

# Parish Footpath Officer Newsletter Oct' 20

## What have Balfour Beatty been doing?

Despite the current Coronavirus pandemic, BBLP and HC continue to assert and protect the public rights of way of Herefordshire. The legal work continues to be progressed including enforcement matters, public path diversion orders and definitive map modification orders. Maintenance work has also continued across the county focussing on the installation of bridges during the dry months. We have (to date) completed two major schemes to install fully accessible bridges with a number of other schemes still in progress



## Bodenham Footpath Bridge

Bodenham footpath BM5 is a very heavily used route next to Bodenham Church and is part of the Bodenham Loop Walk. The old bridge was a concrete construction with stone abutments that had degraded and was in danger of collapse. The delivery team have repointed and reinforced the abutments and installed a sturdy wooden construction with ramps on either side to ensure it is accessible for all.



Kingstone footpath KS12 also now has a fully accessible new timber bridge to replace the dilapidated and dangerous predecessor.

In addition schemes are progressing in Kinnersley, Pencombe, Pembridge, Longtown and St Margarets.

Bodenham Footpath Bridge

## Enforcement

A new Enforcement Officer has been recruited and has succeeded in re-opening a number of paths in Wellington which were previously found to be cropped. She has a long list of matters to look into and is likely to be very busy over the coming months.

You may have seen on social media and the news that a landowner in Walford was found to have wilfully obstructed footpath WA1 by erecting fences, removing a bridge and locking gates. After successful enforcement action the landowner has now reinstalled the bridge and opened up the route to allow access.



Kingstone Footpath Bridge

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## Improved Maintenance Trial

Balfour Beatty are looking to pilot a new scheme.

We would like to identify a couple of eager PFO's that could assist in assessing defects and carrying out minor maintenance work in their parish.

Should you/your parish wish to take part in this scheme or require any further information please contact:

HerefordshirePROW@bblivingplaces.com



## Quick Facts

The Definitive Map depicts the legal line of all rights of way within Herefordshire.

You can view an interactive map at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/travel-transport/highways-public-rights-way-map> which shows the rights of way within the county.

The line of a right of way cannot be altered except by a legal public path order. If a landowner is interested, then they should be referred to the PROW department at BBLP.

You can report PROW defects to HC/BBLP at <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem> this enables you to pinpoint the problem accurately which in turn allows us to find it easily.

### Landowner responsibilities:

- Keep hedgerows clear from overhanging and obstructing passage along a PROW
- Keep crops clear of a PROW by cutting or spraying the crop and ensure that after disturbing the ground that the path is flattened and marked out across the field
- Obtain a legal order to temporarily stop or to divert Public Rights of Way over their land before any alterations are made
- Obtain the consent of the highway authority before putting in structures such as gates on a Public Right of Way
- Ensure that stiles and gates are kept in good repair and are easy to use
- Ensure dairy bulls over ten months of age are not kept in fields through which a Public Right of Way passes

