

APPENDIX H
Rights of Way Improvement Plan Priority Case Programme 2014/15 - ANNOTATED
Rights of Way Improvement Plan Priority Case Programme 2015/16 – PROPOSED

Proposed for temporary removal (lower priority)

Proposed to be added (higher priority)

Proposed to remain for further work (higher priority)

<u>ROWIP Objective</u>	<u>ROWIP Objective Number</u>	<u>Progress to March 2015</u>
Implement measures to ensure that landowners maintain all hedges adjacent to PROW so as to prevent obstruction of PROW by overgrowth.	ROWIP 4	WBC does not clear hedge overhang, as it is the responsibility of landowners. A greater effort is to be made to enforce this obligation when such growth impedes public access.
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.
Produce a design and consultation protocol for the repair, replacement and installation of bridges on PROW.	ROWIP 6	A meeting needs to be held with the WBC Bridges section in order to review and refine the system already in place.
Review PROW sign and waymark designs to reduce future instances of fading and unauthorized relocation or redirection.	ROWIP 7	Some work has been done with manufacturers regarding reduction of fading. Particular attention is to be given to monitoring the new generation of resin-coated signpost fingers which contain the WBC logo within the arrow. Taller signs have been introduced to prevent tampering.
Produce a published prioritization scheme for dealing with applications for modification orders and applications for path orders.	ROWIP 12	A procedure has been adopted by Management Board.
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 it is hoped that the new Highways Tree Officer will be able to take on the surveys and tree work required.
Investigate methods to prevent fly-tipping and littering of PROW and also improved methods for clearance of litter and fly-tipping when instances	ROWIP 15	Some CCTV has been used at fly-tip hot-spots. Approximately 150 fly-tips are cleared from PROW by the Waste Team each year. The Waste Team would have to lead on measures to reduce fly-tipping.

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occur.		
Investigate improved sustainable procurement practices.	ROWIP 16	Sustainably-sourced wood is stipulated and recycled surfacing material used where possible. Vigilance will continue in the field of procurement.
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. A survey is needed to assess what needs to be managed or protected on PROW. The Local Nature Partnership may be able to assist.
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	Work on improved use of electronic media and a more interactive web site are particular priorities for the future. The Bradfield recreational route is being reprinted and redesigned. The work will then extend to the other existing WBC walks and rides publications. There are no plans to increase the number of publications, but to ensure that the existing product is provided to a high standard (including maintenance of the routes on the ground). Parishes are assisted by checking the content of their promotional material.
Produce published material to provide information about PROW / access and about the responsibilities of PROW users, landowners and other bodies.	ROWIP 20	Some material is on the web site. Greater efforts are needed at dissemination of the information more widely. Social media might be considered.
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	Policy approved by ID in March 2014.
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	BBOWT is submitting a report to its Trustees on the proposed Snelsmore to Chieveley bridleway link.
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	ROWIP 33	Concerted work to start in 2015/16 with a target of 20 gate improvements per year. The British Horse Society has been consulted and has been helping to identify suitable locations. The project has been delayed due to national uncertainties over the best designs of gates to use.

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installation of mounting blocks where dismounting cannot be avoided.		
Increase the numbers of PROW signposts indicating destinations, distances and local attractions.	ROWIP 34	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are no plans for any major progress at present due to staff resource constraints and the higher priorities of statutory duties. There is also a question over the practical usefulness because the signage would often have to continue each time at several points beyond the roadside.</p>
Improve the signage of PROW in and around West Berkshire's countryside sites.	ROWIP 35	The 2014/15 BBOWT Access Audits have addressed this to a large extent.
Identify routes and circuits which are suitable for promotion for use by those with restricted mobility, including within countryside sites. Promote and sign the routes in terms of grading and carry out works, where needed.	ROWIP 38	A scheme has already nearly been completed in Purley, but has stalled due to a landowner objection. Another priority location needs to be identified, preferably in the urban fringe so as to provide maximum benefit.
Arrange formal rights of way training for parish public rights of way officers, parish plan teams and voluntary groups.	ROWIP 48	<p>Advice sheets have been sent to parish councils on several occasions. There appears little cause for concern at present and therefore this can be a lower priority objective. Advice has also been added to the WBC PROW web site.</p> <p>There are few requests for training from parishes but the PROW team would be willing to meet any such requests.</p>
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	<p>Successful schemes already run in Hampshire and Wiltshire.</p> <p>A cost/benefit analysis is required.</p> <p>Budgetary constraints following the 50% cut in the capital PROW budget means this is probably not a practical option at present.</p>
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.
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 to incorporate our internally-agreed approach for dealing with electric structures on PROW.