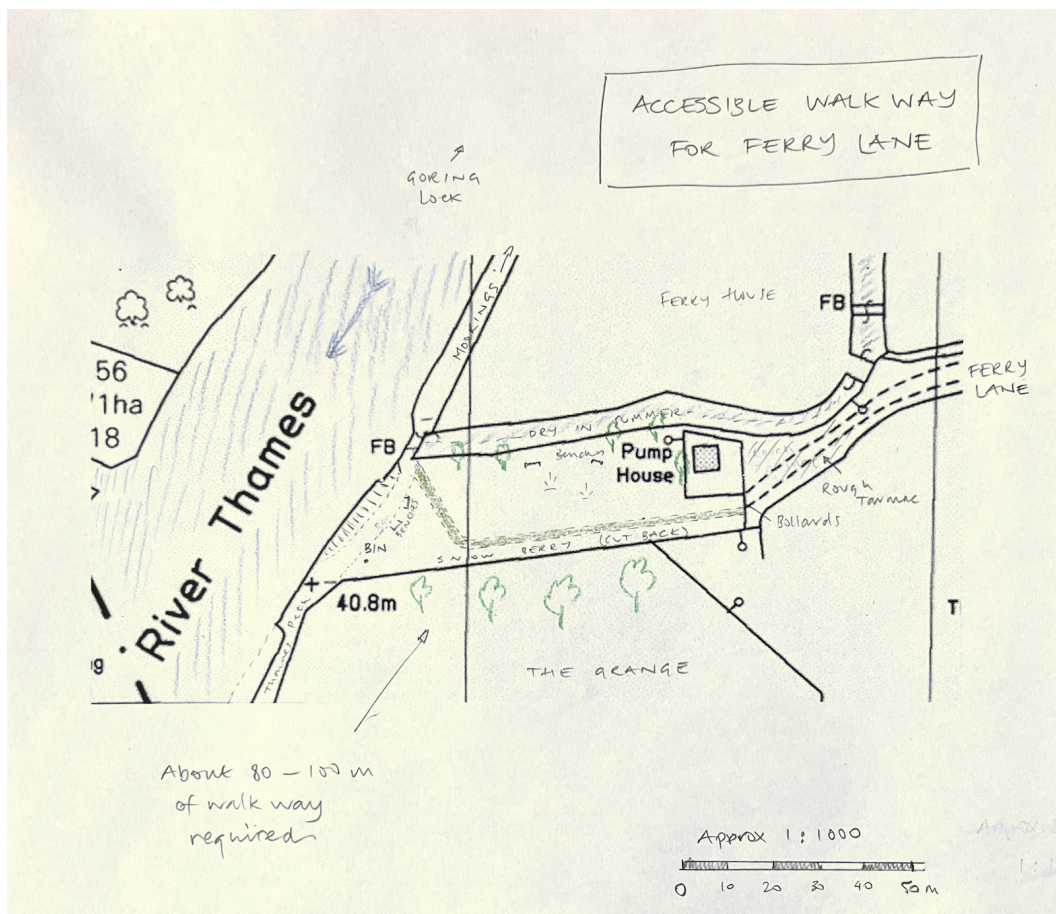


Accessible walkway for Ferry Lane open space

This note sets some initial ideas for making an accessible path across the open space at Ferry Lane.

The possibility of an all-weather path across the Ferry Lane open space was raised by several people attending the village meeting in June. The path would help families pushing buggies and people in wheel chairs. The path would connect between the concrete path beside the moorings to the tarmac surface in Ferry Lane. The route is already shown as an accessible route on the new map at the station. The area is dry in summer, but occasionally floods in winter months, so the new path should be flood-proof and slightly raised. This map shows the site and a possible line for the new path.



A low board-walk might be the ideal solution. Raised enough to keep out of the mud, but low enough that it does not need a hand rail. And wide enough to allow buggies and wheel chairs to pass each other. The walk way down to the river behind the Swan Hotel is something like what we need.

Potential suppliers

- Revive Recycled Plastics in Dorney, Windsor.
<https://www.reviverecycledplastics.co.uk/product-details/66/299/1110/Bespoke-boardwalks.htm>

These people just supply the material, but they work with the next lot.

- Maydencroft, Hitchin.
<https://www.maydencroft.co.uk/service-details/2130/Boardwalks-and-bridges.htm>

Design and manage the project, using materials supplied by Revive

- Marmax, County Durham
<https://marmaxproducts.co.uk/product/boardwalk/>

Marmax just supply the material. “The Recycled Plastic Boardwalk is a great addition to public footpaths and for public areas such as zoos to avoid muddy paths. The Boardwalk uses a WRAP approved roughened surface for improved grip in wet conditions to ensure the walkway stays safe. The Recycled Plastic Boardwalk is made from 100% HDPE recycled plastic which is robust and maintenance free.”

Of these potential suppliers, only Marmax have responded so far. The wider version of their board walk product costs £86 + VAT per metre, plus delivery, but including all fixtures and fittings and assembly guides. So 100m would cost about £11,000 plus the costs of installation, which might be another £10,000.

I anticipate that Revive’s product (which looks very similar) will cost about the same, but I expect that we might pay rather more if we chose to engage the design and project management expertise of Maydencroft.

I’ve also contacted Withymead to ask who supplied their board walks. They sent this response: *Many thanks for being in touch with us at Withymead. We do have a boardwalk which runs through the reedbeds on the reserve. It was installed by volunteers about 18 years ago using treated soft wood. It is now coming to the end of its life and is beginning to rot in places. We are planning to replace it with a recycled plastic (RCP) alternative which will last over 40 years and is more ecofriendly. We have had to apply for planning permission to install a new boardwalk despite it being a replacement and also have needed to apply for a FRAP from the EA for working alongside the river. Far more compliance hurdles to negotiate this time around. We have researched a number of RCP boardwalk suppliers recently. Here they are in no particular order: Filcris, Gilleards/Kacey Plastics, Maydencroft Kingfisher/Millboard, Plaswood. The base cost seems to be approximately £540/m - so eye wateringly expensive.*

FRAP is a Flood Risk Activity Permit.

I did not contact TDP, who supplied the recycled plastic benches in the Rectory Gardens, because their website suggests that they do not make board walk products.

Toby Thurston – 13 Aug 2024