

Cuddington Footpaths – Spring 2022

Following a fairly dry winter, all our footpaths are useable although some issues remain, particularly on FP1 towards Winchendon Mill.

FP1 – The enclosed section that was stabilised last autumn by the Cuddington Footpaths Group is in a much better state than last year. There are some muddy ruts, but it is quite navigable.

Below that, the route is very damp and muddy in parts.

The northern gate of the foot bridge needs repair.

From the gate to the stile by the mill, there is a lot of water and mud. The wooden walkway has come adrift and, although we have alerted Transport for Bucks more than once, they have not responded.

FP1 branch passes from a stile on the track to the sewage works, across a field to meet the main path at a gate. The lower part of the field through which the path goes is very marshy and covered in water. At the gate, the stile is broken.

John Allen has tried to improve the drainage at the gate by redirecting the stream and clearing his ditch, but it has not improved the field drainage. The land agents for Winchendon Estates have been informed but nothing has been heard from them.

FP2 – OK

FP3 – The cattle feeding area between the two stiles at the start of the footpath has resulted in it getting very muddy.

FP6 – This gets very wet following rain at its start so people are trampling the verges. Otherwise OK.

FP8

FP11

FP13 – The Parish Council is consulting with land owner about moving the gate onto Bridgeway to a less dangerous position and closer to the start of FP11

A clear route has then been created around the horse paddock, leading to the Cuddington Mill track.

Keith McCullough has created a new concessionary path to a new footbridge over the River Thame so that people will take this rather than using the official route that passes the mill pond, in front of the house. Both routes remain available.

FP14 The cattle bridge bypass is degraded.

The wooden gate on the footbridge over the river is broken and not in operation. (Mr Spencer-Bernard likes this to be in place but has not contributed to its repair).

FP16 – This has been more heavily used and is also deeply furrowed by a truck invading it when it was wet.

FP17 – Following work by the footpath group, this is in reasonable condition.