



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 6th November 2024

Title: Keep Hill Woods, High Wycombe - update

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The Council is currently carrying out improvements to bridleways within Keep Hill Woods, High Wycombe, with the main phase of works due to be completed in November 2024 and all works expected to be completed by early 2025. Feedback from the Local Access Forum is sought for future active travel projects which may involve use of bridleways.

The Keep Hill Woods project is being funded through S106 contributions from housing developments, alongside with an external grant secured from Active Travel England. This aims to link the High Wycombe town centre, The Rye and A40 corridor with new housing areas at Abbey Barn Park and Pine Trees and their local facilities. The project is identified in the council's adopted High Wycombe Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

The scheme aims to provide a surfaced pathway on key north-south and east-west routes that is suitable for different users and sensitive to the ancient woodland setting.

Engagement has taken place to inform the scheme. This includes with Chiltern Rangers (who maintain the woodland), Buckinghamshire Council ward councillors, local residents' associations and LAF representative organisations, including Ramblers, Open Spaces Society, British Driving Society, Parish Council, Chiltern Society and Disabled Ramblers. Two public events were also held in August and September 2024. A summary of the key themes raised in feedback is available on the project page on the council's website at: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/keep-hill-woods>

For around 10% of the route there was no landowner recorded, therefore notices were posted on site prior to undertaking a definitive map process to record the route as bridleway. A 1907 conveyance indicated the council managed the route as a road. The recording process is ongoing.

The surface includes a light golden-coloured top dressing to soften the look within the woodland. The permeable surface has a rubber crumb texture, soft for horses' hooves

but firm for walkers and cyclists, and for occasional access for Chiltern Rangers maintenance vehicles.