

REPORT 24.104(1) Highways Improvement Request Ford to Hurdcott Footpath

LAVERSTOCK AND FORD PARISH COUNCIL

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1. BACKGROUND

Highways Improvement Requests can be completed by any individual or group, and submitted to the Parish Council for consideration. If councillors resolve to support the request, this is endorsed by the council and taken forward to the Southern Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group meeting, hosted by Wiltshire Highways.

Wiltshire Council officers and members review the requests received. If the request is approved, Wiltshire Highways take responsibility for designing and implementing the scheme. The scheme is normally funded 75% by Wiltshire Highways and 25% by the Parish Council.

2. SUMMARY

The Clerk has received the Highways Improvement Request attached Annex One from a resident of Hurdcott.

The footpath in question crosses private land. Keeping the footpath passable and clear of vegetation is a matter for the land owner(s) and the Rights of Way team at Wiltshire Council.

The Cycle Liaison Panel, in conjunction with Wiltshire Highways, have long been looking at improvements of connectivity from Porton into Salisbury, through Ford, and a bid to the Active Travel Fund has been made for their scheme. The final route is still to be determined.

In order to progress this application, the footpath would have to be reclassified as maintainable highway.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the council considers whether to support this request.

It is the opinion of the Clerk that LHFIG would not progress this scheme at this time due to the pending Active Travel Scheme, and the costs of reclassifying private land to maintainable highway.

ANNEX ONE

Issue Details

Location of Issue:	Main Footpath, Ford to Hurdcott
Community Area:	
Parish or Town Council:	Laverstock & Ford Parish Council
Nature of Issue: Footpath impassable	
<p>In normal, dry conditions this footpath is well used by walkers, horse-riders, cyclists, bird-watchers and families young and old. However, after heavy rainfall, several narrow stretches become virtually impassable because the earth surface turns to deep and slippery mud. A fall, especially in sections adjoining wire fencing, could easily result in injury.</p> <p>The path is a valuable asset and a contributor to the principle of Sustainable Transport, linking Ford and Laverstock with Hurdcott and the Winterbournes, but for long periods it remains impassable to all but the most intrepid. The unwanted alternative for most people affected is to further increase the use of the car.</p>	
How long has it been an issue?	For months at a time, mostly but not always through the winter months during at least the past 25 years.
What would you like done to resolve this issue?	

A simple and low-cost solution that would produce a marked improvement would be the application of hardcore or coarse gravel in the few short stretches where water and mud collect.

Would the parish council please support this positive proposal for what would result in a real improvement to one of our area's rural assets?

Have you been in touch with your local Wiltshire Councillor? (No)