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**Footpath 74
 towards West
 Clandon**

Location	Between Back Lane and The Kissing Gate
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 400 metre Public footpath running between wide old hedgerows bordering Clandon Manor Farm, Cherry Cottage, the Forte Estate and Clandon Regis Golf Course. o Excellent mix of hedgerow species. Indigenous seedlings, especially ash are replacing the spaces left by fallen elms. o Large amount of standing and fallen dead elm wood which has been carefully left in place to rot over the last 12 years. Some standing dead oak. Some large old elm stumps are still providing valuable shelter. o Ditch along the whole length introduces fluctuating water levels in winter. Dry in summer. o Good variety of plants, wildflowers, mosses, epiphytes and lichens. See attached Species list o The footpath affords easy access and appreciation of this woodland habitat
Habitats	✓ A rich variety of habitat for insects, birds, mosses, lichens including bramble patches, grassy verges, ditch, low bushy shrubs and tall woodland canopy.
Species Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See attached Species list ✓ A variety of birds feed, shelter and nest including blackbirds, long-tailed tits, woodpecker as well as owls and bats ✓ 34 species of moth and 41 species of flower and grass have been identified in the vicinity of this woodland path ✓ Stoats have been seen with young, attracted by the nearby rabbits in nearby fields. Deer and Squirrel
Current Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For 12 years the footpath has been monitored and managed by Peter Smart at Cherry Cottage. Fallen dead elms cleared into the bottom of the hedgerows or logged and stacked beside the path. Footpath is mown regularly during the growing season to maintain good and pleasant public access along the footpath. o Where dead elms have been topped to provide safe passage they have been stacked to provide shelter and compost. o Hedgerow cuttings are piled to provide shelter and compost. Hedgehogs are believed to use one of these.
Management Guidance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Continue to clear dead elm wood obstructing the public path and leave to rot in hedgerow bottom or log and stack. 2 Ensure contractors are aware of ecological value of elm stumps, dead elm rotting and to leave them undisturbed. 3 Continue to leave this habitat as untouched as possible especially standing dead wood without hindering the use of the public footpath. 4 Communicate the value of this habitat to Clandon Regis Golf Course and to the Ryde Farm estate so they are aware. 5 Protect this excellent diversity of habitats from any local developments or interference by applying to GBC to extend the protection of an "Area of High Ecological Quality (AHEQ) " to this Footpath under their Local Plan Policy 10EP. AHEQ status already exists for the adjacent land between Fairways 5/6 and 7 of Clandon Regis Gold Club so an extension would be appropriate.

