



Sign requirements at Compton Lock

18th April 2019

Jo Nicholson

1.0. Background

Compton Lock forms part of the Itchen Navigation, and sits within the Parish of Twyford. The land south of the lock is owned by Twyford Parish Council (TPC), and the land north of the lock belongs to Hampshire County Council.

The area is of outstanding beauty and is much visited by locals all year round. During the warmer weather the area attracts many visitors.

Due to wear and tear of the dog access steps into the lock, new wooden steps were built into the water at the lock (Summer 2018). The new steps were mentioned in an insurance company visit, and the insurance company have stated that signage prohibiting swimming at the lock needs to be in place.

People have swam at the lock for decades, if you talk to anyone about the lock, most will remark how they swam there as a child. It is an accepted local place to go in the water. Twyford Parish Council have put up temporary signs at the lock, in response to the insurance company requirements, which were met with surprise and disappointment by the locals. They have largely been ignored and removed.

Moreover, the many visitors to the lock can leave huge amounts of rubbish. Due to the location of the lock, bins are not able to be placed at the lock, and collected as part of refuse collection. Most rubbish is collected by kind locals.

The site is visited by local police, and Winchester Neighbourhood Services also visit the area to help minimise any anti social behaviour.

Signs have been at the lock in the past, and wooden signs have been removed and burnt. There have been cases of vandalism in the past.

2.0. Demographics of users of the lock

The site is visited by locals and dog walkers all year round. It is typically the retired and local dog walkers who voluntarily pick up litter as they pass the area. Some retired volunteers specifically venture out to pick up litter.

During the warmer weather, the site is visited by families with young children with picnics and who may paddle.

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As schools break up, particularly post GCSE season, groups of teenagers congregate at the lock. Some of the groups respond to taking litter home with them. Some do not. Some groups will have bbq's. Most of these groups are seemingly from out of the area, arriving by train from Southampton and Eastleigh.

When large groups of youth dominate the lock, less families and locals visit the area.

The site is also advertised on local natural swimming sites, and therefore the site is used by swimmers. Although this is not endorsed by the Parish Council.

3.0. Access to the site

Large groups of youth tend to arrive by train to Shawford Station, and walk long the tow path to access the lock.

Other access points is from Twyford, down Church lane and across the Water Meadow.

Other locals may access the site from Shawford Road, and across Berry Meadow.

There are no information signs at any of these points.

There are dual purpose bins located at the main access points to the approach to the Lock, but not at the lock or meadows.

4.0. Objectives of the signs

Twyford Parish Council have two objectives in installing signs at Compton Lock.

Firstly, to meet the insurance company requirement, to publicise that no swimming is allowed. These are to be A4 signs on the side of the wooden steps.

Secondly, to convey the social public responsibility of users of the lock to take their rubbish home, respect the area, and consider other users.

The points we therefore need the signs to convey are:

- Love the Lock / enjoy it
- Compton Lock and surrounding area is a special place – please help keep it special and enjoyable to all
- The steps out of the water are to help dogs to prevent bank erosion – they are not there to invite swimmers
- Fires and barbeques are dangerous to others and wildlife – please refrain
- Remove all rubbish you bring with you
- No camping allowed
- Thank you

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However, the signs need to be minimal, not too many words, and in words that appeal to the demographics of the users, with a call to action. The signs also need to sit well in the natural beautiful surroundings.

Size / location and materials

There are three types of signs:

1. No swimming to be A4 located on side of the dog steps
2. Durable signs encouraging responsible behaviour at the entrance approaches to the lock
3. Option is a sign at the lock itself, but TPC are conscious of not spoiling the environment. Please advise.

The fittings and material of the sign need to be non flammable, and secure so it can not be removed.

Brief to designer

Twyford Parish Council require help to design a sign which meets the objectives, conveying the message required, whilst being well received by the audience, and meeting the surroundings.

Budget

TPC have been awarded a grant of £1,350 for the signs including design and production and installation.

Three separate quotations are therefore required:

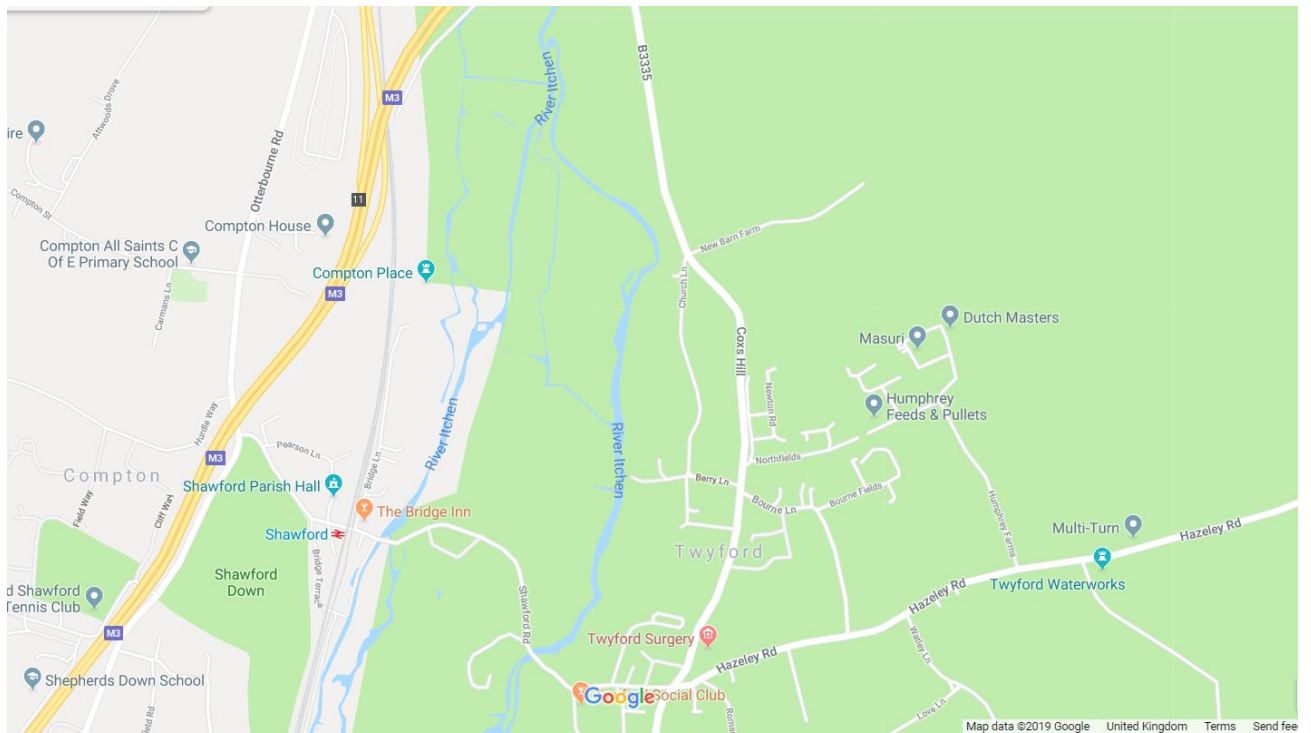
1. Design work of the signs (split by how many signs required)
2. Production of the signs (split by the different signs)
3. Installation of the signs (split by the different signs)

Timescales

Ideally the signs are to be installed in May 2019.

Next Steps

- Quotation provided
- Approval and design



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