

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE THE FOOTPATH TO BRIDLEWAY STATUS ALONGSIDE TRIG STREET & KINGSLAND, BETWEEN NEWDIGATE AND CAPEL

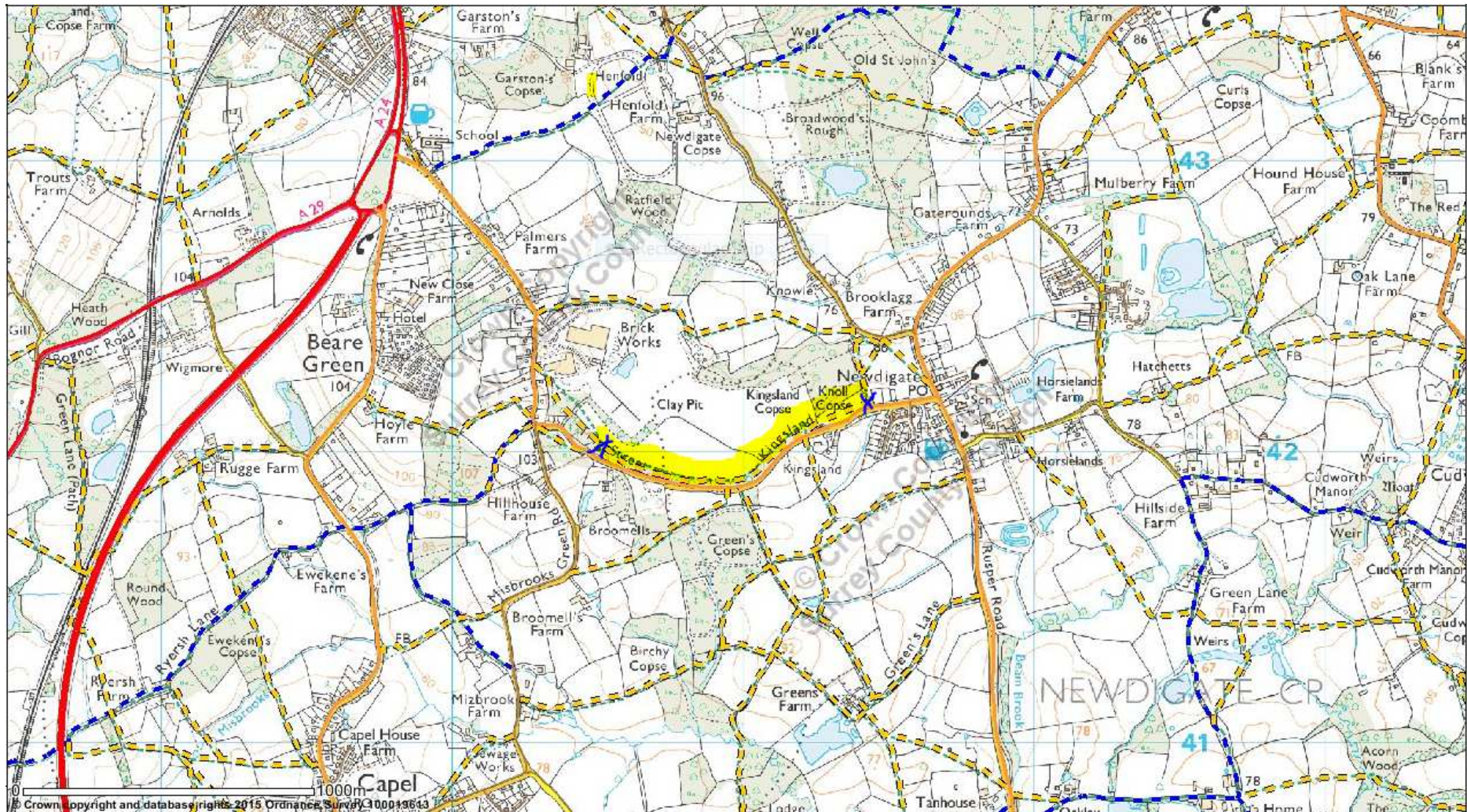
Objectives

- ❖ To improve safety between Newdigate, Capel and Beare Green, for horses, cyclists and walkers, school children and those using disability vehicles.
- ❖ To provide an attractive off-road fresh air leisure facility in harmony with the environment.
- ❖ To enhance the bridleway connectivity network infrastructure in Surrey.
- ❖ To maximise use of existing pathways and countryside rights of way.
- ❖ To comply with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

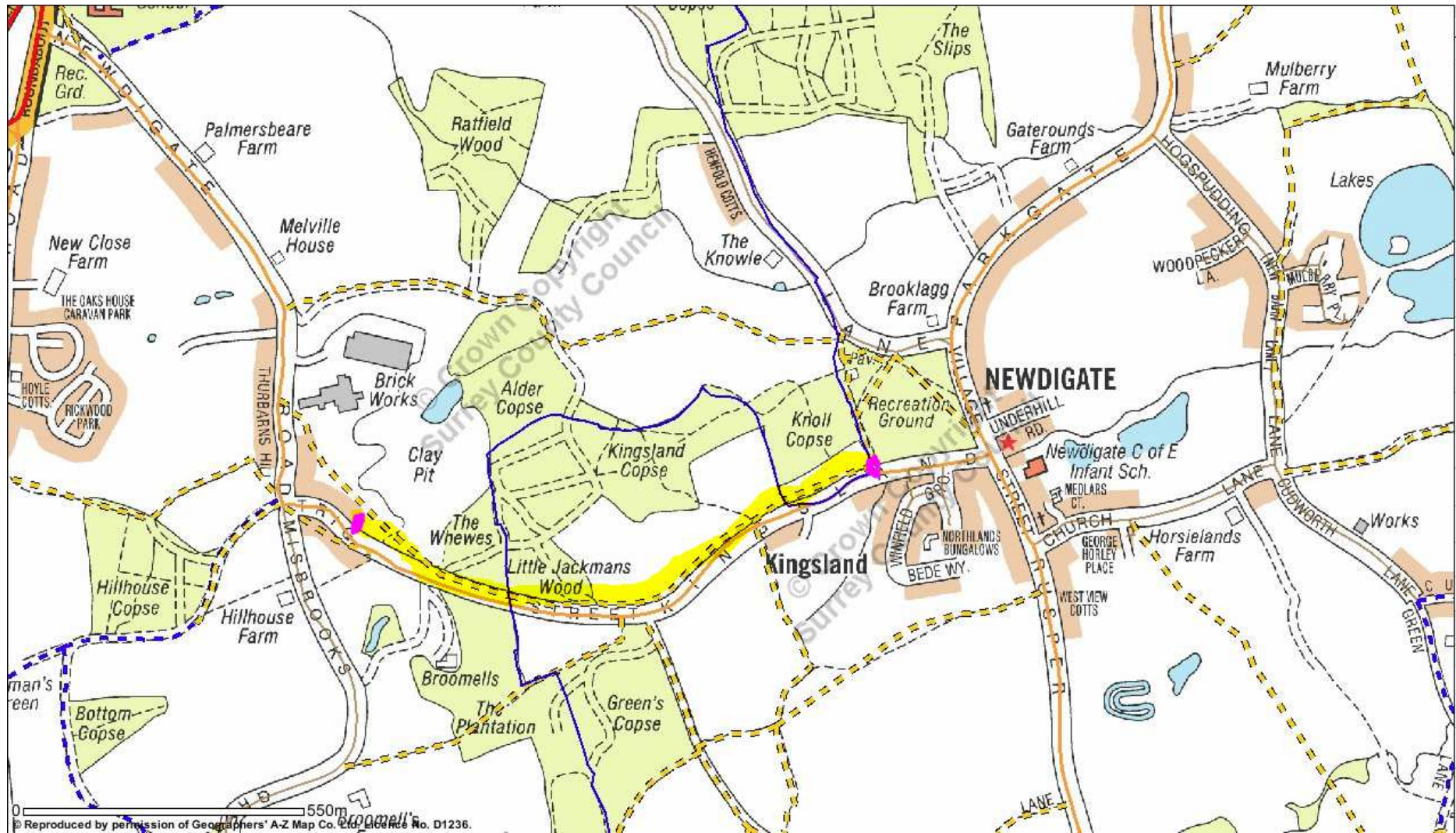
Background

- ❖ Trig Street is notorious for its long blind bend and speeding traffic.
- ❖ Trig Street is deemed too dangerous to use by most horse riders. Parents will not allow children to ride bikes on this road. Therefore a safe connection between the bridleway from Capel exiting onto Thurbarns Hill to the west and Newdigate village to the east is lost.
- ❖ Hedges grow thickly against the road and there are no verges.
- ❖ The present footpath is on land owned by Ibstock Bricks. It is situated behind thick hedges, parallel to the road on the northern side. It is unusable for baby buggies or mobility vehicles due to the surface conditions and stiles.
- ❖ The surface of the footpath is founderous and often under water during wet weather. It is therefore unfit for purpose in its present state.
- ❖ Work needs to be done on the surface, therefore it would be sensible to upgrade it to bridleway status to facilitate its use by other vulnerable road users at the same time.

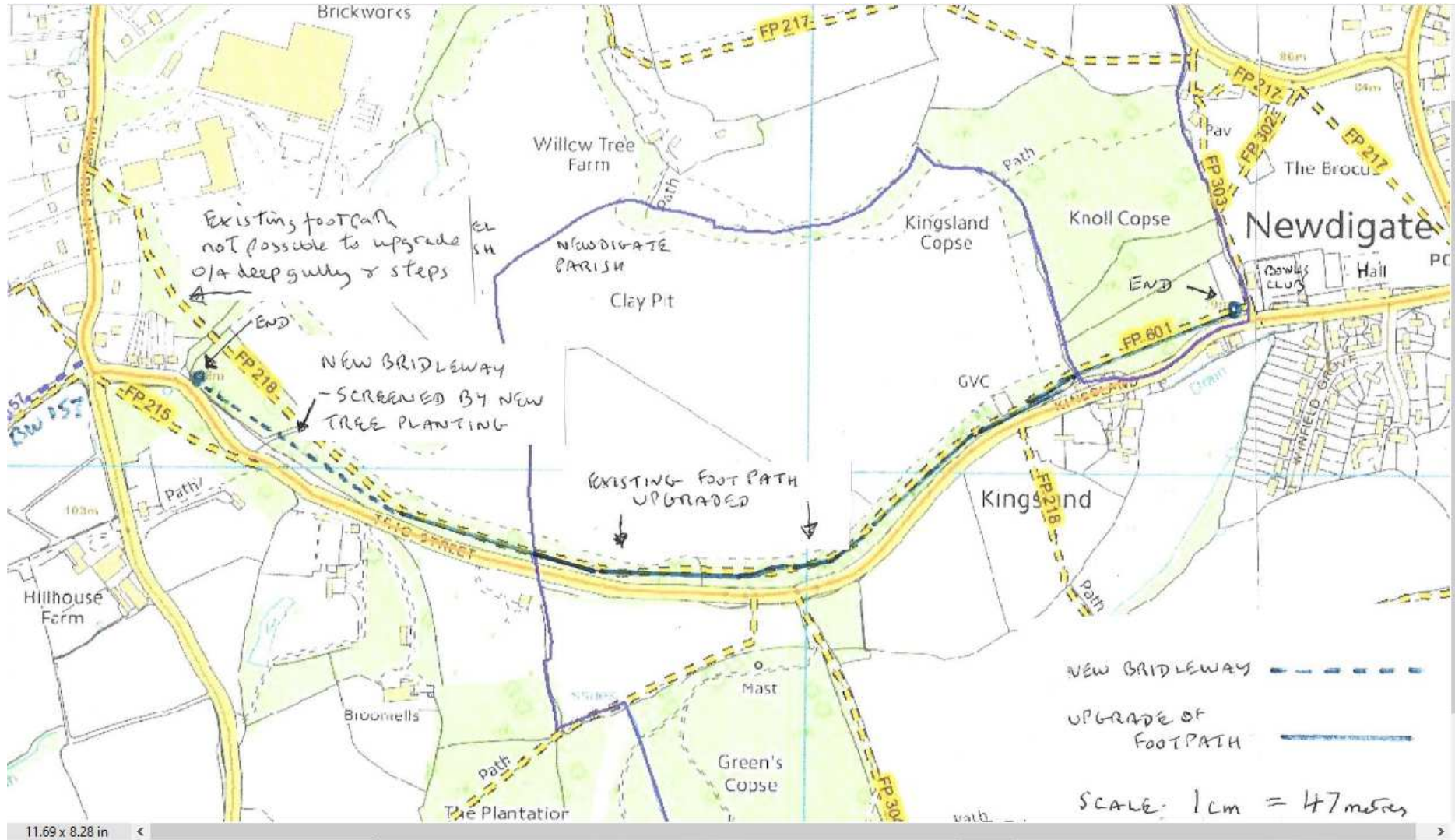
Map Showing Highlighted Proposed Upgrade with Local Bridleways Shown as Blue dotted line. The western continuation of the footpath behind Kettles Cottages cannot be upgraded due to insufficient width. However, a new route can be continued over SCC Highways land with road access through the car park beside Kettles Cottages which is owned by Ibstock.



Map showing parish boundaries (plain blue line) West to east – Capel/Newdigate/Capel



Map showing detail of extension of path across SCC Highway's scrub land between Kettles Cottages car park (owned by Ibstock) and present footpath.



Potential Users when upgraded and surfaced with all-weather track

- ❖ Equestrians
- ❖ Cyclists
- ❖ Ramblers
- ❖ Walkers with baby buggies and/or dogs
- ❖ Parents with young children on bikes - additional facility to Newdigate Play Area.
- ❖ Mobility vehicles and wheelchairs
- ❖ Pupils and parents who may wish to cycle to and from school in good weather from Newdigate to the Weald School at Beare Green. It has been shown that children work better at school when they have had fresh air and exercise first. This would also relieve congestion outside the school.
- ❖ Inter-community/village sports club access – cricket, football, bowls, netball, table tennis, etc.
- ❖ Safe route for residents wishing to cycle to village shop, churches, pubs or to visit friends.

Benefits: Equestrian, cycling and walking safety and better access to countryside, also:-

❖ For Motor Vehicles Using Road

Less likelihood of having to avoid horses or cyclists on the long blind bends of the road.

❖ For Local Residents of Capel, Beare Green and Newdigate

Safe off-road route to and from village amenities - doctors, church, pub, schools, shop, village hall and club, children's playground, bowls club and other sports facilities.

Pleasant and safe to walk, run, ride a horse or bike; children on bikes; mobility vehicles
Avoids conflict with traffic on Trig Street and less need for car journeys.

Links to other bridleways and footpaths

Project Status – February 2021

- ❖ Approved on SCC “Rights Of Way Improvement Plan” 2009, and by Countryside Access officer, Mary-Ann Edwards, but they have neither money nor staff available to oversee it.
- ❖ Access Points Approved by SCC Highways Safety Officer, Matt Smith.
- ❖ Supported by Ibstock Bricks, landowners, ref: Simon Ingram, who will donate reject bricks.
- ❖ Approved by Mole Valley Local Committee at Pippbrook Council Offices – 5th December 2012
- ❖ Helyn Clack, County Councillor, Cabinet Member for SCC, supports and offered donation, District Councillors for Capel, Leigh & Newdigate also strongly supportive.
- ❖ Rusper & Newdigate Bridleways Association offered £2,000 donation towards upgrade cost.
- ❖ Over 100 signatures on Petition (2012) in favour of upgrade – now many more would sign.
- ❖ Strongly supported by the British Horse Society who have offered a donation of £1,000.
- ❖ Strongly supported by Mole Valley Cycling Forum as link to proposed new A24 cycle path.
- ❖ Strongly supported by both Capel & Newdigate Parish Councils who would also donate.
- ❖ <https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is/comments/5fb5aa751731d60723e4131e>



Trig Street showing long blind bend