

Waddesdon Greenway: Link to School Lane



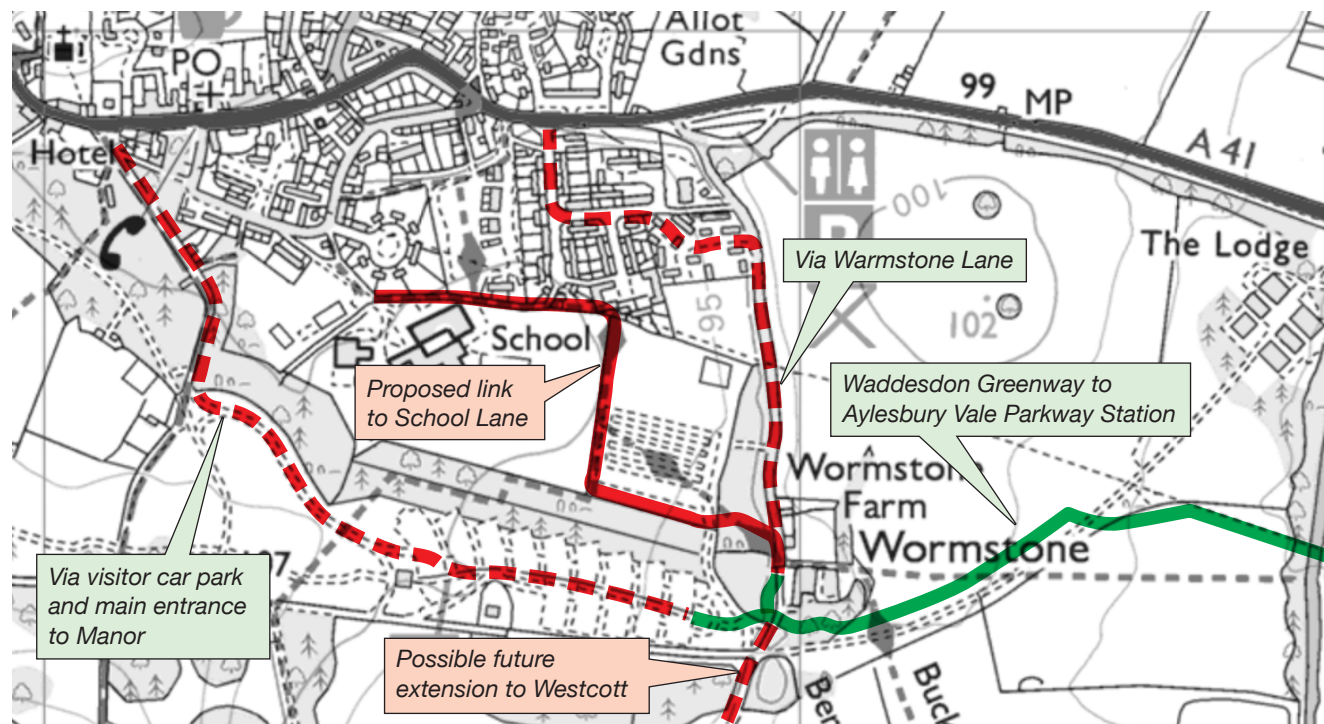
Visitors to the Waddesdon Greenway under construction

Greenways & Cycleroutes with Buckinghamshire County Council
January 2023

Proposal for extending the Waddesdon Greenway to School Lane to provide a connection for the Village and the School

1 Summary of proposed link to School Lane, Waddesdon

The Waddesdon Greenway from Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station was opened in July 2018 and has proved to be very popular with local people who have made over 150,000 trips along it in the last year. In 2020 the route was extended through the Roman Park Community area just south of the station, then in August 2020 the Haydon Hill link opened across the River Thames. This connects to the existing cycling routes to the Town Centre which have been uprated and redesigned as the Platinum Way. Then most recently a new path has been constructed linking Berryfields with Buckingham Park, linking yet more communities to the Waddesdon Greenway.



Proposed Waddesdon School Link compared with existing links to Waddesdon



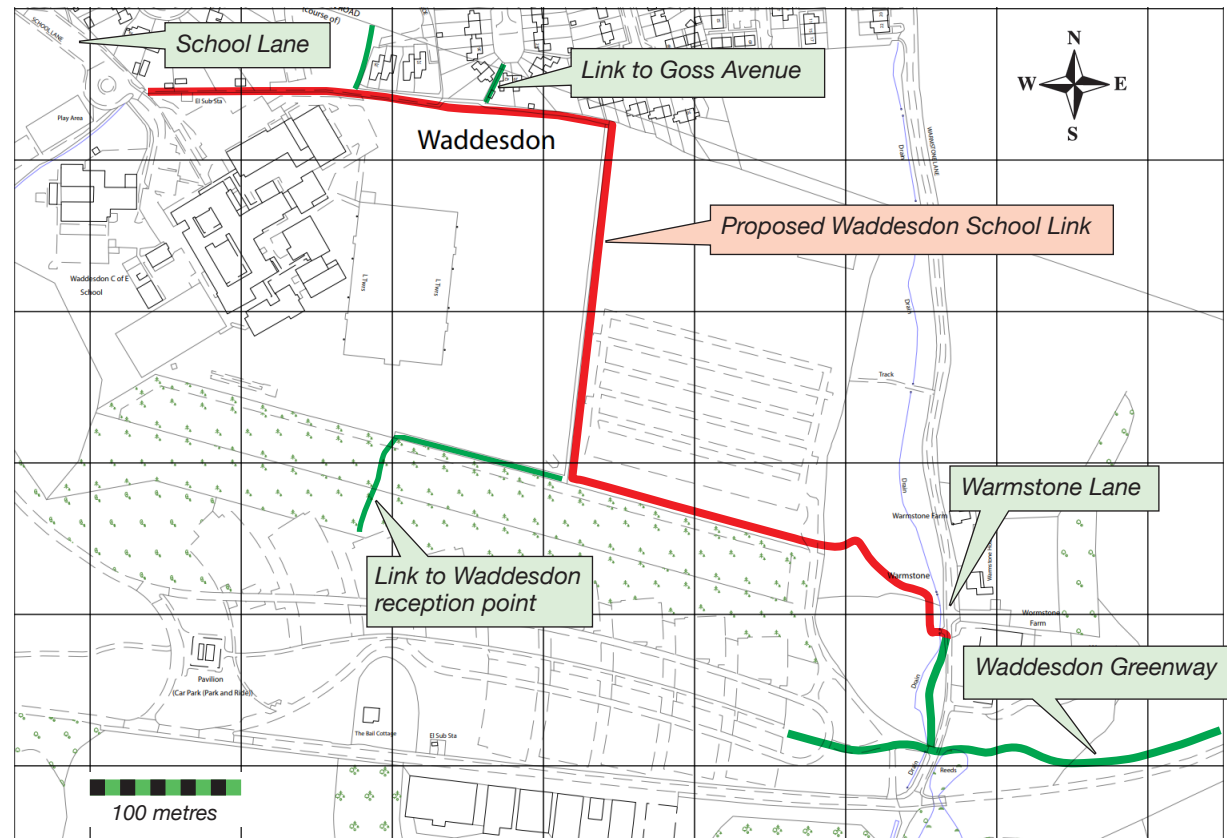
Haydon Hill Bridge



Buckingham Park Path

2 General Description of proposed School Link – 800m long

This path will be similar in nature to the existing Waddesdon Greenway. It will be 3m wide, except at pinch points, finished with a sealed surface and set in a generous landscape of trees and hedges. It links with and connects to a number of existing paths, including of course the Waddesdon Greenway. The path will not be lit but the way will be illuminated with a string of centrally placed photovoltaic lights. The path will be signed at each end.

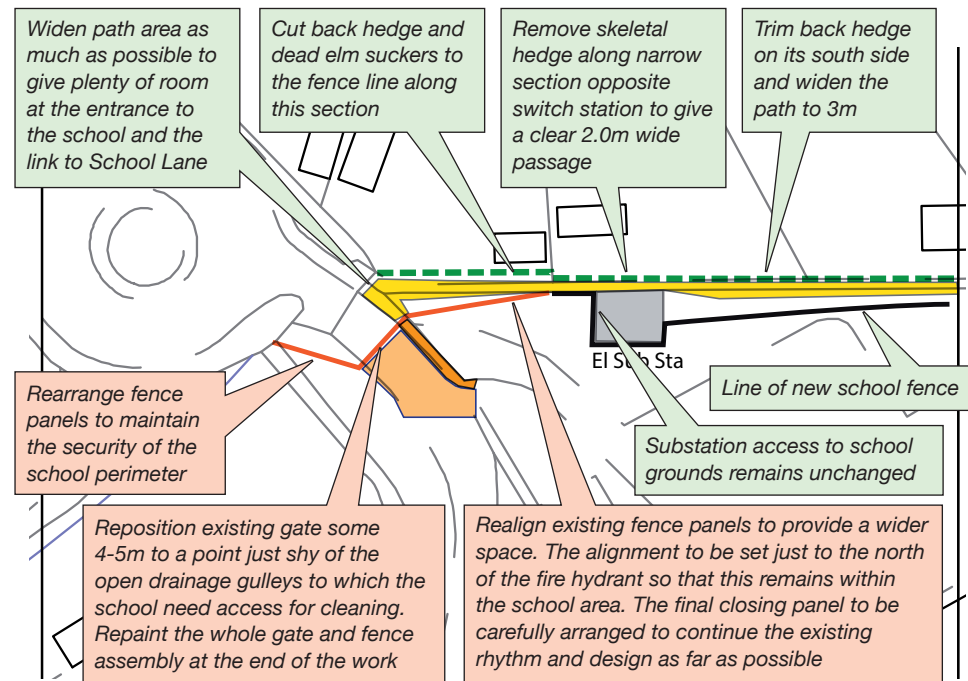


Location plan of proposed Waddesdon School Link

3 Details of the proposed route

The route is described with maps, notes, sketches, and photographs. The notes are arranged on the page opposite the maps, and the document is designed to be read as a double-sided work.

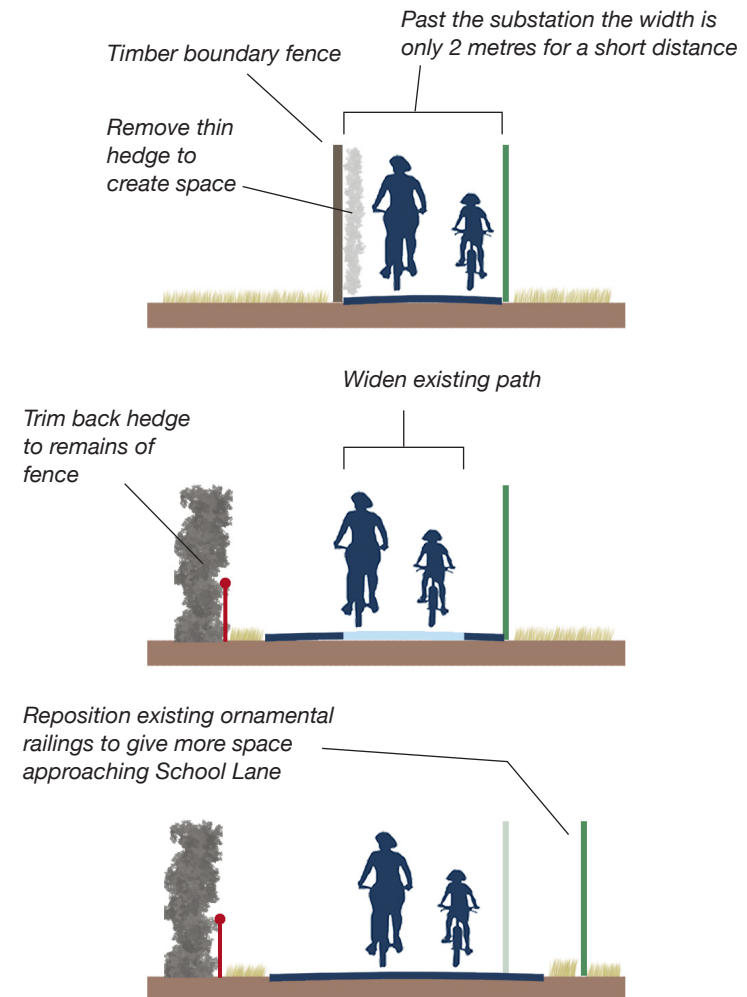
- 1 School Lane leads to the centre of Waddesdon.
- 2 The arrangement of the egress of the path needs to be carefully detailed as it comes close to the school entrance which is busy at peak times. Most of the path users will be coming to school from nearby residential areas. To create more space in this area the School has agreed that the project moves the existing school gates back by some 4m and that the existing ornamental fencing is also repositioned so as to expand this constricted area. The proposed arrangement shown on the plan is somewhat governed by the services in the ground.



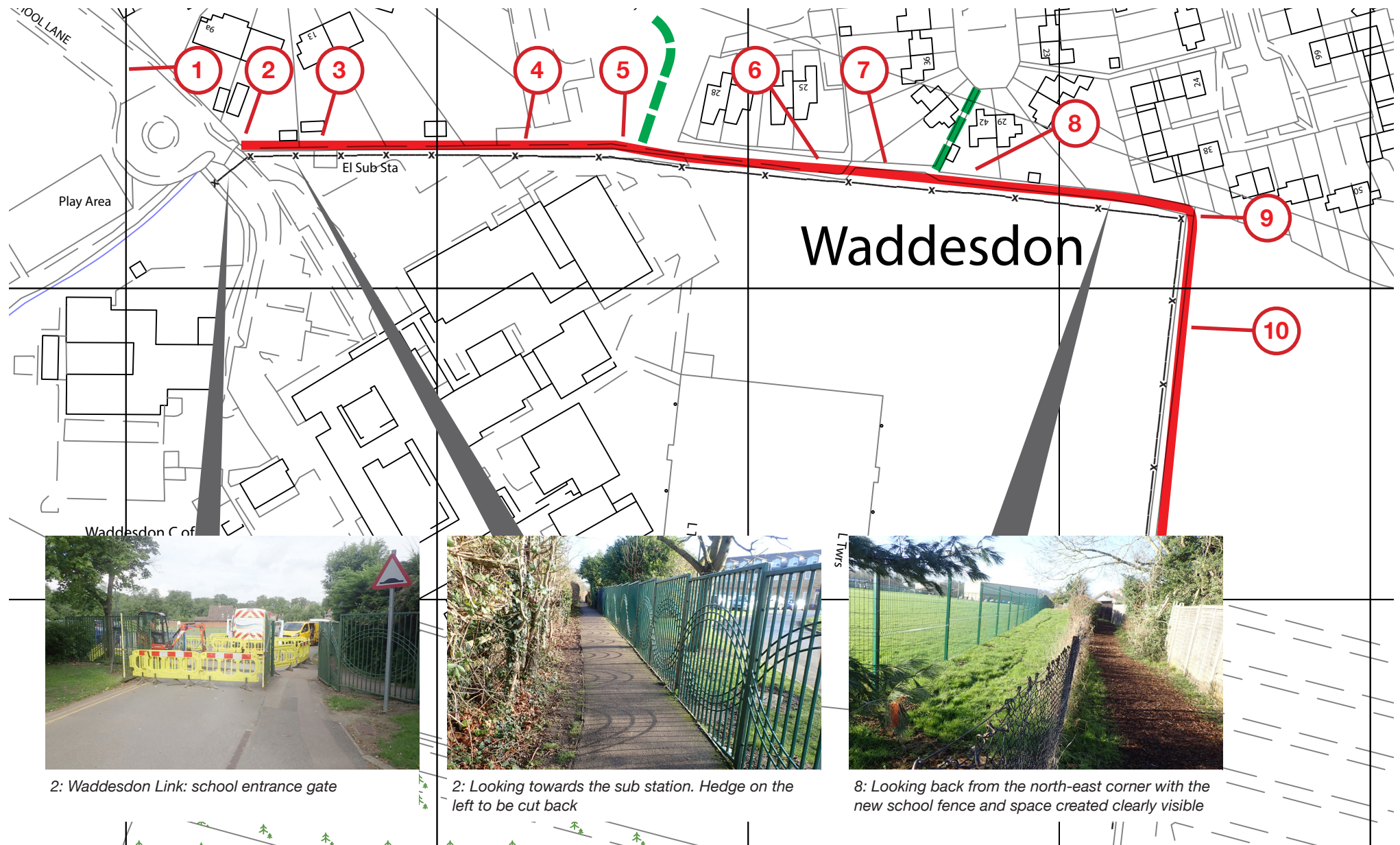
Detail plan at the approach to School Lane showing revised arrangement of school gates and fencing

- 3 Garden plots have been extended hard up to the path in varying degree – the worst leaving just 2.0m between fences. Short of relocating the fence back to its original line the path will have a short narrow section past the substation where there is no scope for widening into the school lands. However, if the thin hedge is removed there will be adequate space at this point as visibility is good.

Three sections between substation and School Lane



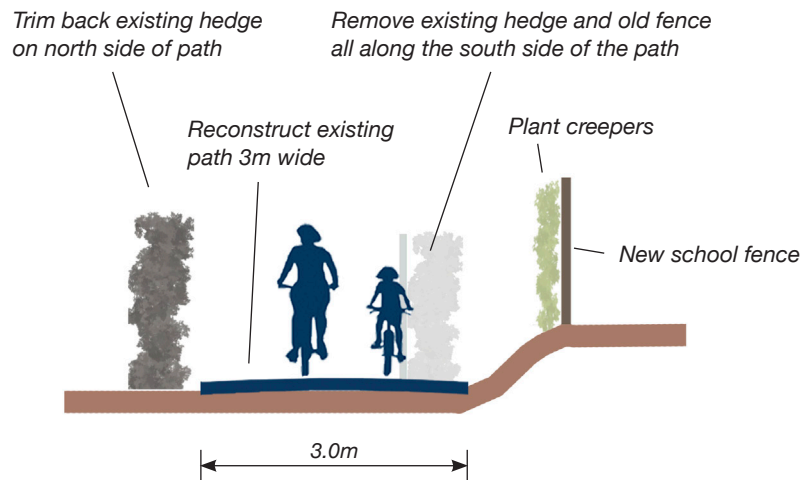
Map 1 of 2: Details of the proposed link to School Lane, Waddesdon



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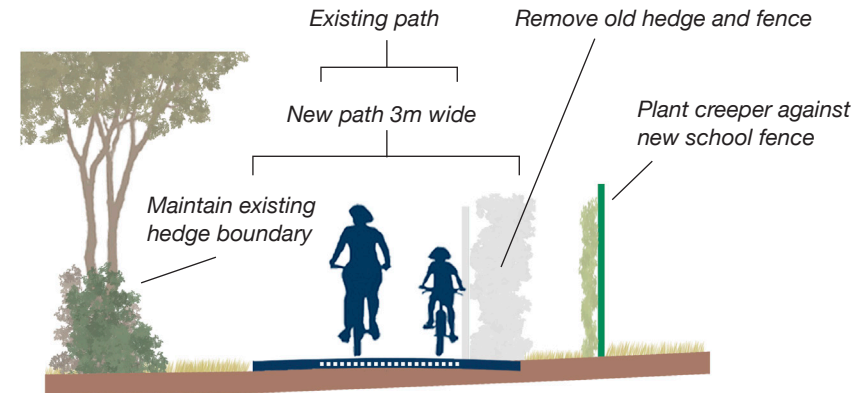
- 4 The School has recently installed a new fence all along its northern boundary along a line to provide a greater width for the path. The old hedge is to be removed as well as the remains of the original fence, and new planting put along the new fence.
- 5 The new Golden Mede development has put detailed landscaping in this area which will allow the path to have a more open aspect.
- 6 The remains of the old hedge backing onto the new housing allow for a slightly wider area here.

Sketch through new path opposite School car park

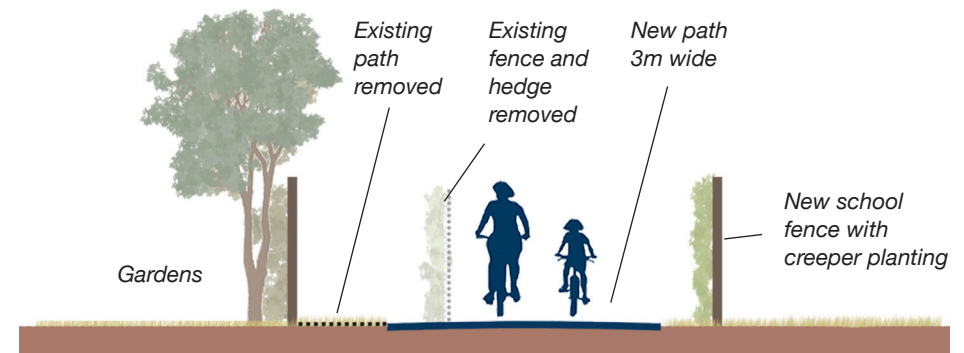


- 7 The last section of the existing 1.5m wide tarmac path doglegs back to link through to Goss Avenue. The resulting kink in the school boundary made something of an unusable space. The new school fence has been set back which has considerably enhanced the space for the path and will improve its security with a through view along its length.
- 8 This section of the old path was narrowed even further by an attractive beech hedge planted at the end of Sharps Close. The set back of the new school fence allows this to remain.

Sketch through new path opposite new housing

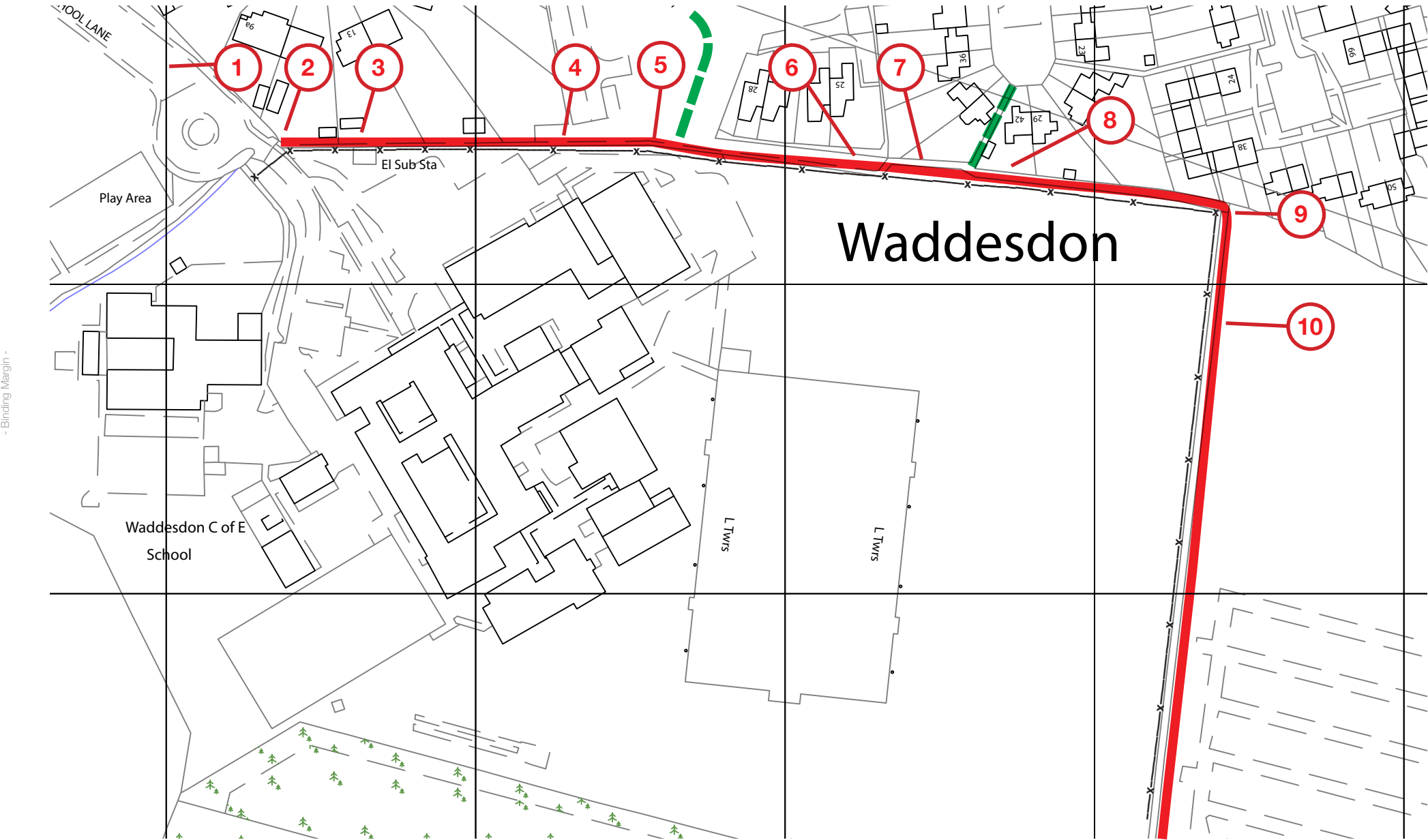


Sketch opposite indent showing path moved away from garden fences into the open space created by the new school fence



- 9 The school fence has left ample space at this corner.
- 10 This leg of the existing public footpath feels a bit mean as it passes across this wide space but between fences only 2m apart. The bleak and empty overflow car park does not help either. There is space to plant a 250 metre long avenue of trees without any loss of car parking capacity. This, along with a new hedge of mixed species, will form an attractive boundary to the school playing fields and could extend the existing plantation of Scots pines up towards the village.

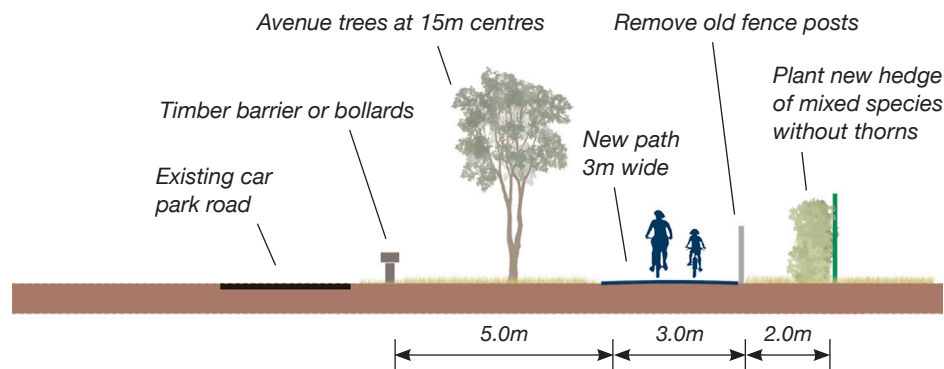
Map 1 of 2: Details of the proposed link to School Lane, Waddesdon



Map 2 of 2: Details of the proposed link to School Lane, Waddesdon

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Sketch through section along eastern side of school playing fields

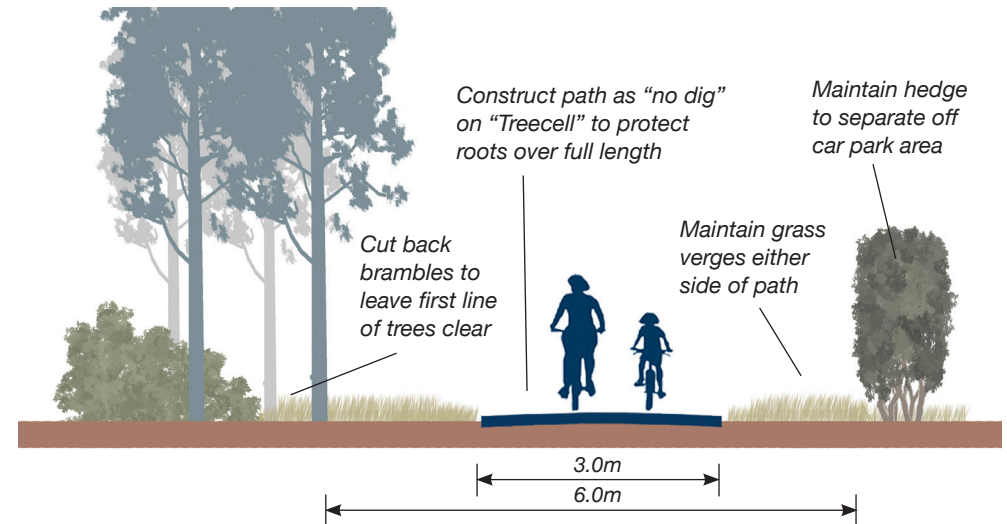


Looking south with new school fence on right and NT car park on left

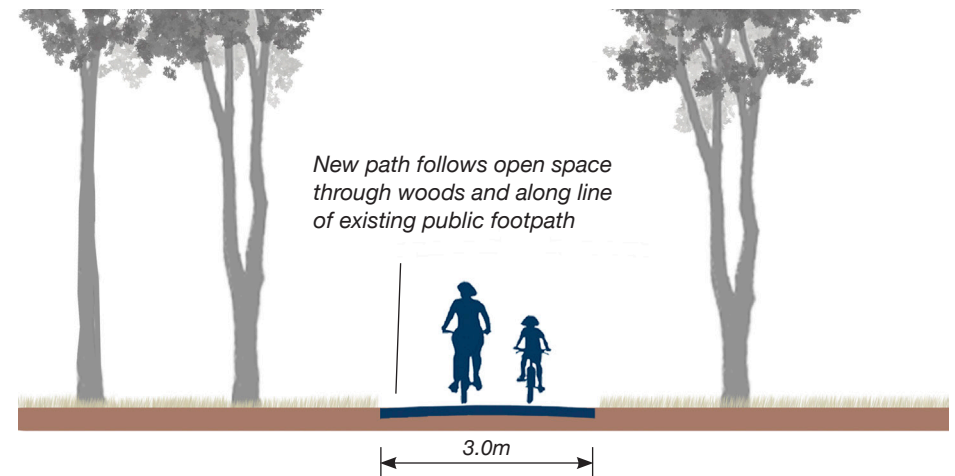
- 11 At the corner of the car park make a careful connection to the ongoing path for Waddesdon Manor visitors, with a feature in the edge of the wood.

- 12 Rather than continue along the bleak edge of the overflow car park run down the space between the hedge and the first line of pines. Construct the path on 'tree-cell' for root protection over the whole length.

Looking back from access road along the strip between the woodland and the hedge



View through Wormstone Wood towards Wormstone Farm and the completed link to the Waddesdon Greenway



Map 2 of 2: Details of the proposed link to School Lane, Waddesdon



School link: woodland edge



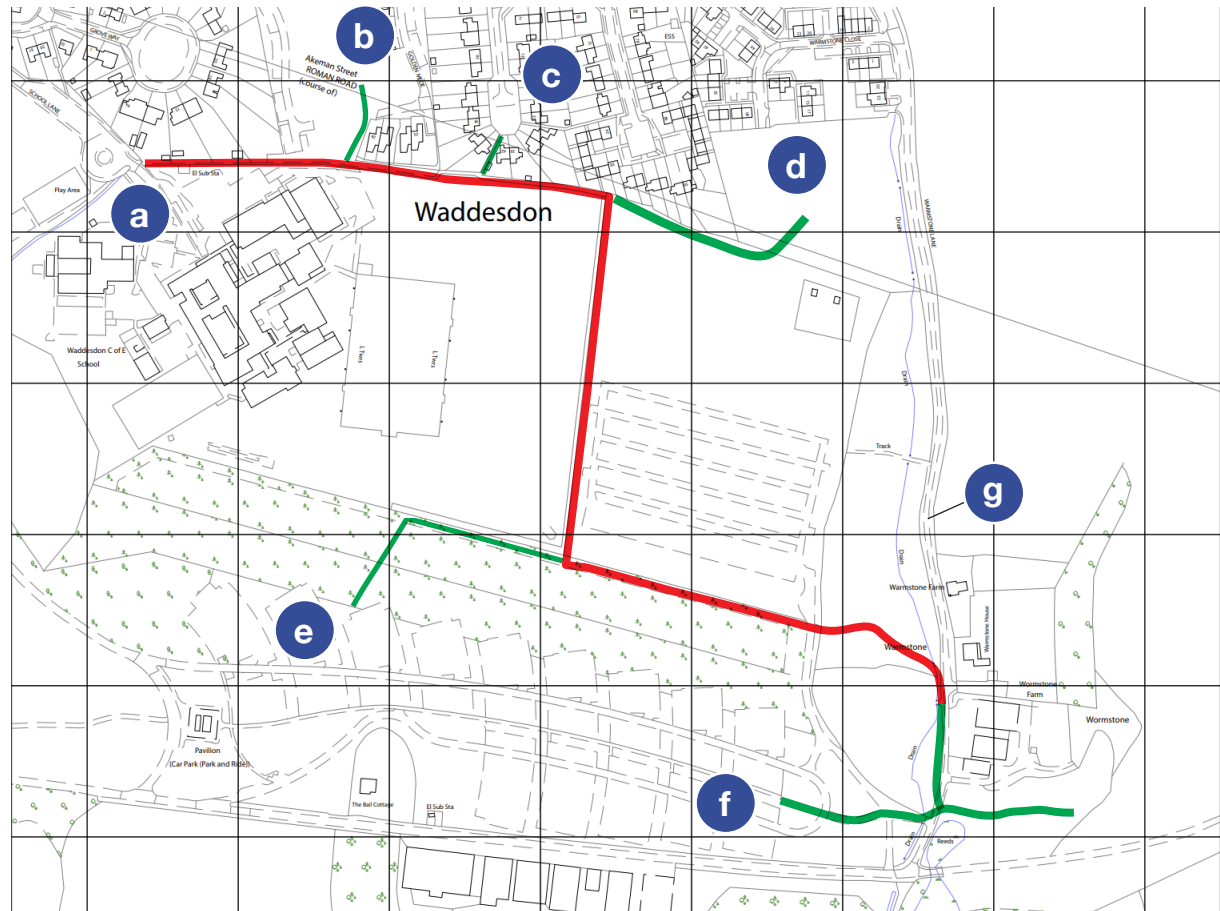
New path follows open space through woods and along line of existing public footpath



- 13 Cross the car park access road with zebra crossing markings.
- 14 Cut through into wood and join the general line of the existing public footpath keeping centrally to open spaces and glades where possible.
- 15 Turn south along wide bank of the stream in order to reach existing wide, vehicular crossing of the stream.
- 16 Join the existing link to the Waddesdon Greenway crossing the stream via the existing farm culvert.
- 17 The existing link needs a small amount of work to improve its edges and verges where they were constructed hard against the bank of the stream.
- 18 The Waddesdon Greenway to Aylesbury.

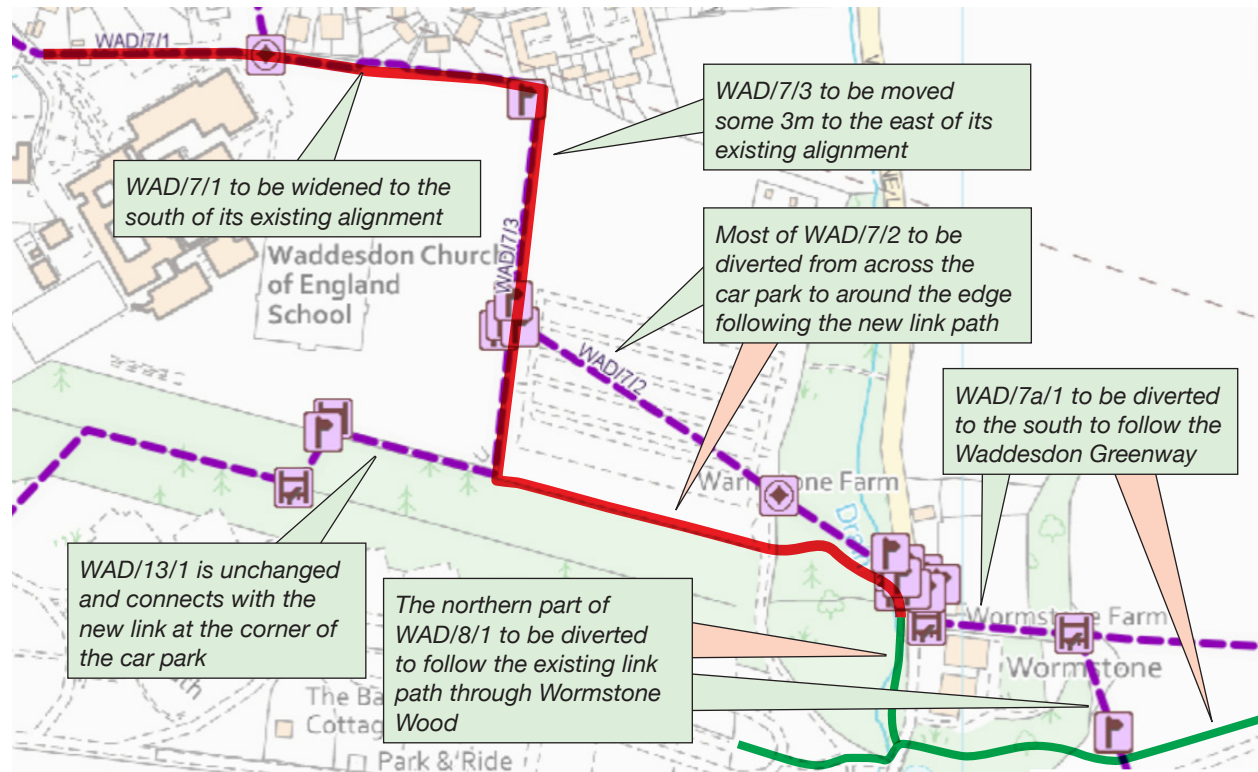
Access points

- a School Lane entrance beyond the revised position of the school gates.
- b A new path is to be provided in the Golden Mede development. (WAD/18/4).
- c Existing path to Goss Avenue links through to Sharps Close. This is narrow for shared use but as flows will be low the occasional cyclist can be tolerated.
- d A linking path for the new housing development is planned.
- e Existing bark-covered path leads along the edge of the School playing fields and then turns through the woods to make a route from the overflow car park to the Waddesdon Visitor Centre.
- f Existing path runs down the spine of the main car park.
- g Wormstone Lane provides a quiet route for the east end of the village.



Location plan of proposed Waddesdon School Link

Proposed footpath diversions



Proposed rearrangement of public footpaths, all to now follow wide shared-use paths with all-weather surfaces

