

Whiteparish Rights of Way Survey January 2012

The survey was undertaken in early January. The weather had been wet before the survey started, so this was taken into account when assessing the condition of the surface of each right of way. The main issues from 2011 have been included for information.

There are 3 footpaths that were impassable when inspected, these being 1, 2 and 28, and bridleway 39. I have not included those rights of way with, for example, trees fallen across the path but with a way available round the obstruction. A number of paths are restricted by growth of brambles etc. particularly at stiles. This is surprising at this time of year and it would be sensible to do something about this before the growing season. There is a requirement for additional waymarking in many locations in the Parish, and many of the stiles are in a state of disrepair with broken or missing treads, steps missing altogether or unstable posts.

Footpaths close to the village are used by people of a wide age range and often just to get about the village. I think existing stiles should be replaced by gates as soon as possible as a matter of Parish Council policy, as stiles are a barrier to some. For example the stiles on footpaths 4 and 8 should be replaced with gates.

ROW	Map location	length	Description
1	(B2) 2011	3.0km	footpath Path narrow at Welsteads Corner. Diversion signed as permissive path near Whelpley Farm, footpath sign removed.
	2012		Path impassable due to overgrown hedge and brambles at Welsteads corner. Path being used as compost heap for grass cuttings, not possible to avoid. Unable to find the footpath at Whelpley Farm, needs waymarkers.
2	(B3) 2011	2.7km	footpath Impassable on the proper route due to permanent electric fencing near junction with path 11. Path not restored after agricultural operations near Moor Farm.
	2012		Additional electric fencing erected near junction with path 11, had to pull out fencing to get past, and electric fence across stile posts. Condition of path poor near Moor Farm, very deep mud. Pathway used to feed cattle.
3	(C3) 2012	0.4km	footpath No significant issues.
4	(C3) 2012	1.7km	footpath Broken stile at caravan park means waymarkers are on the ground.
5	(C4) 2011	1.1km	footpath Way markers would be useful near Chadwell Farm. Stream near Parish boundary, impassable in wet conditions without wellies.
	2012		New bridge constructed by Wiltshire Council over stream. Still no waymarkers.
6	(D3) 2011	1.3km	footpath Chicken pens blocking path in garden of Lion Cottage. Flood at Stile near junction with path 4, not able to follow path, no easy way round. Broken stile near Common Farm. Way marker at junction with path 10 would be useful.
	2012		Little or no waymarking on route. Stile lower step broken. Flooding issue not yet addressed.
7	(D3) 2012	0.9km	footpath No significant issues.
8	(D3) 2012	0.7km	footpath Stile near to the west of Common Road needs attention.
10	(D3) 2011	1.7km	footpath New fence near junction with path 6, post and rail section but no proper stile. (a)
	2012		Still fence without stile near junction with path 6. (a) New fence with stile near junction with path 7. (a) No waymarker though gateway into farmyard/garden.
11	(C3)	1.1km	footpath

	2011		Path covered in heaps of rotting horse manure near junction with path 2.
	2012		Still problems with heaps of horse manure dumped on right of way. Fencing alongside path angled into path severely restricting access over horse manure. Electric fencing across right of way. Line of right of way appears to have been moved.
12	(B3)	1.8km	footpath
	2011		Way marker near Moor Farm fixed to post laying on ground. Clearance of vegetation around stile at Moor Road end.
	2012		Way marker post still on the ground. No clearance of stile. 2 trees blocking path near back of quarry.
13	(C4)	0.9km	footpath
	2011		Electric fence at Holmere Cottage severely restricting width of path for some distance.
	2012		Electric fence now less of a problem as hedge has been cut back.
16	(A3)	3.4km	footpath
	2011		West and south of Pepperbox Quarry would benefit from clearance work to bring the path back to width, and removal of signs for deep pit etc.
	2012		Signage clutter still to be removed
17	(A2)	0.5km	footpath
	2012		Barbed wire on side of stile at junction with footpath 11.
20	(D1)	2.6km	footpath
	2011		Does not follow the line of the definitive map.
	2012		Lack of waymarking along route. Electric fence across footpath near Dean mast. Waymarkers near Dean mast - secured to post lying on the ground. Land ploughed up to hedge on line of path.
21	(E1)	3.9km	footpath
	2011		Unable to follow line of path on last section near Parish boundary due to undergrowth.
	2012		Waymarker damaged on stile at junction with footpath 23. Unable to follow line of path on last section near Parish boundary due to undergrowth. no waymarkers though Gatmore Copse.
22	(D2)	1.2km	bridleway/footpath
	2011		Poor state of ground towards Miles Lane and raised water main cover in bridleway. Broken stile in Cowesfield Park.
	2012		Water main cover not now evident due to muddy conditions. Electric fence across footpath near Miles Lane. Stile in dangerous condition in Cowesfield Park. Electric fence across footpath next to stile in Cowesfield Park. Broken stile near farmhouse. Sign on stile at end of path saying "beware of the bull".
23	(D2)	1.7km	footpath
	2011		First section of path alongside Miles Lane is not visible. Broken stiles each side of Miles Lane.
	2012		No change since 2011.
24	(E2)	2.5km	footpath
	2011		Signage error near junction with path 22. Ploughed field near Miles Lane, the path has not been restored. Poor going near Rowdens Farm, looks like field used to over winter cattle. Broken stile at junction with path 38.
	2012		Signage error still evident near junction with path 22. Poor going near Rowdens Farm, looks like field used to over winter cattle. Broken stile at junction with path 38.
25	(E2)	0.7km	footpath
	2011		Deep mud in gateway half way along path.
	2012		No mud in gateway this year, but gate unopenable effectively blocking the footpath. New fence and gate installed at Testwood Cottages (a).

26	(E3) 2011 2012	0.5km Broken stile half way along the path. Style now repaired by Wiltshire Council. Overgrown hedging and damaged iron and barbed wire fencing restricting access.	footpath
27	(E3) 2011 2012	0.7km No evidence of path on first section after a few metres due to undergrowth. Waymarking now in evidence, but incorrect marking near junction with WP36	footpath
28	(F3) 2011 2012	0.7km Track impassable near Morris Holt Farm, deep mud due to muck cart operations. Still impassable, track used as run-off for farmyard slurry, no alternative way round. Signpost from A27 needs cleaning and repair, dominated by private road sign.	footpath
30	(C2) 2012	2.7km Difficult for walkers because of patches of deep mud. Gate onto Grimstead 14 too narrow (ref: section 145 of the Highways Act 1980) Impossible to open or keep open gate from horseback. When surveyed, fallen trees due to previous storm blocking right of way for horses.	bridleway
31	(C3) 2012	0.8km No significant issues.	footpath (Clay St./ Hop Gardens)
32	(D1) 2011 2012	1.3km Not visible on the ground, existing track being used. No change from 2011.	bridleway
33	(C1) 2012	1.2km No significant issues.	bridleway
34	(A4) 2011 2012	0.2km Path in poor state and ill defined when it goes into Langley Wood on Redlynch 9.	footpath
35	(E3) 2011 2012	0.3km Path much narrower than the 3m specified for this path. Junction with WP36 and WP27 incorrect.	footpath
36	(E3) 2011 2012	1.1km Path much narrower than the 3m specified for this path. Junction with WP36 and WP27 incorrect path not on the line of the footpath.	footpath
37	(E3) 2011	0.4km No significant issues.	footpath
38	(F2) 2011 2012	1.2km Waymarkers would help define the route across the open field. No waymarkers, difficult to find the route though the Gatmore Copse.	footpath
39	(E2) 2011 2012	2.5km Bridleway above Upper Cowesfield Farm incorrectly marked. Gate on waymarked route too narrow at 1.2m (ref: section 145 of the Highways Act 1980) blocked by fallen trees towards the Bunny Land end. Still getting complaints re: unable to get though above Upper Cowesfield Farm.	bridleway
40	(D4) 2012	0.1km No significant issues.	footpath

There are 2 other short public paths not on the definitive map; these are the path from Green Close to Ashmore Close and from Green Close to the Housing Association access road.

- (a) *Does the new fence across the path have the approval that is required from the Highways Authority? ref: Highways Act 1980 section 147. This also applies to a number of other electric fences that appear to be permanent, for example on paths 17 and 22.*