

Footpath report for Estates meeting on February 2nd 2023.

Footpath Surveying. Three volunteers and I have surveyed the entire network of footpaths in the Parish. This has been completed since the last Estates meeting held on 3rd November. Bearing in mind recent weather and underfoot conditions this is a tremendous achievement and the volunteers should be recognised for their efforts. Some interesting discoveries have been made. Two footpaths suddenly stop; one finishes against a housing estate and another on the banks of a deep ditch. In the latter case there is a possibility of a footbridge being built and the footpath continuing towards Stansfield. This would be an instance of re-instating a forgotten footpath.

One footpath starts after crossing a short distance of 'no man's land' and another has a somewhat confusing route. All surveys have been recorded and any discrepancies have been reported to the County Council Footpaths officer. He has met, or is in the process of meeting, landowners to unscramble any confusion.

There is a possibility that the same team of volunteers will start replacing missing waymark posts.

Footpath 25. This is the regularly used footpath that runs from Coltsfoot Green to the School and Village Stores. Hard surfacing was installed for a limited distance at the Coltsfoot Green end, and a request made for this to be extended towards the steps in the corner of Playing Fields. The Footpaths Officer has asked the contractor to give quotes for different lengths of extension. Once these have been received he will decide what the current budget will allow.

Footpath 1. This Farley Green footpath was blocked by an electric fence. Following contact between the owner and the Footpaths Officer the fence has been moved and it is now possible to avoid the enclosed sheep by walking around the paddock perimeter.

Fallen fingerposts. The replacement of fallen fingerposts continues; some display the Discover Suffolk plaque and some do not. Those without will have them added in the near future.

Overgrown hedges. It is pleasing to report that most hedges bordering footpaths have been trimmed. This situation seems to improve year on year and the landowners deserve our thanks.

Roger Medley 25.1.2023