

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	Several items of interest to report on footpaths on this occasion.	
	<p>The Parish Clerk and the PROW warden were invited to an informal meeting with Bevills Estate (Mr. Geoffrey Probert) on 13/10/2020 with regard to footpath matters across the estate. Mr. Probert provided a plan highlighting PROWS and permissive paths. The Estate has High Stewardship status and as such, tries to preserve wildlife areas as sanctuaries with no public access. Members of the public do wander from permitted paths and the Bevills Estate is anxious to reduce these incidents.</p> <p>A notice, ordered by the Parish Council, has been erected at the furthest eastern edge of the Community Woodland to discourage the public from venturing beyond the fence around Smock Pound Field down to Nayland Road.</p> <p>The Bevill Estate will produce additional signs as appropriate and as they need replacing. The Rookery off the Sports Ground is neither a permissive nor a PROW. The path is for the use of fee-paying anglers and the Bevills Estate is anxious that the anglers should not be inconvenienced by unauthorized public use. For the moment Mr. Probert is prepared to 'turn a blind eye' to public use but is not prepared to incur the cost of clearing fallen trees, leaving this to the willow contractor.</p> <p>Another area of concern is the flood meadow leading down to the wildfowl lake beyond Chapel Barn where walkers regularly leave the PROW.</p> <p>It has to be said that the Bevills Estate has kindly provided a number of well-maintained permissive paths for public enjoyment. To remind the public about respecting these walks, the Parish Council might consider the use of more 'respect this permissive sign and clear up after your dog' signs. Especially as there may be an increase in walking in the area due to COVID-19.</p> <p>However, not for the first time, a footpath sign has been damaged by hedge flailing. The sign leading up to Daisy's Wood will need to be replaced if it is felt that it was helpful in minimizing dog fouling along the track. Any replacement should possibly be sited in a less vulnerable position.</p>	

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	Mr. Probert was also asked to consider instating a new permissive path from St Edmunds Lane along Assington Road to Bures Green where a gamekeeper path already exists. He will give this some thought.	
	Ciaran Griffin (Voluntary Footpath Warden Little Cornard Parish Council) approached Bures St Mary Parish Council to start some preliminary discussions about the creation of a footpath to link the two parishes. <b>No progress to report.</b>	
	<p>The Quiet Lanes Suffolk Team (QLS) have received SCC grant funding to help Parishes and Towns throughout Suffolk to designate Quiet Lanes. Quiet Lanes offer a safer environment for non-motorised travellers and can help to protect our rural environment. They are not intended to be used as a traffic calming measure.</p> <p>The initiative seeks to encourage motorists to <b>expect and respect</b> other road users.</p> <p>Criteria for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single track lane</li> <li>• No line markings or footpaths</li> <li>• Lees than 1,000 vehicle trips per day</li> <li>• Average speeds of less than 35mph (many motorists drive at speeds greater than this on unrestricted roads)</li> </ul> <p>There are no up-front costs nor any obligation to proceed at this point but registration of Expression of Interest is invited to be received by <b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>.</p> <p>The grant will fund two road traffic surveys if required and signage funding up to £500. The Parish will have to fund printing and distribution of materials for public consultation.</p> <p>Assington Parish has already lodged an interest in Cuckoo Hill all the way to Assington and Arger Fen Road from Assington to Nayland Road.</p> <p>Bures St Mary PC might consider St Edmunds Lane, Hollow Lane and possibly Clicketts Hill, out to the Smallbridge junction.</p>	

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<b>FP2</b>	Bures/Sudbury Road lay-by to Dorking Tye. The crossfield section of this long footpath has been ploughed up. The landowner has two weeks to reinstate a visible footpath so I will revisit in a fortnight and report to Suffolk Highways if this has not been done or if walkers have not already 'trodden in' a new path.	
<b>FP3</b>	Bures/Sudbury Road lay-by to Assington Road via Corn Hall. An extensive field margin of maize for pheasant cover makes it very difficult to locate the exit from the crossfield path. A corridor should be provided through the maize. If this still has not been done when the above issue is checked, this obstruction will also be reported.	
<b>BWY5</b>	Footpath leading from the end of the Croft to the kissing gate on Sudbury Road. Concerns have been raised by an elderly resident who relies on this footpath as the only access to her property. <b>Cllr Finch may update at the meeting about plans to resurface this byway.</b>	Ref: 284156 21/07/2020
<b>FP11</b>	Footpath from Moat Farm along the Assington Brook to the ford at the foot of Arger Fen. There is a plank crossing (sleeper bridge) over the Assington Brook with no handrail. The crossing can get quite slippery so a handrail was requested. The Suffolk County Council Access Team carried out an assessment but did not feel any further action was necessary.	Ref: 280011 08/06/2020
	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 for Braintree D.C. will submit a notice to this effect to the Parish magazine and Beautiful Bures FB.	

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	<p>A new information board has been sited on the Bures 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"> <li>• Newmarket – at the very beginning of the SVP, where the path leaves the main road out of Newmarket and heads towards Devils Dyke</li> <li>• Kedington – at the Kedington Community Centre – where the SVP passes the KCA's 'Great Meadow'</li> <li>• Clare – where the SVP passes in/out of Clare Castle Country Park</li> <li>• Bures – on the common</li> <li>• Nayland – where the SVP passes through The Nayland and Wissington Land Company's area of land/conservation on the banks of the River Stour</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>	

Jan Aries November 2020