

Humber Parish

Footpaths Officer Annual Report

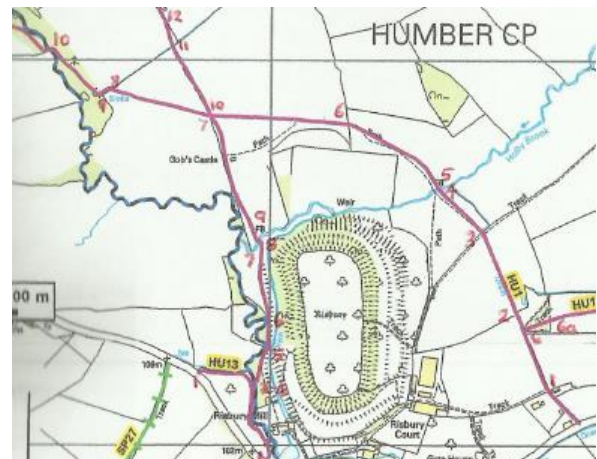
May 2023

All footpaths in Humber parish have been inspected over the last few weeks since my last report of October 2022. A separate report on bridleways is provided by Iain Cholerton.

HU1 (The Old School House, Risbury to Humber Brook east of The Heath)

PASSABLE - NO DEFECTS

There are no defects on this path. I have replaced waymarker signs where required. The landowner is to be congratulated on installing some excellent kissing gates, maintaining stiles and other gates so they are easy to use, and keeping paths clear. Protective metal fencing has also been installed by Bridge (8) over Humber Brook (photo).



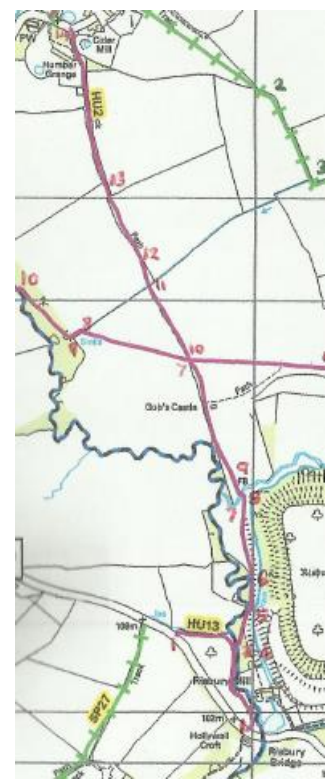
HU2 (Risbury Bridge to Humber)

PASSABLE - NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS

The only defect on this path is as noted in May 2021: there is still no new gate from the C1110 road at the southern end near Risbury bridge (1), and the fingerpost is only temporarily leaning against the fence. Some waymarkers have been renewed on gates at the Humber end. Again, the landowners are congratulated on keeping this path clear and maintained.

HU13 (HU13 (footpath across orchard from C1110 west of Risbury Bridge)

PASSABLE - NO DEFECTS

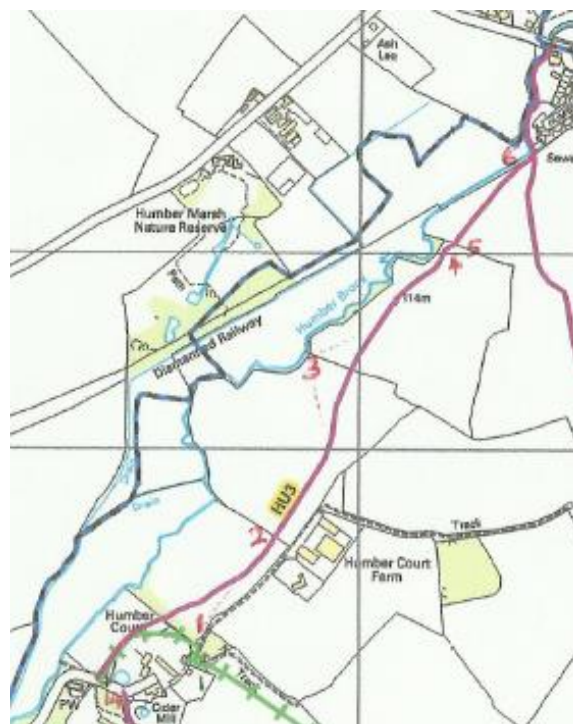


HU3 (Humber to Humber Close, Steens Bridge)

IMPASSABLE – URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

As noted in May 2021, the route of this path does not accord with the PROW Definitive Map for much of its length, with a stile (1) and a footbridge (3) having been constructed to unofficially divert the route, but with no signage to direct walkers to these points.

Stile (1) alongside the track to Humber Court Farm is rickety and overgrown, and the finger post is completely overgrown (photo below). Beyond this, the field is impassable because it is overcropped with rapeseed to the field-edge, and I have therefore been unable to inspect all of the route from the southern end.



Where the route should pass through a gate (photo below), this is locked and has an electric fence across it – the alternative bridge (3) to the west (photo below) is not signed or obvious to walkers. The route from this bridge to stiles (4&5) is also unclear.



Stile (4) was mended and Stile (5) was replaced by the Lengthsman in July, but unless the remainder of this path is made passable, the value of having done this is limited.

Stile (6) leading off the field is completely broken but by-passable (photo).

However, as noted in May 2021 the last section of this path alongside Humber Brook at Humber Close, is **dangerous**. This was inspected with the Clerk and Lengthsman in June 2022, and an alternative route into Humber Close alongside the water treatment plant was cleared. An application for an official diversion was made the Clerk, but I am not aware of any progress on this. This alternative path requires strimming.



by

HU5 (Poplands Lane to Holly Brook near Stirbridge Farm)

PASSABLE - NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS

Steps were constructed by the Lengthsman up to Stile (2) off Poplands Lane. A request from a resident for a dog-paddle-gate here was received, but the landowner has previously refused to install either a gate or dog-gate.

New waymarker signs are needed here.



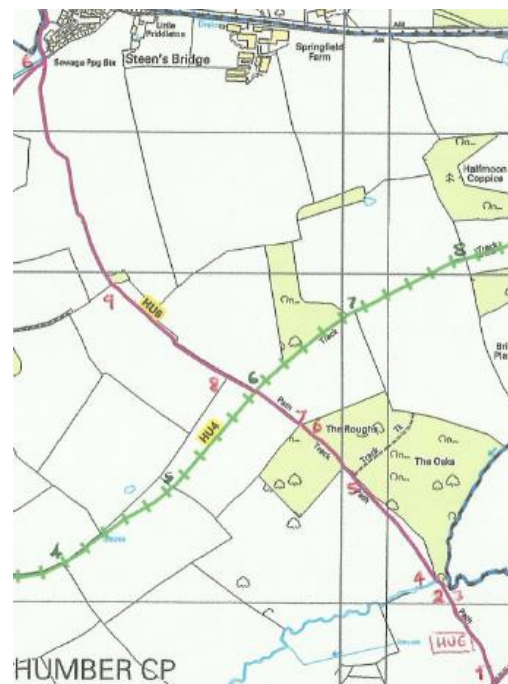
at

HU6 (Stirbridge Farm to Humber Close, Steens Bridge)

PASSABLE WITH DIFFICULTY – IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED

This path still has several defects, outstanding with the landowner since 2018, although some improvements have been undertaken.

Stile (1) off HU5 is badly broken and requires repairs or replacement:



Gate(2) before the bridge is, however, now useable, a new gate-post having been fixed (photo right):

Stile (4) is now completely overgrown but there is an open gate alongside. New signage has been fixed to this by the Footpaths Officer.

Stile (6) has broken completely, but there is an old metal gate alongside which can be opened with some difficulty (photo right):

The field margin between Stile (7) and Gate (8) is inadequate.

The route from Stile (9) across the field to Humber Close is overcropped and the long detour around the western field margin is difficult. The landowner was reminded about overcropping in 2022 but has not complied.



HU7 (C1110 Risbury - Turning Ways near Hollydene to Holly Brook near Stirbridge Farm)

PASSABLE WITH DIFFICULTY – IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED

Note: the depiction of the woodland on the maps is now incorrect.

The southern section of this footpath is by an open gate from the road across fields on tracks, and is well-used as far as bridleway HU10. However, the path from stile (2) to stile (3) and gate (4) is across fields which are overcropped. The path around the field-margins to the east is overgrown and/or cropped to the field-edge making it difficult and unpleasant to use.

Beyond the new metal kissing gate (4), the path and gates on Stirbridge Farm's land are in excellent condition.



HU12 (Poplands Lane to HU1 north of the Old School House)

PASSABLE – NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS

The path is clear, well-maintained and has no defects except at Gate (3), which is closed only with a loop of twine – there is barbed wire very close to where the loop is picked up, which could be hazardous:



PG11A (From Marston across Holly Brook towards Docklow)

PASSABLE – NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS

The gate, footbridge and stiles are in reasonable repair.

However, north of Stile (3) the route becomes DH6 in Docklow Parish and although it can be used to access DH7 bridleway to Buckland (which joins to HU4 bridleway) DH6 is not easily passable north to Docklow, because of poorly maintained stiles, an unclear route and overgrowth.



PG12 (Marston to Holly Brook)

IMPASSABLE – URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

As noted in 2021 the route into and through the woodland between Stile (4) and Stile (5) (which is actually in Docklow parish) is undefined and hazardous and requires clearance of undergrowth, some saplings and an earth bank. The landowner agreed to clear the route through the woodland while undertaking hedging/tree-felling work in February 2023, but this has still not been done.

In February 2023 the Lengthsman installed new stiles at (4) and (5) (see photos).



Philip Brown

Footpaths Officer, Humber Parish

15 May 2023

Appendix 1: Current list of defects. Humber Parish footpaths, May 2023

Status	PROW	Location	Date of defect	Work needed	Landowner	Progress
Contact landowner	HU2	Gate 1	May 2021	Signpost fallen and gate off hinges	Risbury Mill	Outstanding since 2021
Contact landowner	HU3	From SW end to Stile 4	Pre 2018	Route not in accordance with Definitive Map and no informative signage	?	
Contact landowner	HU3	Stile 1	2022	Overgrown, wobbly.	?	
Contact landowner	HU3	Stile 1 to Bridge 2	May 2023	Path overcropped and field margin inadequate/	?	
Repair	HU3	Bridge 2	May 2021	New waymarker needed.	?	Inaccessible
Repair	HU3	Bridge 2	May 2021	Plank on bridge rotten.	?	
Monitor	HU3	Stile 6	May 2021	Stile completely broken but by-assable.	Buckland Farm	
Diversion / repairs	HU3	Stile 6 to Stile 7 along bank of Humber Brook at Humber Close.	May 2021	Path obstructed by fallen trees and vegetation: DANGER to users by brook.	Stonewater Housing?	Diversion requested 2022 – no progress since.
Repair	HU5	Stile 2	May 2023	New waymarker needed	Buckland Farm	Footpaths Officer to do.
Repair	HU6	Stile 1	May 2023	Stile broken	Buckland/Stirbridge Farms	Lengthsman to replace?
Monitor	HU6	Stile 4	May 2023	Stile overgrown but gate available.	Buckland Farm	
Contact landowner	HU6	Stile 6	Aug 2018	Stile fallen May 2021. By-passable with difficulty though old gate.	Buckland Farm	Emailed Landowner 2018. 2019, 2022
Contact landowner	HU6	Between Stile 9 and Humber Close	May 2021	Route overcropped.	Buckland Farm	
Monitor	HU7	Gate/Stile 1	Pre 2018	Stile overgrown but open entrance	Hennerwood	
Monitor	HU7	Gate 2	Pre 2018	Gate doesn't open fully and overgrown	Hennerwood	Open access available nearby
Contact landowner	HU7	Route from Gate 2 to Gate 4	May 2021	Route overcropped and path around field passable with difficulty	Hennerwood	May 2023 – route difficult
Contact landowner	HU12	Gate 3	May 2023	Hazardous barbed wire near twine closing gate.	Risbury Court Farm	
Contact landowner	PG12	Stile 4 to Stile 5	Pre 2007	Route obstructed by woodland/spoil heap.	Great Marston Farm	Landowner agreed to work, 2018 and 2023.