Kings Worthy / Headbourne Worthy, Footpath 6 & 701
Nuns Walk Improvement Plan
September 2008

Worthys Conservation Volunteer

Nuns Walk footpath runs from Kings Worthy to Abbots Barton, leading into the heart of Winchester – the eastern section (FP6) passes under and, for a short distance, follows the A34; the western section (FP701) runs alongside the northern edge of Winnall Moors and the banks of the River Itchen. The walk offers splendid views into the Winnall Moors nature reserve, with its abundance of wildlife.

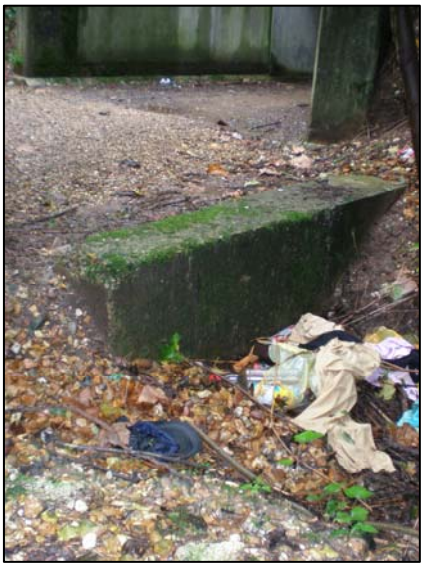
The path has suffered in recent times from neglect, and much improvement is needed to drainage and access, and there is a lot of rubbish to be cleared.

Proposed improvement tasks are:

1. **Litter**

   We need to clear the rubbish surrounding the underpass. There is a substantial amount, including broken glass. We may have a skip available to collect the litter in.

   Some of the rubbish is lying in storm drains – care needs to be taken regarding standing water and deep mud. Some is also scattered up the steep embankments of the A34, so care will be needed retrieving this.



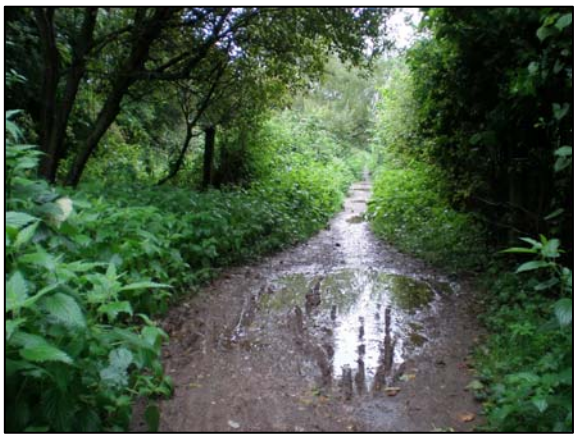
Litter in the storm drain between the A34 tunnels.

2. **Drainage around the Tunnels**

   We need to scrape the mud and water out of the tunnels using spades. In order to reduce the water running into the tunnels, we could dig a slight trench around the concrete lip of the tunnel entrance. This would be difficult because of the height and steepness of the ground. (Long-term options would be to put a raised walkway along one side of the tunnels, or to create French drains across the fronts of the tunnels.)

   We could also attempt to dig out the storm drain between the tunnels, which has become silted up.

Undergrowth surrounding the tunnels causes water to run onto the concrete floor.



Deep potholes need filling, and a new layer of hard surfacing needs to be spread along the path.

3. Filling Potholes

We will need to transport aggregate through the tunnels to the stretch of path parallel to the A34, where we will fill some deep potholes and put a new layer of hard surfacing down above the muddiest stretches. We will have a mechanical barrow and compactor for this task. In order to get access, we may first need to cut down and remove stinging nettles, possibly using scythes and rakes.

4. Drainage near the River

At present, stretches of the path are under up to two inches of water following a lot of rain. This needs to be addressed as the path is impassable to anyone without waterproof boots. Possible options include some or all of the following:

- Cutting drainage channels leading from the path to the river (difficult due to wire fence),
- Embedding new sleeper bridges (as are already in place elsewhere on the same stretch of path);
- Using aggregate to raise the level of the path (making appropriate allowance for drainage, to avoid shifting the problem further along the path);
- Using a long plank of wood and a few bricks to make a temporary bridge (easy, but probably not very safe).

This shows the lengthy stretch of path that is currently flooded …

… and this shows one of the existing sleeper bridges. A series of bridges with a raised path in between may be the best option.

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