

Community Access Warden report for the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee meeting on 26 November 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; PPP - Parish Paths Partnership; PRoW - Public Rights of Way; WaW - Walkers are Welcome

		<i>Requested action</i>
1	<u>General report</u> - led walks have continued and will do so for the rest of the year and through 2025.	<i>to note</i>
2	<u>Path issues</u>	
1	FP2 - An initial report was made to Frances Salway when it was found that signage had been put in place, but the path itself was overgrown and hard to use. I have reported this for a second time as well as contacting Frances directly, without receiving a reply.	<i>to note</i>
2	RB3 - A more recent visit took place when the maize crop had been harvested, though leaving behind foot high stalks. It was therefore possible to walk across the field, though the path had not been made. Signage has been installed at RB38 (the north end), but points into an impenetrable hedge, with no gap within a few yards of the sign. The gap at the south end, where the byway joins FP26 remains, though growth is starting to close it; there is no signage at that point.	<i>to note</i>
3	FP14 - I continue to pursue litter clearance with the Diocese, though with no response to my emails. The path is overgrown and still awaits my attention.	<i>to note</i>
4	FP14a - I await progress on this by NCC to repair/replace the damaged boardwalk.	<i>await NCC</i>
5	FP26 (Dumpling Green) - As things stand, there appears to be no means of improving this public footpath, so it will remain difficult to walk some parts, especially after wet weather (and the water tends to remain for a long time after rain).	<i>to note</i>
6	FP29 - House building has started next to this path, making access to the west end off Swanton Road a little more difficult, but it is open and unobstructed throughout.	<i>to note</i>
7	RB32 (Shillings Lane) - Further work has improved the surface of the remainder of this byway. The main problem now is the westward continuation of the byway into The Neatherd, which becomes very waterlogged after wet weather.	<i>DTC to consider possible remedial action</i>
8	FP34 - There have been no changes to this path, which means that the section of this path running alongside the stream will again become extremely muddy after wet weather; NCC is aware of this but has	<i>to note</i>

no resources as yet to take any steps to deal with it (and would require a number of permissions to do so). The section of the path running through the woods has two sections that have become and remain quite boggy, leading people to create new routes to avoid them; these routes are somewhat bendy and involve additional climbing/descending.

- 9 **RB36 (Cherry Lane)** - No change. I believe that steps are being taken by DTC to level the surface, which would make a great improvement. *DTC to confirm plans*
- 10 **RB37** - There continues to be less rubbish in evidence since the installation of the bin on the layby, though continued monitoring is required. *to note*
- 11 **Proposed trod along Etling Green** - I am aware that all PPP bids have been deferred for this year to release funding for RB36. I nevertheless wonder if DTC could clear the vegetation for a metre or so on the north side of the road, which could reduce costs of a future PPP application. *DTC to consider this proposal*
- 12 **Path from Hurn Road to meet RB39** - I met Simon Wood, Director of Planning and Building Control at BDC, in August to argue for firmer commitments to improving the surface of parts of this path and keep vegetation at bay, and asking him to consider enabling a walking and cycling route to be made from Kingston Road, round the edge of the BDC car park and, via gate or gap in the fence, on to the path. Not having heard further after our meeting, I have followed this up recently; I have an acknowledgement but nothing more at the moment. *DTC to consider what steps it might take to support getting this path into more user friendly condition*

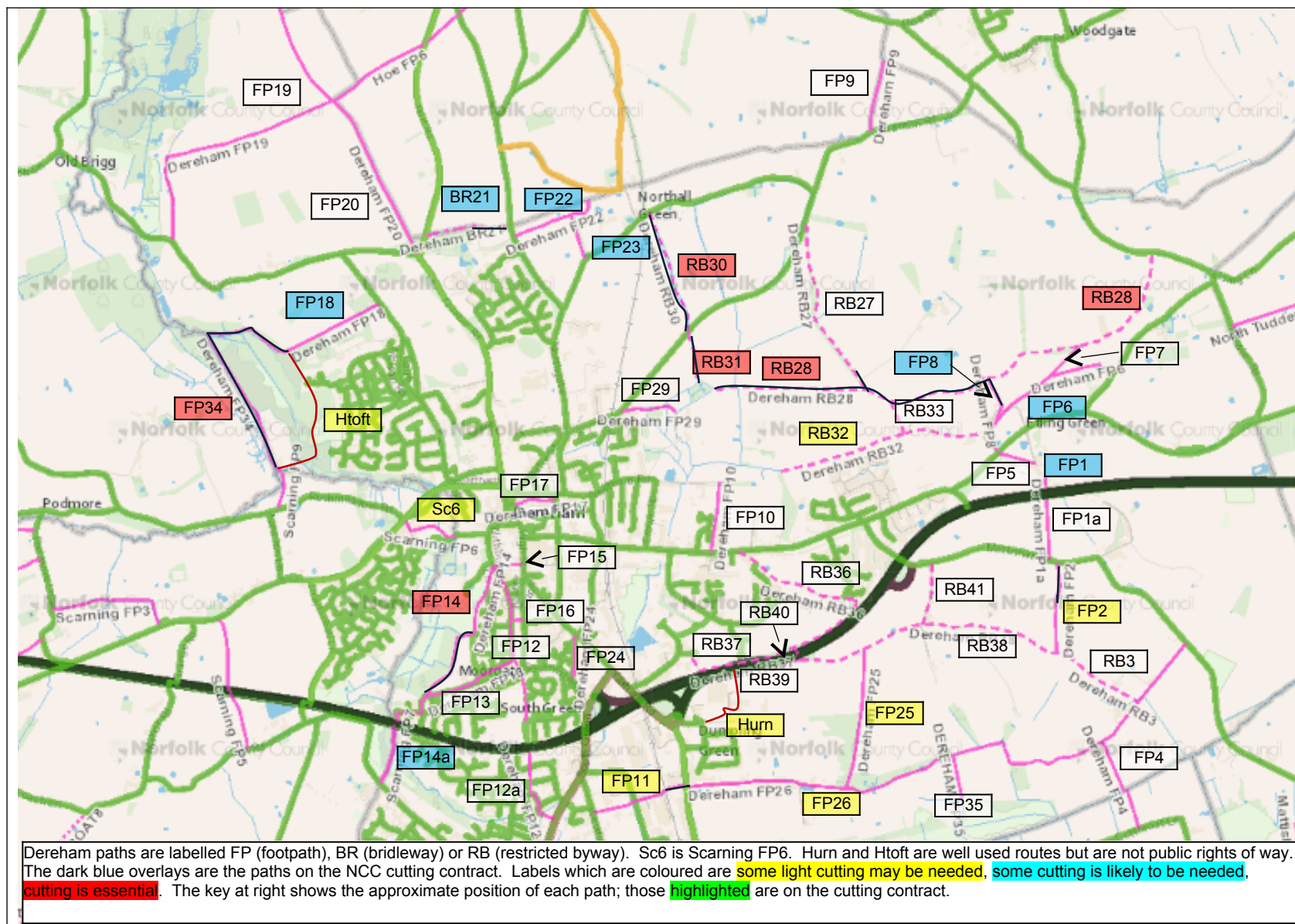
3 Car parking charges

Although car parking charges as proposed by BDC are unlikely to have a direct impact on the town's rights of way and other public access areas, Dereham Walkers are Welcome has a concern that there will be impact on people's use of them. Walkers are Welcome as an organisation encourages use of public transport but recognises that some who join our walks do use their cars to come to Dereham, and those who drive need a stay of some hours, so would have to pay for car parking. Some may find this a deterrent and would reduce or cease their attendance; not only would that mean that car parking charges are not paid, but any incidental spend in the town would also be lost.

Ken Hawkins, Community Access Warden, Dereham Town Council

18 November 2024

The map which follows has been updated to provide more information, which I hope will prove useful.



- 19, 9
- 20, 21, 22
- 23, 30
- 18, 27, 28
- 31, 28, 8, 7
29
34, Htoft, 33, 6
32
- 17, 5, 1
Sc6
10, 1a
- 15, 36
41
14, 16, 40, 2
- 12, 24, 37, 38
39, 3
13, Hurn, 25
- 14a, 4
11
12a, 26, 35