

Footpath Warden report for the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee meeting November 2021



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 General report - led walks

Since the July meeting, we held our 'Garden Party' walk on 30 August, but our three HODs walks planned in association with Dereham Heritage Trust for 11, 17 and 18 September were cancelled when I was admitted to hospital; the same applied to our planned 13 October walk. Short walks have however continued on the first Friday of every month.

2 Path issues

Current issues of concern are listed. I believe some may have been discussed between County Councillor William Richmond, Phillip Duigan and the Countryside Access Officer for this area, but I have not heard the outcome of those discussions. Town Council support is requested on items 1, 2, 5 and 6.

- 1 **FP2** - the repeated failure to establish the path along the headland of the northern part of this field edge path **remains**.
- 2 **RB3** - the long standing unavailability of this route, which was ploughed out many years ago **continues** with no change. I am interested to hear of any result following from the decision that the Town Council would write to Norfolk County Council.
- 3 **FP14a** - the boardwalk is damaged and dangerous; NCC is aware and says it plans to repair it. It also says it is considering my request that the boardwalk be extended a few metres south to cover a patch that gets very muddy in wet weather. There has been **no progress** on either of these. I was advised that work here was being scheduled for this year, but none has taken place to date.
- 4 **FP34** - I have been unable to check for myself recently, but believe that NCC's **closure notices** remain at the sewage works, and at the junction with the unregistered path that runs along below the edge of the Humbletoft estate. Again, I was advised that work here was being scheduled for this year, but I understand that none has taken place to date.
- 5 **RB37** - previously reported: the issues are the heavy littering (see below) and the need to widen and clear this path to Restricted Byway dimensions; there has been **no change**. Again, I am interested to hear of any result from the proposed meeting of Councillor Duigan with the Countryside Access Officer.
- 6 **New path to be dedicated to link RB39 with Hurn Road** - I have not checked this recently, but would be interested in any outcome from the decision that the Town Council would write to Breckland Planning regarding the path and push for it to be added to the definitive map and to a maintenance schedule.

3 Specific work

- 3.1 **Litter by FP13/14** Although some litter has been removed, the underlying problem remains, and there has already been some further dumping. The landowner has declined to erect a fence, and has not responded to my suggestion of planting a hedge.
- 3.2 **Litter by FP24 (Safari Way)** I have been following this in the press and Town Council minutes, and would be interested to hear of any progress made. Going past recently I noted that some clearance work seemed to be taking place.

3.3 Maintenance

There has been no further work since the last meeting, but most paths have been regularly walked and checked.

Cumulative time spent in monitoring and clearance is summarised below. The conversion to monetary value is based on Norfolk County Council's rate of £20 per hour value of volunteer time.

| year | hours | | | | £value | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | work | monitoring | total | cum | work | monitoring | total | cum |
| 2016-17 | 81.30 | 31.45 | 113.15 | 113.15 | 1630.00 | 635.00 | 2265.00 | 2265.00 |
| 2017-18 | 111.55 | 43.40 | 155.35 | 268.50 | 2238.33 | 873.33 | 3111.67 | 5376.67 |
| 2018-19 | 74.15 | 45.30 | 119.45 | 388.35 | 1485.00 | 910.00 | 2395.00 | 7771.67 |
| 2019-20 | 17.50 | 12.45 | 30.35 | 419.10 | 356.67 | 255.00 | 611.67 | 8383.33 |
| 2020-21 | 3.30 | 48.45 | 52.15 | 471.25 | 70.00 | 975.00 | 1045.00 | 9428.33 |
| 2021-22 | 88.30 | 37.20 | 125.50 | 597.15 | 1770.00 | 746.67 | 2516.67 | 11945.00 |
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| total | 377.30 | 219.45 | | | 7550.00 | 4395.00 | | |

4 Walk packs

Our Walks booklets are held in the Library, and the Partea Hut (at the Windmill) has taken and given out a substantial supply. We still have plenty to supply the Assembly Rooms as soon as it is once again easily accessed by the public.

Ken Hawkins, Footpath Warden, Dereham Town Council

16 November 2021