under investigation.**
44. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **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. **Advertised – objections under considerations.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Advertised – objections under considerations.**
4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **Public inquiry to be arranged.**
5. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Public inquiry to be arranged.**

E. Strategic Access Update

1. HS2 continue to apply for planning permission under the HS2 Act. These drawings generally outline the landscaping, landform, bridges and planting areas. Rights of way are not included, but the maintenance tracks and bridges provide the forerunner to Schedule 4 applications, which in due course, will divert all rights of way impacted by the development. Only one Schedule 4 application has been received so far.
2. Further information has been provided on the 'Buckinghamshire Cycleway' provision running north-west from Wendover, utilising maintenance access tracks seldom used by vehicles. Appendix A illustrates the route between Ellesborough Road and Nash Lee Lane, surfaced with Type 1 stone to dust and 3.3m wide. It's described as a cycleway but will likely be accessible for equestrians. Details of the route's formal status are yet to be confirmed.
3. Further information is also coming to light on the underpass for non-motorised users at the HS2 crossing of the A4010 Risborough Road [Stoke Mandeville] in the vicinity of the Goat Centre. A 3m wide, 2.8m high underpass will link to the former A4010 and be accessible for horses, cyclists and pedestrians. A link is also provided to the Stoke Mandeville Link Road cycleway – see Appendix A.

F. ROW OPERATIONS UPDATE (Joanne Taylor)

- 1 **The current staff structure** allows for 7 FTE staff this is 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 3 Area RoW Officers (one vacant post), 2 Assistant RoW Officers and 1 Bridge Structure Inspector. Additionally, we have a part time temporary post covering the capital work programme. Congratulations to Savannah Fradley on her promotion to Rights of Way Officer. Savannah's vacant post as Assistant RoW Officer has been filled full-time by James Dixon. Regrettably the RoW Operations team will be losing Sophie David at the end of December. Sophie has been with the team for 8 years and will be greatly missed. Recruitment for Sophie's replacement is underway.
- 2 **BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey** – the 5% network survey was carried out over the winter 21/22 and the results are:
 - 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%

This winter's 5% survey will be undertaken very shortly, using volunteers and officers, with results available at the March 2023 LAF meeting.

3 Capital projects update: list of recently completed and current Rights of Way capital projects

Route No. & Parish	Works	Stage
Denham Bridleway 52 [DEN/52/1]	Large equestrian bridge replacement	Design Engineer engaged- broken bridge now removed - expressions of interest from contractors received. Draft design to be signed off by consultant.
Chesham FP114 [CHS/114/1]	Resurface 60 M	21/22 Completed
Chartridge BOAT 38A [CRT/38A/1]	Resurface 100 M	21/22 Completed
Chartridge BW 20A [CRT/20A/1]	Level and resurface 150 M	21/22 Completed
Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards BW51 [CSL/51/1]	Insert Channel Drains	21/22 Completed
Gt Marlow BW23 [GMA/23/1]	Level and resurface 150M	21/22 Completed
Taplow BW2 [TAP/2/1]	200-400M of clearance and surface works	21/22 Completed
Wendover Ridgeway [WEN/47/1]	Clearance and resurface works	2022 work BW47 Completed
Marlow - Thames Path	3 sections of surface works on Marlow length	2022 work complete
Vale Bridges	6 – 8m footbridges to replace in AV area	2022 2 structures installed (additional bridges found for 2023)
Chalfont St Giles BW60 [CSG/60/1]	Resurface works	2022 Works completed under badger licence
Wexham FP16 [WEX/16/1]	Replacement Bridge Structure	2022 Works completed
Stoke Poges FP9 [STP/9/1]	Replacement Bridge Structure	Quotations with contractors
Chesham FP135 [CHS/135/1]	Resurfacing	Works underway
Gawcott FP16A – Oxlane Padbury [GAW/16A/1]	8 metre bridge replacement	Completed

- 4 **Berry Hill Footbridge, Taplow Public Footpath [TAP/12/1] – Capital Programme**
The 37 metre mid-section of Berry Hill footbridge across the Jubilee River in Taplow was removed in December 2021. The structure has been closed to the public since

May 2021 after suffering unforeseen structural deterioration. The design has been finalised. The Council's contractor is currently seeking approval from the Environment Agency (EA), but work will not be undertaken until 2023 as the EA is undertaking its own major works on the Jubilee River this year, and this will impact on the timetable for replacing and reopening Berry Hill Footbridge. Commencement likely to be summer 2023.

5 Rights of Way revenue works 2022/23 under review

The priority works on rights of way found in year is currently under review and will depend on budget; projects identified so far, apart from ongoing projects, as outlined above - include bridge replacements for Little Marlow, and surface repair works in Stewkely, Penn, and Denham, and a flight of concrete steps in High Wycombe.

6 Summer/winter Clearance – work on the summer clearance schedule commenced mid-May 2022 using 2 external contractor teams we carried out an estimated 80km of surface clearance. NB a large percentage of summer clearance on RoW is undertaken by parish councils as part of Parish Devolvement Agreements. Several projects for winter clearance have been identified and where budgets are available work will be issued to contractors over the next few weeks.

7 Rejuvenating the route of the Bernwood Jubilee Way [BJW] 61-mile Historic Trail
Regrettably this project has been held, due to the very sad news of the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. It has been possible to rebrand the web pages for the route, as per the link below and waymarking of the route has also been undertaken.
<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/>.

8 The Ridgeway 50 years – Celebrating 50 years of the National Trail in 2023.

The Ridgeway Board invites everyone to enjoy events along the Trail throughout 2023, to discover and celebrate the history, myths and memories – please visit the National Trail web pages here:

https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/ridgeway_anniversary2023/

There will be a celebration event at Coombe Hill Wendover in September 2023.

9 Summary of Maintenance – see APPENDIX B.