



## **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOOTPATH/CYCLE PATH**

**This path is closed due to a severe landslip and failure of the river retaining wall. Regrettably we were unable to maintain the barriers at the slip site in a safe condition as some users went to extreme lengths to remove them.**

**The path will remain closed until it is safe to re-open and the possible timescale is as follows:**

- **Site investigation and design work (delayed from March by the Covid19 outbreak) started on 8<sup>th</sup> June and may take between 4 and 8 weeks to complete.**
- **Once a design for the repairs has been completed (we are expecting to have to sheet pile approximately 100m of retaining wall from a barge and then re-construct a large section of the path) consents will be sought from the Environment Agency and for any protected species that may be present. This may take between 2 and 12 weeks.**
- **Once consents have been granted, we will need to appoint a contractor – normal procurement rules would require this to be by competitive tender which could take 6 to 8 weeks unless we can get dispensation to appoint direct without tender.**
- **Once a contractor is appointed they will have to programme in the work – at this stage it is a complete unknown how long this could be.**
- **The work itself will then need to be undertaken and could possibly take around 12 weeks.**
- **Funding for the work needs to be secured. A large proportion of the West Kent Public Rights of Way budget has been set aside for this work, and other sources of funding are being looked at but there is a possibility that the work may have to be spread over two financial years.**
- **There is a very slim chance that the work could be completed by late Autumn but a more realistic estimate would be Spring/Summer 2021.**
- **When work at the slip site commences and that part of the path can be made secure, we would hope to re-open the cul-de-sacs on both sides but regrettably, if users tried to use it as a through route during the works we would have to reinstate the full closure.**
- **At present, these timescales are our best guesses and we will update these notices as things become clearer.**
- **For further information, please email [david.munn@kent.gov.uk](mailto:david.munn@kent.gov.uk) – West Kent PROW Manager.**