

## Rights of Way Report - July 2024

Since the last Rights of Way Report, the undergrowth around footpaths and bridlepaths has continued to grow at great speed and volume. Both Tim Gilbert and Johnnie Counsell have been out strimming back paths and must be thanked for their assistance in this.

Two matters have arisen within this last month.

The first matter is the request by a landowner in North Cadbury to reroute elements of RoW 19/71, RoW 19/72, RoW 19/80 and RoW 19/82, in order to allow for more efficient working of the land. Additionally, it would allow for a new footbridge to be installed on a narrower section of the river. The proposals move the RoW from directly crossing fields to being routed, on a 2m wide path, around the edges of the fields. Comments are requested from the Parish Council, and any members of the public, by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

The PPLO has already written to the Parish Council and requested that the Council oppose these changes on the following grounds:

- a) The Rights of Way are historic paths and should not lightly be changed simply so that it would benefit the landowner.
- b) Landowners often say that it will help the walkers find their way, but that is NOT an argument to change (in perpetuity) an historic route. Efficient signage by landowners (and as with NCPC, help with this) is the answer.
- c) This should not be unchallenged by the PC as we must consider future generations and their connections with the past.
- d) Changing the established Rights of Way in order simply to allow for more efficient working of the land should not be the determining factor.

The PPLO has stated that she will respond directly to Somerset herself but has requested that the Parish Council also support this position.

The second matter is the construction of a new fixed fence within the Emily Estates' land to the east of Whitewoods Farm which seems to be cutting across the Monarch's Way.

A query has been raised with the Emily Estates via Zoe Young for confirmation of the proposed positioning of the fencing, and confirmation that it will not

either divert (without approval) or impede the public Right of Way (WN19/97) which is the Monarch's Way.

At present there has been no response from Emily Estates.

Two views of the Monarch's Way and the new fence corner post that has been installed, seemingly encroaching on the Monarch's Way.



Other than that, I am unaware of any other new issues.