

## **Annual Report from the Parish Right of Way Officer May 2021**

I was elected the Parish Right of Way Officer in Autumn last year and proceeded to do a complete audit of all our footpaths and bridleways. I started improving the waymarking on all rights of way. I also undertook some minor clearance of overgrown vegetation from some routes.

My report was submitted to the parish council and the County Council locality steward Philip Pankhurst this spring. This report was discussed at the March meeting, where the aim to provide safe and easy access to the beauty of the countryside while protecting landowners & farmers' crops, livestock and property was adopted.

Since that meeting I have continued to improve the waymarking of our parish rights of way. I enjoyed a very pleasant morning with Angela Pendleton, our chair walking one of our local bridleways and adding waymarkers.

I have written or spoken to some of our local landowners and farmers to reach out and provide a point of contact regarding public rights of way. I have also approached some landowners to discuss the possibility of making the rights of way that cross their land more accessible to all (By maybe replacing stiles with gates for example). This is still in discussion at the moment. I have a few appointments scheduled for June and will keep you updated. I am very pleased to say that the Parish Clerk has created a Public Rights of Way page on the parish council website, thank you so much Mike.

I have had some feedback from local farmers, and one of the comments was regarding the increasing problem of dog mess on Westhope Common. In response to this comment, I have put signs up asking people to clean up after their dogs and to keep dogs under control at all the main entrances to Westhope common.

As covid restrictions ease I hope that we can arrange some social walks around our parish this summer.