

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6- MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
1st SEPTEMBER 2018 - 31st JANUARY 2019**

The total number of outstanding reported problems on Public Rights of Way has risen from 9 to 8 during the reporting period, (see table at Annex A for list of outstanding issues).

1. ENFORCEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 1st Sept 2018</i>	<i>Reported 1st Sept '18 - 31st Jan 2019</i>	<i>Closed 1st Sept '18 - 31st Jan 2019</i>	<i>Outstanding on 31st Jan 2019</i>
Enforcement problems	6	32	32	6

Examples of enforcement cases that have been resolved:

Path	Problem
Bray FP 7 (Creswell's Farm)	Barbed wire attached to gate: removed by landowner
Bray FP 5 (Creswell's Farm)	Baled straw obstructing footpath: removed by landowner
Bisham FP 9 and 32 (Town Farm)	Maize crop over footpaths: crops cleared by landowner
Eton BR 18 (South Field)	Path not marked out following ploughing: marked out by landowner

2. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 1st Sept 2018</i>	<i>Reported 1st Sept '18 - 31st Jan 2019</i>	<i>Closed 1st Sept '18 - 31st Jan 2019</i>	<i>Outstanding on 31st Jan 2019</i>
Maintenance problems	3	18	19	2

Examples of maintenance and improvement projects completed:

Maidenhead FP 46 (Newlands Drive)	Surface improvement (phase 2)
Maidenhead FP 78 (Boulters Lock car park)	Surface improvements
Eton FP 3 (off Common Road)	Bridge repair and gate installation
Bray FP 72 (The Causeway)	Tarmac surface improvement
Maidenhead BW 70 (Malders Lane)	Surface improvements

3. CHANGES TO THE PATH NETWORK

3.1 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505 (Thamesfield)

On 15th July 2016 Orders were made to add fourteen footpaths at Thamesfield to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. A number of objections were received to all the Orders, and a Local Public Inquiry was held from 1st to 4th May 2018.

The Inspector who conducted the Inquiry published his decision on 19th July 2018: thirteen of the fourteen Orders were confirmed as made, and one Order was not confirmed.

Public footpath signs have been installed at the entrances to the footpaths from the surrounding road network, and all thirteen footpaths are now open and in use.

In total, these thirteen footpaths have added approximately 2.9 km (1.8 miles) to the public rights of way network in the borough.

3.2 Margaret's Bridge

A new bridge across "The Cut", linking Maidenhead Road to the Green Way at Braywick Park, was opened on 17th September 2018. The bridge is named in memory of Margaret Bowdery, former President of the East Berkshire Ramblers, in recognition of her tireless efforts and achievements in improving and protecting public rights of way and access to the countryside in the borough.

The new bridge and connecting paths are now in regular use a safe off-road route for walkers and cyclists, including access to the Oldfield Primary School, as well as a valuable new link to Braywick Park and the Green Way.

3.3 Millennium Walk

Following the purchase of an area of farmland off Lower Cookham Road/Sutton Road, to be named "Battlemead Common", a new footpath is to be opened in March 2019, to complete a missing link in the Millennium Walk, which runs from the Thames at Hurley to the Thames north of Boulters Lock.

The route will also be used as part of the annual 'Maidenhead Boundary Walk' which takes place each October.

4. VOLUNTEERS

4.1 Working with Parish Councils, path user groups and the National Trust

All Parish/Town Councils in the borough, as well as the British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust, are members of the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI). Through this scheme the rights of way officers work directly with the Parish/Town Councils and the voluntary groups on maintaining and improving the rights of way network in the borough.

As part of the PPI project, annual grants are paid to Cookham and Old Windsor Parish Councils who organise routine path clearance works in their parishes. A number of successful projects have been completed this year including installation of a warning sign on a steep path in Bisham, surfacing improvements in Maidenhead, and gate replacements and refurbishments in Bray. Promotional materials are also being designed in partnership with two parishes. The partnership continues to deliver benefits to all involved.

4.2 Volunteering

The Public Rights of Way team have worked with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), Ways into Work (WiW), and Centrica to carry out practical work on public rights of way in the borough over the past 6 months.

The following projects were completed between September 2018-January 2019

Date	Group	Path	Task	No. of participants
5 September 2018	WiW	Maidenhead FP 24	50:50 litter picking: vegetation clearance	8
6 September 2018	BCA	Hurley BR 2	Himalayan Balsam clearance	6
12 September	WiW	Maidenhead FP 22 (Garretts Lane)	Vegetation clearance	6
13 September	BCA	Hurley BR 2	Himalayan Balsam clearance	6
19 September	WiW	Maidenhead FP 46 (Muddy Lane)	Vegetation clearance	8
20 September	BCA	Bray BW 65 (Hog Oak Lane)	Vegetation clearance	6
20 September	TCV	Sunninghill FP 5	Boardwalk extension	8
26 September	WiW	Maidenhead FP 48 (Dead Man's Alley)	Litter pick at Altwood Road and Bath Road. Vegetation clearance	8
27 September	BCA	Bray BW 65 (Hog Oak Lane)	Vegetation clearance	6
3 October	WiW	Eton FP 1	Vegetation clearance	6
4 October	BCA	Bray BR 64 (Cruch Lane)	Vegetation clearance	6
10 October	WiW	Eton FP 1 and Home Park	Litter pick	7
11 October	BCA	Bray BR 64 (Cruch Lane)	Vegetation clearance	6
17 October	WiW		Vegetation clearance	8
18 October	BCA	Green Lane Hurley	Vegetation clearance	6
24 October	WiW		Vegetation clearance	7
25 October	Centrica	Eton FP 1 (Thames Path)	Litter picking	15
1 November	BCA	Green Lane Hurley	Vegetation clearance	7
10 January	BCA	Permitted path Hurley	Open up and vegetation clearance	6
24 January	BCA	Waltham St Lawrence RB 30 (Downfield Lane)	Vegetation clearance	6
Total work tasks		21		
Total volunteer days		142		

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is:

Berkshire College of Agriculture: £2013

Ways into Work: £2392.50

TVA: £330

Centrica: £618.75

Additionally, volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carried out 165 hours of condition survey work during the six-month period September 2018 - January 2019. This equates to £1361.25 added value (based on the National Living Wage of £8.25 which is used as a notional figure for the hourly rate of volunteers).

Grand Total: £6,715.50

4.3 Partnership working with the East Berks Ramblers

Local volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out inspections of the public rights of way network in Spring and Autumn each year, based on a three year rolling programme (i.e. approx. 1/3rd of the network is surveyed each year).

The information obtained from these surveys is used to identify and prioritise works, and to calculate the annual performance indicator that measures the percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use.

The 'easy to use' figure from the autumn 2018 survey was 95%. Combined with the Spring Survey (87%) this brings the percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use for 2018 to 91%.

5. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum (LAF) is "*a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community*" established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required.

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way/452/local_access_forum

The LAF web content was developed by the Forum and contains the following:

- Information about the Forum, and how to get involved
- Minutes and agendas for the Forum meetings
- Links and information tailored for walkers, horse riders and cyclists
- Information about the Forum members and projects
- Copies of advice supplied by the Forum's Fast Response Team
- Links to neighbouring Local Access Forums and other useful links.

Anyone interested in applying to join the Forum should contact the Forum Secretary, Jacqui Wheeler (01628 796289)

Public Rights of Way: issues outstanding, February 2019

Parish/Path number	Issue	Date reported
Bray FP 1 (off Ascot Road)	Potential fence encroachment	16/07/18
Horton BR 4 (off Foundry Lane)	Bridleway obstructed by vehicles	28/08/18
Old Windsor FP 3 (Thames Path)	Path verges enclosed by boat owners	27/06/18
Sunninghill FP 5 (off Cheapside Road)	Path flooded by adjacent land	09/02/18
Sunninghill FP 18 (Marston Way)	Potential fence encroachment	30/04/18
Sunninghill FP 36 (off High Street)	Water flowing across path	01/05/18
Wraysbury FP 6 (Douglas Lane)	Path obstructed by gate	16/07/18
Eton FP 19 (South Field)	Path cropped and not reinstated	24/10/18