

FOOTPATH UPDATE Hasketon Parish Council Meeting Thursday 12th January 2023

Thanks to those who gave their time and effort to help: Steve Leckie, Isabel Clark and Annie Turner (help with maps and footpath details) and Richard Verrill, Mu Morison and Jinks Helm (walking the footpaths and maintenance).

The footpaths are numbered 1 thru 41 on the definitive map but with no number 35 or 39

We assessed the footpaths for access, signs, surface, sides, usage and litter.

On the council website I reported many issues needing attention mainly of a minor nature relating to signage.

Major faults reported included:

1. Steps leading to FP29 from Blacksmith Road disintegrated. I also suggested that they make drivers aware of there being a FP entrance at this point.
2. Steps leading up to FP21 from Grundisburgh Road across from junction with Shrubbery
3. Poor condition of FP17. Someone posted this footpath on the Council website and wrote "This path is entirely overgrown and impassable, completely covered in brambles, fallen trees and saplings, it has been in tis state for more than 1 year."
4. Stile on south end of FP33. The top step is dangerously high and there is no gate alongside. Mu Murison kindly fixed a support post as temporary aid but in the long run this should be addressed.

Major issues to discuss which have NOT been posted to the Council website.

CURRENT

1. FP38 The sign at the east end at its junction with FP37 and marking the original path is present but leaning over. The extensive growth of trees and scrub has forced walkers to find an alternative route skirting to the south side of the extensive woodland and scrub. My concern is that over time we lose access to the original route for FP38.
2. FP 9 The north end of FP9 is marked at its junction with FP10 and FP11. Heading south there is no sign or path indicating that the FP goes across the field north of Oak Tree Farmhouse. At the south end of the field there is wire fencing obstructing the path and no sign indicating the direction of the route. At the southernmost end of FP9 at its junction with FP7 and FP8 there is a small sign rather obscured in the hedge but a big sign reading PRIVATE. At the moment most people seem to walk around the edge of the field and then access FP9. nb this FP may be used more frequently now that FP11 is so unpleasant to walk along.
3. FP 8. The entire length of this short footpath has been ploughed up and a fence put up around the field. There are still small signs at SW and NE ends indicating the original route.
4. FP 6 S end sign obscured, N end no sign, difficult to find path in the woods
5. FP18 Dangerous access obtained solely by crossing the A12 with no pedestrian crossing or signage.
6. FP 37 Path is falling away towards the stream and with roots is becoming hazardous

FUTURE

There are some ideas for developing our footpath network for the benefit of all the community.