

## Spring Footpath Report 2021

Spring is almost sprung. But still some very frosty mornings, and the odd morning when we woke to a carpet of snow. Who would have thought it?

This has slowed the vegetation growth and most of the paths are benefitting with a lack of cover. I don't expect this will last much longer before I need to get out the strimmer. Very few reports of fallen trees or problems and all seems fine.

AY17 ( Leinthall Earls) The delayed work on AY17 can now go ahead as the ground has dried up and is drivable. This includes work on the newly installed stile near the top by Leinthall Common. This stile needs an extra step to make access easier over the fence line. It is a tall stile design which gives access over the Barbed wire fence.



Further work is needed on AY17, heading on from this stile towards Bircher Common clearing the path of growth. A new fence line is planned down near the Gately Farm Buildings. The stile, which is falling apart on AY17, will be replaced with a new stile erected when the old fence is also replaced. I will be in contact with the Gately Farm Manager, if this work is not undertaken soon, I may have to do a temporary repair so access is maintained.

AY1. (Near Mantle Cottage). Work carried out on a stile which was becoming wobbly, a post has now been put in place to strengthen the Stile.



AY5. (Near Ballsgate.) A local resident would like to place a gate at the bottom of the driveway by the Lye lane road. This is wanted, to control vehicle access and night time security.

AY5 Ballsgate/Lye Lane.



She is not the land owner, but has access rights and has had problems with theft from her property and seen poachers at night going onto Ballsgate Common after the deer. In order to place a gateway there, would require Land Owner approval and permission. It is a footpath and may not be blocked. I have looked at the proposed gateway and don't believe there is sufficient room at either end to place a stile for access. There is however a solution if a gate was put in place, by incorporating a stile within the framework of the Gate itself. Use the gate by day and the stile by night or anytime the Gate is locked.



AY14. (Yatton/Leinthall Earls Road.) Using a refurbished Stile I can now replace the dilapidated stile on the roadside between Yatton and Leinthall Earls on the left.

AY15. (Yatton/Leinthall Earls Road.) The footpath has now dried considerably, since I have dug a channel diverting the spring water flow along the length of the path which was creating a bog.

AY7. (Beeches Grove.) How could I not mention Beeches Grove in a Report, due to two factions with opposed views as to where the Footpath is. I signpost it as directed by the Herefordshire Councils definitive Map. The reason for my mentioning it in here, is due to having to replace Footpath markers now on three occasions, as they have been torn off by one or the other of the opposed parties. The fourth set is now in place and seem to be surviving since I let both parties know that I was beginning to get grumpy.

Otherwise all seems to be working. I still look out for potential walking routes to attract people to the area, disabled or fully fit.

#### **Payments/Receipts.**

I have made arrangements to provide the Clerk with receipts for Fuel and Chain saw sharpening. There are no other expenses outstanding.

#### **Further Work to be undertaken.**

Check the Mortimer Trail from Ballsgate Common to Covenhope. Also check AY1/AY1A (above Aymestrey), refurbish steps on AY3 (Yatton Court near Pokehouse Wood.)

As the Meerkat says, "Simple."

Looking forward to a walking summer with few problems.

Dave Dunn.

Footpath Officer.

Aymestrey Parish.

