

Ebury Way – Rickmansworth

The Ebury Way is an attractive Walking & Cycling Route linking Rickmansworth to Watford, it is also a part of Sustrans National Cycle Route 6/61. The route is well used by local people & touring cyclists.

At the Rickmansworth end of the Ebury Way the old Travis Perkins site has been redeveloped providing a new hotel & industrial warehouse units. Unfortunately this has resulted in the National Cycle Route 6 (NCR6)-Ebury Way on the edge of the site becoming dangerous & unattractive.

The final part of the route leading to Church St. has become narrow, dark & the surface badly damaged by tree roots & ground movement has made it dangerous for cyclists & less-able walkers.



Reduction in width, overgrown vegetation

In the past TRDC & HCC have funded improvements on the path in an exercise called “Access for All” aimed at providing safe access for pedestrians, cyclists & less able people.

There are five options.

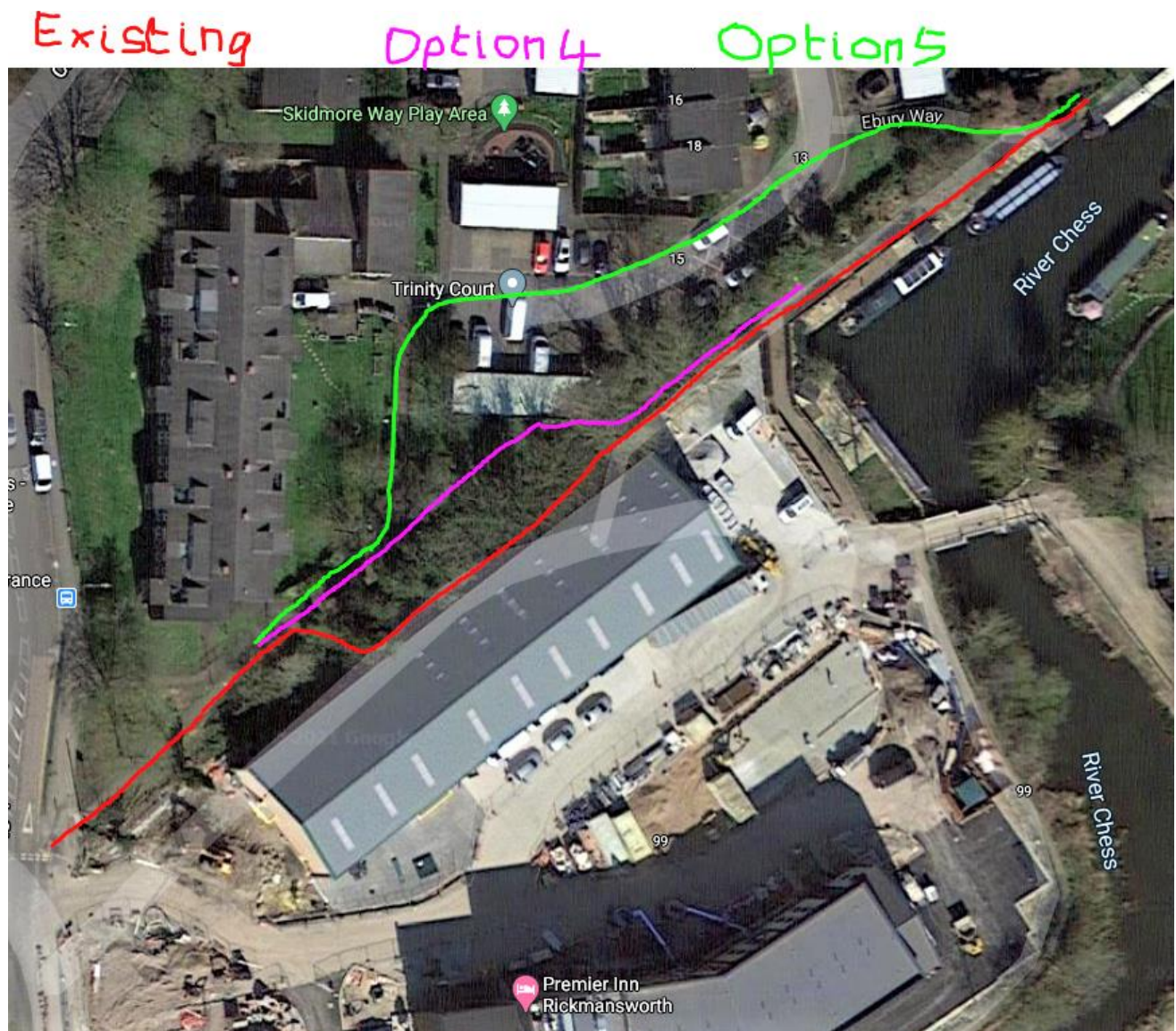
1. Keep the existing route. It is now dangerous & unattractive but direct & continuous from the existing route. Expensive to bring up to a good standard.
2. Along the new service road through the middle of the site. Longer route, could be dangerous due to site traffic.
3. Southern part of the site by the edge of canal leading to Batchworth Lock. Many users are now going this way as it appears more attractive but does not follow the correct route. It is very narrow, potentially dangerous due to narrow paving & collapsing river bank.
4. Create a new link (picture below-dark green) from the existing Church St. path continuing over a green waste area towards the Garages, then cutting through the trees line (poor condition) onto the existing widened route, but raising its height making it safe & level.
5. North of the site, widen & revise the line of the existing path going around the garages (picture below-light green). Longer deviation, passing rear of sheltered housing. Then using existing road & widened path following the natural desire line to Ebury Way,

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Proposed changes to the route of the Ebury Way at the Batchworth Lock area.

Options 1-3 are not safe or viable.

Options 4 & 5 considered below.



The existing route is no longer acceptable in its depleted condition.

Option 4 could provide an attractive route. It is the same length as the existing route.

The existing path from Church St. would be extended to the garages, then dropping through the trees onto the existing path which would be raised & widened.

It will require the “Canal & Rivers Trust” whose land is affected to agree & cooperate.

Option 5 It is a longer less direct route. I believe all of it is on TRDC controlled land. It uses existing road space & paths that could be slightly realigned & widened to provide an acceptable route.

If either Option 4 or 5 is to proceed it should become the natural desire line from the Ebury Way for continuing along SUSTRANS (NVR 6/61) to the Town Centre & Aquadrome.

The existing route should be closed off & signage changed.

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With the current situation, when approaching Rickmansworth at the junction shown the natural route now is to go left off the Ebury Way, onto Option 2 or 3 rather than continue on the original route which looks dark & unattractive.



Paving leads you left to Option 2 or 3



Dark & uneven surface. Deterring users.

Prepared by Roger Bangs - March 2021 - Chair SPOKES www.spokesgroup.org.uk