

**SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD**  
**(3 October 2013)**

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**Footpath Project**

**A call for volunteers!**

We are fortunate to now have 4 committed volunteers working to coordinate activities in the area.

There are various ways that volunteers can get involved, from being part of the coordinating group to turning out to install a kissing gate or contributing to the walks guide.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please get in touch.

The purpose of this report is to set out the 3 strands of work that the project now covers, following on from last year.

**1. Kissing gates**

The coordinators have set up a schedule, working with the Rights of Way team, to work through the remaining kissing gates. They plan to hold an activity day on the first Monday of every month. Here is the schedule for the coming months, and also recent sessions:

- 5 August 2013 – Downton (completed 2 gates)
- 2 September 2013 – Coombe Bissett (Completed 2 gates)
- **7 October 2013 – Whiteparish**
- **4 November 2013 – Winterslow**
- **2 December 2013 - TBC**

Keep an eye on the website [www.southernwiltshirewalks.weebly.com](http://www.southernwiltshirewalks.weebly.com) for the future dates. ***If you are interested in coming just let us know via the contact form on the site or email me.***

**2. Walks Guide**

Working with the volunteers, we have decided to slightly alter the format for the guide.

Instead of focusing on walks in every parish we thought it might be more engaging to set the guide around local sites of interest, historical, environmental etc.

We came up with the list below, but there could be more sites and there could be some that could come off for whatever reason. The idea is that there are so many places of interest in our area that we wanted to highlight this to encourage families to enjoy the countryside. Once they had visited a location we will give them more information on longer walks. The rationale for moving away from a specific walks guide aimed at a more experienced walker was that this market seems to be filled by guides that already exist and more experienced walkers plan their walks using their own OS maps. Using a point of interest to engage less

experienced walkers would have the benefit of encouraging people to recognise the interesting places on their doorstep and enjoy their local countryside.

Three volunteers have begun to do research on the locations below using a template. Once we have completed templates we will get together to jointly edit the work. We will then engage a design and print firm to deliver the copies. The mode of distribution and sales is to be discussed further between the group.

***We welcome feedback on the sites below and if you would like to play a part in putting this information together please do get in touch.***

- Pepperbox <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/pepperbox-hill/>
- Moot <http://www.downtonmoot.co.uk/>
- Clarendon Palace <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/clarendon-way.htm> & <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=er5hW8SJKLQ>
- Langley Wood (fire flies, black lane) <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/nnr/1007093.aspx>
- Bentley Wood [http://www.pittonandfarley.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Programme\\_spring\\_summer\\_2013-1.pdf](http://www.pittonandfarley.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Programme_spring_summer_2013-1.pdf)
- Walks into New Forest
- Standlynch Weir <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3262899>
- Clearbury Ring <http://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=11555>
- Figsbury Ring <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/figsbury-ring/>
- Roche Court <http://sculpture.uk.com/visit/>
- Ebble Walk (Coombe Bissett to Stratford Tony) <https://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=coombe+bissett&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=0x4873ea9397243269:0x8b8afa3e3834bdeb,Coombe+Bissett,+Wilts&hl=en&gl=uk&ei=VkJGeUJLUlqKg0wWX3oHADg&ved=0CJkBELYD>
- Silver Street/Tunnel Hill, Alderbury
- Britford Church
- Farley Church & Almshouses <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-320017-the-almshouses-also-known-as-fox-s-hospit>
- River Bourne Community Farm <http://www.riverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk/>

### 3. Linking footpaths

Following on from last year's focus on footpaths residents have identified improving footpath links between villages as a priority. To show that it is possible, over the last 2 years the Whaddon to Grimstead path has now almost been achieved with a combination of parish funding and money from the CATG.

The volunteers have started to debate how we take this strand forward. Although this theme originated as an idea to clear and improve links between parish boundaries, as these are more likely to be overlooked, it has evolved to look at prioritising the most practical links, which could be within villages too. For example, improving footpaths within villages that link a part of the village to the school.

In order to take this forward we would like to identify 2 routes that can be improved or created this year. ***If you know of a project that would benefit your community please let us know by 31 October 2013.***