

FOOTPATHS

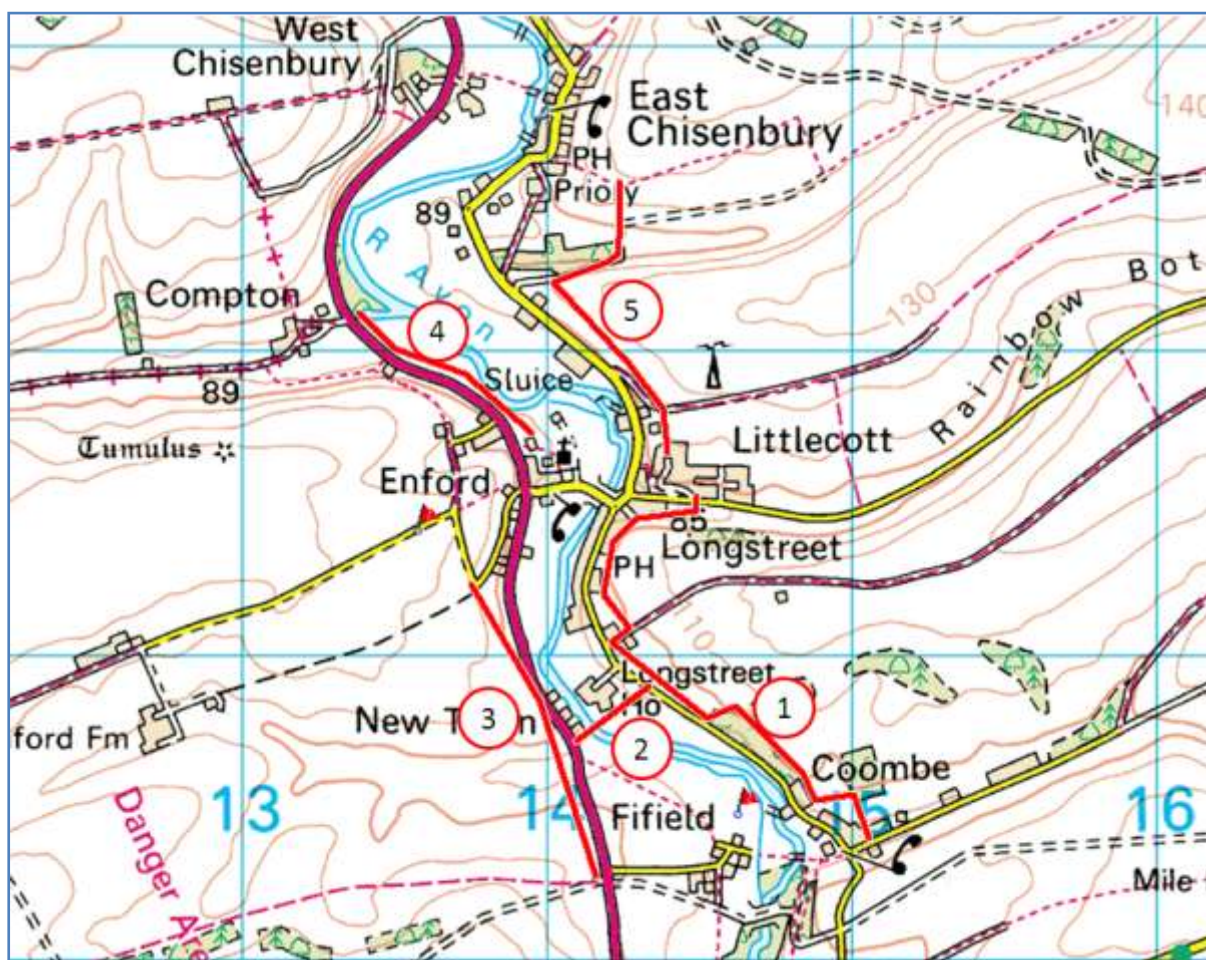
The following was presented at the PC meeting 26 Feb 2014.

The parish has a number of footpaths however these mostly radiate outwards on to the plain. Of great value to dog walkers, they provide little connectivity between areas of habitation.

With both the C32 and A345 being too narrow for the addition of pavement (not to mention the cost), this leaves the C32 as the only viable transit for pedestrians and cyclists to get from one end of the parish to the other.

With the C32 increasingly dangerous, on account of traffic, many people are put off travelling around the village by any means other than 4 wheels. This is a limitation for children, for people without cars and anyone who would just like to walk to the pubs or functions at the village hall.

Although not a topic which was adressed in the parish plan survey, the steering group did however discuss whether creating new public footpaths might not be a partial solution to the connectivity issues.



A few suggestions are shown on the map above:

1. Provides connectivity from Coombe via the VH, The Swan to the playpark on Grants Road.

2. Joins New Town to the VH.
3. Joins New Town to the bus stops in Enford and Fifield.
4. Joins Compton to Enford
5. Joins the top of Grants Road to the the Red Lion.

In order to establish whether there is a need for new footpaths, we would want to consult with the community (ie. some sort of survey/questionnaire), however it would all be a bit nugatory if we then discovered the whole thing wasn't feasible.

So we need to establish feasibility first. The new paths shown on the map are simply representative examples which can be used as test cases for a feasibility study. We should consult the community once we have an idea of general feasibility.

No attempt has been made to establish the feasibility or cost of creating these paths, or to quantify the benefits. It is suggested that the sequence of events would be as follows:

1. PC to advise on process for creation of new rights of way.
2. Consult landowners as to the possibility of new rights of way.
3. Do costings.
4. In consultation with the community, establish need and priorities.
5. Form a project team.
6. Construction as a possible community project.

Perhaps, some of these could even be upgraded to cycle paths.

PC RESPONSE (SEE PC MINUTES 26 FEB 2014)

14/174 The Parish Plan - Footpaths

As was discussed last meeting, the cost of adding pavements to the roads would be too expensive and ideas turned to footpaths through the village. It was not known how to go about creating rights of way and research had not been done into this. The MOD allow people to walk across their land even where no paths are provided therefore, were they necessary?

Steve Becker also mentioned a cycle path as the parish Plan were interested in how to go about this. Cllr Beardsley has looked into many different references and laws to find out how to get the process underway and will pass on the information when he receives it (see below). Some land is private and some MOD.

It was generally agreed that adding new footpaths would be extremely difficult – just as it had been for getting the 'tails' cut off on the Plain.

RESPONSE FROM CLLR BEARDSLEY

Steve,

Information from Wiltshire Council as promised although I had hoped they would give a little more detail than this.

If you wish to read a littler deeper into it, can I suggest you look on the web for:

- Highways Act 1980, sec 25 - 28 incl.

- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, sec 16
- Public Path Order Regulations 1993.

If I can help with PROW's in any other way please let me know.

RESPONSE FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

On Tuesday, 4 March 2014, 14:37, "Crook, Michael" <Michael.Crook@wiltshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Norman

Apologies for the delay getting back to you.

As Richard suggests, routes could be created either by agreement with the landowner or by a creation order.

The best way to create a new route is by a dedication by the landowner. We have the power to enter into an agreement with the landowner to create a new route. I believe this is pretty straightforward and is just a 2 sided sheet of A4 with a map. The needs of agriculture, desirability of conserving flora etc. need to be taken into account. Compensation may be payable.

In terms of the creation order, we would have to be satisfied that it would be "expedient" that a path should be created. Eg to what extent would a path add to the convenience of enjoyment of a substantial section of the public. It would also have to consider the impact upon a person with interest in the land (ie landowner, tenant) and the needs of agriculture. Compensation may be payable.

An alternative route is a permissive path. Sometimes landowners don't mind granting permission for people to walk over their land as long as they have the option of revoking this permission if problems arise.

I've cc'd the warden for the area, Nick Cowen into this message for info.

I hope this is helpful.

Regards

Mike Crook

Countryside Access Development Officer

Telephone: 01225 713349

Email: michael.crook@wiltshire.gov.uk

Web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rightsofway