



THE WATERCRESS WAY STRATEGIC PLAN

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THE WATERCRESS WAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Vision

The vision of The Watercress Way (TWW) charity is:

‘To create an easily accessible, non-motorised circular route linking the communities of Alresford, Kings Worthy and Sutton Scotney via disused railways and existing Drove Roads.’

1.2 Progress

This plan reviews the progress on the Watercress Way since the inaugural meeting in 2015 and identifies a number of projects which the Trustees would like to achieve. It describes the setting up of the Trust, lists its aims and objectives and charts progress through a series of over 20 milestones. It reviews a large number of issues relating to land ownership and access many of which extend significantly into the future.

1.3 Local Support

It draws on a significant level of support through plans and policies agreed within Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and the South Downs National Park. Evidence for strong local support for the project is produced based on the responses to numerous activities carried out since 2015. The common thread in all our activities is public engagement and this has clearly produced results.

1.4 Wider Aspects

The plan also demonstrates the potential of TWW to contribute to the wider issues of, recreation, education, access for all, health and well-being, climate change, heritage and biodiversity conservation.

1.5 Finances

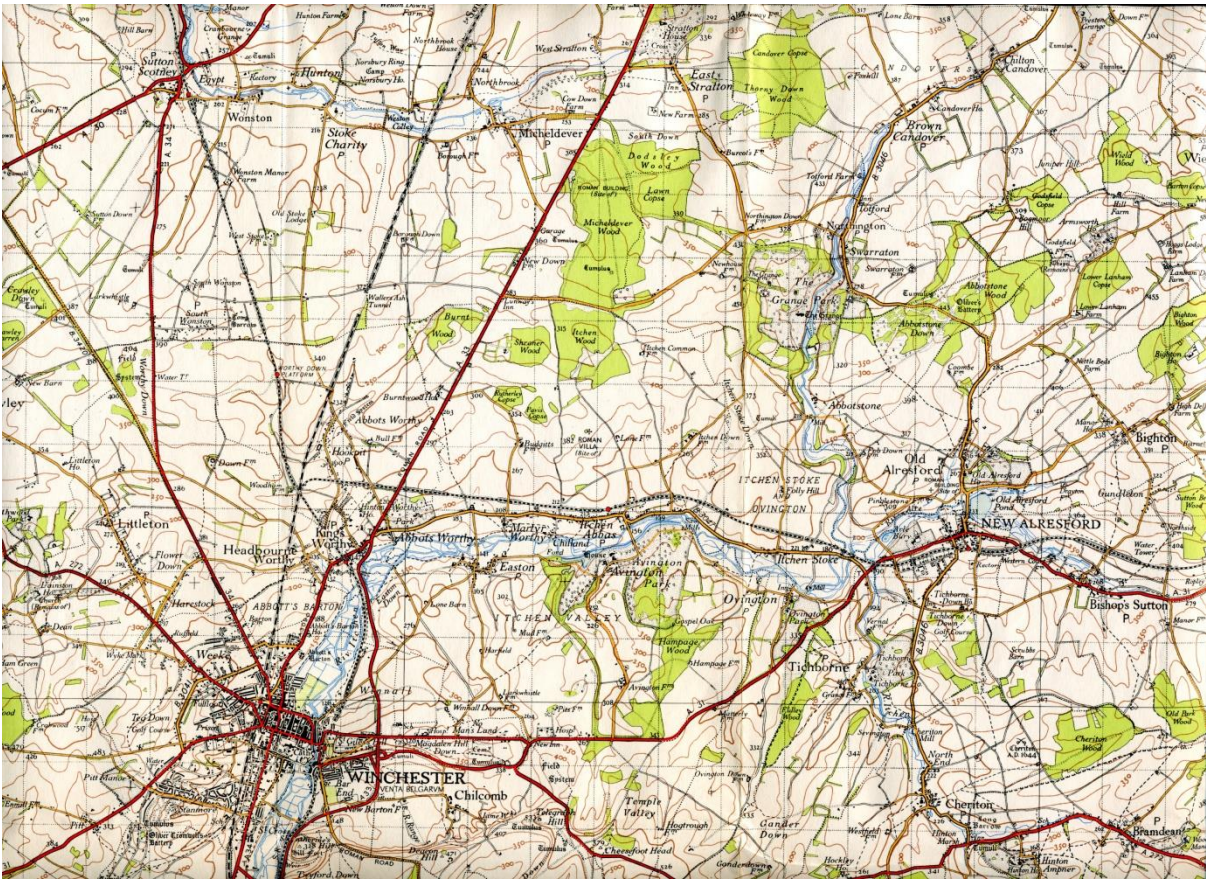
It describes our current financial situation and the successes which have been achieved with very limited resources. Finally the plan looks forward and lists several significant projects which the Charity wishes to achieve and for which external resources will be required.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 TWW Background

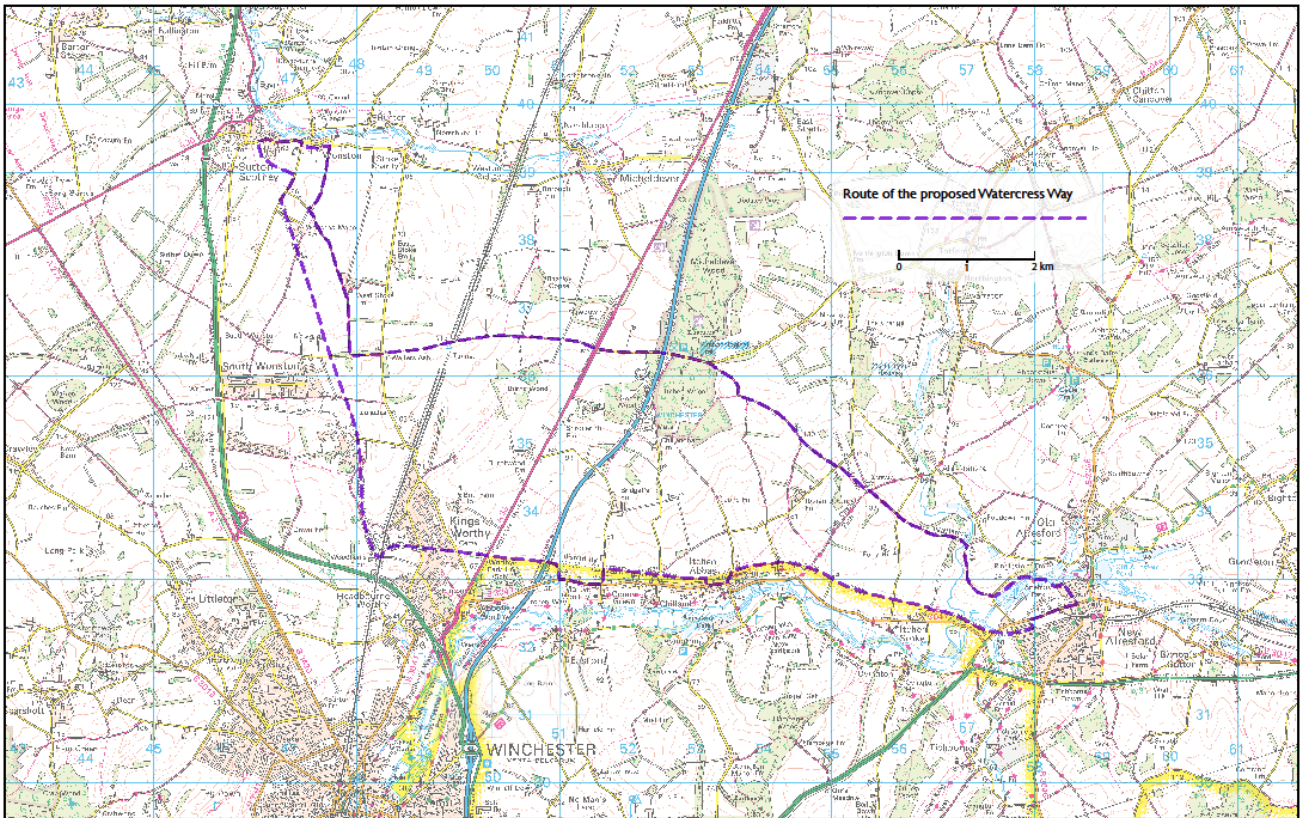
2.1.1 Hampshire at the height of the railway boom had several lines which are now closed, some due to the Beeching cuts. This project focusses on two closed lines and the potential that they can offer for easy access to the countryside to the north and east of Winchester. These are the Mid Hants line which ran west from Alresford to Kings Worthy, and the Southampton, Newbury and Didcot (DNSR) which ran south from Sutton Scotney to Kings Worthy. The growth of the watercress industry led to the Mid Hants railway from Alton to Kings Worthy being called the Watercress Line. In turn this gave the name to The Watercress Way.

2.1.2 The concept is to join the two lines by using the existing Rights of Way network (mostly the ancient Drovers) into a 26 mile (marathon distance) non – motorised circular route using as much of the old railway lines as possible and to link the various communities between Sutton Scotney- Kings Worthy- New Alresford. Our aspirational route is based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey of Winchester (Map 1).



Map 1 1953 Ordnance Survey Map

The overall concept using the Drovers and other existing Rights of Way is shown in Map 2.



Map 2 Conceptual Route of the Watercress Way

2.1.3 TWW was started in 2015 and became a charity in June 2016. The inspiration was the opening of a one mile section of the Mid Hants Line at Itchen Abbas by Hampshire County Council. The majority of the route is for walkers but with several sections accessible for cyclists and horse riders. Where cycling and horse riding are not possible, alternative routes have been devised, so the Watercress Way effectively has two routes: the waymarked walkers' route with alternatives where cycles and horses are not able to go.

2.2 The Local Area

2.2.1 Within easy reach of Winchester, the route touches on several villages/small towns - New Alresford, Old Alresford, Sutton Scotney, South Wonston, Kings Worthy, Abbots Worthy, Martyr Worthy, Itchen Abbas and Itchen Stoke, each with their distinctive character and features of interest. There are several pubs within easy access to the route, most offering food and some with accommodation. Annual shows ranging from the very popular Alresford Show and the Watercress Festival to the smaller village fetes have provided opportunities for publicising the route and have attracted much local interest.



2.3 Purpose of the Plan

2.3.1 The purpose of this plan is to establish a formal document for our vision for the future of The Watercress Way. It sets our work in a wider context, reports on our progress so far and identifies a series of current and future projects. The plan describes our limited financial resources and identifies areas where external funding will be necessary to achieve our future plans, and how we could proceed in realising these.

3. HISTORY

3.1 The Railways

3.1.1 The railways which used to run along the route of the Watercress Way were the Mid-Hants Railway and the Didcot Newbury and Southampton Railway (DNSR). Both lines intersected at Winchester junction at the current mainline in Kings Worthy.

3.1.2 The Mid-Hants Railway operated between Alton, Alresford and Winchester Junction from 1865 to 1973. The aim was to create a secondary mainline route between Woking and Winchester as an alternative to the London & South-Western Railway's mainline from London via Basingstoke. Its links with watercress production and transport led to its local name of 'The Watercress Line'.



3.1.3 The Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway (DNSR) operated from 1885 to 1964. Entrepreneurs promoted the DNSR to improve the supply of coal to Southampton Docks and to provide some competition to the London & South Western's monopoly over railway traffic to Southampton. Neither ambition was fully realised.

3.1.4 The two lines played a significant role in wartime by transporting troops and military equipment with the Mid-Hants line being used to connect the camps at Aldershot transport to Southampton. The DNSR transported huge volumes of munitions and troops particularly in the preparations for the Normandy landings. The camp at Worthy Down was an important centre and the platforms are one of the most significant remaining features of the DNSR.

3.1.5 The arrival of the railways was pivotal in the growth of watercress farming at several points on the Watercress Way as it enabled watercress to be dispatched to markets in London and the Midlands within 24 hours of being harvested.

3.1.6 There is a wealth of information collected by local railway historians about the railways including photographs and information on the many incidents following construction and operation. There is also a large body of information on the surrounding areas including the military history of the Worthy Down Camp area and the former air field.

3.1.7 Although many of the railway artefacts no longer remain, there are a few such as the telegraph poles and boundary posts. Some have been made more obvious to increase the sense of heritage. The most significant feature is the many bridges and the intricate brickwork involved in their construction. The one over the Northington road at Itchen Abbas is a particularly fine example. There are also several Pill Boxes close to Worthy Down Camp reflecting its wartime importance.



3.2 The Droves

3.2.1 The main links between the lines at Sutton Scotney and New Alresford are the Droves. Eleanor Kingston in her article, *An introduction to Hampshire Drove Roads*, states that the need to drive cattle and sheep to new pastures and markets has existed for at least 6,000 years and the drove ways must be some of the oldest tracks in the country. In the thirteenth century cattle were driven from Wales to markets in England and this droving of cattle and sheep reached its heyday in the eighteenth century.

3.2.2 Drove roads were from 40 - 50 feet in width and were often hedged to prevent the animals from straying. The routes were way-marked with evergreen trees including holly, laurel and particularly in Hampshire, yew. Leading into the main drove roads were feeder droves, originating in the villages along the way and local drove ways linking supporting meadows and pastures. Scots pine and larch were also used as waymarks along the route and clumps of these trees also denoted stopping places at inns and farms. Bayley's clump near South Wonston is a good example and this can be seen in some of the very early photos of the DNSR.

3.2.3 The two droves playing a significant part in the Watercress Way are the Oxdrove and the Alresford Drove. The Oxdrove drove crosses the DNSR south of South Wonston and the Alresford Drove crosses it just to the north. The Alresford Drove crosses the A33 at the site of the former Lunways Inn before passing through Micheldever Wood where it is now metalled and used by motor vehicles. The Watercress Way picks up the branch heading towards New Alresford entering Winchester Road at Drove Lane.

3.2.4 Slightly confusingly, looking at modern maps, a new Oxdrove Way was created by Hampshire County Council as a circular route centred on Old Alresford and using part of the Oxdrove and intended to be used by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. This was opened officially in summer 1993.

4. LANDSCAPE

4.1 The Hampshire County Council document, the Hampshire Landscape, identifies the area encompassed by the Droves and most of TWW as 'Chalklands open arable. This is a landscape with a strong identity with primarily arable farmland in a broad and open setting. The large or very large fields and the well-spaced hedgerow patterns echo the network of typically straight roads, lanes and tracks. There are also areas which fit more into the chalklands with a clay plateau designation. These areas typically consist of a landscape of farmland and woodland, hedgerows and little used lanes.

4.2 The route also touches on the rivers Arle and Itchen in the Itchen Valley and the Dever through Sutton Scotney and these are attractive corridors useful for wildlife.

5. ECOLOGY

5.1 Habitats

5.1.1 Disused railways offer a variety of habitats. Cuttings and embankments provide many possibilities depending on their height, depth and aspect. Interestingly the DNSR runs roughly north to south and the Mid Hampshire runs roughly east to west. So clearance and views from the DNSR extend eastwards and westwards while on the Mid Hants the views are to the north and south.

5.2 Ecological Value

5.2.1 The ecological value of the line will depend significantly on its future management. Local volunteers and others have already made a very useful start and further work should involve sensitive tree felling to open out views and to let in more light in both cuttings and embankments with aspect being also taken into account. Variations in light and shade will be attractive to certain butterflies. A fine example of successful clearance is the work on the Worthy Down Halt Platforms where, mainly due to the activities of the Worthys Conservation Volunteers and their clearance of woody vegetation, the results have been impressive as mentioned in 5.6 below. Many of the trees are mature or semi- mature ash and it remains to be seen what the impact of the Ash Die-back disease will be.



5.2 Wildlife Corridors

5.2.1 Some parts of the line provide a wildlife corridor through intensively used agricultural land. In other areas where the line has been obliterated and converted to grassland or arable there are clearly gaps. The need for increased connectivity between wildlife areas has been recognised particularly in the 2010 report by Sir John Lawton, 'Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network'. It has been widely acclaimed as a blueprint for protecting and enhancing wildlife in the UK. It states that 'many existing landscape features (natural and man-made) increase connectivity between different parts of the network at various scales. They include stepping stone habitats, and linear features such as rivers, canals, cycle-routes, railway embankments and hedges'. Migration and movement of certain species along linear routes is now well documented.

5.3 European Directives

5.3.1 At a European scale, Article 10 of the Habitats Directive states: 'Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.'

5.4 Current Habitat Management requirements and as the route extends.

5.4.1 Once part of the route is in public ownership or under management by the charity, there will be an on-going need for annual maintenance. This is necessary to keep the routes open, safe and enjoyable and also to enhance the wildlife value. Although the poverty of routes through intensively agricultural land has been mentioned it is also true that heavily overgrown sections can become floristically poor. Some stretches of the line are covered with dense scrub which will need to be cleared. A tunnel through high vegetation has limited interest for wildlife and users alike and there will be plenty of opportunities to diversify through making glades and clearings. In some newly acquired areas tree planting will usefully define the route and there may be new opportunities for habitat creation through reseeded. From the recreational viewpoint, opening up selected views will be welcome.

5.5 Itchen Valley Section - the Mid-hants line.

5.5.1 In the County Council owned section there are many fine ash* trees, with hazel and sycamore and occasional yew, birch, cherry, holly and willows. A very large walnut on this section is a notable feature. The ground vegetation is not as rich as the Worthys Section and includes the white helleborine orchid. Hart's tongue ferns are well represented on the brickwork of bridges. A species list compiled in 2016 is attached at *Appendix 1*. It almost certainly has a population of small mammals probably including bats and provides good habitat for owls. A bat survey will be carried out when possible. A Dawn chorus survey is carried out annually and a list of species recorded is in *Appendix 2*.

5.6 Worthys Section – the DSNR.

5.6.1 Most of the site is covered with lowland mixed deciduous woodland and scrub. Glades have been created in recent years, allowing wildflowers to regenerate. The area of the former Worthy Down Halt has been colonised by mainly dwarf plant species including mosses and lichens. These attract a thriving butterfly population with some 25 species being recorded in the area. The brick bridges have been colonised by ferns, mostly Hart's tongue. A list of the flora at Worthy Down Halt is given at *Appendix 3*. Of particular interest is the wild liquorice which occurs at the edge of the platforms. This plant is very rare in Hampshire with very few sites. Other significant plants recorded are sea mouse-ear; rue-leaved saxifrage - very local in Hampshire and pale toadflax - very local in Hampshire. Broad-leaved helleborine and Abraham-Isaac-Jacob have colonised some nearby clearings. Fly Agaric and Dog Stinkhorn have been found near the platforms as has Scarlet Elf Cup.

5.7 Kings Worthy

5.7.1 Extending from Lovedon Lane in Kings Worthy, there is a section open to the public as far as the bridge over Springvale Road and where it is known as the Kim Bishop's Walk. A plant survey was carried out in 2016 and the results are attached at *Appendix 4*.

5.7.2 Broadview: Kings Worthy Parish Council has been working with the Worthys Conservation Volunteers since 2014 on the phased management of the short sloping section of filled in MidHants line between Lovedon Lane and Wesley Road. Since the Watercress Way charity was set up we have had volunteers help in taming overgrown hedgerows and the planting of 500 new native trees and bushes and wildflowers. The central grassy sward is maintained by Kings Worthy Parish Council as an amenity space / corridor.

5.7.3 Top Field: Following the modifications to the Definitive Map agreed by Hampshire County Council and particularly the creation of a footpath along the bed of the old railway from the end of the Kim Bishop's Walk westwards and to then open on to Woodhams Farm Lane, a key link in Kings Worthy has now become a reality. Details on the precise management of the route have yet to be agreed and discussions are on-going with Winchester City Council.

*Ash dieback is an increasing management problem which is the responsibility of HCC and the landowners

6. GENERAL BENEFITS OF THE ROUTE

6.1 Climate Change

6.1.1 The project contributes to combating climate change through sequestration of carbon in vegetation, particularly trees and shrubs. Where sections of the former lines are in agricultural use, returning to a wooded corridor would be a clear advantage. One aspect of climate change is the need for species to migrate as their habitats change. In the UK, some species such as birds and certain butterflies have extended their ranges northwards in recent years. Other species require corridors (referred to earlier) on which they can travel and linear routes such as river corridors and disused railway lines are excellent examples.

6.2. Health and well-being

6.2.1 There is a large and increasing body of evidence to demonstrate the health benefits both physical and mental of access to green space and recently, mental health benefits have been receiving particular attention. This has received further attention during the Covid-19 restrictions.

6.2.2 In the report *A countryside for Health and Wellbeing* (2005) produced by the then Countryside Recreation Network and supported by Hampshire County Council, the Countryside Agency and others, a number of action points were recommended. These included:

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Access and recreation providers (including local authorities) need to address maintenance of paths, sustainable transport, promotion of facilities and provision of information.
- Agricultural managers and policy makers need to increase countryside access and encourage the farming industry to promote the opportunity to indicate that land management can involve opportunities for public health provision.
- Schools should ensure that all primary age school children experience visits to a range of types of countryside, and where possible establish their own on-site gardens; they should also emphasise the public health value of physical activity for all children.
- The health sector needs to consider the contribution that green exercise makes to public wellbeing and saving money for the NHS.
- Social services should acknowledge that green exercise has clear mental health benefits.
- Environmental managers – local and national Biodiversity Action Plans should be written to include a component on biodiversity activities that contribute to public health.

6.2.3 Since then there has been growing recognition of the value of nature to health.

The 2011 Natural Environment White Paper *“The Natural Choice”* states that “From April 2013, Directors of Public Health will be...ideally placed to influence local services, for example joining up activity on rights of way, countryside access and green space management to improve public health by connecting people with nature.”

Clearly the goal of extending easily accessible countryside as is envisaged in this project would fit many of the above mentioned actions.

7. RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT

7.1 Establishing the route

7.1.1 As far as the former railway lines are concerned, our aspirational route is based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey of Winchester (Figure 1) but we recognise that in some sections, this may not be possible. As opportunities arise, our goal is to align use of the former lines with as much as possible of the original. The off- road links through the Drovers and elsewhere using the Rights of Way network have their current use determined by their status e.g. permissive path, footpath, bridleway, restricted bye way or bye way. There are currently some uncertainties over whether certain small lengths of the route should be included in TWW and these are in process of being resolved. This will lead to the publication of a complete map of the route. New opportunities may arise for re-designation of some rights of way as is currently the case in Kings Worthy, thus increasing the range of users and which will mean revisions to the route.

7.2 Surfaces

7.2.1 The quality of the surfaces varies with time of year but can get difficult in wet winter months even on the former bed of the line. Consideration will need to be given as to the need for resurfacing and how this might be achieved and where. It is likely that significant resurfacing will require external funding. In some sections of the Drovers the surface is metalled which is a problem for horse riders. We are already assessing and surveying the condition of parts of the route and this will be extended as opportunities arise.

7.3 Safety

7.3.1 The safety of users of the route is important and several issues have been recognised. Ramps down to the former tracks may need to have railings and these will need to be regularly inspected. Any steps need to be checked as to condition. Rabbits, foxes and badgers have made holes in certain places and which could be a danger. Tree roots can be a tripping hazard. Illicit use by speeding motorcycles can be a problem on the former lines. Also dog walkers do not always keep their dogs under sufficient control as is required on rights of way. Horse-riding and motorcycles can lead to rutting of the route.

7.4 Signage

7.4.1 Much of the route has been sign posted using specially designed and clearly recognisable roundels. This has been undertaken by Trustees, supporters and the local ramblers. Adjusting and re-signing will be necessary as more sections of the route become accessible or as the route changes.

7.5 Enjoyment and Interpretation

7.5.1 We have installed three benches along the Itchen Valley section supplementing those already in the DNSR Kings Worthy section and plan to install further benches at appropriate locations. There are numerous opportunities for opening out views and some will be taken as they arise. Information boards have been designed and installed at 3 sites – Couch Green, South Wonston and Sutton Scotney. Leaflet dispensers have been installed at appropriate locations. Care will be taken to ensure that none of this becomes intrusive.

7.6 Communication

7.6.1 Our Friends of the Line newsletter keeps supporters up to date with developments, plans and events. Currently over 160 are signed up as a Friend of the Line.

The website, <http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk>, set up in early 2016 has been instrumental in disseminating information. It contains downloadable maps and suggested walks as well as information on the charity and its activities. We monitor its usage and in 2019 there were an average of 100 visitors per week.

Our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/watercressway>, is very popular – 674 followers. We also have an Instagram page, <https://www.instagram.com/watercressway> with 300 followers and a Twitter account, <https://twitter.com/WatercressWay> with 80 followers.

7.7 Events

7.7.1 There is great scope for events and these will be further developed. The numerous recent activities and their assessment are shown at *Appendix 9*.

8. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

8.1 Land Ownership

8.1.1 A key issue for TWW is land ownership. Currently there are two sections of the disused lines open for public access in the ownership of Hampshire County Council (5230m) and a further section in Kings Worthy owned by the Parish Council (523m). The remainder of the former tracks is in private ownership and generally inaccessible (5813m). The rest of the route using the Rights of Way amounts to 37.47km.

8.1.2 This is a long-term project and very much dependent on the willingness of landowners to open up sections of the line in their ownership. Some may be willing to do so once the project has been explained. Some owners may be prepared to consider management agreements and licenses. Others, where there are developments proposed on their land, may agree to improve access by way of Section 106 agreements. All landowners have now been approached outlining the scope of the project and making them aware of the aims of the project.

8.1.3 There is generally no intention to acquire land on the routes between Sutton Scotney and Alresford using the former droves since these already form part of the Rights of Way network over private land. Exceptionally, perhaps where a diversion is desirable, an agreement with the landowner may be necessary.

8.1.4 A list of issues requiring negotiation or agreement from landowners has been prepared and this is attached at *Appendix 5*. As an example, the Trustees have identified an opportunity in Sutton Scotney to connect a new housing development in Wonston Close to the Gratton through use of the former railway line and opening up an access under the bridge over Wonston Road. Hampshire County Council have granted a license to allow access under the bridge and for a short distance along the track. Supported by Wonston Parish Council this first part has now been cleared of rubbish. We hope to gain approval of the landowner to allow this section to be extended and connected to the Beggars Drove. The cost of clearing this proposed extension will be considerable and external funding will be necessary.

8.2 Opening new paths

The Watercress Way charity has a vision for public access:

The public will be able to use the full route along the disused railway lines between Sutton Scotney, and Alresford via Kings Worthy.

We acknowledge that this is not the current situation.

The current route of The Watercress Way uses the existing rights of way on public footpaths and bridleways, including those that exist along the two railway lines.

The Trustees will take every opportunity to endeavour to extend the rights of way network along the Railway Lines and to add any links to improve access to those lines.

- There are identified sections to which the Public has already made claims, including a successful claim in Kings Worthy and South Wonston. The Trustees of The Watercress Way are committed to working with landowners as they develop management plans to maximise the potential of these paths and bridleways.
- There are sections which have been made rights of way by the landowner. We are grateful to the County Council for granting a right of way on the old line in Kings Worthy. Other landowners may come forward to do so in the future.

There are sections of the disused lines which are not the subject of claims. The Trustees of The Watercress Way will continue to correspond regularly with the owners to be appraised of current plans, and seek access. It is the policy of The Watercress Way to seek public access to any section of the disused railway line which is proposed for development.

9. SUPPORTING POLICIES

9.1 Official Bodies

There are a series of policies from official bodies which support the underlying principles behind the project. These have been produced by Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority: The detailed policies are reproduced in the following appendices – Winchester City Council, *Appendix 6*; Hampshire County Council, *Appendix 7*; South Downs National Park, *Appendix 8*.

- The South Downs National Park (adopted July 2019: policy SD20 specifically refers to TWW) and the paragraphs entitled Disused Railway Lines, 6.16 to 6.20) and
- Winchester City Council (adopted 2017: section entitled The Rural Area, paragraph 4.10.4)
- These Local Plans acknowledge that the route may change over time as new rights of way are claimed. The SDNPA plan protects land from development to facilitate extension of the Watercress Way on the Kings Worthy to Alresford section.

10. WHY IS THE WATERCRESS WAY NEEDED?

10.1 A dense and growing local population with much leisure time means an increasing demand for access to the countryside by a wide range of users. This area of Hampshire has a rich network of rights of way but many are linear and need fast, winding country roads to link them together. An example is the use that schoolchildren attending the Itchen Abbas Primary School have to make of the B3047 along the Itchen Valley when the bed of the old railway lies in close proximity but is inaccessible in substantial sections. The obvious need for safe access away from traffic for walkers, cyclists and horse riders has grown.

10.2 There is clear demand for a long distance circular route with multiple access 'gateways' as well as associated shorter loops.

10.3 A 26 mile route has obvious attractions for Marathon trainers and there is regular use of parts of the line by running groups.

10.4 The large military developments at Worthy Down have led to the open section of the DNSR being used for fitness training.

10.5 Access to the countryside by people of all ages is now considered to be beneficial to physiological and mental health and the creation of TWW is a useful contribution.

10.6 The lack of significant gradients on old railway lines provides an opportunity for access by people with disabilities who might otherwise be denied access to the general countryside by virtue of steep gradients and difficult surfaces.

10.7 Various presentations and meetings with local stakeholders indicate widespread support for this off-road concept.

11. DEMAND FOR THE WATERCRESS WAY

11.1 Walkers, Ramblers and Railway Ramblers

11.1.1 As the route incorporates significant lengths of the existing Rights of Way network there is clearly substantial use already being made. The sections in public ownership are increasingly used and appreciated. Hampshire County Council has instigated a policy of replacing styles with gates which is helpful for the network overall. The local ramblers have asked Trustees to present the project at two branch AGM's and their help with way marking is appreciated. The Railway Ramblers have also offered their support. Dog walkers are known to make substantial use of parts of the route and there is some evidence of use by dog walking businesses.

11.2 Horse Riding

11.2.1 Parts of the area around Winchester are fortunate to have an extensive network of bridleways but especially south of the River Itchen there are few opportunities for riders unless they have arrangements made with local landowners. Many bridleways are truncated by main roads or turn into footpaths and riders are limited to either very short or very long rides involving much roadwork.

11.2.2 Using the former DNSR the system of routes is fairly complete between Sutton Scotney and Kings Worthy. Between Sutton Scotney and New Alresford and using ancient droves there are unfortunately still substantial sections of busy road near Micheldever woods where the Oxdrove has been metalled.

11.2.3 The southern section has many bridleways to the north of the former Mid Hants Railway which currently are only joined through the use of B roads. If the TWW were extended along the route of the old railway this would offer a significant difference to riders between Kings Worthy and New Alresford.

11.3 Cycling

11.3.1 Cyclists do make much use of the existing network but face similar problems to horse riders. The full circular cycle route is 40km [24 miles] more than half of which is off road. There are numerous options for shorter linear and circular routes. With some surface improvement some sections could be used for commuting or journeys to school.

11.3.2 During the summer the whole of the route is suitable for hybrid, cyclo-cross or mountain bikes. During the winter sections of the route make it more suitable for mountain bikes.

11.3.3 The cycle route is not separately signed but a map is available as an internet download. A laminated map is planned to be widely available.

11.4 Access for those with Reduced Mobility

11.4.1 There is support for the use of parts of the disused lines to be made available to people with reduced mobility. The Winchester Rotarians have contributed £500 to explore how the currently accessible routes at Worthy Down Platforms and Couch Green, Martyr Worthy could be made available. We intend to draw up plans as to how this might be achieved at the three locations and meetings with local groups and experienced practitioners are planned.

11.5 Educational Value

With limits on budgets, the formal schools use of TWW is likely to be limited but it may be of value particularly to the Itchen Abbas Primary school and the South Wonston Primary school. This particular school is about to experience considerable growth due to the large scale developments at Worthy Down. There is such a range of topics included in TWW that projects could be developed to interest students at all levels and on many subjects. Sparsholt College is well known for its activities in this area and TWW could be of particular appeal. There are also abundant opportunities for informal education catering for a range of ages from children and youth groups to the retired. Examples could include species surveys, guided walks, tree and wildflower planting, railway history and bridge construction. Opportunities to develop skills in countryside management, wood working and interpretation are there to be developed. Volunteers from all areas have a part to play with the Worthys Volunteers providing a good example. A full set of tools is now available to support the work of volunteers in management of the sites.

11.6 Attendance at Events

11.6.1 Since its start, the Trustees have attended numerous events such as the Alresford Show (twice), The Gratton Trust annual event in Sutton Scotney, and the Kings Worthy fete all of which attracted significant interest and this interest has substantially exceeded our expectations. Attendance at similar local events occurred in 2018 and 2019 and was planned for 2020. These are cancelled due to Covid-19.

11.6.2 The publicity work we have undertaken and practical activities TWW has engaged in have attracted a great deal of public interest, and it is clear that the idea has caught their imagination. Of particular note is our annual Dawn to Dusk Day featuring a well-attended series of events on the last Sunday in April starting with a dawn chorus survey. Typically we have 25 attendees for the dawn chorus, over 20 parents and children for geocaching, 25 for a guided botanical walk in the afternoon.

A summary of the many activities is attached at *Appendix 9*.

12. STARTING THE TRUST

12.1 Inaugural Meeting

The project started with an inaugural meeting in Martyr Worthy Village Hall on 7 September 2015 which was well attended by the local community. An initial steering group was established. It was decided that a charitable trust; a CIO would be the most appropriate means of developing the route since this status opens up a number of advantages including insurance and gift aid. It also encourages a generally positive attitude by members of the public such as we have experienced.

12.2 Initial Objectives

One of the initial objectives was to seek suitably qualified trustees and apply for charitable status. Nine trustees with a wide variety of skills and local knowledge were appointed and the Watercress Way became a CIO on 16 June 2016 (Registered Charity Number: 1167675). The Trustees have defined the aims and objectives over a series of meetings, publicised them on the website, (<http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk/>) achieved a great deal in a short space of time and believe that they have substantial local support for its aims and objectives.

13. CURRENT GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION

13.1 Trustees

13.1.1 The Charity's trustees are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and committed, and our progress has been faster than we could ever have imagined. To date we have achieved a great deal for very little cost. We meet on a regular, mostly monthly basis to discuss items on our prepared agenda. Additionally we hold open AGM meetings to which the public are invited to attend and have done in so in useful numbers. The Trustees in 2020 are: Jackie Porter, Chair; Mike Collis, Secretary; Kay Mead, Treasurer; Clive Cook, Trustee; Tony Langridge, Trustee; Jim Thompson, Trustee; Kim Adams, Trustee, Stephen Jeffery, Trustee and Pascale Asbee, Trustee.

14. VISION STATEMENT

14.1 We have developed a number of key statements which define our role and we have gone on to translate these into actions with tangible results which users are already recognising.

The vision of TWW charity is:

'To create an easily accessible, non-motorised circular route linking the communities of Alresford, Kings Worthy and Sutton Scotney via disused railways and existing Drove Roads.'

15. AIMS

To support our vision, we have several associated aims:

	TWW AIMS
1	To connect sections of the route that are publicly accessible using existing connecting paths, or the creation of new connecting paths where these do not currently exist.
2	Ensure that all sections of the route that are open to the public are well maintained and appropriately accessible
3	Develop the route for all ages, and all levels of mobility, and communicate the benefits of the route.
4	Offer opportunities to volunteer in physical and other such activities that enhance and promote The Watercress Way.
5	Provide information on, and actively promote the rich local railway and Drove Road heritage and ecology to which the route allows access.

16. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

To deliver the vision we have a number of objectives, some of which have already been realised:

	TWW OBJECTIVES
1	Obtain and maintain charitable status;
2	Utilise disused railway lines and historic droves;
3	Develop local community awareness through a proactive communications and marketing strategy;
4	Waymark and map routes for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders;
5	Develop better access for those with impaired mobility;
6	Focus on the outstanding landscape, ecology and heritage;
7	Promote community participation through themed days;
8	Carry out improvements and monitor the route, by setting up a volunteer conservation group and appointing route wardens;
9	Actively seek support from other agencies, organisations and landowners;
10	Generate support through building a community of 'Friends of The Watercress Way';
11	Seek funding through sponsorships, grant applications and personal donations;
12	Establish wider awareness by registering The Watercress Way with county and national trail organisations.

17. PRINCIPLES OF APPROACH AND DELIVERY

17.1 As Trustees, we are committed to adopting a cost effective and pragmatic approach to undertaking the works necessary to deliver a permanent non-motorised route way marked as The Watercress Way. We understand and expect that this is a long-term project that must be well managed and delivered in a financially sustainable way across its lifetime. To this end there are a number of principles of approach and delivery that we intend to follow and guide us:

	Principles of Delivery
1	Use every opportunity for volunteer labour if possible and develop our own Watercress Way volunteer force.
2	Seek expert advice on suitable contractors for work that cannot be done by voluntary involvement and effort
3	Keep the public informed about our plans, and encourage their participation in them.
4	Identify 'aspirational' sections all along the route, and be ready to take the opportunity for funding their inclusion if necessary.

5	Set milestones for delivery of each project as a measurement of our progress to funders, supporters, and public.
6	Seek a wide range of funding streams
7	Set annual goals for progress, communication and public involvement.
8	Determine progress against these goals. Agree the final ownership of any changes or improvements with stakeholders and public bodies.
9	Report back to 'Friends of the Line' and registered stakeholders at each Annual General Meeting of the Charity.
10	Endeavour to review all planning applications that are likely to have an impact on the route of the former railway lines. Review the impact of these and respond as appropriate. Seek to secure benefits for the project through planning applications and the use of Section 106 agreements and other means.
11	Publicise progress of the plans, and any changes.
12	In the event of unforeseen difficulties, agree exit strategy, including measures of success, hand-over of responsibilities and any future planning needed.

18. MILESTONES

18.1 As the project has developed we have focussed on the 21 milestones and have regularly monitored progress. A table with full analysis of progress is given in *Appendix 10*. Within the milestones were 5 initial projects on which three are still work in progress.

19. FUTURE PROJECTS

19.1 We have taken a number of issues forward which we see as our future goals and on which the Trustees expect to spend much effort (*Appendix 12*).

20. DELIVERY AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

20.1 The Trustees have a considerable suite of skills between them but recognise that external advice and support will be necessary for any larger projects. Helpfully, two of the trustees have project management experience. The Trustees and other volunteers are expanding their capacity to undertake maintenance and small scale projects and as this capability develops, it should be possible to undertake work for which, at the moment, we might look to more costly contractors to implement. We would however expect to employ/use, architects, surveyors, landscape contractors, printers, designers and accountants when the need arises.

20.2 It is inevitable that given the level of support for the project, expectations are rising. The ability of the Trustees to deliver on the list of future projects will be crucial in maintaining this. To do so, a projects/support officer at least on a part-time basis will be necessary in the near future. Consideration will need to be given as to how this might be funded.

21. FINANCES

21.1 The Watercress Way has been successful in attracting both grants and sponsorship which has enabled it to operate to its current level. We continue to secure income from a variety of sources.

21.2 These sums are currently sufficient to support our recent achievements and day-to-day activities. We expect at least a similar level of support from the current sources in the future and as the project becomes more widely recognised, these should increase. However as the project develops there will be a need for large sums of money involving surface improvements, tree felling, rubbish clearance, general access and access for people with disabilities. Also should further parcels of land fall to the management of TWW there may be obligations for fencing, structural works and general access.

Large Scale projects under development and not currently costed are the following:

- Access For All at Couch Green, Martyr Worthy
- Access For All at Worthy Down Halt, Kings Worthy
- Safe pedestrian access at Sutton Scotney, Wonston Road, from the Gratton Public Open Space to Wonston Grove housing developments and beyond to the Beggars Drove using the route of the former line.

21.3 Fund raising strategy

21.3.1 In terms of a fund raising strategy, many small scale opportunities have already arisen during the time of the projects existence. The opportunity to give support by donating via the website has proved very worthwhile. The Trustees recognise that a fund raising plan will be necessary for the major projects envisaged once these have been identified and estimated costs obtained. As an example, the access under the bridge at Sutton Scotney has now been assigned preliminary costs and these are in process of being refined.

21.3.2 Recognising that some external sources of funding may require some match funding, some of our regular income may be available. Additionally, careful records are being maintained of the time spent by the Trustees and other volunteers on developing the project which may count as match funding.

21.3.3 As so many facets of our plan fit into the policies of local authorities, it would be reasonable to expect some financial support and we already have had evidence of this. The support of Local Authorities can be helpful in leveraging funds from outside sources.

22. CONCLUSIONS

22.1 This project is unusual in that brings together so many strands – history and railway heritage, ecology, enjoyment of the countryside, health and access for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the less able.

22.2 This management plan lays out our vision and gives many examples of how this is to be realised It also draws on examples of work both in progress and already achieved. It is quite specific for the near future, the next two years or so, but also sufficiently broad to apply for at least the next five years as the project evolves. It should be of use in justifying any applications for external funding which many of the specific projects may require. Without external funding there is likely to be little progress on the major projects.

22.3 While it is impossible to identify at this stage any specific items which will be required as a result of additional land management responsibilities, the principles have been laid out.

22.4 The work of the last two years, the successes which have been achieved and the growing interest in the project suggest that the future foundations have been firmly laid.

The Watercress Way Management Plan: List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Itchen Valley Botanical Surveys 2016-19

Appendix 2: Itchen Valley Dawn Chorus 2016-19

Appendix 3: Worthy Down Botanical Surveys 2016

Appendix 4: Kim Bishop's Walk, Kings Worthy Botanical Surveys

Appendix 5: The Watercress Way List of Route improvements identified and progress

Appendix 6: Supporting Policies Winchester City Council

Appendix 7: Supporting Policies Hampshire County Council

Appendix 8: Supporting Policies South Downs National Park

Appendix 9: Evidence of level of Public Support to January 2020

Appendix 10: Review of Milestones from 2016 - 20

Appendix 11: History of Projects 2016-19

Appendix 12: Current and Future Projects 2020 & beyond



The Watercress Way

Appendix 1: Itchen Valley Botanical Surveys 2016

Herbaceous Species	
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>
American willowherb	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>
Black bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Bladder campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>
Bluebells	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>
Cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Dog violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
Dogs mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Great Hairy Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hedge bedstraw	<i>Gallium mollugo</i>
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Hemp Agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Imperforate St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>
Italian Lords & Ladies ?	<i>Arum italicum</i>
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Lords & Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Perforate St John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Ramsoms	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rose bay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>

Snowdrops	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Spanish bluebells	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Stinking iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>
Sweet violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>
Traveller's joy (Wild clematis)	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Upright Hedge parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>
Wall lettuce	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>
White deadnettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
<i>White Helleborine (2015)</i>	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>
Whorled mint	<i>Mentha x verticulata</i>
Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Wood dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>
Woody nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Trees and Shrubs	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Austrian Pine	<i>Pinus maritima var austriaca</i>
Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Coryllus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastaneum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
Lawson's cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>
Wild privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Ferns	
Harts Tongue Fern	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris felix-mas</i>



The Watercress Way

Appendix 2: Dawn Chorus Walks Bird Surveys 2016-19

During our annual Dawn to Dusk day we include a Dawn Chorus walk at 4:30am led by experts at bird call recognition and list all the birds heard.

Itchen Valley 1 May 2016	Worthy Down 30 April 2017
Blackbird	Blackbird
Blackcap	Blackcap
Blue Tit	Blue tit
Cetti's warbler	Buzzard
Chaffinch	Chaffinch
Chiffchaff	Chiffchaff
Cockerel	Coal tit
Common sandpiper	Collared dove
Crow	Common gull
Duncock	Goldfinch
Goldcrest	Great tit
Goldfinch	Greenfinch
Great Spotted woodpecker	House Martin
Great Tit	Kestrel
Green woodpecker	Long-tailed tit
Gull (seen)	Magpie
Heron (seen)	Pheasant
Long-tailed tit	Robin
Mallard duck	Rook
Mandarin duck	Skylark
Mistle thrush	Song Thrush
Nuthatch	Swallow
Peacock	Whitethroat
Pheasant	Wood pigeon
Robin	Wren
Rook	Yellowhammer
Sedge warbler	
Song Thrush	
Wood pigeon	
Yellowhammer	
30	26

Itchen Valley 29 April 2018	Itchen Valley 28 April 2019
Blackbird	Blackbird
Blackcap	Blackcap
Blue tit	Blue tit
Cetti's warbler	Canada goose
Chaffinch	Carrion crow
Chiffchaff	Chaffinch
Crow	Chiff Chaff
Gadwell	Goldcrest
Goldcrest	Goldfinch
Goldfinch	Great spotted woodpecker
Great tit	Great tit
Green woodpecker	Green woodpecker
House sparrow	Greenfinch
Jackdaw	Heron
Kestrel	Jackdaw
Magpie	Jay
Mallard	Little egret
Mistle thrush	Magpie
Moorhen	Mallard
Nuthatch	Mistle thrush
Peacock	Moorhen
Pheasant	Mute swan
Pigeon	Nuthatch
Raven	Peacock (Avington Park)
Reed bunting	Pheasant
Reed warbler	Reed warbler
Robin	Robin
Sedge warbler	Rook
Song thrush	Seagull (of some sort...)
Starling	Sedge warbler
Stock dove	Song Thrush
Stonechat	Stock dove
Swan	Tawny owl
Wren	Wood pigeon
Yellow hammer	Wren
Stonechat	Yellowhammer
Swan	
37	36



The Watercress Way

Appendix 3: Worthy Down Botanical Surveys 2016

HERBACEOUS PLANTS	
Abraham-Isaac-Jacob	<i>Trachystemon orientalis</i>
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>
Autumn hawkbit	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>
Bird's-foot -trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Biting stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>
Black Medic	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Bladder campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Clustered bellflower	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>
Common comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cow parsely	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Creeping Thistle (mauve & white forms)	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>
Dark mullein	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dog violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
Dogs mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Dove's-foot crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>
Eyebright (blue)?	<i>Euphrasia sp?</i>
Field forget-me-not	<i>Mysotis arvensis</i>
Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsis</i>
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hairy Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>
Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium sp</i>
Hedge bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
Hedge garlic	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>

Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium
Ivy-leaved speedwell	Veronica hederifolia
Kidney vetch	Anthyllis vulneraria
Lady's bedstraw	Gallium verum
Large flowered Evening Primrose	Oenothera glazioviana
Lesser celandine	Ranunculus ficaria
Lesser trefoil	Trifolium dubium
Lords & Ladies	Arum maculatum & Arum italicum
Marjoram (mauve & white forms)	Origanum vulgare
Marsh thistle	Cirsium palustre
Meadow Crane's-bill	Geranium pratense
Meadow Cranesbill	Geranium pratense
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris
Musk Thistle	Carduus nutans
Oxe-eye daisy	Chrysanthemum vulgare
Pale Toadflax	Linaria repens
Perforate St John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum
Prickly Sow-thistle	Sonchus asper
Primrose	Primula vulgaris
Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea
Ramsons	Allium ursinum
Red bartsia	Odontites vernus
Red clover	Trifolium pratense
Ribbed melilot	Melilotus officinalis
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata
Rose bay willow herb	Chamerion angustifolium
Salad burnet	Sanguisorba minor minor
Scarlet pimpernel	Anagallis arvensis
Self heal	Prunella vulgaris
Small flowered Cranesbill	Geranium pusillum
Snowdrop	Galanthus nivalis
Spanish Bluebell	Hyacinthoides hispanica
Spear thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Sticky groundsel	Senecio viscosus
Stinging nettle	Urtica dioica
Stinking Iris	Iris foetida
Sweet violet	Viola odorata
Thyme leaved speedwell	Veronica serpyllifolia
Vervain	Verbena officinalis
Vetch	Vicia spp
Vipers bugloss	Echium vulgare
Wall bedstraw	Galium parisiense
Weld	Reseda luteola
Wetted thistle	Carduus crispus
White bedstraw	Galium album
White campion	Silene latifolia
White clover	Trifolium repens
White deadnettle	Lamium album
Wild Basil	Clinopodium vulgare
Wild liquorice	Astragalus glycyphyllos

Wild mignonette	Reseda lutea
Wild strawberry	Fragaria vesca
Wood avens	Geum urbanum
Wood forget-me-not	Mysotis sylvatica
Woody nightshade	Solanum dulcamara
Yarrow (pink & white forms)	Achillea millefolium
FERNS	
Bracken	Pteridium aquilinum
Harts Tongue Fern	Phyllitis scolopendrium
Maidenhair spleenwort	Asplenium trichomanes
Male fern	Dryopteris Felix-mas
Polypody	Polypodium vulgare
TREES & SHRUBS	
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior
Birch	Betula pendula
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa
Cherry	Prunus avium
Dog Rose	Rosa canina
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea
Elder	Sambucus nigra
Goat Willow	Salix caprea
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Hazel	Coryllus avellana
Holly	Ilex aquifolium
Ivy	Hedera helix
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus
Travellers joy/Old man's beard	Clematis vitalba
Wayfaring Tree	Viburnum lantana
Wild privet	Ligustrum vulgare
Yew	Taxus baccata



The Watercress Way

Appendix 4: Kim Bishop's Walk, Kings Worthy Botanical Survey 2016

Herbaceous Species	
Bindweed	Calystegia sp
Black Bryony	Tamus communis
Bramble	Rubus sp
Cleavers	Galium aparine
Creeping buttercup	Ranunculus repens
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale
Dock	Rumex sp
Dog Rose	Rosa canina
Ground Ivy	Glechoma hederacea
Hedge woundwort	Stachys sylvatica
Hemp agrimony	Eupatorium cannabinum
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclyamen
Ivy	Hedera helix
Lesser celandine	Ranunculus ficaria
Lords and Ladies	Arum Maculata
Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris
Meadow vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis
Primrose	Primula vulgaris
Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea
Rose bay willow herb	Ligustrum vulgare
Stinging nettle	Urtica dioica
Stinking Iris	Iris foetida
Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum
Wall lettuce	Mycelis muralis
Wood avens	Geum urbanum
Trees & Shrubs	
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior
Birch	Betula pendula
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa
Brambles	Rubus spp.
Cherry	Prunus avium
Currant	Ribes sp
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea
Elder	Sambucus nigra

Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Hazel	Coryllus avellana
Holly	Ilex aquifolium
Ivy	Hedera helix
Lawson's cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
Old man's beard	Clematis vitalba
Scots Pine	Pinus sylvestris
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus
Walnut	Juglans regia
Wayfaring tree	Viburnum lantana
Wild privet	Ligustrum vulgare
Willow Grey or Goat?	Salix sp
Yew	Taxus baccata



The Watercress Way

Appendix 5: List of Route improvements identified and progress

No	Location	Item		Length (m)
#1	Old Station Sutton Scotney [Metis]	New development with new footpath to The Gratton	<p>Rights to be extended over the estate access road from Wonston Road. Housing scheme under construction</p> <p>Contact made with formal request to sign route & support to be followed up. Seeking support from planning authority to have route dedicated as a right of way</p>	170
#5a	Beggars Drove Affordable Housing site /[Hyde Martell]	Route through new scheme over proposed paths from Wonston Close to Beggars Drove [Footpath 7]	<p>New development completed with footpath access to Beggars Drove</p> <p>To seek agreement to add to route if #6 Sutton Manor route is secured</p>	140
#6	Wonston Road bridge to Wonston Close [Sutton Manor Farm]	Requires ramp down from footpath under road bridge and steps/ramp to Wonston Close. Extensive rubbish clearance required	<p>Agreement in principle from Sutton Manor Estate. Awaiting approval from owner for a 15 year licence</p> <p>Licence in place for HCC section of the land incl land under the bridge. First phase accommodating works to be undertaken Spring 2019 with funding secured from the Parish Council including some rubbish clearance</p> <p>Initial tree and habitat survey undertaken. Revised plans to be prepared for funding and planning purposes Funding sources being investigated</p>	220

No	Location	Item			Length (m)
#7	Wonston Manor Farm [Church Commissioners / tenant GN & JE Gray]	Requires ramp up from Wonston Lane connecting with Bridleway 23b Some tree clearance	Negative letter from CC's agent Strutt & Parker – to be followed up Site inspection required [only part walked]	Y	790
#17	Field north of Woodhams Farm access [Laney Properties/ tenant Nigel Bright]	Regularisation of informal route along western field edge	Letters to the Northern Ireland based owners not successful to date In contact with the tenant occupier not currently receptive. Right of way claim being made by parish /Top Field Action Group	N	182
#18	Railway south of Top Field to Springvale bridge [Drew Smith]	Regularisation of existing paths and improvements linkage with #17	New rights of way secured over land immediately to the north of parts of the old railway Parish making claim for other sections Further route improvements are possible linked to expected planning application	Y	410
#22	Land north of old railway Lovedon La to A33 [Bull Farm Estate HCC]	Requires ramp/steps at Lovedon La end and agreed treatment under/over A33 road bridge	HCC won't act until section #25 sorted !!!!	Y	437
#25	Land from A33 to M3 bridge [GH & I Gray]	Requires agreed link with section #22 under A33 bridge. Link to Prince's Mead school possible	Informal contact with the owners established	N	866

No	Location	Item			Length involved (m)
#26/ 27	Land from M3 to HCC ownership west of Bridgetts Lane [Highway England GH & I Gray]	Requires upgrading of existing Footpath 44 for wider use	Contact Grays /Highway England	N	520
#28	HCC bridleway to Northington Road [J & G Bunney]	Use of field margin running parallel to old line and station	Part of Bridgetts Farm Contact owners	N	400
#33a	Rectory Road Bridge [Highways Agency]	Possible access under bridge from footpath 33 on Baring land	Contact once route either side determined	N	10
#34	Baring land	Link required between footpath 33 and footpath 39	Contingent on #28 Informal link already in place – Seek formal agreement with owner	Y	10
#35	Chalk Hill Rectory Lane to Baring Land [G & A Edgerley-Harris]	Access from Rectory Lane or from under Rectory Road bridge	Seek to verify current use of land	N	50
#36	Chalk Hill to Three Castles Path [Barings]	Minor works required	Alternative link from Baring Close footpath 36 if #35 not available Letter and proposal sent Mar 17 with #40 To be readdressed with Baring	Y	436
#40	Manor Farm Itchen Stoke – Seawards Bridge [Barings]	Requires ramp/steps at Seawards Bridge end	No current appetite by owner to include	Y	1290

No	Location	Item			Length involved (m)
#41	Land west of New Farm Road [Grayston & Hamilton]	Would provide alternative access under New Farm Road bridge to #43 [without the need for steps]	Land recently sold Contact with the new owner to be made	N	180
#43	Cutting between New Farm Rd and Bridge Rd [Bridge Rd Developments]	Requires steps/ramp at Bridge Rd end Footpath route incl in lapsed planning application	Letter to owners sent Mar 17 no response Seeking better contact details from neighbours	N	265
#44	Land north of Chillandham Lane between A33 and M3 [Part Bunney part Forestry Commission]	Field margin as alternative to busy road	Seek to contact the owners and get support of other users	N	980



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Appendix 6: Supporting Policies Winchester City Council

The Winchester District Local Plan adopted in April 2017 states:

The Rural Area

4.10.4 While no specific proposals are made for rural rights of way, including those identified in previous Local Plans, the City Council supports the improvement of the rural rights of way network, which is consistent with its policies on green infrastructure and other strategies. In particular, it recognises the potential offered by former railway lines for walking, cycling and horse riding, as sustainable transport and recreational routes, and welcomes the initiatives being promoted to bring the following into use:

- The 'Watercress Way' along the former railway line between Alresford and Kings Worthy and on to South Wonston and Wonston;

There have been a series of other reports and policies preceding the plan which include ideas in general support of the aims of TWW and these include:

Landscape Character Assessment Winchester District 2004

5.1.6 the key objectives for access and recreation are:

- Conserve and enhance opportunities for public access throughout the countryside, particularly allowing the creation of circular and long-distance routes.
- Improve opportunities for circular walks and rides by improving connections between existing paths.
- Improve the provision of interpretation boards and leaflets to encourage confident use of the countryside and provide educational information.
- Improve opportunities for access to the countryside for all ages and physical abilities.

Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) The Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)(2005) page 43 emphasises the value of corridors in supporting wildlife populations at a landscape scale by linking-up existing habitats. The need for corridors has been recognised because urbanisation and agricultural intensification has fragmented wildlife habitats so that species are unable to disperse between them. Corridors themselves act as significant habitats, often providing an important transition between one habitat and another. Opportunities for creating corridors also exist in the built-up environment: parks and gardens act as corridors and "stepping-stones" for wildlife and are significant habitats in their own right.

Winchester City Council Green Infrastructure Study 2010

2.3 the following basis for a GI definition or policy wording is put forward:

“Properly planned and executed Green Infrastructure (GI) will enhance the environment of Winchester District for the benefit of its community. New or enhanced GI will connect to and augment the existing GI network, strengthening its capacity to support the community in terms of climate change, flood alleviation, recreation, landscape and biodiversity. Significant existing GI corridors include the Itchen and Meon valleys, major Rights of Way (e.g. Clarendon Way, South Downs Way).... and are complemented by smaller local GI assets including recreation grounds, informal green spaces and footpaths/cycleways. All types of green space, from church yards and golf links to the South Downs National Park have a part to play in supporting a healthy, sustainable community in Winchester District.”



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Appendix 7: Supporting Policies Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council recognises the importance of caring for and improving the countryside access network and published its first Countryside Access Plan in 2008. This has recently been revised as the Hampshire County Council Countryside Access Plan 2015 – 2025.

The 2015 - 2025 plan states that the 2,800 miles (4,200 km) of Hampshire's public rights of way network (footpaths, bridleways and byways) includes both urban and rural paths and forms the backbone of the countryside access network. Rights of way are predominantly used by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders; a relatively small number of routes may be used by drivers of horse-drawn carriages and other vehicles. The countryside access network provides a free at the point of use resource close to where people live. Studies have shown an association between walking and a reduction in early deaths from all causes, ranging from 19–30% depending on the frequency and length of walking activities. The recommended physical activity levels of 30 minutes, 5 times a week has been shown to release endorphins, reduce blood pressure, improve heart health and halve the risk of Alzheimer's.

The eight county-wide issues identified in the 2008 plan are still the most relevant issues today:

- Condition of the rights of way network
- Getting to the countryside from urban areas
- Using roads as part of the access network
- Connectivity of routes
- Impacts on land management
- Information provision
- Meeting the needs of all users
- Joint working with other countryside interests

In current plan, two of the issues from the list above emerged strongly from all sources as carrying greater priority:

1. The issue seen almost universally as being of highest priority was 'Maintaining and improving the condition of the rights of way network', conveying a clear message that respondents would like the Countryside Service to concentrate on its 'core' work. The second priority was 'Improving connectivity of the network'; whilst overall satisfaction levels are high and walkers are generally well catered for, all sources clearly stated a need for more paths which can be used by cyclists and horse-riders and improved road connections between them.

2. Audit the strategically important routes and develop a strategy to proactively manage them, incorporating path maintenance, improvements to surface/drainage/structures, signage and promotion of through-routes and creation of new links. Seek to remove structures which limit use by people with mobility difficulties.



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Appendix 8 Supporting Policies South Downs National Park

The South Downs Local Plan covering the period 2014 to 2033 was formally adopted on 2nd July 2019 after the first version of this plan but little appears to be different from the proposals laid out before formal adoption. The local Plan lists the following objectives in Section 2.2

LOCAL PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. To conserve and enhance the landscapes of the National Park
2. To conserve and enhance the cultural heritage¹³ of the National Park
3. To conserve and enhance large areas of high-quality and well-managed habitat to form a network supporting wildlife throughout the landscape
4. To achieve a sustainable use of ecosystem services¹⁴ thus enhancing natural capital across the landscapes of the National Park and contributing to wealth and human health and wellbeing
5. To protect and provide opportunities for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its special qualities
6. To adapt well to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change and other pressures
7. To conserve and enhance the villages and market towns of the National Park as thriving centres for residents, visitors and businesses
8. To protect and provide for the social and economic wellbeing of National Park communities supporting local jobs, affordable homes and local facilities
9. To protect and provide for local businesses including farming, forestry and tourism that are broadly compatible with and relate to the landscapes and special qualities of the National Park

In Section 6. PEOPLE CONNECTED TO PLACES, there are several references to disused railway lines and specifically in Strategic Policy SD20. The purpose of Policy SD20 is to safeguard and enhance the extensive network of routes across the National Park, which provide motor traffic-free travel and recreational opportunities.

Strategic Policy SD20: Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Routes

1. Development proposals will be permitted provided they contribute to a network of attractive and functional non-motorised travel routes, with appropriate signage, throughout the National Park.
2. The following disused railway line routes within the National Park, as shown on the Policies Map, are safeguarded for existing, and potential future use as non-motorised travel routes. Development proposals that facilitate such use will be permitted. Development proposals that adversely affect their future potential as non-motorised transport routes will be refused:
h) *New Alresford to Kingsworthy (Watercress Way).*

Further details on implementation of the policy are given in Section 6 below:

6.16 There are a number of former railway lines running through the National Park which present outstanding opportunities for new non-motorised user paths. These are defined as routes for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders for leisure and / or commuting. The use of electric powered vehicles may be permissible in some circumstances, for example pedelecs (low powered electric bicycles) and Class 2 mobility scooters or any updated equivalent.

The safeguarding of these routes will protect them from any development that would prevent future proposals to convert them to non-motorised user paths.

6.17 In many cases, the exact route of development for these schemes is not yet established; some diversions from the original railway line route may well ultimately be necessary. If a site along one of the safeguarded routes is proposed for redevelopment or conversion then the route of the former railway must be protected within the proposed development.

6.18 In instances where the line passes in or close to designated wildlife sites or where a survey reveals protected species, regard must be had to relevant policies in the development plan particularly Policy SD9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity. A diversionary route may prove to be more appropriate.

6.20 Wherever possible, development proposals on disused railway lines should retain existing structures and features connected with railway use.

6.23 Where new development takes place, it should provide opportunities for new or enhanced connections for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

Some of the wider environmental policies which have implications for disused railway lines are given below.

Core Policy SD2: Ecosystem Services

1. Development proposals will be permitted where they have an overall positive impact on the ability of the natural environment to contribute goods and services. This will be achieved through the use of high quality design, and by delivering all opportunities to:

- a) Sustainably manage land and water environments;
- b) Protect and provide more, better and joined up natural habitats;
- c) Conserve water resources and improve water quality;
- d) Manage and mitigate the risk of flooding;
- e) Improve the National Park's resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change;
- f) Increase the ability to store carbon through new planting or other means;
- g) Conserve and enhance soils, use soils sustainably and protect the best and most versatile agricultural land;
- h) Support the sustainable production and use of food, forestry and raw materials;
- i) Reduce levels of pollution;
- j) Improve opportunities for peoples' health and wellbeing; and
- k) Provide opportunities for access to the natural and cultural resources which contribute to the special qualities.

2. Development proposals must be supported by a statement that sets out how the development proposal impacts, both positively and negatively, on ecosystem services.

Strategic Policy SD45: Green Infrastructure

1. Development proposals will be permitted where they demonstrate that they:
 - a) Maintain or enhance GI assets, GI links and the overall GI network; and
 - b) Provide new GI, or improvements to existing green assets and green linkages, which are integrated into the development design, that meets the needs of communities both within and beyond the site's boundaries.
2. GI proposals must contribute to multifunctional landscapes which:
 - a) Strengthen connectivity and resilience of ecological networks;
 - b) Incorporate GI measures that are appropriate to the type and context of the development proposal as part of an overall landscape design;
 - c) Maximise opportunities to mitigate, adapt and improve resilience to climate change;
 - d) Maximise opportunities for cycling and walking, including multi user routes and, where possible, facilitate circular routes; and
 - e) Support health and wellbeing and improve opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the National Park and its special qualities.
3. Development proposals that will harm the GI network must incorporate measures that sufficiently mitigate or offset their effects.
4. Where appropriate, the Authority will seek to secure via planning condition or legal agreement provision for the future management and/or maintenance of GI.

Strategic Policy SD9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

1. Development proposals will be permitted where they conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, giving particular regard to ecological networks and areas with high potential for priority habitat restoration or creation. Prior to determination, up-to-date ecological information should be provided which demonstrates that development proposals:
 - a) Retain, protect and enhance features of biodiversity and geological interest (including supporting habitat and commuting routes through the site and taking due account of any use by migratory species) and ensure appropriate and long-term management of those features;
 - b) Identify and incorporate opportunities for net gains in biodiversity;
 - c) Contribute to the restoration and enhancement of existing habitats, the creation of wildlife habitats and the creation of linkages between sites to create and enhance local and regional ecological networks;
 - d) Protect and support recovery of rare, notable and priority species;
 - e) Seek to eradicate or control any invasive non-native species present on site;
 - f) Contribute to the protection, management and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity, for example by supporting the delivery of GI and Biodiversity Action Plan targets and enhance Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA); and
 - g) Comply with the mitigation hierarchy as set out in national policy.



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Appendix 9 Evidence of level of public support to June 2020

Date	Event/format		Details	Who attended Reactions and responses	Decision to continue/expand
3rd Sept 2015	First public meeting Martyr Worthy Hall.	Launch of TWW to gauge initial public interest.	17 attended	All positive reactions from mainly locals who attended	Set up charity with originally 8 then expanded to 9 Trustees.
2016	mailing list	From signing up as a friend on webpage Offers of help to waymark-from individuals.	C.150	Regular increase in numbers from website referral and post events.	Yes, continue to publicise and build
12th January 2016	AGM Kings Worthy Tubbs Hall	All trustees and c. 10 members of public.		All local residents, most had not heard of TWW before.	Yes but trial 'outdoor' AGMs actually on the TWW(see 2017)
2016	website	Maps, history, ecology background, sponsors list and links, events and updates. My donate link and contacts email.	Monthly stats eg January 2018 pageloads 1455 unique visits 556 first time visit 433 returning visits 123	Spinoff from website and online media means that sponsors more likely to help, especially businesses. Online google searches link quickly to TWW site and generate more friends signing up. Steady flow of income through MyDonate.	Yes, regular updates to take off old material, put on updates, keep 'fresh' as technology moves on. Made fully compatible with smart phones.
1st September 2016	Alresford show	piggybacked The Globe pub stand thanks to Karen Wells – very high throughput of people.	30+ signed up to be a Friend and join mailing list. 50 leaflets taken Two trustees on duty.	1000's of visitors, all ages High level of interest especially with dog owners.	Yes- but cannot afford a stand so Need to share/piggyback again.
2015-17	Support gained from Parish, City and county councils and SDNP, Gratton Trust, Worthys Conservation Volunteers.		All see the project as a worthy idea supporting by small ongoing grants and larger ones eg Boomtown.		Yes, keep lobbying.

Date	Event/format		Details	Who attended Reactions and responses	Decision to continue/expand
Early 2017	Facebook	Started by Kim Adams as spin off page from own Facebook page.	46 followers, 40 likes a week reached January 2018. No uncomplimentary comments. By June 2018 166 likes 177 people followed page		2018: decision to be made whether to inject money to advertise TBC.
11th February 2017	Talk to Ramblers AGM, Ropley	Talk given by two trustees, leaflets disseminated, much interest.	C. 50 attended	Offer of help way marking by Alan Marlow, completed July/August 2017 on 10 mile stretch of TWW	Yes, 10 February 2018 Talk to Ramblers, Basingstoke.
Started June 2017	twitter	Jan 2018: 29 followers. Following 52 By June 2018 116 following and 54 followers of WW see below cell:	Likes and retweets from new contacts e.g. Countryfile, SDNP, Binky Bear, as well as our current supporters and sponsors .No uncomplimentary comments to date.		2018 decision to be made whether to inject money to advertise TBC Use hashtag more effectively to widen public coverage.
Followers of my tweets: including Alresford Show , Andrew Napier (Hants Chronicle Chief Reporter) S Downs Volunteer Rangers, Ramblers Trustee. Love your pub group, President of the Geographical Assn, various businesses, sports clubs, Winchester University, Greenpeace					
28th June 2017	AGM Worthy down platforms DNSR	All trustees & c. 10 attended	Railway Ramblers attended, started a link with potential volunteers and help in fund raising.		Continue outdoor theme, on Mid Hants line 2018
2nd Sept 2017	Alresford show	Piggybacked SDNP stand , slightly off main route of people.	C. 40 leaflets taken, and 20 signatories. 4 trustees took shifts.	High level of interest but some confusion over link with SDNP. Interest shown by horse riders and dog walkers especially plus some families.	Yes- but get more prominent position if possible
30th April 2017	Dawn to Dusk day	Multiple events to showcase the TWW opportunities: to ornithologists, historians, families, leisure and sports, buggy access	26 attended 4.45 am dawn chorus identification walk 40 supported mouse house hunt for children 20 went on walk on the wild side botany tour 30 attended talk on history of railway Pub evening 'meet the trustees' (15 attended age range 1-90 yrs) Donations of £155 taken on day. Over 120 leaflets taken.		Next one - Sunday 29 th April 2018
28th May 2017	Kings Worthy fete	Small stand at Fete	Exposure to c.600 visitors especially families	Many signed up/took leaflets	Expand to all fetes: Itchen Abbas/Avington, Sutton Scotney/Wonston.

Date	Event/format	Details	Who attended Reactions and responses	Decision to continue/expand	
16th July 2017	Itchen Abbas flower show	Small stand, and a 20 min talk given by 2 trustees	Exposure to over 100 people, 25 attended talk	10 new friends signed up -£15 donation. Write up in Parish magazine very positive, potential readers over 500.	Repeat in 2018.
9th October 2017	Rotary talks Alresford and Winchester	talks given by two trustees, leaflets disseminated	About 100 attended	£500 grants given	
2017 +	Sponsors	growing list: local businesses and individual families		9/14 pubs along/near TWW have donated £50. Also businesses eg Meridian Foods, Avington Park.	Locations with places to dispense leaflets need topping up every few months. Continue
2017	Mouse trail Guides evening	one trustee used the mouse houses donated by local artists for the dawn to Dusk Day at Kings Worthy Guides. C 20 families involved			Continue publicity with local children groups, e.g. competition Feb 2018 primary schools to win Jude's Ice cream donation.
2017+	Winchester Tourist Office, Guildhall	officers and staff requested top ups 3 times in 2017 – approx. 50 leaflets in total			Yes, continue.
2017	The Long Distance Walkers Assn.	published info on TWW including photos Have requested info on number of 'hits' on their webpage		national coverage	Yes, continue to link to long distance and outdoor groups e.g. Doggy Forums.
Jan 2018	Micheldever rights of way volunteer group	fund raising walk for Micheldever.	24 locals from Itchen Valley and Micheldever. First time TWW used officially as part of another group's walk.	Liaison re interpretation boards Lynsey Sweeney and James Alpe local pubs: eg Plough, Horse and Jockey, Globe and Cricketers Alresford keen for us to organise walks from their locations.	Continue to run our own guided walks, with donations of a minimum £5.
April 2018	Guided walk	Easton-Itchen Abbas	26 people, from 3 yrs to over 80 yrs old	Hugely positive, demands for more such walks C., 15 people had never walked any of TWW before. Chestnut Horse increased its bookings for lunch.	Yes! Dependent on trustee time. Next one June on different section of TWW

Date	Event/format		Details	Who attended Reactions and responses	Decision to continue/expand
April 2018	Dawn to Dusk Day	Multiple events to showcase the TWW opportunities: to ornithologists, historians, families, leisure and sports, buggy access . Owl talk	26 attended 4.45 am dawn chorus identification walk 3 families supported mouse house hunt for children Botanical walk at Worthy Down Platforms Young families attended owl demonstration at Scouts Hall		Yes in 2019 but will increase publicity targeted at different groups(eg a poster for schools, separate one for railway enthusiasts etc) Mouse Hunt better in K Worthy more local families.
June 2018	AGM	Lunways crossing of Oxdrove	Approx. 5 members of public, all trustees		Continue outdoor locations
June 2018	Guided walk	Sutton Scotney	Over 25 people 5 mile walk many children		Continue such walks
leaflet uptake	At sponsor and other pubs, libraries, Winchester Tourist office, vets, dr surgeries, cycle and fitness shops, Winchester railway station, The Brooks, Watercress Line, Alresford station.		Rerun of 1000 leaflets in Nov 2017 High uptake from new leaflet holders in K Worthy, Itchen Abbas, Sutton Scotney Need more: S Wonston, Alresford.		Yes, reprint mid 2018. 5000 printed with update on new sponsors.
Autumn 2018	Guided walks		Various held Alresford, Itchen Abbas. Between 15-20 people, donations of approx. 35 per adult.		Continue Need online access to website in case of inclement weather etc
2019					
17 April	Watercress festival stand outside Swan Inn- prime position. Charity rate of £50		Trustees chatted to many people and handed out over 100 leaflets		Rescheduled Festival 23 rd May 2021 because of COVID19
28 April	Social media		100 interested on FB		Continue and expand instagram and twitter
20 June	AGM meeting held at Sutton Scotney bridge		26 interested on FB but only 4 members of public attended	Trustees then had a meeting in Coach and Horses	Continue outdoor meetings around the trail
Sept/Oct for 9 mths	Recruited DoE volunteers		3 from Peter Symonds College Winchester	Specific tasks: cycle routes, trail guide counterclockwise and a geocaching trail	Continue liason with PSC. Recruit more(in April 2020 2 St Swithins Gold volunteers started

Date	Event/format	Details	Who attended Reactions and responses	Decision to continue/expand
15 Sept	Worthys Festival walk 5 mls	32 people	5 miles from Eversley Park, Top Fields, railway to Worthy Down Halt	
20 October	Guided walk Itchen Abbas 5 mls ended at Plough sponsor pub	16 walkers, perfect number for interaction	Raised approx. £50	
13 th November 2019	Talk to Upper Itchen Valley Association	In Martyr Worthy Hall, powerpoint and leaflets distributed plus long Q and A	Over 30 members enthusiastically endorsed WW aims	Talks to local groups to be fostered eg Micheldever scheduled in autumn 2020
Nov 17 th 2019	Quiz at The Swan Alresford	73 competitors £400 worth of raffle prizes donated by 23 local businesses	Profit of £500	Online quiz or in person (depending on COVID19) KW King Charles
Various	Conservation work parties	Platforms and Kim Bishop Way and Itchen Abbas Couch Green	DoE volunteers. Worked with Worthy's Conservation Volunteers	
2020				
2 Feb 2020	Walk for Spice UK national social group ending at sponsor pub The Bell	Alresford	5 members of Spice	To redo perhaps with longer route or whole trail
23 March 2020	Lockdown due to Covid-19 All outside activities suspended and public notified via website and Social Media Trustees continue meeting and planning using Zoom and email.			
May 2020	VE celebration plaque cancelled and just posted on social media	Liaison with KW residents Worthy History group		Continue working with other groups/networking
May 2020	Website posting of online quizzes	One for children One with separate answers for adults, updated from 2017	Suggested donations online if download	Monitor via website stats

Date	Event/format	Details	Who attended Reactions and responses	Decision to continue/expand
May 2020	Website new walks cycle routes and riding routes designed and collated ready to post	Complete 26 miles in both directions Separate shorter loops starting from gateway locations	Unify brand and appearance of guides. Add WW logo and QR code	YES Monitor via website stats
31st May 2020	Social media in May: FB reached 6342 people. 307% increase in new page likes, 18 k reach(up 255%) with 3567 post engagements(up 96%) 1000 clicks on website of which 420 on walks page which is the most popular.	Total reach of over 18k when post on other groups and people followed on all social media Surge since March and lockdown from COVID19, also increased with DoE volunteer sixth formers and cycling connections FB: 775 people follow on FB with 107 on community message system Intagram: 363 followers (especially younger people and businesses) Twitter: 78 followers		YES Involve more people to help post Videos especially liked Add website link to each post. How many are on mail chimp? Expand trip advisor
June 2020	Newsletter sent to 300 Friends of the Line	Update on current projects and invitation to online AGM on 16 June		
	AGM Held via Zoom	Attended by Trustees and 9 members of the public		Format of 2021 meeting to decided when Covid-19 situation clearer



The Watercress Way

Appendix 10 Review of Milestones from 2016 -2020

Milestone	Purpose	Result
1	Set up quarterly newsletter, at least 20 recipients from the public and interested parties to become a 'Friend of the Line'	First newsletter 15 December 2015. Further newsletters sent out to Friends of the Line signatories. Now we have approximately 300 Friends of the Line. Press and publicity plan developed to encourage website users to sign up as Friends. Active Facebook, Instagram and Twitter presence.
2	Following a meeting of interested stakeholders identify founding trustees and agree a constitution.	Inaugural Meeting held on 7 September 2015 at Martyr Worthy Village hall, 17 attended. 4 Founding trustees were identified at a meeting on 13 October 2015. Constitution based on Charity Commission model agreed 12 January 2016.
3	Apply to the Charity Commission to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.	Application made April 2016. Registered Charity 16 June 2016. 9 trustees recruited, one through local press. Details of trustees with skills and relevant experience included on website. Seeking further trustees with construction /legal skills. Bank account set up. HMRC -Gift Aid application accepted.
4	Design and publish website.	Domain name purchased November 2015. TLC Online commissioned to design website December 2015. Website designed and went live Spring 2016.

Milestone	Purpose	Result
5	Bank account set up and funds sought to commence operations.	Donations received and HCC grant for £1000 applied for and received February 2016. Bank account set up 17 November 2015. using first donation from Micheldever walking group.
6	Carry out a study of the route, to include the railway heritage, ecology and potential health and recreational benefits for the community. This will inform the priorities of the trustees and identify points where <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes are desired and could be made, • improvements have to be made on health and safety grounds, • improvements could be made to interpret and develop points along the line, sites off to visit etc. 	Some parts of the route reviewed, but no structured, full review of the entire route has yet been undertaken. Mapping licences obtained from OS. A working route has been established and placed on the website. Additional cycling and horse-riding routes mapped Summer 2017 and 2019, cycle route on website.
7	Five initial projects have been identified and planning has been started. The projects will commence once CIO status application submitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 1: Set up the Charity and launch the website: thewatercressway.org.uk • Project 2: (Kings Worthy) Extension of route alongside former railway from Lovedon Lane to the A33 • Project 3: (New Alresford) Establishing a route in New Alresford linking Bridge Road New Farm Road • Project 4: (Itchen Abbas) Establish a passable route from Northington Road to Rectory Lane following the track of the former railway, starting by trying to get a link between Footpath 33 to the south of the track and Footpath 39 to the north. • Project 5: Establish a route to the centre of Sutton Scotney gaining access through two new housing developments (Metis & Hyde) in course of construction. Also including former track bed under Wonston Road bridge. 	Projects identified at meeting on 13 October 2015. Projects officer developed detailed plans ready to commence in April 2016. Review of identified projects undertaken in January 2018. Work is ongoing but detailed plans have yet to be developed for each of the projects. Initial work on these projects has brought issues to light which we can establish as ‘good practice’ for further projects. Through this work, we have realised that trustees must also take up other opportunities to develop the route as they arise, e.g. developments, land transfers, footpath improvements etc . As a consequence, this section of the plan is now being supplemented with the full evaluation of the route in sections. May 2020 Projects 1 and 5 completed No Progress on Projects 2, 3 and 4 due to reluctance by land owners New list of Projects identified.

Milestone	Purpose	Result
8	Talk to potential partners to seek support: Parish Councils, local businesses, historic sites, public houses, HCC, SDNPA, WCC, The Countryside Access Forum and appropriate voluntary bodies.	<p>November 2015 – January 2016 the Chairman attended meetings of local parish councils to brief them.</p> <p>In 2016 meetings held with HCC, WCC, Winchester Ramblers, SDNPA, HCC and The Gratton Trust -very positive responses.</p> <p>In 2017 PCs were re-engaged and updated, trustees discussed plans with WCC, local businesses and public Houses were engaged with and sponsorship sought and obtained.</p> <p>2019 Grant from Wonston Parish Council to open up Wonston Bridge. Support in lobbying Sutton Manor about permissive path along the track bed</p> <p>2019 Support from Itchen Valley PC on building a ramp at Couch Green.</p>
9	Draw up a ‘temporary route’ based on the land in public ownership so that the public can enjoy and understand the route of The Watercress Way in total or in part. Map this route and measure the length. Publish the route and a series of suggested walks on the website.	<p>Map produced and posted on website – December 2016.</p> <p>Railway Walks posted on website.</p> <p>Website has regular use (monthly stats available).</p> <p>Leaflets produced based on map and widely distributed.</p> <p>Many meetings and public events at which the route was advertised.</p> <p>The support of TWW from the two relevant planning authorities was confirmed in the SDNP Local plan (2019) and the Winchester City Council Local Plan (2017).</p> <p>Regular consultation with HCC and SDNP on conservation and maintenance.</p> <p>2016-20 Walks and maps updated and posted on the website</p>

Milestone	Purpose	Result
10	April – September 2016. Hold a variety of launch events to publicise TWW – website, aims, signage of first section.	‘Dawn to Dusk’ day an annual event last Sunday in April. Held 2017 -19 events include Dawn Chorus Walk, mouse House hunt, railway history talk, botanical walk, displays at two sites. Popular ‘meet the Trustees’ session at the end of the day in local (sponsor) pub. Numerous events attended since the launch Facebook page created and regularly added to and updated. Website updated with news and events.
11	Design and fund appropriate signage to mark the Watercress Way. Liaise with HCC to mark the first sections. April – September 2016	Waymarkers designed and produced 2017 and first sections waymarked. Completed in both directions 2018 2020 Continuing discussions with land owners to improve the route
12	Investigate liability insurance and purchase suitable cover for volunteers working on The Watercress Way. April – June 2016	Insurance purchased November 2016 and renewed yearly .
13	Increase the number of trustees by identifying and recruiting people with relevant knowledge and expertise. Liaise with local voluntary organisations and the South Downs National Park to provide volunteers and expertise to work on projects identified by the trustees.	3 new trustees appointed February 2016 2 further trustees appointed May 2016 Total of 9 trustees of registered charity June 2016. New Trustees recruited to replace members and to augment the team. 2019 – 20. New Treasurer and additional Trustees recruited. December 2019 Constitution amended to give 4 year terms for trustees. May 2020 9 trustees in post. Liaison has taken place with SDNP and volunteering agreed on projects TBD.
14	Search and identify the ownership and contact details of all land and structures along the route. Commence June 2016	All sections have actively been searched and owners identified and contacted as stakeholders.
15	June – September 2016, Trustees identify future plans for development of the route.	See Projects detailed in section 7. An appraisal of the structural needs of the two sections covering the old railway lines has been made. Development of an Access For All route currently being investigated.

Milestone	Purpose	Result
16	June 2017, Hold the first AGM of The Watercress Way Charity no. 1167675.	Complete – AGM held 28 June 2017. AGM held in the open air at Worthy Down Halt. Resolved to hold future AGMs along the route, outdoors. AGMs held annually at site on the Watercress Way June 2020 AGM electronically due to Covid-19
17	2017-20 Carry out audits of heritage, ecology and access to the route.	Botanical surveys carried out in 2016; dawn choruses, 2016 -2019. 2019 Survey of Top Field
18	Audit of accessibility needs completed against criteria set with stakeholders Assessing the cost of the project: The audit of each section will reveal the need for works which can be costed. The Trustees will seek funding for these projects.	See 15. First audit for potential to include mobility friendly route started 2017. Met with WCC Fieldfare team to consider funding potential Summer 2017, attended 'Fieldfare' training.
19	Funding is achieved to carry out the identified projects. Assessing the cost of the project: The audit of each section will reveal the need for works which can be costed. The Trustees will seek funding for these projects.	Funding has been received to enable the following as listed in 20. Further Funding submissions in progress January 2018. Further grants obtained 2018-20.
20	Funding is achieved to carry out the identified projects. Communicate changes and progress to the public. Update route maps of TWW online, and republish maps as appropriate. Publicise changes of environment, improvements etc. with events to raise public awareness of the route and seek to gain more support as project progresses.	Funding has been granted to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. for bridge clearance in Sutton Scotney Completed 2019; 2. design and construct on site three interpretation boards Installed 2019; 3. waymark the route with waymarkers, both solid and flexible, to give path guidance; Completed 2018 4. benches; 3 installed on Martyr Worthy section in 2018. GWR bench in Sutton Scotney in 2019. 5. tools for local volunteers; 3 brush cutters purchased with grant from SDNP. 4 Trustees trained. 6. surveys of access for the disabled. 2019 Plans for ramp at Couch Green and survey at Worthy Down Halt



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Appendix 11 History of Projects 2016 – 2019

Project	Locations	Status	External Funding Needed
<p>Milestone 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 2 Extension of route alongside former railway from Lovedon Lane to the A33. 	Kings Worthy	<p>No progress, though Hampshire County Council (HCC) has agreed in principle.</p> <p>June 2020 Contact with Felicity Roe, new Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services.</p> <p>Meeting arranged with Trustees.</p>	Unclear, likely to be c.5K
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 3: Establishing a route in New Alresford linking Bridge Road to New Farm Road. 	New Alresford	<p>London based developer owners written to by a Trustee.</p> <p>No reply received to date.</p>	Significant ramp or steps required at New Farm Road end – will require funding and licence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 4: Establish a route from Northington Road to Rectory Lane following the track of the former railway, starting by trying to get a link between Footpath 33 to the south of the track and Footpath 39 to the north. 	Itchen Abbas	<p>Routes identified and proposed to landowner.</p> <p>Despite conversations started, no conclusion reached.</p>	Unclear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 5: Establish a route to the centre of Sutton Scotney gaining access through two new housing developments (Metis & Hyde) in course of construction. Also including former track bed under Wonston Road bridge. 	Sutton Scotney	<p>1.2019 -20. Routes established through housing estate and waymarked.</p> <p>Bridge cleared as far as HCC ownership with grant from Wonston Parish Council.</p> <p>Regular maintenance to improve ecology.</p> <p>2.Negotiations with adjoining landowner stalled despite support of Parish Council. Plans to open the existing section.</p>	<p>1. Clearance paid for with a grant from Wonston Parish Council.</p> <p>2. Grant needed but majority of the work to be done by volunteers.</p>

Project	Locations	Status	External Funding Needed
Finalise route	Overall	Interim route mostly agreed. Ownership record in place for the majority of the route. Waymarked throughout and maps on the website.	Not necessary
3 Information boards	Sutton Scotney, Kings Worthy, Itchen Abbas	Installed in 2019.	Secured
4 benches	Sutton Scotney Itchen Abbas	3 benches installed on Marty Worthy section in November 2018. GWR bench installed in Sutton Scotney in 2019.	Secured
Access For All	Couch Green, Itchen Abbas	Preliminaries started. Topographic survey completed 2019	Full works require substantial external funding.
Access For All	Bridgets Lane Itchen Abbas	Regular clearance of the path and environs. Deferred until Couch Green ramp completed	Full works require substantial external funding.
Access For All	Worthy Down	Preliminaries started Site investigated. Topographic survey in 2021	Full works require substantial external funding.
Events and Profile raising activities	The Watercress Way	Many events 2016-19. Annual Dawn to Dusk Day. Guided Walks and pub quizzes. Reports in Hampshire Chronicle. Leaflets and posters widely available.	Sponsorship when available.
Route maintenance	HCC owned land and the Hampshire Rights of Way network.	On-going with the Worthys Conservation volunteers and SDNP volunteers and local support.	Tools for local groups now obtained and regular work undertaken.
Acquire land on the original railway routes.	Applies to DNSR and Mid Hampshire lines.	Negotiations undertaken on an opportunistic basis. Licence obtained for Wonston Bridge from HCC.	Any acquisitions may involve fencing, tree planting and access ramps.
Identify improvements to the route including diversions where appropriate.	The Watercress Way	Seek to implement -on-going. Discussions when planning opportunities occur. Profile raised by inclusion in SDNP and Winchester Local Plans.	Unclear



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Appendix 12 Current and Future Projects 2020 & beyond

Project	Locations	Status	External Funding Needed
Public Awareness of the Watercress Way Charity and improved use	The Watercress Way	<p>See Appendix 9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual (April) Dawn to Dusk Days • AGMs on Anniversary of charity's founding day: 16th June 2016. • Attend meetings and hold information sessions at village fetes, the Alresford show and Watercress Festival • Annual quiz • Leading walks , showing points of ecological and historical interest • Leading volunteer sessions • Active Facebook page, website. • Fundraising: Donations & Sponsorship options for local businesses. 	Trustee and volunteer commitment.
Access for All at Couch Green	Couch Green	<p>Topographic survey completed. Quote for full plans. HCC approached for Licence to permit works. Support from Itchen Valley Parish Council, HCC and South Downs National Park (SDNP).</p>	Grants from Rotary Club for planning. c£13k for construction

Project	Locations	Status	External Funding Needed
Access for All at Worthy Down Halt	Worthy Down Halt	Topographic survey planned	Full works require substantial external funding.
Access for All at Bridgets Lane	Bridgets Lane Martyr Worthy	Regular clearance to keep path and environs clear. Deferred until Couch Green ramp completed	Full works require substantial external funding
Installation of 10 benches	Various locations	Some sites identified and agreed with HCC. Deferred installation due to CV-19. Will implement as soon as permissible.	Grant of £4500 from Alresford Rotary Club.
Installation of Mag Post and listening posts	Worthy Down Halt and Couch Green	Mag Post purchased. Listening posts planned. Installation delayed by Covid-19.	Grants from Alresford Rotary Club.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 5: Establish a route to the centre of Sutton Scotney gaining access through two new housing developments. Also including former track bed under Wonston Road bridge. 	Sutton Scotney	<p>1.Route agreed and waymarked through Taylor's Yard to the Gratton. Interpretation Board and bench installed. Wonston Bridge cleared. Decision made to open up the licensed area for public use.</p> <p>2.Repeated attempts to get permission from adjoining landowner for permissive path to connect to Beggars Drove unsuccessful.</p>	<p>1. Clearance paid for with a grant from Wonston Parish Council.</p> <p>2. Grant needed but majority of the work to be done by volunteers.</p>
Improve walks section of the Website	Website	In progress. New Walks need to be added as developed.	None
Route maintenance	Hampshire Rights of Way network on the disused lines.	On-going with the Worthys Conservation volunteers and SDNP volunteers and local support. 3 Trustees brush cutter trained.	None. 3 brush cutters and sufficient tools available.
Identify improvements to the route including diversions where appropriate.	The Watercress Way	Maintain dialogue with landowners and seek permissive paths where possible	None
Improve access from former DNSR railway up to Oxdrove	South Wonston	Regrading current very steep ramp In conjunction with HCC	HCC to implement

Project	Locations	Status	External Funding Needed
The Watercress Way will review all Planning applications that are likely to have an impact on the route of the former railway Lines and Trustees will respond as appropriate	The Watercress Way	The Watercress Way seeks to secure benefits for the project through planning applications and the use of Section 106 agreements and other means. All our responses will contain a preamble explaining our aims and objectives	None
Maintain contact with landowners to investigate opportunities to open more of the disused line. In particular, maintain interest in sections in Projects 2, 3 and 4 as listed.	Sutton Scotney Itchen Valley Alresford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 2 Extension of route alongside former railway from Lovedon Lane to the A33. • Project 3: Establishing a route in New Alresford linking Bridge Road to New Farm Road. • Project 4: Establish a route from Northington Road to Rectory Lane following the track of the former railway 	Unknown
Improve the condition and surface of the trail	Kings Worthy Itchen Valley	Investigation of different types of surface material. Liaison with HCC and WCC on upgrade of paths.	Unknown
Maintain a list of artefacts and seek to preserve them where possible.	The old railway lines between Alresford and Kings Worthy and from Kings Worthy to Sutton Scotney	Telegraph poles cleared of vegetation at Martyr Worthy. Railway historian is mapping finds.	None