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Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

and Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan Review 2026 - 2027

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the **28th** annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 28 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 Mandy Brar

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

April 2026

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The Royal Borough as the surveying and Highway Authority is responsible for the management and maintenance of the public rights of way network in the borough. There are over 311 km (193 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 9).
- monitoring progress towards achieving the Milestones Targets (see page 24).

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 2025/26, several volunteer groups worked on public rights of way around the Borough:

Parks Team carried out **3 workdays** with a total of **21** participant days.

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) carried out **18 workdays** with a total of **108** participant days.

East Berks Ramblers carried out **179** hours of work on the Spring 2026 Survey and **197** hours on the Autumn 2025 Survey on behalf of the Borough, mainly through undertaking condition surveys.

Based upon our current commercial rates for path work the value of the volunteer work listed above is £11,148.

1.5 Resources

The Council's Parks and Countryside Team manage the public rights of way network; 2 members of the team work specifically on public rights of way, totaling 1.5 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

2025-26	2026-27
£46,120	**£46,120**

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 no allocated capital budget dedicated for public rights of way work in **2026/27**. However, the Council will continue to work with volunteers on public rights-of-way improvement projects, and sources of external funding will be sought for individual projects if possible.

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Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, March 2026

Parish	Length (km)						
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway	**Total km**	% of network	
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 2026/27

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

Ensure 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. [NB: issue of the ongoing closure of the Temple Footbridge which was closed in 2023 for repairs]
- Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk and help improve signage for this and other similar locally significant routes.
- 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 and Improvements to the network

- Seek improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Seek improvements and additions to the network to enhance connectivity for horse riders, carriage drivers, 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 mapped routes to be reasonably accessible for people with disabilities, older people and parents/ carers with young children.
- The initial 6 localities surveyed are Battlemead Common, The Green Way, Ockwells Park & Thriftwood, Cock Marsh, Boulters Lock and the Thames at Old Windsor.
- Information from the annual PROW surveys to be considered for inclusion in the annual Milestones Statement.
- Investigate best practice with 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 PROW design and improvement programmes. Key aspects to consider, access of the route/site; appropriate surfaces and width; removal of access barriers; resting places; connections with other routes/green spaces and transport (parking, bus stops); signage and information.
- Develop a route 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 2026/27

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 2026/27 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 2025/26 officers worked with the parishes on a number of projects including promotional leaflets, improving signage, looking at potential network linkages and identifying paths for improvement via partnership working and funding.

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 and active travel.

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. We would welcome suggestions for any potential new locations.
- 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.
- Improvements to gates to make them more ‘horse rider friendly’.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

3.1 Maintenance and Enforcement

Public Rights of Way 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 20 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, including the ongoing issue of Temple bridge closure.
- Timber footbridges across the borough nearing end of life
- Multi-user and horse-riding provision – to aid the most vulnerable road users
- Accessibility to open spaces for people with mobility issues.
- Long term funding solutions for PRoW volunteers to enhance the network
- Processing diversion applications
- Updating promotional material
- Aim to consolidate Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way 2015

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 17 of this Milestones Statement.

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 have been 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).
- Wraysbury Parish Paths and Circular Walks

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 information on how to apply 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 (now known as ADEPT) 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 2025/26 was **92.4% (**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 to 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 2026/27 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
    - Windsor & District Ramblers Association
    - British Horse Society
    - Royal East Berks Agricultural Association
    - 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 as well as animals in the vicinity. A condensed version of **BS 5709:2018** produced by the Pittecroft 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 public right of way every three and a half 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 ideally within one working day of notification, aim to make safe within one working day of inspection, and inform correspondents of the results within three working days.

We will publish an updated consolidated 'Definitive Map and Statement' in 2026 (consolidating the current edition which was published in 2015)

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/way has not been cleared and reinstated by the stated deadline the Council to arrange for a contractor to clear the path/way and reinstate the surface (as required) and the cost of these works is re-charged to the farmer. This issue is then closed.

APPENDIX 5

Definitive map modification order applications (claims) currently being investigated.

Parish	**Claim no**	**Claim date**	Path description		**Current status**
			From	**To**	

APPENDIX 6:

Achievement of Milestones Targets **2025/26** *(March 2026)*

WM1 *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 2025/26:* **95%**	*[note surveys undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]* Spring (26) survey result**:** 95% Autumn (25) survey result: 89.7% Combined annual result: **92.4%**
WM2 *To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)*	
Cookham FP60	New surfacing to remove trip hazard caused by tree roots
Cookham FP50	Improved surface - Remove 8 x old iron fence stumps
Eton FP1 (Thames Path)	Surface improvement
Bray BR11 (Thrift Lane)	Surface improvement
Sunninghill Byway 18	Surface repairs (potholes)
	Total: 5
WM3 *To repair or replace **7** bridges.*	
Cookham FP60 (Thames Path)	Bridge repair
Maidenhead FP19	Bridge repair
Waltham St Lawrence FP38	Bridge upgrade
Bray FP45	Bridge repair
Bray FP24	Bridge repair
Waltham St Lawrence FP26	Bridge repair
Bray FP18	Bridge replacement
Maidenhead FP19	Bridge repair
	Total: 8
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 *To produce **1** new Parish rights of way leaflet*	**Total: 0**
WP2 *To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of **1** new or updated publication.*	**Total: 1**

Hurley reprint of Parish Walks leaflet	
IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	
AC1 *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.*	**Total: 0**
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.*	
Braywick Nature Reserve steps	Repair handrails
Sunninghill FP5	Repair handrail
Maidenhead FP20	Install culvert to repair surface
New Windsor FP16	Remove trip hazards
Maidenhead RB72 (Nightingale Lane)	New signage designed to reduce unauthorized vehicular use and therefore improve user safety
	Total: 5

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 *(Update 2024 The EA are investigating these routes as an off-road alternative diversion of the Thames Path – due to long term closure of Temple Bridge)* ***(Update 2025 The EA have rejected this proposal due to private land ownership)***
3	Upgrade White Waltham Footpath 9/National Cycle Route 4 to permitted bridleway. *(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)*
4	(a) New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary *(March 2019 update: new section of streamside footpath has been included within layout of Ockwells Park/Thriftwood, Cox Green)* (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

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
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: *(March 2020 update: route opened in Dec 2019, in conjunction with Highways England)*
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 *(June 2015 update: proposal not supported by landowners, Temple Golf Club)*
12	Create a link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane *(March 2014 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)*
13	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael's Path) to a bridleway and divert the path to adjoin the disused Henley Road. *(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)*
14	Improve links between Bisham and Bisham Woods for non-motorised traffic, particularly regarding crossing the A404 Bisham Roundabout. *(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.)*
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 *(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)*
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 *(March 2017 update: surface improvements completed)*
20	Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common *(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)*
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
(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)
(Update 2025 proposal being revisited.)

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

(e) from Datchet centre to Home Park

(f) from north side of Eton to south bank

(g) from Windsor near Slough railway bridge to north bank

(h) from west side of Windsor (A308) to north bank

(i) from Bray village to east bank

(j) from west bank to southern tip of National Trust Cliveden Park

(k) upstream of Maidenhead where towpath crosses to Bucks bank

(l) near Cookham Lock where towpath crosses back again

(m) from south side of Cookham bridge to towpath on Lock Cut

(n) from Spade Oak Farm to south bank

(o) downstream of A404 bridge

(p) at Bisham Church

(q) from south bank to Medmenham

124 (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)

Maidenhead & Cox Green

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
24	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, subject to rail crossing provision *(b)* Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path. *(March 2014 update): Discussions are being held with the landowners about the proposed new footpath.* *(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).* *(March 2020 update: new footpath created across "Battlemead Common" to complete missing link)*
25	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 *(March 2020 update: new footpath created across "Battlemead Common" to complete missing link)* (b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge (c) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users *(March 2014 update: upgrades to footbridges on Cookham FP 48 to enable disabled access: works ordered)* *(March 2015 update: improvements to gates at National Trust land, and stepped footbridge replaced with step-free accessible bridge)* *(March 2015 update: steps south of Chapel Arches replaced with a ramp, in association with redevelopment at former cinema site)*
26	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 *(March 2010 update: the footpath opposite the Thames Hotel was extended in 2007, however a gap of approximately 30m remains in order to complete the link to Bridge Gardens)* *(March 2011 update: funding options for completing the remaining section of missing link are being explored in discussion with the Ramblers)* *(March 2015 update: Path Creation Agreement secured, and new roadside footpath opened north of Bridge Gardens)*

27 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

(March 2013 update: a new footbridge across the Thames at Boulters Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)
(March 2015 update: new footbridge design agreed, subject to redevelopment proposal on east side of the river being approved by South Bucks District Council)
(March 2019 update: new footbridge opened from Ray Mill Island/Boulters Lock to Taplow Riverside")

28 Create a new foot/cycle bridge across the Cut and new footpath-cycleway linking Braywick Park to Bray Road adjacent to Oldfield Primary School

(March 2019 update: new bridge and footpath-cycle way opened September 2018, named "Margaret's Bridge" in memory of Margaret Bowdery MBE)

29 (a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route

(b) March 2009 addition: Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists

30 Create a continuous streamside footpath around "The Maidenhead Ring", including the Moor Cut and The Green Way, in association with the Maidenhead Waterways project

31 Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route

125 (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).

(*March 2023 update: Successful trial undertaken and agreed to be continued annually)*

Bray, Windsor and Eton

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
32	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.
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 *(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.*
38	Expand the multi-user routes in Eton to surrounding areas and link with other bridleway routes. *(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)*
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. (*April 2024 update: Approach made to Crown Estate to see if this permissive access could be given, unsuccessful due to Crown Estate view of protecting the fragile habitat in Lower Forest, and feeling that public access would put it at risk)*
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

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
42	Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet *(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*
43	Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) Datchet Footpath 8 *(March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008)* *(March 2015 update: discussion with landowner about potential for widening the footpath)* *(March 2016 update: landowner has declined to widen the path, bank repair improvements completed to secure the riverbank)*
44	Thames side paths: (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 (*Cookham Parish*) (d) south bank between Bisham and Temple (*Bisham Parish*)

45 Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan, depending on the working arrangements with the landowner:

(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

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
47	Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock *(December 2015 update: replacement of stepped footbridge west of Hurley Lock completed)* *(March 2015 update: surface improvements at St Georges Lane and Wells Lane)*
48	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill *(March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is not viable, however if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)* ***(2025 update: Proposal being revisited)***
49	Create a path from Ascot Station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride *(March 2007 update: Network Rail are unwilling to consider this proposed footpath creation)*
50	New footpath between Ascot High Street and Ascot Rail Station. *(March 2017 update: Path Creation Order confirmed, and path opened 1st February 2017)*
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 *[Update: March 2026 DMMO application received for paths off Coombe Lane – not processed yet]*
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

(Update 2024 – Sunningdale PC funding new walking route in the highway verge. Approved by RBWM Transport and Highways and facilitated by the PRoW team.)

(Update 2025: Path completed)

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 *[Update: March 2026 DMMO application received for paths off Coombe Lane – not processed yet]*

95 Record the existing footpath round woodland off Coombe Lane *[Update: March 2026 DMMO application received for paths off Coombe Lane – not processed yet]*

96 Record the existing path from St George's Lane to Coombe Lane *[Update: March 2026 DMMO application received for paths off Coombe Lane – not processed yet]*

97 Record the existing path from Coombe Lane to Victory Field through Tom Green's Field *[Update: March 2026 DMMO application received for paths off Coombe Lane – not processed yet]*

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 dale 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

NB: this is already adopted highway therefore is not necessary to record as a PROW.

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 Statement

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. All gates on bridleways should incorporate horse rider friendly handles.

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. For multi-use routes a flexible porous surfacing is suggested recycled rubber bound with aggregate.

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 2026)

Parish/Path number	Issue	Date reported
Cruch Lane (Bray BR 64)	Surface problems reported – being investigated with potential for partnership funding	29/02/24
St Georges Lane (Sunninghill Byway 24)	Surface improvements being investigated	24/06/24
Hurley FP24	Surface issue – eroded by floodwater – funding for improved surface being sought	15/04/25
Datchet FP4 (Black Potts FB)	Timber footbridge deterioration	11/06/25
Blythewood Lane (Sunninghill Byway18)	Surface issue for mobility impaired residents – looking at joint funding options	Oct 2025
Hurley FP1	Bank erosion – consulting Thames Path Partnership. Vegetation cut back as far as possible for extra width	20/05/26
Eton FP1	Void in surface next to river	10/04/26
Sunningdale FP6	Misleading signs along footpath – follow up letter required to landowner	07/05/26
WALT RB 30	Terrain/rutting caused by wildlife holes at sides of trodden path – being investigated	07/03/26
Hurley FP56	Steps up slope to A4 crossing point have worn away – funding for this being sought	17/05/26

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