

ASHTON KEYNES  
Footpaths Inventory 9th December 2020

1. Footpath 1. (North End to Spine Road East).

Noted in last known inventory of 31/08/2011 as "closed some years ago by removing the stiles etc - although the legal formalities were not undertaken".

As of November 2020, no trace of the footpath can be found.

2. Footpath 1a. (North side of Spine Road East westerly to Cross Roads and then north to Whitefriars Lane).

Walked 15/11/2020. Clear sign on Whitefriars Lane but no signage from road to indicate there is a path on Whitefriars Lane. The path from Whitefriars Lane to the Spine Road was overgrown but has now been cleared by a volunteer. At the Spine Road exit/entrance there is no signage at all to indicate the footpath - this is important as walking the footpath from the spine road entrance means that one can avoid walking on the busy main road to reach Whitefriars lane and thus join up with AKEY 24 around Whitefriars lake and into Siddington/South Cerney. The footpath going along the side of the Spine Road East towards the Spine Road entrance to AKEY 24 was full of low hanging brambles. These have been cleared by a volunteer but the exit onto the spine road is almost impassable. And there is no sign indicating it from the Spine road. To an extent this doesn't matter as running alongside the footpath is the paved pedestrian walkway.

Request for signage (plus photos showing existing position) at the start of Spine Road East to indicate that the footpath to Whitefriars Lane exists sent to Stephen Leonard by email of 18th November 2020.

3. Footpath 2. (South side of Spine Road West, opposite entrance to Cotswold Community, to North End opposite Brickworks)

Entrance opposite Cotswold Community completely overgrown. WCC footpaths sign is completely hidden in the overgrown trees off the Spine Road West.

It is possible to access Footpath 2 by getting on to Footpath 6 off the Spine Road West and turning left at the gravel road. However there is no signage pointing to footpath 2 where the gravel road diverges into Footpaths 2 and 6. There is also no visible WCC footpath sign pointing to Footpath 6 (and thus Footpath 2) off the Spine Road West. There is a sign but it is aged and hidden in the overgrown trees off the spine road.

The footpath itself is very overgrown in places and it looks as if locals have put up homemade directional signage which has been broken and laid down on the ground by someone.

The exit passage alongside the houses just up from and opposite The Brickworks onto the B4696 is very overgrown by hedging and brambles (which are at eye level) and is bordered on one side by a barbed wire fence.

The exit has no warning at all that one is about to step straight onto the very busy B4696 which is a wilts HGV route and no stile to slow progress onto the same. It is incredibly dangerous. From the

B4696 there is no indication at all that there is a footpath and the entrance is almost invisible from the road.

Email sent to Stephen Leonard at Wilts CC on 13th November along with photographs asking for the footpath to be cleared where it exits onto the B4696, signage to be put up ( including warning signage about the danger of exiting onto the B4696 such as is in place where Footpath 9 (The Thames Path) exits onto the same road) and help in tracing the landowner responsible with Wilts for maintaining the footpath.

4. Footpath 3. (Spine Road West to Cotswold Community Buildings)

As noted in last inventory of 31/08/2011 "Sign needed off Spine Road West pointing towards Cotswold community buildings." Still no sign.

Entrance now has a threatening sign on the entrance gate stating "Guard dogs on patrol 24-7. Warning private property. Please stick to the public footpaths and refrain from entering the private properties on this site". Large steel chain around the steel gate. It looks as if the chain extends to the wooden footpath entrance but if you push it, it opens. On a visit on 8th November 2020, a security guard with dogs approached when trying to enter and indicated it was ok to follow the footpath but he said it was overgrown totally in places.

Not walked as concerned over the threatening attitude of guard and worried about the presence of the guard dogs. Also there was no visible footpath which one would automatically follow.

Reported on 9th November to Stephen Leonard at Wilts CC. Second email sent on 13th November following concerns expressed at the AK parish council meeting on 11/11/20 about the impact the warning signage and guards with dogs has or may have on walkers wanting to cross the land.

5. Footpath 4 (Cotswold Community Buildings to Parish Boundary at bridge over Shire Brook just before Ann Edwards School in South Cerney)

Security guard claims path is completely overgrown. Not yet walked to corroborate.

See note on 3 above. Will walk from South Cerney end only.

6. Footpath 5. (Cotswold Community Buildings northwards)

Not yet walked. Security guard claims it is overgrown.

See note on 3 above.

7. Footpath 6. (B4696 by Old Manor House to south side of Spine Road West, opposite entrance to old Manor House)

No stile at B4696 entrance but easy to access. Walked on 8th November 2020. On the whole easy to walk. Towards the end a few brambles growing over path. Will need a strim in spring. Easy to access/exit from Spine Road but signage is all overgrown and not noticeable from the Spine Road.

Signage issues notified to Stephen Leonard at Wilts CC on 9th November 2020.

8. Footpath 7. (Culli's Bridge on Thames Path north westerly to Somerford Keynes border).

This footpath peels off from the Thames Path (AKEY 9) after you cross the stone bridge on AKEY 9 (Culli's Bridge) and goes round the lake to join AKEY 6 on Moreton Cullimores land further up from the Manor House. The path is not clearly signposted on Mr Cullimore's land. He only owns the first few hundred metres of footpath 7. Thereafter it appears to be owned by the Cirencester Ski Club.

Mr Cullimore has been asked by email 10/11/2020 if he can put up a sign indicating the way to the footpath from his land. See note at 10 below.

The part of the footpath on Mr Cullimore's land is passable without difficulty.

Thereafter it becomes overgrown ( still passable) and needs clearing.

At the end of the footpath leading on the Spine Road by the cycle centre at the start of Somerford Keynes is a steel gate which is padlocked, impassable and topped off with barbed wire. There is no other exit found to date.

Reported to Stephen Leonard at Wilts CC on 9th November 2020

9. Footpath 8. (Cox's Hill to Church Walk via pathway up to Holy Cross Church)

OK

10. Footpath 9. (Thames Path)

OK apart from fallen tree part blocking path. Written again to Mr Cullimore on 10th November asking him to clear the tree. Mr Cullimore replied on 11th November confirming he will move the tree and will also help with signage issues mentioned re footpaths 6/7 in the near future.

Tree on footpath 9 now removed. Mr Cullimore thanked by email 14/11/2020.

Further tree fallen completely blocking pathway. Mr Cullimore notified by email with a request to move as soon as possible. Now removed. Email sent 9th December thanking Mr Cullimore for removing this second blockage and, with help from Wilts CC, shoring up the footpath in places where the bank had started to fall into the river.

11. Footpath 11. (Top end of Church Walk to Gosditch)

OK

12. Footpath 12. (Thames Path to Gosditch via east side of Pumping Station fence)

Passable but lots of overhanging brambles. Brambles cut back by volunteers 7th December 2020.

13. Footpath 13. (From Thames Path southwards along west side of B4696 then across road and eastwards to Gosditch)

Reported to Footpaths Group by Ashley Seymour on Nextdoor. Walked 2nd November. There is a footpath sign just before Dairy Farm houses on Gosditch which is no longer marked as such on the WCC rights of way map. A further, poorly visible, sign is at the side of Drummond House a little further down Gosditch. This leads to the same place more or less as the blocked entrance by the Dairy Farm houses. It is footpath 34. Footpath 34 is passable into the field by the school although has overhanging branches. Apart from that these footpaths are overgrown and impassable. It is not possible to access the B4696 from footpath 13. It is blocked by a fence and hedging. There is a stile on the other side of the road. However the footpath is overgrown.

All these issues have been reported to Stephen Leonard at Wilts CC on 8th November 2020. Mr. Seymour has also been written to, to ensure he knows action is being taken.

NB. Inventory of August 2011 notes that "the section on the east side of the B4696 seems to have fallen into desuetude and indeed does not seem to fulfil much of a purpose". A further note indicates that at that time Wilts cc view was "once a footpath always a footpath" but nothing seems to have been done.

I doubt Wilts will do much now as it's possible to get to the B4696 and footpath 9 (Thames Path) by entering the school playing field by footpath 34 on Gosditch to and crossing it using either footpaths 11 or 12.

However the signage on Gosditch does need sorting by Wilts.

14. Footpath 14. (From west end of the Derry to Gosditch)

OK except for a very narrow part just before you reach the alpacas (coming from the Derry) due to hedge growing over footpath. Owner of land over which footpath passes has emailed Footpaths Group and confirmed they will sort the problem caused by the hedging in near future.

15. Footpath 15. (From High Road west side to Footpath 16 on the Derry (opposite the Piggery))

Clear to first stile. After the stile overhanging brambles and undergrowth has now been cleared. Second stile into footpath 16 has now been cleared of the brambles and growth that were making it impassable. This was done at the request of Stephen Leonard. The wooden stile beneath the overgrowth was rotten and has collapsed. Removed. Pictures and report sent to Stephen Leonard on 8th November.

16. Footpath 16. ( From opposite the Derry to footpath 15)

Broken stile reported to Wilts CC in October 2020. Stephen Leonard attended at end of October and completely removed the broken stile. Posted a note explaining the stile/obstruction had been removed by Rights of Way officer.

17. Footpath 17 (From the Derry across footpath 15 to half way along footpath 14 at Tunbury)

Starts where the stile has been removed on footpath 16 adjacent to the Derry (see above). No signpost to indicate where to go No stile to cross from the first field (over which footpath 16 passes) to the second. The boundary of the field is all fenced off. You have to follow the fence until you reach footpath 15. Then there is a stile there to cross into the next field where you continue along footpath 15 until it joins footpath 15A. 15A is OK.

Will be reported to Wilts but unlikely that they will care much as going along footpath 16 and turning left to join footpath 15 and then 15A achieves the same result as crossing footpath 17 would if one could do so.

18. Footpath 18. (From the end of Mead across the Lotts to Park Place

Ok

19. Footpath 19. (From corner of Happy land to Waterhay car park)

OK

20. Footpath 20. (Connecting footpath 19 and Bridleway 38)

OK although already very muddy and hence difficult to pass.

21. Footpath 21. (Connecting footpath 19 to Friday's Ham lane/Rixon Gate via Bradstone)

OK

22. Footpath 22. (Connecting footpath 20 to Friday's ham lane/Rixon Gate via Guest Farm)

OK

23. Footpath 24. (Little Kent End via Spine Road to lake encompassing Whitefriars sailing club.

OK up to the spine road and at the junction with footpath 28A it is clear. When one gets to the Car Park off the Spine Road there is a Wilts CC footpath sign pointing to the footpath in the direction which leads to the footpath/Bridleway at Friday's Ham Lane but nothing to indicate that the footpath crosses the Spine Road and continues up towards Whitefriars Sailing Club. Off the Spine Road itself there is a Wilts CC footpath sign and the footpath on that side of the road is clear. Opposite this entrance on the Spine Road and over the road, there is a very small and completely overgrown bridleway/footpath sign which takes you back onto the footpath/Bridleway leading to Friday's Ham Lane.

Email sent to Stephen Leonard on 13th November requesting better signage. The brambles covering the overgrown signage will be cleared on next walk - (Cleared 15/11/2020).

24. Footpath 25. ( Friday's Ham Lane in north Easterly direction to parish boundary)

Clear entrance and stile at parish boundary entrance. However entrance on Fridays Ham Lane is completely hidden in the surrounding hedging. No sign visible from the road either end. When the Friday's Ham Lane entrance was found, the passage is completely overgrown. Signage issues reported to Stephen Leonard by email dated 9th December. Volunteer group will try to clear the overgrowth in the entrance to make it passable in the spring of 2021.

25. Footpath 26. (Friday's Ham lane/ Rixon gate to Kent End and to Little Kent End via E. Tidmarsh workshop)

OK

26. Footpath 27. (From Three Bridges on B4696 to Old Green Lane running south from Pike Corner)

Entrance at Three bridges completely overgrown and waterlogged. Not passable at time of visit on 23rd November. Will be revisited in the spring of 2021 Stephen Leonard notified for info on 9th December 2020

27. Footpath 28A. (From wheatleys barn farm to Little Kent End)

Ok Mr Cullimore has removed tree and trimmed overgrowth after request from Footpaths group. Email thanking him sent on 10th November 2020.

28. Footpath 30. (From Park Place opposite junction with Fore Street to Park Place by houses in Thames View)

OK

29. Footpath 36. (From Fore Street via Park Place to closed end of The Lotts)

OK

Sent from my iPad