

Hemingford Abbots - Footpath Warden's Report

To the Annual Parish Meeting 29th May 2013

Preamble

All references are to footpaths as detailed and numbered on the 'Public Rights of Way in and around Hemingford Abbots'

Footpaths 5,7&8 – Across the Meadow to Houghton Lock Bridge or immediately before left along the Ouse Valley Way or right to a dead end opposite Battocks Island

The footpath from the Bailey Bridge is severely potholed – some are very deep and wide and will cause people to trip. **Recommendation : The path should be repaired urgently**

Footpaths 2 and 3 – From the side of Beechers House to the River Bank and Quay at Hemingford Grey

This is in very good condition with all gates working and the pathway at the rear of the Caravan Park well looked after. The entrance to the rear of Chapmans is a little overgrown

Footpath 4 – From the end of Common Lane to the A14 layby

This is very little used but large section have become unwalkable. The stiles from Common Lane are in poor condition and made unpleasant by bramble and nettles which need to be cut back. The fields where the horses are kept are divided by electric fences which interrupt the footpath. From A14 the footpath is waist high and extremely difficult to tackle. **Few (if any) use this and a more pleasant walk is the Common itself**

Footpath 1 – From New Road to the A14 joining with Footpath 6 (F6) from The Thorpe in Hemingford Grey

The first section to the junction of F6 is signposted from New Road and well delineated by use. Thereafter it is not and crossed by a large drainage ditch. It ends 'dead' in a hedge by the A14 and there is no signpost there. A more practical route continues to be to use F6 to Gore Tree Road

Roads and Speed Limits

Roads are also footpaths and are dangerous to walk because of poor maintenance and high vehicle speeds. **The '30' signs in Rideaway should be moved 150 metres South – at present they are too close to housing to enable traffic to slow sufficiently.**

Verges

Many verges have been reinstated following construction work but some remain in very poor condition. **HAPC should write asking for rectification by Flower Festival.**

River

Environment Agency and rights owners need monitoring. **HAPC should appoint River Warden. I would be prepared to do this.**