



Humber, Ford and Stoke Prior Bridleways

Annual Report - 2026

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15th May 2026

INTRODUCTION

This will be a very brief Report.

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)

Riders would like to thank those landowners within our Parish Group area who maintain the PROW.

BRIDLEWAYS

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

The start to this route remains swamped every winter and overgrown in the summer. As requested last year (but not completed), it would be beneficial if the Lengthsman could be tasked annually to clear this growth (as he did in 2022) to make it accessible for walkers and riders. By mid-summer it is almost impassable. (See Photo 1)



Photo 1. Witsetts to SP 28.1 (May 2026)

After engaging with the Herefordshire Council PROW Officer (Cris Abel) and with support from our District Councillor (Bruce Baker), replacement gates for SP 28.1 and SP

28.2 were eventually obtained. They were delivered to the landowner in March and installed this week. (See Photos 2 and 3)



Photo 2. SP 28.1 (May 2026)



Photo 3. SP 28.2 (May 2026)

SP12 – Briery Mere to Norman's Farm.

No issues this year. Much improved on previous years after work on the track last year.

SP 17 – Witsetts to Trap Cottage.

From Witsetts to Wickton Lane, all well-maintained.

The poles obstructing the PROW near Trap Cottage reported last year were removed after PC intervention. Parked cars outside this house frequently block the route.

SP 27 – Sunnybank/Bowley Lane to Wickton.

After a number of riders had difficulties with the gate handle at SP 27.1, the landowner improved the latch to make it more accessible. Many thanks to Clive Jones at Sunny Bank.

No other issues.

HU 4 – Humber to Buckland (Parish Boundary).

No issues.

HU 10 - Risbury to PG 11 and Marston.

The start of this route continues to be well maintained by the residents of Yew Tree Cottage. The rotten gate (HU 10.3) reported last year has been removed (it was superfluous). Many thanks to Rebecca Davies.

However, as reported last year, the gate post at HU 10.1 is rotten at its base and needs replacing.

PG 11 from Marston to Parish Boundary.

The saga continues at gate PG 11.2.

I visited the site with Cris Abel (HC PROW Officer) on 11th May, and we were joined by Tim Parry, the landowner responsible for the gate.

It is a complex issue, and Cris has gone away to present a number of options to his HC line manager to try and resolve it. He will update the landowners with his preferred option in due course to obtain their support. If approved, Cris will complete the work himself with local assistance.

The PROW further on enters Marston Firs and exits through PG 11.11 and continues to Hegdon Hill outside the Parish Boundary.

PG 11.11 has been a problem for a number of years due to flooding. The landowner (who I believe to be Allan Davies from The Nash – outside our patch) has significantly improved the drainage and removed the gate completely making the route now easy to negotiate. Many thanks. (See Photos 4 and 5.)



Photo 4. PG 11.11 (May 2026)



Photo 5. PG 11.11 (May 2024)