

The statement below is from the Solent Way Upgrade Project team.

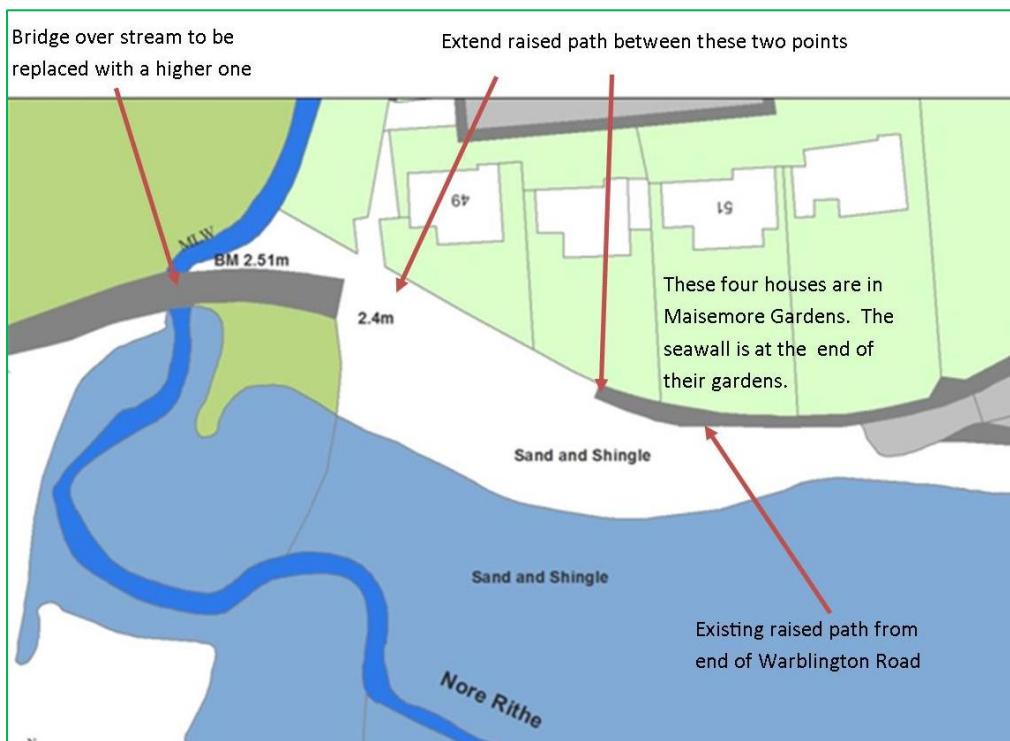
This project is completely independent of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, but because the project is located at Nore Barn and affects the access to the woods it is reproduced here to inform the public.

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“Update on Solent Way Upgrade Project March 2018

When Natural England announced in 2015 that they were working towards launching the England Coast Path in 2020 a group of local Emsworth people got together to look at how the section on the map below might fit into this plan. Knowing that this stretch of the path floods at some high tides it seemed an opportunity to try and improve things so that walkers could avoid a lengthy diversion. The raised path by the seawall could be extended and the damaged bridge could be replaced with a higher one.

The Solent Way Upgrade Project (SWUP) was born and the community group started to develop plans, prepare to apply for planning permission and to raise funds. Plans were drawn up, photographs collected and the assembly of a planning application was well underway.



In April 2017 Natural England indicated that they would support the project and take the lead on getting all necessary permissions. They also promised some funding. Hampshire County Council are being kept in the loop as they will be responsible for the maintenance of the Hampshire stretch of the England Coastal Path and they will ensure that the chosen surfacing for the path here is robust and maintenance-friendly.

Havant Borough Council announced in February 2018 that a substantial amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money has been allocated to this shoreline project. This levy is collected by the Council from developers when they build new homes in an area.

Remember that almost all marine scientists predict that there will be a rise in sea level so the tidal flooding problem here will only get more frequent. So this project is a tremendous opportunity to improve access along this stretch of coast for walkers while carefully safeguarding the environmentally-sensitive areas nearby.”