

Solent Way Upgrade Project – Warblington Road to Nore Barn Woods

What is the problem?

This stretch of the Solent Way floods at high tides so that walkers have to paddle up to their knees or change their plans. The problem is that the raised path by the seawall peters out leaving a low patch and the bridge over the stream is not high enough at high tides. If people try and avoid the water over the bridge they sometimes stray into the reed-beds where there is a hidden pond and you can't avoid getting wet anyway. There is no other bridge except by taking a long detour of about a mile up to the main road (the A259) and using Selangor path and Beach Road.

What is being planned?

A community group has come together to try and improve the situation by extending the raised walkway at the foot of the seawall and by replacing the old damaged bridge with a new higher one. This will be costly and require a lot of permissions because of the delicate nature of the ecosystem and habitats. Many bodies have to be consulted. Drawings of the project have been assembled with the help of Havant Council's Civil Engineering and Landscape team.

What about planning permission?

It is required and in order to obtain that we have to speak to many local and national agencies. It will be some time before the application goes in. There will also be a requirement for a public consultation.

Who is going to pay for the work?

We shall be applying for grants but we hope that Natural England may help with costs as this area is a key point of the newly joined up **England Coastal Path** due to be launched in 2020. We have made some applications for funding and any new ideas will be gratefully received. We shall have to raise in the order of £50,000, mainly for the new bridge.

Any more information?

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods have agreed to place information on their website under Solent Way Upgrade Project. As more information becomes available it will be placed there.

www.norebarnwoods.org.uk

For further information you can contact:

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SOLENT WAY UPGRADE PROJECT—OUTLINE PLAN GR SU 739054



The intertidal area shown in mid-blue is listed as an important environment that has a number of special designations: SRA, SPA, SSSI, Ramsar, SINC and the woods and beach are part of the AONB. The stream is important for a number of species of over-wintering birds.