



Humber, Ford and Stoke Prior Bridleways

Annual Report - 2023

Iain Cholerton
12th May 2023

SUMMARY

This report updates my previous 5 reports. Please refer to my report from last year (attached). I will only report where improvements have been made during the year or where there are new or worsening deficiencies to keep this report short. Some deficiencies remain unresolved since my first report of 2017.

Routes are designated as per the Herefordshire Council PROW and Highways map (e.g. FD 3, SP 28). Gates are numbered with the PROW number and the Parish Clerk's designation. (e.g. SP 28.1 for gate 1 on PROW SP 28)

BRIDLEWAYS

FD 3/SP 28 – Ford to Briery Mere to Witsetts.

Issues remain with gates SP 28.2, SP 28.3 and SP 28.4 as previously reported.

The large hawthorn tree that had fallen down and blocked gate SP 28.4 was cleared during the year by the Lengthsman. He also did a superb job clearing the overgrown route from SP 28.1 to the road. (See Photo 1)



Photo 1. SP28.1 – road (Sep 2022)

SP 12 – Briery Mere to Norman’s Farm.

No significant changes. As in previous years the track from SP 12.2 to SP 12.3 has again been deeply rutted by farm traffic making it difficult to use in the winter months. (Photo 2)



Photo 2. SP 12.2 – SP 12.3 (May 2023)

Similarly, the gate SP 12.3 remains very difficult to use during wet periods. (Photo 3)



Photo 3. SP 12.3 (May 2023)

SP 17 – Witsetts to Trap Cottage.

Nothing significant to report. All clear.

SP 27 – Wickton Lane to Sunnybank/Bowley Lane.

Nothing significant to report. All clear.

HU 4 – Humber to Buckland (Parish Boundary).

Nothing significant to report. As reported since 2017; issues with gates HU 4.5, HU 4.6, HU 4.7 and HU 4.8 remain which are all difficult to open and close from the mounted position, often chained and the PROW is therefore rarely used.

HU 10 - Risbury to PG 11 and Marston.

The wet spring has again made this route difficult between HU 10.2 and HU 10.3 (Photo 4).



Photo 4. HU 10.2 – HU 10.3 (April 2023)

HU 10.3 has had some DIY repairs but is still in need of replacement as it has rotted further over the year (Photo 5).



Photo 5. HU 10.3 (April 2021)

Gate HU 10.4 (Photo 6) was replaced during the year and is now much easier to open.



Photo 6. HU 10.4 (May 2023)

PG 11 from Marston to Parish Boundary.

There has been some improvement to PG 11.2 during the year (compare Photo 7 with Photo 8) but remains in need of further work to complete the drainage – pipes are currently held in place by two logs. There is currently a legal dispute between the two landowners about the route of the PROW and the alleged illegal construction of the small gate next to the large one. Until this is resolved in court, I do not anticipate further work being completed.



Photo 7. PG 11.2 (May 2022)



Photo 8. PG 11.2 (May 2023)

The gate at PG 11.6 (Photo 9) is still chained and requires a dismount and two hands to open and close. **No Change since 2017.**



Photo 9 PG 11.6 (March 2021)

The route marker at PG 11.9 needs replacing (Photo 10)



Photo 10. PG 11.9 (May 2022)

The route exits the wood through PG 11.11 and continues to Hegdon Hill outside the Parish Boundary. The gate was replaced in 2022 (Photo 11) and the drainage seemed much improved last year but it is now flooded again. (Photo 12).



Photo 11. PG 11.11 (May 2022)



Photo 12. PG 11.11 (May 2023)