

Carlton Footpath Group

Annual Report 2024-25

All public Rights of Way in the Parish are waymarked and free from obstruction.

The stile on footpath S78 at the western parish boundary has been replaced by a kissing gate, at a cost of £748, partly defrayed by a grant of £400 from H&BBC. In neighbouring parishes a stile on S69 between Carlton and Market Bosworth, and one on S29 in Nailstone have also been replaced by kissing gates with support from the same grant scheme.

Complaints have been received that bridleways, and paths in fields containing livestock become trampled and muddy in wet weather. This is normal in a clay landscape, and landowners have no obligation to prevent such damage. Complaints were received about a horse which had begun to behave aggressively towards walkers, and in this case the landowner took immediate action to exclude the animal from the public RoW.

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.

Regrettably, some dog owners 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 numerous exhortations to clean up and the serious harm caused to local livestock by *Toxocara*.

Chris Peat