

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

*and Public Rights of Way
Improvement Plan review*

2010-2011

April 2010

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the twelfth annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 12 years since this Council, as Highway Authority, became responsible for the management and maintenance of the public rights of way network.

I hope that residents and visitors to the borough will continue to enjoy the public rights of way network 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 Cyclists Touring Club and Sustrans), to achieve these goals and I wish to thank all of them for their continued co-operation, support and enthusiasm.

Councillor Asghar Majeed

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

April 2010

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	11
1.1	General	11
1.2	The Milestones approach	11
1.3	Partnership working	11
1.4	Resources	11
	Table 1: Length of rights of way by Parish	5
2	OBJECTIVES	13
2.1	Priorities for 2010/11	6
2.2	Milestones Targets for 2010/11	13
2.3	Equal opportunities	14
2.4	Parish Paths Initiative	7
2.5	Local Access Forum	14
2.6	Thames Path National Trail	7
2.7	Equestrians	7
3	WELL MAINTAINED	8
3.1	Maintenance and enforcement	8
3.2	Noteworthy current issues	8
3.3	Access for people with special needs	8
3.4	Local Transport Plan	8
	Table 2: reported problems on public rights of way	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
5.4	Borough website	11
6	MONITORING AND REVIEW	12
6.1	Monitoring	12
6.2	Review	12

Appendix 1	13
Consultation on the Milestones Statement	
Appendix 2	14
Statement of priorities for dealing with applications to amend the Definitive Map	
Appendix 3	15
Statement of priorities for dealing with maintenance or enforcement problems	
Appendix 4	16
Service standards (including British Standard on gaps, gates and stiles)	
Appendix 5	17
List of claimed paths	
Appendix 6	18
Achievements: Milestones targets 2009/10	
Appendix 7	19
Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan: site specific proposals	

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 within the borough. There are over 300 km (approx. 188 miles) of public rights of way in the borough, making up about a third of the borough's highway network in the borough (see table 1).

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.

1.3 Partnership working

The Council works closely with rights of way user groups, landowners, parish and town councils (through the Parish Paths Initiative), and the borough's Local Access Forum.

1.4 Resources

Management of the public rights of way network is carried out by a team of 2 full time and 1 part time public rights of way officers (total 2.7 fte). Legal support is provided by the Council's Legal Service, and Democratic Services assist in administration of the Local Access Forum.

The **revenue budget** for public rights of way works in 2009/10 (including staffing, admin. and support services) was **£223,280** including **£44,000** for routine maintenance, Parish Paths projects, information/promotion and contingency. The approved revenue budget remains unchanged for 2010/11, to be allocated as follows:

	<u>Approx. £</u>
Revenue budget: £44,000	(2009/10 in brackets)
Routine vegetation management (incl. programmed works contract)	27,000(25,000)
Parish Paths projects	9,000 (10,000)
Information/promotion	2,000 (3,000)
Contingency	6,000 (6,000)
Total:	£44,000

In addition, the Council's in-house Task Force will be available to carry out works to the value of **£10,000** in 2010/11.

The **capital budget** for public rights of way works in 2009/10 was **£60,000**, of which **£15,000** was from accrued S.106 developer contributions. Additionally, access improvements to the public footpath crossing over the railway line north of Sunnymeads station were funded from the capital programme (**£25,000**).

During 2009/10 the following additional works were also funded by **developer contributions** from S.106 Planning Agreements:

Green Way, Ray Mill Road West to Town Moor: surface upgrade (**£6,000** developer contribution).

Green Way, York Road to Maidenhead library: surface upgrade carried out by developer.

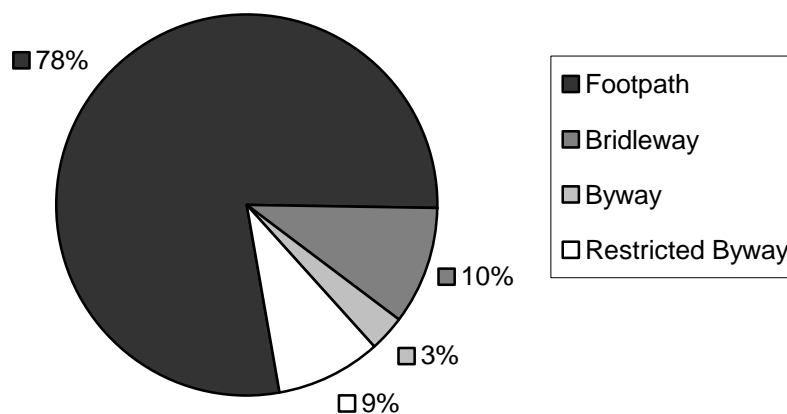
In 2009/10 a grant of **£15,000** was secured from Natural England as a contribution towards works on the Cookham to Boulton Lock section of the Thames Path National Trail, and the East Berks Ramblers paid **£370** for the installation of a bench on the this section of the Trail.

The capital budget for 2010/11 will rely entirely on external funding. Recently **£19,000** has been allocated and further S106 contributions will be added as they become available. These funds will be targeted towards the Milestones Targets listed on page 6 and reducing the backlog of outstanding problems on rights of way listed on page 9 of this Milestones Statement.

Table 1
Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, April 2010

Parish	Length (km)				Total	% of network	
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway			
Bisham	13.146	2.524	-	2.228	17.898	5.883	%
Bray	36.663	9.999	2.184	0.682	49.528	16.279	%
Cookham	33.627	1.978	0.469	0.405	36.479	11.990	%
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.219	%
Datchet	5.129	-	-	-	5.129	1.686	%
Eton	18.06	3.561	-	-	21.621	7.107	%
Horton	1.201	0.95	-	-	2.151	0.707	%
Hurley	31.433	6.115	-	6.909	44.457	14.613	%
Maidenhead	29.553	0.439	-	2.596	32.588	10.711	%
Old Windsor	4.574	-	-	-	4.574	1.503	%
Shottesbrooke	3.24	-	-	1.612	4.852	1.595	%
Sunningdale	3.554	1.666	0.337	-	5.557	1.827	%
Sunninghill	10.771	-	3.593	1.299	15.663	5.148	%
Waltham St Lawrence	17.715	-	-	7.209	24.924	8.192	%
White Waltham	9.864	0.53	0.342	4.165	14.901	4.898	%
Windsor	3.342	1.994	1.644	0.259	7.239	2.379	%
Wraysbury	6.884	-	-	-	6.884	2.263	%
Total (km)	237.151	31.155	8.569	27.364	304.239	100	%

Path status across the network



2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 Priorities for 2010/11

The Royal Borough, in consultation with the interested parties listed in Appendix 1, considers that its priorities in public rights of way management for 2010/11 are as follows:

- Maintenance and enforcement: bringing public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- 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.
- Parish Paths Initiative (PPI) scheme: continuing to work with parish and town councils and volunteers.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seeking improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Improvements to the network: seeking improvements for horse riders and people with restricted mobility.
- Consultation: ensuring 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.

2.2 Milestones Targets for 2010/11

NB all targets are subject to availability of funding

Proposed changes from 2009/10 are shaded

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 2010/11 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 determine a minimum of 4 applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map.

LD 2: To resolve a minimum of 1 significant error in the definitive map.

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 for 2010/11: a minimum of 1 new publication.

Improving Access and Connectivity

AC 1: To achieve 1 (**increase to 2**) new route from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan projects.

AC 2: To make physical improvements including replacement of 27 (**reduce to 20**) stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.

Enforcement

EN 1: To resolve 24 (**increase to 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 includes a number of policies and proposals relating to 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.

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 Borough's Local Access Forum was set up in 2003 (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) to advise the Council and other bodies on improvements to public rights of way, and promote sustainable access for the benefit of the environment and all in our community.

During **2009/10** the Forum has discussed and given advice to the Council on a variety of topics, including the Milestones Targets for 2010/11, stile removal priorities, the Thames Path, disabled access routes, and the Council's website. It also held 2 informal site meetings to inspect missing links in the Millennium Walk.

The Forum publishes an annual report detailing its activities in July each year. 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 15 National Trails in England and Wales.

The Trail passes through Hurley, Cookham, Maidenhead, Eton, Windsor, Datchet and Old Windsor. 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 Trail's Management Group, which includes representatives from the relevant Highway Authorities, the Environment Agency, the National Trails Office and Natural England. The Thames Path Management Strategy 2006/11 is published and monitored by the Management Group.

The Council is also a member of the River Thames Alliance, which has published the Thames Waterway Plan 2006/11.

2.7 Equestrians

The main areas for improving the safety of riders and promoting the use of bridleways, byways and restricted byways include:

- 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 highway and progressing with the necessary procedures to achieve this, together with developing changes in the maintenance of highway verges to enable their safe use.
- Development and promotion of circular riding routes.
- Improvements to gates to make them more 'horserider friendly'.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

3.1 *Maintenance and Enforcement*

Table 2 (opposite) includes a summary of maintenance and enforcement problems reported in the period **April 2009 to March 2010** and the numbers of problems that remain outstanding.

The Council uses a GIS linked computer database to record problems encountered on rights of way, an inventory of path furniture, landowner details etc.

The database is updated regularly by condition surveys, and on a day-to-day basis as reports are received from members of the public.

Condition surveys are carried out on a 3-year “rolling” programme, with approximately 1/3 of the network being surveyed each year. The majority of the surveys are carried out by the East Berks Ramblers on the Council's behalf.

The East Berks Ramblers also check whether problems that had previously been reported and entered onto the database have since been resolved and should therefore be closed on the database.

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
- Stiles on right of way
- Condition of bridges on rights of way
- Signposting and way marking

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.

3.4 *Local Transport Plan (LTP)*

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-15 forms an Annexe of the RBWM Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

Discussions are currently taking place with the Council's transport planners on the best ways to ensure effective integration of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with the replacement Local Transport Plan 2011-2026.

Table 2

Reported problems on Public Rights of Way in the Borough (NB to be updated 1st April)

	Outstanding at 31 st March 2009	Reported 1 st April 2009 to 31 st Jan 2010	Closed 1st April 2009 to 31st Jan 2010	Total Outstanding at 31st Jan 2010
ENFORCEMENT				
Ploughing and lack of marking	1	0	1	0
Obstruction by crops	4	6	9	1
Fence encroachment	44	1	7	38
Fence obstruction	9	2	2	9
Building obstruction	3	0	0	3
Other obstructions	37	11	11	37
Stiles	56	9	14	51
Gates	12	2	2	12
Bulls/ other animal problems	2	0	2	0
Unauthorised use by horses	8	0	2	6
Unauthorised vehicular use	6	0	2	4
Electric fencing	3	0	1	2
Misleading notices	1	1	0	2
Intimidation	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	35	5	9	31
Other Enforcement Problems	44	4	13	35
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	265	41	75	231
MAINTENANCE				
Vegetation	37	23	17	43
Rutting	5	3	4	4
Drainage	30	3	11	22
Fallen trees	9	32	39	2
Erosion	44	11	19	36
Tree problems	12	3	10	5
Bridges	28	9	9	28
Safety barriers	14	5	9	10
Steps	3	1	2	2
Roadside signposting	43	22	16	49
Signposting at path junctions	66	14	20	60
Waymarking	37	29	13	53
Rubbish/ waste	7	7	6	8
Other Maintenance Problems	56	23	20	59
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	391	185	195	381
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	656	226	270	612

Routine Maintenance: work items completed 01/04/2009 – 31/01/2010: (Works that would previously have been listed in the main table as having been reported and resolved over the report period)	450
--	------------

* 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 (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.

This enables 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 15 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 interests of the public.

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

Policy R14 in the RBWM 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.
- The Green Way
- Ascot and Sunninghill Circular Walk
- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- Cookham Bridleway Circuit
- Cycling in Windsor and Maidenhead
- Cookham 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 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’ Association organises a programme of walks for its members

and the general public, and the British Horse Society organises 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 definitions of the various types of public rights of way, landowner responsibilities, legal changes to the network, contact details, and electronic maps of all rights of way in the borough.

Recently an interactive copy of the full Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way has been made available online.

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, a register of Highways Act declarations made by landowners, and forms for reporting problems on rights of way.

The web pages also contain information about the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the Parish Paths Initiative scheme and the Milestones Statement. Public Rights of Way leaflets and publications are also available to download.

The web pages include a section on the Local Access Forum, containing annual reports, agendas, minutes and background materials from previous meetings, and details of the membership and Terms of Reference of the Forum.

The web pages are regularly updated and all new leaflets or publications will be produced in a format that enables publication on the website.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

6.1 *Monitoring*

The public rights of way database is used to provide a regular assessment of progress towards individual targets.

Prior to 1st April 2008, the Council had been required to publish a Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) for public rights of way: **“The percentage of the total length of footpaths and other rights of way which were easy to use by members of the public”**.

Although no longer a nationally required Best Value Performance Indicator, the indicator forms part of the borough’s Local Transport Plan set of indicators, and also provides a useful benchmark for assessing the condition of the network. In common with most other Highway Authorities, the Council therefore still collects the data and compiles the indicator using the established BVPI methodology.

The indicator result for the borough in 2009/10 was **93.4 %**. This indicator is calculated using a methodology devised by the County Surveyors Society, and is based on surveys of a random sample of the rights of way network, carried out in May and November each year.

The surveys for 2009/10 were carried out using a random sample of 20% of the network, which is approximately 60 km of path.

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 2009/10

The following organisations were consulted on the 2009/10 Milestones Statement

- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
- All Parish and Town Councils in the borough
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- Open Spaces Society
- Thames Path National Trails Office
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Landowners and Business Association

- 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
 - Disabled Ramblers
 - Council for the Protection of Rural England
 - Crown Estate
 - National Trust
 - Woodland Trust
 - Royal East Berks Agricultural Association

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 Pittecroft 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

List of claimed paths (as at April 2010)

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Comment
			From	To	
White Waltham	FP 501	2008	White Waltham RB 4	White Waltham FP 9	Claimed Footpath
Cox Green	FP 501	2009	Culley Way	Farmers Close	Claimed Footpath
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various paths at Thamesfield		Claimed Footpath
Eton	FP 502	1977	N of Somerville Rd between numbers 23 and 25	FP 8 Eton	Claimed for DRM
Eton	FP 505	1977	W end of Common Lane	Bell Lane at entrance to Bell Farm	Claimed for DRM
Eton	FP 506	1977	Bend in FP46	Common Lane	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 508	1977	Moorfield Terrace	FP 4 Maidenhead	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 506	1977	Ray St	FP 4 Maidenhead	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 523	1977	Castle Hill	The Crescent	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 524	1977	Fane Way, through Desborough Park	Rixman Close and FP56	Claimed for DRM
Wraysbury	FP 500	1977	Staines Road	River Thames	Claimed for DRM, currently 'permitted' by Ankerwycke

Shaded sections indicate claims currently being investigated

Note: DRM = Draft Revised Definitive Map of Berkshire (1976) No evidence or formal applications have been received in respect of these paths, however the paths were included in a list of paths submitted to Berkshire County Council by the Ramblers Association when the Draft Revised Map was produced in 1976.

APPENDIX 6: ACHIEVEMENT OF MILESTONES TARGETS 2009/10

WELL MAINTAINED	
WM1 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 2009/2010: 95%	93.4% “easy to use” (result for 2008/09 was 87.4%)
WM2 To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)	Bray BR 44 (Gays Lane), and FP 61. Cookham FP 55 (Thames Path), and Byway 68 (Jobs Lane). Hurley BR 15 (Hodgedale Lane). Old Windsor FP 3 (Thames Path). Sunningdale FP 13. Walt. St. Lawrence RB 30 (Downfield Lane) and RB 7. White Waltham RB 8 (Snowball Hill). Total 10 paths improved
WM3 To repair or replace 5 bridges.	Cookham FP 48 Cox Green FP 6 Maidenhead FP 84 Walt. St. Lawrence FP 38. Total 4 bridges repaired or replaced
LEGALLY DEFINED	
LD1 To determine a minimum of 4 applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map (claims).	1 claim determined FPC 501 Shottesbrooke (application refused February 2010)
LD2 To resolve a minimum of 1 significant error in definitive map.	0
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 To produce 1 leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.	0
WP2 To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target for 2009/10: a minimum of 1 new publication.	1 promotional project (contributed to Thames Path website improvements made by the National Trails Office)
IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	
AC1 To achieve 1 new route from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan projects	1 new route New public bridleway from Horton BR 4 to Horton Road (under construction) ROWiP project 2.16 (m)

<p>AC2 To make physical improvements, including replacement of 27 stiles with gates, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</p>	<p><u>Bray FP 38</u>: stile replaced with “Oxford” kissing gate for medium mobility vehicles.</p> <p><u>Bray FP 61</u>: four stiles replaced with “Oxford” medium mobility kissing gates.</p> <p><u>Datchet FP 6</u>: stile replaced with “Woodstock” medium mobility kissing gate.</p> <p><u>Horton FP 3</u>: two bridge stiles replaced with gaps/ramps.</p> <p><u>Hurley FP 28</u>: one stile replaced with British Standard medium mobility kissing gate.</p> <p><u>Old Windsor FP 7</u>: utility marker posts and traffic sign re-positioned to improve access to footpath</p> <p><u>Waltham St. Lawrence FP 38</u>: bridge-stile replaced with “Aston” pedestrian gate and ramp</p> <p><u>Wraysbury FP 11(rail crossing)</u>: two stiles replaced with “Oxford” medium mobility kissing gates and ramps.</p> <p>Total 12 stiles removed</p>
<p>ENFORCEMENT</p>	
<p>EN 1 To resolve 24 enforcement issues</p> <p><u>Bisham FP 17</u>: pedestrian gap too narrow</p> <p><u>Bisham FP 18</u>: electric fencing adj. to stile</p> <p><u>Bisham FP 32</u>: path cropped and not re-instated</p> <p><u>Bray FP 1</u>: post and rail fence obstructing path</p> <p><u>Bray FP 41 and 58</u>: paths not re-instated by SE Water</p> <p><u>Cookham FP 60</u>: planting issue</p> <p><u>Eton FP 1</u>: horse riders using/damaging the Thames Path</p> <p><u>Eton FPs 4, 17, 18</u>: paths cropped and not re-instated</p> <p><u>Eton FP 19</u>: path cropped and not re-instated</p> <p><u>Maid FP2A and 25A</u>: hedges obscuring FP signs</p> <p><u>Maid FP 44</u>: rat infestation</p> <p><u>Maid BR 46</u>: vehicles using bridleway</p> <p><u>Maid FP 84</u>: garden rubbish dumping</p> <p><u>Maid FP 9</u>: cycling problems on path</p> <p><u>Shottesbrooke FP 8</u>: fence leaning across path</p> <p><u>Walt. St. Lawrence RB 30</u>: motorcycle use</p> <p><u>Walt. St Lawrence FP 41</u>: barbed wire adj. to path</p> <p><u>White Waltham FP 19</u>: gate and car obstructing path</p> <p><u>White Waltham FP 20</u>: unauthorized gate</p>	<p><u>Resolved</u></p> <p>Gap widened by landowner</p> <p>Fence non-electrified</p> <p>Path re-instated by landowner. Reported to Rural Payments Agency (RPA)</p> <p>Access improvement scheme</p> <p>Paths re-instated by SE Water</p> <p>Landowner advised of responsibility to keep shrubs cut back, to be monitored.</p> <p>Signs erected, no further problem reports</p> <p>Paths re-instated by landowner. Reported to RPA</p> <p>Path re-instated by Council. (costs charged to landowner) Reported to RPA</p> <p>Hedges cut back by householders</p> <p>Dealt with by pest control</p> <p>Bollard and signage installed</p> <p>Rubbish cleared by householder</p> <p>“No cycling,” signs installed.</p> <p>Fence replaced by landowner</p> <p>Signs erected, no further issues reported.</p> <p>Barbed wire removed by landowner</p> <p>Obstructions removed by landowner</p> <p>Gate removed by landowner</p> <p>Total 23 issues resolved</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 Dungrove 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>March 2010 update: 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. Improvements to the paths either side of the bridge are being investigated in conjunction with access to Dorney for the 2012 Olympics, and resultant 'legacy' benefits</i>)	Bray
1.3	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users (<i>March 2010 update: improvements to paths in this area are currently being investigated in conjunction with access to Dorney for the 2012 Olympics, and resultant 'legacy' benefits</i>)	Eton
1.4	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill (<i>March 2009 update: Initial feasibility studies have indicated that the potential benefits of this project would not justify the cost</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 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>)	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 (c) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path	Hurley Cookham
2.3	Divert Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael’s Path) to run along the disused Henley Road	Bisham
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
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>)	Various
2.9	Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) of: (a) Thames Path from Boulter’s Lock to Cookham (<i>March 2010 update: river bank repairs, erosion control and path reinstatement works carried out</i>) (b) Datchet Footpath 8 (<i>March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008</i>)	Cookham Datchet
2.10	Make the Thames Path and associated paths accessible to mobility restricted users from Temple to Frog Mill via Hurley	Bisham & Hurley
2.11	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>)	Cookham

2.12	Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.	Cookham
2.13	Creation of a path parallel to the Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook common	
2.14	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>	
2.15	Create the following paths from the 1999 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan: (a) a path from Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path (b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge (c) a crossing of dry flood ditch, Town Moor, Maidenhead as part of Green Way (d) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users	Cookham Bray Maidenhead Maidenhead & Cookham
2.16	Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan: (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 along Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Old Ferry Drive (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	Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury
	(h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road (i) footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook to the Horton Parish Boundary (j) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook. (k) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3) (l) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury (m) footpath from Horton Bridleway 4 to Horton Road <i>(March 2010 update: new bridleway under construction)</i> (n) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370)	Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury Horton
2.17	Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet	Datchet

2.18	Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock	Eton, etc
2.19	Upgrade Jubilee River paths to allow horse riding	
2.20	A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs	Hurley
2.21	Secure a continuation of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens (<i>March 2010 update: the promenade 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>)	Maidenhead
2.22	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	
2.23	Create a link between Braywick Park and Bray Road and Maidenhead Footpath 1	Maidenhead
2.24	(a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route (b) <i>March 2009 addition: Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists</i>	
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	Wraysbury
2.32	[Added 10/1/2007] Divert Hurley Footpath 47 and Hurley Footpath 49 to improve A4 Road Crossings. (<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>).	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
Environmental Services Directorate
Highways and Engineering Unit,
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 on 01628-683800

