

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE THE FOOTPATH TO BRIDLEWAY STATUS ALONGSIDE TRIG STREET & KINGSLAND, BETWEEN NEWDIGATE AND CAPEL

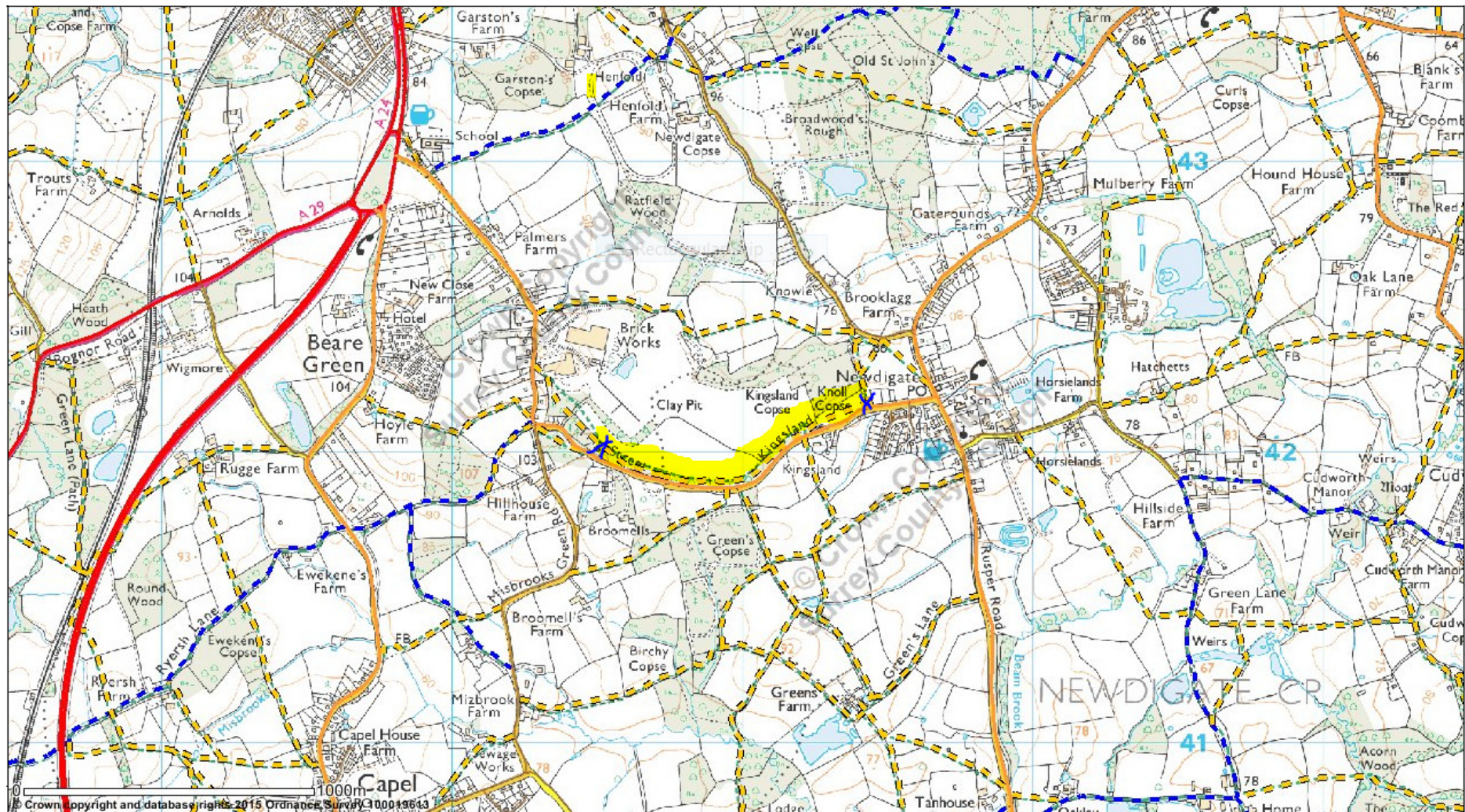
Objectives

- ❖ To improve safety between Newdigate, Capel and Beare Green, for horse riders, cyclists and walkers, school children and those using disability vehicles.
- ❖ To provide an attractive off-road fresh air leisure facility in harmony with the environment.
- ❖ To enhance the bridleway connectivity network infrastructure in Surrey.
- ❖ To maximise use of existing pathways and countryside rights of way.
- ❖ To comply with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

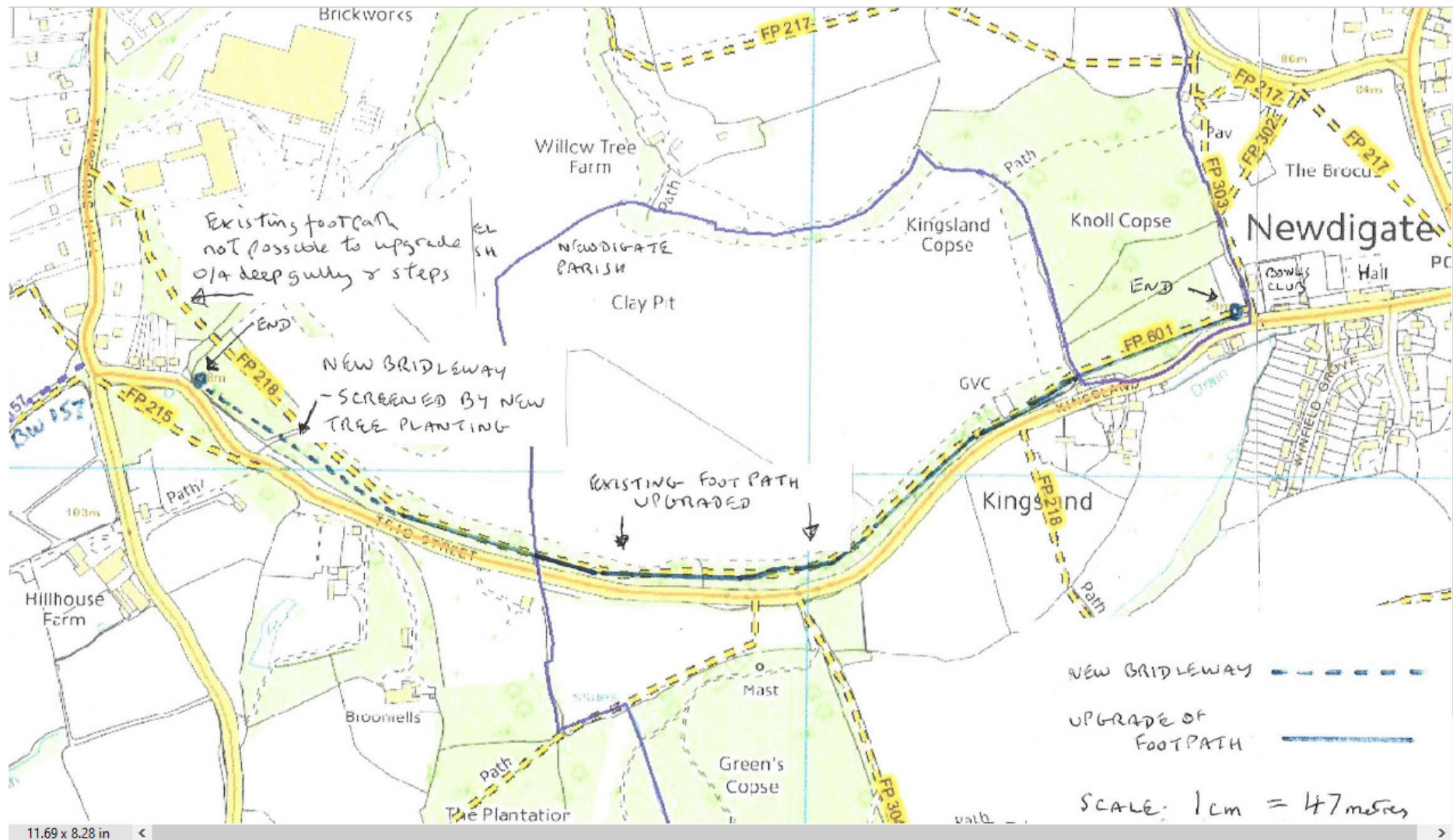
Background

- ❖ Trig Street is notorious for its long blind bend and speeding traffic.
- ❖ Trig Street is deemed too dangerous for use by horse riders. Parents will not allow children to ride bikes on this road. Therefore a safe connection between the bridleway BW 157 from Capel exiting onto Thurbarns Hill to the west and Newdigate village to the east is lost.
- ❖ Hedges grow thickly against the road and there are no verges.
- ❖ The present footpath FP218/601 is on land owned by Ibstock Bricks. It is situated behind thick hedges, parallel to the road's northern side. Due to the surface condition (heavy clay) and stiles, it is unusable for baby buggies, mobility vehicles or walkers who can no longer negotiate stiles. The western end (as proposed) is on SCC land covered in scrub.
- ❖ The surface of the footpath is founderous and often under water during wet weather. It is therefore unfit for purpose in its present state.
- ❖ As an all-weather surface is necessary now, it would be sensible to upgrade the path to bridleway status to facilitate its use by all other vulnerable road users at the same time.

Map Showing Highlighted Proposed Upgrade with Local Bridleways Shown as Blue dotted line. The western continuation of the footpath behind Kettles Cottages cannot be upgraded due to insufficient width. However, a new route can be continued over SCC Highways land with road access through the car park beside Kettles Cottages which is owned by Ibstock.



Map showing detail of extension of path across SCC Highway's scrub land between Kettles Cottages car park (owned by Ibstock) and present footpath.



Potential Users when upgraded and surfaced with all-weather track

- ❖ Equestrians
- ❖ Cyclists
- ❖ Ramblers and runners/joggers.
- ❖ Walkers with baby buggies and/or dogs. Less able walkers as stiles will be removed.
- ❖ Parents with young children on bikes - additional facility to Newdigate Play Area.
- ❖ Mobility vehicles and wheelchairs
- ❖ Pupils and parents who may wish to cycle to and from school in good weather from Newdigate to the Weald School at Beare Green. It has been shown that children work better at school when they have had fresh air and exercise first. This would also relieve congestion outside the school.
- ❖ Inter-community/village clubs access – cricket, football, bowls, netball, table tennis, etc.
- ❖ Safe route for residents wishing to cycle/walk to village shop, churches, pubs or to visit friends.

Benefits:

- ❖ **Equestrian, cycling and walking safety giving better access to the countryside** - Links to other bridleways and footpaths
- ❖ **Motor Vehicles Using Road** - Less likelihood of having to avoid horses or cyclists on the long blind bends of the road.
- ❖ **For Local Residents of Capel, Beare Green and Newdigate**
Safe and pleasant off-road route to and from village amenities - doctors, church, pub, schools, shop, village hall and club, children's playground, bowls club and other sports facilities.



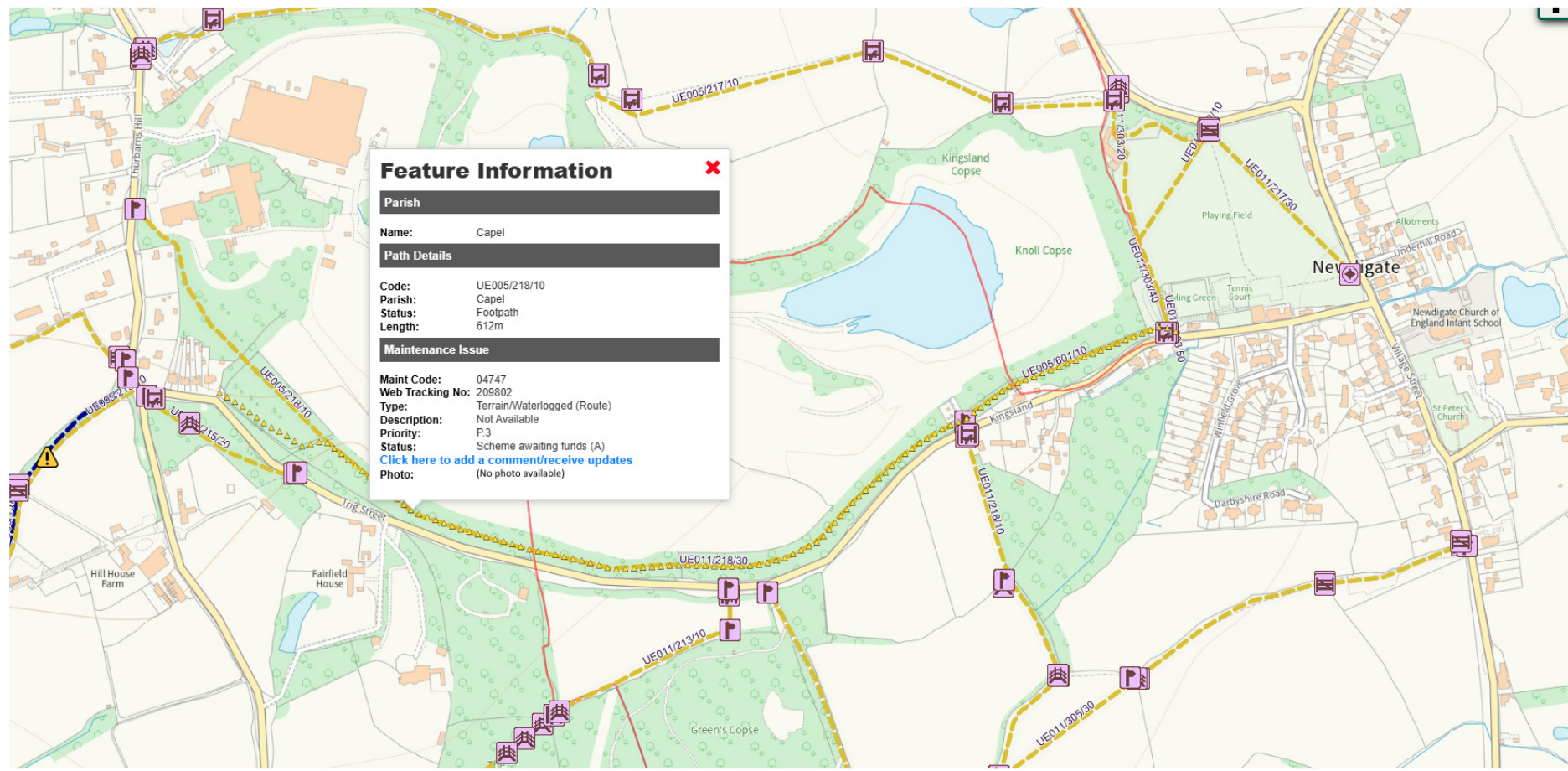
Trig Street showing long blind bend



Project Status – February 2025

- ❖ Approved on SCC “Rights Of Way Improvement Plan” in 2009, and by Countryside Access officer, Mary-Ann Edwards, but they have had neither money nor staff available to oversee it.
- ❖ Access Points originally approved by SCC Highways Safety Officer, Matt Smith.
- ❖ Supported by Ibstock Bricks, landowner. Ref: Simon Ingram, who would donate reject bricks.
- ❖ Approved by Mole Valley Local Committee at Pippbrook Council Offices – 5th December 2012
- ❖ Strongly supported by Helyn Clack, County Councillor, Cabinet Member for SCC and who has offered donation.
- ❖ Strongly supported by Marisa Heath – SCC Cabinet Member for Environment.
- ❖ District Councillors for Capel, Leigh, Newdigate and Charlwood over the years have been and are still strongly supportive.
- ❖ Rusper & Newdigate Bridleways Association offered £2,500 donation towards upgrade cost.
- ❖ Over 100 signatures on Petition submitted to SCC Countryside Access Dept. (2012) in favour of upgrade – now many more would sign.
- ❖ Strongly supported by the British Horse Society who have offered a donation of £3,500.
- ❖ Strongly supported by Mole Valley Cycling Forum as a link to an extended A24 cycle path and part of cross country off road route to Charlwood and Horley.
- ❖ Strongly supported by both Capel & Newdigate Parish Councils who would also donate.
- ❖ £10,000 pledged by local resident/retired horse rider
- ❖ £2,000 donated by Gatwick Airport Communities Trust

Legal searches and documents are now in place and a contractor has been selected. However, the estimated cost for the all-weather surfacing is approx. £80,000. This leaves a substantial shortfall and the work cannot go ahead until sufficient funding is found.



Status of present footpath (waterlogged) as shown on SCC Interactive Map – February 2025
Capel and Newdigate Parish Boundaries are shown as red lines.

Google Earth View 2024

