

## LONG STRATTON FOOTPATH WARDEN'S REPORT MARCH 2022

All visits made in last 10 days of February and first week of March

FP1 (Hempnall Rd to A140) Very soggy.

FP2 North from Hempnall Rd. Cut down growth in front of stile; rest of the path to bridge OK.

FP3 (between Church Lane and Hempnall Rd) The path at Hempnall Road end has many deep puddles, mostly caused from ruts made by today's very heavy farm machinery but not impassable. The puddles at the Church Lane end are more like small lakes but again it is passable on the verges.

FP 4 (east from FP3) This path is nice and grassy leading over plank bridge to field path to Morningthorpe (replaced but muddy and slippery at the moment).

FP5 (A short length between Church Lane and Norwich Road cutting off the corner). In really good condition, Farmer has left a good margin and there are signs it is being used more.

FP6 (from FP7 to St Michael's Church). The terrible stile has been remade and recently a further good plank to aid crossing.. I understand it was done by a neighbour rather than the land-owner. It will never be perfect as there is such a steep drop on one side but it's very much better. Thanks to the unknown benefactor. I have screwed direction roundels to the post as the previous direction post got removed some time last year.

FP7 (Churchfields estate to Rhees Green) . Good path put back.

FP8 (A140 towards Picton Rd) Good grass path, soggy in places.

FP12 Tarmac between A140 and St Michael's Rd past car park.

FP13 (From Edge's Lane to Rhees Green) Well marked path.

FP14 (Rhees Green eastwards towards Morningthorpe) . Good field edge path.

FP15 (Star Lane to Hall Rd) Always well-used path, rather muddy now at Star Lane end. The farmer has replaced footpath through rape crop to an excellent 2 metres, the recommended width for this tall crop. Not many farmers comply with this, so my thanks. The finger post at the Hall Road end has disappeared and I have reported this.. This is not the first time it has gone AWOL in recent times.

FP16 (from FP15 to Mill Rd) Good field edge path. The awkward stile is beginning to lean so maybe I can use this to interest Highways

FP17 (from Mill Lane going east) Good grass path along field edge, then rolled path through crop.

FP18 (right turn from FP17 to Mill Road) Nice walking across the grassy field. This path is now quite well used so is clear on the ground. The plank bridge, however, has still not been renewed. It has been outstanding since June 2019. I'm wondering if any councillor might like to take this up (?)

FP19 (Hall Rd to Wood Green) This path through crop has been replaced to a reasonable standard.

FP20 (A140 opp. Parker's Lane to Haynton Lane) Good field edge path.

FP21 (Parker's Lane to Wood Green) The path has been replaced and rolled. It is now a pleasure to use. Thanks, farmer. A finger post half way down was on the wonk and about to slide over but I managed to haul it up and wedge with stray flints from the field. However, the little wonky post at Parker's Lane end has lost its pointer through rot. Reported

FP22 (Mill Rd to RB23 at Wood Green) Ploughed field and no marks to show direction of footpath at either end.. The uprooted finger post at Mill Rd still held up by the hedgerow where I balanced it. I have not reported it as I expect the farmer will replace it when the crop starts growing. He is usually pretty good. It doesn't help that the finger post is not really in the right place.

RB23 (Wood Green to Mill Road past Mayfields Farm). Good path

FP24 (Wood Green to Morningthorpe). A very wide stretch has been left uncultivated at the field edge so should be no problems this year.

FP25 (part of Boudicca's Way from Parker's Lane through Tyrrel's Wood). Very muddy now. Have not investigated to the end because of this but will go along and trim back growth in April.

FP 26 (Parker's Lane winding through nearly to A140) . The farmer has replaced and rolled the path to his boundary; it is now very easy to use. Beyond that the path has been indicated by wide tractor marks and it also fairly easy to the next boundary, followed by another good rolled path to the ditch bordering the kennels. Here the path stops and any wanderer must make his or her own unofficial way. This will all be solved in 2024 with the completion of the bypass and realignment of the path.

FP27 This path is in 3 sections. The field edge grassy path from Hayton's Lane is a grass field edge which is gradually improving with more footfall (all the people with new dogs!). The second section is usually a nightmare as farmer does not usually replace path through crop **BUT** this year he has marked a track with a vehicle to the plank bridge so I am hopeful people will use it. Whether this is a result of me moaning on about it or not, it is a welcome improvement. The third section to A140 is also well- marked by tramlines.

### ACTIONS TAKEN

1. FP18 plank bridge work agreed but STILL in queue since 2019
2. Missing fingerpost at Hall road end of FP15 reported
3. Damaged fingerpost at Parker's Lane reported

Bonnie Wade, Long Stratton Footpath Warden