

Report for Lacock Parish Council – Jan 22

Footpaths / Public Rights of Way

Community Orchard

Prepared by: Simon Wise

Date of Report: 9 Jan 22

Footpaths / Rights of Way

LACO14, ST 91425 69075 – Mons Lane to Great Notton Farm

Background

Route walked on 1 Jun 21 (south to north and vice versa), it was discovered that apart from the signposts adjacent to the road at either end of the route, that there are no intervening waymarks, signpost, or obvious stiles or gates. Stock fencing and locked gates appear to obstruct the approved PRoW. There was no obvious (or marked) diversion route.

It was reported that this route has been the subject of discussion involving the Wiltshire County Council Byways Officer, and in February this year the landowner agreed to formally requesting a Permanent Diversion. There are agreed actions with the landowner:

- To have the route drawn up, to be shared for consultation, and
- To display signs temporarily diverting the footpath.

None of the actions above have been completed. The landowner has not responded to any request for update on the above.

Planning application for Whitehill Farm, Reybridge 20/11636/FUL. It should be noted that on 11 Feb Lacock Parish Council recorded no objection to this proposal. However, having now reviewed all of the latest (and amended) planning documents, the applicant makes no mention of LACO14, and it would appear that it has not been taken into consideration; I therefore raised an objection, recommending that a formal request for a Permanent Diversion of LACO14 be requested and agreed, before any planning decision is made.

It should be noted that this planning application (20/11636/ FUL) has now been approved (17 Sep 21), but with the condition that the Applicant must now obtain the additional appropriate order for the diversion of the public right of way!

Update 8 Jan 22

It was reported in Dec 21 that the last remaining signpost (Mons Lane pointing north) has been removed. The route was checked again on 28 Dec 21, there is now virtually no evidence that a PRoW ever existed, multiple permanent structure block the route. A formal request for action has now been made directly to the WCC PRoW Officer, cc to the WCC PRoW adviser on planning (28 Dec 21), requesting that they take action to force the landowner to re-instate the PRoW. The associated MyWilts incident 00050574 is reported to be “in progress 6/1/22, but details of the actions initiated are unknown at this time.

LACO17, ST ST91947 69140 – Reybridge to Reymill Estate.

It was reported that the stile at the Eastern end of Reymill Bridge was dangerous. On investigation, it was confirmed as hazardous to use, and further along the same path a barrier is now in situ making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. Both these matters were reported via MyWilts (see summary of outstanding issues below). Subsequent discussion with the Reymill Estate Manager, resulted in a “quick fix” to mitigate the barbed wire hazard, and it has been confirmed that at both these locations a “kissing gate” will be installed, quotes have been obtained, subject to confirmation of “paint finish” these should be installed shortly. Work still awaited (8 Jan 22).



LACO1A, LAC02, LAC05 – As impacted by Wick Solar Farm

Wick Solar Farm planning application 20/06840/FUL has now been approved. Previously reported issues related to LAC02 and LAC05 will now become overtaken by events. It should be noted that the developer has committed to retain the existing PROW in the current locations across the site throughout the construction and operational phases. When construction plant and machinery are accessing the site, a banksman will be employed to control both pedestrian movements and traffic control throughout the duration of the construction phase. Improvements to the PROW through the site have been approved and include providing an 8m buffer as well as resurfacing of the existing PROW. Minor diversions of PROW LACO2 and LACO1A through the site are considered to provide a betterment of the existing PROW network.

Summary of outstanding issues

PRoW Unique ID	MyWilts Reference No	Issue	Date Raised	Current status
LAC017	00047611	ST91947 69140 - Wobbly stile / barbed wire hazard	20-Nov-21	in progress 22/11/21
LAC017	00047612	ST92061 62235 - Barrier in stead of stile	20-Nov-21	in progress 22/11/21

LAC02	00047662	ST91070 61300 - Fallen signpost	21-Nov-21	in progress 22/11/21
LAC019	00049517	ST92305 68680 - Stile supported by string / Barbed wire	11-Dec-21	closed 13/12/21
LAC019	00049518	ST92200 68825- 1/3 of footbridge misplaced	11-Dec-21	closed 13/12/21
LAC014	00050574	ST 91425 69075 - Eradication and obstruction of PRow	28-Dec-21	in progress 6/1/22

As recorded in MyWilts as submitted by the Author. Items that are closed “in month” will be listed in the following report (as closed) and then will not be shown subsequently:

Recovery Routes initiative

Background

Local resident Heather McKibbon has proposed the creation of a number “Recovery Routes” around Lacock for “elderly” or “physically impaired” people. At a zoom meeting on 26 Aug 21, attended by:

- Simon Wise – Lacock Parish Council.
- Heather McKibbon – Lacock resident and initiative proposer.
- Judy Hible – North West Wilts Ramblers Association.
- Paula Brunt – Secretary Disabled Ramblers Board
- Derek Walters – Wiltshire Councillor (Corsham without)

It was agreed that Heather and Paula (above) would explore the possibilities of creating one or two short walks around Lacock (in their current state, described from a physically impaired / recovering from injury, walker’s perspective), these walks to be trialled, and then if appropriate to see how the accessibility of these walks could be improved.

Heather McKibbon and Paula Brunt, have been in further communication regarding the documentation of a suitable trial route, however, this is not likely to be available for further discussion until early in the New Year.

Update 9 Jan 22

No update available at this time.

Community Orchard

The most recent “working group” visits are listed below; the following was completed:

19 Dec 21 (3 adult volunteers and 2 children helping)

- Four additional fruit tree planted, x2 Apple (Charles Rose and Sunset), a Plum (Victoria) and a Pear (Comice), caned, spirally guarded and mulch square laid.
- Willow withies side panels tops were woven to form a tunnel structure – more resistant to adverse weather.

8 Jan 22 (4 adult volunteers)

- The two mature apple trees were reshaped, and internal lateral branches thinned.
- Rogue Willow withies were rewoven.
- A number of brambles (including their roots) adjacent to the communal areas were removed.

Next Working party scheduled for Saturday 12 Feb 22.

The following longer-term items remain to be planned / progressed:

Erection of a support structure for the two established grape vines.

Creation of a shelter for groups to use during inclement weather.

Creation / establishment of an open area for communal picnics / Lacock school open air productions.

Widening and smoothing of access pathways to make the site more accessible.

Provision of a water supply – mains or water butt tbc.

Feedback from Orchard users

Over the festive period the squirrels and birds have enjoyed the seeds and fat-balls.

Wise Owls have requested the opportunity to grow sunflowers and have a small vegetable plot.