

West Berkshire Council, Public Rights of Way Legal Order Priority Case List: April 2025 - April 2026
(PINS = Planning Inspectorate)

Case Type*	Title	Parish	Ward	Description
DMMO & PPO	Initial assessments of new queries and proposals as they come in	All	All	Provisions from the Deregulation Act 2015 are due to come into effect, that will put a statutory requirement for initial assessment decisions on Public Path Orders (PPOs) and Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) applications within 4, and 3, months, respectively. At present, many proposals and queries come in each year. These are assessed straight away, and preliminary investigations are carried out. At present the Council has a discretion to process Path Orders, although it has an obligation to determine all duly made DMMO applications. Accepted cases that are then prioritized make it onto the annual caselist. Refused cases do not appear on any caselist, but the investigation and informal assessment still take time and resource.
DMMO	Application to de-register common land status from Swings and Smiles, Lower Way, Thatcham	Thatcham	Thatcham West	Application received to de-register Swings and Smiles school site as Common Land. Notice advertised xxx. No objection, only one response from Open Spaces Society which was explicitly stated NOT to be an objection. Matter sent to Planning Inspectorate for determination, where decision is expected to take around 40 weeks (from start of February 2026).
DMMO	Public Footpath Bucklebury 158 legal event Definitive Map Modification Order	Bucklebury	Bucklebury	Definitive Map Modification Order approval needed to update Definitive Map and Statement with the effects an order confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate in 2025 to divert public footpath Bucklebury 158.
DMMO	Westridge Green	Aldworth	Basildon	Order WB081 made 9th December 2025. Objection period ends 2nd February 2026.
DMMO	Thatcham Whitelands Road	Thatcham	Thatcham North East	Council decision to make order made on 11th November 2025. Order due to be drafted, sealed and advertised in February 2026.
DMMO	Battery End, Wash Common, Newbury	Newbury	Newbury Wash Common	Order WB080 made 27th November 2025. Objection period ends 26th January 2026.
PPO	Broadview Farm, public bridleway diversion order	Bucklebury & Cold Ash	Bucklebury, and Chieveley & Cold Ash	Order made 5th August 2025. Various objections and representations were received and so the matter has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for determination.
Ongoing cases waiting PINS determination				
DMMO	Byway Open to All Traffic Cold Ash 5 (MOD291 width case)	Cold Ash	Chieveley & Cold Ash	Application to record a width for the Byway Open to All Traffic on small corner section of lane between The White House, Wynd Wood and Holly Lodge. WBC decision made NOT to make order, 30th May 2024. Applicant lodged PINS appeal (ROW3347492). PINS refused the Appeal.
DMMO	Claimed public footpath: Kintbury, Station Road running west along Barton Court outer driveway to public footpath Kint/14	Kintbury	Hungerford & Kintbury	Order made in 2025, and opposed by landowner. Planning Inspectorate Public Inquiry due 14th & 15th May 2026 in Coronation Hall, Kintbury.
DMMO	Purley Meadows, Purley-on-Thames	Purley-on-Thames	Tilehurst & Purley	WBC made order to record public footpaths. Objections received. WBC has submitted case to PINS for determination.
DMMO	Hungerford, Eddington Mill path	Hungerford	Hungerford & Kintbury	WBC made order to record public footpath. Objections received. WBC has submitted case to PINS for determination.
DMMO	Heath Hanger Lane, Kintbury	Kintbury	Hungerford & Kintbury	WBC refused application to record Restricted Byway status: applicant appealed to PINS. PINS appeal underway.
DMMO	Chieveley 46 public footpath	Chieveley	Chieveley & Cold Ash	WBC refused application to record Public Bridleway status: applicant appealed to PINS. PINS appeal underway.

OLDER CASES REQUIRING ATTENTION				
DMMO	Opposed Definitive Map Modification Order at Saltney Mead (Pangbourne)	Pangbourne	Pangbourne	An order to record this route as a public footpath was confirmed, but then quashed by the High Court in 2023 as the decision to confirm the order made by the PINS was flawed. Since then the principle question of Foot and Mouth Disease closures in public rights of way cases went to High Court in February 2025, but the decision will undergo further appeal at Administrative Court on 21st April 2026.
DMMO	Opposed Definitive Map Modification Orders at Springs Farm (Purley-on-Thames)	Purley-on-Thames	Tilehurst & Purley	An order to record this route as a public footpath was confirmed, but then quashed by the High Court in 2023 as the decision to confirm the order made by the PINS was flawed. Since then the principle question of Foot and Mouth Disease closures in public rights of way cases went to High Court in February 2025, but the decision will undergo further appeal at Administrative Court on 21st April 2026
DMMO	Tilehurst - Calcot Centre to Farm Drive claimed public footpath	Tilehurst	Tilehurst Birch Copse	This matter has been held for some time. The claimed public footpath route fell into disuse some years ago. WBC has liaised with landowners and local users to see if an order might be agreed for a different route, with the same end points, for the benefit of all. Correspondence ongoing.

*DMMO = Definitive Map Modification Order case (i.e to prove/disprove existence of a public right of way), *PPO = Public Path Order case (e.g. diversion, creation or extinguishment)

Grey Rows = WBC Decision Made. Amber Rows = WBC awaiting third party input before decision

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