

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	All the footpaths in the Parish have been checked. As anticipated, there has been a need to keep nettles and verges under control.	
QLS	As required, an informal virtual public consultation was held on 26 th April as part of the Annual Parish Meeting. It was decided to withdraw from Wave 2 of the proposals to designate certain roads in the parish as Quiet Lanes. At the Parish Council meeting on 20 th May no decision was made to proceed. Members wanted to secure an agreement from 50% of the residents on Bures Green (Hollow Lane) before committing to the QLS process. The final decision by the Parish Council to proceed with Wave 3 must be submitted to QLS by 2 nd August. The formal notification to the public by SCC commences on 23 rd August. The deadline for public representations to the SCC will be 13 th September.	
Discovering Suffolk	The Parish Council has been contacted by Ben Heather who is the project manager for a two-year project called Discovering Suffolk based within the Green Access Team at Suffolk County Council. The Discovering Suffolk project will raise awareness of Suffolk's countryside and build upon Covid-19 pandemic associated behavioural changes by promoting local outdoor activity across Suffolk. The project will build on the work of Discover Suffolk which is the county council's public facing promotional brand for the public rights of way (ROW) and access team. As part of this project, they are looking to install new plaques onto roadside ROW fingerposts. These will provide links to both the Discover Suffolk website and promote the countryside code. These new plaques will be fitted on fingerposts as they are replaced over time, but SCC are also keen to install them onto existing posts in the countryside with the help of volunteers. Plaques will be made from a durable material that can be fixed to existing wooden finger posts with 4 small screws (which will be supplied along with a map and guide).	

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BWY5	<p>The Croft leading to the Sudbury Road The hedge and the verges have been strimmed since the last meeting but may need attention again later in the summer.</p>	
FP8	<p>Off Cuckoo Hill by Fysh House Farm to Clicketts Hill Following a road closure on the High Street by Willow House some motorists were trying to use this farm track to bypass the closure. The landowner parked a farm vehicle to prevent this from happening as it was both unsafe and unsuitable. The farm vehicle did have to be re-positioned to allow pedestrians to pass. The Suffolk Access team were made aware, following a complaint from a member of the public, but they obviously did not fully understand the context. It would be prudent to note that any unscheduled measure taken, even if only temporarily, to 'close' a footpath in future must be reported to the Suffolk Access team.</p>	
Permissive Paths	<p>From Friends Field to Fysh House Farm Last month an incident was reported to the police of a distressed cow loose on the permissive path. The matter was investigated and the case is now closed. However, it became clear that some members of the public do not realise that this is not a public right of way but is a permissive path. To ensure that walkers understand the status of the path, notices have been ordered, indicating that it is a permissive path, and these will be mounted at either end of the route. This also raises an interesting point in that there have been several remarks made about summer side growth on some of the paths making passage difficult. Some walkers assume that, because there is a well-worn track, this indicates a PRow, even in the absence of any official fingerpost, and expect the path to be maintained as such. Any permissive path is allowed at the discretion of the landowner and is maintained as they see fit. Most of the permissive paths will be marked as such in time. The one not clearly marked 'permissive path' is along the back of Tawneys Ride from the top of Claypits.</p>	

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<p>FP14</p>	<p>From Sewage Works to the kissing gate leading onto the flood meadow towards Smallbridge</p>  <p>The field section became impassable. The landowner was emailed but with no response and the problem reported online to the Suffolk Access team. The Parish Clerk was informed that FP14 was not on the 'schedule' and so County would not clear the path. The Parish Council was not aware of any schedule and requested sight of this. It transpires that Bures St Mary is only eligible for a footpath cut to FP16 and to a short section of FP11. The Parish Clerk has asked for clarification of how this allocation came about and if it can be reviewed. Meanwhile, the Parish contractor strimmed behind the sewage works and created a corridor around the potato field. Within the last few days, it would appear that the landowner has since sent in a tractor and cleared a wide channel around the field margin.</p> <p>Continuing along FP14 to Little Hall Cottage, a damaged fingerpost was found in a ditch, probably caused by the cattle, just beyond the kissing gates. The Parish contractor repaired and replaced the finger post only for it to be found once again in the ditch. Finger posts are only a statutory requirement where a PRow opens onto a highway. Waymarker posts are discretionary. Any fingerpost or waymarker post erected in the field along FP14 is going to be prone to damage by livestock so the post will not be replaced.</p>	

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<p>FP16</p>	<p>From Sudbury Road to St Edmunds Lane</p>  <p>The tree works to the length of the adjoining property 'White Lodge' have been completed with some new fencing erected. The footpath has been strimmed but may need further attention later in the summer.</p> <p>There is a short narrow section of the Sudbury Road linking the end of BWY 5 (the Croft) to FP16 with no pedestrian provision (see photo). The Parish contractor is going to strim the roadside verge which runs the length of Croft End Cottage to provide some refuge for walkers from oncoming, often speeding, traffic.</p>	
<p>FP21</p>	<p>From Cuckoo Hill via steps to a crossfield path to the Assington Road</p> <p>The crossfield path has been firmed up.</p>	

Jan Aries July 2021