

Otterton Footpath and Rights of Way Report for November 2020

General

1. The footpaths have been much busier than normal as a result of travel restrictions/social distancing. However, there are still many rights of way which are quiet.
2. As can be expected at this time of year many of the ROW are muddy but most are reasonably easy to pass with care.
3. Devon County Council has reorganised ROW team. Many thanks to Richard Spurway for his past efforts. Sam Jeffcoat is taking his place.

Major Issues

4. Chockenhole Lane (track 305) was badly flooded over last winter. In particular the drainage grip has not been re-established resulting in the path being impassable when it rains. DCC were to reinstate the drainage during the summer. This has not happened yet but is in hand.
5. I understand a horse rider had an accident in the past few weeks. I think this may have been along Radway lane (307) which is badly rutted. DCC are aware of the rutting. Radway is a unclassified county road. It suffers from a steep gradient and water runoff has nowhere to go.
6. Sam tells me he is to schedule some improvement works on Chockenhole Lane and some of the others in this locality over the next few weeks – he has inspected UCRs 303, 305, 306, 307 and 308. There is lots of vegetation clearance required and surface works.

Minor Issues

7. Along the Coastal Path, just to the east of Ladram, a tree had broken in the old woodland. The trunk was over the track, hooked over other trees. CDE kindly sorted it out.
8. The broken gate post to Watering Lane has not yet been repaired (DCC). Hopefully this will be done along with the work in 6 above.
9. New World War 1 footpath posts - a few are yet to be placed.
10. One of these new WW1 posts was damaged at the top of Watering Lane during hedge trimming. CDE have asked Greendale to repair / replace.
11. Finger post at Burthouse Farm (16) is wobbly and probably rotten at the base. This is a key direction sign and needs to be replaced soon.
12. A short post along the permitted footpath at the bottom of the Mutters Moor plantation has been knocked over during maintenance. CDE are aware.

Trees

13. CDE have sadly had to remove the Ash trees along Bars Lane. This is due to Ash dieback and there is no alternative to removal as the trees were dangerously affected. Care is needed when walking near the works. The track is quite muddy but passible.
14. Ash Trees elsewhere are at risk. The effect on our hedgerows will be quite dramatic.

15. The Parish Council is responsible for Stantyway playing field. At the last meeting they agreed to remove 5 of the Ash Trees due to die back - there will be many more to be removed in the near future. This initial work will happen over the winter.

Iain Ure 30/11/20