

Request for Approval of Funds for Footpath Improvements

Background

Footpath CALW67 provides an important connection between the village of Derry Hill and the outlying settlements of Old Derry Hill and Pewsham.

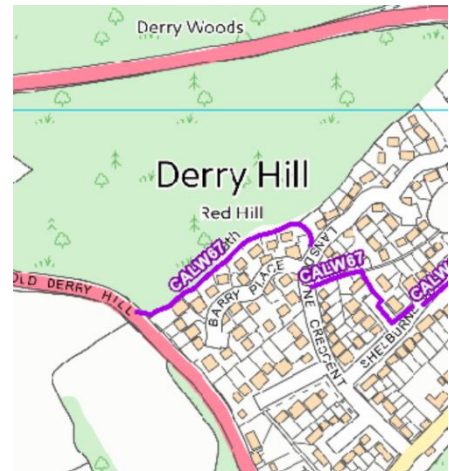
For most of its length, the footpath runs along the back of Barry Place before descending a flight of steps through the woods, before joining Old Derry Hill.

These steps have been deteriorating for a number of years, becoming muddy and uneven.

Improvement works were undertaken by a work party on 8th May, as part of the Coronation Weekend “Big Help Out”, with 16 local volunteers working with the Parish Council to repair and improve the steps.

This included replacing and resetting the steps, backfilling, placing road scalping and digging a channel to divert groundwater.

These works made a significant improvement to the flight. However, eight of the steps remain muddy and wet due to the presence of local springs, even through the recent spell of dry weather. Further work is therefore required to complete the job.



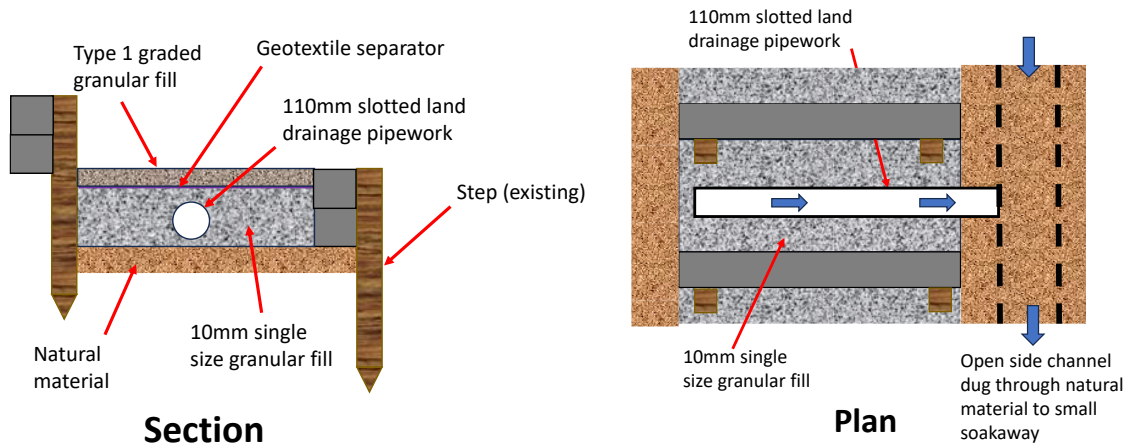
Proposal

The following work is proposed:

- Dig out each of the 8 steps.
- Install a short section of slotted land drainage pipework inside each step, on a bed of 10m granular material.
- Partially backfill with 10mm single sized granular material.
- Place a geotextile separator over the granular material, cut to suit.
- Further place compacted “MoT” Type 1 granular material up to the level of the each step.
- Deepen the drainage channel running alongside the steps, to drain water off the steps.

This will drain water through the steps, providing a dry and reliable surface for pedestrians.

This proposal is sketched overleaf:



The work would again be undertaken by local volunteers under the direction of a Parish Councillor (themselves registered as a Wiltshire Council Footpath Volunteer). A RAMS (Risk and Method Statement) shall be prepared beforehand, and a health and safety briefing undertaken before commencing work. A first aid kit and a qualified first aider will be present through the work.

Cost

The cost of materials is estimated as follows:

Item	Quantity	Cost per unit (excl. VAT)	Cost (excl. VAT)
110mm slotted underground drainage 3m long	4	£21.75	£87.00
110mm end cap	8	£1.95	£15.60
Delivery of pipework			£14.95
10mm single size gravel in 800kg bulk bag	2	£63.65	£127.30
Type 1 graded granular material in 800kg bulk bag	1	£66.79	£66.79
Geotextile separator	1 x 14m ²	£7.90	£7.90
Total			£339.54

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council approves funding of up to £350 for materials to improve the flight of steps linking Old Derry Hill with the main village.

Cllr John Barnes
 Pewsham Ward