

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: PROPOSED CARRONSHORE BRIDGE - ACQUISITION OF LAND**  
**Meeting: EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 20 OCTOBER 2015**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In order to implement the Council's transport policies, it is sometimes necessary to acquire land. The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to acquire land for a pedestrian/cycle bridge in the area of Carronshore. The project has reached the point where the necessary land has been identified and negotiations for purchase have not been successful. It is therefore recommended that authority is provided for the use of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers. A plan of the affected land is attached.

**2. CARRONSHORE BRIDGE**

- 2.1 There is a proposal to put in place a pedestrian/cycle bridge which would link the communities of Carronshore, Carron, Bainsford and Langlees as well as completing a major missing link in the wider Helix Path network.
- 2.2 In order for the bridge to be constructed there is a requirement to secure land from its owners as shown on the attached plan. Dawson Trust own the land to the north of the proposed site and Scottish Water own the land to the south of the site. The river bed is believed to be in the ownership of Dawson Trust although the Crown Estate have intimated that they consider that they have landownership interests in this area.
- 2.3 A report was submitted to the Executive on 17 March 2015 stating a funding proposal had been submitted to the sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, to obtain an allocation of funding to construct the proposed bridge. This funding proposal was successful and Falkirk Council secured £227,750 of the £455,500 needed to construct the bridge. The Executive also agreed the recommendation to enter into land negotiations to acquire the land for this proposal. At the time of writing the March Executive report initial discussions with the land owners were positive.
- 2.4 Unfortunately in the interim period land negotiations have been significantly delayed due to the landowners, both Scottish Water and Dawson Trust, being unwilling to engage in further negotiations regarding the proposed bridge due to land matters in other parts of the Falkirk Council area. This delay could jeopardise the funding for the project.
- 2.5 The proposed bridge is considered an important strategic link in the Council's path network in terms of providing access to employment, utilities and recreational areas for the public, particularly those who live in Bainsford, Langlees, Carron and Carronshore, and visitors to Falkirk.

- 2.6 Owing to the significance of the proposal and the fact that a proportion of funding has been secured, it is recommended that Members authorise the use of CPO powers to acquire the land.

### **3. POLICY, FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Policy Implications– the project is in accordance with a number of Council policies. The relevant policies include: Falkirk Council Local Transport Strategy (2014), Falkirk Council Core Plan (2010), Falkirk Local Development Plan (2015), and Falkirk Green Network Strategy (2013).
- 3.2 Legal Implications – land acquisition and access documentation will need to be put in place, either through negotiation or through CPO powers.
- 3.3 Financial Implications – funding has been secured from the Sustainable Transport charity, Sustrans, to the value of £227,750. Other funding bodies will be approached to secure further funding to construct the bridge. However, delays in this process may arise due to land issues. The funding secured so far is more than sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition costs.
- 3.4 Personnel Implications – none

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the promotion of Compulsory Purchase Orders under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and/or the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the acquisition of the land ownership interests outlined in this report as shown on the attached plan and subsequent referral to the Scottish Ministers, for the construction of the Carronshore Bridge

.....  
**Director of Development Services**

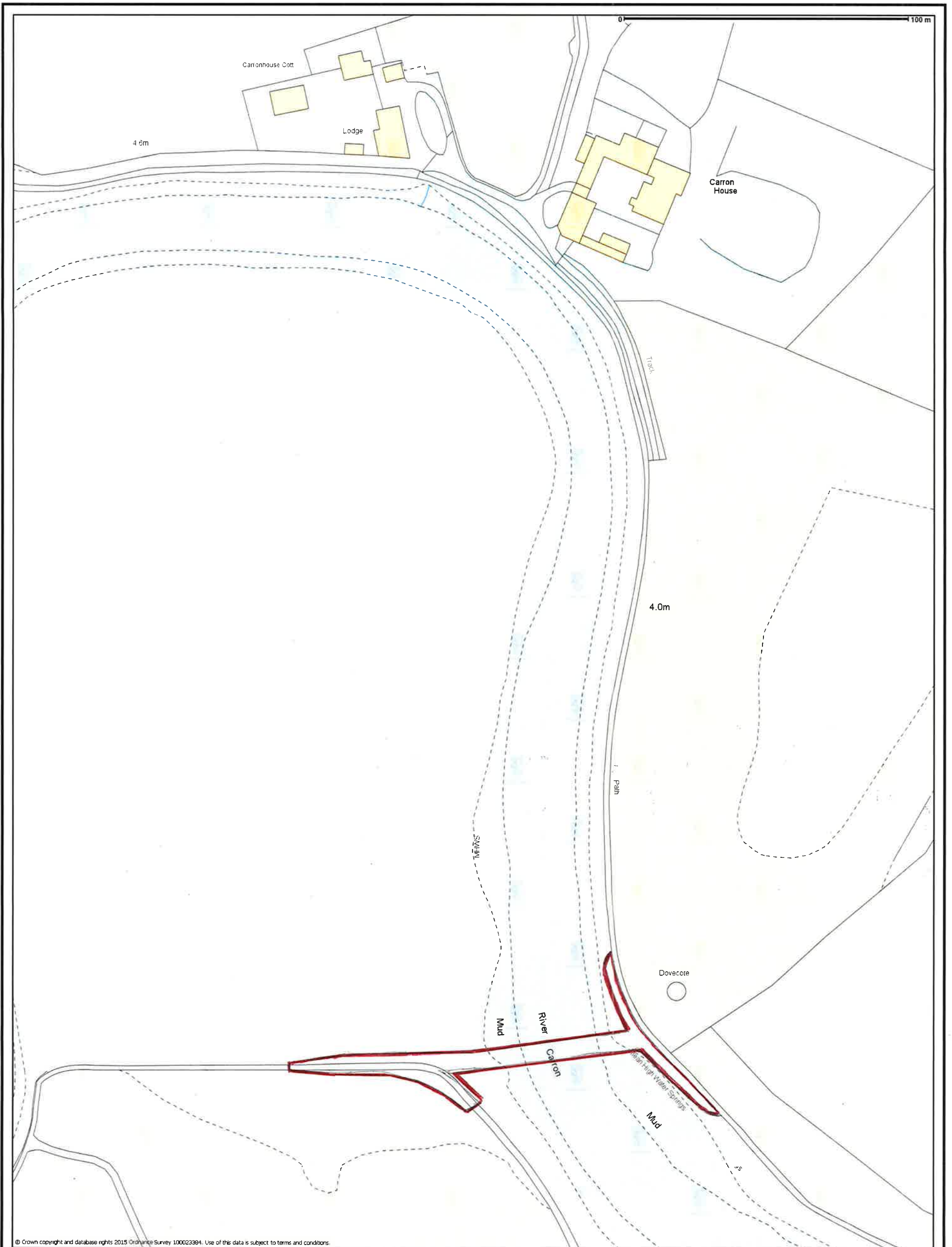
**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

Contact Officer: Lynn Slavin, Transport Planning Officer, Tel. 01324 504818

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Executive Committee Paper '*Community Links and Smarter Measures Funding Applications*'  
17 March 2015.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers should contact Lynne Slavin , Ext.  
4818



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100023384. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100023384. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Scale 1:1250

Location and area required  
for proposed new footbridge at  
Abbothaugh over the river Carron  
Area delineated by red line  
Scale: 1:1250



**Falkirk Council**