

Replacement of Rustic Bench on the 403 Cycle Track

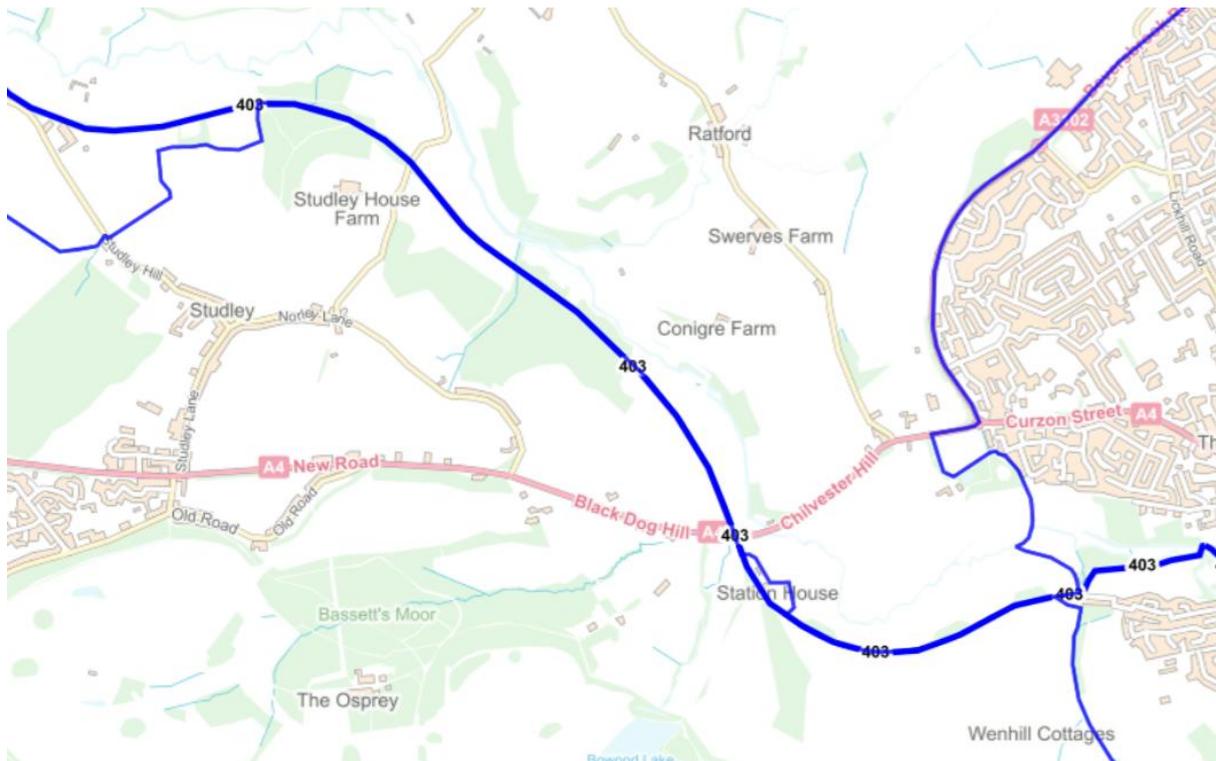
1. Background

National Cycle Network Route 403 is a 42-mile cycle route established by Sustrans in the late 90's. It runs from the Kennett and Avon Canal at Semington and then through Melksham, Lacock, Chippenham, Calne, Avebury, Marlborough and Savernake Forest, before rejoining the canal at Great Bedwyn.

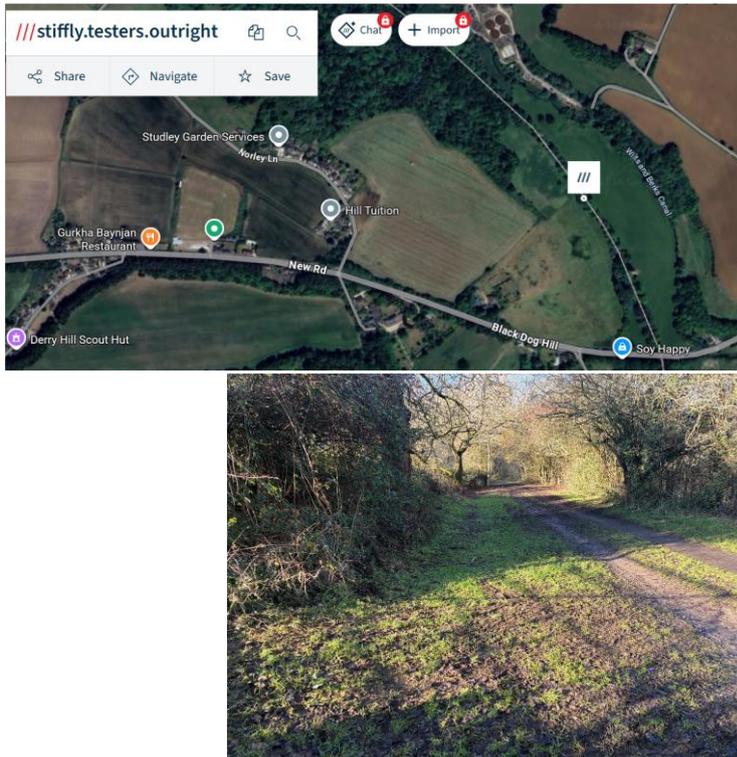
The section from Chippenham to Calne mainly follows the route of the disused railway line, crossing the A4 via the Millenium Bridge near the former Black Dog Halt. This route is popular with walkers, wheelers and cyclists. There are a small number of rustic benches at various points along the route.

Since 2022, the Parish Council has been part of the Cross Council Working Group, bringing together town and parish councils along the route, as well as other stakeholders such as Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way team, Sustainable Calne and Cycle Chippenham.

The route passes through Derry Hill and Studley Parish between from the western edge of Bodnage Wood and the western end of Bowood View, Calne.



One of the rustic benches along the route has collapsed. This was at a point approximately 375m north of the Millenium Bridge:



2. Proposal

It is proposed that the Parish Council replaces the bench on a like-for-like basis.

A quote for £75 has been provided by Calne Men's Shed for the supply of a replacement bench. A total budget of £95 would be required, to allow for the procurement of two bags of postcrete.

The bench would be installed by volunteers working under the direction of a responsible councillor, with a prepared Risk and Method Statement. Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Team have kindly undertaken a utility search for this location.

Permission for the replacement bench has been granted by both Wiltshire Council (the leaseholder) and the Bowood Estate (the freeholder).

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council authorises a budget of £95 to replace the collapsed bench on the Route 403 Cycle Track at a point approximately 375m north of the Millenium Bridge.

Cllr John Barnes
20th February 2026