

Footpath Repair & Maintenance Report March 2019

Work done since last report:

Dec 18 New stile and stile steps on two other stiles. Hopton Wafers

Attendees(8): SS, AK, RK,RF, GH,CH,DW,IL

March 19. Kissing gate at Elcott.

Attendees(5): SS, AK, RK,CH,DW

Candidates for forthcoming work parties:

Stile repair & clearance at Detton

Kissing gate at Lea Farm

New hand rails on bridge at caravan park (& waymarking of new path)

Stile step replacements:

Railway crossing near Mawley Hall, Lem Hill(2), Baveney, Wall town

Resolved issues

Blocked Footpath at Rectory cottage(Hopton Wafers). The landowner has now cleared it.

Bridge at Barnsland Farm.

The bridge at the bottom of the woods going towards Neen Sollars was in a dangerous state. It has been replaced by the council

New & on-going issues.

Farm Gate on Common Lane.

The new owner of Lea Farm has informed me that he wishes to put in a new farm gate by the reservoir in Common Lane and then be able to lock it to prevent illegal vehicle access. We will need to put a kissing gate alongside. I am contacting him to try to co-ordinate that work

Sadlers Barn Farm

Ownership transfer (to Mawley Hall) took place at the end of January but the Clarks are still in residence so there is no change. I spoke to the Estate managers just before Christmas. They were happy with the idea of kissing gates instead of stiles, but would prefer to do them. I also raised the issue of whether we are going to lose the permissive riverside path but they were not ready to talk about that.

If anyone notices any changes when walking that way, can then please let me know.

Bury Cottage, Neen Savage

Footpath through the property is blocked and made intimidating to walk. Reported to SC. No progress

Bridge at Wall town

There has been a decrepit and unusable bridge on Neen Savage FP97 for many years. The nearby(10ft away) private bridge has been used by walkers instead. The landowner (George Haywood), told SC last year that he was not happy with walkers using that bridge so the Council were forced to close the path until it can be sorted out. At present the existing closure order ran out in February and a new one has not been issued so in theory the path is open, but the issue of the bridge remains.

This is an important path, because it is on our Walk 24 and because it is quite a strategic path making a link between paths to the south east and north west.

I have, with some difficulty, been trying to get Shropshire Council to discuss and agree a way forward. They cannot afford a large new bridge, but Geoff & I think that a simple plank bridge could be put in instead but it will need some engineering.

However, the last thing I heard from the council is that they do not think George Haywood will let us on his land, because he is annoyed that we complain about his many paths blocked by crop. So whatever is done they will need to do it. I will continue to press for resolution.

Footpath through the caravan park.

In January, Lucy McFarlane informed us that she is sorting out a diversion of this path to make it walkable. We all agreed the line of the diversion and are waiting for progress.

Clarvers

I have received two complaints about the landowner blocking off an unofficial path on Clarvers. That which cuts across from the very top to the stile into the next field. But the path is not a right of Way so the owner has the right to block it.

Locals have been using it, but I do know that the various landowners have not been happy about it, but until now have not done anything to stop it.

A few years ago, the owner at that time, Gordon Poyner,(who may still be the owner) lodged a deposition under the CROW 2000 act to declare that the path was not a right of Way. This prevents people claiming it as one from that time.

Bayton

You may(or may not) be interested to know that I have now become the Footpath Warden for Bayton parish.