

# Greensand Ridge Walk

## Management and Development Plan



**Deliberately left blank**

<b>Sect.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>General Information</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Aim and Vision</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Setting the Scene</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Access / Route Evaluation</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	Length	4
4.2	Development of management standards for route	5
4.2.1	Route	6
4.2.2	Walk Management	7
4.2.3	Walk Furniture	8
4.2.4	Services	8
4.2.5	Information	9
4.2.6	Signage	10
4.3	Connectivity to other routes (walks) / circular (walks) - Villages/hubs	11
<b>5.</b>	<b>Management Recommendations Objectives / Actions</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Management Prescriptions - route maintenance and management	12
5.2	Survey and Monitoring - habitat species / visitor-user surveys / tree surveying)	13
5.3	Promotion of Connecting hubs - promotion of Art / Sculpture Gateways	15
5.4	Access and Public Rights of Way /Circular Walks / Bridleways	16
5.5	Promotion / Publicity of route	16
<b>6</b>	<b>Project Management and Monitoring Control</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1	Management & Monitoring the Project	18
6.2	Annual Report	18
<b>7.</b>	<b>Work Plan</b>	<b>19</b>
7.1	Development of management standards for route	19
7.2	Management Recommendations / Objectives and Actions	27
<b>8.</b>	<b>Progressing the plan</b>	<b>30</b>
8.1	Funding	30
8.2	Use of the Management & Development Plan	31

	<b>Appendices</b>	
	Acknowledgements	
	Walk Completion certificate	

If you have any comments regarding this document please contact:

Senior Countryside Sites Officers

Email [paul.burgess@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.burgess@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) phone 0300 300 5328

If you would like this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us.

## 1. General Information

Site Name	Greensand Ridge Walk
County	Bedfordshire
Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire Council
Grid Reference	The linear route is covered by Ordnance Survey Explorer Map numbers 192 (Buckingham & Milton Keynes), 193 (Luton & Stevenage) and 208 (Cambridge & Royston).
Area	Linear Walk (40 miles / 64 km)
Owner	Central Bedfordshire Council, Management Agreements – Landowners / Farmers

## 2. Vision

To enhance the greensand ridge walk (GRW) by improving the quality of access and facilities to a standard that meets and exceeds national trail standards, whilst promoting neighbouring visitor attractions and businesses for visitors now and in the future

### Aims - A Nationally Promoted Regional Trail

- The aim is to provide a high quality, nationally promoted regional trail that in turn promotes the uniqueness of the Central Bedfordshire landscape
- To continue to enhance and preserve the walk for future enjoyment.
- The Walk offers links between urban towns and the rural countryside, which help promote and enhance rural enterprise, local and national tourism.
- Walking for fitness and health and to ensure that the GRW network provides an appropriate balance of experiences for different users.

### Management & Development Plan Objectives

- To produce a co-ordinated and integrated plan which will inform and enable:
  - the production of long term management proposals for the GRW, heritage, landscape, biodiversity and public access of the walk
  - encourage community engagement and involvement
  - manage accessibility to the landscape and wildlife of this area which will enable everyone to appreciate and enjoy these valuable and unique habitats and landscapes.
- increase visitor numbers to the walk and overnight stops in the surrounding rural community hubs

### 3. Setting the Scene

A number of long term plans and partnerships underpin efforts to promote and provide leisure activities and wildlife protection. This Management and Development plan contributes to many of these, particularly the Central Bedfordshire Councils 'Medium Term Plan' and 'Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2031', and any future developed overriding Central Bedfordshire policies / plans and the Countryside Access Services (CAS) Outdoor Access Improvement Plan 2013 -2023 (OAIP).

#### **Central Bedfordshire Council's Medium Term Plan**

Green spaces have a large part to play in the well being of Central Bedfordshire. They make better places to live in and help attract investment. The visual appearance of the local area, as seen by residents, visitors and potential investors is critical to social and economic health.

The Management and Development Plan for the Greensand ridge walk has to dovetail with Central Bedfordshire Councils priorities and principles. This plan has identified supporting the following:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
- Improved educational attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.
- Better infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport.

#### **Our Approach**

To deliver our priorities with fewer resources we need to change – both what we do and how we do it. A series of principles underpin how we will manage change at Central Bedfordshire.

As a Council we will ....

- Be focused on customer experience
- Be open and transparent
- Value our people
- Work as one organisation
- Excel at partnerships
- Focus on efficiency and value
- Adopt a "can do" culture
- Recognise the impact of our work on others

#### **Central Bedfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Greensand Ridge Walk provides a range of priorities that allow targets described within the Community Strategy to be met. Seven priorities within the Community Strategy can link closely to the Greensand ridge Walk and its management are recognised below:

**Ensuring our local people have the skills to prosper:** By helping local people to develop their skills we will build successful, sustainable communities.

**Keeping our communities safe:** By ensuring our sites will be a safe place where all people living, visiting and working will feel secure. People will respect each other, and nobody's opportunities will be constrained by actual crime or the fear of crime.

**Nurturing a sense of pride and belonging:** By ensuring that local residents are involved and to encourage participation in volunteering and allow people to have a sense of identity and belonging in shaping their local social, cultural and environment.

**Getting around and caring for a green and clean environment:** By ensuring our walks and sites are well connected and our residents have a good choice of different ways they can travel. By ensuring our walks and sites are considered as one of the key elements for living in Central Bedfordshire.

**Promoting health and reducing health inequalities:** By ensuring our walks and sites are accessible and managed to a high quality by supporting residents to use the sites for healthy physical activities, i.e. walking, volunteering, health walks, cycling, riding and organised play and active recreation etc.

**Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people:** By ensuring our walks and sites allow opportunity for children to learn and explore their landscape through natural play, conservation / biodiversity workshops etc.

**Supporting and caring for an ageing population and those who are most vulnerable:** By ensuring our walks and sites are accessible for older and vulnerable people are safe, in good health and with choice to have equal access to high quality walks and sites that may enable improvement to mental and physical health.

## 4. Access / Route Evaluation

### 4.1 Length

The Greensand Ridge Walk is Central Bedfordshire's premier long distance walk with sections also in Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire. The walk is a 40-mile (64km) long route that starts near the county boundary with Buckinghamshire at Leighton Buzzard, passes through Woburn, Ampthill and Sandy, before finishing at Gamlingay on the Cambridgeshire border. It follows a ridge of greensand stone (hence the name!) that is sandwiched between clay vales on either side.

Points of interest along the route include Rushmere Country Park, the magnificent Woburn Abbey and the ruins of Houghton House. The Greensand Ridge Walk also links with other long-distance paths, such as 'The Ridgeway' via the 'Two Ridges Link Walk' at Ivinghoe and the John Bunyan Trail.

The route has been split into five stages/sections to enable you to walk it over a number of days in stages or as a whole. Each section is covered by a leaflet, which includes a route map and written route description. Local points of interest are highlighted in the leaflet text and described in the boxes on the route map.

- Leighton Buzzard to Woburn 8.5 miles /13km
- Woburn to Ampthill 10 miles / 15.5km
- Ampthill to Haynes 8.8 miles / 13.5km
- Haynes to Sandy 7.5 miles / 11.5km
- Sandy to Gamlingay 5.3 miles / 8.5km

You can access the Greensand Ridge Walk at various points along the way, you may join part of this 40 mile walk crossing from east to west passing through some of the most attractive parts of Bedfordshire.

Leaflets are available free of charge from libraries, tourist information centres, visitor attractions and other public outlets in the area. Alternatively, maps of the walk, details of transport links and other detail can be seen on the website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/greensand-ridge-walk.aspx>

Gentle slopes and improvements such as the continual improvement by replacement of stiles with easy-access 'kissing' gates, upgraded bridges over rivers and culverts, new signposts, waymarkers and interpretation boards, make the route suitable for all ages and abilities. There is open access along the whole route, with access to various parts of the route through bus stops, car parks, adjacent public rights of way and circular walks.

The GRW covers the following parishes throughout Central Bedfordshire which will benefit from the management plan: Everton, Sandy, Northill, Old Warden, Haynes, Campton, Chicksands, Clophill, Maulden, Ampthill, Millbrook, Lidlington, Ridgmont, Eversholt, Woburn and Leighton Buzzard.

#### **4.2 Development of management standards for route**

The purpose of this Management Plan is to set standards for the provision of walks, therefore we have reviewed the 'Quality Standards' as used for 'National Trails in England' as produced by the previous Countryside Agency and now overseen by Natural England.

We have adopted and adapted the standards and measures and related them to the Greensand Ridge Walk.

#### **The purpose of adopting 'Walk Quality Standards'**

These quality standards need to be devised to provide better value for money in planning, management and maintenance of the GRW network, and application of these standards should increase the enjoyment of those who



use the walk. It is not intended that any one organisation should be responsible for the provision of every item outlined in this document as the delivery of high quality walks relies upon a partnership between many organisations and individuals including the local authority, Local Access Forum (LAF), voluntary bodies, landowners and occupiers, local individuals and communities. These quality standards will ensure that we all work with consistent aims. The Muntjac logo is the recognised symbol for the GRW and should also represent a mark of high quality provision and management.

**These standards are based upon three main principles:**

- Enabling as many people as possible to enjoy access to the GRW.
- Protecting the ecological, cultural and landscape features of the areas through which each stage of the walk passes through.
- Providing sufficient information about the facilities and services that people need to know to enjoy the route, however long they wish to stay.

The standards in this management plan should assist the selection of a suitable management and maintenance regime for each particular section / part of the walk. The aims are expressed in terms of what the user should expect to find and this should be used as a guide to good practice.

Categorising the walk in terms of accessibility will always be subjective, but the standards can be facilitated by thinking about the types of experience that users may find in each section of the walk. Using the duration of a journey on a walk as a starting point, these have been broken down into three experiences / categories (**\* NB - these terms should also be taken to mean the experiences enjoyed by horseriders and disabled people where appropriate along the route. But not all parts are accessible to all groups.**)

- **Easy**

An experience, which can be enjoyed by the short stay visitor involving a short walk/ride either from a recognised and secure car park or public transport access point with facilities such as food and drink available or to a site of interest. All visitors could enjoy this experience. Detailed future audits may be necessary in these areas to assess what changes need to be made to provide least restrictive access and improvements to existing car parks, i.e. Millbrook

- **Medium**

This experience is likely to be for longer, typically half a day, involving more strenuous walking/riding on more varied terrain. Access points are still likely to be frequent and signage detailed enough to give the user confidence. Resting places may be required and walk furniture should be managed appropriately to provide the least restrictive options.

- **Hard**

A day or multi-day visit that is likely to involve challenging terrain or more strenuous activity such as steep gradient or remote, open country. Visitors need less reassurance (including less signage and less management of the physical terrain). Least restrictive options must still be considered in managing these areas.

**Action** – The management plan sets out to record information already gathered/maintained within the ROW Cams database against the new agreed standards, it then establishes the gap of information provided, this then creates the development improvements/targets for the route.

#### 4.2.1 The Route

To provide a path through the various landscapes, which is easily passable for as many people as is practical, which is safe and maintained sympathetically to its terrain and surroundings, and appropriately for its use.

Given the nature of the landscape through which the GRW passes, an entirely level, firm network of paths will not be appropriate or reasonable but the user should expect to find:

#### Alignment

1. A continuous linear route (except where a main obstacle needs to be crossed);
2. A route on legally defined public rights of way;
3. A route which is aligned to provide the user with the best unobstructed views of the surrounding scenery and access to notable viewpoints and places of interest.

**Measure 1** - The percentage of the walk that is legally defined.

#### Roads and Crossings

4. A minimum use of metalled roads (i.e. only where there is no alternative);
5. No sections on busy or dangerous roads;
6. Safe crossing points where the route crosses metalled roads, rivers or railways;
7. A waiting area is provided where a bridleway crosses a metalled road and 'Horse Crossing' signs are erected to warn motorists;
8. Crossings of trunk and "A" roads by bridges and underpasses where traffic levels and speeds require them;
9. Bridges on bridleways which do not have steps at either end, are constructed of non-slippery and non-echoing materials and are equipped with parapets (high parapets where the bridge carries a bridleway over a road, rail or river);

**Measure 2** - The percentage of the walk that is vehicle free and off road.

**Measure 3** - The percentage of road, rail, river crossings on the walk that is considered safe.

**Measure 4** - The percentage of culverts, bridges and ramps on the walk that are fit for purpose.

#### Obstructions

10. A readily passable and unobstructed route (including freedom from undergrowth and over growth).

**Measure 5** – The percentage of the route fit for purpose

#### Surfaces

11. A well-managed, sustainable surface which is sympathetic to the landscape (a green sward is the surface of choice but we recognise that this is not always possible);

**Measure 6** – The percentage of walk that has an acceptable surface

12. Minimal engineered paths in remote and wild locations;
13. Natural materials, used in places where artificial surfaces are unavoidable, that have been chosen so that they blend sympathetically in colour and texture and ecologically with their setting, and ideally have been obtained locally with recycled materials used where appropriate – or, where other materials, such as geotextiles, have to be used, they are not visible even if erosion has started to occur;
14. Verges are managed, and signed where roads are a necessary part of the route so there is an adequate refuge for a walker or rider encountering traffic;
15. At no point on a bridleway is the ground soft enough to allow a horse or cycle to sink deeply into it;
16. That, where it is legally permitted, off road vehicle use is regulated (using suitable management techniques) if it has a significant adverse impact on non-motorised trail users or on the path surface;
17. That, where there are no off road vehicle rights and where there are demonstrable problems, efforts are made to prevent illegal use by motorised recreational vehicles.

### Steps

18. The use of steps is kept to a necessary minimum (graded slopes are preferred).

**Measure 7** – The percentage of the walk that steps are fit for purpose

### 4.2.2 Walk Management

Our goal – to ensure the corridor through which the GSRW passes is of the highest quality, with land adjacent to the walk managed for the full benefit of the landscape and its habitats and heritage features, where inappropriate development is resisted.

The user should expect to find:

### Corridor management

19. Intensive agriculture and intensive forestry is kept to a minimum;
20. Historic features conserved and well managed;
21. The use of adjacent fencing only where essential for agricultural or security needs (wherever possible hedging, banking and walls should be used instead of fencing);

**Measure 8** - The percentage of walk corridor that is of the highest quality.

### 4.2.3 Walk Furniture

Our goal – to ensure that GRW users have a safe, enjoyable experience that reflects the landscape in which they are travelling

The user should expect to find:

#### Quality design

22. Consistent high quality design, style and use of materials to suit the character of the local landscape with historical features maintained where possible;
23. Furniture that is well-maintained, safe, comfortable, easy and convenient to use;
24. Least restrictive options used at all boundaries (e.g. gaps where no stock control is required, but where stock or illegal use requires control then gates rather than stiles.) Kissing gates should allow sufficient clearance for a user with a backpack but should not be used where people using personal mobility vehicles or wheelchairs can access the path. Where stiles are unavoidable they should be accessible for dogs in accordance with agricultural needs;
25. Gates which can be opened and closed without the need for lifting and which are equally easy to open and close from either side.
  - For bridleways, self-closing gates are preferred with catches which can be operated with one hand and reached from the saddle.

**Measure 9** – The percentage of furniture on the walk that is fit for purpose and where possible that any structures meet BS 5709 2006

### 4.2.4 Services

Our goal – to help ensure that people using the GRW have access to relevant services which complement their enjoyment of the walk.

The user should expect to find:

#### Access points

26. Principal starting, stopping and finishing points accessible by public transport;
27. Small, unobtrusive, informal car parks located close to the walk at principal starting / stopping / finishing points which are not served by public transport;
28. Well-managed rights of way or permissive routes connecting the walk to nearby settlements and services and usable for circular routes.

**Measure 10** – The percentage of the walk that are accessible by public transport and appropriately connected.

#### Accommodation

29. Accommodation (also for horses where appropriate), camp sites and refreshment facilities available generally within one mile, but not more than 3 miles of principal starting / stopping and finishing points (a variety of accommodation –

**Measure 11** – An assessment made of how well serviced each stage is, including an understanding of the average accommodation capacity of each part of

campsites, bunkhouses, hostels, bed and breakfast, hotels – should be available).

the walk within a one-mile corridor and the percentage of available accommodation that is 'graded'

### Other Services

30. Drinking water for public consumption and for dogs available at convenient community hubs locations along each part of walk.
31. A walk that is free of litter and dog mess (if receptacles are provided at honeypot / circular walk locations they should be emptied regularly and frequently).

**Measure 12** – Percentage of walk that is litter and dog mess free.

### 4.2.5 Information

Our goal - to ensure that easily identified information is available for each stage of the GRW to enable people to plan and enjoy their experience.

The user should expect to find:

### Branding

32. Information that is accurate, relevant, interesting and coordinated, carrying a consistent message presented in an appropriate form;
33. Details of contact points on all media to enable faults and incidents to be reported and to enable users to feedback comments on the trail and its management.

**Measure 13** - The percentage of official CBC produced GRW information that is currently accessible and branded in accordance with national guidance.

(offer available in larger print)

### Mapping

34. The line of the walk, including the location of refuge huts benches, 'high seats', marked accurately on Ordnance Survey maps;

**Measure 14** - The number and percentage of official guide books and maps that mark each part of the GRW accurately.

### Print

NB Information should be made available in different languages and formats (Sizes) as local demand dictates.

35. Printed material for each part of the walk includes a summary leaflet which includes safety information and links to other necessary services as accommodation, public transport and a guide to connecting circular walks along the GRW. Material should include contact details for more information;
36. On sections of walk legitimately used by motor vehicles, information warning other users of the likelihood of encountering them;
37. Links to local history, geology, wildlife,

**Measure 15** - The availability a GRW summary introductory leaflet for each stage.

**Measure 16** - The availability of a Walk public transport guide for each stage.

**Measure 17** - The availability of a series of promoted circular walks/rides for each stage.

archaeology and environmental education opportunities.

### Online promotion

38. A fully accessible website presence for the route and connecting links. Each trail link material should include contact details for further information

**Measure 18** - The provision of accessible, complete and up to date online information including a fact file and accommodation for the GRW.

**Measure 19** - The provision of a complete database covering accommodation, services etc for the GRW.

### 4.2.6 Signage

**Our goal** - to ensure the GRW is easy to follow with unobtrusive but clear signing

The user should expect to find:

#### Quality way marking

39. The Muntjac disc logo on all signs and waymarks on the GRW;
40. Waymarking is colour coded in accordance with national guidelines to indicate the status of the route;
41. Directional posts, signed in both directions, bear the name of the walk (abbreviated if necessary), the Muntjac disc logo, the status of the route and, where they are located at principal access points, additional information about destinations and accurate distances;
42. Adjoining link paths signed 'from' and 'to' the GRW in appropriate locations;
43. The design style is consistent and the materials used are sympathetic to the local landscape;
44. On remote sections of the walk, where the principal use is long distance walking or riding, signing is provided only to the extent necessary to ensure public safety and guide users at key locations;
45. In honey pot areas, signing as recommended above is supplemented by additional signing at all starting / stopping and finishing points indicating villages, car parks, public transport links, other rights of way and other services.

**Measure 20** - The number and percentage of signs that meet the standard on whole route.

**Measure 21** - The number of information panels in comparison to the number of key access points on whole route and the percentage of these that refer to the GRW appropriately.

#### Other signs

46. No misleading notices;
47. Temporary diversions clearly marked in advance and at the point of the diversion. Diversions should also be publicised on the Walk website and at local Tourist

**Measure 22** - The number and percentage of highway authority temporary diversion orders that comply with best practice.

Information Centres;

48. Where there is a temporary diversion, the information is user friendly and includes the length of time for which the diversion will apply.

### **4.3 Connectivity to other routes, circular walks, town/villages/hubs, points of interest**

Along the route there are various towns or hubs that offer additional circular walks to explore, historical interest, refreshment, toilet and parking opportunities.

Stockgrove - Rushmere Country Park 3m/ 4.8km Time - 1½hrs

Woburn - Eversholt 8m / 12.9km Time – 4hrs

Amphill – Maulden 6.6m / 10.7km Time - 3½hrs

Old Warden – 7¾m / 12.5km Time = 4hrs

Sandy – Everton (3 walks) 7.2m / 11.5km – 9.6m / 15.5km Time 5hrs

The GRW covers the following parishes throughout Central Bedfordshire which will benefit from the management plan: Everton, Sandy, Northill, Old Warden, Haynes, Campton, Chicksands, Clophill, Maulden, Amphill, Millbrook, Lidlington, Ridgmont, Eversholt, Woburn and Leighton Buzzard.

## **5. Management Recommendations / Objectives and Actions**

### **Introduction**

The following recommendations have been developed to work towards the aims, objectives and management standards for the GRW area and visitor as set out above. In doing so the recommendations seek to address the issues and fulfil the opportunities which the GRW area offers.

These recommendations have been developed through a process of consultation with staff, partners, stakeholders and site users.

### **5.1 Management Prescriptions**

#### **Route maintenance and management:**

The route should be evaluated and categorised against the standards identified in 3.2, Easy, Medium, Hard

The route should be maintained in accordance with a maintenance framework to ensure that high standards of maintenance occur throughout the route and operate in accordance to 'Value for Money' guidelines and as agreed by all partners.

Maintain and enhance the hedgerows and identified historic boundaries along the route.

#### **Improve accessibility for disabled people along the route:**

Identify those sections of the route which are accessible and stile free particularly those adjacent to car parks e.g. Ampthill, Rushmere

**Improvements that would make the GRW more enjoyable:**

Installation of benches, look to prioritise benches on accessible sections of the route e.g. those near car parks

On behalf of CBC, maintenance work is undertaken by a combination of local approved contractors and 'Volunteer Wardens' of the Greensand Ridge Walk

**Working Group;**

A partnership formally established in 2006 to facilitate and manage enhancements to Bedfordshire's premier walking route, in association with CBC Rights of Way team.

The Greensand Ridge Walk working group are the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Ramblers, Sandy Tourist Information Centre, the Greensand Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council. Parish Council representation.

Facilities along the route should be robust for the extent of current users and accommodate future visitor growth development with increased pressure on the area.

**Action** – The route should be evaluated and categorised against the standards identified in 3.2, Easy, Medium, Hard

CBC Rights of Way Officers to undertake annual inspection of route, to be rotated during Summer / Winter periods, ensuring that surfaces are in accordance of the outcome results of the development of 'Management Standards' identified within section 2 Access / Route Evaluation, and in particular 2.2 Development of management standards for route

Monitor and manage maintenance works (mainly grass cutting) of appointed local approved contractors and Volunteers.

Work with landowners and site managers to produce management guidelines for existing hedgerows and identify opportunities for restocking or establishment of new hedgerows through available grant funding schemes.

Promotional literature to include a sentence in the leaflet which says 'for further information on accessibility, please visit our website'

Support and encourage ROW Officers to talk to landowners about putting benches/rest points on their land although this can be difficult to achieve due to the public liability issues.

**5.2. Survey and Monitoring - visitor- user surveys, tree surveying, habitat species, GRW wardens**  
**Visitor**



It should be noted that it has been, and will continue to be, very difficult to assess how many people visit the Greensand Ridge walk. Visitor numbers have never been collated consistently and it is difficult to provide a baseline. Previous user surveying has identified that towns/villages along the route offer points of visitor interest.

“Visits to Visitor Attractions 2007” (courtesy of East of England Tourism):

Attraction	Number of visits
Moggerhanger House	4000
Roman Sandy Story	98
Woburn Abbey	102,000
Woburn Safari Park	469,181
Woburn Heritage Centre	5600
Wrest Park Gardens	37,055
RSPB The Lodge	45,000
Shuttleworth Collection	34,000
Swiss Garden	13,600
Stockgrove Country Park	400,000
Maulden Wood	125,000
Bird of Prey Centre	26,000
Amphill Park	250,000

**Action** – install people counters at various points along the route at various times of the year to obtain a greater understanding in the number of users.

### Tree surveying

It is identified that CBC will require a tree survey to be undertaken along this route as identified within the pending ‘Tree and Woodland’ policy, the route has been identified as a high priority zone of users and a high risk exists that there is risk of falling limbs / trees along the route. It is the intended outcome to do a specie / condition survey that will also digitise tree location and give a unique reference number and be plotted on to the councils GIS<sup>1</sup> system. This will also require assessment of private trees that protrude / growing over the route. The opportunity exists to record trees of notable value regarding age, significance and importance.

**Action** – undertake tree surveying to establish high priority zones over the next five years, record specie / condition, establish database of works required. Establish database of connecting landowners and promote risk of trees to landowners.

### Habitat surveying

It would be also beneficial to undertake an habitat / ecology survey along the route to establish valuable flora / fauna. Work with landowners to the land alongside the route to identify habitat corridors between sites and link into an appropriate management plan to enhance biodiversity habitat links to sites outside of the route.

<sup>1</sup> Cadcorp - Geographical Information Systems.

Support landowners to increase the total amount of land within the area which is covered by agri-environment schemes and increase the amount of land entered into higher level scheme. Where possible there should be coordination between submissions in the area to work towards identified priorities and targets.

**Action** – undertake habitat / ecology surveying over the next five years. Create an effective monitoring program and action plan to increase biodiversity interest along the route.

Provide opportunities for members of the community and wardens to be involved in surveying, recording and protecting the routes key features to including heritage and biodiversity.

### **Greensand Ridge Walk Wardens**

To help us maintain and keep the route open for all to use and enjoy there is a network of 'Greensand Ridge Walk Wardens' who walk their chosen sections of the route, record and report any problems to us.

The role of Wardens includes:

- Walking sections of the Greensand Ridge Walk on a regular basis (the sections can be chosen by you).
- Look out for any problems/issues along the route, and adjacent to the route, (these may include; lack of waymarking/no waymarking; badly damaged ground; impassable areas (wet/flooding/mud etc); blocked route (ie; barbed wire, fencing, locked gates etc); dumped rubbish/machinery; obstruction of path by vegetation (from sides/overhanging/ fallen trees/long grass/nettles etc).
- Noting these issues in the field onto a pre-supplied reporting form.
- Sending in regular reports to Greensand Ridge Walk wardens co-ordinator at CBC.
- Occasionally assisting (where appropriate) with queries from Council Officers or attending GRW-related activities (ie; open days, events, displays, guided walks or other activities along the GRW).

This is a varied role which is an excellent opportunity to make a real difference to the walkability and improvement of this important route and the accessibility of the local country. This voluntary position may help get you started in a career in countryside management. We will provide you with training and lots of practical experience. The work you do can add substantially to your CV and will provide a demonstration of your skills to any future employers.

**Actions** - Provide opportunities for members of the GRW Wardens to be involved in surveying, recording and protecting the routes key features to including heritage and biodiversity.

### 5.3 Promotion of Connecting Hubs – ‘Stay a little longer in...’

#### Promotion of Art / Sculpture Gateways to connecting hubs

An opportunity exists to develop ‘Art’ as a way of signposting / gateways to connecting towns / villages along the route, to promote visitor attraction to connecting attractions, extending the value that the route offers to the walking experience. This can either be promoted material and web page links, also unique local distinctiveness way marking (ensuring it does not distract from the original GRW logo along the route). Practical sculpture installations along the length of the route acting as sign-posting to sites of interest, iconic sculptures, way-markers, benches and gateways at key locations along the route which provide a visual stimulus, enhance a particular location or vista or celebrate the local heritage or community.

The outcome of this would be to:

- Increase repeat visits by existing users of the route and local communities by improving infrastructure and actively engaging local people in project development.
- Attract walkers from a wider geographic catchment area using art as a unique selling feature of the route, distinguishing it from other walks.
- Widen the demographic appeal of the Greensand Ridge Walk by creating family-friendly circular trails in strategic locations along the route and promoting access to nearby tourist attractions, retail and food establishments and accommodation.
- Provide interpretation on the area’s heritage and landscape features
- The agricultural activity in the area is important for the economy and characteristics of the area. An education programme for visitors can be combined with an agribusiness opportunity.

**Action** – Install signage at the points where visitors join the route indicating which users are permitted to use the route. Signs should be made of timber to fit with the rural nature of the route area and clearly indicate each permitted user group e.g. a bridleway should have a sign showing a walker, a cyclist and a horse rider.

Develop action plan of perspective destination project hubs for development, appoint artists to develop community engagement projects to create gateways, sculpture at destination points along route for route interest/exploring

### 5.4 Access and Public Rights of Way / Circular Walks / Bridleways

Provide safe crossing points:

Over the high speed A5 for pedestrians and horse riders.

Sheep Lane (BW40) 120 mtr section leading into Pinfoldpond, for pedestrian.

Promote the series of Central Bedfordshire circular routes that link in to the route area for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The routes include shorter family friendly **Easy** routes and **Medium** longer options. Route maps should be available for downloading online and funding permitting, should be available as printed leaflets in local outlets such as libraries, pubs, bakeries, cafeterias and council offices.

- Stockgrove Country Park approx 3 miles /4.8 km

- Woburn to Eversholt 8 miles / 112.9 km
- Ampthill to Maulden 6.6 miles / 10.7 km
- Old Warden 7.75 miles / 12.5km
- Sandy and Everton 7.2 – 9.6 miles / 11.5 – 15.5 km

Work with the GRW Wardens to ensure the route and signage of the route is maintained and enhanced.

Connection of Linear walks

### **John Bunyan Trail, Cross Bucks Ways, Milton Keynes Trail**

Only 2 of these routes can be travelled entirely by bike or horse – there is demand for more. The British Horse Society <http://www.bhs.org.uk> promotes these as the riders' equivalent of the Ramblers Association. In future both cycling and horse riding would significantly expand the current audience. A cycling routes are currently being developed by Central Bedfordshire Council, BRCC and Sustrans. The horse riding community are also starting to investigate the possibility of expanding bridleways.

There are 320 walking routes promoted within Bedfordshire, Information about other walks in the area can be obtained from local libraries and Tourist information Centres, or on <http://www.lets-go.org.uk>

A linear walking route provides particular problems with transport to and from the route and clearly there are opportunities to promote the use of public transport and the network of buses and trains that can facilitate access to the route. There will also be an emphasis on maximizing the use of walking and cycling routes between tourist attractions and ensuring that there are facilities for cyclists at the start of circular walks.

#### **Actions**

Enhancements of circular routes which link to the GRW and better promotion of these connections: will be achieved by the new GRW and circular walk leaflets

Promote travel choice options:

Include details of the community transport brokerage on the web pages whereby people can book a minibus to get them to/from the GRW

### **5.5 Promotion / Publicity of route**

Promotion of route to younger people:

Work with walking groups to deliver more guided walks along the route especially for younger people, it is suggested that over a 12 month period, the Ramblers organise a walking festival type event with 6-12 walks along or connected to the GRW as it was felt that they are best placed to encourage younger people..

Develop mobile phone apps and the ability to download via QR codes. Mobile Travel Guides for your GPS iPhone, Android or other smart phone mobiles etc. Allow visitors to map their walk and share the information and knowledge on the GRW website, no more printing or lugging around heavy

guide books! , add trip photographs, allow walkers to report defaults direct to website

Walk completion certificate – sponsored walks etc, fundraising, promotion of activities.

Within the Greensand Ridge area, there are already some established visitor brands, for instance the Greensand Ridge Walk's Muntjac deer, Woburn and the RSPB. How would these established brands fit into any area based destination marketing brand; and what is the scope for reciprocal marketing between larger and smaller attractions to spread benefit/value.

Also, there are other brands and campaigns in the area such as *Experience Bedfordshire*. Once again, how would these fit with any area brand/ project marketing?

#### **Actions**

Develop an area on the website for schools and youth groups such as Scouts, and Princes' Trust highlighting opportunities for activities along the route and accommodation:- <http://www.experiencebedfordshire.co.uk>

To promote any GRW events a link should be put on the GRW website pointing people to 'Lets Go'

Mobile phone apps and the ability to download via QR codes on to the GRW web site

Produce a 'Certificate of Achievement', to be awarded by CAT/CBC to walkers who have completed the walk.

The Greensand Ridge Walk working group to establish Promotion and Publicity and other related issues and make recommendations to the JLAF. The group would operate as a task and finish group and report to the Countryside Access Services – who will report progress to the JLAF.

The core membership of the group is as follows, but with scope to co-op others as necessary:

- CBC Access Development Team Leader
- CBC ROW Team Leader or delegated officer
- Sandy Tourist Information Centre officer
- Representative for the GST
- Representative for BRCC
- 1 x LAF members
- Parish Council representation
- Ramblers

There will be a need to establish a Terms of Reference as to the make up and responsibility of the group and its level of decision making that impacts on the financial performance of the council in delivering this plan.

## 6. Project Management & Monitoring control

### 6.1 Management & Monitoring the Project

The CBC ROW team will continue to play a lead role in co-ordinating the future implementation of this plan on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council, including coordination of Maintenance, Development and Voluntary projects undertaken.

### 6.2 Annual Report

CBC ROW team will produce an annual report outlining the identified 'Management Objective' actions / outcomes and report back to the GRW working Group and post report on the GRW website.

**The tables overleaf summarise in more detail the future management proposals of the site by answering the questions: What? How? Why? and Who?**

This plan sets out a series of recommendations to maximise the potential of the route for both wildlife, recreation and continue the long term development to enhance and preserve the walk for future enjoyment.

The qualified Officer(s) will ensure that the Management & development Plan is kept under constant review and is scheduled for a formal thorough review every 5 years to ensure that it is as appropriate as possible, particularly given the development proposals within Central Bedfordshire.

## 7. Work Plan

### 7.1 Development of management standards for route

Key :Abbreviations used in the following text:

CBC – Central Bedfordshire Council

TC – Town Councils

RA – Ramblers

CTs – Contractors

ROW – Rights of Way team

PC – Parish Council

BHS – British Horse Society

CAT - Countryside Access Team

Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<b>4.2.1 The Route</b>						
<b>Alignment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A continuous linear route (except where a main obstacle needs to be crossed);</li> <li>2. A route on legally defined public rights of way;</li> <li>3. A route which is aligned to provide the user with the best unobstructed views of the surrounding scenery and access to notable viewpoints and places of interest.</li> </ol>	<b>Measure 1</b> – The percentage of the walk that is legally defined.	98.5%	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan
<b>Roads and Crossings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. A minimum use of metalled roads (i.e. only where there is no alternative);</li> <li>5. No sections on busy or dangerous roads;</li> <li>6. Safe crossing points where the route crosses metalled roads, rivers or railways;</li> <li>7. A waiting area is provided where a bridleway crosses a metalled road and 'Horse Crossing' signs are erected to warn motorists;</li> <li>8. Crossings of trunk and "A" roads by bridges and underpasses where traffic levels and speeds require them;</li> <li>9. Bridges on bridleways which do not have steps at either end, are constructed of non-slippery and non-echoing materials and are equipped with parapets (high parapets where the bridge carries a bridleway over a road, rail or river);</li> </ol>	<p><b>Measure 2</b> – The percentage of the walk that is vehicle free and off road.</p> <p><b>Measure 3</b> – The percentage of road, rail, river crossings on the walk that is considered safe.</p> <p><b>Measure 4</b> – The percentage of culverts, bridges and ramps on the walk that are fit for purpose.</p>	87%	90%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan
			77%	100%		
			87%	100%		

Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<b>Obstructions</b>	10. A readily passable and unobstructed route (including freedom from undergrowth and over growth).	<b>Measure 5</b> – The percentage of the route fit for purpose	90%	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan
<b>Surfaces</b>	<p>11. 12 A well-managed, sustainable surface which is sympathetic to the landscape (a green sward is the surface of choice but we recognise that this is not always possible);</p> <p>12. Minimal engineered paths in remote and wild locations;</p> <p>13. Natural materials, used in places where artificial surfaces are unavoidable, that have been chosen so that they blend sympathetically in colour and texture and ecologically with their setting, and ideally have been obtained locally with recycled materials used where appropriate – or, where other materials, such as geotextiles, have to be used, they are not visible even if erosion has started to occur;</p> <p>14. Verges are managed, and signed where roads are a necessary part of the route so there is an adequate refuge for a walker or rider encountering traffic;</p> <p>15. At no point on a bridleway is the ground soft enough to allow a horse or cycle to sink deeply into it;</p> <p>16. That, where it is legally permitted, off road vehicle use is regulated (using suitable management techniques) if it has a significant adverse impact on non-motorised trail users or on the path surface;</p> <p>17. That, where there are no off road vehicle rights and where there are demonstrable problems, efforts are made to prevent illegal use by motorised recreational vehicles.</p>	<b>Measure 6</b> – The percentage of walk that has an acceptable surface	Not yet measured	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan



Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<b>Steps</b>	18. The use of steps is kept to a necessary minimum (graded slopes are preferred).	<b>Measure 7</b> – The percentage of the walk that steps that are fit for purpose	92%	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan
<b>4.2.2 Walk Management</b>						
<b>Corridor Management</b>	19. Intensive agriculture and intensive forestry is kept to a minimum; 20. Historic features conserved and well managed; 21. The use of adjacent fencing only where essential for agricultural or security needs (wherever possible hedging, banking and walls should be used instead of fencing);	<b>Measure 8</b> – The percentage of walk corridor that is of the highest quality.	Not measured!  (difficult how to measure?)	100%		
<b>4.2.3 Walk Furniture</b>						
<b>Quality Design</b>	22. Consistent high quality design, style and use of materials to suit the character of the local landscape with historical features maintained where possible; 23. Furniture that is well-maintained, safe, comfortable, easy and convenient to use; 24. Least restrictive options used at all boundaries (eg. Gaps where no stock control is required, but where stock or illegal use requires control then gates rather than stiles.) Kissing gates should allow sufficient clearance for a user with a backpack but should not be used where people using personal mobility vehicles or wheelchairs ? can access the path. Where stiles are unavoidable they should be accessible for dogs in accordance with agricultural needs; 25. Gates which can be opened and closed without the need for lifting and which are equally easy to open and close from either side.  • For bridleways, self-closing gates are preferred with catches which can be operated with one hand and reached from the saddle.	<b>Measure 9</b> – The percentage of furniture on the walk that is fit for purpose, and where possible that any structures meet BS 5709 2006	90%  440 recorded structures  (43) 9.87% require work	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan

Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<b>4.2.4 Services</b>						
<b>Access Points</b>	<p>26. Principal starting, stopping and finishing points accessible by public transport;</p> <p>27. Small, unobtrusive, informal car parks located close to the walk at principal starting / stopping / finishing points which are not served by public transport;</p> <p>28. Well-managed rights of way or permissive routes connecting the walk to nearby settlements and services and usable for circular routes.</p>	<b>Measure 10</b> – The percentage of the walk that are accessible by public transport and appropriately connected.	Not measured!	100%		
<b>Accommodation</b>	<p>29. Accommodation - camp sites and refreshment facilities available generally within one mile, but not more than 3 miles of principal starting / stopping and finishing points (a variety of accommodation – campsites, bunkhouses, hostels, bed and breakfast, hotels – should be available).</p>	<b>Measure 11</b> – An assessment made of how well serviced each stage is, including an understanding of the average accommodation capacity of each part of the walk within a one-mile corridor and the percentage of available accommodation that is 'graded'	Tourist Info			
<b>Other Services</b>	<p>30. Drinking water for public consumption and for dogs available at convenient locations along each part of walk or, in areas where this is not possible, information on distances to next watering point;</p> <p>31. A walk that is free of litter and dog mess (if receptacles are provided at honeypot locations they should be emptied regularly and frequently).</p>	<b>Measure 12</b> – Percentage of walk that is litter and dog mess free.	Not measured!			

Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<b>4.2.5 Information</b>						
<b>Branding</b>	<p>32. Information that is accurate, relevant, interesting and coordinated, carrying a consistent message presented in an appropriate form;</p> <p>33. Details of contact points on all media to enable faults and incidents to be reported and to enable users to feedback comments on the trail and its management.</p>	<b>Measure 13</b> – The percentage of official produced GRW information that is currently accessible and branded in accordance with national guidance.	Not recorded / Tourist Info!			
<b>Mapping</b>	<p>34. The line of the walk, including the location of refuge huts benches, 'high seats', marked accurately on Ordnance Survey maps;</p>	<b>Measure 14</b> – The number and percentage of official guide books and maps that mark each part of the GRW accurately.	Not recorded!	100%		
<b>Print</b>	<p>35. Printed material for each part of the walk which includes a summary leaflet which includes safety information and links to other necessary services as accommodation, public transport and a guide to connecting circular walks along the GRW. Material should include contact details for more information;</p> <p>36. On sections of walk legitimately used by motor vehicles, information warning other users of the likelihood of encountering them;</p> <p>37. Links to local history, geology, wildlife, archaeology and environmental education opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Measure 15</b> – The availability a GRW summary introductory leaflet for each stage.</p> <p><b>Measure 16</b> – The availability of a Walk public transport guide for each stage.</p> <p><b>Measure 17</b> – The availability of a series of promoted circular walks/rides for each stage.</p>	<p>Not recorded / monitored!</p> <p>Not measured!</p> <p>Not measured!</p>	100%		

Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<p><b>Online Promotion</b></p>	<p>38. A fully accessible website presence for the route and connecting links. Each trail link material should include contact details for further information</p>	<p><b>Measure 18</b> – The provision of accessible, complete and up to date online information including a fact file and accommodation for the GRW.</p> <p><b>Measure 19</b> – The provision of a complete database covering accommodation, services etc for the GRW.</p>	<p>Not measured!</p> <p>Not measured!</p>	<p>100%</p>		

Management Objective	Description of Works	Reason	Current Measure	Target Measure	Lead	Time Line
<b>4.2.6 Signage</b>						
<b>Quality Way Marking</b>	<p>39. The Muntjac disc logo on all signs and waymarks on the GRW;</p> <p>40. Waymarking is colour coded in accordance with national guidelines to indicate the status of the route;</p> <p>41. Directional posts, signed in both directions, bear the name of the walk (abbreviated if necessary), the Muntjac disc logo, the status of the route and, where they are located at principal access points, additional information about destinations and accurate distances;</p> <p>42. Adjoining link paths signed 'from' and 'to' the GSRW in appropriate locations;</p> <p>43. the design style is consistent and the materials used are sympathetic to the local landscape;</p> <p>44. On remote sections of the walk, where the principal use is long distance walking or riding, signing is provided only to the extent necessary to ensure public safety and guide users at key locations;</p> <p>45. In honey pot areas, signing as recommended above is supplemented by additional signing at all starting / stopping and finishing points indicating villages, car parks, public transport links, other rights of way and other services.</p>	<p><b>Measure 20</b>– The number and percentage of signs that meet the standard on whole route</p> <p><b>Measure 21</b> – The number of information panels in comparison to the number of key access points on whole route and the percentage of these that refer to the GRW appropriately.</p>	Not recorded!	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan
<b>Other Signs</b>	<p>46. No misleading notices;</p> <p>47. Temporary diversions clearly marked in advance and at the point of the diversion. Diversions should also be publicised on the Walk website and at local Tourist Information Centres;</p> <p>48. Where there is a temporary diversion, the information is user friendly and includes the length of time for which the diversion will apply.</p>	<b>Measure 22</b> – The number and percentage of highway authority temporary diversion orders that comply with best practice.	Not recorded!	100%	ROW Team	20% per annum over the five year plan



## 7.2 Management Recommendations / Objectives and Actions

Key :Abbreviations used in the following text:

CAT – Countryside Access Team  
 CBC – Central Bedfordshire Council

TC – Town Councils  
 PC – Parish Council

RA – Ramblers  
 BHS – British Horse Society

CTs – Contractors

Management Objective	Description of Works	Actions	Lead	Time Line
<b>5.1 Management Prescriptions</b>				
<b>Route maintenance and management</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The route should be evaluated against the categorisation standards:- Easy, Medium, Hard.</li> <li>The route should be maintained in accordance with a maintenance framework to ensure that high standards of maintenance occur throughout the route and operate in accordance to 'Value for Money' guidelines and as agreed by all partners.</li> <li>Maintain and enhance the hedgerows and identified historic boundaries along the route.</li> <li>Improve accessibility for disabled people along the route: Identify those sections of the route which are accessible and stile free particularly those adjacent to car parks e.g. Amptill, Rushmere</li> </ol> <p><b>Improvements that would make the GSRW more enjoyable:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of benches: Look to prioritise benches on accessible sections of the route e.g. those near car parks</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC Rights of Way Officers to undertake categorisation of route</li> <li>CBC Rights of Way Officers to undertake annual inspection of route, to be rotated during Summer / Winter periods, ensuring that surfaces in accordance of the outcome results of the development of 'Management Standards'.</li> <li>Work with landowners and site managers to produce management guidelines for existing hedgerows and identify opportunities for restocking or establishment of new hedgerows through available grant funding schemes.</li> <li>Include a sentence in the leaflet which says 'for further information on accessibility, please visit our website'.</li> <li>Support and encourage ROW Officers to talk to landowners about putting benches on their land.</li> </ol>		
<b>5.2. Survey and Monitoring - visitor- user surveys, tree surveying, habitat species</b>				
<b>Visitor</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess how many people visit the Greensand Ridge walk.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>install people counters at various points along the route at various times of the year to obtain a greater understanding in the number of users.</li> </ol>		

Management Objective	Description of Works	Actions	Lead	Time Line
<b>Tree Surveying</b>	<p>7. Tree survey to be undertaken along this route as identified within the pending 'Tree and Woodland' policy, the route has been identified as a high priority zone of users and a high risk exists that there is risk of falling limbs / trees along the route.</p> <p>8. Assessment of private trees that protrude / grow over the route.</p>	<p>7. It is the intended outcome to do a species/ condition survey that will also digitise tree location and give a unique reference number and be plotted on to the Council's GIS<sup>2</sup> system.</p> <p>8. Establish database of connecting landowners and promote risk of trees to landowners.</p> <p>9. The opportunity exists to record trees of notable value regarding age, significance and importance.</p>		
<b>Habitat Surveying</b>	<p>9. Undertake a habitat / ecology survey along the route to establish valuable flora / fauna.</p> <p>10. Work with landowners to the land alongside the route to identify habitat corridors between sites and link into an appropriate management plan to enhance biodiversity habitat links to sites outside of the route.</p> <p>11. Support landowners to increase the total amount of land within the area which is covered by agri-environment schemes and increase the amount of land entered into higher level scheme.</p>	<p>10. Undertake habitat / ecology surveying over the next five years.</p> <p>11. Create an effective monitoring programme and action plan to increase habitat interest along the route.</p> <p>12. Increase opportunities for members of the community and wardens to be involved in surveying, recording and protecting the routes key features including heritage and biodiversity.</p>		
<b>5.3 Promotion of Connecting Hubs – 'Stay a little longer in...'</b>				
<b>Art / Sculpture</b>	<p>12. Practical sculpture installations along the length of the route acting as sign-posting to sites of interest, iconic sculptures, way-markers, benches and gateways at key locations along the route.</p>	<p>13. Install signage at the points where visitors join the route indicating users are permitted to use the route.</p> <p>14. Signs should be made of timber to fit with the rural nature of the route area.</p> <p>15. Develop action plan of perspective destination project hubs for development.</p> <p>16. Appoint artists to develop community engagement projects to create gateways, sculpture at destination points along route.</p>		

<sup>2</sup> Cadcorp - Geographical Information Systems.



Management Objective	Description of Works	Actions	Lead	Time Line
<b>5.4 Access and Public Rights of Way / Circular Walks / Bridleways</b>				
<b>Access</b>	<p>13. Provide a safe crossing point over the high speed A5 for pedestrians and horse riders.</p> <p>14. Provide a safe walking / crossing point on Sheep Lane (BW40) 120 mtr section leading into Pinfoldpond, for pedestrians.</p> <p>15. Promote the series of circular routes that link in to the route area for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.</p> <p>16. The routes include shorter family friendly * <b>Easy</b> routes and * <b>Medium</b> longer options.</p> <p>17. Route maps should be available for downloading online and funding permitting, should be available as printed leaflets in local outlets such as libraries, pubs, bakeries, cafeterias and council offices.</p> <p>18. Work with the GRW Wardens to ensure the route and signage of the route is maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>19. Connection of Linear walks</p> <p><b>John Bunyan Trail, Cross Bucks Ways, Milton Keynes Trail</b></p> <p>20. Information about other walks in the area can be obtained from local libraries and Tourist information Centres, or on <a href="http://www.lets-go.org.uk">http://www.lets-go.org.uk</a></p>	<p>17. Enhancements of circular routes which link to the GRW and better promotion of these connections</p> <p>18. Will be achieved by the new GRW and circular walk leaflets</p> <p>19. <b>Promote travel choice options</b> Include details of the community transport brokerage on the web pages whereby people can book a minibus to get them to/from the GRW</p> <p>20. There will also be a need to emphasis on maximizing the use of walking and cycling routes between tourist attractions and ensuring that there are facilities for cyclists at the start of circular walks.</p>		
<b>5.5 Promotion / Publicity of route</b>				
<b>Promotion</b>	<p>21. Promotion of route to younger people:</p> <p>22. Work with walking groups to deliver more guided walks along the route especially for younger people.</p> <p>23. Ramblers organise a walking festival type event with 6-12 walks along or connected to the GRW as it was felt that they are best placed to encourage younger people.</p> <p>24. Develop mobile phone apps and the ability to download via QR codes.</p> <p>25. Walk completion certificate – sponsored walks etc, fundraising, promotion of activities.</p>	<p>21. Develop an area on the website for schools and youth groups such as Scouts, DofE and Princes' Trust highlighting opportunities for activities along the route</p> <p>22. Accommodation:- <a href="http://www.experiencebedfordshire.co.uk">http://www.experiencebedfordshire.co.uk</a></p> <p>23. To promote any GRW events a link should be put on the GRW website pointing people to 'Lets Go'</p> <p>24. Produce completion ' Certificate of Achievement', to be awarded to walkers who have completed the walk</p>		

## 8. Progressing the plan

### 8.1 Funding

This section seeks to outline potential funding opportunities for the priorities and actions listed in section 7 above. Those familiar with fundraising will appreciate that it is an ever-changing environment, and the suggestions made within this section are intended as a guide only at this stage.

#### **Natural England - Paths for Communities**

A funding scheme set up to develop and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way (PROW) in England in order to deliver benefits to predominantly rural areas. Local community partnerships are eligible to bid to the Path for Communities scheme.

The aim of the scheme is to encourage and support local communities to work with land owners to make improvements to the network of Public Rights of Way. In all cases projects must include some element of new Public Right of Way creation. In most cases projects will include an element of new bridleway creation but projects that include 20% per annum over the five year plan footpath creation alone will also be considered where community and economic benefit can be demonstrated.

The Paths for Communities scheme is operating over a two year period, ending in May 2014.

#### **Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) – main grant**

WREN focuses its funding on community-based projects, and more specifically the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site.

To be eligible, a project site must be within 10 miles of a working landfill site.

The WREN board meets quarterly and can award sums of between £15,001 and £75,000 from its main grant scheme. Only a limited number of applications can be considered at each round, and this is operated on a first come, first served basis.

#### **Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) – Biodiversity Action Fund**

The focus of any project under the Biodiversity Action Fund must always be the conservation improvements of an identified site or sites (with a clear and defined ecological link) to benefit one or several BAP priority habitats. For example:

- The recreation of a BAP listed priority habitat
- Restoration or conservation of a BAP listed habitat
- Surveying/monitoring/on site research into a BAP listed habitat at a specified site or sites where this is part of on-site conservation work
- The primary intent of projects must be practical site based conservation work.

## **Developer contributions/Section 106**

Given the expected development in Central Bedfordshire, developer contributions are likely to be a potential source of funding for the implementation of actions within this plan. In view of declining public funding, the importance of developers and the proximity of any proposed development, these contributions are becoming increasingly important.

## **8.2 Use of the Management & Development Plan**

This plan provides a comprehensive summary of the issues and opportunities facing the GRW, the vision plan should act as a framework for all organisations working in the area and support the securing of funding to take forward the outlined proposals.

It is recommended that the ROW team takes the lead in progressing the aims, objectives and proposals outlined in this document. They should communicate with Access Development team and stakeholders to ensure all organisations working in areas within or connected to the route are familiar with and buy-into the Management & Development plan. It should also seek to coordinate any significant activity such as funding applications, implementation of works, or further community consultation.

It is also suggested that ROW team identify a project lead to champion the plan, and this person should be the key contact for other organisations or local authority departments operating in areas within or connected to the route area to ensure a co-ordinated overview of all developments associated with the plan. This person should also provide advice on linkages and be able to identify potential conflicts that may arise.

## **Acknowledgments**

### **Access Development Project Officer**

Steve Halton - Stephen Halton BSc (Hons) MA  
Senior Project Officer - Ecology and Community  
Countryside Access Team | Sustainable Communities

### **Rights of Way Officers**

Rick Thompson – Rights of Way Officers (Central West)  
Gemma Harrison - Rights of Way Officer (Central Mid)  
Andrew Gwilam – Rights of Way Officer (Central East)  
Countryside Access Team | Sustainable Communities

### **Greensand Ridge Working Group**

Jonathan Woods - Access Development Team Leader, CBC  
Caroline Romans - Project Officer - Access Development, CBC  
Ali Bradbury – Clophill Heritage Association  
Stephen Sleight – Chair / BedsRCC  
Lisa King - BedsRCC  
Alexe Rose – Greensand Trust  
Rozz Crossman – Sandy Tourist Information  
Barry Ingram – Ramblers

### **Natural England**

National Trails Quality Standards – Former Countryside Agency now  
Natural England

**Deliberately left blank**



**A great place to live and work**

**Contact us...**

by telephone: 0300 300 8XXX

by email: [customerservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

on the web: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,  
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ