

Rights of Way Report September 2022

Maintenance work

1. Bridleway **WN19/105** (from the end of Ridgeway Lane to the A359)

This bridleway has been unusable for several years because of neglect, but SSDC Ranger Eve Wynne confirmed on 12th September that she has activated the work on **WN19/105** to begin within 3 weeks of that date. We will watch closely for signs of activity.

2. Bridges

Eve also confirmed that a contractor will be scheduling the works to three of the bridges on **WN19/72**. However, the larger bridge structure is still awaiting works from Highways because it involves larger spans.

The handrail on **WN19/72** where a small bridge crosses the River Cam has now been replaced.

The sleeper bridge handrail on **WN 19/54** in North Town has also been repaired.

Strimming

Volunteer strimmer Tim Gilbert's hand has now healed and he is waiting for notification of stiles etc. where up-growth needs to be controlled. Meanwhile, he has strimmed round the fingerposts and stiles on **WN19/69** (north across Clare Field from Ridgeway Lane to concrete bridge), **WN19/70** (south of Ridgeway Lane), **WN19/75** (NW across Clare Field), **WN19/77** (steps leading up to orchard in Ridgeway Lane), **WN19/106** (Brookhampton side of the concrete bridge in Clare Field), and all of **WN19/74** (land behind Arkle between Clare Field and Cary Road). PPLO intends to do a programme of walks and assessments in November and will report directly to him on other areas that need strimming.

Members of the public who know of a Right of Way which needs major hedge cut back and/or surface control should notify PPLO who will put it on the annual cutting schedule.

Obstructed Rights of Way

As every year, maize crops have been planted across Rights of Way and are making them impassable. Those reported include:

WN19/80 (south of Cadbury Court)

WN 19/45 (west of 19/103) Early in summer tenant farmer was asked to cut out/in the path.

WN 19/44 (west of Sandbrook Lane)

Reported Faults

WN 19/39 where it joins **WN 19/40** (field behind Hewlitt's Mill) stile in disrepair.

Circular Walks

1. Leaflets

We have started to check the folders containing the instruction leaflets for the circular walks and have added more leaflets where necessary. We have also added to the folders a copy of the QR codes for the walks so that walkers can get the instructions on their phones rather than using the paper copies.

2a. Signage

We were delighted to receive the email (below) from Chairman of the Monarch's Way, John

Tenant, who recently walked the section of the 625 mile route that runs through North and South Cadbury, expressing his appreciation of the abundance of signage along the route.

John has sent Councillors a copy of the Monarch's Way Bulletin. Pages 51 – 56 cover the section from Castle Cary to Cadbury and include a copy of John's letter to SSDC objecting to the Clare Field Development.

John's letter to the PC dated 9.08.22

Hello,

I am John Tennant Chairman of the 625 mile long Monarch's Way that passes through your parish.

I walked from South Cadbury along the route a week or so ago, it's so very beautiful always to be out in the countryside. I felt I had to show my appreciation for all the new way marker posts along the route and also the huge amount of work that has gone into showing the name of every footpath that I walked along and also the names of all the footpaths that cross it.

As you can imagine I walk a huge amount and I have never before seen that in all my walking years. Would you please pass on my thanks and appreciation to whoever was responsible for all the very hard work that must have been needed.

Perhaps we can work together to support walkers on the Monarch's Way through your Parish.

Very Best Wishes

John

2b. Additional Signs for RoW

I have walked the 8 circular walks and can confirm that 55 of the small luminous signs are needed to complete the signage. Originally these cost £4 each, a total of £220, though the price may have risen since our initial order. Could the Clerk confirm whether money is available in the Rights of Way budget so that they could be ordered?

Contact with SSDC Rights of Way department.

On 10 June a resident of the parish emailed Peter Hopley at the ROW dept to ask how much the work on WN19/105 would cost and how it was to be funded. Having received no reply she wrote to Cllr Mike Lewis to see if he could obtain a response. Cllr Lewis was unable to get an answer to her query but in his reply mentioned that Somerset County Council officers, under the new administration, are resisting personal contact and are relying on councillors and members of the public using the Somerset Interactive map to communicate issues of concern. The Interactive Map, however, is for raising faults on RoW and is not a vehicle for answering more general queries.

This is obviously very frustrating.

