

Route 403 Cross Council Working Group Update to Calne Area LHFIFG – January 2024

The Working Group was established in 2022 to “preserve and enhance the 403 Sustrans Route between Chippenham and Avebury as a multi-user route for active travel and leisure, well-being and commuting purposes, and to promote its use to, and care by, the local community.”

The Group now comprises representatives from Calne Town Council, Calne Without Parish Council, Bremhill Parish Council, Cherhill Parish Council, Chippenham Town Council, Wiltshire Council’s Rights of Way Team, Sustrans, Sustainable Calne and Cycle Chippenham.

Progress since the previous update (October 2023) includes:

- The route diversion to the east of Yatesbury is now reflected on the official Sustrans online map. Cherhill Parish Council are procuring metal finger signs to mark the diversion on the ground.
- Hills Waste Management have cut back overgrown hedges along the section through their land. Their help with this is hugely appreciated. The Group is seeking to undertake work to improve the track surface through this section.
- The Group has so far been unsuccessful in making contact with Valencia Waste Management, the new owner of the meadow immediate east of Low Lane.
- A section of the track along the old railway line to the north of Stanley Bridge has been badly damaged by agricultural vehicles. Wiltshire Council’s Rights of Way team are seeking to get this redressed.
- Wiltshire Council’s Rights of Way team will be getting a replacement for their Boxer, which will enable more mud-scraping to be undertaken later in the year. They have also secured some budget for laying surplus scalpings, which will enable improvement of some of the muddiest sections.
- Work continues to improve accessibility along the disused railway line. With the approval of landowners, one gate has been tied back, another has been removed into storage and permission has now been obtained to tie back the third.
- Progress is being made on developing an information board to help promote the route to potential users.
- Calne Without Parish Council are progressing works to improve access from the railway line onto footpath CALW13, which crosses the railway line just north of the Millenium Bridge. Both sides have been cleared and handrailing replaced. Work has commenced on restoring the steps.

Cllr John Barnes
Calne Without Parish Council