

Humber Parish

Footpaths Officer Annual Report

May 2026

Summary

All footpaths in Humber parish were walked in the past week for this report.

Many footpaths are in excellent condition, thanks to three landowners in particular keeping them clear of vegetation and improving accessibility. Some others, however, continue to be difficult to use because of many defects which have not been addressed for many years.

Again, 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 defects on this path; it is gated throughout, except for the bridge at (8).



HU2 (Risbury Bridge to Humber) →

PASSABLE – SOME MINOR DEFECTS

Generally the path is very-well maintained and obviously well-used. The waymarker post on the road near Risbury Bridge (1) has no footpath sign. Stile (7) is wobbly and requires repair or replacement.

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

PASSABLE - NO DEFECTS

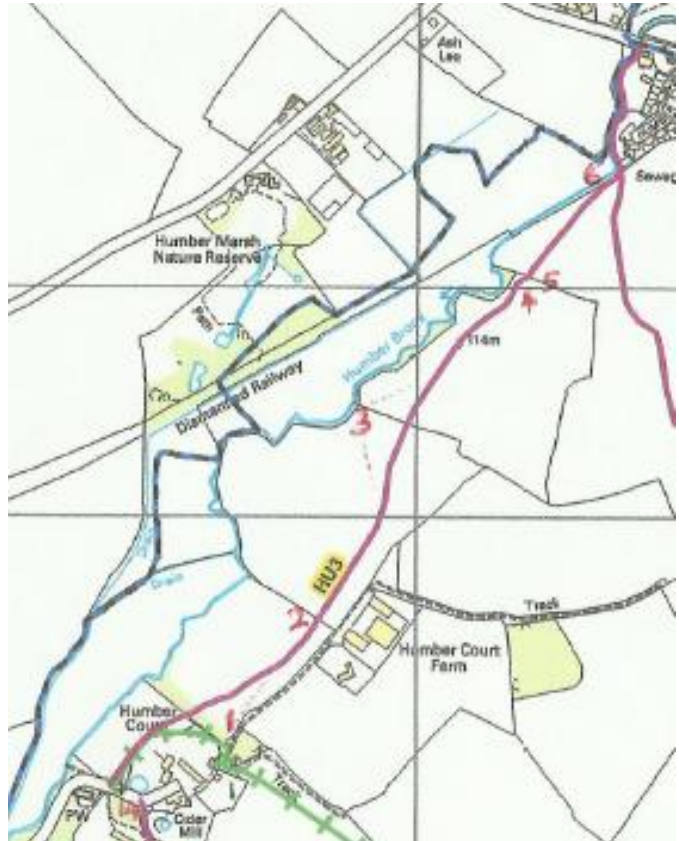
No defects and well-maintained by the landowner.

HU3 (Humber to Humber Close, Steens Bridge)

PASSABLE WITH DEFECTS – ACTION REQUIRED

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

Bridge (2) is still in need of repair, as noted in and is considered too dangerous to use. An unofficial diversion was agreed with the landowner in May 2025 and site notices about this have been renewed ↓



Stiles 4 and 5 south-west of Humber Close are overgrown with low-hanging vegetation, making them difficult to use and require strimming by the Lengthsman.



Where the path reaches Humber Close, the stile (6) is completely broken, and the path alongside Humber Brook overgrown and potentially dangerous, given the steep bank to the river. ←

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 by the Lengthsman or landowner. ←

The route from this stile to Gate 3 is, as ever, overcropped with no field margin clear as an alternative.



HU6 (Stirbridge Farm to Humber Close, Steens Bridge)

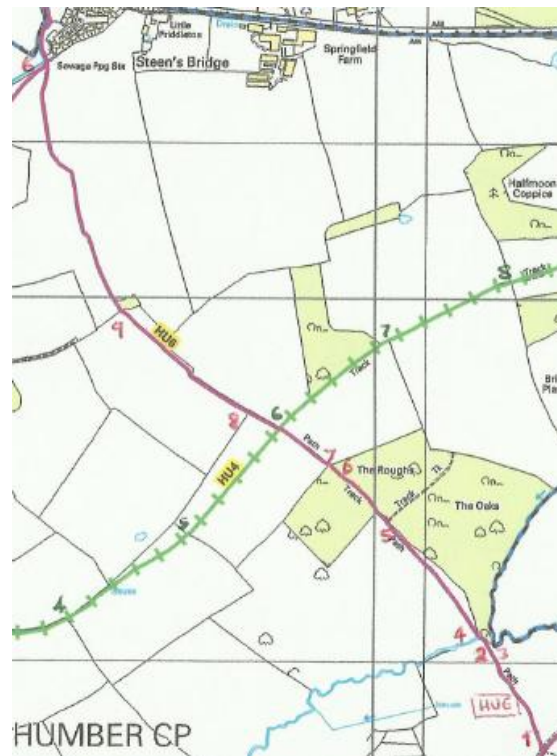
PASSABLE WITH DIFFICULTY – ACTION REQUIRED

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

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



The route to Gate (2) is still overcropped, and difficult.





← Gate (2) itself cannot be opened, as the spring has jammed, requiring climbing over the gate instead.

Stile (5) is completely overgrown, but this can currently be by-passed.

The previous broken Stile (6) has been removed, making access easier. →



The route north of here is improved, with field margins accessible at present.



← Stile (9) has a missing footplate, making it very difficult to use, and this requires repair by Lengthsman or landowner.

The field from stile 9 to Humber Close continues to be overploughed/overcropped every year.

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

PASSABLE WITH DIFFICULTY – ACTION REQUIRED

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



This path is easy until Gate 2, but, as in past years, the route between Gate 2 and Gate 4 is overcropped, and the field margins passable with extreme difficulty when crops are mature.



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

PASSABLE – NO DEFECTS

The path is clear, well-maintained and has no defects. Apart from Stile (2) near Poplands Lane, it is gated throughout.



PG11A (From Marston across Holly Brook towards Docklow)

IMPASSABLE – MAJOR DEFECT

As reported in June 2025, the Footbridge (2) has been swept away downstream and is not useable, pending repair or replacement.



PG12 (Marston to Holly Brook)

PASSABLE – NO SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS

A new waymarker is required at Gate (3) to indicate the route turning north.

Work by the landowner has now made the route from Stile (4) to Stile (5) passable, and although it would ideally have some waymarker posts to show where it turns, it appears that the route is now regularly walked and kept clear.

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 2026

Appendix 1: Current list of defects. Humber Parish footpaths, May 2026

PROW	w3w Location	Item	Defect/Work needed	Date of defect	Landowner	Progress
HU2	safe.crossword.refuse	Waymarker post 1	Footpath sign missing	May 2026	Risbury Mill	
HU2	pulps.requested.vibe	Stile 4	Stile requires repair or replacement	May 2026	Risbury Mill/ Risbury Court Farm	
HU3	stung.brimmed.chestnuts	Stile 1	Overgrown and stile in need of repair	May 2025	Humber Court Farm	
HU3	stirs.yachting.moving	Bridge 2	Planks on bridge rotten - dangerous.	May 2021	Humber Court Farm	Signs erected and alternative permissive route agreed and signed.
HU3	encoded.steam.owner	Stiles 4/5	Overgrown with low vegetation	May 2026	Buckland Farm	
HU3	bitter.dream.conveying	Stile 6	Stile completely broken but by-passable.	May 2021	Buckland Farm	
HU3	coast.upwardly.sprouted	Stile 6 to Stile 7 along bank of Humber Brook at Humber Close.	Path obstructed by fallen trees and vegetation: DANGER to users by brook.	May 2021	Stonewater Housing	Diversion requested 2022 – no progress since.
HU5	charted.handbags.foiled	Stile 2	Minor repairs to stile and remove vegetation.	May 2023	Buckland Farm	
HU5		Route from Stile 2 to Gate 3	Overcropped	May 2026	Buckland Farm	
HU6	workflow.pints.tenure	Stile 1	Stile broken – repairs needed.	May 2023	Buckland/Stirbridge Farms	
HU6		Route from Stile 1 to Gate 2	Overcropped	May 2026	Buckland Farm	
HU6	chest.together.buildings	Gate 2	Latch mechanism jammed	May 2026	Buckland Farm	
HU6	awoke.gliding.outings	Stile 5	Stile overgrown but can be bypassed currently	May 2023	Buckland Farm	
HU6		Between Stile 9 and Humber Close	Route overcropped.	May 2021	Buckland Farm	

HU7	influencing.escalated.spud	Gate 1	Missing waymarker post	2024	Hennerwood	
HU7	extensive.appealed.obvious	Gate 2	Gate doesn't open fully and overgrown	Pre 2018	Hennerwood	Open access available nearby
HU7		Route from Gate 2 to Gate 4	Route overcropped	May 2021	Hennerwood	
PG11A	strategy.shred.globe	Bridge 2	Bridge washed off mountings and needs repair or replacement.	June 2025		Awaiting funds from Herefordshire Council