

Survey Report on Paths and Green Lanes in Ermington

All paths and green lanes were walked during the months of May and June 2013.

Footpath 3 (walked by M Auburn on 28th May 2013)

There has been significant improvement to this path since last year.

- There is a new stile at the entrance (from Clickland), the entrance is clear of vegetation. However, ***there is a need for way marks*** as it is not clear (unless one has a map) where one needs to walk.
- At the entrance of the second field, gates are in working order. However, ***there is a need for way marks*** here too. At the end of the second field, ***there is boggy ground as one approaches the stile*** however, this has benefited very much from thick planks placed on the ground. ***The stile existing is in poor condition*** and ***there is barbed wire by the stile***. This too would benefit from way marks.
- There are no issues in the third field and as one approaches the gate when the path then continues in Holbeton Parish.

Footpath 5 (walked by M Auburn on 11th June 2013)

This path was walked from West Worthele Farm towards Ley Green.

- The ***sign for the path on the main road is difficult to see***; perhaps if it were placed on the opposite side it could be more visible. Moreover, the sign is slightly ***misleading as it points to a wall***.
- The entrance to the footpath has now been altered due to work carried out on the farm but remains in the same place and there are no issues with it.
- The footpath crosses two corn planted fields and there was an one metre wide (approx) footpath cut through them.
- At the end of the second field, it was not clear where the path continued ***so waymarks are necessary***.
- The path ends with a stone stile which although very beautiful, is ***extremely difficult to manage*** if you have some mobility issues.

Cole Lane and Footpath 6 (walked by T Auburn on 23rd June 2013)

This path was walked from Keaton towards East Worthele

- At the junction of Footpath 6 and 30 (part of Ivybridge), the path crosses the river. This is ***too deep and too fast running to cross***. There is no bridge or stepping stones to facilitate access.
- There is ***no indication that there is a lane*** (Cole Lane).
- Direction indicator/***sign for footpath not pointing in quite the right direction*** so it is a bit misleading.
- Walking on FP6 there is no signage between second and third field. ***Way marks are necessary***.
- Where FP6 joins Cole Lane, the stile (which is in good condition) could benefit from a ***dog gate***.
- There are ***deep gulleys*** walking on Cole Lane towards East Worthele Farm. Moreover, these ***gulleys are lined with black plastic*** which over the time has come from the farm where cows are kept. This is particularly visible during the winter months when there is less vegetation.
- There is ***significant silage effluent*** going into Cole lane. This has been reported to the Env. Agency (in June 2013) and they have spoken to the farmer in question to make suitable repairs however, it is necessary to monitor. The effluent looks very unsightly although at present it might not be reaching the river causing pollution.

Footpath 7 (walked by M Auburn on 11th June 2013)

This is a very short footpath and there are no problems with it. The sign which was wonky last year is now fully upright.

Footpaths 9 and 10 (walked by Vikki and David Craig on 23rd June 2013)

These two paths are right in the village of Ermington.

There are no issues with either paths and new gates which were installed about 18 or so months ago are excellent. Signage is good.

- Hedge at top of Footpath 9 could ***benefit from a trim***.
- Gates at entrance of Footpath 10 (by village square) will be installed by mid August 2013. This has been promised!

Footpath 12 (walked by D Webly and Enid on 23rd June 2013)

- Due to works being carried out by SWW at the entrance to this path from the Totnes Road, this path was walked from where the sewage works are. However, on observation, there is no problem to access the path from the main road although it is a ***dangerous access which could benefit from some signage.***
- One hundred yards after the first stile, there is a new stile and fence. Further on, by the Sewage works ***there is need of a way mark to indicate direction of footpath towards Sequers Bridge.***
- One hundred yards after sewage works the ***footpath has been washed in the river thus there is limited access and no alternative route*** as the field has been fenced off.
- There is a cattle feeder on the edge of the river bank and footpath near gate making ***ground boggy.***
- At Sequers bridge, the ***catch on the gate is out of line and does not shut properly.*** Moreover, access to the road is open and may need some fencing off for security.
- ***Stile onto road is in an inappropriate place and difficult to use.*** There are ***no warning signs regarding oncoming traffic.***

Footpath 11 (walked by D Webley and Enid on 23rd June 2013)

This path was walked from Sequers Bridge towards Kingsacre Nursing home.

- ***Stile into field is difficult to use.*** It ***needs signage to warn of traffic.*** In the first field there was a ***bull but no warning sign*** to that effect.
- ***Landslip in the wood*** is difficult to walk. ***Path needs to be repaired or re-directed.***
- There ***is no indication at the gate at top of woods*** to where the continuation of the path is. ***Requires way marks.***
- There is a cattle feeder positioned by the gate leaving ***the ground churned up and muddy.***
- Both stiles at the edge of the wood ***don't have a dog gate.***
- The next field had ***bullocks but no warning to that effect.***
- Works carried out last year by DCC and EPC have vastly improved access to this path from the Kingsacre side. The farmer is erecting a very nice stone wall by the path.
- There is ***some concern about the bank of the river by the farm at the entrance to the path.*** There are signs of some concrete structures moving away from the river bank.

Footpath 13 and green lane (walked by R. Hodson and M Hodson on 30th June)

Footpath 13 was walked from Higher Ludbrook towards the Totnes road.

- Access to the path is possible **although there is a 30 cm. step (very high) and there are no handrails**. It is on an unstable steep slope.
- The stile into the field is ok and although there is an electric cable, this is insulated.
- **Across the field/path there is an electric fence**
- At end of path there is a stile with insulated electric fence and warning sign
- There **is no established path across the field**. Field is permanent pasture which has recently been grazed. **Could benefit from way marks**.
- The green lane which goes from the entrance to Footpath 13 towards entrance to Footpath 15 (Ugborough) is clear, even and unmetalled; very different to the gauged green lane that it meets at its end.

Footpath 15 (walked by Dawn Trower and her dad on 24th June 2013)

This path has been walked from Penquit Manor back towards Strode/Ermington.

- No **way marker inside gate** (from lane opposite Penquit Manor making it confusing where one was to walk. Moreover, the first field was planted with thigh high grass (hay crop?) and **no obvious track**).
- The second field was planted with corn and whilst the map and way mark indicate that the path goes right through the field **there was not 1 metre cutting through** it.
- There are **no dog gates on stiles**.

Footpath 16 (walked by D Trower and her dad on 24th June 2013)

This footpath has been walked from strode/Ermington towards Ivybridge.

- The footpath sign from lane has its **pointed end broken off** possibly by hedge cutter although it is still legible. Moreover, the sign looks to point across the middle of the field but in fact, the route is along the hedge line to the right. **Sign may need repositioning to indicate correct direction**.
- The second and third stiles on route (into fields 2 and 3) were very hard to climb over as they are very old type (but scenic) with large sections of slate across and deep stone steps either

side. It looks like over the years, the ground has eroded around the steps making them even higher off the ground. ***Could be made easier by the addition of some 'platform' either side.***

Footpath 17 (walked by D Trower and her dad on 24th June 2013)

This path was walked from the Penquit end to Filham Park

- The ***footpath is planted with corn and there is no cutting through it.*** This makes it impossible to walk through.

Footpath 18 (walked by M Auburn on 14th June 2013)

The footpath was walked from the Ermington direction towards Yealmpton.

- The signage from the main road is in good repair and this year there is no gate obstructing access and neither is there a rope which used to be an obstruction
- Following entrance to the path, the ***first section is extremely rutted and there is significant vegetation making the path very dark.***
- On approaching the stream, there is a ***gate and this is very stiff.*** Once you open the gate it is difficult to make sure it is properly shut.
- There is ***no way of crossing the stream but going through it.*** The ground is ***extremely boggy*** and difficult to walk.
- The first bit (climb) after the stream is ***steep and very muddy*** and has been trampled by cows.
- Further along, there is lots of growth and the ***path is very overgrown*** (but charming). Along the path before reaching the second field there is another ***trough/stream that pours onto the path making it boggy.***
- The path continues to a large field that was full of cows. ***It is likely there was a bull/bullocks*** so did not want to walk it. The Ermington Path ends in double metal gates; the path then continues in the Yealmpton Parish. At this point there are stiles without dog gates.

Footpath 20 (walked by N Scutt and W Scutt on 30th June 2013)

Walked from Lee Mill Ind Estate to A38

- The path has been tarmaced and is free of obstacles. Totally accessible.
- On the opposite side of the A38, on the Strashleigh Road, the ***path is not signposted, it is totally overgrown and is totally inaccessible.***

Stibbs Lane/Gypsy Lane (walked by N and W Scutt on 30th June 2013)

- Stibbs Lane is well signposted at both ends. There is a wide pathway, clearly used for farm traffic. ***There are deep ruts in parts*** (towards the top end).
- One part is ***completely full of water for about 18-20 metres***. This is clearly a persistent problem as an alternative footpath has been formed on the land beside the lane.
- Gypsy lane is ok on the top part however, in sections it is ***down to the rock***. The Lower part of the lane is less accessible. ***There is tall grass in the middle with only tyre width path either side*** to walk on.

Green Lane Langbrook Cross to Whipples Cross (walked by M Auburn July 12th 2013)

This lane has been vastly improved at the Langbrook end. ***Awaiting to hear details of further improvements.***

- There is concern about solar farm water runoff as well as motorbikes which are already churning the newly dressed lane. ***Need for sign 'Not Suitable for Motor Vehicles'***

Whipples Cross to Totnes Road (Back Lane) (walked by D Craig and V Craig on 23rd June 2013)

- This unmetalled road ***is very badly eroded***, especially at the Totnes end. When it rains, it becomes very slippery and dangerous.

Green Lane from Burraton Cross towards A38 (walked by M Auburn on 12.6.2013)

This could be a magnificent lane. It is banned for motorised vehicles and should be improved for general access.

- The first bit, tarmaced in parts has ***metal pipes sticking out and is in a bad state of repair***. It then reaches a gate but the ***path is very muddy and boggy*** and unkempt.
- Once you attempt to go through the next gates you ***walk through a jungle of vegetation with very soft ground underneath. This became impassable and the bottom part is even more so because a stream has been diverted onto the path.***
- On reaching the stream ***the bridge across it is totally unsafe.***
- The ***gate following the stream would benefit from way marks***. It is steep and on occasion a bit trampled by cows though was ok when walked.
- The remaining section of the lane is without a problem. However, ***at either side of the green lane there is no indication that there is a green lane***; simply a sign stating there is no vehicular access.

Green Lane Burraton to Ridge Road (walked by M Auburn on 9th June 2013)

- Two years ago, it was possible to walk this lane. However, due to the farmer cutting trees along side it has meant that there is significant light which has encouraged ***growth of vegetation making it virtually impossible to walk***. Although the lane is full of wild flowers, it is hardly possible to admire this. Towards the bottom of the green lane (Burraton end), the ***lane is very rutted*** and difficult to walk.

Green Lane at Fursdon Farm And Brook Farm (walked by G and R Hartwell on 27th June 2013)

- This lane leaves the tarmac track but there are ***no signs/way marks*** or evidence of old signage.
- There are no gates or stiles. Track is wide, ***overgrown for 30 metres then completely overgrown*** with high shrubs onwards. It is impassable after this point.
- As with Fursdon Farm at Brook Farm, there are ***no signs/way marks*** or evidence of old signage to indicate there is a green lane.
- No stiles. The first 10 metres are kept cut and forms part of a garden area; after that it becomes ***overgrown and boggy. Impassable after that.***

