

WHPC Meeting 6th Feb 2024

Item 24/055

West Hill Public Footpaths - Annual Survey 2024

Purpose of this paper

- To receive the annual survey of West Hill Public Footpaths and to consider recommendations.
- To seek approval for the annual grant submission the Parish Paths Partnership

1. Background

The Parish Paths Partnerships Scheme (also known as the P3 scheme) is a Devon County Council initiative to ensure that the rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised. The scheme seeks to encourage community involvement and enjoyment of public rights of way. It has the support of the National Association of Local Councils and is Devon County Council funded.

As a member of the scheme West Hill Parish Council can apply for an annual grant to undertake rights of way work. The grant, paid by Devon County Council, covers:

- The mileage, based on the length of rights of way in your parish.
- Special projects.

Each year West Hill's Footpath Warden Eileen Perkins undertakes an Annual Survey of the Public Footpaths in the Parish. This is an assessment of the condition of the rights of way, in order to find out what work needs to be done. The survey also identifies developments and possible improvements such as vegetation clearance, repairing stiles and waymarking which would require consultation with DCC and landowners.

The survey provides the information necessary for calculation of WHPC's annual grant request. In previous years the Council has successfully submitted a grant request to fund a 2nd maintenance cut of Footpaths 1,5 and 7 (approx. £300+vat). (Appendix 2 - Map of West Hill Public Footpaths).

The Warden's report is presented to the Council in January/February prior to the submission of the annual grant application. The deadline for submission of the 2024/25 application is **Friday 15th March**.

2. Annual Footpath Report

West Hill Footpath Warden Eileen Perkins carried out the survey of all of West Hill's public footpaths during December 2023 and January 2024. Three paths were given a "Fail rating" as follows (Appendix 1 gives a report on each of the footpaths):

"Footpath	Location	Reason for failing	Works needed
1	Off Bendarroch Road	Blocked drainage likely to cause erosion of path Rotten post	Inspect and prevent run-off entering stream (est 1 hr Lengthsman work) Replace Post + signage
6	Bendarroch Road to Daisymount	Trees and branches down Japanese Knotweed still present	Removal of fallen trees + branches Landowner to clear the invasive weeds.
87	Toadpit Lane to Barrack Road	Fingerpost rotten at base	New post or remove gate for free access

3. For Approval

- a. Lengthsman to clear blocked drainage on Footpath 1. Estimate £50+vat
- b. Footpath Warden to liaise with DCC's Public Rights of Way team to establish which, if any, of the actions they will undertake directly.
- c. Annual grant application to the Parish Paths Partnership to be presented to the WHPC Meeting on 5th March 2024.

Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

30th January 2024

Report 2024 February

Parish Paths Partnership Survey Form

1 Parish	2 Status	3 Number	5 Length (m)	6 Inspection Date	Does Parish Cut Path? (Yes/No)	7 Pass / Fail	8 Reason for Failing (use Condition Codes)	9 Works Needed
WEST HILL								
West Hill	Bridleway	1	350	21.1.24	-	PASS		
"	"	Bridleway	2	470	21.1.24	N/A	PASS	
"	"	Footpath	1	1090	19.1.24	YES	FAIL	ROTTEN POST * NEW POST, LEFT SIDE OF ENTRANCE TOP FP.2 → NEW SIGNAGE HEA LANE
"	"	Footpath	2	260	22.1.24	PASS	* →	
"	"	Footpath	3	255	22.1.24	PASS	→	
"	"	Footpath	4	385	21.1.24	NO	PASS	
"	"	Footpath	5	445	23.1.24	YES	PASS	
"	"	Footpath	6	1465	30.1.24	NO	FAIL	TREES → BRANCHES DOWN ALONG 2nd FIELD ⊗ REMOVAL OF TRE
"	"	Footpath	7	465	19.1.24	YES	PASS	JAPANESE KNOTWEED STILL NEEDS ATTENTION
"	"	Footpath	40	165	30.1.24	NO	PASS	
"	"	Footpath	87	85	28.1.24	NO	FAIL	POST ROTTEN + FALLEN OUT NEW POST OR REMOVE GATE FOR FREE ACCESS OR CLOSE THIS PA

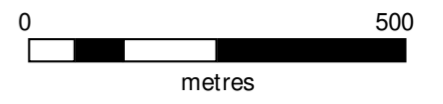
* ALSO RAIN RUN OFF NOT ENTERING CORRECT SIDE DRAIN/GUTTER ON F2 + RUNNING DOWN F.P. 1. INTO STREAM - ERODING

⊗ Gate still has a chain and padlock by West Hill Court Farm, but can be lifted off post.

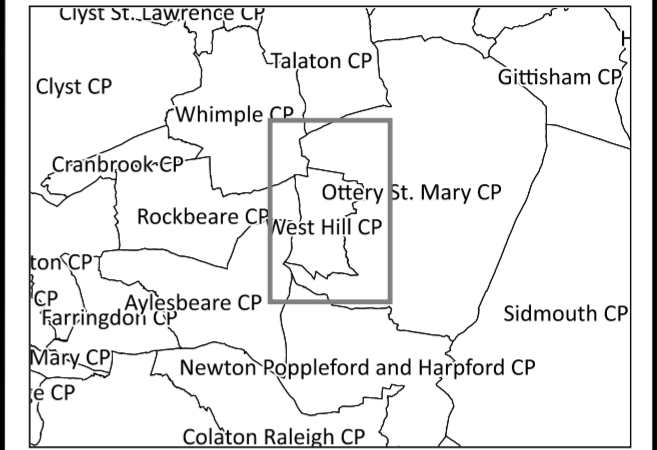
Parish Map West Hill

Showing
Public Rights of Way
and County Roads

Scale 1:10,000 @A2



LOCATION PLAN (Adjoining Parishes)



Drawing No. HIW/PROW/18/013

Notes / Revisions

Date	Details
Feb 18	First copy
Apr 20	Updated (TG)

Legend

- Public Rights of Way**
- Footpath
 - Bridleway
 - Byway
 - Restricted Byway
- Roads**
- Motorway
 - A Road
 - B Road
 - Other Road
 - Unsurfaced County Road
 - Unclassified County Road
- Cycleways**
- Off Road
 - On Road

The public rights of way information shown on this plan has been derived from the Definitive Map and Statement and any amending orders.



Public Rights of Way
ABG Lucombe House
County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QD
Telephone: 0345 155 1004
Web: www.devon.gov.uk/prow

Meg Booth
CHIEF OFFICER - HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT AND WASTE

