

**Susan Fone, Parish Paths Liaison Officer – Rights of Way Report February 2023**

“Yesterday I met with Eve Wynn and we inspected the recent repairs and replacements to finger posts and signage by the contractor. There are still a couple of issues outstanding, but these will be attended to.

Sadly, at Woolston a relatively new finger post at the southern end of WN 19/88 off Corkscrew Lane. The landowners have fenced this path so tightly to their boundary hedge that the hedge has overgrown the path making access almost impossible. At public cost the contractors will have to go in twice a year and cut the lengthy hedge by hand (as the narrow corridor makes it impossible for machinery), to make it accessible. We have put it on the schedule for Spring cutting, but it is the responsibility of the landowner. Would it be possible for the PC to communicate with the landowner and ask for his co-operation?

There is great concern about WN19/105 Ridgeway Lane. As the PC will be aware, unauthorised vehicles have removed the padlock on the bollards and driven this route causing disastrous damage. Nothing can be done to rectify this until the ground has dried out. I have asked Eve to schedule this work for June as hopefully the ground will have dried sufficiently by then. Eve and I would be very grateful if she, Eve and I could have a site meeting with Diane Rickers on 29<sup>th</sup> March to discuss this issue. As you are aware, the cause of the surface problem is the lack of deep drainage on either side of the route. The ditches need deep excavation and then the surface needs deep drainage laid.

This is not merely the issue of one Right of Way as it is part of an interlinking network, which currently are rendered inaccessible by this problem.

However, Eve and I were absolutely delighted to see WN19/89 had been cleared including access through the completely overgrown hedge and a substantial stile built, complete with the barbs on the barbed wire removed at the stile, a hand grip pole and signage!! I believe that this land belongs to the Montgomery Estate and I shall be writing to Rory to thank him. Not only this, but all the paths in the field WN19/86, 87, 90, & 99 have been sprayed out. All this without prompting from the R of W team! If only all landowners would be as proactive. Might this be a case where a letter from the PC would be appropriate?

Walkers will have noticed several repairs and replacements of finger posts around the Parish, carried out by George, one of Eve’s contractors.”