



Item 7 - Wharf Stream Way

- (a) To note the Environment Agency is removing the concrete bridge and replacing the pedestrian bridge by the River Thames and agree actions.

The Clerk was copied in on correspondence to the Chairman, Cllr Osborne and Cllr Brown from the EA advising they were removing the concrete bridge and replacing the metal bridge due to the current one being in a poor state of repair. The Clerk contacted OCC (landowners) who have a licence with EPC and the tenant farmers, to request that the concrete bridge remain in situ as EPC has a vehicular and pedestrian right of way over it to access the artwork by the riverside. OCC were unaware! It has since come to light that the concrete bridge will be replaced with a ford arrangement, the surface of which will be made-up and access is likely to be available 9 months out of 12. However, the replacement pedestrian (metal) bridge will not be disability compliant and the Clerk has requested that unless it is of an appropriate disability compliant standard, the concrete bridge remain in place.

OCC agreed to obtain work specifications for the bridge and ford before work commences, to share with EPC. OCC confirm that our licence remains unaffected which is important as future vehicle access to the artwork may be required. Cllr Dan Levy is liaising with neighbouring Farmoor Parish Council and OCC to pursue the appropriate standard for the metal bridge replacement. Reinstatement of the metal, pedestrian bridge will ensure users of footpath 206/7 will be on the correct alignment rather than the route over the concrete bridge (which is not on the 206/7 route).

The Footpaths Officer suggested that improvements could be made (likely using S106 funds) to create a separate disability compliant access from Oxford Road for footpath 206/7 and improve the wetter part of the route (currently the permissive section) by adding crushed stone/hardcore.

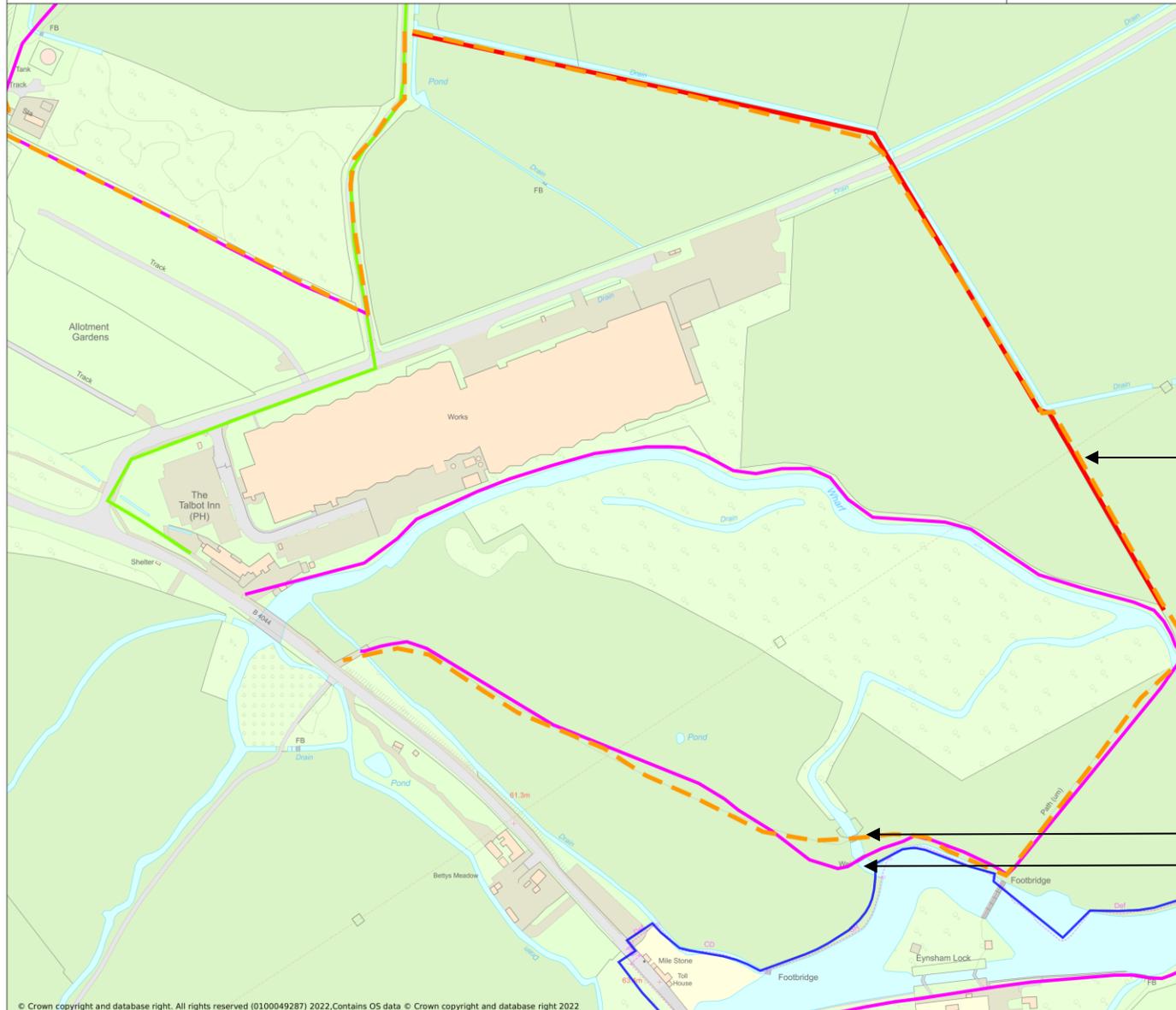
Recommendation – Request OCC Countryside Service submit S106 request for the above for all West Eynsham SDA planning applications, it being their jurisdiction not the Parish Councils.

- (b) To receive an update on the designation of the permissive route and agree actions.

Cllr Ross Macken and the Clerk met with representatives of Smiths of Bletchingdon, OCC and the Nature Recovery Network in March 2022, to discuss a possible change of the WSW permissive route. The NRN will be grazing livestock in the field where the route goes through which means they would currently be unable to properly fence it. It was suggested that the footpath is moved to the other side of the hedge so it is in direct alignment with the remaining section of the permissive route. (Cllr Macken is to provide an update on this).

Recommendation - A further meeting is called (for Cllr Osborne to be present) with Smiths to confirm final arrangements including the legal dedication of the footpath under a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order). Costs to be met by Smiths or the NRN.

See map overleaf.



Parish



Public Rights of Way

Brideway

Footpath

Wharf Stream Way - Permissive section



Wharf Stream Way



Footpath to be realigned.

Concrete vehicle bridge
Metal pedestrian bridge