

# Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire  
County Council

## Worthy Down and South Wonston Access Improvements

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Department: Culture, Communities and Business  
Services

Date of  
assessment: 08/03/2021

### Description of current service/policy

As Highway Authority, HCC has a duty to maintain the surface of rights of way. The Countryside Access Plan and Local Transport Plan both seek to improve and increase access for walkers and cyclists. The main path which will benefit from the works, Headbourne Worthy Footpath 2, is currently on trodden earth and farm track and is open to walkers only; it is a direct path from South Wonston and Worthy Down (combined population c3,000) to the outskirts of Winchester. South Wonston Restricted Byways 703 and 730 are on a substantial but muddy track used as access to the primary school.

Geographical impact: Winchester

### Description of proposed change

Headbourne Worthy Footpath 2: Adding permanent legal access for cyclists and surfacing the path at 2.5m width, giving a high quality off road walking and cycling route from South Wonston and Worthy Down to the edge of Winchester city, where it will meet Barton Farm highways improvements.

South Wonston Restricted Byways 703 and 730: surfacing improvements to two sections of walking/cycling routes to South Wonston Primary School, facilitating a 'Park & Stride' in one case and a direct walking and cycling route from Worthy Down in the other.

### Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

# Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Following consultation, the need for cycle access on Headbourne Worthy Footpath 2 was identified in Winchester City Council's 2012 Cycling Strategy. An HCC community/stakeholder event in 2016 reiterated this request, and subsequent communication with South Wonston Parish Council, local path users and the Ward Councillors has supported the concept. A formal public consultation on the legal diversion of the Footpath (in preparation for these works) drew some support and no objections.

The improvements to the two routes to school (RB 703 and 730) are as a result of requests from the school, Parish Council, parents at Worthy Down (via the MOD) and the Ward Councillor.

<b>Statutory considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Age:</b> Positive	The works will provide improved access for 5-11 year olds living at Worthy Down to South Wonston Primary School.	
<b>Disability:</b> Positive	The surfacing improvements and the provision of a ramp replacing a 5 metre high set of steps will enable access for mobility scooters, improving well-being through providing access to the countryside.	
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Neutral		
<b>Race:</b> Neutral		
<b>Religion and belief:</b> Neutral		

<b>Gender reassignment:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender:</b> Neutral		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership:</b> Neutral		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity:</b> Positive	The surfacing improvements and the provision of a ramp replacing a 5 metre high set of steps will enable access for pushchairs and improved routes to school.	
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Poverty:</b> Positive	As a new route for cyclists and an improved route for walkers, Headbourne Worthy Footpath 2 will provide free access to the edge of Winchester for shops and facilities.	
<b>Rurality:</b> Positive	As a new route for cyclists and improved route for walkers, Headbourne Worthy Footpath 2 will provide free access to the edge of Winchester for shops and facilities.	

## **Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)**

### **Any other information**

This project is due to be considered at the 19th March 2021 Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs Decision Day. If approved, the works are due to be carried out during summer 2021.