



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: Rights of Way Group update

1. DEFINITIVE MAP

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED

1. **High Wycombe** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Pinewood Road and Public Footpath No. 93. **Order made; objections received.**
2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Order made, in objection period.**
3. **Bledlow-cum-Saunderton (North Mill Road)** - investigation clarifying the status of the disputed route – **Order made, in objection period.**

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	2
Application determined (accepted or rejected)					1		1	1	2 determined, 4 (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	48
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. **Application dated 12 December 2017. Decision report being prepared.**
 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 Quainton 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.**
53. **Penn** – application to add Public Footpaths off Footpaths Nos. 36 and 40 . **Application received on 28/03/2023.**
54. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add Public Bridleway between Lower Road and Footpath No. 10 and upgrade part of Footpath no. 10 to bridleway status. **Application received on 18/04/2023.**

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

Summary:

Applications for Public Path Orders	43
Apps. waiting to be investigated	3
Apps. progressing/Orders made	22
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	2
Cases closed	6
Awaiting works by applicant	10

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
2. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting signed creation agreement.**
3. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 –**Cycle Track Order Made. Awaiting works.**
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. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 –**Order revoked. New order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
6. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 and 4 – **Extinguishment of FP 3 confirmed. Diversion to be confirmed.**
7. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
8. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. To be brought into effect.**
9. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
10. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed. Awaiting works.**
11. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed, awaiting works.**
12. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Confirmed by Secretary of State. CASE CLOSED.**
13. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Order made. Objection received. Awaiting PINS decision.**

14. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Confirmed by Secretary of State. Awaiting works.**
15. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
16. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Order made. Objections received. Awaiting the Planning Inspectorate.**
17. **Kingsey** – diversion of footpath No. 1 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
18. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
19. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10 – **Order confirmed. To be brought into effect.**
20. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1 – **Order to be revoked. New alignment agreed.**
21. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2 – **Order made. To be submitted to Secretary of State.**
22. **Maids Moreton** – Diversion of Footpath No.3 – **Order to be confirmed.**
23. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes – **Agreement signed. Awaiting works.**
24. **Biddlesden** – Diversion of Public Bridleway no. 5 – **Order to be confirmed.**
25. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. FP1(F) – **Order to be confirmed.**
26. **North Marston** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 18 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
27. **Marsh Gibbon** – East West Rail creation of Footpath No. 5 – **To be advertised.**
28. **Great and Little Hampden** – Diversion of Footpath no. 43 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
29. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16 - **Order confirmed.**
30. **Wexham** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 7 – **Order made. In objection period.**
31. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Public Bridleways 6 and 7 and Bridleway 38 and 39, Oakley – **Under investigation.**
32. **Swanbourne** – East West Rail creation of public footpath No. 17 – **Under investigation.**

33. **Wendover** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 18 – **Order confirmed. To be advertised.**
34. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **Order made. Objections received.**
35. **Radnage** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 5 – **Order made. Objections received.**
36. **Whitchurch** – Diversion of Footpath no. 47 – **Order to be made.**
37. **Westbury** – Diversion of Footpath no. 11 – **Order to be made.**
38. **Broughton Hamlet** – Diversion of Footpath no. 5 – **Under investigation.**
39. **Waddesdon** – Diversion of Footpath no. 7 – **Order to be made.**
40. **Waddesdon** - Diversion of Footpath no. 7A – **Order to be made.**
41. **Berryfields** – Diversion of Footpath no. 2 – **Under investigation.**
42. **Akeley** – Diversion of Footpath no. 6 – **Order to be made.**
43. **Chesham** – Extinguishment of part of the width of Footpath no. 114 – **Order to be abandoned.**

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. **Objection withdrawn; report being written.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Public Inquiry to be arranged.**
4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **Awaiting Inspector's report.**
4. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Awaiting Inspector's report.**

2. STRATEGIC ACCESS

HS2

A new standard of PROW closure notices has been agreed with HS2 which should be coming online imminently. To date information boards have been found to be missing, vandalised or incorrect. This was complicated further by the difficulty of replacing all the maps in remote locations when a slight change in closure dates or routes has occurred – such as in Turweston. Now there will be simple closure notices with a small-scale map of the immediate locale, alongside a QR code which can be used to view up-to-date maps should the walker, cyclist or rider require.

Donate-a-Gate

The Chiltern Society has put forward a new volunteer to re-start the partnership with the council, aiming to remove more stiles and replace them with gates. The price will reflect the cost of steel gates and no wooden gates will be offered as they rot over a relatively short space of time – around 5-7 years.

3. OPERATIONS

1. The current staff structure

The structure allows for 7.5 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 3 Area ROW Officers, 2 Assistant ROW Officers and 1.5 Bridge Structure Inspector. Due to retirement and resignations, at the time of writing there are 2.5 vacant posts. All posts have been advertised, and one post has been filled following interviews. Regrettably, some posts are difficult to fill due to the limited number of people experienced in Rights of Way maintenance and management who are looking for employment. For this reason, it has been necessary to consult with Human Resources to review what is required for successful recruitment. Hopefully the team will be up to full complement by the time of the next meeting.

2. BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey 2022/23

The BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey – the 5% network survey took place over the winter 2022 / early spring 2023 seasons and the results are as follows:

- *Percentage of paths rated 'Easy to Use' 73.1%*
- *Percentage of structures rated 'Easy to Use' 89.8%*
- *Percentage of paths signed from the road 91.6%*

3. Capital projects update

All capital works projects intended to be completed during 22/23 financial year have been finished.

The Rights of Way Team are currently reviewing 18 projects for capital funding for this financial year [2023/24] including delivery of the new bridges on Bridleway 52 Denham and Footpath 12 Taplow (Berryhill Footbridge) and 6 further bridge projects - including 2 larger equestrian structures, and 12 surface improvement projects. A full report of the projects will be available for the next LAF meeting in November 2023.

4. Rights of Way revenue works 2023/24 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 capital projects, as outlined above – include small surface projects in Chesham, Chalfont St Giles, Chepping Wycombe, Great Missenden, Brill and Mursley.

5. Rights of Way Summer Clearance Schedule 2023

It has been possible this year to fund 4 clearance crews, that is two extra crews to last through the summer. Despite this we are receiving a larger than usual number of reports of overgrowth, due to the warm and wet conditions over May 2023 increasing vegetation growth. An update will be provided at the next meeting on the estimated length of path cleared over the summer.

5. Summary of Maintenance

Please see APPENDIX 1