

Improvement Work to CALW67 Steps

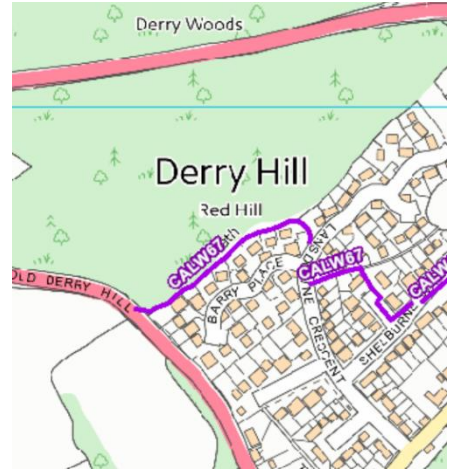
1. Background

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 had been deteriorating for a number of years, becoming muddy and uneven.

Improvement works were carried out to the top two thirds of the steps, over two separate work parties, in May and August 2023. These works made a considerable improvement to the worst section:



The bottom third of the flight remains unrestored and has deteriorated over the past two years:



2. Proposal

The following work is proposed:

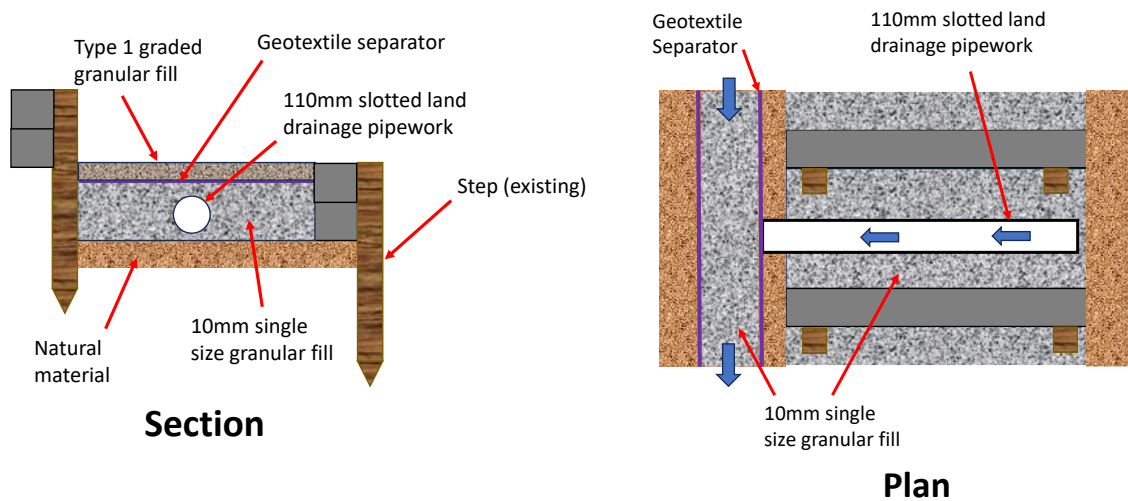
Steps 1 to 3 (from the bottom):

- Dig out each of the steps.
- Reset the risers.
- Backfill with compacted “MoT” Type 1 granular material.

Steps 4 to 7:

- Dig out each of the steps.
- Reset the risers.
- Install a short section of slotted land drainage pipework inside each step, on a bed of 10mm 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.
- Install a French drain running alongside the steps, discharging further down the slope from the footpath.

The proposal for Steps 4-7 is sketched below and worked successfully for the middle section:



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.

3. 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	2	£21.75	£43.50
110mm end cap	4	£1.95	£7.80
Delivery of pipework			£14.95
10mm single size gravel in 800kg bulk bag	2	£66.50	£133.00
Type 1 graded granular material in 800kg bulk bag	2	£66.50	£133.00
Geotextile separator	3 x 4.5m ²	£8.33	£16.66
Total			£348.91

4. Recommendation

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

Cllr John Barnes