

## ASHTON KEYNES

Footpaths Inventory 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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

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

As of August 2021 no trace of the footpath can be found. Email sent to Stephen Leonard on 7th September 2021 asking how footpath can be reinstated to avoid having to walk along B4696 to get to spine road east. No reply.

Inspected again 15<sup>th</sup> august 2022. No change.

Stephen Leonard will be asked to review on next scheduled visit to AK.

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

Clear sign on Whitefriars Lane but no signage from B4696 to indicate there is a path on Whitefriars Lane. The path from Whitefriars Lane to the Spine Road is overgrown but is passable. 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 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. No response.

Inspected 15<sup>th</sup> august 2022. No change.

Stephen Leonard will be asked to review on next scheduled visit to AK.

### 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.. There is 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 easily passable. However the stile into the field behind North End Farm is very rickety and will soon need replacing. To get to the stile one has to walk through a few low hanging

trees as the direct path to the stile off the gravel path is impassable due to fallen trees. The exit from the path onto the B4696 is passable but needs cutting back in the autumn. It 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 2020 along with photographs asking for 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 owner. A reminder will be sent to Stephen Leonard re signage and stile.

Walked on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

As noted in 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.

Since that visit Councillor Chuck Berry has visited and spoken to the security guards to make it clear that walkers must be allowed free and uninterrupted passage.

Although there is a sign at the end of AKEY 6 (south side of spine road west) stating that the path continues across the road, no one without a map would know that the pathway was there. From the gate there is no visible footpath which one would automatically follow and without a map one would not know there was a footpath. As you enter the property there are no signs indicating where to access footpaths 4 or 5.

Reported to Stephen Leonard at Wilts CC. Reminder email sent 7th September 2021.

Inspected 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Issues with signage remain and security is still in place. Further request for signage will be sent to Wilts.

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

Walked on 9th August 2021. The member of the footpaths group doing the walk had to ask the security guard where the footpath was as there are several right turns that could be taken. Once on path there are a number of posts indicating where to go until you reach the B road. A homeless man was met on the walk and he mentioned that he walks the path every day. He also mentioned that

the security guards actively try to discourage walkers going down the path by standing with aggressive dogs near the turning from footpath 3. The homeless man is convinced that the security guards are trying to put walkers off so that the footpath will be scrapped. As this path connects the lakes with south Cerney if it was scrapped it would mean people having to walk the dangerous Spine Road West.

Inspected again on 15<sup>th</sup> august 2022. No change and lack of signage showing where path starts.

Reported to Stephen Leonard by email on 7th September 2021. Further reminder re signage will be sent.

#### 6. Footpath 5. (Cotswold Community Buildings northwards)

The path was walked by a member of the footpaths group on 9th August 2021. Had to walk past security man with barking dogs. No signage indicating there was a footpath until at the end of thick scrub there was a sign on a gate post. Not possible to walk beyond this point. On walkers way back two signs were spotted "Caution guard dogs" and "Please keep to the public footpath". It is clear that very few people use the path.

State of the path reported to Stephen Lawrence on 7th September 2021.

On inspection on 15<sup>th</sup> august 2022 the scrub had been cleared and the majority of the path is now clear.

#### 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. On the whole easy to walk. Main pathways have been mown to keep them clear of brambles etc. . 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. No reply. Reminder email sent on 7th September 2021.

Further reminder re signage will be sent.

Walked on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

#### 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 further up from the Manor House. This part of the path is passable although at places it is narrow due to brambles and other small bushes. The growth around the sign to the path has now been cleared by the walker.

The part of AKEY7 off AKEY 6 is passable without difficulty. The lower path (the path splits ) is clear all the way to the Spine Road (Ragmans Lane in Somerford Keynes). The upper path is passable (although not totally clear) after a member of the footpaths group walked it on 20<sup>th</sup> August and cut all overhanging and ground level brambles and branches.

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 No reply. Reminder sent by email on 7th September 2021. Stephen Leonard will be asked to inspect during next scheduled visit to AK.

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

Starting at the bottom of Cox's Hill (westerly). A sign is needed to show the direction of AKEY8. Stephen Leonard has been asked for a sign. The field you cross is a working one, so the crops vary from season to season. The path needs cutting out or spraying. On leaving the field turn onto the path to the church. The pathway to the church has been fixed to an extent by Stephen Lawrence who attended and filled in the worst of the holes. However some big pot holes remain.

Walked on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

#### 10. Footpath 9. (Thames Path)

The V type stile at Church Walk is fine. Path to the B4696 is clear. Gate missing at the pumping station at the jct of AKEY 9 and 12. Gate is laid down in the grass. Stephen Leonard is aware. The gate on the west side of the B4696 needs a stronger/new spring. The path is clear to the boundary edge. The first of the 2 stiles before Culli's bridge (leading to AKEY 7) is broken (the one before the bridge if coming from the B4696). Stephen Leonard aware. One observation is that on walking the path, the banks of the Thames are eroding rapidly at various places, past the cement bags which were intended to protect the path. The landowner and Stephen Leonard have been informed of the problems with the banks.

Walked on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

Step on the stile between the 2 fields is slightly wobbly and needs some attention. Wilts are discussing with the landowner replacing it with a gate. The landowner has removed the unstable stile halfway along the path which divided the 2 fields.

Walked on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

Passable but lots of overhanging brambles. They and indeed the hedge on the right as you head into the field will soon need cutting back. Wilts are discussing with the landowner the possibility of replacing the stile into the field. Once over the stile and in the field the path is clear.

There is no obvious footpath or sign after climbing the stile on AKEY 12 to AKEY 13 or AKEY 34.

Walked on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

The footpath just before the Dairy Farm houses on Gosditch needs a complete clearance. It is completely impassable. Wilts are in the process of amending the Definitive Rights of Way map to show this path as an official footpath. When that is done, signage is needed plus a big clearance. When you enter the field behind Gosditch via AKEY 14 at B4696 end of Gosditch – see below – AKEY 13 is clear until you get to the back of Dairy Farm Bungalow. At that point it is not possible to enter or exit the path at that point. Wilts are aware and discussions are ongoing with the landowner.

The section on the east side of the B4696 leading to AKEY 9 is very overgrown. The landowner has been contacted and has promised to clear it in the near future. A reminder email will be sent.

Walked on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

Clear - just before you reach the alpacas (coming from the Derry) the landowner has moved the fence to deal with the issue of the large hedge in their garden which has caused problems in the past.

The "stiles" are big stones. Although built up a little on either side by smaller stones would be very difficult for elderly walkers to get over the "stiles".

When AKEY 14 enters the field behind Gosditch at the B4696 end of the lane the stile is in need of replacement and is no longer dog friendly. Wilts are aware and discussions with the landowner on a possible replacement are ongoing. Thames water have installed a new dog friendly stile at the exit of the path from the field. Once through that new stile the path to where it joins AKEY 9 (the Thames Path) is clear, although a little pruning will need doing in the autumn.

Walked 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

Clear. At times during the year volunteers have obviously cut back the overhanging brambles at the High Road entrance to the field.

Walked 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

AKEY15a. 15 runs into AKEY 15a at the junction with 16 – see below. Signage to the path from 15 (and also from AKEY 14 at the other end of the path) is poor and needs improving. The stile onto AKEY 15 at the junction with AKEY16 is not passable with dogs and has signs warning people to enter at own risk because of the presence of horses. The stile onto 15a from AKEY14 is very rickety and needs replacing. AKEY 15a itself is passable.

Signage issues will be reported to Wilts.

Walked 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

Broken stile at Derry entrance removed by Wilts. Access is now clear and the path is easily passable although there is a lot of summer growth.

Walked 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

#### 17. Footpath 17 (From the Derry across field to join footpath 15)

AKEY 17 starts where the stile has been removed on footpath 16 adjacent to the Derry (see above). No signpost to indicate where to go. The footpath goes diagonally from the Derry end of AKEY 16 to join with AKEY 15(a). The entrance stile to AKEY 17 is visible but not obvious. The path is not passable at all times of the year as there are horses in the field and an electric fence is present when the horses are there to keep them in.

Clear to walk as of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Inspected 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Stephen Leonard will be asked to inspect on next scheduled visit to AK

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

No issues although path is narrow at the Mead end.

Walked 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.

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

The path is clearly signposted from the corner of Happy Land.

The path is clearly accessible over the field to where it joins AKEY 22 and 21 from Bradstone. However, the farmer is now keeping livestock in the fields which has reduced the number of walkers to the extent that the path is no longer visible. An electric fence has also been erected where paths 22 and 19 join. Although easy to climb over this would deter people with dogs from crossing. The electric fence was not activated when walker crossed the field to inspect.

Part of the path near to the junction with 21 is overgrown and no longer passable. However people have by passed this creating another way round.

Once on the path and parallel to lake 82 the path is clear until the point where it joins AKEY 38. However in winter or at times of heavy rain the end part of the path often becomes impassable.

Walked 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

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

The path was clear and passable when inspected.

However, the path is at times impassable in winter when it becomes too muddy and too flooded to walk through. This happens on a number of occasions each year. The barbed wire fences on both sides make the fence difficult to use as a handhold. People with some difficulties walking would not be able to pass.

If this path is impassable at the same time as flooding on AKEY 19 you would not be able to get to AKEY 38.

Walked 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

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

No issues. Footpath is clear, easily accessed and used regularly.

Walked 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

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

This path has no signpost from the road or from the bend in path 19 as it intersects with path 21 and 22.

It doesn't look like it has been used as a public footpath for some time. There is no discernible path from either one end or the other. When you approach the path through Guest Farm – there is a bolted farm gate at the end which you need to climb over.

A letter has been sent by the Parish Council asking the landowner to remove the bolt from the gate and re-open the access.

Inspected 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

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

Footpath generally accessible with care throughout the whole length. However there is overhanging vegetation in places from Little Kent End to Whitefriars sailing club, particularly on the stretch towards the car park at the Spine Road where thistles are making the walk difficult. Will need cutting back in the autumn. At the stile when AKEY 24 merged into AKEY40 needs clearing. An alternative route is being used at the moment. Footpath is completely clear from car park at Spine Road to Wheatley's Barn Farm/jennies café.

Walked 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022

When one gets to the Car Park off the Spine Road there is 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. Opposite this entrance on the Spine Road and over the road, there is a very small 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. No reply to date. Reminder will be sent to Stephen Leonard requesting better signage and also bigger "No cycling" signs.

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

Stile on Friday's Ham Lane is accessible but is in need of repair. Vegetation around the stile will need trimming in the autumn. According to the rights of way map the footpath should go straight across the field from the stile. However, the footpath goes left and runs parallel to Friday's Ham Lane Following this route it is just about passable until it runs alongside the stream when it is blocked by vegetation.

Stephen Leonard will be requested to inspect on next scheduled visit to AK.

Walked 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

Thames path - OK

Footpath to Kent End from Thames Path is narrow (due to garden hedges) between 29 and 39 Kent End.

Walked 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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

Inaccessible/too overgrown on 15/08/22 for walker to get to the entrance/gate. Stephen Leonard will be asked to inspect during next scheduled visit to AK.

Inspected on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

27. Footpath 28A. (From Wheatley's barn farm to Little Kent End)

Footpath is accessible but when it narrows going towards Wheatley's Barn Farm it will need trimming in the autumn on the fishing lake side.

Walked 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

28. Footpath 30. (From Park Place opposite junction with Fore Street to Park Place by



houses in Thames View)

Clear but signage needed.

Walked 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

29. Footpath 32 (Whitefriar's Lake)

No issues. Walked 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

30 . Footpath 34. From Gosditch ( at side of Drummond House) to AKEY 9. Thames Path

There is a footpaths sign just off Gosditch but it is not clearly visible. Slightly overgrown from Gosditch between the 2 garden walls. Brambles and hawthorn need cutting back from the walls to the stile. Stile to field is in bad state of repair. Wilts have been informed and are discussing with landowner the possibility of replacing with a gate.

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

Overhanging branches from tree situated in the Lotts playfield. Not causing too much of an issue right now but should be trimmed in the autumn.  
Footpath generally clear but signage needed.

Walked 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

31. "New" Footpath 41

This path has still not been cleared and the entrance from the other to Fridays Ham Lane is still blocked and the gate chained. You can climb over the fence and small dogs would be able to get through the gap between hedge and the gate.

At the time of the inspection the field next to lake 82 had been mown meaning you could walk more or less parallel to the de marked path.

Inspected 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Sent from my iPad