

October 2021 Clapton and Ston Easton Footpath Report – Version 2 post Parish Council meeting

Points to note since Last Report

- Footpath 19/5/1 Bridge #4167 at the bottom of Golf Course off Lower Hay Street has been replaced. Stile #34374, adjacent to the bridge accessing the golf club, should be replaced by a gate in the next couple of months.
- SCC Area Warden has had a very good meeting with the Golf Course Grounds Manager who is very aware of the footpaths over the course and would like to make them easy to follow and as safe as possible for golfers and walkers. He has a detailed aerial map to determine where the legal lines run and he will be installing waymarking.
- Stile #38202 Footpath CL 19/16 off Greenditch Lane has been replaced with a Kissing Gate.
- Fence/Field Gate #38212 Footpath CL 19/16 off Greenditch Lane has been replaced with a Kissing Gate.
- Stile #38209 Footpath CL 19/16 off Greenditch Lane has been replaced with a Kissing Gate.
- Footpath CL19/16 railed fence has been replaced by two pedestrian gates.
- Footpath CL19/19 a new finger post marking the path has been put in opposite the Crown Inn Clapton.
- Footpath CL 19/10/1 from Langley Lane to Hillers Wood a new kissing gate has been installed.
- Article published on Parish Web Page with links to Explore Somerset and PPLO Handbook.
- Grateful if Landowners and their contractors would refresh familiarity with the ploughing and cropping guide for landowners and farmers in relation to ploughing cross field paths and field edge paths (produced in partnership with the NFU and the Country Land and Business Association).
- One of SCC area wardens has recently stepped down at short notice and as a result the warden covering our parish, has temporarily an even larger area to cover and all issues are being prioritised as per the Rights of Way Inspection Manual using a risk based prioritisation, cross referencing the potential severity with the path category to determine the issue priority. Thus, it is unlikely works that are not safety critical will be addressed quickly. In my view the only safety critical issues in the Parish that I have seen is bridge 4590 on path CL19/11, but I doubt this is a much-used path so unlikely to be high on the priority list for SSC.

General Overview

FP No	Route Description	Issue No	Issue Description/Asset No/Comment	Date Last Checked by PPLO & PPLO Comment
CL 19/1				
CL 19/2	Fields between Chicks Lane and Chewton Fields Farm	#60474 reported by PPLO 13/02/21	Stile 28649. All cross bars and steps have barbed wired tightly secured across making stile dangerous to climb over, impossible for a child.	13/02/21
	Fields between Chicks Lane and Chewton Fields Farm	#60473 reported by PPLO 13/02/21	Barbed Wire straddling broken stile/fence	13/02/21
CL 19/3	Farrington Golf Course	#60533 Reported by MofP 18/02/21	Stile 38302 ES states Hazard stile missing step.	Not visited, but SSC report Grounds Manager would like to make footpaths easy to follow & as safe as possible for golfers and walkers.
	Farrington Golf Course	#61014 reported by MofP 16/03/21	Stile 38268 missing instead a gap in the hedgerow	Not visited, but SSC report Grounds Manager would like to make footpaths easy to follow & as safe as possible for golfers and walkers.
	Farrington Golf Course	#61077 reported by MofP 20/03/21	ES states Overgrown and no way to get through dense brambles and long grass	Not visited, but SSC report Grounds Manager would like to make footpaths easy to follow & as safe as possible for golfers and walkers.
	Ston Easton Upper lodge gateway onto A37	#61009 Improvement	Gate 38425 on ES as Improvement. 07/08/21 Area Warden reported stile to be replaced with metal a Bristol gate but no date as not safety critical	07/08/21 Gate old but in working order.
	Manor Farm Ston Easton	#61008 Improvement	Gate 38309 Bristol Gate Improvement on ES. 07/08/21 Area Warden reported stile to be replaced with metal a kissing gate but no date as not safety critical	19/08/21 looks like new Bristol Gate all in good working order has been fitted.
	Manor Farm Ston	#61007	Gate 38310 shown on ES as Improvement install metal	19/08/21 looks like new Gate all

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	Easton	Improvement	kissing gate. 07/08/21 Area Warden reported stile to be replaced with metal a kissing gate but no date as not safety critical	in good working order has been fitted.
	Terrace Wood	#61006 reported by MofP 16/03/21	Stile 38308 on ES as Improvement. 07/08/21 Area Warden reported stile to be replaced with metal a kissing gate but no date as not safety critical	19/03/21 wooden stile old but in working order.
	Wellow Brook from Manor Farm Ston Easton to Terrace Wood.	Issue#58937 reported by PPLO 21/02/21	Ford 4517 Stones that form the crossing have been washed away and those remaining are unstable and not safe to walk on. Water is fast flowing and around 40-50cm deep. 21/06/03 SSC Area Warden reports “ I looked at ford and decided that in normal flow it is easily crossed with wellies on. We are not required to supply crossing stones as this is historically recorded as a ford and adding stones would result in an additional liability...a bit crazy but this is the guidance have been given”	22/03/21. Water level lower and stones steady. 4/09/21 unable to access due to cattle in stream and field
CL19/3 & SM10/11 intersect	Path across fields on other side of A37 from Ston Easton towards Emborough	#60476 reported by PPLO 21/2/21	Stile #34567 broken in several places.	13/03/21 remains broken
CL 19/4	Farrington Golf course	#61015 reported by MofP 16/03/21	On ES as Obstruction states gates often locked blocking you from following the footpath.	Not visited, but SSC report Grounds Manager would like to make footpaths easy to follow & as safe as possible for golfers and walkers.
CL 19/5/1	Bottom of Golf Course off Lower Hay Street	#56149	Bridge #4167. Wooden cross boards are in extremely poor condition. Wooden handrails are not secure.	07/09/21 New Bridge installed. Suggest defect removed from ES.

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	Bottom of Golf Course	#61263 reported by PPLO 30/03/21	Stile #34374 old wooden stile with not bottom cross bar. 07/10/21 SSC Area Warded advised stile should be replaced by a gate in the next couple of months.	07/09/21 stile still not replaced.
CL 19/6	Whitchurch Farm by ponds	#61016 reported by MofP 16/03/21	On ES states no way marker and unlike other stiles no space for a dog to get through due to sheep wire.	21/03/21 I can add a way marker when I next walk path but route it is fairly obvious.
CL 19/7				
CL 19/8	Whitchurch Farm field with bird pens	#63613	Stile 38303 Step and bottom bar are broken so it is not possible to safely climb over the stile	7/09/21 stile remains broken. I have cut make undergrowth to make access a little eaiser
	Whitchurch farm to Golf Club	#62540 reported 17/06/21	Loose cross step on stile 38304	07/09/21 step remains loose. I have cut back undergrowth along side edge of fields and around stile.
CL 19/9				
CL 19/10/1	Langley Lane to Hillers Down Wood	#60677 PPLO reported 28/02/21	Style next to gate broken/fallen down (Gate #38290)	03/10/21 New kissing Gate installed. Suggest defect removed from ES.
CL 19/11	Langley Lane sub-station to Royal Oak Cottages	#61031 reported by MofP 17/03/21	Bridge 4590 ES needs attention due to rust on iron beams, mortar and stone loss on both abutments	24/03/21 very old bridge. I would be surprised if it meets H&S, recommend SCC survey.
CL 19/12				
CL 19/13				
CL 19/14				
CL 19/15				
CL 19/16	Greenditch Lane	#58427 reported by PPLO 02/02/21		Sept 21 Stile 38202 replaced by kissing gate and finger post secure. Suggest remove Issue

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				from ES
CL19/16	Greenditch Lane	#58426/#64037 Reported 15/09/20 by MofP	Field Gate #38212 broken; adjacent fence very difficult to climb over to access footpath. Finger post also broken.	11/09/ I have cleared all bushes and undergrowth. 18/09/21 kissing gate installed.
CL 19/16		#64036 reported 12/09/21 by PPLO	Stile 38209 very precarious.	11/09/21 I cleared undergrowth. 18/09/21 Kissing Gate installed.
			Stile 38213	11/09/12 stile 38213 cleared of undergrowth
		#64034 Reported 12/09/21 by PPLO	Consists of two stiles. Second stile cross step has become detached. Step lies along side in reasonable condition	11/09/12 – On my next walk across path I may be able to nail back into position.
CL 19/17				
CL5/11	Chilcompton PC	#62564 #64035	Stile Overgrown Cross step rotting	11/09/21 I cut back undergrowth so stile passable.
	Chilcomton		Wooden kissing Date 38217	11/09/21 I cut back undergrowth so date accessible
CL 19/18	New Witchurch Farm access to FP from Thickthorn Lane	#46950 Reported by MofP 23/01/18	ES FP not accessible through farmyard. Other access issues include Gates on FP broken and electric fence prevents access.	22/03/21 still not accessible from Thickthorn Lane. Have not ventured further!
	From Strap/Stones Lane on to CL19/18	#38240	Finger post missing	26/03/21. Area Warden advised a finger post would be put in place when Strap Lane strimmed by SCC later this year. 10/11/21 Finger post has not been installed.
CL 19/19	Clapton between stream and back of	#61011 reported by	Bridge/Step 2503 snapped rotten post collapse of handrail.	24/03/21 Bridge still safe use but post does need reporting.

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	Forticrete Works	MofP 16/03/21		
	Bridge onto Langleys Lane	#64085 reported 15/09/21 by MofP	Bridge overgrown	10/10/21 I will cut back the hedge row and undergrowth back once the field is free of cattle.
CL19/20	Greenditch Lane entrance to New Manor Farm Clapton	#57621 reported by PPLO 02/02/21	Signpost #38272 No way maker evident (removed) and metal finger post appears to have been removed/snipped off.	10/10/21 still no signage.
			Gate 60137	05/09/21 Undergrowth around gate cleared
CL 19/20	New Manor Farm Clapton	#55691 reported by PPLO 02/02/21. Also reported by MofP 13/04/20	Path blocked by farm machinery and gates forming a cattle/livestock holding area making it impossible to access/cross and walk Path CL19/20.	10/10/21 Path remains blocked.
CL 19/21	From Golf course onto CL 19/21	#60692	ES improvement	01/03/21 New Stile in place not easy to climb over as it is covered in wire.
CL 19/22				
CL 19/23	New Manor Farm Clapton	#60339 reported by PPLO 02/02/21	Stile #34371 Broken stile, middle rail missing/broken so unable to climb over. Hedgerow also encroaching stile.	06/10/21 New stile installed. Suggest delete issue from ES.
CL 19/24				
CL 19/25				
CL 19/26				
CL 19/27				
CL 19/28				
CL 19/29				
WS 3/2	Chicks Lane entrance	#60475 reported	Finger Post uprooted, leaning against wall pointing the	13/02/21 finger post remains

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	into field	by PPLO 13/02/21	wrong way.	broken
		57108 reported 24/0620	Stile 34380 ES states stile removed, and fence added wall to makes route impassable	21/03/21 No stile, but dry stone wall which is difficult to climb over. Secure stones either side would provide "steps" to safely climb over wall.

Anne Huckle 18th October 2021

Parish Path Liaison Officer

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Key

PPLO = Parish Path Liaison Officer, FP = Foot Path, ES = Explore Somerset, MofP = Member of Public,