

“The Avenue”, One Horton Heath

Timber Footbridge Maintenance Plan

This maintenance plan has been prepared for the two new footbridges proposed as part of the One Horton Heath development, the footbridges are to serve the footway \ cycleway route along ‘The Avenue’ and will cross the Foxwood Stream and Quobleigh Stream, both footbridges will be 3.0m wide and constructed from hardwood.

It should be noted that both bridges are within the floodplain associated with the streams and therefore the works have been designed in order to minimize the impact on these floodplains.

It should also be noted that the principle structural members of the footbridges will be visible, and touchable, from the sides of the bridges, there will be no need for an inspector to access beneath the bridges.

The clearance under the Quobleigh Stream bridge will be a minimum of 500mm, and the clearance under the Foxwood Stream bridge will be a minimum of 950mm, thus inhibiting access beneath.

The sides of the bridges will however be accessible by virtue of the paved footway \ cycleway that they serve, it should also be noted that the flows within both streams are very low and would not hinder maintenance works during normal conditions.

Maintenance works however should not be undertaken during the rare occasions that the streams may be in flood, this risk should be written into any standard operational policy for the organization undertaking maintenance works as a matter of safe working practice regardless.

It is likely that maintenance of the bridges would be undertaken as either part of planned and scheduled highway maintenance, or maintenance of the public open spaces for One Horton Heath, therefore such maintenance crews will carry grounds maintenance tools such as landscaping rakes etc.

A typical rake has a handle length of approximately 6’ (1.8m), therefore the underside of the bridges can be raked from both sides, any debris under the bridge is likely to be windblown and therefore easily removed by raking, similarly, in the unlikely event that debris is washed under the bridge during a flood event it could also be removed by raking.

It should be noted that, due to the low flows within the streams, siltation on the banks is not considered to be an issue, therefore excessive quantities of silt beneath the bridges should not require removal.

In summary, maintenance (and inspection) of the footbridges is to be undertaken from the sides, using landscaping rakes, and only during normal flow conditions within the watercourses.