

**Report for Lacock Parish Council – Dec 21**

**Footpaths / Public Rights of Way**

**Community Orchard**

**Prepared by: Simon Wise**

**Date of Report: 11 Dec 21**

**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 11 Dec 21**

No progress to report, awaiting land-owner and WCC action.

**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.



#### **LACO19 - Footbridge at ST92200 68825, and Stile at ST92305 68680**

One of three railway sleepers forming the footbridge has been removed, and a temporary repair to the stile has been made with “string”, with exposed barbed wire to the side, both “issues have been reported via MyWilts.

#### **Summary of outstanding issues**

Because the MyWilts Application does not allow the facility to “search”, it only allows subscribers to gain information on issues that they have personally submitted. The table previously presented contained largely historical data believed to be out of date, so I have decided to only show a summary of items raised by the Author:

PRoW Unique ID	MyWilts Reference No	Issue	Date Raised	Current status
LACO32	00044832	ST93450 67750 - Bridge tread	24-Oct-21	closed 4/11/21
LACO32	00044833	ST93400 67700 - Broken stile	24-Oct-21	in progress 28/10/21
LAC017	00047611	ST91947 69140 - Wobbly stile / barbed wire hazard	20-Nov-21	in progress 22/11/21
LAC017	00047612	ST92061 62235 - Barrier instead 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	in progress 11/12/21
LAC019	00049518	ST92200 68825- 1/3 of footbridge misplaced	11-Dec-21	in progress 11/12/21

It should be noted that historical issues raised previously relating to LAC014 should now be addressed through the conditions associated with planning application 20/11636/FUL, now being reported in the narrative section. Issues related to LAC02 and LAC05 will be overtaken by events should the Wick Solar Farm planning application 20/06840/FUL be successful. I do not intend to report these further unless either of these planning status changes.

## **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.

### Update 11 Dec 21

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.

## **BBC Filming of walking Routes around Lacock.**

The BBC approached Lacock Parish Council with a view to eliciting our support to enable them to film a short clip for inclusion in the BBC Countryfile programme to be aired on Bank Holiday Monday, 27 Dec 21 at 4.30pm. A Recce with a production crew was undertaken on 3 Dec 21, and the actual filming took place on 10 Dec 21, edit and final cut will be at the discretion of the BBC over the next few weeks. It has been requested that Lacock Parish Council get a mention in the credits.

The walk to be shown is essentially that which the NT call the Lacock Pleasure Garden Walk, as described at their website, see attached link:

[Lacock pleasure garden walk | National Trust](#)

Following the showing of this programme, it is likely that there will be increased interest in our Parish Council website footpaths page, and also in the Community Orchard, which will also feature.

## Community Orchard

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

11 Dec 21 (16 adult volunteers and 4 children helping)

- Mega planting day!
- One fruit tree planted (Early Rivers – Plum), caned, spirally guarded and mulch square laid.
- A 40m hedge planted adjacent to the fence line (120 mixed variety), caned, spirally guarded and mulched.
- Willow withies planted to form the side panels for a living tunnel to the woodland area, initial diamond weave made, and bases mulched.
- Mince pies eaten.

Next Working party scheduled for Saturday 8 Jan 22.

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

Winter pruning, and removal of congested branches of mature fruit trees.

X4 new Fruit trees ordered in Aug 21, now reported to be “in transit” to be planted.

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

Lacock School and Wise Owls are now regularly using the site, as are Gruffalos, Dormice, and more recently Muntjac Deer.

It is likely that there will be increased local interest in the Community Orchard, which will feature in the BBC Countryfile programme to be aired on Bank Holiday Monday, 27 Dec 21 at 4.30pm.