

Footpath Warden report for the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee meeting 22 October 2019

Many of the activities described in this report have drawn extensively on the support of colleagues within Dereham Walkers are Welcome. The following abbreviations are used: FP - Footpath; BR - Bridleway; RB - Restricted Byway; NCC - Norfolk County Council; DTC - Dereham Town Council; PRow - Public Rights of Way; WaW - Walkers are Welcome

1 Footpaths update and specific path issues

1.1 General report

There has been little change in the overall state of the town's public rights of way since my last report. A summary of issues is shown below: I have included the new Restricted Byways as these have now been established for a year.

footpath issues	current number and %		April 2019	
1 legal minimum not met	4	9.1%	4	10.5%
2 significant improvement needed	1	2.3%	0	0.0%
3 improvement welcome	3	6.8%	3	7.9%
4 for future action	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5 no action needed	36	81.8%	31	81.6%
total	44	100.0%	38	100.0%

The four cases where the legal minimum is not met have been reported previously, and their situations remain unchanged.

- 1 FP2 (a failure to establish the path along the headland of the northern part of this field edge path)
- 2 RB3 (the long standing unavailability of this route, which was ploughed out many years ago)
- 3 FP6 (the long standing unavailability of the eastern segment of this route towards Rookery Farm)
- 4 FP9 (the long standing unavailability of this path, which is highly overgrown and ends at the parish boundary with Swanton Morley)

The case where significant improvement is needed is

- 5 RB37, previously reported: the issues are the heavy littering and the need to widen this path to Restricted Byway dimensions.

1.2 Specific work - litter

The litter on land just off FP12 near its junction with FP13 seems to remain: it has become covered in vegetation over the summer, making it hard to see whether the underlying rubbish has been partly removed.

I have made no progress in seeking to establish a joint clearance effort from Highways England, Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council.

National Walkers are Welcome is proposing a co-ordinated litter pick in spring 2020 (simultaneous action by its 100 accredited towns and villages), which may provide a good opportunity to pursue this.

1.3 Specific work - clearance

A range of general path cutting and occasional tree clearance has continued, though at a much lesser extent than has been needed in previous years.

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1.3 Value of work

We have recorded time spent by all volunteers on the PRow. NCC values work undertaken on its Norfolk Trails network by volunteers at £20 per hour; using this basis, we calculate the value of this activity as £430 so far this financial year.

Work and monitoring per hour @ £ 20

From	20 April 2019		
To	5 September 2019		
Work done	16.50 hours,	value £	336.67
Monitoring	4.40 hours,	value £	93.33
Total	21.30 hours,	value £	430.00

Monitoring is calculated as time spent, regardless of the number of people

Work is calculated as person-hours

The total value of work since recording began (February 2017) is £ 8201.67.

2 Walkers are Welcome

2.1 Dereham Walkers are Welcome has been grateful for the continuing support of DTC in its work, though has missed Linda Goreham at recent meetings. Minutes of meetings are sent to Tony (and Linda) and can be obtained from him or me.

2.2 Walks

Dereham Walkers are Welcome continues to arrange public walks as its main external activity. The programme for 2019 has been

- 1 January: Hogmanay Hike
- 15 March (Fri) Litter pick on selected footpaths
- 22 April (Mon) Two windmills walk
- From 3 May onwards, first Friday every month, a short walk, no booking needed
- 6 May (Mon) Find the deer in Dereham - an event for families with young children, though sadly only 3 children attended
- 27 May (Mon) Meadow in May
- 22 June (Sat) Annual Public Meeting with short walk including Scarning Water Meadows
- 28 July (Sun) Town walk: a revised version of the 2018 walk
- 17 August (Sat) Find the deer in Dereham - a repeat of May's walk, but still with few attendees
- 26 August (Mon) Suffolk walk in Clare (a colleague WaW town)
- 29 September (Sun) Garden Party walk
- 6 October (Sun) A planned trip to Thuxton on the Mid-Norfolk Railway, walking back - cancelled because of heavy rain
- 1 January 2020: *New Year's Day Walk* - to be arranged

2.3 Walk packs

We continue to seek funding to reprint the walks pack, but in the meantime have produced a poster which we hope to place in the windows of the 50 businesses which have agreed to display our logo. The poster provides a link to our website from which the walks can be downloaded.