

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD**  
**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

FEBRUARY – AUGUST 2011

**1. ENFORCEMENT**

**1.1. Problems closed and problems reported**

Approximately 45 enforcement problems have been closed during the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and approximately 28 new problems were reported during that period.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August there were **183** outstanding enforcement problems recorded on the rights of way database, 17 fewer than on 1<sup>st</sup> February when there were **200** problems recorded (summary at Annexe A).

Examples of cases that have been closed over the reporting period:

<b>Path</b>	<b>Date Reported</b>	<b>Problem</b>
Bisham Footpath 18 (off Lee Lane)	04/07/2011	Electric fence across footpath: <i>fence removed by landowner</i>
Bisham Footpath 32 (Town Farm, Bisham)	10/06/2011	Path cropped and not reinstated: <i>path reinstated by landowner</i>
Eton Bridleway 13 (South Field, Eton)	29/03/2011	Vehicles driving on bridleway: <i>issue passed to police who confiscated vehicle, authorisations given to landowner for bollards to prevent further trespass</i>
Eton Bridleway 13 (South Field, Eton)	13/03/2011	Path cropped and not reinstated: <i>path reinstated by landowner</i>
Eton Bridleway 13 (Haywards Mead)	02/07/2011	Building materials deposited on path: <i>building materials removed by householder</i>
Eton Bridleway 18 (South Field, Eton)	13/03/2011	Path cropped and not reinstated: <i>path reinstated by landowner</i>
Eton Footpath 40 (off Eton Wick Road)	28/04/2011	Overgrown hedges: <i>hedges cut back by householder</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 24 (rear of Whurley Way)	26/04/2011	Private tree works incomplete: <i>tree works completed by householder</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 41 (off Halifax Road)	08/06/2011	Overgrown hedge: <i>hedge cut back by householder</i>
Cookham Footpath 57 (Cockmarsh)	23/05/2011	Intimidating/aggressive cattle on common land: <i>landowner has removed this herd of cattle from Cockmarsh</i>
Hurley Footpath 11 (rear of Shepherds Lane)	30/07/2009	Encroaching fence: <i>fence repositioned by landowner</i>
Hurley Footpath 17 (Prospect Hill)	29/10/2008	Encroachment and narrowing of the path: <i>path widened to 2 metres with the agreement of the landowner</i>
Sunninghill Footpath 15 (Green Lane)	16/03/2011	Builders vehicles obstructing the path: <i>landowner has ensured builders no longer park on the footpath</i>
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 31 (off Broadmoor Lane)	16/06/2011	Motorbikes using footpath: <i>gates and fencing repaired.</i>
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 38 (off Smewins Road)	28/06/2011	Obstruction by fencing: <i>fencing removed by occupier</i>

## 2. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

### 2.1. Problems closed and problems reported

Approximately 69 maintenance problems have been closed during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and approximately 45 new maintenance problems were reported during that period. On 1<sup>st</sup> August there were **121** outstanding maintenance problems recorded on the rights of way database, 24 fewer than on 1<sup>st</sup> February when there were **145** problems recorded (see summary at Annexe A).

Examples of projects that have been completed over the reporting period:

Bray FP 9/Windsor FP 1 (Legoland perimeter path)	Major clearance work
Eton FP's 1 and 33 (The Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Hurley RB 41 (Star Lane)	Surface improvements
Maidenhead FP 80 (The Green Way at Braywick Park)	Surface improvements
Sunninghill RB 27 (Buckhurst Lane)	Surface improvements
White Waltham RB 4 (School Lane)	Surface improvements
White Waltham RB 10 (Breadcroft Lane)	Major clearance work

### 2.2. Works due to be carried out

The following projects are scheduled to be carried out in the next 2 to 3 months:

Maidenhead FP 19 and Cookham FP 48 (The Green Way)	Improvements to footbridge approaches/ramps
Bray FP 53 (Windsor Road to Oakley Green Road)	Squeeze stiles to be replaced with gates
Hurley FP 63 (Mill Lane to the Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Waltham St Lawrence FP 25 (Billingbear Park)	Stile to be replaced with gap/staggered barrier

### 2.3 Community Payback

A work team provided by the Probation Service “unpaid work in the community” project carried out path clearance work on a number of public footpaths in Bray Parish over two days in early August. It is intended that similar work days will be arranged on other public rights of way in the borough in the future.

### **3. PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH EAST BERKS RAMBLERS**

#### **3.1 Condition surveys**

Local volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers (EBR) carry out regular inspections of the public rights of way network, based on a rolling programme of surveys in Spring and Autumn each year. This provides the Rights of Way officers with valuable information by helping to identify problems on the ground, or areas where there may be scope for improvements. The Council pays EBR a grant of £1000.00 per year (administered through the Parish Paths Initiative) as a contribution to the running costs of this project.

The information obtained from these surveys is also used to compile the annual performance indicator that measures the percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use. The Spring 2011 survey results indicate that 97.4% of the path network is “easy to use”. These surveys were previously carried out in-house by the public rights of way team, and use of the volunteers for this work has freed up approximately 2 weeks officer time to focus on resolving the problems that are identified by the surveys.

#### **3.2 Removal of stiles and other access improvements**

The Rights of Way Officers are working closely with the East Berks Ramblers on priorities for stile removal projects and other access improvements.

During the period access improvements were made on the following footpaths:

Eton FP 3 (off Common Lane)	Stile replaced with Kissing Gate
Bray FP 49 (off Fifield Road)	Stile replaced with Kissing Gate
Bray FP 57 (off Forest Green Road)	Stile replaced with Kissing Gate

### **4. DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT**

#### **Definitive Map Modification Order applications (path claims) currently being investigated**

##### **4.1 Shottesbrooke claimed footpath 501(Pundles Lane)**

A Definitive Map Modification Order application received in May 2007 was refused by the Council in February 2010. The claimed footpath runs from Shottesbrooke Footpath 12 to Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 38.

The applicant appealed against the Council’s refusal of the claim, and the case was referred to Planning Inspectorate, who deal with rights of way appeals on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In June 2011 the Planning Inspectorate allowed the appeal and directed the Council to publish a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO): the Order is

currently being prepared. There is a statutory right of objection to such Orders and in the event that objections are received the case will need to be referred back to the Planning Inspectorate to be determined by means of a public inquiry or written representations.

#### 4.2 White Waltham claimed footpath 501 (land at Ffiennes Farm, Littlewick Green)

A Definitive Map Modification Order application received in August 2008 was determined in July 2010. The claimed footpaths run from White Waltham Restricted Byway 4 (School Lane) southeast to and around a small copse, then northwards to White Waltham Footpath 9. The application has been partly accepted and partly refused: an Order has been made for the paths to and from the copse, but the applications for the paths through the copse have been refused.

Objections were received to the Order and the case has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate. A public inquiry into the Order has been scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

#### 4.3 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505

Five Definitive Map Modification Order applications were received in June 2009 for footpaths crossing land at Thamesfield, north of Wharf Road, Wraysbury. A Village Green application has also been received for the land crossed by these claimed footpaths, and the Village Green application is being processed first before the footpath claims are investigated further.

#### 4.4 Cox Green claimed footpath 501

A Definitive Map Modification Order application was received on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009 to add to the Definitive Map a footpath running from Culley Way to Farmers Close. The application was accepted, and a Definitive Map Modification Order was made on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Objections have been received to the Order and these objections are currently being assessed.

## **5. CHANGES TO THE NETWORK**

### 5.1 Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 25 (Billingbear Park)

On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 a Diversion Order was made to divert part of Waltham St. Lawrence FP 25. The Order involves diverting the legal line of the footpath to follow the line already used by the public, and will include surface improvements and removal of a step-stile which can cause access difficulties for some path users.

No objections were received to the Order during the statutory consultation period and the order will therefore be confirmed and the access improvements implemented.

## **6. PARISH PATHS INITIATIVE (PPI)**

The Royal Borough continues to operate the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI). All parish and town councils in the borough are members of the scheme. The British Horse

Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust are also members. Annual grants are paid to Cookham and Old Windsor Parish Council's who organise path clearance works in their parishes.

Discussions are currently underway with a number of parishes concerning potential projects to be carried out later on in the year. The project has also worked with the National Trust to ensure that some permitted paths in Cookham are kept clear and open for use.

## **7. ACCESS TO ETON-DORNEY FOR 2012 OLYMPICS & PARALYMPICS**

Major surface improvements have been carried out on the section of the Thames Path between Windsor and Dorney, and on the Green Way through Bray Wick Park, to enable improved access for walkers and cyclists visiting Eton-Dorney Lake for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The works have been funded by a grant of £200,000 from the Olympic Delivery Authority, as part of a partnership project between the Royal Borough, Bucks County Council, Slough Borough Council and Sustrans covering a network of paths that provide links to the Games venue.

## **8. MILLENNIUM WALK**

One of the priorities set out in the "Milestones Statement 2011/12", approved by the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel in March 2011, is to "*Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk.*"

### **8.1 Missing link between Lower Cookham Road and Thames Path National Trail**

Discussions are currently taking place with the landowners and the Environment Agency on a proposal to create a new public footpath from Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path. As well as filling a "missing link" in the Millennium Walk (which runs across the north of the borough from the Thames at Hurley to the Thames north of Maidenhead), this footpath will provide a useful new link to the Thames Path and a link in various circular routes based around the Thames Path and the Green Way.

A funding contribution of £50,000 towards the cost of creating the new footpath has been secured through a S.106 Planning Agreement relating to re-development of the former 'Stiefel Laboratories' site off Lower Cookham Road.

However, it should be noted that this funding will not become available until commencement of the development, and implementation of the footpath project is therefore dependent upon the timing of the development.

### **8.2 Missing link between Hurley Footpath 18 and Bisham Footpath 20 (Speen Hill)**

A permitted path agreement has been completed between the Berkshire College of Agriculture and East Berks Ramblers for a new permitted footpath across land owned by the College, emerging onto Henley Road opposite an existing footpath across Temple Golf Course (Bisham FP 20).

Due to poor sightlines at the golf course entrance, a short section of roadside footpath is to be constructed to enable walkers to cross at a safer point along the road. Appropriate warning signage and road markings will also be installed as part of this project.

Design work for the roadside footpath is currently in progress, and it is anticipated that the works will be carried out in October 2011.

This project is part-funded by contributions from the East Berks Ramblers and Maidenhead Civic Society, the remainder being funded through the Council's 2011/12 capital programme.

## **9. PUBLICATIONS**

### Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015

The Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan is part of the Borough's Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (now rolled forward to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012).

The Improvement Plan was published in 2005 as a requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Plan was produced following wide ranging consultations, and identifies a range of potential improvements to the public rights of way network. Annual updates are published as part of the Milestones Statement.

### Milestones Statement 2011/12

The Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan review for 2011/12 was approved by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The document reviews progress made on public rights of way work in the previous year sets out a range of targets and objectives for the current year.

### Borough Website

The Public Rights of Way section of the website contains comprehensive information about public rights of way in the borough, including contact details, problem report forms, downloadable leaflets, registers of path claims, and Highways Act landowner declarations. A copy of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way is also available on the website.

The following publications are now available on the website:

- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015
- Milestones Statement 2011/12
- 6-Monthly Path Progress Reports (past two editions)
- Public Rights of Way information booklet
- Public Rights of Way: gardens, hedges and trees leaflet
- The Green Way
- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- Ascot and Sunninghill Circular Walks

- Cookham Bridleway Circuit
- Foot and Cycle Paths in and around Datchet
- Holyport Health Walk
- Cookham Easy Going Route
- Waltham St Lawrence Parish Paths and Circular Walk Leaflet
- White Waltham Parish and Paths Leaflet

Current projects include the development of a Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route leaflet in partnership with the Crown Estate and development of the Cookham Easy Going Route web pages, including a 'walkthrough', with a selection of informative photographs and more detailed information on accessibility for people with restricted mobility.

The public rights of way web pages can be found at:  
[http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow\\_index.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_index.htm).

## **10 LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

The Local Access Forum was set up in 2003 to advise the Council on improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough for open-air recreation, as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum has adopted the following vision statement: *"a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community"*.

The forum membership is listed at Annexe C. The Forum currently meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required. The minutes of the most recent meeting of the Forum held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 are included in Annexe D.

A list of Forum members, and downloadable minutes, agendas and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum web pages at:

[http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow\\_local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm).

Anyone interested in applying to join the Forum should contact the LAF Secretary, Andrew Fletcher (01628-796122).

## ANNEXE A

### Reported problems on Public Rights of Way in the Borough

	Outstanding at 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2011	Reported 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2011 to 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2011	Closed 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2011 to 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2011	Total Outstanding at 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2011
<b>ENFORCEMENT</b>				
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	1	1	0
Obstruction by crops	0	6	5	1
Fence encroachment	36	1	3	34
Fence obstruction	7	0	1	6
Building obstruction	3	1	1	3
Other obstructions	26	2	2	26
Stiles	44	2	7	39
Gates	12	2	5	9
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	4	1	3	2
Unauthorised vehicular use	7	5	4	8
Electric fencing	1	4	2	3
Misleading notices	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	1	1	0
Overhanging vegetation	24	2	7	19
Other Enforcement Problems	36	0	3	33
<b>TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>				
Vegetation	17	6	9	14
Rutting	4	0	0	4
Drainage	10	2	6	6
Fallen trees	7	4	3	8
Erosion	21	3	5	19
Tree problems	5	3	3	5
Bridges	24	0	7	17
Safety barriers	7	0	0	7
Steps	1	0	0	1
Roadside signposting	8	5	10	3
Signposting at path junctions	6	2	5	3
Waymarking	9	7	9	7
Rubbish/ waste	4	6	6	4
Other Maintenance Problems	22	7	6	23
<b>TOTAL MAINTENANCE:</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>304</b>



## ANNEXE B

### PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 OUTSTANDING CLAIMED PATHS

FEBRUARY 2011

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Comment
			From	To	
Shottesbrooke	FP 501	2007	Shottesbrooke FP 12	Waltham St Lawrence FP 38	Claim dismissed 2010, but appeal allowed
White Waltham	FP 501	2008	White Waltham RB 4	White Waltham FP 9	Order made July 2010, referred to Planning Inspectorate following objections, public inquiry scheduled for March 2012.
Cox Green	FP 501	2009	Culley Way	Farmers Close	Order made March 2011, objections being assessed
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various paths at Thamesfield		Claims awaiting determination

No formal applications have been received in respect of the paths listed below, however they were included in a list of paths submitted to Berkshire County Council by the Ramblers Association in 1977 following publication of the Draft Revised Map in 1976. These paths are therefore listed here for information only.

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	From	To
Eton	FP 502	1977	North end of Somerville Rd between numbers 23 and 25	FP 8 Eton
Eton	FP 505	1977	W end of Common Lane	Bell Lane at entrance to Bell Farm
Eton	FP 506	1977	Bend in FP46	Common Lane
Maidenhead	FP 508	1977	Moorfield Terrace	FP 4 Maidenhead
Maidenhead	FP 506	1977	Ray St	FP 4 Maidenhead
Maidenhead	FP 523	1977	Castle Hill	The Crescent
Wraysbury	FP 500	1977	Staines Road	River Thames

## ANNEXE C

### LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

AUGUST 2011

Name	Main Interests
Peter Thorn ( <b>Chair</b> ) (Berks College of Agriculture)	Land management
Harry Hancock ( <b>Vice-chair</b> ) (Burnham, Bucks)	Walking, open spaces
Dorothy Allard (Shottesbrooke)	Land management
Teja Bains (Maidenhead)	Running
Councillor Malcolm Beer (Old Windsor)	RBWM Councillor, Old Windsor Parish Council, walking, cycling
Margaret Bowdery (Maidenhead)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Lynn Cassell (Taplow)	Land management, National Trust
Sara Church (Eton)	Horse riding, British Horse Society
James Copas (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Margaret Cubley (Bisham)	Bisham Parish Council, CPRE, walking, open spaces
Loren Eldred (Princes Risborough, Bucks)	Land management, Woodland Trust
Hillary Essen (Maidenhead)	Walking for health, East Berks Ramblers footpath warden.
John Foulger (Fifield)	Bray Parish Council, walking
Christine Gadd (Sunningdale)	Sunningdale Parish Council, walking, cycling
Gordon Harris (Cookham)	Cookham Parish Council, footpaths and open spaces
Helen Howard (Bray)	Bray Parish Council, horse riding
Tom Jarvis (Windsor)	Land management, Crown Estate
Councillor Asghar Majeed (Maidenhead)	RBWM Councillor
Julie Mason (Cox Green)	Strategy, Planning and Marketing
Andrew Randall (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Councillor John Stretton (Cookham)	RBWM Councillor
Chris Westacott (White Waltham)	Land Management/ farming

## ANNEXE D