

# Mockett's Wood Path Proposal – Phase 1

## Summary.

Creating durable, accessible paths for Mockett's Wood is currently one of the key challenges & one of the main points of focus.

I have split this task into 2 phases: Phase 1 to upgrade the main path - 240 meters long & 2 metres wide to allow 2 wheelchairs to pass. Phase 2 will focus on re-surfacing the 2 new circular paths – probably using gravel boards & woodchip. At the moment work in the woods is centred on renovating & clearing the 2 circular paths while blocking off & re-wilding surplus pathways.

Options for path surfacing	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Volunteers & Woodland Officer build main paths using treated gravel board, stakes & woodchip.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Low cost – most of the woodchip should be free. Gravel boards, stakes &amp; joining plates approx. £2,000.</li> <li>b. Low disturbance / impact to woodland.</li> <li>c. Very eco-friendly materials.</li> <li>d. Can potentially start work this budget year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Time to complete: Likely to take 18 – 24 weeks depending on material availability.</li> <li>ii. Probably won't be able to commence works until current path blocking / renovation work complete. Estimate this will take 33 – 36 weeks.</li> <li>iii. Woodchip paths will have a higher maintenance overhead &amp; the gravel boards may be more vulnerable to vandal damage.</li> </ul>
2. Hire contractor to build main path using eco biodegradable membrane, MOT base & either self-binding gravel [or woodchip] topping. Heavy duty treated wood edging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Durability: Paths created with self-binding gravel need very little maintenance &amp; can last 20+ years. The full life cost in terms of materials &amp; labour would be low.</li> <li>b. Less vulnerable to vandal damage than option1.</li> <li>c. Accessibility: Gravel would be a better surface for wheelchair access than wood chip.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Disturbance &amp; impact: Higher due to machinery required to scrape existing path, bring in materials &amp; compact each path layer.</li> <li>ii. Wood closure: For the duration of the works – around 3 weeks.</li> <li>iii. Cost &amp; sourcing required budget &amp; / or external funding. Estimates range from £16k to £33k net for 240 metres of path.</li> <li>iv. Unlikely to be able to start works until next budget year.</li> </ul>