

Public Rights of Way Report for G+E meeting 08 May 2025

Following G+E agreement, a set of six projects for PROW improvements for the current year have been prepared. Based on preliminary costings they should all fall within the earmarked funding already allocated by Council. They are all ready for Contractor Quotation during May 2025 with work planned to start during the Summer and into the Autumn.

Project 1 – Hassocks to Ditchling

This path is a joint project with Ditchling Parish who have agreed to upgrade their section at the same time. The Hassocks sections are the most treacherous in winter and will require a hard surface and some drainage to overcome the extremely boggy ground. The Monday Group has been fundraising for this path and has agreed to contribute up to 50% of the cost of work. This has the potential to feature in Hassocks Life as an example of HPC/ Monday Group co-operation.



The attached diagram shows the sections of path to be improved running from Damian Way along PROW 9K (north) and 8K (east). The Distance in Red is 305 Metres.

Project 2 - PROW 12K – Downlands School

The Path is on the south side of Hassocks Village and is part of PROW 12K linking Lodge Lane to Clayton. This is a well-used path and the section marked becomes treacherous in winter particularly at the south west end nearest the stream where the contractor will need to regrade the profile of the slope. The attached diagram shows the sections of path within Downlands School land. The Distance in Red is 165 Metres The Head has agreed to provide access via Downlands School Grounds with a condition that the works takes place during the School Holidays from 28 July to 29 August.



Project 3 - PROW 21K – Woodland Road towards Grand Avenue

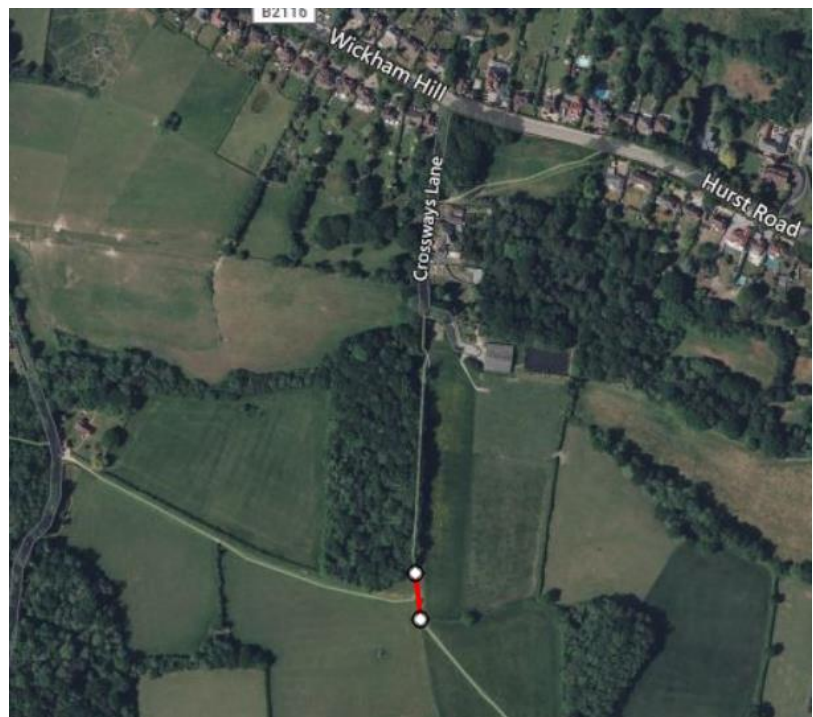
This Project has been outstanding since 2019 and provides a well-used quiet route that allows walkers to avoid the High Street. The Clayton Mills Residents Association has agreed to the work and the attached diagram shows the path to be improved. The Distance from Point A to Point B is 245 Metres. An additional section of Path (10 Metres) is required at Point B to link the car parking area to the new Path to give dry access from Clayton Mills .

The Contractor will need to clear some vegetation and remove six small trees to allow the path to follow its original route and as there is a TPO covering this area the MSDC tree officer is being consulted.



Project 4 - PROW 11C – Crossways Lane

Previous improvements have resulted in increased usage of this fenced path. The final fenced section has degraded through heavy use and is extremely boggy in winter. The section is 45 Metres long (see map). This minor work will complete the route into an open field which is easier to traverse in the winter.



Project 5 - PROW 14C – Hassocks to Clayton Maintenance Repair

A section of the path beside Butcher’s Wood has areas where the sub-base of the tarmac path has degraded and several deep muddy puddles form in winter. This has been the source of complaints from members of the community over the last two years. It is proposed to completely repair the sub-base (where required) and to relay a 40 Metre section of the path increasing its level by 50mm to bring it above the surrounding ground level.



The location is within the red band shown.

Project 6 - PROW 23C –Clayton Avenue – Upgrade to Tarmac Surface

This is a well-used route from the village centre onto the Cinder Path leading to Clayton or Hassocks Railway Station. Unlike the adjacent path from Ockenden Way it is not tarmacked and gets muddy in winter. Replacing the existing surface with tarmac will bring this path into line with other pedestrian links within the village centre. The route is approx. 95 Metres in length and the work will also allow regrading of a sharp incline at the junction with the Cinder Track (14C)

