

Report for: Decision
Item Number: 5



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Title	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: "MILESTONES STATEMENT 2014/15"
Responsible Officer(s)	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer Ben Smith, Strategic Manager Highways and Transport
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer 01628-796180
For Consideration By	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Date to be Considered	4 th March 2014
Implementation Date if Not Called In	2014/15
Affected Wards	All

Report Summary This report seeks the Panel's approval for the "Milestones Statement 2014/15", attached at Appendix 1, which sets out the Council's objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?	
Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
The approved Milestones Statement will ensure that the Council's Public Rights of Way team will have a clear set of objectives, priorities, and targets for the coming year, as set out on page 6 of the draft Statement. This will assist in the effective management of the borough's public rights of way network for the benefit of residents and visitors to the borough.	2014/15

1. Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Panel approve the "Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2014/15"

2. Financial Details: resources available for public rights of way work in 2014/15 are set out on page 4 of the draft Milestones Statement attached.

3. Legal Implications: none.

4. Value for Money: setting clear targets for the Council's rights of way team and their partners ensures good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

5. Sustainability Impact Appraisal: effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.

6. Risk Management: The Milestones Statement approach is an efficient and effective way of planning, prioritising and monitoring public rights of way work. Without an approved set of objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for the coming year there is a risk that the quality of service delivery would decline.

7. Links to Strategic Objectives: effective management of the rights of way network has a positive impact on healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling.

8. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion: the Milestones Statement includes a number of initiatives aimed at improving access for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.

9. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications: N/A

10. Property and Assets: N/A

11. Consultation: a consultation on the draft Milestones Targets, priorities and service standards was carried out in December 2013/January 2014. A list of consultees is included on page 14 of the draft Milestones Statement attached.

The Local Access Forum endorsed the targets, priorities and service standards at its meeting held on 3rd December 2013, subject to 3 suggested amendments to the Targets as shown on page 6 of the draft Milestones Statement attached.

12. Timetable for Implementation: 2014/15

13. Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Milestones Statement 2014/15

Background Information: none

Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr John Stretton	Panel Chairman		Briefing 19th Feb	
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Vice-Chair		Briefing 19th Feb	
Ben Smith	Strategic Manager Highways & Transport		Briefing 19th Feb	

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Key decision	No

Full name of report author(s)	Job title	Full contact no:
Anthony Hurst	Principal Officer – Rights of Way	01628 796180

Schedule for writing and reviewing report

Stages in the life of the report (not all will apply)	Date to complete
1. Officer writes report	7/2/2014
2. To Chairman's briefing	19/2/2014
3. To Panel	4/3/2014

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

***Milestones
Statement
and Public Rights of Way
Improvement Plan review***

2014-2015

April 2014

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the sixteenth annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 16 years since this Council, as Highway Authority, became responsible for the management and maintenance of the borough's public rights of way in 1998.

I hope that residents and visitors to the borough will continue to enjoy these public rights of way as a means of accessing the borough's beautiful countryside, and as a healthy and stress-free way of getting about.

We will continue to work with all our partners, including the Local Access Forum, Parish and Town Councils, landowners, and path user groups (including the East Berks Ramblers, the Disabled Ramblers, the British Horse Society and SUSTRANS) to achieve these goals, and I wish to thank all our partners for their continued co-operation, support and enthusiasm.

Councillor John Stretton

Chair of Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

April 2014

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The Royal Borough as the surveying and highway authority is responsible for the management and maintenance of the public rights of way network in the borough. There are over 300 km (approx. 190 miles) of public rights of way, about a third of the borough's total highway network (see Table 1 for lengths of rights of way by parish).

This Milestones Statement sets out the Council's priorities and targets for ensuring that the network is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised. The Statement also incorporates an annual update on the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015.

1.2 The Milestones approach

It is widely recognised amongst local highway authorities that the 'milestones approach' is an effective means of prioritising public rights of way work and measuring performance against an agreed set of targets. The milestones approach involves:

- setting individual, realistic targets for the completion of each task, taking into account the available resources – these are the Milestones Targets (see page 6).
- monitoring progress towards achieving the Milestones Targets (see page 19).

1.3 Partnership working

The Council works closely with public rights of way user groups, landowners, parish and town councils, local conservation volunteers, and the borough's Local Access Forum.

Two Parish Councils (Cookham and Old Windsor) undertake routine clearance of vegetation from public rights of way in their area on behalf of the borough, as part of the Parish Paths Partnership.

During 2013/14, volunteers from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) carried out **7 work days** on public rights of way in the borough attended by a total of **56 volunteers**, and volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers undertook **286.5 hours** of work, including path surveys and practical works.

1.4 Resources

The Council employs a public rights of way team of 2 full time and 1 part time Public Rights of Way Officers (total 2.5 fte).

In addition, the Council's Legal Services (*Shared Legal Solutions*) provide legal support, and the Democratic Services team provides secretarial support for administering the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel and the Local Access Forum.

Revenue Budget

2013/14	2014/15
£60,000	£60,000

This includes an annual vegetation clearance contract of programmed works, and additional reactive works such as clearance of fallen trees and branches from public rights of way.

Capital Budget (Rights of Way general)

2013/14	2014/15
£40,000	£40,000

This includes surface improvements or repairs to public rights of way that have become eroded, rutted or poached, and access improvements such as replacement of step-stiles with more accessible gates.

Capital Budget (Rights of Way Bridges)

2013/14	2014/15
£50,000	£20,000

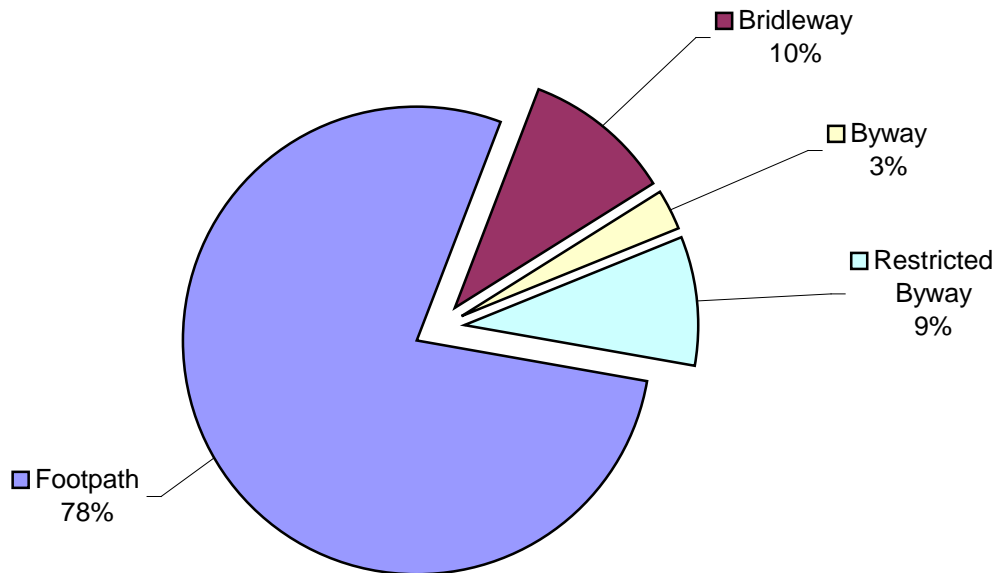
The Council has maintenance responsibility for approximately 175 bridges on footpaths and bridleways on public rights of way in the borough. These bridges are inspected on a rolling programme by the Council's consultants Jacobs, and remedial safety works identified (e.g. repair or replacement of parapets, decking or supports, or complete replacement, usually by kit bridges.)

In some cases this work is reactive, in response to bridge damage caused by public use, flooding, or general wear and tear.

Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, Feb 2014

Parish	Length (km)				Total km	% of network	
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway			
Bisham	13.146	2.524	-	2.228	17.898	5.84	%
Bray	36.665	9.999	2.184	0.682	49.530	16.16	%
Cookham	33.611	1.980	0.469	0.405	36.465	11.90	%
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.20	%
Datchet	4.761	-	-	-	4.761	1.55	%
Eton	18.289	3.561	-	-	21.850	7.13	%
Horton	1.200	1.254	-	-	2.454	0.80	%
Hurley	31.432	6.115	-	6.909	44.456	14.51	%
Maidenhead	29.619	0.439	-	2.596	32.654	10.66	%
Old Windsor	4.574	-	-	-	4.574	1.49	%
Shottesbrooke	3.240	-	-	1.612	4.852	1.58	%
Sunningdale	3.554	1.666	0.337	-	5.557	1.81	%
Sunninghill	10.771	-	3.592	1.299	15.662	5.11	%
Waltham St Lawrence	17.728	-	-	7.209	24.937	8.14	%
White Waltham	11.011	0.530	0.342	4.165	16.048	5.24	%
Windsor	4.178	1.994	1.644	0.259	8.075	2.64	%
Wraysbury	6.876	-	-	-	6.876	2.24	%
Total (km)	239.050	31.461	8.568	27.364	306.443	100.00	%

Path status across the network



2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 Priorities for 2014/15

- Maintenance and enforcement: bring all public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Encourage and support the involvement of volunteers in the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way.
- Equality of service: ensuring that the needs of all users, regardless of race, disability, sexuality, age and religion, are taken into account.
- Ensure that the Thames Path National Trail is consistently safe and easy to use by all members of the public.
- Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, residents associations, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Improvements: seek improvements to the network for horse riders and people with restricted mobility.
- Ensure effective early consultation with interested parties on proposed changes to the network, in accordance with government regulations, circulars and codes of practice.
- Liaise with landowners and occupiers on all public rights of way matters, including updating and advising landowners on changes in legislation.
- Maximise the use of recycled and reused materials in rights of way maintenance where practicable.
- **Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including the use of social media where appropriate** (new for 2014/15 as suggested by the RBWM Local Access Forum)

2.2 Milestones Targets for 2014/15

Well Maintained

WM 1: To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is the former Best Value Performance Indicator for public rights of way). Target for 2013/14 is **95%**.

WM 2: To carry out major surface improvements/vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way.

WM 3: To repair or replace **5** bridges.

Legally Defined

LD 1: To actively progress a minimum of **4** applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map, including resolving significant errors in the map (new for 2014/15 as suggested by the RBWM Local Access Forum)

Well Publicised

WP 1: To produce **1** leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.

WP 2: To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target: a minimum of **1** new publication.

Improving Access and Connectivity

AC 1: Create **1** new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network

AC2: To make **15** physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc. (new wording for 2014/15 as suggested by the RBWM Local Access Forum)

Enforcement

EN 1: To resolve **30** enforcement issues.

2.3 Equal opportunities

The Council continues to seek improvements to public rights of way to enable use by a wide range of people with sensory or physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

The Council supports the establishment of routes suitable for use by disabled people, in consultation with the Council's Access Officer, the Access Advisory Forum, the Windsor and Maidenhead User Network (WAMU) and the Disabled Ramblers.

The Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan and annual Milestones Targets include a number of policies and proposals relating to access for people with special needs.

2.4 Parish Paths Initiative/Big Society

The Parish Paths Initiative (PPI) works with Parish and Town Council's to identify or carry out maintenance, improvement or promotional works on local path networks. All Parish Council's in the Borough and Eton Town Council participate in the PPI scheme.

Additionally, two Parish Councils (Cookham and Old Windsor) undertake routine vegetation clearance on the public rights of way networks in their area. Discussions are being held with other Parishes on whether they would like to adopt similar arrangements in their parishes.

The British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust are also members of the Parish Paths Initiative. The scheme operates a rolling condition survey of all public rights of way in the borough, carried out in partnership with the East Berks Ramblers.

2.5 Local Access Forum

The Local Access Forum is "*a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community*". Established since 2003, it is a statutory advisory forum advising the Council on the management and improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough for open-air recreation.

The Forum has discussed and given advice to the Council on the following topics during 2013/14:

- The Milestones Targets for 2014/15
- Disabled access in the Countryside

- The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- Multi-use paths, allowing horse riding use along existing cycle tracks where possible
- Potential ways to improve the information available to the public about public rights of way, including better and enhanced signage and web information.
- Re-design and development of the Public Rights of Way Information Booklet
- Monitoring the progress of completing the Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route leaflet.
- Monitoring the progress of completing the Millennium Walk.
- Use of volunteers for works on public rights of way.

The Forum publishes an annual report detailing its activities.

The Forum membership details, agendas, minutes, and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm

2.6 Thames Path National Trail

Natural England promotes the Thames Path as one of 13 National Trails in England.

The Trail passes through Hurley, Cookham, Maidenhead, Eton, Windsor, Datchet and Old Windsor, where possible following the course of the river. In places the Trail crosses the Thames to follow the Buckinghamshire side of the river.

The Royal Borough recognises both the national and local importance of the Thames Path and is represented on the Thames Path Management Group, which includes representatives from the relevant Highway Authorities, the Environment Agency, the National Trails Office and Natural England.

A review of the ways in which National Trails are managed is currently being undertaken by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA.

2.7 *Equestrians*

- Investigating possible upgrading of existing footpaths to bridleways, by negotiating with landowners and user groups, to improve road safety for horses and riders while taking into account the needs of other users. All negotiations must have clear resolutions, and ensure that all users are satisfied with any changes to the status of the footpath(s) before modifications take place, including adequate width and, where appropriate, segregation of users.
- Continuing with an initiative to designate highway verges as horse margins by identifying suitable areas adjacent to the carriageways, and adapting the maintenance of highway verges to enable safe use by horse riders. As an example, a new horse margin has been created adjacent to the Henley Road, to create a safe riding link between Rose Lane and Hodgedale Lane.
- Continuing with an initiative to identify and establish multi-use paths to allow horse riders to use existing cycleways and other tracks where appropriate, and where suitable surfaces can be provided, in conjunction with land owners and Parish Councils.
- Development and promotion of circular riding routes where appropriate.
- Improvements to gates to make them more 'horserider friendly'.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

3.1 Maintenance and Enforcement

Table 2 (over page) includes a summary of reported maintenance and enforcement problems.

The number of reported problems outstanding has been reduced from **198** to **119** during the course of the year.

Path condition surveys are carried out on a 3-year rolling programme, with approximately 1/3 of the network being surveyed each year. Volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out these surveys on the Council's behalf.

During these surveys the volunteers also check whether problems that had previously been reported and entered onto the Council's rights of way database have since been resolved, and this helps to keep the records up-to-date.

Priority criteria for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems are listed on page 15 of this Milestones Statement.

3.2 Noteworthy current issues

- Surface erosion and drainage problems
- Fence encroachments and stiles on right of way
- Condition of bridges on rights of way

3.3 Access for people with special needs

When dealing with the provision of stiles and gates, an assessment is made to ensure that the appropriate type of barrier is used, and that wherever possible gaps are used rather than stiles or gates.

The Council places high priority on the use of effective designs of barrier to facilitate use by those with restricted mobility, the elderly, people with young children in pushchairs etc.

Service standards, including British Standards for path furniture, are set out on page 16 of this Milestones Statement.

Table 2: Reported problems on Public Rights of Way in the Borough

	Outstanding at 31 st March 2013	Reported 1 st April 2013 to 31 st January 2014	1st April 2013 to 31st January 2014 closed	Total Outstanding at 31st Jan 2014
ENFORCEMENT				
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	6	6	0
Obstruction by crops	0	3	3	0
Fence encroachment	20	1	6	15
Fence obstruction	4	2	6	0
Building obstruction	1	0	0	1
Other obstructions	22	6	15	13
Stiles	24	1	15	10
Gates	6	2	5	3
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	1	1	2	0
Unauthorised vehicular use	4	1	5	0
Electric fencing	2	1	3	0
Misleading notices	0	5	4	1
Intimidation	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	7	4	5	6
Other Enforcement Problems	21	2	17	6
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	112	35	92	55
MAINTENANCE				
Vegetation	3	5	4	4
Rutting	6	1	5	2
Drainage	5	1	3	3
Fallen trees	8	19	21	6
Erosion	16	16	18	14
Tree problems	0	4	2	2
Bridges	9	8	10	7
Safety barriers	3	1	0	4
Steps	0	0	0	0
Roadside signposting	5	11	13	3
Signposting at path junctions	2	4	4	2
Waymarking	7	1	5	3
Rubbish/ waste	3	9	11	1
Other Maintenance Problems	19	3	9	13
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	86	83	105	64
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	198	118	197	119

* most problems of waste/ rubbish are dealt with by the waste management section and are not recorded here

4 LEGALLY DEFINED

4.1 *Definitive Map and Statement*

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way are legal documents that provide conclusive evidence of the existence and status of public rights of way. It is therefore important that these documents are kept up to date and accurate.

The Map and Statement was last updated in 2008, to include all legal changes made since the previous Map was published in year 2000. Any subsequent changes are shown by Modification Orders (see 4.2 below).

Copies of the Map and Statement are available for inspection in Maidenhead and Windsor central libraries, Borough Council offices, and can be viewed on the borough website.

Copies are also held by user groups and relevant extracts are held by Parish Councils.

4.2 *Modification Orders*

Definitive Map Modification Orders are made to update the definitive map, to show the effect of legal changes to public rights of way. Copies of the Orders are sent to all those who hold copies of the Definitive Map and Statement, so that up to date information is available

4.3 *Rights of way database*

The Definitive Map is shown on the Council's GIS system. The Council also maintains a comprehensive public rights of way database, the Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). Information is held on path maintenance records, condition surveys, reported problems, landownership details, and path furniture such as stiles, gates, bridges and signposts.

The Council also maintains a comprehensive electronic library of photographic records covering many of the public rights of way in the borough.

These electronic records enable the rights of way officers to record, analyse and prioritise problems, and respond to public requests for information quickly and effectively.

4.4 *Applications to modify the Definitive Map (claims)*

There are 4 outstanding claims listed in Appendix 5 of this Milestones Statement. A statement of priorities for dealing with claims is shown in Appendix 2.

4.5 *Changes to the network*

Applications for changes to the network are occasionally received from landowners or developers, and can also be initiated by the Council where they are considered to be in the public interest.

Planning applications are checked by Planning Development Control officers who consult the Public Rights of Way team and the East Berks Ramblers on applications that may affect public rights of way. Where appropriate, conditions and informatives are then included in planning consents.

Policy R14 in the borough's Local Plan states that: ***“The Borough Council will safeguard and enhance the public rights of way network and recreational cycle routes”***

5 WELL PUBLICISED

5.1 Leaflets produced by the Council

- Public Rights of Way information booklet (*for landowners and path users*)
- Public Rights of Way and your Gardens, Hedges and Trees (*information leaflet for householders adjacent to rights of way*)
- The Green Way
- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- Cookham Bridleway Circuit
- Cycling in Windsor and Maidenhead
- Cookham Easy Going Route
- Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route

All the above leaflets are available from the Borough Council free of charge

5.2 Other books and publications

Sunningdale, Bray and Datchet Parish Councils have produced their own walks leaflets, with help from the Borough Council through Parish Paths Initiative:

- “Walk, discover, enjoy - your Sunningdale” (Sunningdale Parish Council)
- “Parish Millennium Rights of Way Map” (Bray Parish Council)
- Holyport health walk (Bray Parish Council)
- “Foot and Cycle Paths in and around Datchet” (Datchet Parish Council)

(the above leaflets are available from the Parish Councils free of charge)

The Environment Agency has published a leaflet showing the paths along the Jubilee River (*available from the EA 08708 506506*)

The East Berks Ramblers, the British Horse Society, Sustrans and commercial publishers have produced a number of leaflets, booklets and books promoting routes along public rights of way locally. These are widely available in libraries and bookshops.

5.3 Guided walks and rides

Guided walks and rides encourage the public to enjoy the countryside. The Ramblers organize a programme of walks for its members and the general public, and the British Horse Society organize various rides and events using the boroughs public rights of way and minor roads network.

5.4 Borough Website

The Borough’s Public Rights of Way web pages can be accessed directly at

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_index.htm

The web pages contain detailed information on public rights of way, including publications, forms, and maps of all public rights of way in the borough.

Recent additions include an updated version of the Landowner Statements and Declarations Register following legislation changes in October 2013, and a special set of pages for the Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route, which includes more information about the route and a ‘virtual tour’ which allows users to view detailed photographs of the entire route.

The web pages also include a Register of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO’s), together with application forms and guidance notes for DMMO’s or diversion or stopping up orders, and forms for reporting problems on rights of way.

Further improvements being developed are maps showing the locations of stiles or gates along paths, and information about permitted paths.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

6.1 *Monitoring*

The Council publishes a performance indicator which provides a useful benchmark for assessing the condition of the network:

“The percentage of the total length of footpaths and other rights of way which were easy to use by members of the public”.

The indicator is calculated using a methodology devised by the County Surveyors Society, and is widely adopted by Highway Authorities to enable benchmarking between individual authorities' performance.

The borough's indicator is based on information obtained from condition surveys undertaken by volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers, and the indicator result for the borough in 2013/14 was **93.1%** against a target of **95%**.

6.2 *Review*

The Council is committed to working with all interested parties in carrying out public rights of way work in the borough.

This Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan will continue be reviewed and published annually and the Milestones targets will be discussed with the Local Access Forum and other interested parties so that co-ordinated priorities can be adopted.

The Public Rights of Way team also produce a 6-monthly Path Progress Report, which provides updates on specific path improvements. These reports are submitted to the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel in March and September each year, circulated to the Local Access Forum and published on the borough website.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on the Milestones Statement

The following organisations were consulted on the 2014/15 Milestones Statement

- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
- All Parish and Town Councils in the borough
- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum, whose members represent a variety of interest groups including land management interests, health issues, walking, cycling, horse riding and disabled access issues:

East Berks Ramblers

British Horse Society

Council for the Protection of Rural England

Crown Estate

Royal East Berks Agricultural Association

National Trust

National Farmers Union

APPENDIX 2

Statement of priorities for dealing with applications to amend the Definitive Map

The Council aims to process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt.

Applications for Orders to amend the Definitive Map and Statement (claims) will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

Highest Priority: Closure very likely (e.g. area subject to planning application).

Path currently blocked by planting, fencing etc. which could be removed.

Path currently blocked by permanent structure e.g. building.

Possible threat to path, and/or partial blocking likely.

Lowest Priority: No recognised threat, and route useable by the public.

APPENDIX 3

Statement of priorities for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems

Maintenance and enforcement problems will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

Safety of users

Level of usage

Extent of obstruction of definitive line (i.e. completely obstructed or partially obstructed)

Benefit to public once resolved

Cost/time effectiveness in resolving problem

Number/level of complaints

Potential for deterioration of the problem

Age of the problem

Note: for efficient working practice, lower priority problems will be dealt with alongside higher priority problems where appropriate, for example if they are in the same locality or involve the same landowner. Lower priority problems will also be tackled as required in order to meet specific targets.

APPENDIX 4

Service standards

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has the following key aims in relation to public rights of way:

- To ensure that the borough's public rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised
- To ensure that public rights of way are safeguarded and enhanced
- To help landowners and users to understand their responsibilities and rights
- To consult and work with interested parties to achieve the provision of a well-maintained and signed network of public rights of way

We will liaise with and involve:

- Local Access Forum
- Parish and Town Councils
- Natural England
- East Berks Ramblers
- Disabled Ramblers
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- Vehicle User Groups
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Land & Business Association
- Thames Path Management Group
- Any other interested parties

Comply with **British Standards** on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. BS 5709-2006 gaps, gates and stiles; order of preference; a) gap, b) gate, c) kissing gate, d) stile.

Barbed wire, razor wire, farm type electrical fences and suchlike should not normally be used in the vicinity of structures covered by this standard, but where these wires are necessary then assessment should be made of the effect they have on the safety and convenience of people in the vicinity.

A condensed version of BS 5709-2006 produced by the Pitcroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team.

Carry out:

- A condition survey of each path every three years, based on a rolling programme of six-monthly surveys (in partnership with East Berks Ramblers Association).
- An inspection of rights of way in a dangerous condition within one working day of notification, make safe within one working day of inspection, and inform correspondents of the results within three working days.

Use our powers:

- To enforce and remove any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, and enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) within 6 weeks of inspection, and give consideration to all available statutory powers including prosecutions where appropriate.
- To process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt.
- To inform the correspondents of the reasons for any delay beyond the periods stated above.

Publish:

- The definitive map and statement every five years
- Information leaflets and updates regularly

APPENDIX 5: DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER APPLICATIONS (CLAIMS)

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
Cox Green	FP 501	2009	Culley Way	Farmers Close	Order made March 2011, objections received. Currently on hold pending outcome of Alley Gating Order process.
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various paths at Thamesfield		Claims awaiting determination of Judicial Review into village green application
Maidenhead	FP 530	2013	Bray Road	Field boundary	Order refused January 2014, appeal lodged by applicant.
Windsor	FP 501	2013	Oxford Road	Clewer Fields	Under investigation

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. ***NB These paths are therefore listed here for information only.***

Parish	Ref. no	date	Path description: 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

APPENDIX 6

Achievement of Milestones Targets 2013/14

Public Rights of Way Milestone Targets 2013-14:		JAN UPDATE
WELL MAINTAINED		
WM1 <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2013-14: 95%</i>		93.1%
WM2 <i>To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)</i> Bisham FP 21 (off Temple Lane) Bray Footpaths 39, 40, 42 (Holyport-former BIFFA site) Cookham Footpath 54 (Mill Lane to River Thames) Cookham FP 60 (Cockmarsh) Cox Green FP 4 (Off Fir Lane) Cox Green FP 7 (Off Woodlands Park Avenue) Hurley BR 20 (near Dew Drop Inn) Hurley FP 1 (Thames Path west of lock) Maidenhead Restricted Byway 70 (Malders Lane) Maidenhead FP 22 (Garretts Lane) White Waltham Restricted Byway 8 (Snowball Hill) Windsor FP 9 (Home Park) Wraysbury FP 9 (off Magna Carta lane) Wraysbury FP 9 (off Magna Carta lane)		Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Major surface improvements Bank and surface repair Major surface improvement Major clearance works Major surface improvement Major surface improvement Major clearance works Major drainage works Total 16
WM3 <i>To repair or replace 5 bridges.</i> Bray Footpath 45 (off Gays Lane) Bray Footpath 53 (south of Windsor Road) Bray Footpath 57 (off Oakley Green Road) Sunninghill FP 5 (off Church Lane) Walt St L Footpath 12 (off Mire Lane) Walt St L Footpath 13 (off Mire Lane) Walt St L Footpath 34 (off West End Lane) Windsor FP 9 (Home Park)		Two sleeper bridges replaced Footbridge replaced Footbridge repairs Boardwalk/bridge upgraded Footbridge repairs Footbridge repairs Footbridge repairs Footbridge repairs Brick parapets repaired Total 9
LEGALLY DEFINED		
LD1 <i>To actively progress a minimum of 4 applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map (DMMO claims).</i>		Windsor FP 501 (Oxford Road-Clewer Fields) Maid FP 530 (off Bray Road) Total 2

<p>LD2 <i>To resolve a minimum of 1 significant error in definitive map.</i></p>	<p>Total 0</p>
<p>WELL PUBLICISED</p>	
<p>WP1 <i>To produce 1 leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.</i></p>	<p>Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route</p> <p>Total 1</p>
<p>WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target for 2012/2013: a minimum of 1 new publication.</i></p>	<p>PRoW info booklet produced in partnership with LAF</p> <p>Total 1</p>
<p>IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY</p>	
<p>AC1 <i>Create 1 new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network</i></p>	<p>Permitted bridleway along Jubilee River cycle way and connecting paths.</p> <p>Total 1</p>
<p>AC2 <i>To make physical improvements, including replacement of 20 stiles with gates, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</i></p> <p>Bray FP 45 (off Gays Lane) Cookham FP 48 (south of Lightlands Lane)</p> <p>Walt St. L. FP's 40 and 41(Shurlock Row)</p> <p>Walt St. L FP 34 (off West End Road)</p>	<p>One stile upgraded Two stiles replaced with one swing gate and one kissing gate. One stile upgraded. Six stiles replaced with kissing gates. One stile replaced with gap. Two stiles replaced with kissing gates, two stiles replaced with gaps.</p> <p>Total 13 stiles replaced with gaps or gates</p>
<p>ENFORCEMENT</p>	
<p>EN 1 <i>To resolve 30 enforcement issues</i></p> <p>Bisham Restricted Byway 1 (Quarry Wood) Surface damage by vehicles. Bisham Footpath 32 (Town Farm, Bisham); Path has not been reinstated to full width Bray Footpath 24 (off Forest Green Road) Gates installed. Bray Footpath 25 (off Forest Green Road) Path ploughed and not reinstated Bray Footpath 28 (off Forest Green Road) Path ploughed and not reinstated</p>	<p>Surface repaired by landowner.</p> <p>Cleared by landowner.</p> <p>Gap provided for pedestrians, gates authorized.</p> <p>Path reinstated by landowner</p> <p>Path reinstated by landowner</p>

Bray Footpath 31 (off Moneyrow Green) Path ploughed and not reinstated	Path reinstated by landowner
Bray Footpath 40 (A308 Windsor Road to Stroud Farm Road); Barbed wire along the edge of the path.	Barbed wire removed by landowner
Bray Footpath 57 (off Windsor Road) Locked field gate	Gate repositioned, gap provided.
Bray Footpath 57 (off Windsor Road) Fence falling into path.	Fence repaired by the landowner.
Cookham Bridleway 19 (Cannon Court Road to Long Lane); Bridleway resurfaced with road planings	Landowner laid wood chip on surface to soften stone surface.
Cookham Bridleway 19 (off Long Lane); posts erected at NW end of bridleway with narrow gap.	Gap widened by landowner and posts authorized.
Maidenhead Footpath 48 (A4 Bath Road to Altwood Road); Motorcycles using footpath	Staggered barriers installed and Community Wardens alerted
Eton Footpath 1 (Thames Path at Eton Wick); Horse riders using the surfaced cycle track	Signage installed.
Eton Bridleway 17 (South Field, Eton); Bridleway obstructed by crops	Reinstated by landowner.
Eton Footpath 19 (South Field, Eton); Path obstructed by crops	Reinstated by landowner.
Eton Footpath 26 (off Keats Lane, Eton); Path obstructed by fence	Fencing removed by landowner.
Hurley Footpath 1 (Thames Path at Frogmill); RADAR gate taped up to prevent noise.	Tape removed from gate
Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path at Culham Court); “Footpath Only” signs installed	Signs removed by landowner.
Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path at Culham Court); Field gate padlocked by landowner	Padlock removed by landowner.
Hurley Restricted Byway 41 (Star Lane); Blocked by construction traffic and parking	Landowner to ensure builders do not park over the restricted byway
Maidenhead Footpath 48 (Bath Road to Altwood Road) Motorcycle use of the footpath	Staggered barriers installed, and Community Wardens alerted
Maidenhead Footpath 61 (Maidenhead Golf Course) signs have been erected stating “Dog must be kept on a lead”	Signs amended.
Maidenhead Restricted Byway 72 (Nightingale Lane) Adjacent hedges overgrowing onto the width of the lane.	Hedges cut back by landowners.
Maidenhead FP 87 (off Westborough Road) Overhanging vegetation	Vegetation cleared by landowner
Walt St Lawrence Footpath 8 (off Halls Lane) Path has been ploughed and not reinstated	Path marked out by landowner
Sunningdale Footpath 13 (off Dry Arch Road); Loose branch hanging over footpath	Branch removed by landowner
Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 (off West End Road) Electric fence erected across the path	Fence removed by landowner
Waltham St Lawrence FP 38 (off Smewins Road) Electric fence and fallen tree obstruction	Electric fence repaired and tree removed by landowner.
Waltham St Lawrence FP 40 (off Hungerford Lane) Unauthorised squeeze stile erected on the path	Stile removed by landowner
Waltham St Lawrence FP 41 (off Brook Lane) Path blocked by electric fencing and post and rail fence.	Electric fencing removed.
White Waltham RB 10 (Breadcroft Lane) Barriers at railway bridge restrict use by carriage drivers.	Barriers replaced with bollards accessible to carriage drivers .

<p>White Waltham Footpath 19 (Green Lane) Stile out of repair and in a potentially dangerous condition</p>	<p>Stile repaired by landowner.</p>
<p>White Waltham Footpath 19 (Green Lane) Sign stating “No Dogs” erected on the path</p>	<p>Sign removed by landowner.</p>
<p>Windsor Bridleway 1B (Wolf Lane to St. Leonard’s Hill); Fallen wall obstructing bridleway</p>	<p>Wall/debris removed by landowner.</p>
	<p>Total 34</p>

APPENDIX 7

Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan: site specific proposals

In the course of conducting research in preparing the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, many site-specific suggestions for network improvements were made. The suggestions have been categorised as follows:

Category One

It is considered that the proposal may be achievable within the period of the Plan (i.e. 2005-2015), provided that current staffing and budgetary levels are maintained. Third party consent may also be required.

Category Two

Initial feasibility study recommended, and/or the proposal may only be achievable with additional internal or external funding. It may also require third party consent.

Note: This is not intended to be a complete list of schemes for the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and other schemes may be identified during the period of the plan that were not listed in the document approved in 2005.

The proposals **shown in bold** are currently being investigated by the public rights of way team.

Updates are *shown in italics*.

Category One

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
1.1	Develop a route for cycling and horse riding under the A404 from Dungle Hill Lane to Hurley via Hurley Lane utilising existing tunnel and track (Bisham Footpath 20) at the golf course. Seek upgrade of route through tunnel and Bisham Footpath 20 to Hurley Lane to definitive bridleway. (<i>March 2009 update: the tunnel under the A404, and Bisham FP 20, have been upgraded to permitted bridleway</i>)	Bisham
1.2	Secure public rights on the crossing over the Thames at Bray utilising the Summerleaze owned bridge: <i>The planning consent for the gravel conveyor includes a requirement that following cessation of use of the conveyor the footpath-cycleway bridge is dedicated as a public highway.</i> <i>(March 2012 update) surface improvements carried out to the paths either side of Summerleaze bridge in conjunction with improved access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics.</i>	Bray
1.3	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users <i>(March 2012 update): surface improvements carried out to paths in this area in conjunction with access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics, facilitating use by mobility restricted users.</i>	Eton
1.4	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill (<i>March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is not viable</i>)	Sunningdale, Sunninghill and Ascot

Category Two:		
Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
2.1	Create a pedestrian link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane: (<i>March 2013 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened</i>)(<i>March 2014 update: ongoing discussions with horse riders</i>)	Bisham
2.2	Fill in missing links on the “Millennium Walk” from Hurley to Maidenhead Riverside / Cliveden Reach connecting to the Thames Path by securing a path from: (a) Nightingale Lane to the Green Way (b) Prospect Hill to the entrance of Temple Golf Club (<i>March 2012 update: New permitted footpath opened across BCA land and associated highway safety works undertaken.</i>) (c) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path (<i>March 2014 update: Discussions are being held with the landowners about the proposed new footpath.</i>)	Cookham/ Maidenhead
2.3	Divert Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael’s Path) to run along the disused Henley Road	
2.4	Create a new bridleway connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway: (<i>March 2007 update: Initial feasibility studies and consultations have indicated that the potential benefits of this project would not justify the cost</i>)	Bisham Bisham
2.5	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerleaze Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users.	Bray
2.6	New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary	
2.7	A circular route around Bray village, and also around the old Biffa pits	
2.8	Possible improvements / extension to the Green Way and upgrading of some sections to permit use by cyclists (<i>March 2010 update: surface improvements completed on Maidenhead FP 84, Ray Mill Road West to Town Moor.</i>) (<i>March 2013 update: new off-road link opened north of Ray Mill Road West.</i>)	Various Maidenhead

2.9	<p>Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) of:</p> <p>(a) Thames Path from Boulter’s Lock to Cookham <i>(March 2010 update: river bank repairs, erosion control and path reinstatement works completed)</i></p> <p>(b) Datchet Footpath 8 <i>(March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008)</i> <i>(March 2014 update: discussion with landowner about potential for widening the footpath)</i></p>	<p>Cookham</p> <p>Datchet</p>
2.10	<p>Make the Thames Path and associated paths accessible to mobility restricted users from Temple to Frog Mill via Hurley <i>(March 2014 update: surface upgrade completed at Bisham FP 21, Hurley section being investigated)</i></p>	<p>Bisham & Hurley</p>
2.11	<p>Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common <i>(March 2009 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>	<p>Cookham</p>
2.12	<p>Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.</p>	<p>Cookham</p>
2.13	<p>Creation of a path parallel to the Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook common</p>	
2.14	<p>Upgrade Kennel Lane (Cookham Footpath 22) to a bridleway <i>(March 2009 update: one of the affected landowners has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath to bridleway: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>	
2.15	<p>Create the following paths from the 1999 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan:</p> <p>(a) a path from Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path <i>(see 2.2 c. above)</i></p> <p>(b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge</p> <p>(c) a crossing of dry flood ditch, Town Moor, Maidenhead as part of Green Way</p> <p>(d) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users <i>(March 2014 update: upgrades to footbridges on Cookham FP 48 to enable disabled access: works ordered)</i></p>	<p>Cookham/ Maidenhead</p> <p>Bray</p> <p>Maidenhead</p> <p>Maidenhead & Cookham</p>

2.16	<p>Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan:</p> <p>(a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line <i>(March 2011 update, see 2.17 below)</i></p> <p>(b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6</p> <p>(e) footpath along Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Old Ferry Drive</p> <p>(f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green</p> <p>(g) footpath running from High Street car park in Wraysbury, around southern part of lakes parallel to Staines Road to Staines Road near termination of Wraysbury Footpath 4</p>	Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury
	<p>(h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road</p> <p>(i) footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook to the Horton Parish Boundary</p> <p>(j) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook.</p> <p>(k) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3)</p> <p>(l) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury</p> <p>(m) footpath from Horton Bridleway 4 to Horton Road</p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: new bridleway constructed and in use)</i></p> <p>(n) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370)</p>	Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury Horton Datchet
2.17	<p>Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet</p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: discussions held with the landowner on a proposal to create a circular path around the perimeter of the Queen Mother Reservoir, project abandoned as landowner unwilling to proceed)</i></p>	
2.18	<p>Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: potential surface improvements at St Georges Lane being investigated)</i></p>	Sunninghill
2.19	<p>Upgrade Jubilee River paths to allow horse riding</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: horse riding permitted on some sections of Jubilee River Paths, for trial period May 2013-May2014)</i></p>	Eton
2.20	<p>A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs</p>	Hurley

2.21	<p>Secure a continuation of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: the footpath opposite the Thames Hotel was extended in 2007, however a gap of approximately 30m remains in order to complete the link to Bridge Gardens)(March 2011 update: funding options for completing the remaining section of missing link are being explored in discussion with the Ramblers)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: Path Creation Agreement/Order, options being considered)</i></p>	Maidenhead
2.22	<p>A footbridge from Boulter's Island to east bank of the Thames, which would link the Thames Path and Jubilee River, and the walks in Taplow</p> <p><i>(March 2013 update: a new footbridge across the Thames at Boulter's Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)</i></p>	Maidenhead
2.23	Create a link between Braywick Park and Bray Road and Maidenhead Footpath 1	
2.24	<p>(a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route</p> <p>(b) <i>March 2009 addition: Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists</i></p>	
2.25	Create a path from Ascot station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride. <i>(March 2007 update: Network Rail is unwilling to consider this proposed footpath creation)</i>	Sunninghill and Ascot
2.26	Work with Wokingham DC to upgrade Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 for horse riding use	Waltham St Lawrence
2.27	Create of a path from Great Wood, White Waltham, south of the B3024 road to the track at Pond Wood Farm	White Waltham
2.28	Establish a new path from Windmills (White Waltham Footpath 20) to Howe Lane near Howlane Bridge	
2.29	Create a route for carriage drivers from Beenhams Road in White Waltham to Mare Lane in Binfield.	
2.30	Create of a path between Sutherland Grange public open space, via the rear of the Centrica complex, and the access road to the Racecourse Marina	Windsor
2.31	New route along the Colne Brook	Horton
2.32	<p>[Added 10/1/2007] Divert Hurley Footpath 47 and Hurley Footpath 49 to improve A4 Road Crossings.</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: The suggested diversions have not been progressed as the proposed diverted routes of the footpaths are across common land with existing public access rights).</i></p>	Hurley

Further information on public rights of way in the Royal Borough, including maps of all the paths and ways, and an electronic version of this document, can be found on the Borough website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_index.htm

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
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