

**Request for Approval of Funds for Footpath Improvements – CALW82**

**Background**

Footpath CALW82 is a 2.8km long footpath, running from the Devizes Road opposite Golden Gate, over Nocketts Hill and down to the Wilts and Berks Canal near Double Bridge. The footpath is well-used and popular with walkers from Derry Hill, as it provides access to the network of footpaths, hills and woodlands to the west.

100 yards to the west of the Devizes Road, the footpath descends a sharp escarpment via a wooden stairway, installed by Wiltshire Council some years previously.



There are two live cases on MyWilts which report that the steps are slippery and hazardous, including a report of a fall:

Case Ref No	Submitted on	Feature	Nearest postcode	Report type	Additional information
*71148	31/07/2022 15:52	CALW82	SN11 9PF	Steps	Dangerous erosion of ground underneath wooden steps which needs repairing and also condition of wooden steps is slippery and needs resurfacing
*09327	07/05/2023 19:57	CALW82	SN11 9PF	Steps	The slope and steps would benefit from chicken wire as very slippery in wet weather and I have had a very bad fall

Note: the ground erosion reported under Case 71148 has previously been addressed by Parish Council work.

**Proposal**

It is proposed to purchase and install anti-slip treads to the steps on the wooden stairway, including the initial sloping section, in order to reduce the risk of slips and falls.

See link for further details of typical material:  
<https://www.safetread.co.uk/decking-strips/anti-slip-decking-strip-step-strip-50mm>



### Cost

The cost of materials is estimated as follows:

Item	Quantity	Total Cost (excl. VAT)	Total Cost (incl. VAT)
1000mm long x 50mm wide x 3mm high non-slip decking strips, cut to 500mm lengths and pre-drilled, with screws	26	£165.24	£200.28
Delivery		£9.95	£9.95
Contingency fund		£100	£120
<b>Total</b>		<b>£275.19</b>	<b>£330.23</b>

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council approves funding of up to £300 (excl VAT) for the purchase of non-slip decking strips to improve the safety of the wooden stairway on CALW82 to the west of Golden Gate.

Cllr John Barnes  
Pewsham Ward