

Harwell Parish Council

Harwell Annual Footpath Walks

Sunday afternoon, 13th September 2015

All footpaths were walked,

The walkers were:

- Babs Capps
- Alan Wagner
- Clive and Dee Holes
- Fran and Graham Sumner
- Kate Beswick
- Martin Ricketts
- Debbie Turner

Reports from the walkers:

Walk 1: Passable the whole way.

Walk 2: Path from Barrow Road to the join with Barrow Lane, straight and easily walkable. Not too easy with pushchair but possible. Some overhanging apple trees.

Walk 3: The path is rough and just passible for walkers, but has nettles, brambles, Cow parsley and grass knee high. Walkers have hopped over the fence and walked in the field, creating path in field. Not possible to continue the walk over the A34 to parish boundary.

From Townsend over the bridge to the A4130, track is wide but has water-filled pot holes, though easy enough to walk. When track flattens out, it is more difficult to walk as path becomes narrower. All the way is passable and regularly used by walkers and cyclists.

Walk 4: Pathway clear, been cleared by neighbours, fine for both walkers and riders.

Walk 5: Pathway clear.

Walk 6: Not accessible.

Walk 7: No longer exists! The sign on Grove Road is still there and there is a stile immediately the other side of the track which has been formed by the contractors for Alder View development. After that the path is impossible to follow. Initially ok over a field but then blocked by a 15ft high embankment of excavated earth, which is over 200 yards long. Alan climbed over this, but the remainder of the path to the parish boundary with Milton has vanished.

Walk 8: Walkable, path clear, were some piles of rubbish (fly tipped?) bordering the western side. Still unsightly back gardens, rubbish needs to be cleared.

Walk 9: completely blocked at A417 end.

Walk 10: Path clear and fine to walk.

Walk 11: Pathway clear and walkable.

Walk 12: East side of A34 on Driftway very overgrown, path alongside A34 is clear and ok.

Walk 14: Quite a lot of low hanging branches/fir trees growing into the pathway, particularly along the stretch of path by the Hart. Corrugated fencing in middle part of footpath on right hand side (walking from Kings Lane) collapsing and broken - v. dangerous.

Walk 15: Walkable, path clear - much improved since pot hole filled in and levelled.

Walk 16: Walkable, path clear,

Walk 17: Walkable, path clear. Cyclists riding very fast, no warning bell.

Walk 18: Walkable, path clear.

Walk 19: Walkable, path clear,

Walk 20: Walkable, path clear.

RoW Harwell No 3 north of the A34 (Thanks to Martin)

Official description

3 FP From the end of Barrow Road at NE end of FP 11, NNE and N to the S side of the A34, continuing N, towards Milton Parish Boundary from the N side of the A34 and terminating at the S boundary fence of the Didcot Link Road (A4130). NB. The 1975 side roads Order encompassing the extension to the A34 provided an additional length of FP 3 from the S side of the A34, leading SE along the SW side of the A34 embankment, within the orchard on the SW side of the fence, to Cow Lane (BR 1).

* In 2 parts, north of the A34 is only accessible from the A4130.

Note – a RoW was not created on the north side of the A34 because there was meant to be a route within the A34 embankment from Cow Lane to the south end of the northern section, so I've been told.

Northern section was visited on 13th October 2015. At the A4130 there is still a sign pointing into the hedge:



But the gate to a few yards to the west is the normal way in. Then the gateway is passable but not exactly open:



The route on the west edge of the field is now overgrown but one can walk through the long grass to the slightly overgrown stile:



The way is then clear but then the field edge bends to the south-west and the path is supposed to go straight on. Following the edge of the field one comes to a fence without an apparent crossing point either where one should be or at the west edge of the field. However a tree has conveniently helped:



The path's official route was not attempted after this but the edge of the field was followed and it was possible to cross the fence to the A34 embankment. Google Earth view below:

