



Rossendale and Rochdale Railway Railway Path and Greenway The Rakehead Lane and Blackwood Road Section

Map 1. Plan showing the proposed reconstruction of the existing rough railway path to achieve an even 1:20 gradient on the slopes and a good surface to give access for all



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Rakehead Lane showing the proposed entrance to be made through the railway boundary wall just down hill of the remaining bridge parapet. These bridge parapets will be attractive features clearly visible from the path approach on either side. They could be painted in the project colours



Rakehead Lane looking down hill. The existing path crossing is in the foreground and the proposed crossing point is shown marked out with 'elephants footprints' and breaking through the boundary wall at a convenient point downhill from the original bridge parapet walls which can remain as a feature

Rossendale and Rochdale Railway Path and Greenway Map 2. Rakehead Lane Crossing

The Rakehead railway bridge remains but is infilled as are the approach cuttings either side. The existing rough path climbs steeply either side, and inexplicably crosses the road much higher up the hill than necessary and at a point where there is only limited visibility for traffic coming down the hill. The scheme shown here aims to achieve a 1:20 gradient on either side of the road with the minimum climb. It does not propose to reopen the bridge because (i) we have no idea of the condition of the bridge and (ii) we need to make a connection to this road for local access.

- 1. Path from the 2 Tunnels to be rebuilt to standard 3m width.
- or less on fill as shown in the section.
- In this area the path should be following the floor of the gully. 3.
- abandoned path. It should NOT be removed from site.
- road crossing with "elephants footprints" to define route.
- from the neighbouring garden.
- having climbed over the section past the bridge.
- 8. The path continues in the standard section.



2. Veer away from the boundary (and nearby houses) to start climbing at 1:20

4. Cut through this area of fill on top of the original railway cutting as shown in the section. This material can be used for the lower sections of path built on fill, or mounded up in a heap on the line of the original to be

5. The newly built ramp, over 100 long, should now reach the road at about plus 5.0m above the original track bed. Break through the boundary walls just downhill from the bridge parapets, make flush kerbs, and mark out the

6. Veer into the hillside to win material if required and move to the path away

7. Construct lower level in fill to achieve 1:20 gradient. On this side the ramp will need to be about 80m long on account of the original railway itself

Section B: Showing the path cutting away dropping at a gradient of 1:20 through the fill west of Rakehead Lane

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Rossendale and Rochdale Railway Path and Greenway Map 3. The climb to Blackwood Road - proposals to ease the gradient to 1:20

- 1. Existing path along the railway corridor to be reconstructed to a 3m wide bitmac surface as shown in the standard path cross section.
- 2. The existing path climbs steeply at a gradient of approximately 1:6. In order to ease this to the desired 1:20, the climb or ramp needs to be made some 3 times longer, namely 200m in length. The best way of doing this will be to ramp up as shown on a new bank (A) constructed with material won from the upper section (B) all made in cut for a balanced cut and fill operation.
- Intersect the existing path at grade so that it can still be used by 3. pedestrians.
- 4. This upper section needs to be excavated to provide material for the lower section. Note that the existing field gate edge path at the top could be abandoned.
- 5. Route continues to join Blackwood Road on the level. Reconstruct this as in section C and remove the existing barriers.
- 6. Maintain the lower path, but to a narrower width of 2m, to link to Baldwin Street for the valuable link to Rock Hill Road and a large residential area.
- 7. This wide verge could be formalised with a path near the riverside and a line of trees to separate off the industrial loading area.
- 8. Provide for this link through to Railway Street. Mark Street and Heath Hill Drive.
- 9. This upper section of the path can be retained and improved for a direct link to the local housing.

Section A: The

lower section of the

Earthworks with compacted material

excavated from the upper part of the

climb, or from imported materials if available free of charge. Grass or

plant this surface as required. The

advantage of maintaining a grassed

bank will be that this will provide

welcome views over the valley

Blackwood Climb

Keep all trees on

the slope above

the new ramp



2m





central camber laid on 250mm thick compacted stone 3.5m wide, in turn laid on reinforced polypropylene fabric

Scale 1:50

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