

# Footpath and Rights of Way Report for November 2018

## General

1. The footpaths and rights of way are in a reasonable if muddy condition.
2. I attended the Lower Otter Restoration Project – Visitor Management meeting on behalf of OPC, 27<sup>th</sup> November

## Issues

3. Rickerty Bridge (officially known as Bicton Bridge)
  - a. This footbridge was to be replaced in September, then put off until 8th October. Work is subject to the ground remaining firm.
  - b. The Contractor has only done some minor tree clearance. The new bridge is stored nearby along the old railway track. It seems to me that the work cannot be carried out for 6 months (my estimate) as the ground is now too wet
  - c. Last month I requested that if it cannot be completed this year then a temporary repair is carried out to the existing. No response as yet
4. South West Coastal Path - River Otter west side footpath (number 1)
  - a. The footpath from White Bridge to Budleigh was closed due to a breach at the southern end by the culvert - Highlights need for Lower Otter Restoration Project.
  - b. I understand that the Repairs may be completed by Xmas although the closure notice does give them until March..
  - c. There is limited access to the bird hide.
5. Other issues
  - a. DCC have placed asphalt arisings (scalpings) to the low spots along Piscombe Lane (309) significantly improving access along the lane.
  - b. DCC have placed a considerable amount of asphalt arisings (scalpings) to the low spots along Lea Lane (track) (310) to the northern arm significantly improving access along the lane.
  - c. I am sure the Parish Council are most grateful for this work. I suggest the Minutes acknowledge this work
  - d. Access along the northern end of Lea Lane(track) (310) is difficult due to builders using the land for parking up to 3 vehicles. The ditch at the junction with Behind Hayes has also been partially filled, increasing run off onto Behind Hayes.
  - e. I am working with Briony Sharp to come up with a strategy for replacing some of the finger posts.
  - f. I think some work to the steps at Clamour Bridge has been carried out by DCC.

## Lower Otter Restoration Project – Visitor Management

6. Meeting held 27 November
7. Most people wanted to keep the area as undisturbed as possible.
8. Visitor management needs to be design before rather than after.
9. Not much time to decide as Planning Application to be submitted in April
10. Parking a key issue.
11. Screening along west side footpath (South farm Road to Limekiln parallel to Granary Lane a key issue.
12. Minimum visitor facilities - restoration and wildlife main aim rather than making it a “destination”

Iain Ure

27 November 2018