

Report Title:	Public Rights of Way ‘Milestones Statement 2022/23’
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Officer reporting:	Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager
Meeting and Date:	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel 14 th March 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of Place Alysse Strachan, Head of Neighbourhood Services
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the Panel’s approval for the ‘*Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2022/23*’ attached at Appendix A, which sets out the Council’s objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year, and the resources available for delivering this service.

Effective management of the Borough’s network of over 310km of public rights of way makes an important contribution to the Council’s Corporate Plan 2021-2026, in particular the objective to increase walking and cycling in the borough.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel approves the ‘*Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2022/23*’ attached at Appendix A.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
Approve the ‘Milestones Statement 2022/23’ This is the recommended option	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.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Table 2: Key Implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Approval of Milestones Statement 2022/23	<i>n/a</i>	April 2022	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	2022/23

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, setting clear targets for the Council's Public Rights of Way team and their partners ensures good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 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. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 Equalities: an 'Equality Impact Assessment screening form' has been completed in relation to this report, and the screening assessment did not identify any negative impacts (see Appendix C). The 'Milestones Statement' includes several targets aimed at improving access for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.
- 7.2 Climate change/sustainability: effective management of the borough's public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainability by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.
- 7.3 Data Protection/GDPR: no impacts arising directly from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The Borough's **Local Access Forum (LAF)** has been consulted on the targets, objectives and service standards set out in the draft Milestones Statement and have confirmed that. Responses are set out in Appendix B.

8.2 All Parish and Town Councils have been consulted on the targets, objectives and service standards set out in the draft Milestones Statement. Comments and suggestions have been received from a number of Parish Council's, as set out in Appendix B, and the public rights of way team will work with the Parish Councils to progress these suggestions where feasible.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 2022/23.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 This report is supported by 3 appendices:

- Appendix A: Milestones Statement 2022/23
- Appendix B: Consultation responses
- Appendix C: Equality Impact Assessment screening form

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 None.

12. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory: Statutory Officers (or deputies)</i>			
Adele Taylor	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	23/02/22	02/03/22
Emma Duncan	Deputy Director of Law and Strategy / Monitoring Officer	23/02/22	
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)	23/02/22	
Elaine Browne	Head of Law (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	23/02/22	24/02/22
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	23/02/22	23/02/22
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place	23/02/22	
<i>Heads of Service (where relevant)</i>			

Alysse Strachan	Head of Neighbourhood Services	23/02/22	
<i>External (where relevant)</i>			
Local Access Forum, and Parish and Town Councils	As set out in report and Appendix B		

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Cllr Donna Stimson; Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside.	Yes
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
Panel decision	No	No

Report Author: Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager, 07775-818622
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Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

*and Public Rights of Way
Management and Improvement
Plan review*

2022-23

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the 24th annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 24 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 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 Maureen Hunt

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

April 2022

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	General	4
1.2	The Milestones approach	4
1.3	Partnership working	4
1.4	Volunteers	4
1.5	Resources	4
	Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish	5
2	OBJECTIVES	6
2.1	Priorities for 2022/23	6
2.2	Milestones Targets for 2022/23	7
2.3	Equal opportunities	7
2.4	Parish Paths Initiative	7
2.5	Local Access Forum	7
2.6	Thames Path National Trail	8
2.7	Equestrians	8
3	WELL MAINTAINED	9
3.1	Maintenance and Enforcement	9
3.2	Noteworthy current issues	9
3.3	Access for people with special needs	9
4	LEGALLY DEFINED	10
4.1	Definitive Map and Statement	10
4.2	Modification Orders	10
4.3	Rights of way database	10
4.4	Applications to modify the Definitive Map (claims)	10
4.5	Changes to the network	10
5	WELL PUBLICISED	11
5.1	Leaflets produced by the Council	11
5.2	Other books and publications	11
5.3	Guided walks and rides	11
6.	MONITORING AND REVIEW	12
6.1	Monitoring	12
6.2	Review	12
Appendix 1		
	Consultation on the Milestones Statement	14
Appendix 2		
	Statement of priorities for dealing with applications to amend the Definitive Map	15

Appendix 3	
Statement of priorities for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems	16
Appendix 4	
Service standards	17
Appendix 5	
Definitive map modification order applications (claims)	19
Appendix 6	
Achievement of Milestones Targets 2021/22	19
Appendix 7	
Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026: site specific proposals	21
Appendix 8	
Planning Position Statements	30
Appendix 9	
Table of outstanding reported problems	

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 310 km (192 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 Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026.

1.2 The Milestones approach

The 'milestones approach' is an effective means of prioritising public rights of way work and measuring performance against an agreed set of targets. This is achieved by:

- setting individual, realistic targets, taking into account the available resources – these are the Milestones Targets (see page 7).
- 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, neighbouring local authorities, 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 Initiative.

1.4 Volunteers

During 2021/22, several volunteer groups worked on public rights of way around the Borough:

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) carried out **16 workdays** with a total of **96** participant days.

Ways into Work (WiW) carried out **18 workdays** with a total of **90** participant days.

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) carried out **16 workdays** with a total of **80** participant days.

East Berks Ramblers carried out 298 hours of work on behalf of the Borough, mainly through undertaking condition surveys.

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is **£14,149**

1.5 Resources

The Council's 'Parks and Countryside Team' manage the public rights of way network; 3 members of the team work specifically on public rights of way, totaling 1.7 full time equivalents (fte). In addition, the Council's Legal team provides 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

<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
£60,000	£60,000

This works budget funds the annual vegetation clearance contract of programmed works, as well as reactive works such as clearance of fallen trees and branches from public rights of way, replacement of missing or damaged signs, surface repairs, removal of fly-tipping etc.

There is also a capital budget of **£40,000** for public rights of way work in 2022/23. This will be used for path improvement projects across the borough.

Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, March 2022

Parish	Length (km)				Total km	% of network
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway		
Bisham	13.146	2.524	-	2.228	17.898	5.75
Bray	36.803	9.999	2.184	0.564	49.550	15.93
Cookham	34.294	1.980	0.469	0.405	37.148	11.94
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.15
Datchet	4.761	-	-	-	4.761	1.53
Eton	18.396	3.561	-	-	21.957	7.06
Horton	1.200	1.254	-	-	2.454	0.79
Hurley	31.608	6.115	-	6.909	44.632	14.35
Maidenhead	29.796	0.439	-	2.596	32.831	10.56
Old Windsor	4.574	-	-	-	4.574	1.47
Shottesbrooke	3.240	-	-	1.612	4.852	1.56
Sunningdale	3.554	1.666	0.337	-	5.557	1.79
Sunninghill	11.244	-	3.592	1.299	16.135	5.19
Waltham St Lawrence	17.728	-	-	7.209	24.937	8.02
White Waltham	11.011	0.530	0.342	4.165	16.048	5.16
Windsor	4.339	1.994	1.644	0.259	8.236	2.65
Wraysbury	9.648	-	-	-	9.648	3.10
Total (km)	243.737	31.461	8.568	27.246	311.012	100.00
%	78%	10%	3%	9%		

OBJECTIVES

Priorities for 2022/23

- Maintenance and enforcement: bring all public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Recognise and further develop the role public rights of way management can play in furthering the Council's Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- 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 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, neighbouring local authorities, 'Wilds' groups across the borough)
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Improvements: seek improvements and additions to the network to enhance connectivity for horse riders, cyclists and people with restricted mobility.
- ***Explore opportunities to extend, create or promote safe, properly surfaced and well-maintained Multi-user Routes***
- 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 and encouraging the establishment of permitted routes.
- 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 compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), and the use of social media where appropriate.***
- ***Respond to reported fly-tipping on public rights of way promptly and efficiently and work with landowners to prevent or deter fly-tipping.***
- ***Investigate including destinations and distances where new signage is installed where appropriate.***
- Accessibility
 - Aim to establish a network of urban, semi-urban and highly used footpaths to be reasonably accessible for people with disabilities, older people and parents/ carers with young children.
 - The initial 6 localities to be surveyed are Battlemead Common, The Green Way, Ockwells Park & Thriftwood, Cock Marsh, Boulters Lock and the Thames at Old Windsor.
 - Recommendations from the annual footpath surveys to be considered for inclusion in the annual Milestones Statement and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
 - Investigate best practice with path surface materials that enable people with disabilities to use public rights of way and other footpaths. Use the results to develop a list of suitable surfaces and the circumstances in which they might appropriately be used.
 - Adopt the signage and information approach used by South Downs National Park for all online and hard copy maps of green spaces and accessible walks/routes; access for all/many/some; mapping symbols include gradients/resting places/access controls; standard information templates.
 - Consider the needs of people with disabilities in all footpath design and improvement programmes. Key aspects to consider: access of the route/site; appropriate footpath surfaces and width; removal of access barriers; resting places; connections with other footpaths/green spaces and transport (parking, bus stops); signage and information.

Develop a footpath survey template for use in areas where access for all or some routes are considered feasible. It should include the following elements: surfaces, gradients and condition; obstacles (access barriers, stiles, gates, steps); hazards (tree roots, overhanging or intrusive vegetation, barbed wire); signage and information; resting places.

The outcome of this study to be used to inform surveys of other localities throughout the borough.

Milestones Targets for 2022/23

Well Maintained

WM 1: To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is based on the former ‘Best Value Performance Indicator’ for public rights of way). Target for 2021/22 is **95%**.

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

WM 3: To repair or replace **7** bridges.

Well Publicised

WP 1: To produce **1** new Parish rights of way leaflet, including availability on-line.

WP 2: To assist others to produce effective promotional material: a minimum of **1** new or updated publication, including availability on-line.

Improving Access and Connectivity

AC 1: Create **1** new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted path (*in partnership with landowners*), to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network, as/when opportunities arise.

AC2: *To make 10 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by people with disabilities, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc. and provide appropriate information to users.*

Note: *the above targets are ‘subject to funding’, and subject to change should the need arise. This will ensure flexibility considering changing circumstances, for example to take advantage of opportunities that may arise during the course of the year, discussions with landowners, funding sources for specific projects etc.*

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 Local Access Forum and the Disability and Inclusion Forum.

The Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan and annual Milestones Targets include a number of policies and proposals aimed at improving access for people with special needs.

2.4 Parish Paths Initiative

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 Councils 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.

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.

During 2021/22 projects carried out by the PPI included the reprint of a Hurley walks leaflet, improvements to bridge approaches in Bray, improved signage in Bisham, surface improvements in Sunninghill, and further work on a new Wraysbury walks leaflet.

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 in 2003, the Forum is statutory advisory group which advises the Council on the management and improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough for open-air recreation.

In 2019 the Forum established two working groups to focus on significant hot topics to investigate in detail and feedback to the main Forum. These are: the Accessibility Working Group and the Horse Riding/Multi-User Working Group. These groups

continued to work with the public rights of way team throughout 2021.

The Forum publishes an annual report detailing its activities. Forum membership details, agendas, minutes, and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum pages of the borough website:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/rights-way/local-access-forums>

2.6 *Thames Path National Trail*

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

The Thames Path 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 Partnership, which also includes representatives from all Highway Authorities along the route of the Trail, as well as the River Thames Society, the Environment Agency, the Ramblers, Cycling UK, Transport for London, and Natural England.

Volunteers organised by the Thames Path Partnership regularly monitor the condition of the Trail and undertake practical maintenance works. Information about the Trail can be found on the following website:

<http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thames-path>

2.7 *Equestrian initiatives*

- Investigating possible upgrading of existing footpaths to bridleways, by negotiating with landowners and user groups, to improve road safety for horses and riders while considering 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 and the path continues to be well used by horse riders as well as walkers.

- Continuing to work with the Local Access Forum 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 landowners.
- Development and promotion of circular riding routes where appropriate, avoiding main roads and busy crossings where possible. This includes investigation into possible routes through and around Ashley Hill, Hurley
- Improvements to gates to make them more 'horse rider friendly'.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

Service standards, including British Standards for path furniture, are set out on page 17 of this Milestones Statement.

3.1 *Maintenance and Enforcement*

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 16 of this Milestones Statement.

The table in **Appendix 9** includes a list of outstanding reported problems on public rights of way in the borough

3.2 *Noteworthy current issues*

- Improvements to the Thames Path National Trail
- Multi-user and horse-riding provision – to aid the most vulnerable road users
- Accessibility to open spaces for people with mobility issues.

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.

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 2015 (effective date 1st November 2015) including all legal changes made since the previous consolidated Map was published in 2008. Subsequent changes are recorded by means of 'Definitive Map Modification Orders'.

The Definitive Map and Statement 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.

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

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

There are no outstanding applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's)

A statement of priorities for dealing with applications for DMMOs 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 changes are in the public interest.

Planning applications are checked by planning officers who consult the Public Rights of Way team and also the East Berks Ramblers on applications that may affect public rights of way. The Local Access Forum is also consulted on planning applications affecting public rights of way.

Where appropriate, conditions and informatives are then included in planning consents.

Following a recommendation from the Local Access Forum, "Planning Position Statements" have been passed to the Council's Planning team as set out in **Appendix 8**.

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*)
- Ploughing, crops and paths: a practical guide (*information leaflet for farmers and landowners*)
- 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.

These leaflets are currently being converted into a more web and printer-friendly version to make them easier for people to access online.

5.2 Other books and publications

Sunningdale, Bray, Datchet, Waltham St Lawrence, White Waltham and Hurley Parish Councils have all produced their own walks leaflets, with help from the Borough Council through the 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)
- Waltham St Lawrence Parish Paths and Circular Walks (Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council)
- White Waltham Parish and Paths (White Waltham Parish Council)

- Hurley Circular Walks (Hurley 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, including the Thames Path National Trail.

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

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/rights-way>

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

Public rights of way are also shown on the ‘Neighbourhood Maps’ on the borough website.

The web pages also include Registers of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO’s), and landowner’s statutory declarations, together with application forms and guidance notes for path diversion orders.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

6.1 *Monitoring/Performance indicator*

The following ‘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 originally 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 2021/22 was **90.7%** (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 Parish/Town Council’s so that co-ordinated priorities can be adopted.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on the Milestones Statement

The following organisations were consulted on the 2022/23 Milestones Statement

- 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, which includes members of the following organisations:
 - East Berks Ramblers
 - British Horse Society
 - Disability and Inclusion Forum
 - 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 based on 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
- All Parish Councils and Eton Town Council
- *Disability & Inclusion Forum*
- 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
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- *'Wilds' groups and other environmental groups across the borough*
- *Volunteer groups such as: The Conservation Volunteers, Good Gym, BCA volunteers*
- Any other interested parties

We will comply with British Standards on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. *BS 5709:2018* 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 5709:2018* produced by the Pittcroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team. *BS 8300-1:2018 contains some standards relevant to recreational use of land.*

We will 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.

We will use our powers:

- To enforce removal of any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) in accordance with the Council's Ploughing and Cropping procedure below, and give consideration to all available statutory powers including prosecutions where appropriate.

Ploughing and cropping procedure:

1. Make first contact with farmer via telephone and email (with a read receipt) to explain the report or issue. This telephone call and email should agree the date with the farmer for the resolution of the issue based upon the statutory 14-day deadline. Explain that if the works are not done by this deadline the issue will be reported to the Rural Payments Agency.
2. Take the 14-day deadline from the date that the farmer is first contacted by the Council. Where necessary, agree an extension of this deadline for up to 28 days, for example where ground conditions do not allow proper reinstatement within the normal 14-day period.
3. Request the farmer to contact RBWM when the reinstatement works have been done, if possible, providing photographic evidence. If the agreed deadline has not been met, the breach of regulations should then be reported to the Rural Payments Agency.
4. If the path has not been cleared and the path reinstated by the stated deadline the Council to arrange for a contractor to clear the path and reinstate the surface (as required) and the cost of these works is re-charged to the farmer. This issue is then closed.

We will publish an updated consolidated 'Definitive Map and Statement' in 2025 (consolidating the current edition which was published in 2015)

APPENDIX 5

Definitive map modification order applications (claims) currently being investigated

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
No current claims					No current claims

APPENDIX 6

Achievement of Milestones Targets 2021/22 (March 2022)

<p>WM1 <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (based on methodology from former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2021/22: 95%</i></p>	<p><i>[note surveys undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]</i> Spring survey result: 89.2% Autumn survey result: 92.2% Combined annual result: 90.7%</p>
<p>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></p>	
<p>Bray FP61 (off Oakley Green Road)</p>	<p>Removal of trip hazards</p>
<p>Datchet FP 5 (off Montagu Road)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Cookham FP 48 (The Green Way)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Cookham FP55 (Thames Path)</p>	<p>Removal of remains of old metal fencing stubs from footpath</p>
<p>Hurley RB 57 (off Bath Road)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Hurley RB 58 (Green Lane)</p>	<p>Surface repairs</p>
<p>Maidenhead FP 9 (Thames Path)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Maidenhead FP 16 (The Green Way)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Maidenhead FP 19 (The Green Way)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Maidenhead RB 70 (Malders Lane)</p>	<p>Surface improvements</p>
<p>Sunninghill RB 21 (Hodge Lane)</p>	<p>Surface repairs</p>
	<p>Total: 11</p>
<p>WM3 <i>To repair or replace 7 bridges.</i></p>	
<p>Bray FP16 (off Blackbird Lane)</p>	<p>Bridge replacement</p>
<p>Bray FP 24 (off Drift Road)</p>	<p>Bridge replacement</p>
<p>Bray FP 57 (off Oakley Green Road)</p>	<p>Bridge repairs</p>
<p>Margaret's Bridge (Braywick Park to Oldfield School)</p>	<p>Bridge repairs</p>
<p>Cookham FP 48 (The Green Way)</p>	<p>Repairs to decking</p>
<p>Datchet FP 9 (Thames Path)</p>	<p>Bridge repairs</p>
<p>Waltham St Lawrence FP 38 (off Smewins Road)</p>	<p>Bridge repairs</p>
<p>Waltham St Lawrence FP 31 (off Pool Lane)</p>	<p>Bridge repairs</p>
<p>Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 (off Hungerford Lane)</p>	<p>Bridge repairs</p>
	<p>Total: 9</p>

WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 <i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i> Wraysbury Parish leaflet (currently being finalised)	Total: 1 (in preparation)
WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i> Eton Town Council and Hurley Parish Council – walk leaflets updated	Total: 2
IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	
AC1 <i>Create 1 new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted path (in partnership with landowners), to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network as/when opportunities arise.</i> Water Oakley Quarry- new circular walk around perimeter of the quarry, off Windsor Road, Bray	Total: 1
AC2 <i>To make 10 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by people with disabilities, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</i>	
Bisham BR 2 (off Gibraltar Lane)	Safety signage installed
Bisham FP 21 (off Temple Lane)	Safety signage installed
Bray FP 72 (the Causeway)	Bridge repair access improvement
Datchet FP 10 (off Windsor Road)	Repair of the sleeper steps
Hurley FP 17 (Prospect Hill)	Repair handrail & steps
Hurley FP 29 boardwalk (off Bath Road)	Boardwalk repairs
Maidenhead FP 6 (Town Moor)	Bridge repair access improvement
Maidenhead FP 48 (The Green Way)	Ramps installed at both ends of bridge and across road cobbles
Maidenhead FP 80 (The Green Way)	Repairs to steps and handrails
Maidenhead FP 80 (The Green Way)	Removal of width restriction barriers to facilitate disabled access
	Total: 10

APPENDIX 7

Site specific projects in “Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026

Hurley, Shottesbrooke & the Walthams

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
1	Work with Wokingham Borough Council to secure a new off-road horse-riding link between Star Lane (Hurley) and Canhurst Lane by upgrading Wargrave Footpath 42
2	A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs
3	Upgrade White Waltham Footpath 9/National Cycle Route 4 to permitted bridleway. <i>(April 2015 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
4	(a) New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary <i>(March 2019 update: new section of streamside footpath has been included within layout of Ockwells Park/Thriftwood, Cox Green)</i> (b) Establish a new path from Windmills (White Waltham Footpath 20) to Howe Lane near Howe Lane Bridge
5	Work with Wokingham Borough Council to upgrade Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 for horse riding use
6	Creation of a path from Great Wood, White Waltham, south of the B3024 road to the track at Pond Wood Farm
7	Create a route for carriage drivers from Beenhams Road in White Waltham to Mare Lane in Binfield.
8	Improve bridleway links between RBWM and identified horse riding networks in Wokingham and Bracknell Forest
9	Direct crossings over/under the M4 avoiding the use of road bridges

Cookham & Bisham

10	Create a new bridleway/horse margin connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway: <i>(March 2020 update: route opened in Dec 2019, in conjunction with Highways England)</i>
11	Create a new right of way for non-motorised users linking Burchetts Green Roundabout to Permitted Bridleway 20, following the route of the A404 on its western side <i>(June 2015 update: proposal not supported by landowners, Temple Golf Club)</i>
12	Create a link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane

	<i>(March 2014 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
13	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael's Path) to a bridleway and divert the path to adjoin the disused Henley Road. <i>(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
14	Improve links between Bisham and Bisham Woods for non-motorised traffic, particularly regarding crossing the A404 Bisham Roundabout. <i>(February 2016 update: Highways England have decided not to proceed with the proposed alterations to this roundabout, however they are keeping the junction performance under review to identify whether small scale improvements can be made.)</i>
15	Extend the southern end of Bisham Bridleway 22 to connect with Dungrove Hill Lane
16	Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 17 to a Bridleway
17	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 23 to a bridleway, to link Burchetts Green to Stubbings and Maidenhead Thicket <i>(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
18	Create a cycling route between Hurley and Temple (a) Create a route adjacent to Bisham Footpath 21 to allow cycle use (b) Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 21 and Hurley Footpath 9 to allow cycle use and link with Mill Lane
19	Improve the surface of Bisham Restricted Byway 11 and Bisham Bridleway 12 <i>(March 2017 update: surface improvements completed)</i>
20	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>
21	Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.
22	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>
23	Crossings over the Thames: (a) from Hythe End to south bank avoiding M25 (b) from Magna Carta Island to north bank (c) from Wraysbury riverside to Old Windsor (d) from Ham Island to Sunnymeads

	<p>(e) from Datchet centre to Home Park</p> <p>(f) from north side of Eton to south bank</p> <p>(g) from Windsor near Slough railway bridge to north bank</p> <p>(h) from west side of Windsor (A308) to north bank</p> <p>(i) from Bray village to east bank</p> <p>(j) from west bank to southern tip of National Trust Cliveden Park</p> <p>(k) upstream of Maidenhead where towpath crosses to Bucks bank</p> <p>(l) near Cookham Lock where towpath crosses back again</p> <p>(m) from south side of Cookham bridge to towpath on Lock Cut</p> <p>(n) from Spade Oak Farm to south bank</p> <p>(o) downstream of A404 bridge</p> <p>(p) at Bisham Church</p> <p>(q) from south bank to Medmenham</p>
124	<i>(added for 2022/23: investigate creation of horse margin adjacent to the shared use cycle way on Switchback Road North. This would create a multi-user route and safe link for horse riders from Cookham village to the Cookham Bridle Circuit at Malder's Lane)</i>

Maidenhead & Cox Green

24	<p>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:</p> <p>(a) Nightingale Lane to the Green Way, subject to rail crossing provision</p> <p>(b) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path.</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update): Discussions are being held with the landowners about the proposed new footpath.</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update): the landowners have declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened).</i></p> <p><i>(March 2020 update: new footpath created across "Battlemead Common" to complete missing link)</i></p>
25	<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</p> <p><i>(March 2020 update: new footpath created across "Battlemead Common" to complete missing link)</i></p>

	<p>(b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge</p> <p>(c) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: upgrades to footbridges on Cookham FP 48 to enable disabled access: works ordered)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: improvements to gates at National Trust land, and stepped footbridge replaced with step-free accessible bridge)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: steps south of Chapel Arches replaced with a ramp, in association with redevelopment at former cinema site)</i></p>
26	<p>To establish a continuous riverside route of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the riverbank 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)</i></p> <p><i>(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 2015 update: Path Creation Agreement secured, and new roadside footpath opened north of Bridge Gardens)</i></p>
27	<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 Boulders Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: new footbridge design agreed, subject to redevelopment proposal on east side of the river being approved by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2019 update: new footbridge opened from Ray Mill Island/Boulders Lock to Taplow Riverside”)</i></p>
28	<p>Create a new foot/cycle bridge across the Cut and new footpath-cycleway linking Braywick Park to Bray Road adjacent to Oldfield Primary School</p> <p><i>(March 2019 update: new bridge and footpath-cycle way opened September 2018, named “Margaret’s Bridge” in memory of Margaret Bowdery MBE)</i></p>
29	<p>(a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route</p> <p>(b) <i>March 2009 addition:</i> Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists</p>
30	<p>Create a continuous streamside footpath around “The Maidenhead Ring”, including the Moor Cut and The Green Way, in association with the Maidenhead Waterways project</p>
31	<p>Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route</p>
125	<p><i>(added for 2022/23: explore, in discussions with the Parish Council and Local Access Forum the possibility of creating permissive horse-riding access at Thriftwood extension to Ockwells Park).</i></p>

Bray, Windsor and Eton

32	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerlease Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users.
33	Promote a circular route around Bray village, and around the old Biffa pits
34	Improve bridleway links between Eton, Dorney and Bray working with Bucks County Council and other neighbouring authorities.
35	A riverside path should be created in parallel to the Thames Path on the opposite side of the river
36	A route from Bray to Windsor, past Bray Film Studios
37	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>
38	Expand the multi-user routes in Eton to surrounding areas and link with other bridleway routes. <i>(March 2017 update: Discussions with landowners to allow horse riding use of the Jubilee River cycleway. At present permission has not been granted due to concerns about path width and potential issues at M4 underpass)</i>
39	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
40	Secure a Public Right of Way or permitted link at end of Bridleway 11a Windsor, and a new footway along Winkfield Road to create a circular walk
41	Crossings over the Thames to link villages /settlements on either bank with paths on the other, and to link isolated bits of the old towpath

Datchet, Horton, Old Windsor & Wraysbury

42	Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet <i>(March 2011 update): The landowner has declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened</i>
43	Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) Datchet Footpath 8 <i>(March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008)</i> <i>(March 2015 update: discussion with landowner about potential for widening the footpath)</i> <i>(March 2016 update: landowner has declined to widen the path, bank repair improvements completed to secure the riverbank)</i>
44	Thames side paths:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) along the banks of Ham Island (b) south bank of Thames from Home Park (c) along the shores of the big islands downstream of Cookham (<i>Cookham Parish</i>) (d) south bank between Bisham and Temple (<i>Bisham Parish</i>)
45	<p>Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan, depending on the working arrangements with the landowner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line (b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6 (c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6 (d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6 (e) footpath from Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Kingswood Creek (f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green (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 (h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road (i) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook. (j) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3) (k) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury (l) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370) (m) Footpath from Kingswood Creek to Old Ferry Drive (n) Footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook.
46	New route along the Colne Brook

Ascot, Sunninghill & Sunningdale

47	Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock <i>(December 2015 update: replacement of stepped footbridge west of Hurley Lock completed)</i> <i>(March 2015 update: surface improvements at St Georges Lane and Wells Lane)</i>
48	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill <i>(March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is not viable, however if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
49	Create a path from Ascot Station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride <i>(March 2007 update: Network Rail are unwilling to consider this proposed footpath creation)</i>
50	New footpath between Ascot High Street and Ascot Rail Station. <i>(March 2017 update: Path Creation Order confirmed, and path opened 1st February 2017)</i>
51	New footpath or cycle route from Ascot Centre to Ascot Rail Station
52	New footpath from St Georges Lane to Ascot Rail Station
53	New footpath or cycle route from Heatherwood Hospital to Prince Albert Drive
54	New footpath or cycle route between Prince Albert Drive and Ascot High Street around Heatherwood Hospital
55	New footpath or cycle route linking Bridge Road to Kings Road
56	New footpath or cycle route from Cavendish Meads to railway line
57	New footpath from Farm Close to Upper Village Road
58	New footpath linking Allen's Field to Swinley Forest
59	New footpath from Coombe Lane to Victory Fields Recreation Ground
60	New cycle route from Ascot High Street east of Station Hill to South Ascot via the A330 viaduct
61	New cycle route alongside Winkfield Road from the entrance to Ascot Racecourse and Royal Ascot Golf Course to the junction of A330 and A329 London Road/Ascot High Street
62	New cycle route from A330 Winkfield Road alongside New Mile Road, Cheapside Road and Watersplash Lane to B383 Sunninghill Road
63	Upgrade Sunninghill Footpath 5 to a bridleway usable by cyclists
64	Upgrade Sunninghill Footpath 1 to a bridleway usable by cyclists
65	New footpath from Liddell Way to Whiteladies Park

66	New footpath or cycle route from Heatherwood Hospital to Ascot Rail Station
67	New footpath from North Ascot to Ascot High Street across Ascot racecourse and through tunnel
68	New footpath east of Ascot Racecourse alongside Winkfield Road
69	New footpath through Silwood Park from Sunninghill Footpath 2 to Buckhurst Road
70	New footpath along Mill Lane linking into Windsor Great Park
71	New footpath alongside Whitmore Lane linking Sunningdale Byway 4, Sunningdale Footpath 2 and A329 London Road
72	New footpath alongside railway between Beech Hill Road to Kings Road
73	New footpath or cycle route from Sunninghill to Charters School on the edge of the railway and around school sites
74	New footpath from Sunningdale Park parallel to Larch Avenue
75	New footpath from Sunningdale Park / Larch Avenue to Park Drive
76	New footpath within Sunningdale Park linking Silwood Road to Station Road
77	New footpath around Southern border of Sunninghill Park parallel to Park Drive
78	New footpath from Sunningdale Park to Station Road
79	New footpath from Sunningdale Footpath 1 to Windsor Great Park adjacent to London Road
80	New footpath or cycle route linking Beech Hill Road over railway line to Charters School
81	New footpath from Bagshot Road to Charters School along Broadlands Drive
82	New footpath from Sunning Avenue into Charters School
83	Record the existing path round Beaufort Gardens loop to Burleigh Lane
84	Record the existing path from Kings Ride west of Heatherwood Hospital to the railway line
85	Record the existing path between Vernon Drive and Ruston Way
86	Record the existing path around Allen's Field
87	Record the existing path around the woods off Allen's Field
88	Record the existing path from Woodlands Ride to Allen's Field
89	Record the existing path along pine tree ridge near Liddell Way
90	Record the existing path to the west of Allen's Field

91	Record the existing path From Carroll Crescent via Beaumont Court to adopted path onto Bouldish Farm Road
92	Record the existing path between Elizabeth Gardens and Brockenhurst Road
93	Record the existing path from Armitage Court through open land / woods off St Mary's Hill
94	Record the existing path through woodland north west of Coombe Lane
95	Record the existing footpath round woodland off Coombe Lane
96	Record the existing path from St George's Lane to Coombe Lane
97	Record the existing path from Coombe Lane to Victory Field through Tom Green's Field
98	Record the existing path around the woods off Allen's Field
99	Record the existing path between New Road and Kennel Ride
100	Record the existing path between Winkfield Road and Oaklands Drive
101	Record the existing path across Ascot Racecourse
102	Record the existing path behind Hilltop Close
103	Record the existing path south of Hilltop Close to Sunninghill Footpath 2
104	Record the existing path from Hilltop Close to Playground
105	Record the existing path from Park Drive to Sunningdale Park
106	Record the existing path from Queen's Road Car Park to High Street by Chapmans
107	Record the existing path through woodland adjacent to Blythewood recreation area
108	Record the existing path through protected woodland by Blythewood recreation area
109	Record the existing path to/from green on Hanover Estate
110	Record the existing path under Ascot station and to Lyndhurst Rd
111	Record the existing path between Sutherland Chase and Blythewood Lane
112	Record the existing path from Cross Rd into Sunningdale Golf Course
113	Record the existing path between the A30 and the RBWM Car Park
114	Record the existing path around RBWM car park at Sunningdale
115	Record the existing path between Priory Road and Richmond Road
116	Record the existing path between Ridgemount Road and Priory Road to the level crossing
117	Record the existing path between Cedar Drive and Sunningdale Footpath 13

118	Record the existing path through Broomhall Recreation Ground
119	Record the existing paths linking from Hamilton and Greenways Drives to London Road A30
120	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Old Sunningdale via Silwood Rd to Sunninghill via Larch Avenue
121	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Silwood Rd to Sunninghill or Sunningdale
122	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (west) to Coworth Rd
123	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (east) to Coworth Rd

APPENDIX 8

Planning Position Statements

Guiding Principles for Planning to improve local access

1. All new proposed development should refer and comply with the *Policy IF5 of Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside* while designing new access routes and paths.
2. All access should be consistent with the Borough's *Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*.
3. All access improvements, routes, locks and POS should be dedicated as highway or protected legally in some way.
4. Access new developments should aim to provide accessibility to all and improve accessibility for disabled or elderly people and families with pushchairs.
5. All new access structures should comply with **BS 5709:2018** for gaps, gates & stiles, and all new routes should comply with *Environment Agency Access for All design guide* and RWBM ROWMIP.
6. On sites prone to flooding, paths need to be constructed with suitable permeable surface to ensure it can withstand and recover from a flood event.
7. If the path is a designated escape route it needs to be usable in the event of flooding and remain open at all times with suitable lighting for night-time use.
8. When considering fencing a path /route it should allow visual permeability and open views to create safe access route. The fencing should suitably blend into the character of the space without being detrimental to the aesthetics.
9. Boundaries should not be designed to deliberately curtail any views.
10. Paths should be wide enough with green verges so that they do not become narrow alleys. Footpaths should be wide enough to allow the use as cycle paths.
11. Enhancements should be sought through CIL contributions

Note: *Policy IF 5 “Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside”* is included in the Borough Local Plan 2013-2033, adopted by the Council on 8th February 2022, and this Policy incorporates the Borough's *“Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026”*.

The adopted Borough Local Plan also includes a Policy on open space, **Policy IF4 “Open Space”**

APPENDIX 9

Outstanding recorded problems on public rights of way at (March 2022)

Parish/Path number	Issue	Date reported
Bray FP 8 (Cresswells Farm)	Missing stile/furniture mid path. Obstructed by fence	29/11/21
Bray BR 22 (Long Lane)	Surface deterioration and ruts	10/10/21
Bray FP27 (off Gays Lane)	Widening sleeper bridge and replacing stile	22/06/21
Cookham FP55 (Thames Path)	Request to install bench	21/02/22
Eton FP4 (Jubilee river path)	Drainage issues	Ongoing
Eton BR 13 (off Haywards Mead)	Uneven surface reported on bridleway by the scout hut. Being investigated.	10/02/22
Hurley FP 61 and 62 (off Burchetts Green Lane)	Bicycle usage causing damage. Signage needed.	17/01/22
Maidenhead RB 72 (Nightingale Lane)	Ivy overgrowing from neighbouring property obstructing sightlines. Letter required.	10/02/22
Maidenhead FP80 (The Green Way and National Cycle Route 4)	Accessibility problems due to motorcycle barriers, reported by Sustrans.	25/11/21
Windsor FP10 and Old Windsor FP2 (Thames Path from Alberts Bridge)	Cyclists using FP illegally at speed. 'No Cycling' signs removed. New signage needed.	23/02/22

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Public Rights of Way Team
Place Directorate
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF**

If you require information in an alternative format, please contact the Public Rights of Way team at: prow@rbwm.gov.uk

Appendix B: consultation responses

<u>Responses from Parish Councils</u>	Officer comment, and/or suggested additional wording to be included in Milestones Statement
<p><u>Bray Parish Council</u> Thank you for forwarding the Right of Ways Milestone Statement for 2022-23, this has been reviewed by the Land Management Committee for Bray Parish Council. They are pleased to note the works due to be completed in Bray this year, but have no further comments.</p>	Noted.
<p><u>Cookham Parish Council</u> For information, the Parish Council discussed the Milestones statement at our meeting on 1st February but had no comment to make.</p>	Noted.
<p><u>Horton Parish Council</u> Horton Parish Council would like to suggest that there is a milestone relating to working with landowners to prevent fly tipping on public rights of way and where measures haven't been a prevention or deterrent there is a clear plan in place to remove the fly tipping that is then enforced. Maybe a target to reduce the fly tipping reports on public rights of way by x%.</p>	<p>It is suggested that the following is added to the list of 'Objectives' in the Milestones Statement:</p> <p><i>Respond to reported fly-tipping on public rights of way promptly and efficiently and work with landowners to prevent or deter fly-tipping.</i></p>
<p><u>Hurley Parish Council</u> Hurley Parish Councillors, at their meeting on Thursday 17th February, made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors thanked the Rights of Way Team for the ongoing annual consultations, and also for the good works in and around the Parish Council area. • They observed that some works had been completed on FP1, adjacent to the Thames to Marlow, but considered that additional surfacing works, particularly where tree roots were exposed, could be beneficial. • They observed that FP59, from the river to Dairy Cottage, was particularly muddy and might benefit from further inspection. 	The team will liaise with the Parish Council on these points.
<p><u>Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council</u> It is an impressive report but what I miss and maybe we can obtain it is the survey report of</p>	

<p>our Parish rights of way and the priority identified.</p> <p>This regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for disability • Environmental surface if needed, this can be coordinated with local tree surgeons and obtain their wood chips. • Which rights of way are allowed for horse riding. • Available signs and possible gate upgrades which the PC can obtain for potential installation. • Vegetation cutting and verge protection due to allowed traffic and according to that the approved weight limits. 	<p>The team will liaise with the Parish Council on these points.</p>
<p><u>Wraybury Parish Council</u></p> <p>In principle the Parish Council agrees with the aims of the document, but would like to see the previous 2021/22 target implemented: -</p> <p>The production of a leaflet covering the Public Rights of Way within and adjoining the Parish is finally achieved. The Parish Council would like to see the following included in the targets & priorities for 2022/23: -</p> <p>a) The Parish Council still contends that Magna Carta Lane is a Public Right of Way, it does not appear as such on the current Definitive Map. Appropriate steps need to be taken to rectify the current Definitive Map. This Lane previously appeared as a Public Right of Way on both Buckinghamshire & Berkshire County Council Definitive Maps. We do not want to see this lost.</p> <p>b) The Parish Council would like to see the Definitive Map updated to include the newer Public Footpaths with the Thames Field. They have now been official paths for a few years.</p>	<p>The team is working with the Parish Council on this leaflet, which we aim to publish by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>a) The team has a procedure in place for processing 'Definitive Map Modification Order' (DMMO) applications, also known as 'claimed' public rights of way. The 'Milestones Statement' includes a target to process all DMMO applications within one year of receipt of the application. DMMO applications can be based on documentary evidence, user evidence or a combination of both.</p> <p>b) The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way' (DMS) is updated on a continuous basis, as and when changes are made, such as confirmation of Diversion Orders or 'Definitive Map Modification Orders' (DMMOs). The Thames Field DMMO's were confirmed on 19th July 2018, following the Public Inquiry, so from that</p>

<p>c) There should be a priority shown for an update to the Definitive Maps, so that the public can clearly see where the Public Rights of Way are and what their status is.</p> <p>d) Back in 2016 in the Management & Improvement Plan, the Borough identified a path it called No. 45g, running from the Village centre car park along the back of the properties on the eastern side of the B376 Staines Road to the path at the front of the properties in Broadwater Close, then continuing beyond to link with Magna Carta Lane & to the permitted path at the side of 104 Staines Road. The Parish would like to see a commitment by the Borough in the 2022/23 Milestone document, to actively follow up on this identification of a possible Public Right of Way.</p> <p>e) Within the Milestone document the Parish Council would like the Borough to commit to entering dialogue with the National Trust to add the footpaths that are already signed on the ground within the Ankerwyke Estate, to the Definitive map as Permitted Paths.</p>	<p>date these paths are legally included on the 'Definitive Map and Statement'.</p> <p>c) Consolidated Definitive Maps and Statements (i.e. incorporating all confirmed DMMO's made since the previous consolidated map was published) are normally produced a number of years after the previous consolidated map was published (typically every 10 years, but this does vary between different Highway and Surveying Authorities). As the current RBWM 'Definitive Map and Statement' is dated 1st November 2015, we propose to publish the next 'Consolidated Map' with an effective date of 1st November 2025. However, in the meantime, the paths at Thames Field are shown on the interactive mapping service on the Borough website ("Know your Neighbourhood") and will also be included on the new Parish leaflet.</p> <p>d) The team will aim to process any DMMO application received for the footpath referred to within one year of the application being received.</p> <p>e) The team will liaise with the Parish Council and National Trust on these points. There are a number of Permitted Paths across NT land at the Ankerwyke Estate.</p>
<p>Responses from Local Access Forum members</p>	<p>Officer comment, and/or suggested additional wording to be included in Milestones Statement.</p>
<p>A number of members of the Local Access Forum have reviewed the Milestones Statement in discussion with the Public Rights of Way team, and a number of suggestions have been made</p>	

for amendments/additions, which have been incorporated into the draft Statement for 2022/23.

Additional or amended objectives or targets:

- *Explore opportunities to extend, create or promote safe, properly surfaced and well-maintained Multi-user Routes*
- *Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), and the use of social media where appropriate.*
- *Investigate including destinations and distances where new signage is installed where appropriate.*
- *To make 10 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by people with disabilities, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc. and provide appropriate information to users.*
- *Update all references to BS to latest version (BS 5709:2018 gaps, gates and stiles; and BS 8300-1:2018 which contains some standards relevant to recreational use of land).*

Additional groups to be added to Appendix 4

We will liaise with:

- *Disability & Inclusion Forum*
- *Wilds' groups and other environmental groups across the borough*
- *Volunteer groups such as: The Conservation Volunteers, Good Gym, BCA volunteers*

Additional site specific projects to be added to Appendix 7:

- *investigate creation of horse margin adjacent to the shared use cycle way on Switchback Road North. This would create a multi-user route and safe link for horse riders from Cookham village to the Cookham Bridle Circuit at Malders Lane*
- *explore, in discussions with the Parish Council and Local Access Forum the possibility of creating permissive horse-riding access at Thriftwood extension to Ockwells Park*

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqIA: Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2022-23

Essential information

Items to be assessed: (please mark 'x')

Strategy		Plan		Project		Service procedure	x
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Responsible officer	Anthony Hurst	Service area	Neighbourhood Services	Directorate	Place
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Stage 1: EqIA Screening (mandatory)	Date created: 23/02/2022	Stage 2 : Full assessment (if applicable)	Date created: (n/a)
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Approved by Head of Service / Overseeing group/body / Project Sponsor:

"I am satisfied that an equality impact has been undertaken adequately."

Signed by (print): Alysse Strachan, Head of Neighbourhood Services

Dated:

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2022-23

Guidance notes

What is an EqlA and why do we need to do it?

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advancing equality of opportunity between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.
- Fostering good relations between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.

EqlAs are a systematic way of taking equal opportunities into consideration when making a decision, and should be conducted when there is a new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure in order to determine whether there will likely be a detrimental and/or disproportionate impact on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups. All completed EqlA Screenings are required to be publicly available on the council's website once they have been signed off by the relevant Head of Service or Strategic/Policy/Operational Group or Project Sponsor.

What are the "protected characteristics" under the law?

The following are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: age; disability (including physical, learning and mental health conditions); gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

What's the process for conducting an EqlA?

The process for conducting an EqlA is set out at the end of this document. In brief, a Screening Assessment should be conducted for every new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure and the outcome of the Screening Assessment will indicate whether a Full Assessment should be undertaken.

Openness and transparency

RBWM has a 'Specific Duty' to publish information about people affected by our policies and practices. Your completed assessment should be sent to the Strategy & Performance Team for publication to the RBWM website once it has been signed off by the relevant manager, and/or Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group. If your proposals are being made to Cabinet or any other Committee, please append a copy of your completed Screening or Full Assessment to your report.

Enforcement

Judicial review of an authority can be taken by any person, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) or a group of people, with an interest, in respect of alleged failure to comply with the general equality duty. Only the EHRC can enforce the specific duties. A failure to comply with the specific duties may however be used as evidence of a failure to comply with the general duty.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqIA: Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2022-23

Stage 1: Screening (Mandatory)

1.1 What is the overall aim of your proposed strategy/policy/project etc and what are its key objectives?

The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2022-23' sets out a series of objectives, targets and service standards for the management of the Council's public rights of way network in the coming year. The key objectives are to ensure the effective management, maintenance and protection of the borough's public rights of way network for all users and stakeholders.

1.2 What evidence is available to suggest that your proposal could have an impact on people (including staff and customers) with protected characteristics? Consider each of the protected characteristics in turn and identify whether your proposal is Relevant or Not Relevant to that characteristic. If Relevant, please assess the level of impact as either High / Medium / Low and whether the impact is Positive (i.e. contributes to promoting equality or improving relations within an equality group) or Negative (i.e. could disadvantage them). Please document your evidence for each assessment you make, including a justification of why you may have identified the proposal as "Not Relevant".

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqIA: Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2022-23

Protected characteristics	Relevance	Level	Positive/negative	Evidence
Age	yes	medium	positive	The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' includes objectives and policies aimed at ensuring and improving access for people of all ages.
Disability	yes	medium	positive	The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' includes objectives and policies aimed at ensuring and improving access for people with disabilities.
Gender re-assignment	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.
Marriage/civil partnership	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.
Race	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.
Religion and belief	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.
Sex	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.
Sexual orientation	no			The 'Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement' will have no relevance to this characteristic.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqIA: Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2022-23

Outcome, action and public reporting

Screening Assessment Outcome	Yes / No / Not at this stage	Further Action Required / Action to be taken	Responsible Officer and / or Lead Strategic Group	Timescale for Resolution of negative impact / Delivery of positive impact
Was a significant level of negative impact identified?	no			
Does the strategy, policy, plan etc require amendment to have a positive impact?	no			

If you answered **yes** to either / both of the questions above a Full Assessment is advisable and so please proceed to Stage 2. If you answered “No” or “Not at this Stage” to either / both of the questions above please consider any next steps that may be taken (e.g. monitor future impacts as part of implementation, re-screen the project at its next delivery milestone etc).