

Hemingford Abbots - Footpath & River Warden's Report

To the Annual Parish Meeting 28th May 2014

FOOTPATHS

All references are to footpaths as detailed and numbered on the 'Public Rights of Way in and around Hemingford Abbots'

Footpaths 5,7&8 – Across the Meadow to Houghton Lock Bridge or immediately before left along the Ouse Valley Way or right to a dead end opposite Battocks Island

The footpath from the Bailey Bridge remains severely potholed and has deteriorated further – some are very deep and wide and will cause people to trip. **Recommendation : The path should be repaired urgently**

Footpaths 2 and 3 – From the side of Beechers House to the River Bank and Quay at Hemingford Grey

This is in very good condition but one gate spring has broken and on another the latch. The pathway at the rear of the Caravan Park will need strimming by the Summer. **Recommendation : Dog waste bins should be provided**

Footpath 4 – From the end of Common Lane to the A14 layby

This is very little used but large sections have remain unwalkable. The second and subsequent stiles from Common Lane are in poor condition but bramble and nettles have been cleared at the first. The fields where the horses are kept are divided by electric fences which interrupt the footpath. From A14 the footpath is waist high and extremely difficult to tackle. The rubbish bin at the layby has disappeared. **Few (if any) use this and a more pleasant walk is the Common itself**

Footpath 1 – From New Road to the A14 joining with Footpath 6 (F6) from The Thorpe in Hemingford Grey

The first section to the junction of F6 is signposted from New Road and well delineated by use. Thereafter it is not and crossed by a large drainage ditch. It ends 'dead' in a hedge by the A14 and there is no signpost there. A more practical route continues to be to use F6 to Gore Tree Road

Roads and Speed Limits

Roads are also footpaths and are dangerous to walk because of poor maintenance and high vehicle speeds. I repeat that **The '30' signs in Rideaway should be moved 150 metres South – at present they are too close to housing to enable traffic to slow sufficiently when they become visible**

Verges

Many verges have been extremely well reinstated following construction work but the road adjoining the Common Lane entrance to Hemingford Park has sunk (caused by Anglia Water extraction vehicles) and needs to be raised back to prevent the water 'lake' collecting after rain

RIVER

The River is in good condition but some further tree removal needs to be undertaken by rights owners particularly at 52 Common Lane and at Battocks Island opposite the Manor House. Reeds are encroaching on the 'frying pan' and fish stocks are being depleted by the two seals.