



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 6th March 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 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

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; awaiting Legal Services for letter requested by objectors.**
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 being 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; application rejected; applicant has appealed the decision to PINS; Statement of Case being drafted.**
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 drafted and waiting to checked.**
8. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood. **Application received 12 December 2017; decision report drafted and waiting to be checked.**
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; decision report being drafted.**
11. **Little Marlow and Marlow** – application to add public footpath along A404. **Application received on 2 December 2021; threat of development; under investigation.**
12. **Little Marlow** – application to add public footpath around Roach Lane. **Application received on 2 December 2021; to be investigated with No.11 (above).**
13. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpath along Crowne Plaza. **Application received on 2 December 2021; to be investigated with No.11 (above).**
14. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpaths, west of Westhorpe. **Application received on 2 December 2021; to be investigated with No.11 (above).**
15. **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; under investigation.**

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

16. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Applications received 9 July 2018.**
17. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**

18. **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

19. **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.**

20. **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.**

21. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application received 27 August 2019.**

22. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27 January 2020.**

23. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23 October 2019.**

24. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7 December 2020.**

25. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21 December 2020.**

26. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21 December 2020.**

27. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park. **Application received 21 December 2020.**

28. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Lane. **Application received 3 March 2021.**

29. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application received 17 May 2021.**

30. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21 June 2021.**

31. **Little Marlow** – application to upgrade footpath no. 20 to public bridleway. **Application received on 2 December 2021.**

32. **Weedon** – application to add public footpath along Northcroft. **Application received on 9 March 2022.**

33. **Latimer** – application to add Restricted Byway from Kiln Lane to Tylers Hill Road. **Application received 22 March 2022.**
34. **North Marston** - application to add public footpath off Quainton Road. **Application received on 19 July 2022.**
35. **Wooburn** – application to add public footpath along River Wye. **Application received on 23 August 2022.**
36. **Penn** – application to add Public Footpaths off Footpaths Nos. 36 and 40. **Application received 28 March 2023.**
37. **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.**
38. **Lacey Green** - Application to upgrade Public Footpath No.15 to Bridleway. **Application received 24 October 2023.**
39. **Wingrave with Rowsham** – Application to Add Public Footpaths North of Manor Farm. **Checking if application is duly made.**

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

40. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application received 21 October 2014.**
41. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application received 19 December 2013.**
42. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application received 25 June 2015.**
43. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application received 4 February 2016.**
44. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application received 15 February 2016.**
45. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application received 15 February 2016.**
46. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application received 29 February 2016.**
47. **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.**

48. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27 March 2017.**
49. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17 January 2020.**
50. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19 February 2020.**
51. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 7 March 2020.**
52. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15 March 2020.**
53. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1 May 2020.**
54. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 1 August 2021.**
55. **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.**
56. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway. **Application received 14 September 2021.**
57. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to add Public Bridleway from Stockwell Lane to Bridleway No. 14. **Application received on 21 September 2022.**
58. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to upgrade Public Bridleway No. 14 to restricted byway. **Application received on 21 September 2022.**

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

Summary:

Applications for Public Path Orders	40
Apps. waiting to be investigated	4
Apps. progressing/Orders made	24
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	1
Cases closed	0
Awaiting works by applicant	11

1. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **Cycle Track Order Made; Awaiting Confirmation.**
2. **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.**
3. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed; awaiting works.**
4. **Hambleton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Order made; awaiting works.**
5. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed; awaiting works.**
6. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed; to be brought into effect.**
7. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13. **Order made objections received; referred to PINs; Order confirmed; to be brought into effect.**
8. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70. **Confirmed by Secretary of State; awaiting works.**
9. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5. **Order made; awaiting works.**
10. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14. **Order made; objections received; referred to PINs; Public Hearing - 25 June 2024.**
11. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6. **Order confirmed; awaiting works.**
12. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10. **Order confirmed; Order to be brought into effect once works completed.**
13. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1. **Order to be revoked; new alignment agreed; process to start again.**
14. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2. **Order made; objections received; to be submitted to PINs.**
15. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes. **Creation agreement signed; awaiting works.**
16. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16. **Order confirmed but to be abandoned.**

17. **Wexham** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 7. **Order to be confirmed; Legal team instructed.**
18. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Public Bridleways 6 and 7 and Bridleway 38 and 39, Oakley. **Order to be Made**
19. **Swanbourne** – East West Rail creation of public footpath No. 17. **Under investigation.**
20. **Radnage** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 5. **Order made; objection withdrawn; awaiting works to be completed.**
21. **Whitchurch** – Diversion of Footpath no. 47. **Order made; objections received; to be referred to PINs.**
22. **Westbury** – Diversion of Footpath no. 11. **Order made; awaiting works.**
23. **Waddesdon** – Diversion of Footpath no. 7. **Order to be confirmed.**
24. **Waddesdon** - Diversion of Footpath no. 7A. **Order to be made; objections received.**
25. **Berryfields** – Diversion of Footpath no. 2. **Order to be made.**
26. **Akeley** – Diversion of Footpath no. 6. **Order made; in objection period.**
27. **Chesham** – Extinguishment of part of the width of Footpath no. 114. **Order to be abandoned.**
28. **Winslow** – Diversion of Footpath No. 1. **Investigation not started.**
29. **Denham** – Footpath to be created over Denham Quarry land. **Footpath to be created over Council land via a Deed of Dedication.**
30. **Wexham** - Diversion of Footpath No. 6. **Under investigation.**
31. **Buckingham** – Diversion of Footpath No. 36. **Order to be made.**
32. **Haddenham** – Creation Agreement to Upgrade Footpath No.19 to Bridleway. **Agreement drafted.**
33. **Wendover** – Diversion of Footpath No.42. **Order to be made.**
34. **Buckingham** – Diversion of Footpath No. 27. **Investigation not started.**
35. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1. **Order to be made.**
36. **Chepping Wycombe** – Diversion of Footpath No. 74. **Order to be advertised.**
37. **Ibstone** – Diversion of Footpath No.3B. **In consultation.**

38. **Waddesdon** – Diversion of Footpath No.18 - **Investigation not started.**
39. **Stokenchurch and Ibstone** – Diversion of Bridleway No.95 and Bridleway No.16. **In consultation.**
40. **Little Chalfont** – Diversion of Footpath No.16. **Investigation not started.**

E. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

1. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started; voluntary registration received.**
2. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Objection withdrawn; awaiting advice from Legal.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Applicant withdrawn application. CASE CLOSED.**
4. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Application rejected following Public Inquiry; CASE CLOSED.**
5. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – Land at Owlswick Green. **Awaiting PINS for potential trigger events.**

2. STRATEGIC ACCESS

HS2

1. We continue to work with HS2 on numerous issues. After a second sinkhole appeared above the Chiltern Tunnel on the line of Great Missenden Parish Footpath No. 27 (GMI/27/1), Counsellor Broadbent and the leader responded quickly to the news, met HS2 officials and the path was closed for public safety and repairs. This has now been repaired and reopened to the public.

Rosefield Solar Farm

2. This is a proposed new solar farm near Botolph Claydon, with battery storage, claiming to provide energy to power a quarter of all homes in Buckinghamshire. Due to the amount of energy generated the development is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate. Buckinghamshire Council were consulted in November 2023 for a Scoping Opinion relating to their Environmental Statement. The proposal would have an impact upon a total of 25 Public Rights of Way across 7 separate parishes. The Strategic Access team were a consultee, which gave us an opportunity to scrutinise the project at an early stage. They have pledged to provide an 'Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan' which will be open to wider scrutiny in due course, on which we will endeavour to consult the LAF for further feedback and advice.

Donate-a-Gate

3. Eighteen new donors have now come forward following the relaunch of the scheme in the summer of 2023, sponsoring 24 gates. The Chiltern Society's Path maintenance volunteers have organised an installation schedule between January and March 2024. The first invoice for £3,000 has been raised to the Chiltern Society, covering the precise cost of each gate.

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 results of the last survey 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%

The survey of routes in 2023/24 has not yet been carried out due to resource issues. However, it is intended to undertake a 5% condition survey in 2024.

3. Capital projects update

The Rights of Way Team have completed or will hopefully be completing the following capital projects before the end of March 2024; BW51 Denham surface works, FP66 Penn surface works, BW54 Chalfont St Giles (Wilton Lane) surface works, BW79 Bledlow Cum Saunderton clearance and surface works (part of a two year project), FP14 Stewkley clearance, surface and drainage works, BW14 Beachampton surface works, and FP4 Marlow bridge works, FP1 Hedsor bridge works.

Berry Hill Footbridge Taplow FP14. This project has now been allocated to a contractor and consultant for delivery in spring 2024. Fabrication of the bridge has started. Denham BW52 new bridge: following return of tenders, the appointment of a contractor will be undertaken shortly.

The intended surface works on the Thames Path and Ridgeway will be pushed back into this coming financial year due to resources.

The winter storms and flash floods have had an impact on rights of way across the county, but particularly in the Chilterns where we have seen routes quite badly eroded due to heavy waterflow. There are concerns that this type of damage will become more common with climate change. When it is not possible to carry out repairs to damaged routes, either due to ground conditions preventing access or funding constraints, then it may be necessary to close some routes in the interest of safety.

4. Rights of Way revenue works 2023/24

Revenue projects include replacement of a bridge structure in Chenies, clearance and surface improvement work on BW14 Aylesbury, and larger winter clearance works in Brill, High Wycombe and Hambleden. It has also been necessary to commission ecological assessments on several trees – this work must be undertaken to check for bats prior to removal of part or all of the trees identified. Revenue money has also been allocated to commission a bridge engineer consultant to undergo a condition survey on another timber bridge which crosses the Jubilee River.

5. Summary of Maintenance

Please see APPENDIX 2.