



Countryside Service

## Plans to extract chalk for the repair of tracks & bridleways on Ashford Hangers NNR.

We are planning to use chalk extracted from the chalk pit at the confluence of Cottage and Old Litten Lanes marked on the attached maps.

The poor condition of some of the Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways has been a concern to me since taking over day to day responsibility for Ashford Hangers.

Many of the tracks have been eroded below a level that can be repaired by mere resurfacing and in order to drain require 'building up' with cheaper infill before a surfacing stone can be installed.

As example, recently as part of the open spaces bid to improve access along Old Litten Lane I received a quote of £62,340 for resurfacing 500m, the main bulk of the cost coming from the access for - and haulage of material to be used as infill. Using chalk from the pit reduced this quote to £18,500 (albeit from a different contractor).

Small improvements have been made and the imminent reinstatement of BW16 (woodcutters) in partnership with Steep PC as well as a change in culture regarding the use of vehicles on site are all steps in the right direction. However there are cases highlighted on the accompanying maps where infill will be needed to help drainage (BW16 included).

As the chalk will not be exported from site re-opening the pit doesn't require planning permission (confirmed by EHDC and HCC). Natural England have given assent for the work provided that no species for which the site is noted are effected, which I will monitor. Consideration will be given to the visual impact that the work could have. Re-opening the chalk pit will have to be carried out as sensitively as possible, & much of the open 'fresh' chalk will be screened by existing trees.

I would be happy to meet anyone on site to discuss the work & I would welcome any feedback regarding these notes & can be reached on 023 9247 6411 or via E-mail

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With thanks Jim Hobson,  
Senior Countryside Ranger.