

Community Access Warden report for the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee meeting on 23 April 2024



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; NH - National Highways
BDC - Breckland District Council; DTC - Dereham Town Council; PRoW - Public Rights of Way; WaW - Walkers are Welcome

Notes in black: the report as submitted; blue: updates orally reported by me at the meeting; red: further information at/after the meeting

Requested action

1 General report - led walks

The monthly programme of short walks and 'Easy Tuesday' walks have continued, with longer walks won an occasional basis.

to note

2 Path issues

1 **FP2** - I have yet to check on the further work which NCC had promised to establish a satisfactory field edge path on the correct legal line. *The route is not clear. Frances Salway has said it will be marked when visiting for the RB3 work below.*

to note

2 **RB3** - I recently noted that the hedge had been removed at each end of the line of the byway, but have yet to check on the further work which NCC had indicated was being undertaken to reinstate the byway. *Frances Salway has advised me that culvert work was delayed from March because of the wet weather; now planned for May. Further update - now delayed to w/c 10 June.*

to note

3 **FP12/12a** - I note the work of Cllr Sarah Taylor in pressing National Highways to resolve the likelihood of flooding on the A47 underpass. This looks promising. *Tony reported that if NH cleared the gully every year it would probably solve the problem.*

to note

4 **FP14** - I am still pursuing litter clearance with the Diocese, though with no response to recent emails. *There has been considerable damage to the fence at the west corner of the school field; I have been in touch with the school which tells me that repairs are in hand; I have also informed NCC. The path is (just) passable.*

to note

5 **FP14a** - I await progress on this by NCC to repair/replace the damaged boardwalk.

await NCC

6 **FP25** - The southern end of this path has remained flooded; this has been reported to NCC, but I am not aware of any action being taken. *Flooding reduced, but not eliminated. Alternative awkward route available.*

to note

7 **FP26 (Dumpling Green)** - As things stand, there appears to be no means of improving this public

DTC to support finding a

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Requested action

footpath, so it will remain difficult to walk some parts, especially after wet weather (though the water tends to remain for a long time after rain).

solution

- 8 **RB31** - Awaiting drier weather to check whether the ditch is blocked. I asked for some funding from the Swanton Road development to be considered.

to note

- 9 **RB32 (Shillings Lane)** - Awaiting work to improve the surface of the remainder of this byway, but noting that the continuation across The Neatherd is much more difficult after wet weather. Tony indicated that funding should be available from the Swanton Road development, timescale unknown.

to note

- 10 **FP34** - No change as yet. One section of this path running alongside the stream is prone to extreme muddiness in wet weather; NCC is aware of this but has no resources as yet to take any steps to deal with it (and would require a number of permissions to do so). I have asked for the part of this path that leaves the boardwalk to run through the woods to meet FP18 to be added to NCC's contract for cutting as parts of it can easily get overgrown. Contracts are to be relet this year and I am told it will be considered then.

to note

- 11 **RB36 (Cherry Lane)** - No change. The extensive potholes along this byway, from Norwich Road to the windmill, have reappeared with a vengeance; I assume that it is the vehicles which access the allotments which cause and exacerbate the damage which then create a nuisance to walkers and cyclists (and any horse riders or carriage drivers seeking to use this restricted byway.)

DTC to support finding a solution

- 12 **RB37** - No change. Again, a resolution getting the byway 'protected' from the A47 layby seems a good way off yet. A recent visit showed little litter. I see a bin has been put into the layby.

DTC to consider any action it can take

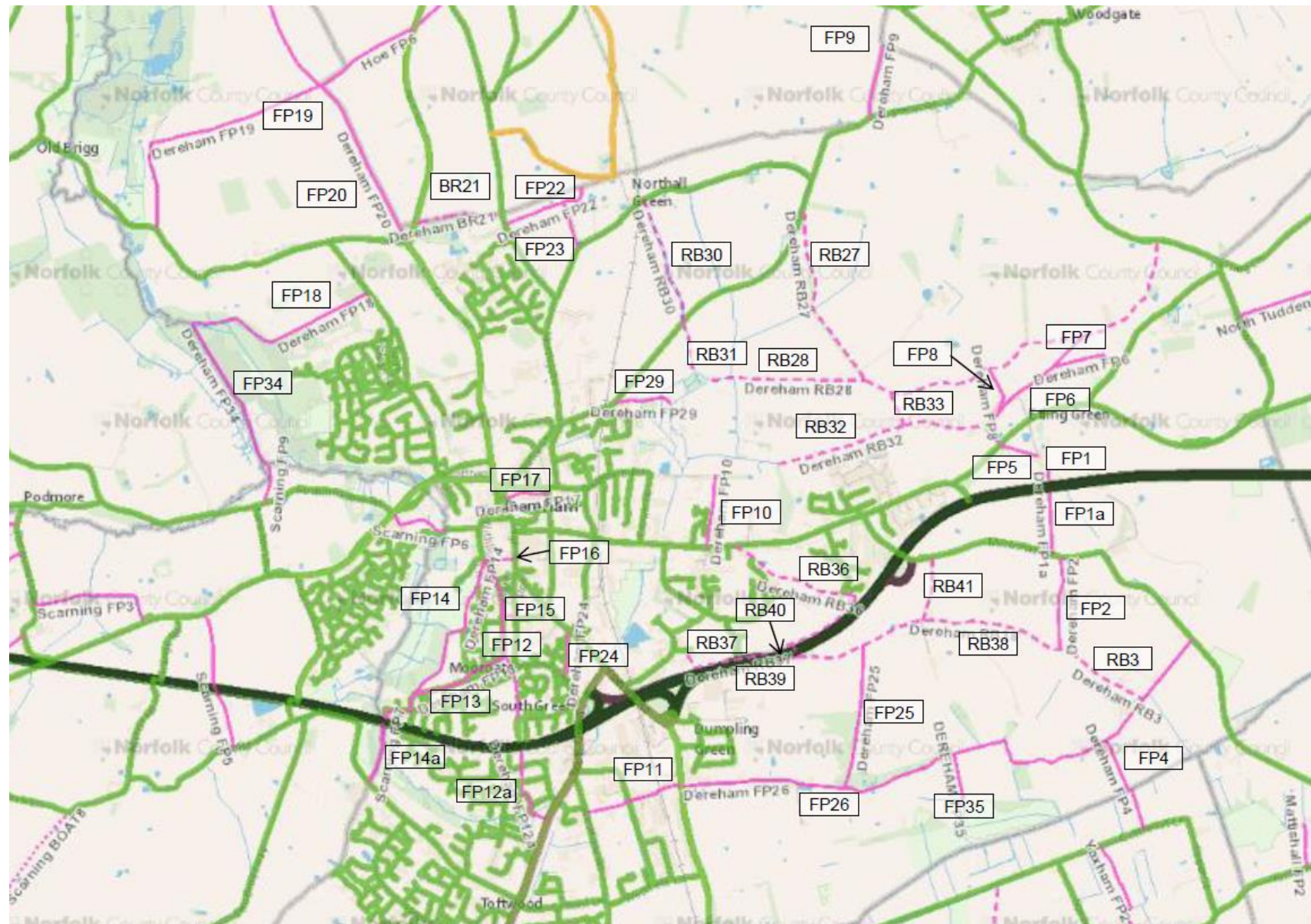
- 13 **Proposed trod along Etling Green** - I have previously suggested that a trod be constructed to continue the footway from the entrance to the new cemetery on Etling Green to FP6, preferably on the north verge of the road. I believe it has been inspected already and considered fully suitable. I am awaiting confirmation of the timescale in which to repeat this proposal. Arranging meeting in June with William Richmond and Matt Lines for his availability. We will meet at the new cemetery car park.

to note and advise

3 Other work

Continuing the past involvement of Dereham Walkers are Welcome in Heritage Open Days, it is planned to arrange a town walk in September, on two occasions, following the 2024 theme of *Routes, networks and communications*.

to note



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12a, 26, 35