

Footpath and Rights of Way Report for May 2019

General

1. The vegetation is starting to get into overdrive. I am clearing limited critical areas and will contact DCC to see what their maintenance schedule is.
2. Worst areas are footpath 14 (Anchoring Hill behind the Pub), and first length along bridleway 5, Colliver Lane.
3. I has a meeting with the new Chairman of the Parish Council today to discuss various issues.

Major Issues

4. Rickety Bridge (officially known as Bicton Bridge)
 - a. Due to the dry weather the ground is hard although the mid month heavy showers did temporarily soften some areas where water collects.
 - b. Hopefully DCC are mobilising their contractor as many people are still using the old bridge.
5. Strategy for replacing finger posts
 - a. The Parish Council Chairman (John Fudge) has ordered the two finger posts in most need of replacement. They are ready for collection.
6. I continue to get complaints about the steps down to Clamour Bridge (slippery etc), footpath 5. I do not think it is all that bad but due to the high footfall needs to be given priority. I am liaising with DCC.
7. Wet patches / areas
 - a. Drainage works have seen 2 pipes relieve the flooding along ROW 309 (Pitscombe Lane)
 - b. The long flooding area Lea Lane track (North) ROW 310 did not seem to occur after the recent mid-month heavy showers – there may have been drainage works in the field to east which may have sorted it (feedback from anyone in the know please)
 - c. There is a low spot along Little Chockenhole Lane (track) ROW 306 near the orchard which makes walking difficult after rain.
8. The steps leading from Otterton Bridge to the riverside footpath going south has a problem with one of the steps appears to be rotting and is moving under foot. DCC was contacted in February
9. There is a noticeable increase in the number of people NOT picking up after their dogs. Everyone knows this is a legal requirement but a small minority continue to pollute the countryside.

Minor Issues

10. The gate into footpath 13 (Brendon Lane) off Ladram Road is not closing. Geoff Porter has volunteered to try and fix it.
11. The finger post in the field along Watering Lane PROW has been displaced – probably by recent ploughing. It needs to be re planted. However, the base of the post is rotting.
12. Coastal Path – finger post at Smallstones Point (SY094847) is getting wobbly - the base is hidden but is probably has some rot.

Feedback

13. I continue to get feedback from residents which are most helpful. Many thanks to those taking the time to communicate with me.

Iain Ure

24th May 2019