

Footpath along the Ferry Lane Open Space

The Invitation below was sent out to four contractors, including two suggested by SODC's Countryside Access Team. Contractors were asked to provide estimates on the understanding that this was to assess the affordability of the scheme and that if the Council decided to proceed, competitive quotes would be sought. Only two contractors have responded with estimates of £8-10,000 (excl. VAT) and £12,000 (excl. VAT).

Because of the presence of tree roots along the route of the path it would be advisable to get arboricultural advice, and an estimate of that cost is £1,000. The trees are subject to Tree Preservation Orders and permission for any work on the roots and trimming of branches etc. may be needed.

Invitation to Contractors

Background

Goring-on Thames Parish Council would like to provide an all-weather surface for the path alongside the open space at the end of Ferry Lane to make it accessible for wheel chair users and pushchairs as well as those with limited mobility. It is therefore looking for an indication of the likely costs for budgeting purposes.

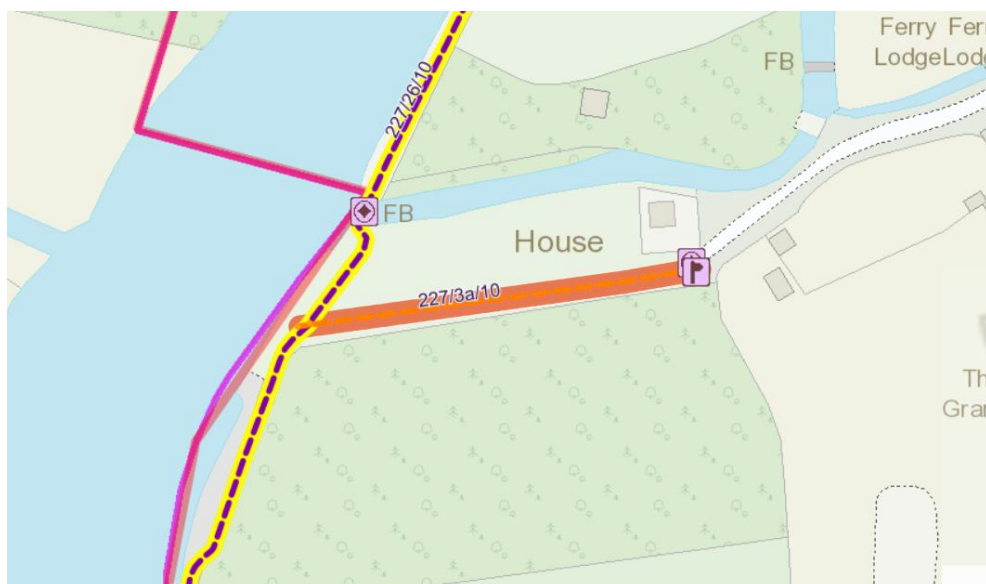
The Parish Council owns the open space, Ferry Lane is a public highway and ends at the beginning of the open space. The public right of way, a restricted byway (227/3a/10), runs along the southern boundary of the open space from the end of Ferry Lane to the River Thames. The right of way is currently unused, and the 'walked route' is down the centre of the open space but the Parish Council want to reinstate the right of way as the main path since the walked route can become muddy and reduces the amenity value of the open space.

The path is approximately 90m long and the surface must be 2m in width. The site slopes gently down to the River, the drop being less than 0.5m.

The post code is RG8 9HX and the location is shown in the Satellite view below:



The line of the path can be found on the Definitive Map of public rights of way ([Public Rights of Way - Countryside Access Map](#)) – extract below:



The photo below shows the open space with the route of the path running along the left side towards the River:



Constraints

The site is liable to flooding and the path will need to be constructed to withstand the effects of flooding.

There are substantial trees (not in the Council's ownership) on the boundary of the open space where the right of way runs. There are visible roots on the surface and the Council accepts that they will have to be removed if a suitable foundation for the path are to be laid. The Council will be taking arboricultural advice, contact the owners of the trees and obtain planning consent (as they are protected) but, for the purposes of providing an estimate, you can assume that any issues have been satisfactorily resolved.

Undergrowth and vegetation has been removed from the line of the right of way but there is no visible trace of a path. The 'surfacing' will therefore be, in effect, the laying of a new permanent, hard surfaced path with suitable foundations.

Access to the site will be from Ferry Road, but parking space there is limited.

The Council will manage any necessary applications for planning permission, flood risk and activity permits and will liaise with the County Council and National Trails Thames Path.

Options

The Council has been advised by the Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Access Team that the surface should be porous and will need to be authorised by them before any works take place. They have suggested KBI Flexipave or similar could be used, or alternatively

tarmac. If tarmac is used it should be capable of being suitably coloured. Other suggestions will be welcomed.

Request for Information and pricing

The Council would be grateful for details of how you would propose to do the work and the materials you would recommend using and the cost. You may provide different options if you wish. At this stage it is only looking for an indication of the cost for budgeting purposes and not a fully costed quote. If the Council decides to proceed it will seek quotes (or if necessary go to tender) in the usual way.