

Humber Parish

Footpaths Officer Annual Report

May 2025

Summary

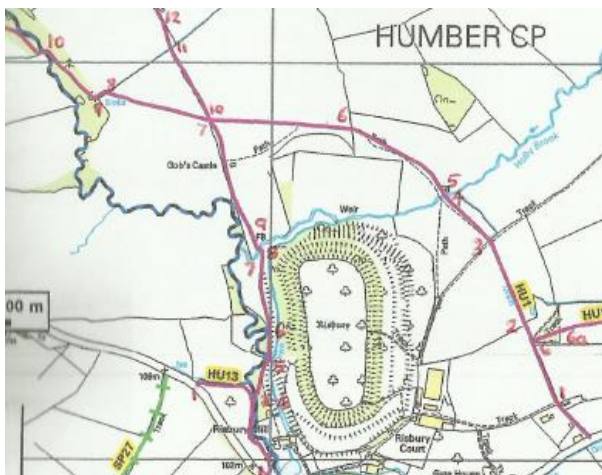
All footpaths were walked in summer 2024 in preparation for the Parish Walks Guide, and most have been inspected this spring.

The Parish Walks Guide has been received very well by residents, and I hope it will encourage more to walk the paths. Unfortunately, the condition of some of the paths is still poor, with none of the defects noted in my 2024 report having been addressed either by landowners or the Lengthsman. I would recommend that the Parish Council decide on a specific action plan to address this, with clear identification of who is to do what. I have suggested in the past that a small group of parish volunteers could be assembled to work on minor tasks such as strimming vegetation on an occasional basis, with other jobs (such as repairs of stiles) allocated to the Lengthsman.

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

PASSABLE - NO DEFECTS

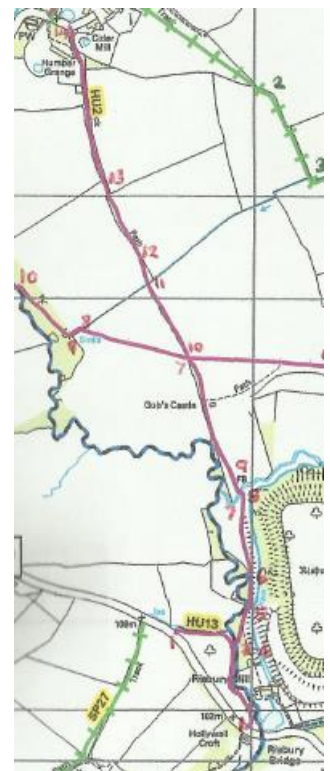
There are no known defects on this path.



HU2 (Risbury Bridge to Humber)

PASSABLE - NO DEFECTS

There are no known defects on this path,.



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

PASSABLE - NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS



The fingerpost sign at Gate 1 onto the road is in need of straightening/support and having vegetation cleared.



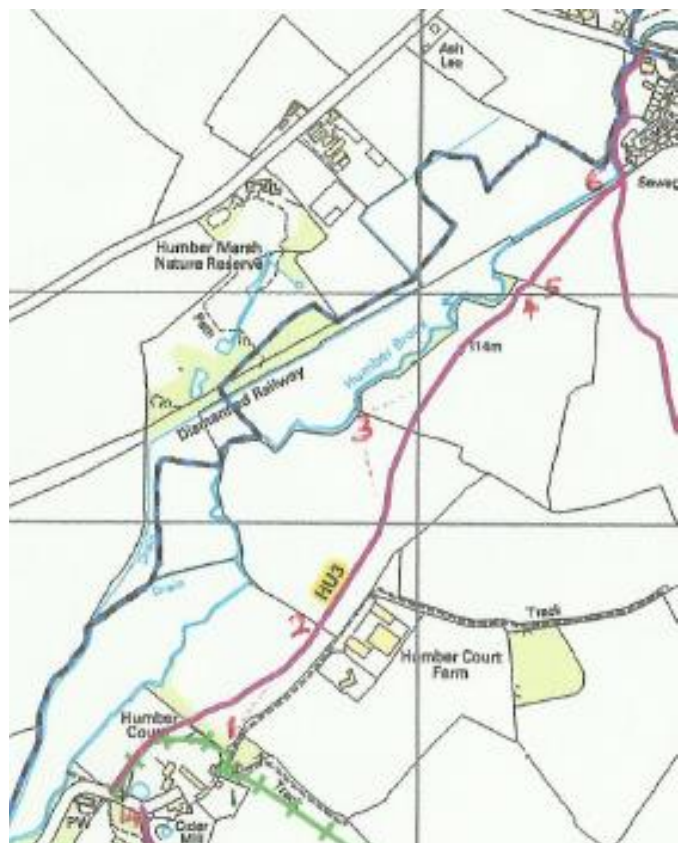
HU3 (Humber to Humber Close, Steens Bridge)

PASSABLE WITH MAJOR DEFECTS – ACTION REQUIRED

At stile/gate 1 at the southern end, this stile is in need of repair and there is no signage here.

Between this stile/gate and Bridge 2 the route along the field margin is cropped to the edge without the required margin for the PROW, and will soon be impassable.

Bridge (2) is still in need of repair, as noted in 2023 and 2024 and is considered too dangerous to use. ↓



A resident informed me that some members of the public instead use the lane towards Humber Court Farm and then a gateway into the field beyond this bridge. A temporary measure may be to have a permissive alternative route signed.

Stiles 4 and 5 south-west of Humber Close are completely overgrown and require strimming. ➔



Where the path reaches Humber Close, the **dangerous** state of the path and the completely broken stile (6) has still not been addressed, despite this having been identified and reported in 2021.



There is a safe alternative route around the water treatment plant, and an application was made by the Clerk in 2022 for a diversion order, but there appears to be no progress on this. Again, I would recommend that on safety grounds, the Parish Council erect warning signs.

HU5 (Poplands Lane to Holly Brook near Stirbridge Farm)

PASSABLE WITH DEFECT - ACTION REQUIRED



The stile (2) leading to steps into the field is very overgrown and still in need of minor repairs. ⬅

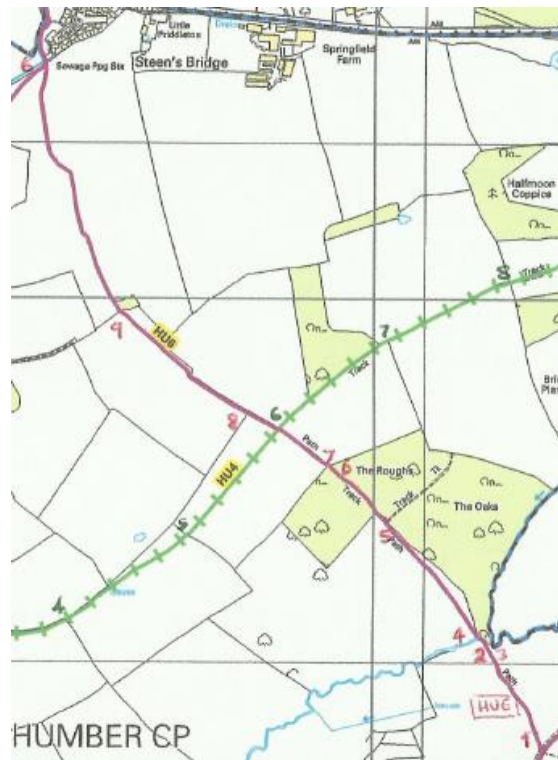


HU6 (Stirbridge Farm to Humber Close, Steens Bridge)

PASSABLE WITH DIFFICULTY – ACTION REQUIRED

This path still has some defects, outstanding with the landowner since 2018.

Stile (1) off HU5 is still badly broken and requires repairs or replacement. ↓



Stile (6) has broken completely, and the old metal gate alongside can only be opened with some difficulty. →

The route north of here is slightly improved since 2023, with field margins adequate, although the field from stile 9 to Humber Close continues to be overcropped every year. ↓



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

PASSABLE – NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS

A new gate, including pedestrian gate, has been installed by the landowner at the southern end onto the road. There is no longer any waymarker post, which should be placed here to identify a PROW. ↓

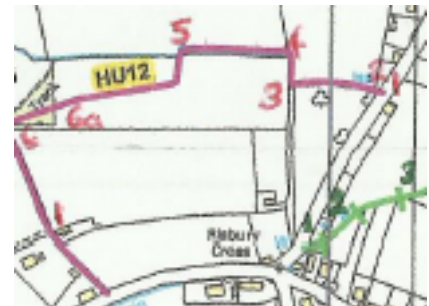


This path is well maintained to the north and easy to follow to the south. The difficulty in past years has been that the route between Gate 2 and Gate 4 is overcropped, and the field margins passable with difficulty when crops are mature. A further inspection of this will be made later in the summer.

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

PASSABLE – NO DEFECTS

The path is clear, well-maintained and has no defects.



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)

PASSABLE WITH EXTREME DIFFICULTY – ACTION REQUIRED

As noted since 2021 the route into and through the woodland between Stile (4) and Stile (5) is **undefined and hazardous and requires clearance of undergrowth and some saplings**, and ideally some waymarker posts.

There are fallen trees on the path between gates 7 and 6 which should be cleared by the landowner. ↓



The official route between Stile 5 and Gate 7 into the field (through woodland) is completely impassable and obstructed by wire fencing. There is an easy alternative along the lane, but as this is not a PROW it cannot legally be waymarked (and waymarkers have been removed).

Philip Brown

Footpaths Officer, Humber Parish

18 May 2025

Appendix 1: Current list of defects. Humber Parish footpaths, May 2025

PROW	Location	Date of defect	Work needed	Landowner	Progress
HU3	Bridge 2	May 2021	Planks on bridge rotten - dangerous .	Humber Court Farm	Nil since 2021
HU3	Stiles 4/5	May 2025	Completely overgrown	Buckland Farm	
HU3	Stile 6	May 2021	Stile completely broken but by-passable.	Buckland Farm	
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.
HU5	Stile 2	May 2023	Minor repairs to stile and remove vegetation.	Buckland Farm	
HU6	Stile 1	May 2023	Stile broken	Buckland/Stirbridge Farms	Lengthsman to replace?
HU6	Stile 4	May 2023	Stile overgrown but gate available.	Buckland Farm	
HU6	Stile 6	Aug 2018	Stile fallen May 2021. By-passable with difficulty though old gate.	Buckland Farm	Emailed Landowner 2018. 2019, 2022.... No progress
HU6	Between Stile 9 and Humber Close	May 2021	Route overcropped.	Buckland Farm	
HU7	Gate 1	2024	Missing waymarker post	Buckland Farm	
HU7	Gate 2	Pre 2018	Gate doesn't open fully and overgrown	Hennerwood	Open access available nearby
HU7	Route from Gate 2 to Gate 4	May 2021	Route often overcropped	Hennerwood	Monitor
HU13	Gate 1 onto road	May 2025	Fingerpost requires support and strimming	RobyWelford	
PG12	Stile 4 to Stile 5	Pre 2007	Route obstructed by woodland	Great Marston Farm	Landowner agreed to work, 2018 and 2023.
PG12	Gate 6 to Gate 7	May 2025	Fallen trees obstructing route	Great Marston Farm	