

Supporting Evidence SB21.EV1 Footpaths for the Future

1.0 Introduction

1.1 There is an existing network of footpaths in the Parish, not all of which are complete or well-maintained. Some obvious routes have gaps in them. As Southbourne Parish grows and the population and built-up area expand we wish not only to safeguard existing routes but to highlight the importance and completion of key routes into, out of and around the Parish.

1.2 This note and the accompanying map (Plan 12) identify a number of routes which are important either because they connect two locations people want or need to be able to walk or cycle between or because they form complete loops which can serve walkers.

1.3 Not shown is the route which we intend will in time link the Priors Orchard site south of the railway line by footbridge to the north of the line, nor the proposed connection along the south side of the railway line to link the estate with the station.

1.4 Please note that this document focuses upon non-road connectivity so it does not consider the key road 'loops' in Southbourne itself.

1.5 Routes utilising existing recognised pathways are marked on the map with solid lines. Parts of routes which will require the recognition of informal footpaths and/or entirely new connections are marked with dotted lines.

2.0 Routes Important for Connectivity

Routes are identified by description (names are not official) and colour (as per accompanying map). Note that the West-East route along the A259 is of vital importance to walkers and cyclists but as it is already a significant road this document makes no further comment upon it.

2.1 Hermitage Circuit (Light Green)

This route links the Main Road; the New Life Church; Thorney Road; the bottom of Slipper Road; Main Road / up Lumley Road; the weir; footbridge over A27; Woodland / Hermitage corner; top of Penny Lane and back to the Main Road.

- Want: connection to Tuppenny Lane (north of the mobile home park) along the de facto (but unrecognised) footpath.
- Consider: cycle route along southern side of A27 (currently a footpath).
- Consider: move footpath along southern side of A27 further south so further from traffic and to link more directly with the Southbourne loop.

2.2 Hermitage to North Southbourne (Dark Brown)

Incorporating several routes connecting Hermitage with Southbourne. Including Penny Lane / Tuppenny Barn north to the railway line (the official footpath goes directly north and then east but an unofficial path – which should be recognised – cuts diagonally across from the northern end of Penny Lane to the railway pedestrian crossing. Once on the other side the footpath goes north, to the west of the land owned by WSCC then cuts East to and through Bourne View Close. From the North Western corner of the school boundary it also runs north to the A27 where it goes West to the Hermitage crossing over the A27 and East to the Northern end of Stein Road.

- Want: The diagonal shortcut south of the railway crossing to be recognised.
- Want: the official footpath running South-North along the Western boundary of the WSCC land to be moved East so that it runs along the unofficial footpath next to the school boundary.
- Want: the unofficial footpath from Bourne View Close to Haslemere and connecting with Stein Road to be recognised.
- Want: A connection from the North side of the railway crossing to link up with the road network South of the school – most likely via St. John's Road.
- Consider: a connection from the North Western corner of the school boundary to the North-South footpath connecting the Eastern end of Hermitage with the bridge over the A27.

2.3 South Hermitage to the Coast (Thorney Island & Prinsted) (Red)

From Slipper Lane / Thorney Road / Prinsted south along the West and East shorelines (connecting to the South of Thorney Island). Also links to Prinsted from the New Life Church and further South from Thornham Lane via Prinsted Lane and along the shore.

2.4 Southbourne to Nutbourne Coastal Loop (Dark Green)

A route runs from Prinsted Lane via a footpath West to East to Nutbourne. This connects with the A259 at the Farm Shop, opposite Priors Orchard and at Farm Lane. From Farm Lane the route links up with the Nutbourne-Chidham route (see below) and along the coast from East to West to the Prinsted foreshore. This links with the start of the route on Prinsted Lane.

2.5 Nutbourne to Chidham (Light Brown)

There is an unofficial but permissive path from Maybush Copse (south and west of Maybush Drive) to the North-South route running from the old road at Nutbourne to the shore. Another footpath connects the route with Chidham Lane from the Southern end of this route.

- Want: make the link with Maybush Copse official.

2.6 Southbourne to Hambrook & Nutbourne (via Priors Leaze Lane) (Purple)

Priors Leaze Lane is already used by cars, bicycles and pedestrians (although there is no pavement / footpath most of the way). Due to its width it is not very good for cars either. There is a proper footpath running South from Priors Leaze Lane (to the east of the former Fishing Lakes which now form part of the 'Black Barn' estate) to a pedestrian railway crossing and then South to the North Western Corner of the Meadow View development and along its Western boundary until it cuts South to the A259. As Broad Road gets busier (and as we cannot predict where future development in Hambrook will go), rural footpath (258) could be important to connect Priors Leaze Lane with the green spaces and the play area to the West of Broad Road.

- Want: any development to the East of Southbourne to create proper access for cyclists as well as pedestrians.
- Note: the presence of the Ham Brook Wildlife Corridor may influence our thinking in this area as we try to keep people from disturbing endangered habitats as much as possible.
- Note: should there be significant development in Hambrook, this could have an impact on any development to the East of Southbourne regarding access to facilities, etc. In this scenario we may need to consider residents living on or close the Southbourne/Nutbourne end of Priors Leaze Lane accessing facilities in Hambrook and those in Hambrook accessing the Wildlife Corridor and other Green Infrastructure in Southbourne Parish.

2.7 Priors Leaze Lane to the A27 (Yellow)

Currently there is a North-South 'footpath to nowhere' (it was severed by the A27) which runs along the western boundary of the site north of Cook's Lane which has outline permission for 199 dwellings. It should also be noted that the footpath runs along an ancient hedge which includes Butcher's Broom.

- Consider: connect the northern end of this path with the top of Stein Road and via the footpath between the other crossing over the A27 and Hambrook Hill Road to Broad Road. Whatever happens with the existing north-south route, we want a foot / cycle path parallel to the A27.
- Note: the presence of the Ham Brook Wildlife Corridor may influence our thinking in this area as we try to keep people from disturbing endangered habitats as much as possible.

(updated September 2022)