



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 1st November 2023

Title: Rights of Way Group update

1. DEFINITIVE MAP

All Definitive Map Modification applications are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. However, we will prioritise certain applications as per the 'Statement of Priority' 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

A. DMMO MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED AND UNDER INVESTIGATION

Note: Planning Inspectorate [PINS].

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; to be submitted to PINS.**
2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Order made; objections received; to be submitted to PINS.**
3. **Bledlow-cum-Saunderton (North Mill Road)** - investigation clarifying the status of the disputed route – **Order made, objections received; to be submitted to PINS.**
4. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record route between public footpath No. 14 and No. 15 Parish of Chepping Wycombe. **Footpath has been created by a Deed of Dedication; application to be rejected.**

5. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic. **Application received 26 February 2016 and investigated by external consultant; decision report to be prepared.**
6. **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 received 23 April 2016 and investigated by external consultant; decision report with Legal.**
7. **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 received 21 June 2016 and investigated by external consultant; decision report to be prepared.**
8. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application received 12 December 2017; decision report to be prepared.**
9. **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.**
10. **Little Missenden** – application to register circular footpath off Stoney Lane. **Application received 25 March 2022; threat of development therefore under investigation.**

B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED WITHIN NEXT 12 MONTHS.

11. **Little Marlow and Marlow** – application to add public footpath along A404. **Application received on 2 December 2021; threat of development therefore investigation to start.**
12. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Claimed Restricted Byway and Upgrading to a Restricted Byway, Moreton Road to Moreton Lane. **Application received 1 August 2021; threat of development therefore investigation to start.**
13. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement –**Applications received 9 July 2018.**
14. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**
15. **Buckingham** – application to add a Public Bridleway to the Definitive Map following the dismantled railway walk from the A421 to Tingewick Road. **Application received 14 May 2019.**

C. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS WAITING TO BE INVESTIGATED AS PER STATEMENT OF PRIORITY - USER EVIDENCE

16. **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 received 17 July 2019.**
17. **Chesham** – application to add various routes south of Nashleigh Hill to the Definitive Map connecting with Public Footpath nos. 117, 37 and 67. **Application received 27 August 2019.**
18. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application received 27 August 2019.**
19. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27 January 2020.**
20. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23 October 2019.**
21. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7 December 2020.**
22. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21 December 2020.**
23. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21 December 2020.**
24. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park. **Application received 21 December 2020.**
25. **Marlow** – application to add public footpath off Liston Road. **Application received 20 December 2020. Investigated alongside Marlow application referred to under Section A (2). This application has been rejected. CASE CLOSED.**
26. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Late. **Application received 3 March 2021.**
27. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application received 17 May 2021.**
28. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21 June 2021.**
29. **Little Marlow** – application to add public footpath around Roach Lane. **Application received on 2 December 2021.**

30. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpath along Crowne Plaza. **Application received on 2 December 2021.**
31. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpaths, west of Westhope. **Application received on 2 December 2021.**
32. **Little Marlow** – application to upgrade footpath no. 20 to public bridleway. **Application received on 2 December 2021.**
33. **Weedon** – application to add public footpath along Northcroft. **Application received on 9 March 2022.**
34. **Latimer** – application to add Restricted Byway from Kiln Lane to Tylers Hill Road. **Application received 22 March 2022.**
35. **North Marston**- application to add public footpath off Quanton Road. **Application received on 19 July 2022.**
36. **Wooburn** – application to add public footpath along River Wye. **Application received on 23 August 2022.**
37. **Penn** – application to add Public Footpaths off Footpaths Nos. 36 and 40 . **Application received 28 March 2023.**
38. **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 18 April 2023.**

DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS WAITING TO BE INVESTIGATED AS PER STATEMENT OF PRIORITY - HISTORIC EVIDENCE

39. **Quanton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application received 21 October 2014.**
40. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application received 19 December 2013.**
41. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application received 25 June 2015.**
42. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application received 4 February 2016.**
43. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application received 15 February 2016.**
44. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application received 15 February 2016.**

45. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application received 29 February 2016.**
46. **Leckhampstead** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 13 and 18 to Public Bridleway and add a route as Public Bridleway. **Application received 26 May 2016.**
47. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27 March 2017.**
48. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17 January 2020.**
49. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19 February 2020.**
50. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 7 March 2020.**
51. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15 March 2020.**
52. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1 May 2020.**
53. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 1 August 2021.**
54. **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 September 2021.**
55. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway – **Application received 14 September 2021.**
56. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to add Public Bridleway from Stockwell Lane to Bridleway No. 14 – **Application received on 21 September 2021.**
57. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to upgrade Public Bridleway No. 14 to restricted byway. **Application received on 21 September 2021.**

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

Summary:

Applications for Public Path Orders	41
Apps. waiting to be investigated	2
Apps. progressing/Orders made	15
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	2
Cases closed	10
Awaiting works by applicant	12

1. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **CASE CLOSED.**
2. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **cycle track order Made; awaiting works.**
3. **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.**
4. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 and 4 – **CASE CLOSED.**
5. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed; awaiting works.**
6. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **CASE CLOSED.**
7. **Hambleton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Order made; awaiting works.**
8. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed; awaiting works.**
9. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed; awaiting works.**
10. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Order made’ objections received; referred to PINS; awaiting PINS decision.**
11. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Confirmed by Secretary of State; awaiting works.**
12. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5 – **Order made; awaiting works.**
13. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Order made; objections received; referred to PINS; awaiting PINS decision.**

14. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6 – **Order confirmed; awaiting works.**
15. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10 – **Order confirmed; Order to be brought into effect once works completed.**
16. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1 – **Order to be revoked; new alignment agreed; process to start again.**
17. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2 – **Order made; objections received; to be submitted to PINs.**
18. **Maids Moreton** – Diversion of Footpath No.3 – **CASE CLOSED.**
19. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes – **Creation agreement signed; awaiting works.**
20. **Biddlesden** – Diversion of Public Bridleway no. 5 – **CASE CLOSED.**
21. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. FP1(F) – **CASE CLOSED.**
22. **Marsh Gibbon** – East West Rail creation of Footpath No. 5 – **CASE CLOSED.**
23. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16 – **Order confirmed but to be abandoned.**
24. **Wexham** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 7 – **Order to be confirmed; Legal team instructed.**
25. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Public Bridleways 6 and 7 and Bridleway 38 and 39, Oakley – **Under investigation.**
26. **Swanbourne** – East West Rail creation of public footpath No. 17 – **Under investigation.**
27. **Wendover** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 18 – **CASE CLOSED.**
28. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **CASE CLOSED.**
29. **Radnage** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 5 – **Order made; objections received; to be referred to PINs.**
30. **Whitchurch** – Diversion of Footpath no. 47 – **Order made; objections received; to be referred to PINs.**
31. **Westbury** – Diversion of Footpath no. 11 – **Order made; awaiting works.**
32. **Broughton Hamlet** – Diversion of Footpath no. 5 – **CASE CLOSED.**

33. **Waddesdon** – Diversion of Footpath no. 7 – **Order to be made.**
34. **Waddesdon** - Diversion of Footpath no. 7A – **Order to be made.**
35. **Berryfields** – Diversion of Footpath no. 2 – **Order to be made.**
36. **Akeley** – Diversion of Footpath no. 6 – **Order made, in objection period.**
37. **Chesham** – Extinguishment of part of the width of Footpath no. 114 – **Order to be abandoned.**
38. **Winslow** – Diversion of Footpath No. 1 – **Investigation not started.**
39. **Denham** – Footpath to be created over Denham Quarry land - **Footpath to be created over Council land via a Deed of Dedication.**
40. **Wexham** - Diversion of Footpath No. 6 – **Under investigation.**
41. **Buckingham** – Diversion of Footpath No. 36 – **Investigation not started.**

E. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

1. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started; awaiting voluntary registration from landowner.**
2. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Objection withdrawn; awaiting outcome of Shootacre Lane before proceeding.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Public Inquiry to be arranged for early 2024.**
4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **Application rejected following Public Inquiry; CASE CLOSED.**
5. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Final report expected following Public Inquiry.**

2. STRATEGIC ACCESS

HS2

1. Almost the whole network across HS2 remains temporarily closed. The Waddesdon Greenway was also closed with no diversion for 1 week during half term to surface a new temporary route. Detailed design of the area south-west of Aylesbury is beginning to come forward, with uncertainties remaining over the South-West Aylesbury link road and housing layout designs. The temporary works to the Little Missenden sink hole resulted in works traffic accessing a long stretch of public footpath where the council secured surface mitigation repairs.

Donate-a-Gate

Following the relaunch of the scheme in the summer of 2023, new donors have come forward to sponsor 15 gates.

Local Transport Plan 5

Strategic Transport officers continue to undertake internal consultation rounds. The role played by PROWs contributing to sustainable transport solutions and road safety solutions for horse riders has been re-emphasized, a point strongly made by members when consulted earlier this year. These are included in the latest draft.

Ridgeway Google Streetview Survey

4. The Strategic Access Officer and LAF member Gavin Caspersz have been collaborating on a Disabled Ramblers initiative to scan the Ridgeway into Google Streetview. The Ridgeway at Ivinghoe and Coombe Hill are complete, and it is hoped to have Ivinghoe to Tring surveyed before winter 2023/24.

Defra Access for All funding

5. The council proposes to submit an expression of interest to this fund: [DEFRA Access for All funding | Chilterns AONB](#) for a new 360-camera for recording sustainable transport routes and the wider rights of way network, for uploading onto Google Streetview. The Conservation Board will be reviewing submissions in January 2024 before grants become available from 1st April 2024. This follows a successful trial of the technology with Disabled Ramblers on the Ridgeway National Trail.

3. OPERATIONS

1. The current staff structure

The structure allows for 8.5 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 3 Area ROW Officers, 3 Assistant ROW Officers and 1.5 Bridge Structure Inspectors. At the time of the July meeting the forum were advised that recruitment was on going but proving difficult as few suitable applicants were coming forward. Over the last few months, it has been possible to recruit 2 Assistant Rights of Way Officers, Oliver Dawes and Harry Leach. There are still 1.5 vacant posts, but there are plans for further recruitment.

2. BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey 2022/23

The BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey covering 5% of the network, took place over the winter 2022 / early spring 2023, with the results 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

The Rights of Way Team are currently reviewing 16 projects for capital funding for financial year [2023/24]. This includes delivery of new bridges for Bridleway 52 Denham and Footpath 12 Taplow (Berryhill Footbridge); and 6 further bridge projects - including 2 larger equestrian structures and 10 surface improvement projects. Eleven of the projects have been assessed for delivery in the next few weeks, and the remaining will be assessed as soon as possible – pending staff availability. The two larger bridge

projects are in Taplow - which is currently awaiting appointment of a contractor, and Denham will be subject to external tender shortly.

4. Rights of Way revenue works 2023/24 under review

Revenue projects include three replacement bridge structures [these are currently under review for feasibility for delivery before March 2024] and winter clearance projects across several parishes.

5. Rights of Way Summer Clearance Schedule 2023

It has been possible this year to fund four clearance crews, that is two extra crews through the summer clearance across the network is estimated at approximately 114 km, with a further 100km cleared under parish devolvement agreements.

1. Summary of Maintenance

Please see APPENDIX 3