

ROTHERFIELD GREYS RIGHTS OF WAY

March 2019 – February 2020

OVERVIEW

Overall it has been an uneventful year. The long dry summer meant that paths were not seriously overgrown and we were lucky that the more recent storms caused relatively few problems of trees and boughs falling across paths, and where this has happened the landowners have been swift to deal with them. Inevitable the prolonged wet winter has resulted in many paths now being impassably muddy. In woodland extensive 'braiding' has resulted – this is likely to make it harder to keep routes on the 'definitive' line in future.

SOUTH CHILTERN PATH MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS

The annual report of the South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers outlines the wide ranging tasks they have done and the wide geographical area covered.

They spent the morning in the Parish on 26 February 2020 when the following jobs were tackled, mainly on National Trust land.

Removal of redundant gate at the N edge of Pissen Wood
Replacing waymark post at N. end of permissive path linking RG17 to Rocky Lane
Clearing permissive path from the S end of Rocky Lane to Greys Green
Refreshing arrows in Greys Court wood - Bridleway RG10

Leo Jennings from the National Trust also attended to meet with the organisers of the PMV's and discuss on-going maintenance issues.

The offer of a donation from the Parish Council in 2020/21 is very much appreciated and will go towards buying tools for the PMVs working parties.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

FOOTPATH 1 (Adjacent to The Rosary, Shepherds Green)

A Diversion Order was granted on 28.2.19. New fencing was then installed and the PMVs added new waymark posts in the summer.

FOOTPATH 4 (opposite Lane End Lodge, Shepherds Green)

There is an on-going problem of brambles obstructing the kissing gate. It is hoped that the PMV's can include this in their schedule before the summer.

FOOTPATH 16 (diagonally from church north to valley bottom)

Longstanding issue that it is slightly off-line

FOOTPATH 21 (Cross Lane Farm)

Stile broken - No signs

FOOTPATH 27 (Grange Farm)

Path off-line and not signposted properly at road.

It is hoped that the landowner will apply for a Diversion Order to redefine the current 'walked line' as the Definitive Line.

BRIDLEWAY 29 (Broadplat road opposite Greenmore Farm)
Finger post lost in vegetation

FOOTPATH 35 (Rocky Lane Orchard)
Suffers from poor fencing along both sides of path

FOOTPATH 57 (Rose Farm, Rocky Lane)
Unauthorised diversion

Many of these problems will need the input of the County Rights of Way officer to resolve, but have low priority because they pose no danger and do not compromise route-finding.

Jane Warren
Chiltern Society Volunteer Parish Path Representative
1 March 2020