

Riverside Walk

Our Vision: January 2026

Liss Riverside Walk is a well-used path connecting Liss centre and Liss Forest. It has the status of a Public Footpath and Permissive Cycleway. The walk follows part of the old Longmoor Military Railway, dismantled in 1972 and now holds the status of a local nature reserve. The entire walk is divided into 10 compartments.

Compartment 10 (from the entrance on Station Road to just past the picnic and play area) is owned by and managed by Liss Parish Council (LPC) and covers approximately 1.2 hectares. There are 10 allotment plots growing fruits, vegetable and flowers covering an area of approximately 0.2 hectares. The remainder of the Riverside Walk (running to the junction with Forest Road) is the responsibility of East Hampshire District Council (EHDC). LPC works closely with EHDC to ensure a joined up management approach.

The Riverside Walk site is predominantly broadleaved deciduous woodland with the footpath dissecting the site and a small area of amenity grassland with picnic benches and a play area. The River Rother runs south to north throughout the woodland. The woodland is generally heavily shaded with high proportion of nettles alongside the footpath, limiting the opportunity for woodland flora to flourish. Invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage are present just outside of the site boundary. LPC is committed to the monitoring and removal of these plants as they spread rapidly and outcompete native species. A formal management plan is in place to tackle these.

The Riverside Walk is recognised for its great potential for informal recreation - walking and cycling in a natural environment. Dogs are welcome, but owners are expected to clear up after them and keep them under close control. LPC will continue to manage the Walk as a green and open space, offering an attractive and accessible place for those living in, or visiting the area, to enjoy the outdoors and nature. LPC is currently working to improve the path surface. LPC is also working with a group of volunteers – the Riverside Rangers – to enhance the entire length of the Riverside Walk, following completion of a License with EHDC to enable work on their land.

LPC will look to maintain and enhance the 'green corridor' of the Riverside Walk, and try to mitigate against the detrimental effects that a long distance footpath can have on the environment. LPC is working to install bird and bat boxes. In addition, LPC will continue to support the conservation of the River Rother and flood alleviation in partnership with others.