

## Parish Paths Partnership

### Survey Report on Paths and Green Lanes in Ermington

All paths and green lanes were walked during the months of July 2014.

#### Footpath 3 (walked by Dr and Mrs Thurston)

- Last year's survey identified the need for way marks. This has not been rectified and the need persists ( **Action: Marina has yet to put way marks**).
- The stile is in good order but difficult for walkers with dogs. A dog gate should be put in place (**Action: Marina to talk to Jon Morley and Tom Holway**)
- The second stile is in poor condition and was overgrown at time of the walk. Usually when wet the area around the stile is quite boggy. There is barbed wire by the side of the stile.
- The last gate walking towards the A379 is in good condition. Unfortunately, the lane does not lead anywhere further than a main road.

#### Footpath 5 (walked by Vikki and David Craig)

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

- The ***sign for the path on the main road is difficult to see***; the sign is slightly ***misleading as it points to a wall. This issue has been noted in 2013 already***
- The footpath crosses two corn planted fields and there was ***no path cut through them at the time of the walk***. This may be in part due to the request to divert the path?
- The two other issues highlighted in last year's survey, namely placing ***of waymarks and the difficulty to manage the stone stile at the end of the path remain***. However, once Path 5 is diverted, these matters will no longer be issues that need addressing.

#### Footpath 7 (walked by Vikki and David Craig)

- This is a very short footpath which is well used and there are no problems with it.

#### Footpaths 9 and 10 (walked by Nicky and Win Scutt)

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.

- There is ***a hedge that has collapsed by the second gateway*** (walking from the village green upwards)
- Gates at entrance of Footpath 10 (by village square) have now been installed!

### Footpath 11 (walked by Bob Knightley)

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

- Stiles and gates are in good condition.
- ***Signage generally good but could be better especially at points A, and B (see attached map). A taller way mark sign at point C would be helpful. Furthermore, a tall way mark post at point X would be useful.***
- Diverted section of path from B to C is quite ***difficult to walk due to tree roots and unevenness.***
- Although there was cattle in field, there were no bulls.
- Both stiles at the edge of the wood ***don't have a dog gate.***

### Footpath 12 (walked by Bob Knightley)

- There is ***no footpath sign at Sequer's Bridge*** by main road (A379)
- The path is muddy in places due to cattle but passable
- ***Stile onto road is in an inappropriate place and difficult to use.*** There are ***no warning signs regarding oncoming traffic.***

### Footpath 13 and green lane (walked by Sarah West)

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

- Stile leaving farm needs a little attention because it is low; stock could go through hedge easily.
- At end of path there is a stile with insulated electric fence and warning sign
- This is a very unused path; it leads to nowhere – but to dangerous road (Totnes Road)
- The green lane which goes from the entrance to Footpath 13 towards entrance to Footpath 15 (Ugborough) is clear and easily passable.

### Footpath 15 (walked by Susan Martin and Grant Elliot)

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

- The footpath is in overall good order. At the entrance to the path from the Strode side, ***the signpost is loose.***
- There are ***no dog gates on stiles.***

### Footpath 16 (walked by Susan Martin and Grant Elliot)

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

- ***The footpath sign from lane is a bit wobbly*** though stile is in good order
- At the end of the first field, the ***ground is water logged; it appears that a ditch needs unblocking.***
- At the end of the second field, the ***signpost is loose*** and although the stile is in good order there is ***barbed wire loose by the stile***
- At the very end of the path (almost by the road), the ***handrail is loose*** by the stile

#### **Footpath 17 (walked by Susan Martin and Grant Elliot)**

This path was walked from the Filham Park end to Penquit

- The drainage ditch dug across footpath at junction between footpaths 17 and 22 (Ughborough?) but there is ***no safe means of crossing the ditch***

#### **Footpath 18 (walked by Barbara Jones)**

The footpath was walked from the Ermington direction towards Yealmpton.

- At the start of the footpath ***there is a rope*** although this does not prevent access to path.
- The footpath is ***extremely muddy and there is a stream that needs to be crossed.*** It is only advisable for those with stout footwear.

#### **Footpath 20 (walked by Richard and Marie Hodson)**

- Sign post at industrial estate ***end difficult to see and needs uprighting*** as it is out of alignment.
- Path clear but its edges ***will need clearing/trimming*** - nettles, brambles and sycamore.
- A little litter here and there.

#### **Cole Lane and Footpath 6 (walked by John and Caroline Bower)**

- At East Worthele, just after the old silage pit, is a Traffic Notice stating "No motor vehicles past this point" but it is completely obscured by the hedge growth.
- Continuing, for the length of the field the lane is passable but the undergrowth is very long. It then narrows considerably, is very overgrown with nettles etc., and surface water over the years has gouged out a deep rutted channel making walking difficult. Immediately there is a large fallen tree branch obstructing the lane. Then 100 metres further on is another fallen tree. Where the Gas Pipe crossed the lane a few years ago, it is very boggy and grassy.



- At the old quarry level is yet another fallen tree across the lane at head height. Shortly after this is a gate on the right to Sir Simon's field and here is a large corrugated iron sheet lying in the lane.



- After this within about 200 yards are three lots of trees down across the lane. There is another gate into the next field with a functional stile so presumably an alternative footpath through Sir Simon's fields.
- Continuing down the lane, passage becomes difficult due to head high nettles just before the old ford and river. Noticeable here is a totally irrelevant "County Road" sign!
- To continue the walk it is necessary to navigate up a high bank on the right and over a low wire fence into the field where the footpath is good and ends at a passable stile but no real way for a large dog.
- The next field is similarly fine and this section ends through a small gate at the end of the field leading by the river and out to the junction of Ermington Road and Keaton Lane.
- The route continues over the Erme road Bridge and left into the other end of Cole Lane. There is a "No Vehicles" sign and a wide clear lane for about 100 metres past an occupied cottage. Here on a tree is a sign stating "Private, no vehicles etc. Please keep to the path". This continues as a very pleasant wide riverside walk for another say 300 metres to the opposite side of the ford previously mentioned.

#### **Green Lane Langbrook Cross to Whipples Cross (walked by Dr and Mrs Thurston)**

- The surface of this lane has become uneven and stones ***need to be compacted*** and compressed with smaller aggregate (sand/soil)
- ***Need for sign 'Not Suitable for Motor Vehicles' (outstanding from last year)*** to limit number of vehicles (which have now damaged the new fence put in by the landowner)
- ***A drain, located at the beginning of the lane is covered by washed down stones and needs unblocking.***
- ***Signage was obscured by vegetation*** at time of walk

#### **Totnes Road to Whipples Cross (Back Lane) (walked by Nicky and Win Scutt)**

- There are ***deep ruts*** due to water erosion at the Totnes Road entrance to the lane.
- The ***sign posts were obscured*** by vegetation either end of the lane.
- The middle section was reported as being ok to walk, though at the end section (towards Whipples cross) there was ***vegetation encroaching on the lane.***

#### **Green Lane at Fursdon Farm and Brook Farm (walked by Barbara Jones)**

- The footpath/lane shown on map going from Fursdon Farm towards stream is ***totally inaccessible. Overgrown completely.***
- The path from Brook farm towards the brook is ***also inaccessible.*** The farmer said it was no longer possible to pass through the lane even with a tractor. He said there were trees down and a bridge over the brook was washed over.

### **Green Lane from Burraton Cross towards A38 (walked by Roy and Gina Hartwell)**

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.
- Narrows to grassy track becoming muddy with deep channels to side (dangerous), eventually ***very overgrown and impassable***. Some rough rubble infill early on.
- 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 Roy and Gina Hartwell)**

- (from Burraton Cross) The first section is ***heavily eroded to bedrock*** but passable with care
- In the second section (as gradient eases) the vegetation is ***very grown and hardly passable***
- The same is applicable to the final section which is ***very overgrown and impassable***.

### **Stibbs Lane (walked by Richard and Marie Hodson)**

- ***Litter*** at Cornwood and Ivybridge ends. Black and grey agricultural plastic in various places.
- The sign ***at the Cornwood end is lying in the grass*** to the left of the parking area.
- There is a ***lake about 30m long across the full width of the path*** which necessitates walking on the bank which is slippery and dangerous, (this was reported two years ago!).

### **Gipsy Lane (walked by Richard and Marie Hodson)**

- Passable but ***central ridge has tall weeds which need cutting***.
- By the ***A38 rutted and ruts full of water***.