

Cllr Jo Robb

River Thames Champion

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Peter Collins
Operations Manager
Environment Agency

Via email: peter.collins@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Dear Peter,

Marsh Lock Footbridge

I write to express my concern at the ongoing closure of the Marsh Lock footbridge and to request an update on the timescales for its repair and re-opening.

The Marsh Lock footbridge is one of the most beautiful and popular sections of the Thames Path National Trail. Visitors and locals alike use the footbridge year-round. The footbridge has now been closed for safety reasons since April 2022, with no clarity as to when it might re-open.

As you know, the Thames Path National Trail team negotiated a temporary diversion over private land pending the repair of the footbridge. However, I understand that this permission may be rescinded shortly because of lack of progress or clarity around the repair and reopening of the footbridge.

The loss of this temporary diversion could mean that easy access by foot from Henley to the fields upstream of Marsh Lock would be severed, with serious impacts on the amenity of the Thames Path. Residents and visitors use Marsh Lock footbridge to access the “wilder” fields upstream of the town. The beaches lining the field upstream of Marsh Lock also provide popular informal swim spots.

The River Thames and the Thames Path are vitally important parts of the visitor economy of South Oxfordshire and are a key reason why our residents love living here.

I understand that the footbridge must be safe. However, the lack of clarity around timescales for the restoration of the footbridge is a source of deep concern and dismay for local residents and for our council, which has committed to working towards better access to the River Thames.

Please could you provide an update on progress on this project and likely timescales? I would ask that this project be prioritised as a vital project in restoring the amenity and accessibility of the River Thames in this iconic location.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Jo Robb
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