

Hampton Bishop Footpath Officer Report

January 2022

Summary

- All footpaths walked during December
- The partially collapsed footbridge (1) and the stile (2) reported at the September meeting still require attention
- A fingerpost (3) has gone missing on the access road to the A438
- Clarification to be sought from the Hereford Wildlife Trust regarding restrictions to roam and an apparent unintended conflict caused by the path of the existing right of way (4)
- The broken hanging post of the Kissing Gate at the rear of Badgers Crossing (as reported at the September meeting) has been repaired together with improvements to the posts on the other Kissing Gate immediately to the east (8)
- An asset, a finger post (5) that was becoming overgrown by ivy, has been helpfully cleared by an unknown benefactor
- The asset register for the Hampton Bishop footpaths remains in a draft format as no formal details of the County Council footpath reference numbers have been received. A role description for the Footpath Officer, as previously requested, is still awaited

Assets in need of attention are detailed below:

Required Actions

1.

Footbridge (First reported 16/8/2021)

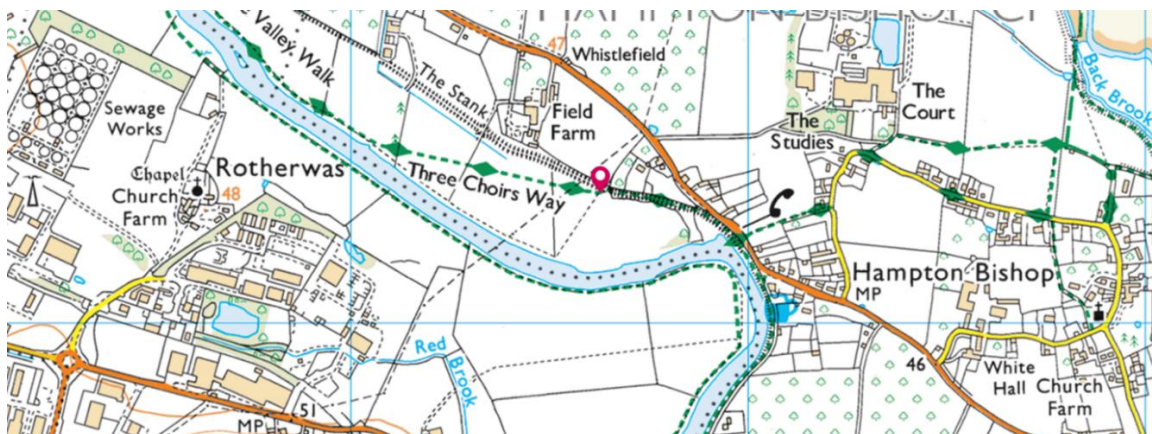
Southeast of Field Farm. Part of the Wye Valley Walk and Three Choirs Way

OS Grid Ref: SO 54629 38325

Latitude: 52° 2' 29" N

Longitude: 2° 39' 46" W

What 3 Words: moon.chatters.delusions



3.

Missing Fingerpost

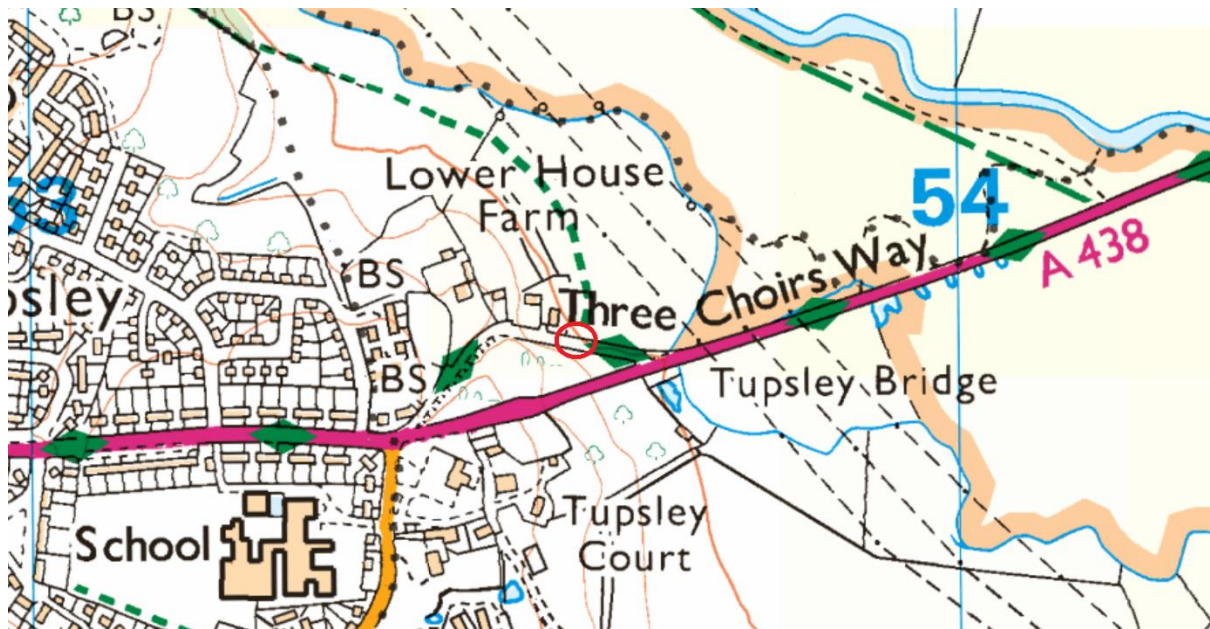
Service Road off of A438 close to Lower House Farm leading to Lugg Meadow

OS Grid Ref: SO 53581 40352

Latitude: 52° 3' 34" N

Longitude: 2° 40' 42" W

What3Words: drew.leans.hotels



Issue: A Finger post from the Service Road leading to the Lugg Meadow has disappeared with no trace of it ever having been there! The area appears to be well maintained by the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust so they may already be aware and dealing?



There in August

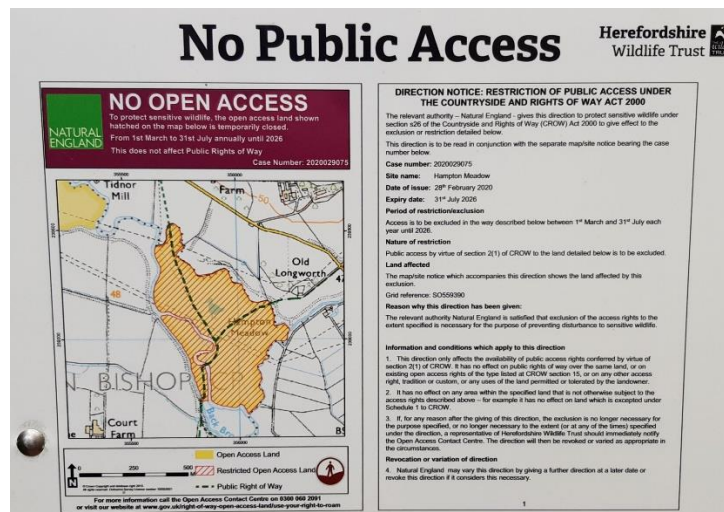


Missing in December

4.

Hampton Meadow Restricted Access

This issue relates to picture below. Between 1st March to 31st July each year until 2026 (unless extended) access to the Hampton Meadow under CROW 2000, is restricted. The notice is placed on all the access points to the Meadow. CROW legislation enables people to roam over certain designated land and are not constrained to footpaths, this is the case with the Hampton Meadow. The notice restricts the access to roam but does not restrict access to the existing rights of way. As you will see in the picture the right of way cuts straight across the middle of the Meadow leading north towards Tidnor Mill. The right of way appears exactly where the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust do not want people to walk? The unofficial route adopted by many tends to follow the Lugg bank in an arc around the west edge of the meadow. Strictly speaking this route is not a right of way. The notice, as written, therefore appears to cause confusion. If the Trust are in agreement with access to the Meadow following the banks of the Lugg rather than the actual right of way could they be encouraged to write a short article to cover this and seek that it is placed in the Parish Magazine before 31st March 2022. Note, the footpath to the east is well defined and there is no general deviation from this right of way.



Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

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Information

5.

Overgrown Asset cleared by unknown benefactor

The fingerpost being covered in Ivy by the Mordiford Bridge as detailed in September has helpfully been cleaned up. Perhaps Balfour Beaty or some other unknown benefactor?



Overgrown fingerpost previously obscured by Ivy

6.

Bleached or Missing Way Marker Discs

Many Way Marking discs are either bleached or missing. This makes the route direction uncertain and inconsistent for casual walkers.

If a supply of Way Marking discs are supplied to the Footpath Officer these can be replaced as required.

7.

Updated Information Board

As reported in the September report the degraded information sheet on the information board at the Mordiford Bridge, Fisherman's car park has now been replaced by the Footpath Officer. The previous laminated sheet that provides geological and ecological information of the area had degraded and was no longer readable. A replacement sheet was supplied by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust. The Trust have been advised that the notice board is becoming rotten and has a life of probably less than two years.



Before/after information sheet supplied by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust

8.

Repair to Kissing Gates at the rear of Badgers Crossing

As reported at the September meeting the Kissing Gate at the top of the steps (west) close to Badgers Crossing had a broken hanging post. This has now been repaired together with an additional post.



Repaired hanging post on Kissing Gate (west) close to Badgers Crossing

The Kissing Gate at the top of the steps (east) close to Badgers Crossing has also had two posts replaced.



Replacement post on Kissing Gate (east) close to Badgers Crossing