

Key growth areas - Countryside Access development aspirations

Public rights of way (PRoW) and other local green space and countryside areas are part of Oxfordshire's heritage and landscape. They are valuable assets, particularly on the urban fringe, as they offer a means of access to appreciate and understand the surrounding local countryside, farming environment and green spaces. This access to green spaces gives direct and indirect health, social and economic benefits and can improve overall quality of life within a new development and for surrounding residents and visitors.

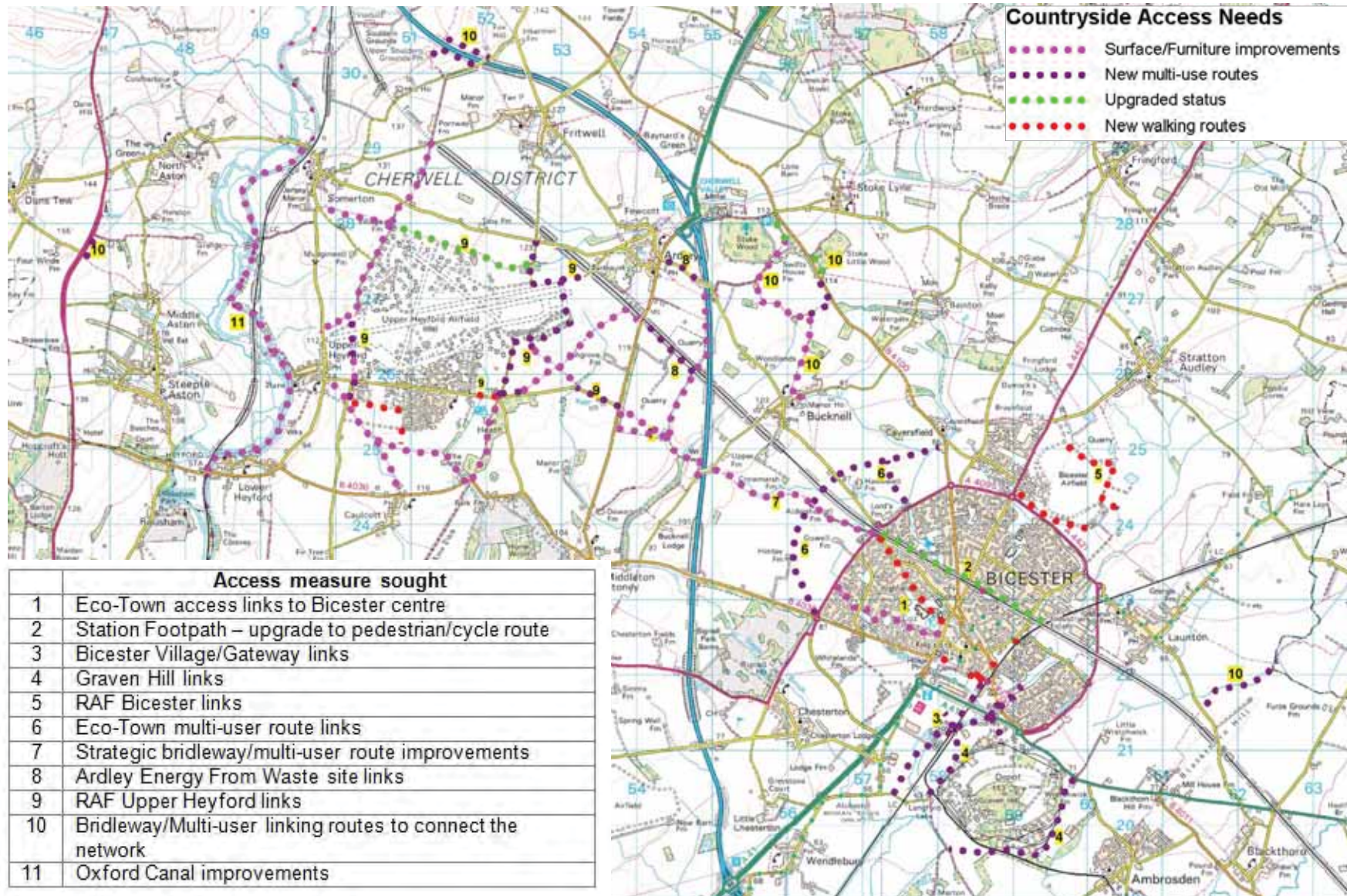
The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (para 75) states *“Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails”*. Therefore it can be seen that public rights of way and countryside access form a part of the regional and local growth agenda and this needs to be considered as part of the changes that will be occurring in the Oxfordshire landscape over the life of the RoWMP and beyond. OCC's access and rights of way priorities for residential, commercial and minerals and waste developments are to safeguard existing countryside access where this is possible, adapt countryside access where necessary, and where possible and reasonable to mitigate the impacts of development to enhance the network for all users. Please refer to the *Countryside access and the development planning process* section of the Oxfordshire Rights of Way Management Plan (p36)

Supporting growth, the economy and quality of place in the priority development and growth areas and around the county

Oxfordshire has six priority areas for growth. These are Bicester, Oxford, Science Vale UK, Banbury, Witney and Carterton. In the first three the focus is on supporting regional and local economic growth through infrastructure development and housing, and in the second three the focus is on meeting local needs through increased housing provision. Each area is shown in the following pages, with the aspirational access development measures highlighted. These are intended to make travelling safer or to better connect the network as a means to improve the local environment, health and wellbeing and 'place-making' for local residents and the local economy. These measures may be where developer funding agreements have already been secured or where there is a need for wider scale on-site measures or provision of developer contributions so that Oxfordshire County Council and others can improve provision. There are also maps for Thame, Faringdon, and Wallingford areas as these will all experience high levels of residential growth over the life of the RoWMP. Mitigation measures may also include those identified by the local community through its Neighbourhood Plan or other Community-Led Plan.

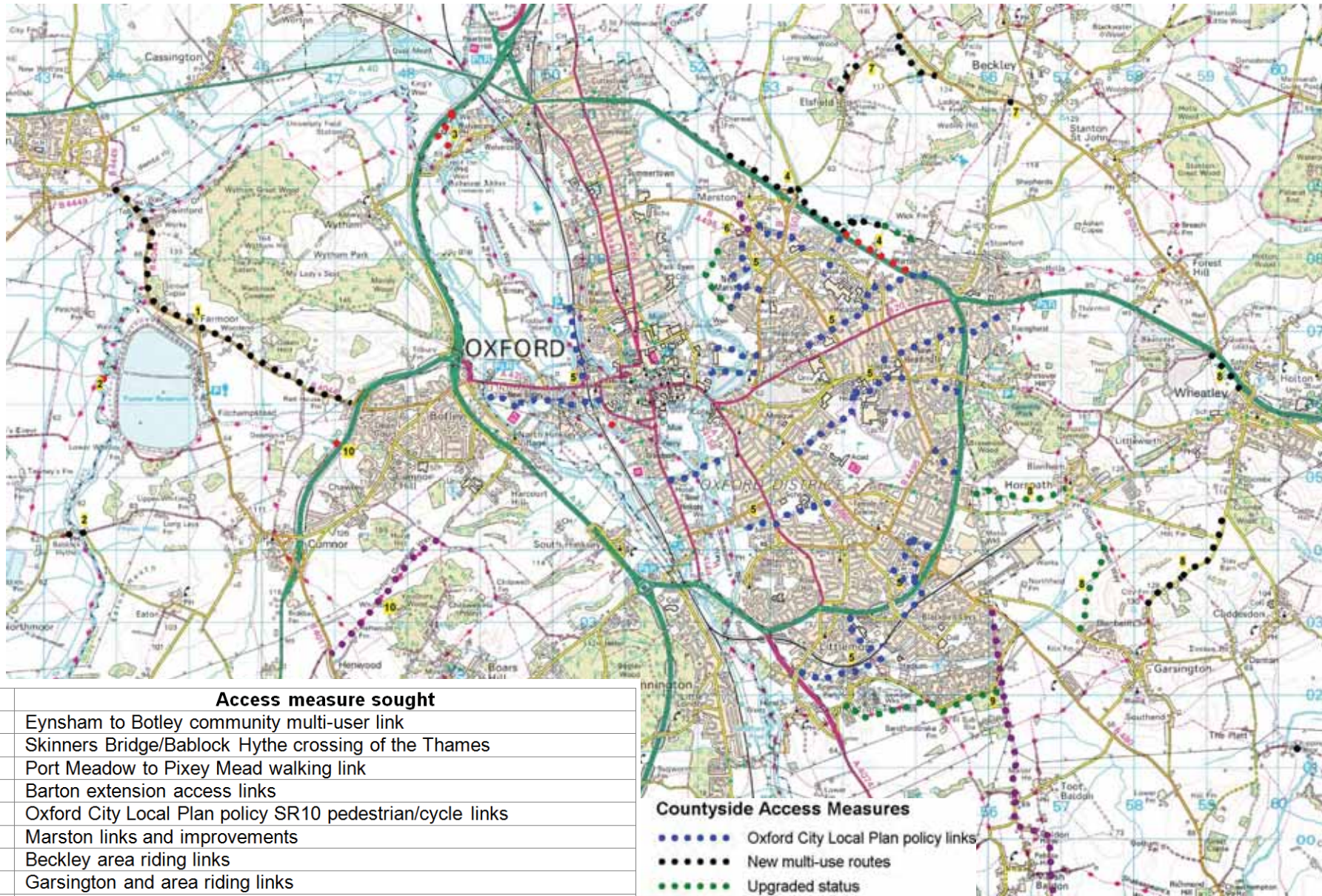
These area maps are based on a combination of the suggestions made by the public for and since the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan and desktop/site based assessments of the local area. They are not conclusive as the nature of public needs is dynamic, especially where major new developments are implemented. Note that these are aspirational access development maps only. They are non-definitive and do not have any legal status. Indication of a route upgrade or a new route on a map does not bind OCC or another body to undertake the work and does not confer any encouragement, permission or rights to use these routes by the public. All routes and upgrades are subject to negotiation with landowners and following due legal process.

Bicester Key Area: Aspirational access development measures map



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Oxford Key Area: Aspirational access development measures map



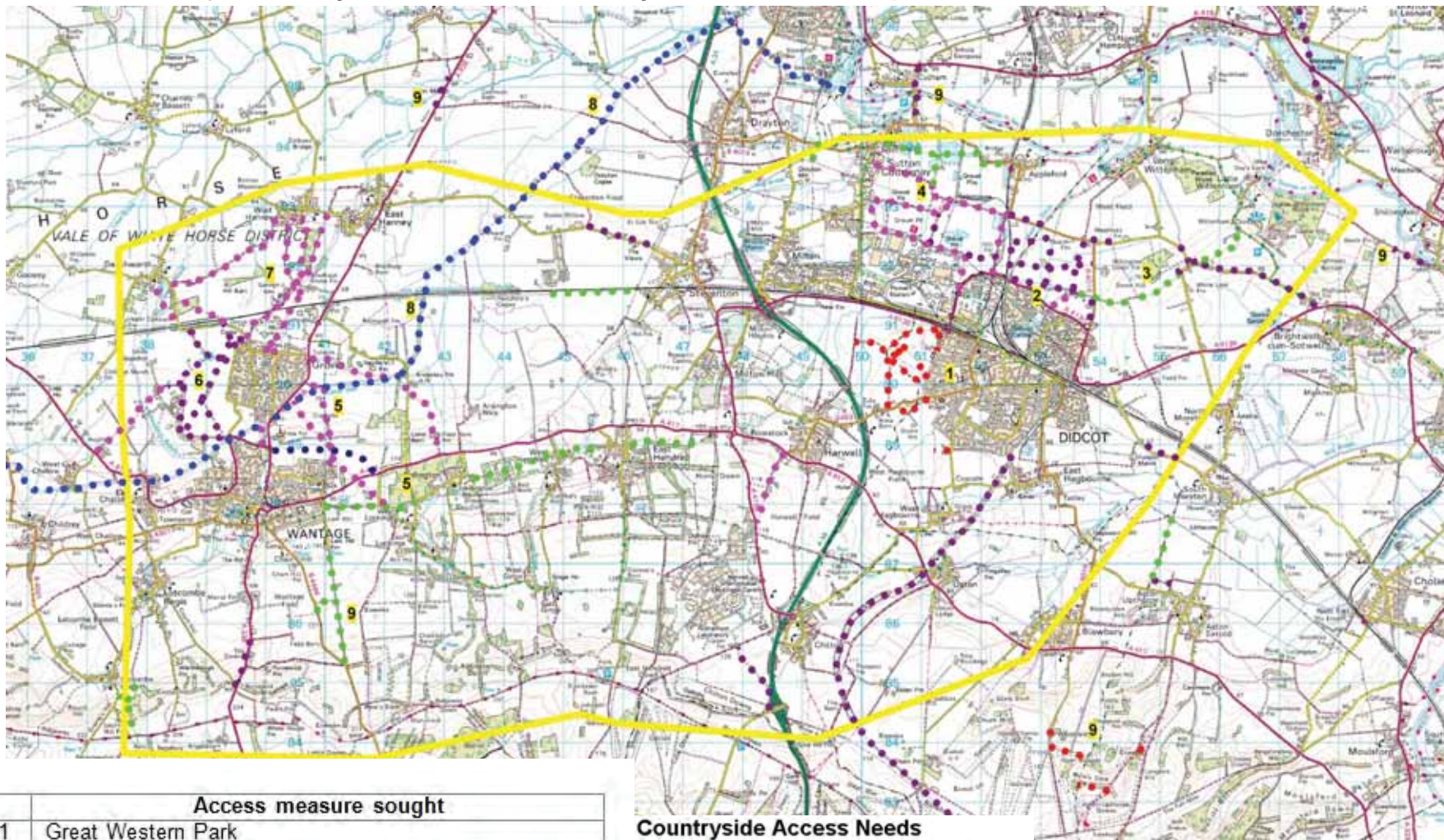
Access measure sought	
1	Eynsham to Botley community multi-user link
2	Skinners Bridge/Bablock Hythe crossing of the Thames
3	Port Meadow to Pixey Mead walking link
4	Barton extension access links
5	Oxford City Local Plan policy SR10 pedestrian/cycle links
6	Marston links and improvements
7	Beckley area riding links
8	Garsington and area riding links
9	South East Oxford countryside gateway links
10	Cumnor area access links

Countyside Access Measures

- Oxford City Local Plan policy links
- New multi-use routes
- Upgraded status
- New walking routes
- Surface/width improvements

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Science Vale Key Area: Aspirational access development measures map



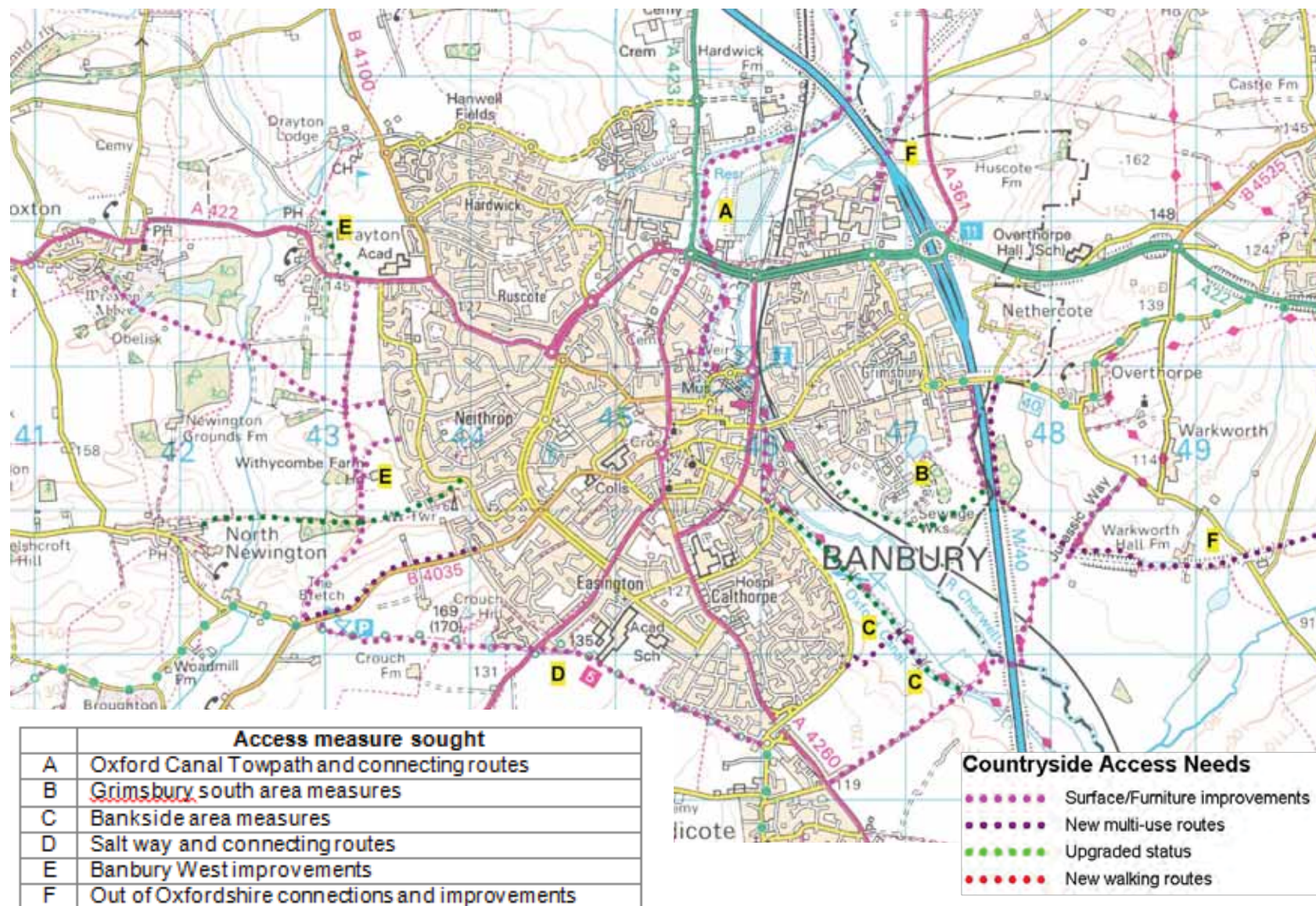
Access measure sought	
1	Great Western Park
2	Didcot Northeast
3	Earth Trust community link
4	Didcot Northwest
5	Wantage Northeast
6	Grove Airfield
7	Wantage North
8	Wilts and Berks Canal/Towpath route
10	Strategic bridleway/multi-user route improvements

Countryside Access Needs

- Surface/Furniture Improvements
- New multi-use routes
- Upgraded status
- New walking routes
- Wilts & Berks Canal/Towpath route
- Science Vale approx area

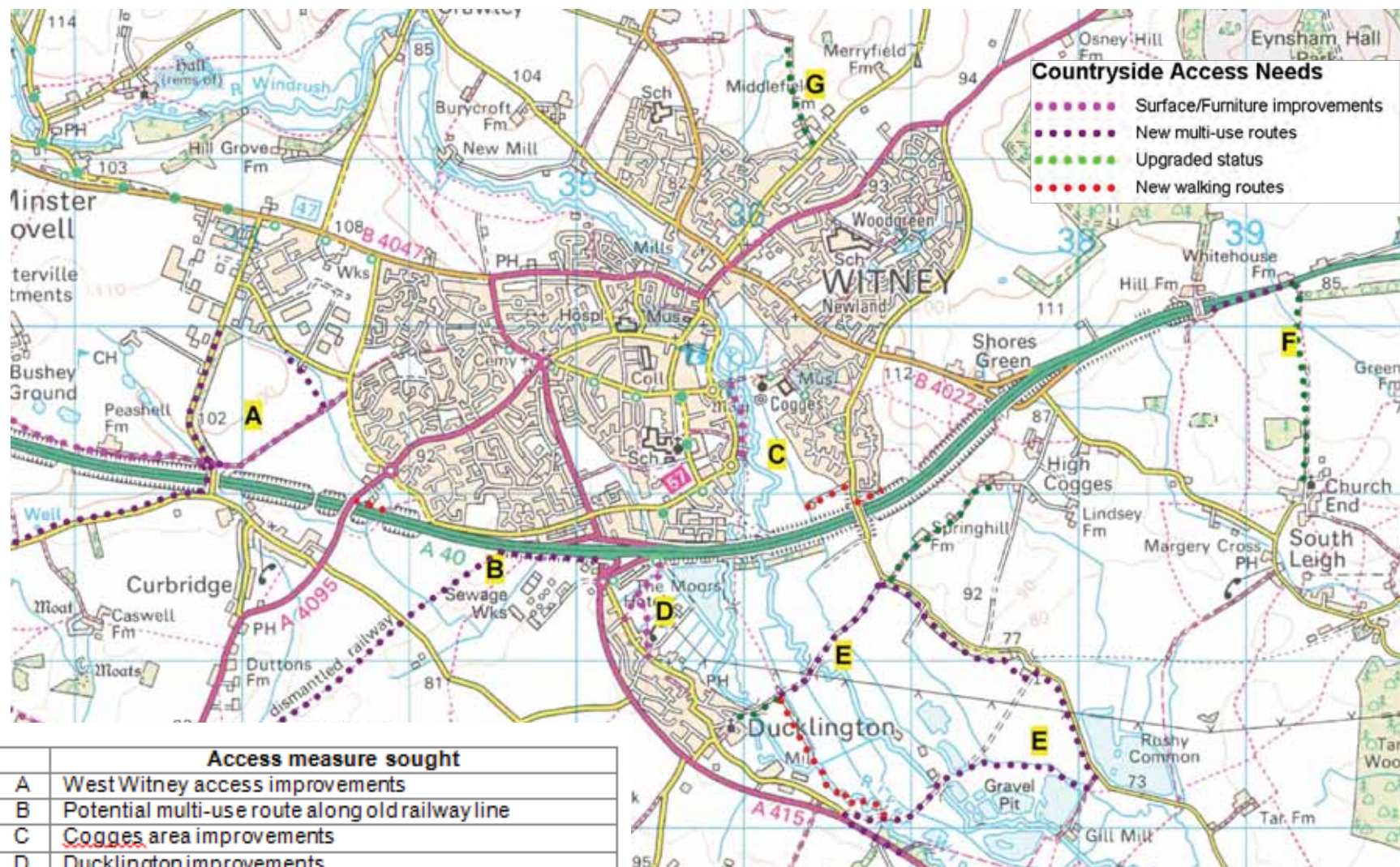
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Banbury Area: Aspirational access development measures map



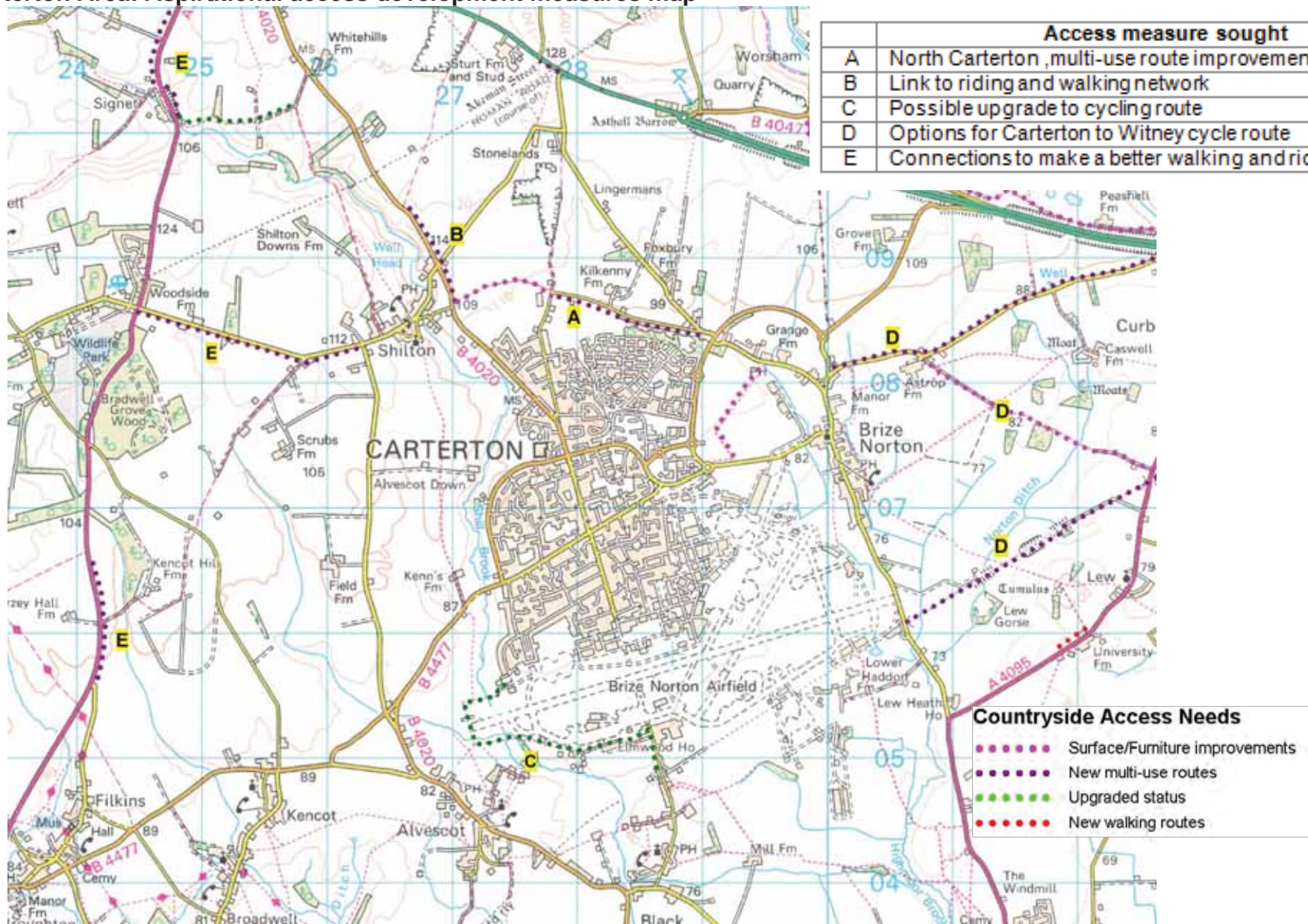
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Witney Area: Aspirational access development measures map





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Carterton Area: Aspirational access development measures map

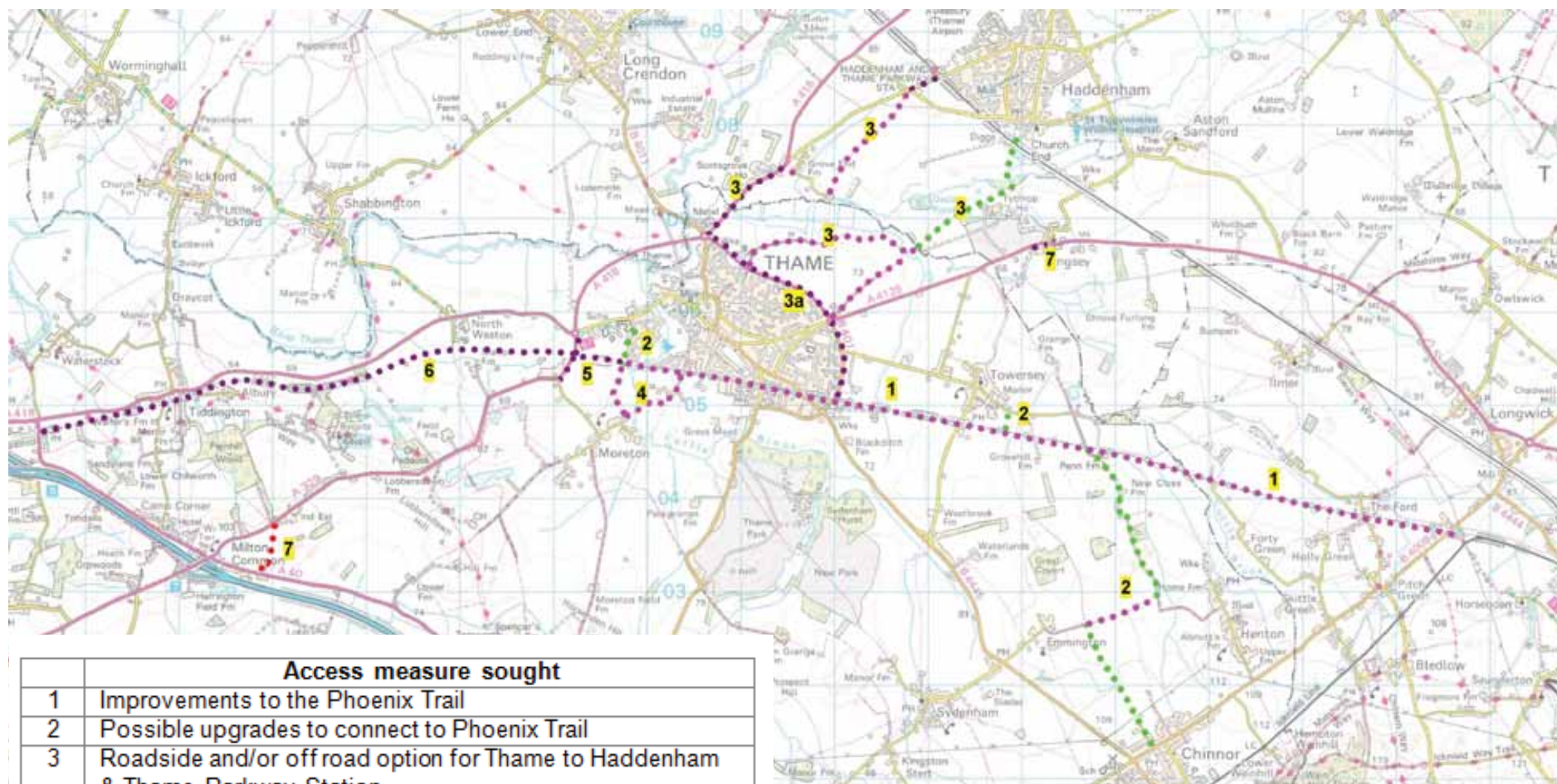


Access measure sought	
A	North Carterton , multi-use route improvements
B	Link to riding and walking network
C	Possible upgrade to cycling route
D	Options for Carterton to Witney cycle route
E	Connections to make a better walking and riding network

Countryside Access Needs	
	Surface/Furniture improvements
	New multi-use routes
	Upgraded status
	New walking routes

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Thame Area: Aspirational access development measures map



Access measure sought	
1	Improvements to the Phoenix Trail
2	Possible upgrades to connect to Phoenix Trail
3	Roadside and/or off road option for Thame to Haddenham & Thame Parkway Station
3a	Roadside cycle track to connect Phoenix Trail and wider countryside to Thame
4	Accessibility improvements to existing routes
5	Improved connections to the Phoenix Trail
6	Possible extensions of Phoenix Trail along old railway line
7	Improved connections for rights of way

Countryside Access Needs

- Surface/Furniture improvements
- New multi-use routes
- Upgraded status
- New walking routes

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Faringdon Area: Aspirational access development measures map

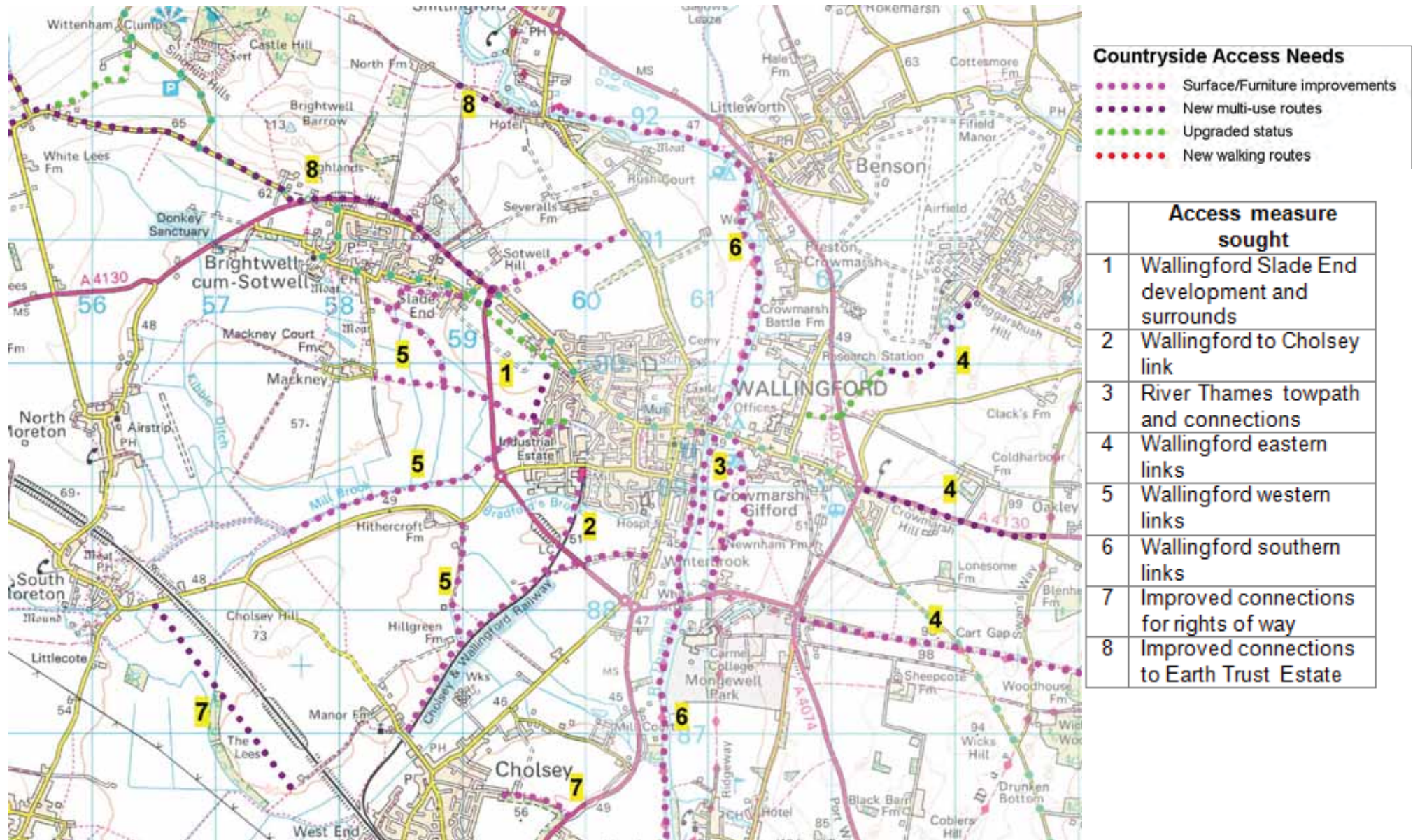


Countryside Access Needs	
	Surface/Furniture improvements
	New multi-use routes
	Upgraded status
	New walking routes

Access measure sought	
1	Park Road links and surrounds
2	Faringdon south links
3	Improved accessibility of rights of way
4	Improved connections for rights of way

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Wallingford Area: Aspirational access development measures map



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