



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### AGENDA ITEM 05

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**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; submitted to PINS.**
2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Order made; objections received; objections withdrawn; Order confirmed; CASE CLOSED.**
3. **Bledlow-cum-Saunderton (North Mill Road)** - investigation clarifying the status of the disputed route. **Order made; objections received; 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 rejected; CASE CLOSED.**
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; PINS accepted the appeal and have instructed the Council to make an Order.**

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 being finalised.**
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 checked by legal.**
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; under investigation.**
13. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpath along Crowne Plaza. **Application received on 2 December 2021; under investigation.**
14. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpaths, west of Westhorpe. **Application received on 2 December 2021; under investigation.**
15. **Little Marlow** – application to upgrade footpath no. 20 to public bridleway. **Application received on 2 December 2021; under investigation.**
16. **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.**
17. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21 June 2021; Directed to deal with application by PINS; decision report being drafted.**
18. **Whitchurch** – application to add public footpath between Hawleys Lane and public footpath No. 54. **Application received 9 July 2018; under investigation.**
19. **Whitchurch** – application to add public footpath from Glebe Field to Church Yard, east of White Horse Lane. **Application received 9 July 2018; under investigation.**

20. **Whitchurch** – application to add public footpath between public footpath No. 33 & 26. **Application received 9 July 2018; under investigation.**
21. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application received 19 December 2013; under investigation.**

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

22. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**
23. **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.**
24. **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.**

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

25. **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.**
26. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application received 27 August 2019.**
27. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27 January 2020.**
28. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23 October 2019.**
29. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7 December 2020.**
30. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21 December 2020.**
31. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21 December 2020.**
32. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park. **Application received 21 December 2020.**
33. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Lane. **Application received 3 March 2021.**

34. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application received 17 May 2021.**
35. **Weedon** – application to add public footpath along Northcroft. **Application received on 9 March 2022.**
36. **Latimer** – application to add Restricted Byway from Kiln Lane to Tylers Hill Road. **Application received 22 March 2022.**
37. **North Marston** - application to add public footpath off Quainton Road. **Application received on 19 July 2022.**
38. **Wooburn** – application to add public footpath along River Wye. **Application received on 23 August 2022.**
39. **Penn** – application to add Public Footpaths off Footpaths Nos. 36 and 40. **Application received 28 March 2023.**
40. **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.**
41. **Lacey Green** - Application to upgrade Public Footpath No.15 to Bridleway. **Application received 24 October 2023.**
42. **Great Missenden** – Application to add a public footpath north of Nags Head Lane. **Application received 27 August 2024.**
43. **Wingrave with Rowsham** – Application to add Public Footpaths North of Manor Farm. **Checking if the application is duly made. Awaiting official application forms.**

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

44. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application received 21 October 2014.**
45. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application received 25 June 2015.**
46. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application received 4 February 2016.**
47. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application received 15 February 2016.**

48. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application received 15 February 2016.**
49. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application received 29 February 2016.**
50. **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.**
51. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27 March 2017.**
52. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17 January 2020.**
53. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19 February 2020.**
54. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 7 March 2020.**
55. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15 March 2020.**
56. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1 May 2020.**
57. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 1 August 2021.**
58. **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.**
59. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway. **Application received 14 September 2021.**
60. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to add Public Bridleway from Stockwell Lane to Bridleway No. 14. **Application received on 21 September 2022.**
61. **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:

<b>Outstanding applications for Public Path Orders</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Apps. waiting to be investigated</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Apps. progressing/Orders made</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Orders waiting to be referred to / determined by PINS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cases closed</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Awaiting works by applicant</b>	<b>12</b>

1. **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.**
2. **Hambleton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Order made; awaiting works.**
3. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed; awaiting works.**
4. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70. **Confirmed by Secretary of State; awaiting works.**
5. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5. **Order made; awaiting works.**
6. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14. **Order made; objections received; referred to PINs; Public Hearing - 25 June 2024; Order confirmed; CASE CLOSED.**
7. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6. **Order confirmed; awaiting works.**
8. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10. **Order confirmed; Order to be brought into effect once works completed.**
9. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2. **Order made; objections received; to be submitted to PINs.**
10. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes. **Creation agreement signed; awaiting works.**
11. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16. **Order confirmed but to be abandoned.**

12. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Public Bridleways 6 and 7 and Bridleway 38 and 39, Oakley. **Order to be made.**
13. **Swanbourne** – East West Rail creation of public footpath No. 17. **Under investigation.**
14. **Whitchurch** – Diversion of Footpath no. 47. **Order made; objections received; to be referred to PINs.**
15. **Westbury** – Diversion of Footpath no. 11. **Order made; awaiting works.**
16. **Waddesdon** - Diversion of Footpath no. 7A. **Order made; objections withdrawn; Order to be confirmed.**
17. **Berryfields** – Diversion of Footpath no. 2. **Order made; no objections, awaiting works.**
18. **Akeley** – Diversion of Footpath no. 6. **Order made; awaiting applicant; Order to be withdrawn.**
19. **Chesham** – Extinguishment of part of the width of Footpath no. 114. **Order abandoned. CASE CLOSED.**
20. **Winslow** – Diversion of Footpath No. 1. **ON HOLD.**
21. **Denham** – Footpath to be created over Denham Quarry land. **Footpath to be created over Council land via a Deed of Dedication; Awaiting works to be completed.**
22. **Wexham** - Diversion of Footpath No. 6. **Under investigation.**
23. **Buckingham** – Diversion of Footpath No. 36. **Order made. In objection period.**
24. **Haddenham** – Creation Agreement to Upgrade Footpath No.19 to Bridleway. **Agreement drafted.**
25. **Wendover** – Diversion of Footpath No.42. **Order made; no objections, awaiting works.**
26. **Buckingham** – Diversion of Footpath No. 27. **Under investigation.**
27. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1. **Order to be made.**
28. **Chepping Wycombe** – Diversion of Footpath No. 74. **Order advertised; awaiting applicant.**
29. **Ibstone** – Diversion of Footpath No.3B. **Order to be made.**
30. **Waddesdon** – Diversion of Footpath No.18. **Under investigation.**

31. **Stokenchurch and Ibstone** – Diversion of Bridleway No.95 and Bridleway No.16. **Under investigation.**
32. **Little Chalfont** – Diversion of Footpath No.16. **Under investigation.**
33. **Amersham** – Diversion of Footpath No.31 and 31A. **Under investigation.**
34. **Oakley** – Diversion of Footpath No.1. **Under investigation.**
35. **Hulcott** – Diversion of Footpath No.3. **Under investigation.**
36. **High Wycombe** – Footpath creation off Keep Hill Wood. **Awaiting made Order.**
37. **Lacey Green** – Diversion of Footpath No. 48. **Order to be made.**

#### **E. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS**

1. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Objection withdrawn; application accepted; Registers updated; CASE CLOSED.**
2. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – Land at Owlswick Green. **Legal checking whether duly made.**

#### **STRATEGIC ACCESS**

##### **HS2**

1. We continue to work with HS2 on numerous issues, the most notable being the start of a series of s257 TCPA 1990 diversion applications, where various factors have led to the HS2 Act diversion requiring amendments. The first to arrive are footpaths off School Lane, Barton Hartshorn [BHA/4/2 and Chetwode CHW/11/1]. However, members will most likely be interested in three PROWs impacted by the Aylesbury Garden Town development on the south-west side of Aylesbury, all alongside HS2. Each s257 diversion will have the usual consultations with member groups.

##### **Response to the Rosefield Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**

2. Our internal response to the Rosefield Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) outlined proposed changes to the Public Rights of Way network, including permanent diversions of Footpaths ECL/4/2 and SCL/13/2, and the introduction of a new permissive footpath which we will work to secure as a full PROW if the project goes ahead. Our response highlights concern regarding increased walking distances and noise and vibration issues with the proposed diversions, and suggested amendments to avoid objections. Additionally, our response identified opportunities for enhancing the PROW network, such as improved signage, surface upgrades, and the dedication of new public bridleways. In responding we have ensured that the PROW network is protected with enhancements identified for the benefit of the local community.

##### **Donate-a-Gate**



3. The Donate-a-Gate organiser, Norman Bartlett, has moved to Kent and recently passed his responsibilities to Stuart Marsden. Officers have met Stuart as part of the hand-over and we look forward to working with him. The rejuvenated scheme has now installed gates to the value of £10,000+.

## **RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS**

### **The current staff structure.**

1. 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 (0.5 vacant) Bridge Structure Inspectors.

We had previously reported that there was a vacant Assistant Rights of Way Officer post, and regrettably, Harry Leach the Assistant Rights of Way Officer for the North area left the Council in August 2024 leaving the team with two vacant positions. The recruitment for two officers has been completed, and in early October 2025 we welcomed, Ann Catten and Rob Haddock to the team.

Savannah Stirling, the Area Officer who covers the south-western area, remains on maternity leave with an expected return date of March/April 2025.

### **BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey**

2. Due to resources, we have held back undertaking the condition survey at this current time, but this matter will be revisited in the next few months.

### **Capital projects 2024/2025 - completed.**

3. The Rights of Way Team have completed the following projects so far during 2024/25 financial year:

- BW51 Denham surface works – completed spring.
- FP66 Penn surface works – completed spring.
- BW54 Chalfont St Giles (Wilton Lane) surface works completed spring.
- Berry Hill Footbridge – Taplow FP12 replaced – path now reopened.
- Hillesden Bridleway 11A – Re-deck the King’s Bridge – path now reopened.
- Turweston Bridleway 8 – horse bridge replacement – path now reopened.
- Turville Bridleway number 8 – surface repair due to flooding \* path now reopened.
- Chalfont St Peter FP33 – surface repair due to flooding – path now reopened.
- Ivinghoe FP1 – step replacement (joint project)

### **Capital projects 2024/2025 – future projects.**

4. The following projects are being reviewed and scoped for the capital works programme. Some projects have had to be added into this year’s list due to water and flood damage because of the storms (indicated with \*).

- Stewkley FP2 – Bridge replacement
- Gerrards Cross FP2 – replacement of 2 footbridges
- FP4 Marlow - bridge works
- Weston Turville Bridleway 14 – Bridge repair/replacement
- Denham Bridleway 52 crossing the Colne. Wooden structure replacement with new metal equestrian bridge – closed by Traffic Order
- Chesham Bridleway 8 – surface repair \*
- Hambleton 37A – surface works \*

- Lacey Green Kiln Lane – Restricted Byway – Surface Repair and drainage \*
- Chenies FP60 – Boardwalk \* **Added**
- Bledlow cum Saunderton BW79 Ridgeway link surfacing works – **held** pending an environmental assessment.
- Great Missenden Bridleway 52 Surface Repair
- Dorney FP 18 – surface repairs (joint project with National Trails) **Held**.
- Denham Bridleway No 7 – Broken Gate Lane \* **Added**

#### **Closure on Ashford Lane bridge Jubilee crossing**

5. As previously reported it has been necessary to close the Ashford Lane crossing of the Jubilee River (Dorney FP No. 1). This wooden structure is similar in design to the Berry Hill Footbridge which has just been replaced using a metal mid-section.

An engineer's report has been commissioned and provided information on the options for repair/replacement of the structure. These options were presented as a bid to secure money for a future capital funded project.

#### **Surface and Bridge Works**

6. When it is not possible to undertake repairs to bridges or 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.

#### **Summary of Maintenance**

7. Please see APPENDIX 4.