

Cockhill Lane Longitudinal Ford – report summary

Cockhill Lane is located approximately 1.5 km southwest of Foulridge in the District of Pendle in Lancashire. It joins with Skipton Old Road at its southern extent and with Noyna Road/Cob Lane to the north.

The current surface of the length of the longitudinal ford of Cockhill Lane is constantly saturated as Moss Houses Beck flows along it. This leads to issues with erosion as the water (and the particles it moves) plucks out material from the surface. Cold weather temperatures during the winter months facilitates the freeze/thaw process which accelerates the breakdown of the surfacing, and the constant flow of water physically removes the debris that is formed. This leads to the creation of voids allowing water to penetrate deeper into the surfacing.

All of the above issues present Maintenance difficulties. Consequently, the County Council commissioned Atkins Ltd to develop and assess options that seek to provide a solution to the ongoing maintenance burden that the ford imposes.

We have considered the following benefits and disbenefits within our investigations:

- Local Benefit.
- Ecological impact.
- High-level cost.
- Buildability.
- Heritage and sympathetic to the surrounding aspects.
- Ongoing maintenance requirements.
- Associated impact on the road network and local communities, during construction and operation.

Our recommended proposal includes localised repairs to the ford bed and resurfacing of the asphalt approaches. This will be taken forward, in conjunction with measures to improve the ongoing maintenance and inspection activities of the ford by way of temporarily slowing and reducing water levels.

To achieve this, we plan to introduce a masonry wall (or earth bund) and stanking planks along the beck located upstream of the ford. The stanking planks will act as a dam to hold sufficient water to allow future maintenance works to be completed. Once these stanking planks are removed, the water flow of along the ford will resume.

The image below shows an example of stanking planks used at an alternative location.



Whilst these works take place, water from the ford will be redirected via an alternative route. The ford will also be subject to a closure, with no access permitted, for the entire duration of the works. We anticipate this could last up to 8 weeks.

A previously commissioned ecological report is being updated by Atkins Ltd ahead of delivery to the County Council for them to review before beginning any works. This should help ensure that the works have no adverse effects on local flora and fauna. Subject to the above, and land access, works could be delivered as soon as July 2023.