

Reasons To Replace The Steps From Old Road to New Road Liskeard

Liskeard Town Forum

SX 23684 64316

Prepared by Chair of Liskeard Town Forum: David Ambler 3rd August 2020



Background

During a meeting of the Liskeard Town Forum, a resident of Liskeard raised the problem caused by the steps at Moorswater, (SX23684 64316) on the cycle and footpath, which connects Liskeard to Dobwalls. These steps were difficult to ascend with a bike, being steep and there being no easy ramp to wheel the bike up.

Another member, who is mobility impaired then highlighted the problems of using the steps, and the fact Moorswater through to Looe/Coombe Valley are all at the bottom of steep hills to Liskeard.

The steep hills and steps effectively cut off Liskeard Town Centre from Moorswater and Coombe, unless you have some form of transport, or are prepared to follow a long circuitous route through country lanes.

The steps restrict those with mobility impairments from enjoying the walk from Liskeard, Coombe, Moorswater and Dobwalls, via this footpath.

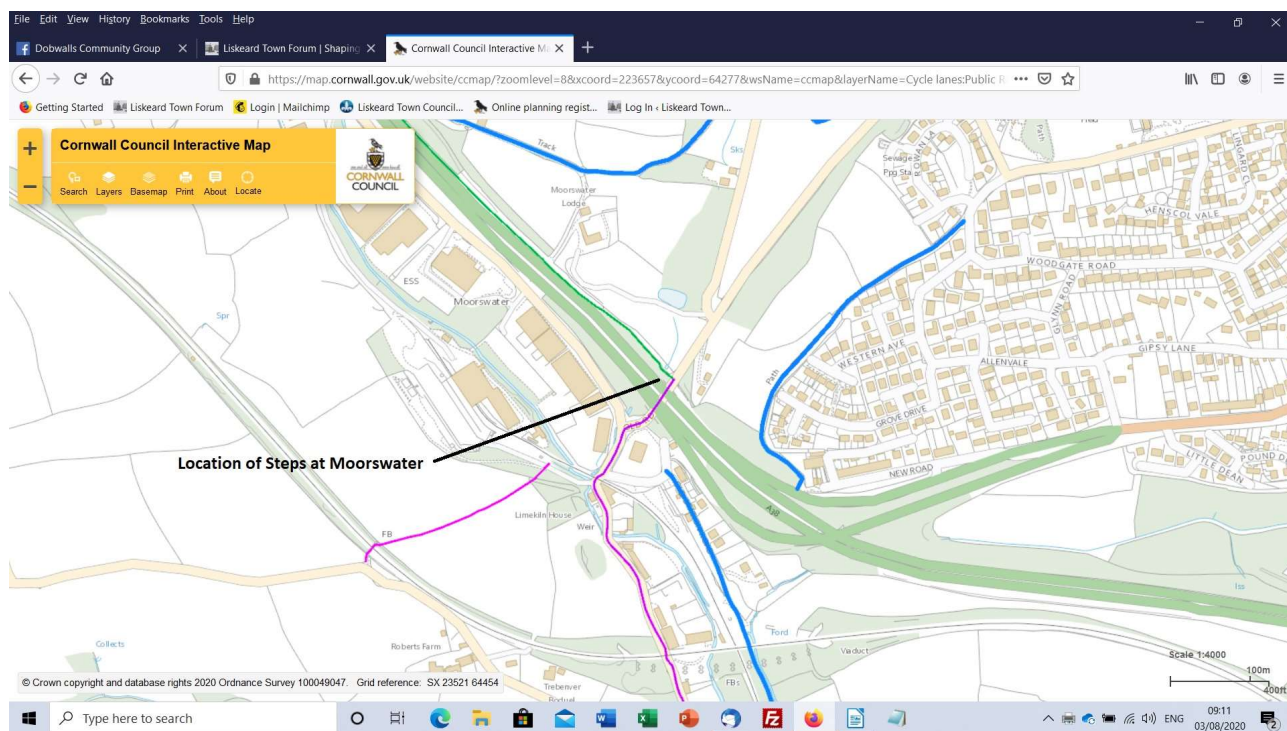
The image on the front cover clearly demonstrates the problem confronting those using the path.

The image was supplied by Claire Finnegan Vyse, a resident of Dobwalls, whose son struggles to get to his friends in Liskeard because of the problems caused by the steps, and the lack of drop kerbs to access the paths.

Sadly, the trains that stop at Coombe Junction are infrequent during the day, and do not run on Sundays during the winter.

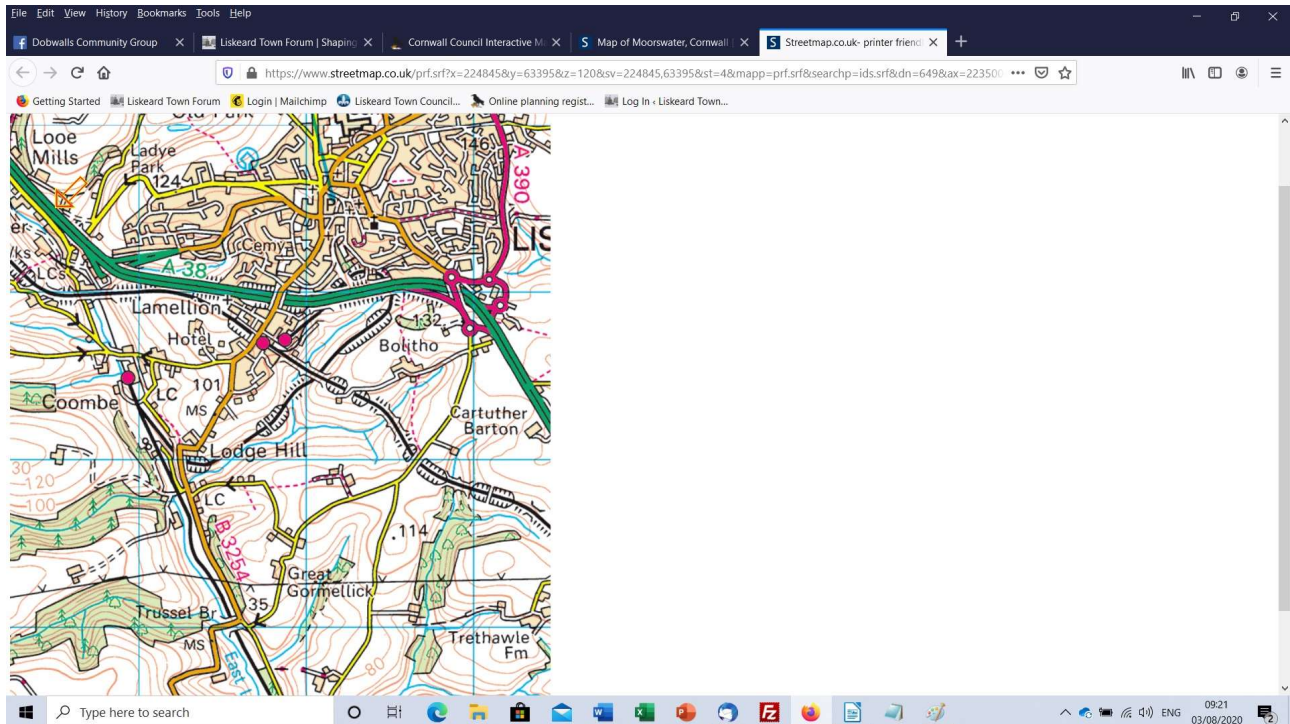
The location of the steps is shown below, along with the connecting cycle ways and paths. A large scale version of all the maps is attached in the appendix.

The grid reference for the steps is: SX23684 64316



Topography

The map below shows the nature of the Moorswater to Coombe valley and the steep hills that restrict easy access to Liskeard. Lodge Hill follows a steep hill over the railway bridge, and involves dangerous bends just above the railway bridge.



The Need for a Ramp

Liskeard Town Forum has been canvassing for comments about the steps, and some of these are attached in the Appendix.

A local residential home commented that their elderly residents are unable to access Liskeard from Coombe easily. The ability to use the town could provide benefits not only to the clients, but potentially Liskeard based traders.

It would appear from the feedback that these steps cause a difficulty for a number of residents within the Liskeard and Dobwalls area.

These difficulties include those who struggle to use steps even though they have full mobility. The lack of a hand rail at the current steps has been highlighted as a problem.

Drop Down Kerbs

The steps are the main problem for cyclists, and those with prams, but for those on mobility scooters, the need for drop down kerbs on the path at Moorswater and New Road will need to be considered. Please see the image below.



Gas Main and Spring

Liskeard Town Forum has visited the site, and would like to highlight that there appears to be a gas main under the path, and a fresh water spring/pond located above the steps in a hollow between the path and A38 bridge embankment.

Options

Liskeard Town Forum believes there is room to provide a suitably inclined ramp, though this may involve using the hollowed ground between the current path and A38 embankment and require some form of zigzag.

Other routes into town could be considered for improvement, but with the topography of the valley these would likely be costly and involve serious engineering work and design.

Liskeard Town Forum Overview

Liskeard Town Forum is an independent, constituted body within Liskeard that supports the community with regeneration, allows residents to suggest ideas for improving the town and have an informal discussion on town wide topics. Liskeard Town Forum works with partner groups in the town such as Liskeard Town Council.

Appendix – Gathered Comments In Support of Improving Connectivity Between Old Road and New Road at Moorswater

The following comments have been gathered from local residents, and support the case for improving the connectivity between Old Road and New Road at Moorswater, Liskeard.

1) Ann Coombe House:

‘Yes, We use the footpath from Coombe to Moorswater regularly. We pay for it to be strimmed and cut back so that it’s safe to walk and WITHHELD NAME, Lamellion Farm, helps by mowing the first section regularly. We then arrive at a very dangerous end to the footpath, faced with a difficult corner by Lime Kiln Cottage, where the council traffic sweeps round over the railway line, and there is no pavement. Our other option is to take a short path which comes out abruptly under the bridge. This is equally dangerous, with visibility round the corner difficult and traffic coming down the hill at a lick. Crossing the road to join the cycle path is a nice walk, but crossing is dangerous, and has to be done swiftly, which isn’t always possible. Walking up the hill into Liskeard from this point is treacherous and a very steep climb, no pavement, fast cars and a blind bend at the top as you emerge into Old Road. The other option, to turn right on oneself, is to walk up to join the path beside the A38 and so walk back into Liskeard along New Road. However, there are steps here and these are impossible for a wheelchair or anyone with limited mobility.

We are therefore limited to walking along the towpath and turning round and walking back.

We use walking, rather than medication, to calm people with restless dementia. Many of these people have a real aversion to turning back and need to feel they are making progress forwards. This means we walk in a circle to return to Coombe. We have few safe circles available to us.

Coombe Lane has no easy visible space for walkers and cars, Lodge Hill is a nightmare for walkers and cars!! The road from the Wool Factory to Moorswater is very dangerous for walkers as many bends are blind and the traffic is fairly constant, particularly from the council depot.

So the towpath is very precious to us.

If there were any way to make the towpath end in a safer way, we would be incredibly grateful. ’

Facebook Comments, Names Removed, but can be shared.

Dobwalls Community Facebook Page.

Joanna

I can't do steps especially with a walker and on my own. I feel a great deal more should be done to allow access for disabilities. Life for us is hard enough without the restriction of access. It's isolating, frustrating and you often feel that if you aren't an abled body you don't matter.

Rebecca

I fully support these steps being removed and being more accessible. The route should allow for better connectivity from Dobwalls and I believe these steps are an absolute hinderance. It is the only safe route to Liskeard from Dobwalls and would love these to be removed. These steps are absolutely ridiculous it stops any connectivity to Liskeard from Dobwalls If you have a pram or

bike. I would love to walk from Dobwalls to Liskeard to collect my essentials but instead have to drive. I fully support these steps being removed.

Liskeard Based Residents.

Iain

I would fully support the installation of ramp to replace the steps on the Liskeard to Dobwalls cycle route at Moorswater. This is also a connecting link to the Caradon Trail.

Annemarie

Good afternoon, I have just seen the Facebook post about the steps at Moorswater by the bridge and thought I would add my support to getting them altered to make the route more accessible. Just this week I drove past a man looking very puzzled as he was trying to work out where to go with his bike and realising that he needed to carry his bike up the steps. Reading your post and discovering that it is actually part of a cycle route really makes it obvious that the steps need to go- or the route altered. I have also recently seen someone pushing a pram up the lane from Moorswater towards the roundabout near Hillfort School. This is such a dangerous thing to do- the road is so narrow and on the bend near the top I have narrowly missed being hit by a bin lorry as I drove uphill and it came down. It's a really tight corner for two vehicles and very poor visibility without adding pedestrians and prams. It may not be the case but it's quite possible that person was pushing the pram that route because they couldn't access the steps at Moorswater. My son has also had to wheel his bike down the steps when he cycled home from school in Liskeard. I hope this helps in your decision making process.

Andy

This is just 1 of the many points where the 'cycle path' is disjointed. It hasn't been thought through strategically. Highway engineers just seem to have plonked the path where there is space and not properly designed it end to end. There is no good way of cycling into town- new road is dangerous with HGVs & coaches not careful enough, overhanging vegetation pushing cyclists towards the centre of the road, footpath comes to several abrupt halts & having to cross the road at dodgy spots & the alternatives involve big gradients.

The cycle & footpaths need a radical redesign & funding if this is to be taken seriously.

Roger

I cycled this path a few times a week while cycling to work in Callington. I have since changed routes to go via Darite & Pensilva because the path is very slipper under the trees when stopping for this crossing!

Large Version of Maps

