

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	<p>All the footpaths in the Parish have been checked. Some longstanding issues remain unresolved. Essex Highways have a statement on the reporting site. Please note: multiple reports of the same issue will not change the status or speed of the investigation. Consequently, several issues reported below are historic! Some footpaths are becoming difficult to access because of the muddy conditions.</p>	
<p><b>Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)</b></p>	<p>Shirley Anglin (PRoW Officer for Essex County Council) notified the Parish Council that we can enter a Service Level Agreement in the summer 2022. The application was submitted December 2021. No further progress on this at the moment.</p>	
<p><b>FP1</b></p>	<p><b>Off Bombose Lane around Bombose Farm</b> The fingerpost remains obscured from sight by dense hedging. The kissing gate at the edge of the road is frequently overrun by brambles and requires regular cutting back.</p>	
<p><b>FP5</b></p>	<p><b>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)</b> The reinstatement of the Definitive Footpath has proved very successful with many more walkers now using this route. As proposed in the last report, a ledge has been dug in along short sections of the bank to level the path where it was very much 'on the slant'.</p>	
<p><b>FP13</b></p>	<p><b>Footpath off Fishpits Lane opposite Polstead Farm leading along Lamarsh Park</b> There is no fingerpost at this point or any indication that this is a PRoW. Still awaiting the site to be assessed during future scheduled inspections.</p>	
<p><b>FP14/BWY15</b></p>	<p><b>Footpath from Ravensfield Farm to Polstead Farm</b> Damaged old-style concrete fingerpost. <b>Byway from Ravensfield Farm to Hornes Green</b> Both PRoWs originate from the same point. The Byway has no finger post. These reports have been removed from the Interactive website and are now logged as items to be assessed during future scheduled inspections.</p>	

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<b>FP16</b>	<p><b>From Colne Road south to Butlers Farm</b>                      FP16 was, some years ago, diverted from its Definitive line without the necessary permission. No Diversion Order has been raised yet but there is no reason for the Parish Council to object to this unauthorized path diversion. Butlers Farm has submitted a Planning Application which impacts on the Definitive Right of Way so the applicants will need to formalize the diversion at some point.</p>	
<b>BWY25</b>	<p><b>From Colne Road opposite Pricketts Hall Farm to Balls Road</b>                      The surface issues have not been resolved and the report remains open.  <i>An inspector will carry out an initial assessment determine the next appropriate action, which may include a site visit.</i></p>	3388148
<b>FP30</b>	<p><b>From Colne Road next to Parsonage Grove crossing the railway to The Paddocks.</b>                      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'. In the meantime, volunteers have cut back the brambles and hedge following several complaints that the path was becoming difficult to use. This path is meant to be cut once a year by Essex Highways.</p>	
<b>Item of Interest</b>	<p><i>Essex County Council and Essex Area Ramblers (EAR) have teamed up to ensure crossfield public paths, that are being illegally obstructed by growing crops, are cleared to be enjoyed by walkers.</i></p> <p>Essex has an extensive network of just under 4000 miles of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), enabling all of us to freely enjoy active travel in some fresh air amid the natural beauty of the county's landscapes.</p> <p>Sometimes, however, footpaths across arable fields are unwalkable because they have been ploughed or are obstructed by crops. Farmers are legally bound to reinstate them but occasionally neglect to do so. Essex Highways has been dealing with and enforcing such</p>	

	<p>issues on crossfield paths for years, but in some instances the response time has been rather slow for what is obviously a time-constrained problem. This can be particularly frustrating in cases which involve the same paths year after year.</p> <p>Simon Taylor, Essex Highways' PRoW Enforcement &amp; Liaison Officer, and members of the EAR agreed a streamlined process, involving greater EAR involvement in reporting and monitoring issues on crossfield footpaths. Members would identify a longstanding problem path, report the issue on our existing public 'Tell Us' online tool but at the same time forward the report with a photograph to the EAR Area Footpath Secretary, who would in turn copy this direct to Simon.</p> <p>The Landowner or farmer can then be contacted and take whatever action was necessary to ensure the footpath was suitably reinstated. EAR members also agreed to help with the follow-up, checking paths that the landowner/ farmer had stated were clear but failed to provide photographic evidence, or where there had simply been no response.</p> <p>Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "I am thrilled with the collaboration we have created with the Essex Area Ramblers. It has meant that this summer we were able to enforce 30% more cropped crossfield paths than previous years."</p> <p>"PRoW routes can help the people of Essex introduce healthier, more enjoyable activity into their lives. And it also lets people explore more of the beautiful and interesting outdoor space we have in the county. By ensuring these routes are clear and safe we are one step closer to a safer, greener and healthier Essex. All we ask is that walkers stick to the routes and <a href="#">follow the countryside code</a>."</p> <p>EAR members have praised both the collaboration and the results and by working with Essex Highways, EAR members have been able to bring real benefits to all walkers.</p> <p><b>Cllr Peter Schwier   Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader / Climate Czar</b></p>	
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Bures Hamlet PROW report (January 2022) Jan Aries

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<b>FYI</b>	<p><b>Quiet Lanes Suffolk.</b>                      St Edmunds Lane (route U8616) and Hollow Lane (route U8617) were formally submitted under Wave 3 of the QLS initiative. The SCC Highways Engineer is currently processing all issues raised in the public consultation.                      An extension to the deadline for Wave 4 submissions has meant that Smallbridge Entry has been put forward for Wave 4. The Bures St Mary Parish Council is now in a position to meet the deadline for the informal public consultation (leaflets have been distributed) and to provide an opportunity for the public to make their views known at the Bures St Mary Parish Council meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022.</p>	
<b>Mount Bures B1508 junction</b>	<p>Still waiting on a sign to erect on the fingerpost by Brook House Cottage to indicate that there is a traffic-free route into Bures St Mary and to the school. The supplier closed for new orders prior to Christmas and refunded payment. A new order can be submitted if members are in favour.</p>	