

Carlton Footpath Group

Annual Report 2023-24

All public RoW in the Parish are free from obstruction, in good condition and are clearly well-trodden. Many waymark posts are rotting, and several have been pushed or fallen over: the LCC RoW Team have been asked to supply new posts for installation by members of the Group.

Overhanging trees and shrubs were cut back from footpath S75 in Little Lane in May by members of the Carlton Gardening Group and a neighbouring landowner.

Regrettably, dog owners frequently allow their pets to wander all over fields crossed by public RoW, and fail to keep their dogs on leads or under close control when in fields with livestock. Dog fouling remains frequent in spite of exhortations in Carlton News and an article about the serious harm caused to local livestock by *Toxocara*.

Concerns are regularly expressed about herds of lively and curious beef cattle, particularly when they are first let out in the Spring. These animals may attack dogs, but are usually wary of humans. Farmers are entitled to graze these animals in fields crossed by public rights of way: dog walkers are advised to keep away, or to let their dog loose if approached.

Thanks to Cllr Bertie Harrison-Rushton, the LCC Members Highways Fund, and neighbouring Parish Councils, 12 stiles have been replaced by kissing gates. These new gates are not in our Parish, but have extended stile-free routes. For example, it is now possible to walk from The Square in Market Bosworth to Shackerstone Station without climbing a single stile, and footpath S48 from Barton Road Market Bosworth to Lount Road Osbaston is now also stile free. Footpath S68 links to footpaths S50 and S51 which lead to Bosworth Road Carlton, creating new stile-free circuits. An article about these developments has been submitted to Aspect, for publication after the election.

I attended a RoW training session at County Hall on 23rd February, and agreed that the CFG would monitor the condition of the Leicestershire Round between Shackerstone Station and Market Bosworth on behalf of LCC and the Leicestershire Footpaths Association (LFA). It was agreed that these annual reports, and any reports of serious problems referred to LCC, will be copied to the LFA.

I gave a presentation about the work of the CFG and PC at a second RoW training session on 27th April.

Chris Peat