

Aymestrey Parish

February 2022 Footpath Report

It seems the named storms are not slowing down. Arwen, Barra and Corrie, now being followed by Dudley and Eunice, then to come, Franklin over next weekend.

Trees are down blocking AY15 just along the road towards Leinthall Earls from Yatton Marsh which gives access up to Croft.

AY15 Stile.



AY15 looking towards Leinthall Earls.



AY15.



There is also a large conifer down on AY17, which gives access up to Bircher Common from Leinthall Earls. Unfortunately to be more awkward, it has come down on a corner and running along the path.

AY17



AY18, heading from Leinthall Earls to Croft has been strimmed clear, as well as AY15 up to the fallen trees. You can make a way around the trees off the path, but I will open this up as soon as I can. No further reports have been received of trees having fallen on paths although I do need to go and check Ballsgate, Sned Wood, Covenhope and Shobdon Hill to the West, and Beeches Grove, School Wood and Croft to the East.

Beeches Grove.

I received a phone call from a Mr Richard Pearce, who I believe works for Balfour Beatty. He was asking if I had any information which supported the fact that AY7 runs along the field side of Beeches Grove. I let him know that although I had walked along a path through Beeches Grove in the past, I couldn't say that it was a right of way or just a path. What I do know is that his predecessor, who I understood to be the Head of Footpaths, Hereford Council, had shown me the Footpath, by walking along with a GPS/Satnav. This indicated that AY7 was on the field side of Beeches Grove. He also had explained that this was the information he was working on from the Definitive Map held at the Council Office. I have since then and to this day, placed footpath markers along that route.

I then received a further call from a Mr Malcolm Rochefort, representing The Ramblers Group and researching the route of AY7 through Beeches Grove. I believe he was doing so on behalf of local residents who believe the footpath was not on the field side of the wood, but through it.

I explained to him that as the Footpath Officer, I had been shown where the definitive path was and that I had placed markers accordingly. My concerns were that two parties with opposing views were creating problems for myself with actions including locking gates and removing footpath markers. I would rather they gathered evidence and allowed a judgement to be made, in order to clarify the route for AY7. He then asked if I would provide historical evidence that I had walked the footpath through the wood. I declined to do that as I couldn't state that the path I walked on, was just a private path or a public right of way, further stating as the Footpath Officer, I wished to remain impartial. Once AY7 route was clarified, I would signpost it accordingly. Hopefully this problem resolves itself sooner than later.

I trust storm Franklin passes by without causing too many problems.

There are no claims for expenses this month.

Happy walking.

Dave Dunn,

FPO, Aymestrey Parish.