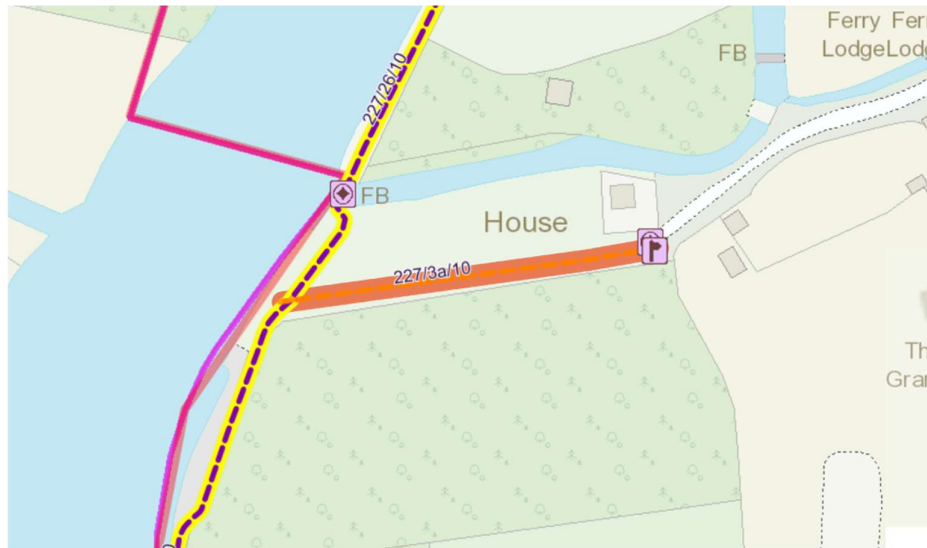


Proposal for the re-surfacing of the byway between Ferry Lane and the Thames Path

A restricted byway (227/3a/10) exists along the southern edge of the Ferry Lane Open Space from the end of Ferry Lane to the Thames Path. The line of the path is on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way ([Public Rights of Way - Countryside Access Map](#)) – extract below:



The byway is currently unused, and the 'walked route' is down the centre of the open space.

The proposal is to reinstate the byway as the main path since the walked route can become muddy and reduces the amenity value of the open space. The resurfaced path would provide a wheelchair accessible route from Ferry Lane to the River and, with improvements to its connection to the Thames Path, provide a circular route from the Wheel Orchard carpark, along the River to the bridge, and back to the carpark via the High Street

The site is liable to flooding and the path will need to be constructed to withstand the effects of flooding. OCC Countryside Access Team advise 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. The 'surfacing' will therefore be, in effect, the laying of a new permanent, hard surfaced path with suitable foundations.

There are substantial trees on the boundary of the open space where the right of way runs. The trees are subject to a TPO (being in the Conservation Area) and the work will need to satisfy SODC's Tree Officer. Planning Permission may be needed.

Estimates of cost have been provided by two contractors as a basis for determining a budget. They indicate that probable costs would be in the range of £8 – 12,000. The Travel and Transport Committee considered that there may be additional costs to connecting with the Thames Path and protecting tree roots and so seek a budget of £20,000 for the work.

MH 6.10.25