


Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	All the footpaths in the Parish and beyond are getting heavy, unprecedented use due to more people taking outdoor exercise during the COVID pandemic. Combined with the current wet winter weather, many paths are muddy, sometimes underwater and in a few cases, impassable.	
Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)	Shirley Anglin, PRoW and Localism Officer has been in contact to reassure the Parish Council that she is still hoping to attend a meeting to explain the P3 Scheme in more detail. This will be arranged for next year subject to Shirley's availability. It would be helpful to ask for her advice about Definitive Map entries prior to the January 2026 deadline. No further news on this.	
FP1,3 &4	These three truncated footpaths lead into Ferrier's Pits but have never been extinguished in the hope that at least one of the paths might be re-opened with a diversion order. Nik Leeson (PRoW Essex County Council) started investigations prior to COVID-19 as to whether there would be funding to create a safe path around the Pits. Funding from Essex Highways highly unlikely. COVID-19 has hampered any progress on this matter but there is the concern that the Parish might 'lose' these PROWs altogether when all historic footpaths are relinquished on 1 st January 2026 because of a clause in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000(Labour Government).	
FP1	The surviving section of FP1 leads off Bombose Lane around the perimeter of Bombose Farm onto Cooks Green. The entrance to the footpath is marked by an old concrete fingerpost which is set deep in a roadside hedge. Permission has been sought to re-site the post in a more visible position on the verge. Awaiting a decision via the Devolution Scheme.	

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
FP5	<p>From Ferrier's Farm to Horne's Green (a field margin path, leading to a cross-field path through some scrub and into a wood, then onto a well-kept grassed lane to the road)</p> <p>NIK Leeson (ECC Access Team) is not prepared to proceed with the proposed diversion because of objections from Alphamstone and Lamarsh residents. Walkers continue to use the unauthorised lower woodland walk but this has become increasingly boggy as the winter weather sets in. Some walkers are clearly using the alternative headland path (which is the proposed diversion) to skirt around the edge of the woodland. Neither route is an actual PROW. This unofficial situation cannot now continue indefinitely.</p> <p>Andrew Ritchings (Definitive Map Team) has been in contact to ask if the proposed Diversion can be either implemented or the Order closed. He requires a decision from the Bures Hamlet Parish Council to process the Order or to withdraw it with reasons as to why the Order has been abandoned. The reason might be that due to objections to the proposed diversion, the Parish Council has reconsidered one of the original options put forward by Highways to reinstate the definitive footpath but understands that this may take some time to implement for practical reasons.</p> <p>Meanwhile, one of the objectors has suggested that the Parish Council should contest the right to use the lower valley walk on the grounds that it has been in continuous use for over 20 years. Anyone can apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) and there is no charge for doing so. It does involve a certain amount of administration and the gathering of evidence from witnesses to verify its use over 20 years. If such an undertaking were successful, the Parish Council, not Highways, would effectively adopt the route as a PROW and would be responsible for its upkeep and maintenance. The lower valley route crosses through some dense scrubland which becomes very overgrown in the summer months and across an area prone to being very boggy all year round before eventually entering the wood where there are some old, unstable trees. The Parish Council needs to consider this option carefully and minute its decision.</p> <p>Once the Parish Council has decided which option to pursue, the Definitive Team and Nik Leeson will be notified. It has already been suggested that the Parish Council could enlist the help of local volunteers to support the reinstatement of the Definitive footpath if it is agreed to proceed with this option.</p>	

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
FP5	The current field-edge footpath from Ferriers Lane which then becomes a cross-field path before reaching the wood will remain unaltered if the Diversion Order is withdrawn.	
FP13	Footpath off Fishpits Lane opposite Polstead Farm leading along Lamarsh Park A fingerpost has been requested under the Devolution Scheme. Awaiting permission to proceed.	2652997 02/03/2020
FP14	Footpath from Ravensfield Farm to Polstead Farm Damaged old-style concrete fingerpost. Awaiting permission to replace under the Devolution Scheme.	2652994 02/03/2020
BWY 25	Track leading from Balls Road to Broad Oaks Colne Road opposite Pricketts Hall Farm This has been impassable due to prolonged flooding, exacerbated by recent snow and rain. Based on the experience of previous years, the route may remain unusable by pedestrians for the rest of the winter.	
FP30	 <p>From Colne Road next to Parsonage Grove crossing the railway to The Paddocks. The Parish Council is still awaiting the outcome of the Network Rail Public Inquiry for Level Crossings Reduction in Essex regarding the fate of the above 'passive crossing'. The Tenterfield developer has completed work on the footpath. Nik Leeson (EEC) was in earlier contact with the developer following complaints about the perceived narrowing of the path. It continues to be a rough soil surface, uneven as before, with a short gravelled entrance off the Colne Road. The Parish Council received a complaint about the gravelled surface and this was referred to the developer. The Parish Council is not aware of any further action taken to date regarding the concerns raised by residents.</p>	Crossing E54

Bures Hamlet PROW report (January 2021)

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	A very rough alleyway has been created between the boundary fence and the railway line to the end of the estate. Management of this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.	
FP33	Phillips Path. Colchester Road to Mount Bures level crossing A request has been made for an official Essex County Council finger post to be erected at the Colchester Road end of the footpath. Awaiting approval to proceed.	
FP4 Mount Bures Parish	This is a Mount Bures footpath which joins up with the Bures Hamlet FP 11 running from Bures Mill across the flood meadows towards Wormingford. (Stour Valley Walk) At Long Gardens there is a plank footbridge across a stream which has been steadily deteriorating with recent heavy usage. It has been reported several times and ECC have now agreed that repairs are required.	2685714 21/12/2020
FYI	Quiet Lanes Suffolk. This is a project which has been launched across all Suffolk Parishes funded by a grant of £235,000 from Suffolk County Council. Bures St Mary has nominated three lanes for consideration, subject to a set of criteria. The scheme is designed to encourage considerate behaviour by all road users, to 'expect and respect' others, and in particular, for motorists to adjust their speed when using rural roads. There is, however, no enforceable speed limit. Signage will be installed at the entrance and exit of dedicated routes, indicating that they are Quiet Lanes. The project should be fully implemented by October 2021. 40% of parishes have engaged with QLS, nominating 399 lanes, a total of 507 km.	
FYI	The Ramblers launched ' Don't Lose Your Way ' in February 2020 to support volunteers submitting DMMO applications for potential lost Rights of Way before the January 2026 deadline. Anyone can log onto the site, if interested, to see a collection of maps showing footpaths no longer in use, some having been legally extinguished, others quite literally lost (a total of over 49,000 miles of paths across England and Wales). The Gt. Britain OS Six-inch map of 1888-1913 shows a very different network of paths across Bures!	

Jan Aries January 2021