

APPENDIX H - Rights of Way Improvement Plan Case Programme and 2013/14 progress

<u>ROWIP Objective</u>	<u>ROWIP Objective Number</u>	<u>Progress to March 2014</u>	<u>Priority 1 (top) or 2 (secondary)</u>
Formally adopt the draft policy governing the maintenance of PROW used for access to residential properties, farms and other private land or establishments.	ROWIP 5	A procedure is in place which has been approved by the Local Access Forum. ID presented March 2014	1
Produce a published prioritization scheme for dealing with applications for modification orders and applications for path orders.	ROWIP 12	A procedure is in place but adoption by ID is required. Adoption by ID has been delayed whilst new relevant legislation is awaited	1
Carry out risk assessments for trees within PROW and formulate a prioritized plan of action to ensure the safety of PROW users.	ROWIP 13	A number of high priority routes have been identified and work is taking place to investigate the feasibility of using a contractor to carry out risk surveys.	1
Investigate methods to prevent fly-tipping and littering of PROW and also improved methods for clearance of litter and fly-tipping when instances occur.	ROWIP 15	Some signage and CCTV was installed in 2012/13 in conjunction with the waste team. Further CCTV is planned at problem areas.	2
Investigate improved sustainable procurement practices.	ROWIP 16	Sustainably-sourced wood is stipulated and recycled surfacing material used where possible. More investigation is taking place as to true provenance of the wood from one of our suppliers. Pressure is being placed on another supplier to source suitable wood .Recycled aggregate is increasingly being used for path surfacing. Vigilance will continue in the field of procurement.	1
Introduce improved environmentally-sustainable working practices, which also protect and enhance biodiversity and historic landscape and features.	ROWIP 17	A checklist has been compiled of environmental aspects to consider when carrying out practical works. Volunteers carry out ecological surveys prior to some maintenance projects. PROW staff and volunteers have been trained in basic habitat identification. There is a need to work in the context of the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Local Nature Partnership may be able to assist.	1
Increase the availability of PROW / access information and promotional material and explore greater use of a wider range of formats, to compliment relevant work carried out by others.	ROWIP 18	A useful report has been produced by a rights of way volunteer as part of his work towards an MSc. Work on improved use of electronic media is a particular priority for the future.	2

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		The Bradfield recreational route is being reprinted and will use QR codes. Work is taking place to introduce an interactive element to the PROW promotional web page.	
Produce a formal policy for the management of vehicular use and vehicular surfaces, with the aim of improving the condition of PROW used by recreational vehicles.	ROWIP 21	A procedure is in place which has been approved by the Local Access Forum. ID report presented March 2014.	1
Seek to promote, improve and create (where necessary) safe and commodious links between, within and around population centres, rural and urban facilities, attractions and transport interchanges.	ROWIP 25	A report is being prepared for BBOWT on the proposed Snelsmore to Chieveley bridleway link.	1
Implement measures to ensure that all gates on equestrian routes are easily-openable from horseback, using best practice gate and latch designs and gate configurations. Consider the installation of mounting blocks where dismounting cannot be avoided.	ROWIP 33	Concerted work to start in 2014/15 with a target of 20 gate improvements per year. The British Horse Society has been consulted.	1
Increase the numbers of PROW signposts indicating destinations, distances and local attractions.	ROWIP 34	Some signposts already show these from an old project with parish councils. There may be scope to produce such signs where replacement is needed and the information would be useful. Some authorities, e.g. Herts, have much information on every signpost (e.g. path number, destination and mileage). An investigation revealed that the signs cost about twice as much to produce as those with basic status information.	2
Improve the signage of PROW in and around West Berkshire's countryside sites.	ROWIP 35	A simple audit is first needed of if and where any improvements are required. Requires co-ordination with others, i.e. Discovery Centre and BBOWT, to ensure actioned, e.g. when they are producing new literature.	2
Identify routes and circuits which are suitable for promotion for use by those with restricted mobility, including within countryside sites. Promote and	ROWIP 38	A scheme has already nearly been completed in Purley. Another priority location needs to be identified, preferable in an urban fringe location so as to provide maximum benefit.. Need to enlist	1

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sign the routes in terms of grading and carry out works, where needed.		landowners to assist with this and build on what already exists to make circuits. Snelsmore & Greenham & Crookham commons already have some firm paths which could be utilized.	
Arrange formal rights of way training for parish public rights of way officers, parish plan teams and voluntary groups.	ROWIP 48	Advice sheets have been sent to parish councils on several occasions, but more formal training might be beneficial where a council has its own rights of way officer. Advice will also be added to the WBC PROW web site. There are few requests for training from parishes but the PROW team would be willing to meet any such requests.	2
Investigate the feasibility of a grant scheme for access work by parish councils, parish plan groups and others, taking into account funding already available.	ROWIP 56	Successful schemes already run in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Cost/benefit analysis required.	2
Investigate opportunities for external and grant funding for PROW/ access projects.	ROWIP 58	Some AONB funding has been acquired in the past but effort needs to be made to source more. Possible promising sources might be the Greenham Common Trust, Landfill etc.	1
Complete and formally adopt an enforcement protocol.	Additional priority	A need has arisen for such a protocol, to help defend legal challenges. Work is almost finished and will also incorporate a protocol for dealing with electric structures on PROW.	2
Make further progress on the Snelsmore to Chieveley new bridleway links	Specific project	Landowners and stakeholders have been consulted and routes identified. A report is being prepared for BBOWT on the proposed Snelsmore to Chieveley bridleway link.	2