

## NSC FOOTPATHS TEAM MEETING

1st September 2025

**Present** : Graeme (Chair) ,Gail, Liz, Amanda, Diana, Midge.

Apologies: Ann.

### General issues:

1. **Directional signage** missing or broken on most paths, including discs to mark **Devonshire Heartland Way**. **ACTION GB to request supply** from DCC. If no response we may have to purchase and install ourselves
2. **Bridges**. We have several wooden bridges crossing streams (esp FPs 1 and 4) and a larger one crossing the River Creedy (FP 12). One needs soonest repair to safety railings (see below under FP 4). All the others are showing signs of age and wear . All require a structural survey. **ACTION GB to ask DCC to carry out**. If no response we may have to commission and fund ourselves. **Requires discussion at our next meeting**.
3. **Access to Paths 3 and 12 from A377 is very difficult** and hazardous for the unwary. Paths 2 and 3 are only accessible from the A377 **Action: Requires further discussion at next meeting**.
4. **Undergrowth is a regular issue** esp on Path 4 Marsh Lane but also Paths 1 and 9 along narrow or kettled sections. **ACTION** GB has written to DCC asking for details of their maintenance contract. No response. **GB to make FOI request for maintenance contract details**.

### FP 1 Riscombe Hill to Sherwood via Venny Cleave (GM and GB)

1. **Urgent issues:-** Winter and Spring deep mud areas identified. **ACTION GB to discuss land drainage with John Quicke** with option to bid for DCC funding of work?? **Discuss at next meeting**
2. Steep and hazardous slope from Sherwood driveway into wooded valley at start of third section of walk. Action: Handrail and , possibly, steps required? **ACTION GB to discuss work with John Quicke** with option to bid for DCC funding?? **Discuss at next meeting**

### Other Issues

3. PUBLIC FOOTPATH lettering on main signs has faded away leaving just plain green in at least two places. Replacement signage is GB's barn. **ACTION GB to report to DCC**. If no action we may have to replace ourselves.

### Bridleway 2a and FP2 Old Whitestone Lane (AW)

**Urgent Issues:-None**

**Other issues:-**

1. Shrub and upgrowth on first section of Bridleway now covering most of the new forestry trackway that DCC installed in 2019. GB has contacted John Quicke. So far no response. **Discuss at next meeting**.
2. Directional signage either obscured by growth or missing

### FP 3 Oldaway Lane (AW)

**Urgent Issues include:-**

1. Stallion (over friendly) loose in field crossed by FP.
2. Blockage of FP by "temporary" fencing

3. Unusable gates
4. New cattle grid very difficult to cross.  
**Action for 1 to 4 above :- AW in regular contact with landowners . AW to contact GB if no results.**
5. Access to path is via A377 only. Very difficult and hazardous for the unwary. **Action: Requires further discussion at next meeting.**

#### **FP 4 aka Devon Heartland Way (AQ and DS)**

**Urgent issue :-** Repair of broken safety railings on footbridge over Jackmoor Brook near Langford

**ACTION:-**GB to report to DCC ASAP.

**Other issues:-**

1. Dense upgrowth in Marsh Lane section from the footbridge over Creedy to Railway Crossing requires at least two cuts during the summer/autumn . This year PC had to get clearance done to keep the path open. **ACTION GB to include in report to DCC.**
2. Wooden bridges x 4 require survey to assess safety and devise maintenance schedule  
**ACTION GB to include in report to DCC.**

#### **FP 5 Old Norton (MK)**

**No urgent Issues**

**Other Issues:-**

No-one locally knows who owns the land on which the [section of footpath \(a sunken green lane at this point\)](#) sits between the [field corner by Glen Acre](#) and the emergence of the path onto the roadway. [Ecclesiastical Commissioners?](#) **ACTION MK to raise with owners of Glen Acre.**

#### **FP 6 Sweetham/Norton (MK)**

**Urgent Issue:-** [Steep and hazardous steps descending to east side of Sweetham Water pose a trip/3m fall hazard.](#) [Local](#) walkers are already taking an informal diversion around the field edge [to avoid the steps](#), but the landowner could make this an alternative permissive path. **ACTION MK** to contact and discuss with Richard Browne Landowner

**Other Issues:-**

1. Deep mud in vicinity of Sweetham Water and no crossing structure other than a stone on each side which will probably be submerged during rainy spells. **ACTION MK** to include in discussion with Richard Browne on diversionary permissive path.
2. Difficult steps leading down to second (unnamed) stream to west of pony/pond fields. **ACTION MK** to include in discussion with landowner Richard Browne.

#### **FP 7 Sweetham (MK)**

**Urgent Issue:-**barbed wire from collapsed fence hidden in undergrowth and dangerous to walkers and their dogs. **ACTION:- MK to discuss with Richard Browne Landowner**

**Other Issues:-**

1. Heavy closure on heavy double gates at north end of footpath where it joins road. **ACTION MK** to raise with landowner Richard Browne at some point on future.
2. At time of survey, footpath was overgrown but users were able to walk on adjacent cultivated land as crop had been taken. **ACTION MK** to check whether the footpath is accessible at times when users cannot walk on crop land.

#### **FP8 Pathfield from West Town to Tin Pit Hill (GB and LF)**

**Urgent Issues:-**

1. Very difficult gate closures have now both been adjusted and/or replaced by John Quicke as requested.
2. Stile in mid-field cannot be used from direction of Tin Pit Hill as climb to first step is much too high.. Walkers are using an unofficial diversion. New bottom stile step required.  
**ACTION GB to discuss work with John Quicke** with option to bid for DCC funding?? **Discuss at next meeting**
3. Winter and Spring deep mud areas identified around same stile. Walkers are using an unofficial diversion. **ACTION GB to discuss land drainage with John Quicke** with option to bid for DCC funding of work?? **Discuss at next meeting**

**Other Issues:-**Section of path kettled between hedge and barbed wire fence required upgrowth clearance at least once each year . **ACTION GB to discuss with DCC**

### **FP 9 Smallbrook to Hookway (SC)**

**No urgent issues.**

**Other issues:-**

Undergrowth on narrow uphill section alongside Quicke field as path leaves Smallbrook Lane needs cutting back each summer at least once. **ACTION GB to discuss with DCC**

### **FP 10 Bidwell Lane (DS)**

**No urgent issues**

Other issues :-Signage

### **FP 11 Bidwell Barton (DS)**

??

### **FP 12 Ashfields (DS)**

**Urgent issues:-**

1. Path runs hard alongside River Creedy for 50 yards. No fencing to prevent accidental visits into the River. High risk for children and dogs esp when River is high ACTION: **ACTION GB to discuss land drainage with John Dean as landowner** with option to bid for DCC funding of work?? **Discuss at next meeting**
2. Access to and from path at one end is via A377. Very difficult and hazardous for the unwary.  
**Action: Requires further discussion at next meeting.**

**Other Issues:-Marsh Barton Lane**-section that runs from A377 to Creedy Footbridge and provides access to FPs 12 and 4 does not appear to belong to anyone. Can it be adopted as either unofficial or official PROW?. **Action: Further discussion at later date.**

\*PP1

Very boggy along Marsh Lane and slippery up the slope into the field. Gate at end of Lane needs adjusting.

Directional signage required. Action: Graeme to sake Liz Oldridge for the discs which John Quicke has.

\*PP 3. Needs resurfacing. This has been agreed by Jenner Homes. Action: Graeme to make contact.