



Footpath 3059

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Briefing Note 2 – Winter 2022

Introduction

Footpath 3059 lies to the south of Fishbourne Parish. In February 2022, and following Storm Eunice, sections of the sea wall failed and consequently parts of the footpath collapsed. For safety reasons, the path was temporarily closed by the Highways Authority, West Sussex County Council. The background to the issue was covered in first Briefing Note on Footpath 3059, which was published on 17 August 2022 and is available to download here:

<https://chapron.org.uk/coastal-change-footpath-3059/>

Since then, additional sections have started to crumble. This shows that we are closely monitoring the situation, that the damage was not just a one-off, and that this is more than a 'patch and repair' job.

The case was raised at the Conservancy's Statutory Advisory Committee on 7 November 2022, and then again at the Conservancy Board meeting of 14 November 2022. After that, a site meeting with Fishbourne Parish Council took place on 16 November 2022, supported by a Senior Specialist from the Environment Agency. The Conservancy also discussed the issue at the annual Apuldram Parish meeting on 30 November 2022.

Feasibility Study

The CHaPRoN partnership (Chichester Harbour Protection & Recovery of Nature) developed the specification for an independent Feasibility Study to consider the future options for the site. This contract opportunity was advertised on the Conservancy's website from 23 November 2022 until 12 December 2022. Around 25 suitable local and national organisations were notified of the work.

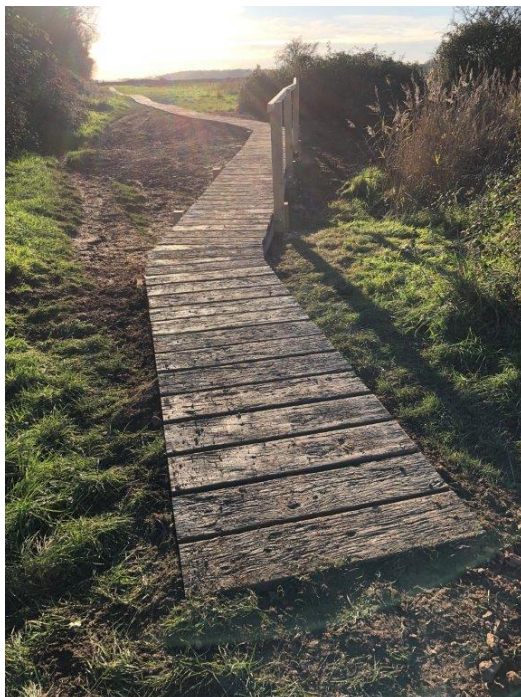
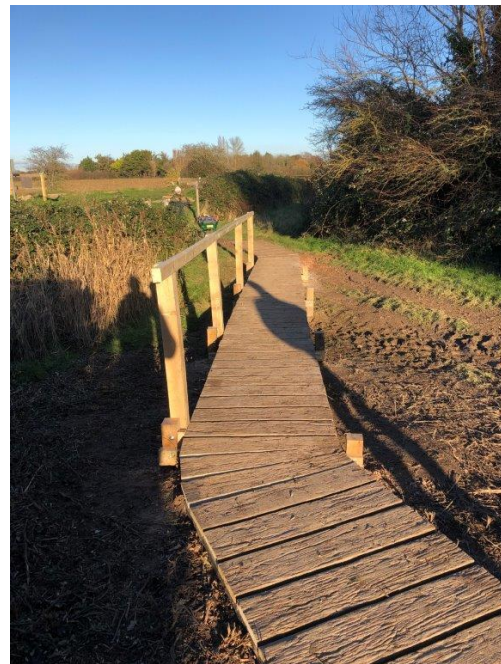
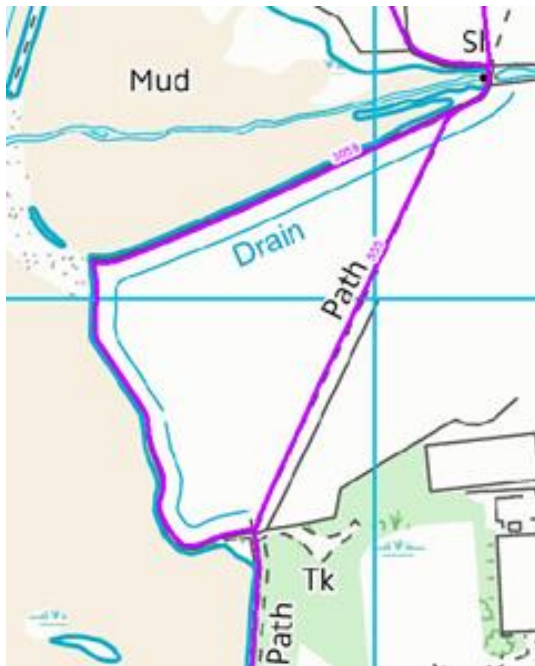
On 21 December 2022, Royal Haskoning DHV were appointed by the Conservancy to prepare and publish the Feasibility Study. The target date for the report is 31 March 2023. The Feasibility Study will be published on the CHaPRoN website when it is complete. The Feasibility Study is being kindly funded by the Environment Agency.

As part of the dissemination for the Feasibility Study, we have asked the consultant to publicly present the findings and recommended next steps in the spring of 2023. It remains

to be established whether this is in-person or by way of a virtual meeting. Dates and times will be agreed in due course. The consultant will also be preparing an engagement plan as part of their brief.

New Boardwalk along Footpath 555

Meanwhile, during the autumn, the Conservancy's Rangers were busy installing a new boardwalk along Footpath 555, to help improve access during the winter months. The work was funded by a Section 106 agreement with Chichester District Council, the Friends of Chichester Harbour, and in-kind time from Chichester Harbour Conservancy.



The boardwalk was installed as a potential short-term measure, pending the outcome of the Feasibility Study. The boardwalk can be moved, raised, or relocated at a later date if required.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Friend of Chichester Harbour, please visit their website.

<https://friendsch.org/>

Next Steps

The Conservancy is assessing this site through the Chichester Harbour Protection & Recovery of Nature partnership. The CHaPRoN partners are, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Coastal Partners, the RSPB, Chichester District Council, Southern Water, and Sussex IFCA.

The partners are working closely on this case with the landowner, Chichester Harbour Trust. For the purposes of clarity, please note that Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Chichester Harbour Trust are separate and independent organisations.

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/>

<https://www.chichesterharbourtrust.co.uk/>

The next steps are to allow Royal Haskoning DHV time to prepare the Feasibility Study, so the findings can be considered in the spring of 2023.

Contact

Should you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Chatfield or Richard Austin at Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

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It is our intention, wherever possible, to work with nature and maintain Chichester Harbour as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for generations to come.

This is the second Briefing Note to be published on Footpath 3059. The next edition will be available in the spring of 2023.

Ends

23 December 2022