



Rights of Way Service Report

Natural Environment White Paper

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>

Key areas:

4.33 Clear, well-maintained paths and bridleways are important to give people access to the natural environment and can be enjoyed by cyclists, walkers and horse riders. There is considerable scope to improve and extend this network, for example through Local Access Forums and Rights of Way Improvement Plans. We will make it easier for local communities and civil society groups to get involved in developing and maintaining networks of paths and accessible green space.

4.34 We will consult on simplifying and streamlining the processes for recording and making changes to public rights of way, based on proposals made by Natural England's working group on unrecorded rights of way. This will make it easier to claim public rights of way and to make changes to them in order to create a network that meets the needs of local people. As part of the Government's wider barrier-busting initiative, we will also work with stakeholders to tackle any barriers to local involvement caused by regulations or a lack of information.

Alban Way Management Plan

The consultation period is now over and St Albans City & District Council is reviewing all of the feedback that they / the Countryside Management Service (CMS) received.

R Cuthbert

Team Leader Access & Rights of Way

Countryside Access Team updates.

Mowing – One of the new mowing contractors have caused us some concerns already, after the first cut, and now we are at the start of the second cut we have called them in for a meeting to assess their future on the contract.

We still anticipate an increase in clearance complaints as we have had to remove the third cut.

Ellenbrook Fields (old Hatfield Aerodrome site) – The subject of a recent LAF visit. This set of proposed routes has received a boost with the link through the BT Trial Site being confirmed – just the legal paperwork to be completed. This adds the link to Oaklands Lane, thereby eventually linking Ellenbrook via the rights of way network to the Oaklands College site.

Panshanger Country Park – A series of recent meetings have resulted in a package of permissive access routes and grazed open access land areas being proposed, which

meet the Lafarge, Rights of Way and HMWT agendas. Rights of Way officers continue to work with our colleagues in Land Use Planning, to cement these into the final management plan / planning obligations for the site. Lafarge are already proposing to bring the first of these routes / areas into public use as soon as possible. Lafarge sees this site in Hertfordshire as their flagship site, bringing visitors from Lafarge's worldwide operations to view the plans and restoration.

The **Gating Order** Application being considered at Trafalgar Ave / Bell Lane, Broxbourne has been withdrawn, due to lack of evidence and the effectiveness of other methods in reducing levels of ASB.

RoWIP – Rights of Way would like the LAF members' input on the manner in which we prioritise the lists of desires, to work through them. Our officers are actively engaged in reviewing the lists as a result of re-digitising the old, rather vague, point maps, into maps showing more accurate lines, representing potential future RoWIP schemes.

Heartwood Forest – with the legal agreement completed for the width of FP32, the new access road is under construction (not to be confused with any other development!) and a ramp has been built down to Nomansland Common. Quarterly meetings of the key stakeholders, including planning officers, users and Rights of Way are ongoing.

BF attended the '**Securing the Landscape**' conference, in Kent in mid July. As a result of external funding the three local authorities in the Medway area of Kent have developed a new way of working in partnership with the police and other parties interested in land issues. They have developed a very strong branding for the area "Clean Kent" which is used to coordinate issues such as fly-tipping, ASB, motor vehicle misuse, etc.

Level Crossings consultations – BF and NM have met with Railtrack to discuss alternative provision if a series of level crossings are closed on the Cambridge line through Broxbourne & East Herts. So far the proposals are all very positive with new bridges proposed to replace all 4 level crossings, 3 with ramps and 1 with steps. Ongoing liaison with Railtrack will continue, as they look at other level crossings across the county.

Olympics – The newly competed diversion of the footpath around the Broxbourne canoe course may now need to be diverted again, due to an increase in the seating for the venue and a resubmitted planning application. Liaison with the ODA and other parties is also ongoing – to balance cycle use and pedestrian access in the vicinity of the site during the games.

Equality Act issues and local opinion – officers of the Rights of Way Service either receive requests to make routes more user friendly for all, or spot things themselves which may give cause for concern. A recent case in Rickmansworth has highlighted an issue where local opinion is in conflict with assessed good practice; in replacing a set of old concrete steps with a gentle ramp. LAF Members' comments are sought.

Bob Fenton
Access Team Leader

Definitive Map Team Updates

Modification Order cases - Sept 2011

File Name & Reference	District	Application for	Current stage
Flamstead, Peatman's Lane DAC89	Dacorum	Add BOAT & upgrade FP to BOAT	Inspector's decision made following hearing. Order confirmed subject to modification of status from BOAT to restricted byway
Standon, Morley Lane	East Herts	Add BR	Order confirmed and advertised
Thorley, off Twyforbury Lane EH266	East Herts	Amend FP	Order confirmed and advertised
Albury (Mods and PPOs) Patmore Hall Wood; off Mill Lane	East Herts	Add BRs	Inquiry held April 2011. Includes MOD Diversion/Extinguishment orders. Awaiting PINS decision
Hatfield, Carbone Hill W+H70	Welwyn Hatfield	Add FP	Objections received to order made. Inquiry to be held Nov 15-16 2011. HCC will be taking neutral stance
Dene Lane STEV13/EH137	Stevenage and East Herts	Add BR's	Directed to make an Order by GO-NE. Order being drafted.
Codicote, St Albans Road to Codicote 36 NH 192	East Herts	Add FP	Decision not to make an order appealed. Appeal not upheld. No order required
Pirton, Burge End Farm NH175	North Herts	Add FP & BR	Decision not to make an order appealed. Decision made. Appeal not upheld. No order required
Wareside, Thundridge, Green Lane near Castlebury EH136	East Herts	Add BOAT	Order made for BOAT. Objections received. HCC requesting amendment to Restricted Byway. Diversion order objected to. Orders sent to PINS; being dealt with by written representations.
Ardeley Pigsfoot Spring EH54	East Herts	Downgrade BOAT to FP	FP Order made, objections received. Order sent to PINS and being dealt with by written representations.
North Mymms, Fox's Lane two W+H67	Welwyn Hatfield	Add BOAT	BOAT order made objections received. Order sent to PINS and being dealt with by written representations

File Name & Reference	District	Application for	Current stage
Sacombe, West of Sacombe EH347	East Herts	Add FP & 2XRB	Order for RB advertised and 2 objections received. + Awaiting outcome of appeal made against decision not to make order for other 2 routes
Woodhall Lane	Hertsmere	FP and BR	Modification Order made for BOAT. Objections received. HCC to request PINS not to confirm order, as Extinguishment and Creation orders made. Objections received to these have now been withdrawn.
Hunsdon Airfield EH164	East Herts	Add BRs	RB Order advertised, Objections received. Users interviewed and order will be submitted to PINS.
Langley 16 NH132	North Herts	Upgrade FP to BR	BR order made, objections received, will be sent to PINS once pack approved
Aldenham, Oakridge Lane HTM172	Hertsmere	Add RB	BOAT/RB Order made, objections received, will be sent to PINS once pack approved
Chiswell Green STA113	St Albans	Add FP	FP Order made, objections received, pack approved sent to PINS.
Shenley, Ridge, Packhorse Lane north HTM118	Hertsmere	Add BR	BR order made, objections received, will be sent to PINS once pack approved
Hormead, Mutfords EH318	East Herts	Upgrade FP to BR; add BR	BR and FP Order advertised and objections received. Preparing Order for submission to PINS
Croxley Green Buddleia Walk 3R62&65	Three Rivers	Upgrade FP to BR; and add FP and BR	BR and FP Order advertised and objections received. Preparing pack for submission to PINS.
Widford Churchyard EH194	East Herts	Add FP	Order made and advertised. Objection received and will be sent to PINS once pack approved.
Shenley, Old St Albans Road HTM044	Hertsmere	Add BR	Order advertised objection received; send to PINS once pack produced and approved
File Name & Reference	District	Application for	Current stage
Aldbury, Northfield Grange DAC62	Dacorum	Upgrade FP to BR	Orders advertised, objection received and being dealt with

File Name & Reference	District	Application for	Current stage
Hockerill Coll Manor Rd EH328/350	East Herts	Add FP	FP Order made, objections received. Gating Order application being considered
Standon, St Edmunds College EH173	East Herts	Add FP	FP Mod Order made. Extra consultation on Diversion order Grid ref change before sealing.
Widford Sewage Works EH307	East Herts	Add BOAT	Order advertised and objections received send to PINS once pack produced and approved
Widford 18 EH308	East Herts	Upgrade RB to BOAT	As above
North Mymms, Gobions Wood W+H81	Welwyn Hatfield	Add FP(s)	Order advertised for FPs over Leach Fields, nr Gobions.
St Stephen, Hyde Lane STA110	St Albans	Add FP & RB	Decision published, order to be sealed and advertised
Pirton, Offley, Ickleford, Icknield Way NH85	North Herts	Add BOAT with TRO	Decision published; order drafted for approval
Standon, Bromleyhall Farm, Standon 72 EH169	East Herts	Downgrade BOAT to FP	Decision published - order being drafted
Knebworth, Knebworth Park NH174	North Herts	Add FP and BOAT	Decision to be published
Lilley, Cassel Hall NH180	North Herts	Add FP	Decision to be published
Lilley FP1 & Green Lane NH10	North Herts	Add FP	Decision to be published
Lilley, FP2 NH114	North Herts	Add FP extension	Decision to be published
St Stephen, Frogmore to St Stephen FP14 STA111	St Albans	Add FP	High Court has directed SoS to reconsider their decision re. RFT – outcome awaited
File Name & Reference	District	Application for	Current stage

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Aston, Skeggs Lane EH66	East Herts	Add BR	Negotiating dedication. Agreement made for bridleway link between Tatlers Lane and Edmunds Drive – waiting for developers to gain PP so can create link that way.
Rickneys EH36	East Herts	Re-grade FP/RB to BR	Negotiating dedication
Panshanger EH70	East Herts	Upgrade FP to BR	Agreement drafted and being approved by Lafarge
Wareside, Stansted Abbots, Thundridge, Wareside Paths EH108	East Herts	Numerous adds and upgrades of FP/BR/BOATs	12 Decision meetings held due to proposed changes to 19 routes. Consideration will be given to making a number of orders
Batford Springs STA123	St Albans	Add FP	Counsels opinion received; decision to be published. Possible dedication
Geary's Hill DAC103	Dacorum	Add FP	Decision to be published
Sarratt, Oak Farm and Harrock's Wood, 3R64	Three Rivers	Upgrade FP to BR	Decision to be published
Ardeley & Gt Munden, The Old Bourne Lt Lye Grove Sanders Lane EH284 EH283 EH209	East Herts	Add BR	Decision to be published
Napsbury Fields STA104	St Albans	Add FP's	Consultation – decision shortly
Eddies Field DAC98	Dacorum	Add FP	Consultation - decision shortly
Edge of Maxted Field DAC122	Dacorum	Add FP	Consultation
Harpenden, Old Railway Line STA39	St Albans	Add FP	Investigation
Nettleden with Potten End 17	Dacorum	Upgrade FP to BR	Investigation
Cedar Road to Woods Ave W+H 85	Welwyn and Hatfield	Add FP	Investigation

File Name & Reference	District	Application for	Current stage
Sleeve Hall Lane STA43 &W+H41	St Albans, Welwyn and Hatfield	Add RB	Investigation
Limes Close STA112	St Albans	Add FP	Investigation
Danesbury Park Road W+H86	Welwyn and Hatfield	Add BOAT	Investigation

Other DM work

- **Dedications**

The team are currently also working on creation agreements at Heartwood Forest; Ellenbrook Fields; Rickneys, Balls Park, Panshanger, Oaklands College and Wall Hall

- **Diversions orders** – Agent led diversions - Aston 24 now confirmed, there will be further consultation on Stanstead Abbots 22. There is likely to be consultation on the following paths shortly once draft orders are approved by officers – Ardeley 34, Lilley 14, Great Gaddesden 26, Hertford Heath 7, Aldenham 20, 27 and 72, Great Gaddesden 31 Watton at Stone 2, 5 & 5a and Little Hadham 32

Sandon 32 Creation and Extinguishment orders are to be confirmed following the withdrawal of the objections, and a BR creation Order at Tyttenhanger has been confirmed without objection. There will be further consultation at Wareside School and Wendover Arm.

We hope to consult on paths through St Andrews School, Much Hadham and at Little Munden School, Dane End shortly.

- **Village greens** – currently nine cases under investigation and 4 new applications. We have received counsel's opinion for 3 cases where there are issues of whether the land is public open space.
- **Commons pilot/pioneer** – currently working on amending registers following decisions from PINS. As a pioneer authority progress is slow and careful as legislation and regulations are considered and interpreted. Amendments following proposals we have made will also be required.

We will be changing the format of this list so that the case reference coincides with the Register of Applications list.

Rosalinde Emrys-Roberts

DM Team Leader