



Rights of Way Service Report

Local Nature Partnerships

See LNP Paper for LAF attached from Catherine Wyatt.

Alban Way Management Plan Review

The consultation undertaken by CMS on behalf of St Albans City & District Council has yet to be concluded. A recent chase-up of the relevant officer at StADC revealed that they are still reviewing all of the feedback that they received and no decisions have been made yet regarding equestrian access to the less-urban sections, but the officer was hoping to meet with his manager imminently to take this forward.

LAF Recruitment

One application has been received from Mr Ian Gregory, re; cycling interests. Contact has been made with LaFarge re; sending a rep for business / landowning interests.

RPA & Cross Compliance

IPRoW & ADEPT are jointly making contact with the RPA to try to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the cross compliance inspections regime.

Ayot Green Way extension

Negotiations are ongoing with the landowners on the missing off-road link from Wheathampstead to Harpenden. While this has been a long-term hold-up, it is now hoped that with significant s106 funding available progress may be made.

R Cuthbert
Team Leader Access & Rights of Way
Dec 2011

Countryside Access Team Report

Mowing – Problems continue with the change in mowing contractors in the east of the county and we are maintaining a firm monitoring policy to maintain standards.

Ellenbrook Fields (old Hatfield Aerodrome site) – Negotiations continue on the old Telecom site in Smallford, beside Ellenbrook Fields.

Panshanger Country Park – Negotiations continue on the Panshanger site.

Water End – The development of a permissive bridleway route is moving forward with on site works due to start soon.

BVPI – the autumn survey has just been undertaken and results will be available soon following a short audit.

Enforcement Cases – There has been a considerable enforcement issue involving the RoW Service with the principle contractors for the M25 widening project who have deposited a very large amount of soil at a location known as Donkey field by the A414 M25 junction. Negotiations have been hugely complicated because of so many parties being affected. The issues include; Green Belt management, a blocked right of way and options to divert it, soil and spoil management arising from the construction of the fourth lanes, the desire for a noise deadening bund and the height of the bund affording views into the local nudist colony, amongst others. This is likely to run for some time.

Common Permit Scheme – The introduction of this scheme for all highway works adds to the complications of working on Rights of Way, especially where we are working on or beside a motorised highway. We will be working hard to establish lawful, but efficient and straightforward practices.

TTROs / Special Events – We have also commenced an informal consultation with parties over the management of the RoW network when affected by major public events, sometimes running over a matter of several days. These might include major pop concerts or top level golfing events drawing in thousands of people. Balancing the needs of the walking public against traffic flows, safety issues and the problems generated by people in such numbers is very demanding.

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 – the new car park is under construction. Quarterly meetings of the key stakeholders, including planning officers, users and Rights of Way are ongoing.

Bob Fenton
Countryside Access Team Leader
Dec 2011

Definitive Map Team Report

Your support and help is always appreciated – there is nothing like a word or letter of thanks for work we have achieved to lift our spirits.

Cases never seem to move quickly in our line of work due to the level of work required to deal with any objections received. We have therefore been seeking improvements to the way we communicate to ensure there is a better understanding of what we do and by discussing with people the issues that are raised. We hope that we are succeeding as this year a number of modification orders have been made and confirmed without objection. We consider this is a good result as it enables to use our resources more effectively to deal with our backlog of outstanding applications. Our successes include the recording of footpaths at Leach Fields, by Brookmans Park and a restricted byway at Ridgehill, which

connects to a bridleway dedicated as part of a planning condition and provides a safe route linking under the M25 to join bridleways linking to Colney Heath.

We hope that the reduced number of objections to modification orders may in part be due to our improved investigation report format which now details each document we consider. For each document there are three sections – the first is about “why we consider that document relevant to the rights of way investigation” and the second “what the document actually shows”. The third section changes from “officer’s comments” at investigation stage (giving an indication as to what evidence the officer considers the document shows) to “Decision” stating what the authority has decided the document does show. We have certainly received positive feedback about our new report format from users and professionals alike.

I reported last year that we were trialling a new system for using agents to carry out consultations and negotiate diversions of public paths. This has also been successful with orders being confirmed without objection for the diversion of a bridleway at Bishops Stortford, and of footpaths at Sandon and Aston. There are more paths currently in the consultation phase with the added benefit of a reduced backlog as a number of applicants have now decided that they no longer wish to proceed with their application for a diversion.

I hope that the work we do helps your enjoyment of rights of way when you are out and about. We’d like to thank you for your continued support (and reports) which help us maintain the network for the public.

DMMO cases – November 2011

District & Parish	File reference & File name	Application for	Current stage
East Herts, <i>Standon</i>	EH/327/MOD: Standon Adds & Upgrades	Add BR	Order confirmed and advertised
Welwyn Hatfield, <i>North Mymms</i>	W+H/81/MOD: Gobions Wood	Add FP(s)	Order confirmed 21 Oct and to be advertised 9 Nov 2011
Hertsmere, <i>Ridge & Shenley</i>	HTM/44/MOD: Old St Albans Road	Add BR	Objection withdrawn. Order to be confirmed.
Dacorum, <i>Flamstead</i>	DAC/89/MOD: Peatman’s Lane	Add BOAT & upgrade FP to BOAT	Inspector’s decision made following hearing. Order confirmed subject to modification of status from BOAT to restricted byway. Decision subject to 2 objections.
Welwyn Hatfield, <i>Northaw & Cuffley</i>	W+H/70/MOD: Carbone Hill	Add FP	Objections received to order made. Inquiry to be held Nov 15-16 2011. HCC will be taking neutral stance
East Herts, <i>Albury</i>	Albury (Mods and PPOs) Patmore Hall Wood; off Mill Lane	Add BRs	Decision issued September 2011. Albury 15 MOD & Diversion Orders not confirmed. Albury 15a Extinguishment Order not confirmed. Albury 36 MOD Order confirmed with modifications. Furneux Pelham 25 & Albury 34

District & Parish	File reference & File name	Application for	Current stage
			MOD, Albury 33 MOD & Albury 36 DIV Orders proposed for confirmation with modifications – being re-advertised.
North Herts, <i>Pirton</i>	NH/175/MOD: Burge End Farm	Add FP & BR	Decided not to make Order. Decision not to uphold appeal judicially reviewed. Agreed to proceed by Consent Order, requiring PINS to reconsider the appeal and make a new decision.
East Herts <i>Thundridge & Wareside</i>	EH/136/MOD: Green Lane near Castlebury	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.
East Herts, <i>Ardeley</i>	EH/54/MOD: Pigsfoot Spring or Ardeley BOAT 13	Downgrade BOAT to FP	FP Order made, objections received. Order sent to PINS and being dealt with by written representations.
Welwyn Hatfield, <i>North Mymms</i>	W+H/67/MOD: Fox's Lane two	Add BOAT	BOAT order made objections received. Order sent to PINS and being dealt with by written representations
St Albans, <i>St Stephen</i>	STA/113/MOD: The Croft to Chiswell Green Lane	Add FP	FP Order made, objections received, proposed to be dealt with by hearing
East Herts, <i>Sacombe</i>	EH/347/MOD: West of Sacombe	Add FP & 2XRB	Appeal decision received – appeal dismissed. Order for RB advertised and 2 objections received. Order will now be sent to PINS.
Hertsmere, <i>Shenley & Elstree and Borehamwood</i>	Woodhall Lane	FP and BR	Modification Order made for BOAT. Objections received. HCC to request PINS not to confirm order, as Extinguishment and Creation Orders confirmed. These will be advertised shortly.
East Herts, <i>Hunsdon</i>	EH/164/MOD: Hunsdon Airfield	Add BRs	RB Order advertised, Objections received. Users interviewed and order will be submitted to PINS.
North Herts, <i>Langley</i>	NH/132/DISC: Langley 16	Upgrade FP to BR	BR order made, objections received, will be sent to PINS once pack approved
Hertsmere, <i>Aldenham</i>	HTM/172/MOD: Oakridge Lane	Add RB	BOAT/RB Order made, objections received, will be sent to PINS once pack approved
Hertsmere, <i>Ridge & Shenley</i>	HTM/118/MOD: Packhorse Lane North	Add BR	BR order made, objections received, will be sent to PINS once pack approved

District & Parish	File reference & File name	Application for	Current stage
East Herts, <i>Horstead</i>	EH/318/MOD: Mutfords	Upgrade FP to BR; add BR	BR and FP Order advertised and objections received. Preparing Order for submission to PINS
Three Rivers, <i>Croxley Green</i>	3R/62/MOD: Buddleia Walk 3R/65/MOD: Buddleia Bridleway	Upgrade FP to BR; and add FP and BR	BR and FP Order advertised and objections received. Preparing pack for submission to PINS.
East Herts, <i>Widford</i>	EH/194/DISC: Widford Churchyard	Add FP	Order made and advertised. Objection received and will be sent to PINS once pack approved.
East Herts, <i>Widford</i>	EH/307/MOD: Widford Sewage Works	Add BOAT	Order advertised and objections received send to PINS once pack produced and approved
East Herts, <i>Widford</i>	EH/308/MOD: Widford RUPP 18 Upgrade	Upgrade RB to BOAT	As above
Dacorum, <i>Aldbury</i>	DAC/62/MOD: Northfield Grange	Upgrade FP to BR	Orders advertised, objection received and being dealt with
East Herts, <i>Bishop's Stortford</i>	EH/328/EXT: Hockerill College EH/350/MOD: Manor Road	Add FP	FP Order made, objections received. Gating Order application being considered
East Herts, <i>Standon</i>	EH/173/MOD & EH/219/MOD: St Edmunds College	Add FP	FP Mod Order made, objection to it withdrawn. Diversion order ready for sealing once Diocese have sealed s119(5).
Stevenage and East Herts, <i>Stevenage & Aston</i>	STEV/13/MOD EH/137/MOD Dene Lane	Add BR's	Directed to make an Order by GO-NE. Order being advertised.
St Albans, <i>St Stephen</i>	STA/110/MOD:Hyd e Lane	Add FP & RB	Order being advertised
East Herts, <i>Standon</i>	EH/169/MOD: Standon BOAT 72	Downgrade part of BOAT to FP	Order being advertised
North Herts, <i>Knebworth</i>	NH/174/MOD: Knebworth Park	Add FP and BOAT	Order sealed 7 th Oct and advertised 20 th Oct.
North Herts, <i>Ickleford, Offley & Pirton</i>	NH/85/MOD: Icknield Way	Add BOAT with TRO	Order sealed 28 th Oct and to be advertised 10 th Nov.
Three Rivers, <i>Sarratt</i>	3R/64/MOD: Sarratt 15 Upgrade	Upgrade FP to BR	Decision not to make an Order. Appeal notification received.
North Herts, <i>Lilley</i>	NH/180/MOD: Cassel Hall	Add FP	Decision to be published
North Herts, <i>Lilley</i>	NH/10/DISC: FP 1 & Green Lane	Add FP	Decision to be published
North Herts, <i>Lilley</i>	Lilley, FP2 NH114	Add FP extension	Decision to be published
St Albans, <i>St Stephen & St Albans City</i>	STA/111/MOD: Frogmore	Add FP	High Court has directed SoS to reconsider their decision re. RFT – outcome awaited
East Herts, <i>Aston</i>	EH/66/DISC: Skeggs Lane	Add BR	Negotiating dedication. Agreement made for bridleway link between Tatlers Lane and

District & Parish	File reference & File name	Application for	Current stage
			Edmunds Drive – waiting for developers to gain PP so can create link that way.
East Herts, <i>Hertford</i>	EH/36/MOD: Rickneys FP's	Re-grade FP/RB to BR	Negotiating dedication
East Herts, <i>Hertford</i>	EH/70/DISC FP61: Panshanger	Upgrade FP to BR	Agreement drafted but Lafarge now concerned about safety issues.
East Herts, <i>Wareside, Thundridge & Stanstead Abbots</i>	EH/108/MOD: Ware Rural Paths or Wareside Paths	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
St Albans, <i>Harpenden Urban</i>	STA/123/MOD Batford Springs	Add FP	Counsels opinion received; decision to be published. Possible dedication
Dacorum, <i>Wigginton</i>	DAC/103/MOD: Geary's Hill	Add FP	Decision to be published
East Herts, <i>Great Munden & Ardeley</i>	EH/209/DISC: Sanders Green EH/284/MOD: The Old Bourne EH/283/MOD: Little Lye Grove	Add BR	Decision published and drafted order being checked prior to sealing in new year.
St Albans, <i>St Albans City</i>	STA/104/MOD: Napsbury Fields	Add FP's	Consultation – decision shortly
Dacorum, <i>Little Gaddesden</i>	DAC/98/MOD: Eddies Field	Add FP	Consultation - decision shortly
Dacorum, <i>Hemel Hempstead & Kings Langley</i>	DAC/122/MOD: Edge of Maxted Field	Add FP	Consultation – decision shortly
Welwyn and Hatfield, <i>Welwyn</i>	W+H/86/MOD: Danesbury Park Road	Add BOAT	Consultation; decision in early Dec.
Welwyn and Hatfield, <i>Hatfield</i>	W+H/85/MOD: Cedar Road to Woods Avenue	Add FP	Investigation report ready for consultation.
St Albans, <i>Harpenden & Wheathampstead</i>	STA/39/MOD: Old Railway Line	Add FP	Investigation
Dacorum, <i>Nettleden with Potten End</i>	Nettleden with Potten End 17	Upgrade FP to BR	Investigation
St Albans, Welwyn and Hatfield, <i>Sandridge & Hatfield</i>	STA/43/MOD: Sleeve Hall Lane - Sandridge W+H/41/MOD Sleeve Hall Lane – Hatfield	Add RB	Investigation
St Albans, <i>St Albans City</i>	STA/112/MOD: The Limes & Heath Farm Lane	Add FP	Investigation
East Herts,	EH/332/MOD	Upgrade FP to	Investigation

District & Parish	File reference & File name	Application for	Current stage
<i>Little Berkhamsted</i>	Little Berkhamsted 2	Bridleway	

Other DM work

- **Dedications** – The team are currently also working on creation agreements at Heartwood Forest; Ellenbrook Fields; Rickneys, Balls Park, Panshanger, Oaklands College, New Barnfield and Wall Hall
- **Diversion orders** – Agent led diversions - there will be further consultation on Stanstead Abbots 22 shortly. There is likely to be consultation on the following paths 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 now. There will be further consultation at Wareside School and Wendover Arm. We hope consultations will be carried out shortly for paths through St Andrews School, Much Hadham and at Little Munden School
- **Village greens** – currently nine cases under investigation and 3 new applications. We have received counsel's opinion for 3 cases where there are issues of whether the land is public open space.
- **Commons Act 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.

Please note that the format of this list has changed to coincide with how cases are referenced on the Register of Applications list.

Rosalinde Emrys-Roberts
Definitive Map team Leader
Dec 2011
