

Bures Hamlet PROW report (November 2020)

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	Very little to report on footpaths in the Parish on this occasion. Due to COVID-19 restrictions most decisions and works are still pending.	
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. 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. The entrance to the footpath is marked by an old concrete fingerpost which is set deep in a roadside hedge. It may be possible for the Parish contractor to cut the hedge back to reveal the fingerpost but it would be better to re-site the post in a more visible position on the verge. Permission to do this has been sought via the Devolution Scheme. Awaiting a decision.	
FP5	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) ECC are not going to proceed with the proposed diversion because of objections from Alphamstone and Lamarsh residents. Walkers continue to use the unauthorized lower woodland walk but it is becoming increasingly boggy as the wetter weather sets in. The Parish Council has no authority to access this section of the wood to carry out any	

Bures Hamlet PROW report (November 2020)

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	<p>clearance or improvements so walkers have to navigate the difficult sections as best as they can. Some walkers are clearly using the alternative headland path to skirt around the edge of the woodland. Neither route is an actual PROW and unless the landowner intervenes, this unofficial situation will no doubt continue indefinitely. But the Parish Council needs to be mindful that old footpaths and bridleways that are not recorded on the official Definitive Map of Rights of Way may cease to carry public rights as of 1st January 2026. Apparently, this will also apply to well-worn informal direct routes such as the lower valley path. I will approach Essex Highways in the New Year for further advice.</p>	
<p>FP13</p>	<p>Footpath off Fishpits Lane opposite Polstead Farm leading along Lamarsh Park A fingerpost has been requested under the Devolution Scheme. Awaiting permission to proceed.</p>	<p>2652997 02/03/2020</p>
<p>FP14</p>	<p>Footpath from Ravensfield Farm to Polstead Farm Damaged old-style concrete fingerpost. Awaiting permission to replace under the Devolution Scheme.</p>	<p>2652994 02/03/2020</p>
<p>BWY 25</p>	<p>Track leading from Balls Road to Broad Oaks Colne Road opposite Pricketts Hall Farm</p> <p>Not surprisingly, this track has remained dry throughout the summer with no extensive flooding to report. There has been some attempt to level the rutting from farm vehicles in places but where the mud has dried rock-solid, the uneven sections require some care. The track is regularly used by horse riders which contributes to the deterioration of the surface in wet conditions. I will continue to monitor and report again to Essex Highways if necessary.</p>	

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
<p>FP30</p>	<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'.</p> <div data-bbox="436 502 1086 997" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The developer of the adjacent 'Tenterfield' site has cleared the barbed wire and unruly hedge that flanked the full length of the footpath and has erected a wooden fence to mark the perceived boundary of the site. Previously, concerns were expressed by residents that the footpath had been narrowed and the hedge removed which was meant to be retained according to the landscape plans. Several discussions with the developer followed. The stile leading to the rail crossing adjacent to the new 'estate' was badly damaged. This was reported to Network Rail as it is their property and a new metal stile has now been installed. (It is not, however, very dog-friendly.)</p> <p>A request has been made for the Colchester Road end of FP30 leading to the Paddocks to be resurfaced. A section of this has already been resurfaced.</p>	<p>Crossing E54</p>

Bures Hamlet PROW report (November 2020)

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
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.	
	In August a new free walking initiative called 'Finding Your Feet' made a very tentative start in the village. This was primarily intended to help those needing the opportunity for low impact exercise and some social interaction after the COVID-19 lockdown. There was not sufficient interest and with the onset of more inclement weather and a second lockdown imminent, it has been decided to defer this initiative until next year. The Community Engagement Officer will submit a notice to this effect to the Parish magazine and Beautiful Bures FB.	
	<p>A new information board has been sited on the Common as part of the 'Improving the Stour Valley for Visitors' project (hosted by the Dedham Vale AONB Team). The project includes some improvements and enhancements to the Stour Valley Path – one element of which is the installation of some new information boards along the route.</p> <p>The board contains information from the 'Walking in Bures' leaflet, and signposts to that leaflet as well as more information about the Stour Valley Path. Other similar boards are positioned along the Stour Valley Walk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newmarket – at the very beginning of the SVP, where the path leaves the main road out of Newmarket and heads towards Devils Dyke • Kedington – at the Kedington Community Centre – where the SVP passes the KCA's 'Great Meadow' • Clare – where the SVP passes in/out of Clare Castle Country Park • Bures – on the common • Nayland – where the SVP passes through The Nayland and Wissington Land Company's area of land/conservation on the banks of the River Stour 	

Bures Hamlet PROW report (November 2020)

	Both Parish Councils are very grateful to the Dedham Vale AONB /Stour Valley Organisation Team and especially Katherine Davies, the Stour Valley Visitor Development Officer who liaised with the Bures Common Land Trust to arrange the installation of the board.	
--	---	--

Jan Aries November 2020