Footpath Report May 2022

A check of the Footpaths has been carried out in the last month.

There is little in the way of large obstructions that are denying access. However there are a few issues with the growth of nettles and bracken on a number of footpaths, along various sections of the paths. Namely, AY1, AY1A, Mortimer Trail between Ballsgate and Lyepole and lastly AY9A.

This rarely used path, links Lower Lye, heading towards Wigmore and the Leinthall Earls area. When the tree Warden Richard Hammond, spoke to me, he reported that AY9A was overgrown, and he was unable to discern where the path was. At the time he was looking for locations where trees could be planted around the Parish boundary as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I have since looked at it and agree it is in need of attention which is what I will be doing.

AY15, this is the PROW which goes from the lane between Yatton and Leinthall Earls east and up towards Leinthall Common.

The large oak trees that had previously come down in a storm, blocking the footpath and stile, have now been cleared enough for easy access.

AY15. Blocked stile.

AY15, now clear.

AY15, from above. Blocked.

AY15, now clear.

Balfour Beatty/ Hereford Council.

I have seen the recent E mail, informing me of a change in reporting any issues regarding PROW paths.

My contact is now through Mr Ray Wallace with Hereford Council, rather than through Balfour Beatty. I can't see that this changes much in relation to my work on the ground. New Hat, same old. If there are any issues I need to take a note of, please let me know.

Footpaths use by people with Mobility issues.

Currently the only feasible area for those who have mobility issues, are along lanes or in valley floor areas. AY5 through to Yatton as well as AY15, AY16, AY4 (Bridlepath) and AY4A. The Mortimer Trail from Lyepole Bridge through to Ballsgate and on towards Aymestrey would also be a very scenic route, this however needs a drop off at Lyepole Bridge. The problems faced include, no chance of a circuitous route bringing you back to a start point, without at some point using the roads and lanes. Stiles in place that are not of a design to allow easy access. This would mean taking out some stiles and replacing them with gates. Cost for gates can be wide ranging, from £120- £320. The practicality also can differ quite widely. A local Builder Merchant does have substantial Gates for sale, which are

quite competitive and can be fitted to close automatically, this being necessary where stock may be in the field. A three foot Field gate at £115, or a foot gate for £120. Not inclusive of VAT.

Receipts.

I have a receipt for petrol for the strimmer and Chain saw work undertaken for £20.00 A receipt has been given to the Clerk.

Looking forward to a busy summer with Walkers using the area.

If anyone has noted any problems or issues, please let me know as I can't see all of the 18 miles of paths that I tend to.

Dave D.

Aymestrey Parish FPO.