

Ansty Parish Footpaths

Annual Report 2018

Walking on Ansty Down – a fine view of Ansty village and Tisbury beyond. Summer 2018 was one of the best summers in years for walking and those that managed it just marvelled at the lovely, varied scenery of our parish. August 2018



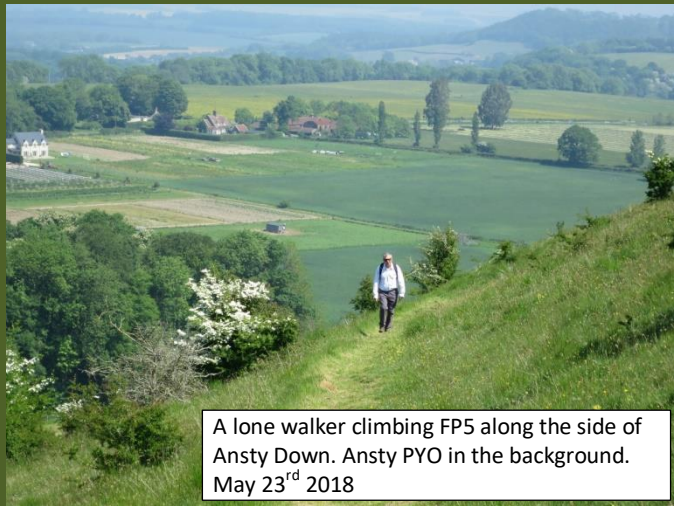
Aileen's Bridge, with boardwalk access, FP8, Ansty. Built across the Coombe stream between Kings Lane and Ansty Coombe Lane



Wiltshire Council, the Ramblers 'Heavy Gang', and the Ansty Footpath Maintenance Group bringing materials on site in order to construct the footbridge on August 20th 2018. Photo by



New stock proof gate, FP 12, Ansty Coombe Lane access to Twelve Acre Copse. January 2018.



A lone walker climbing FP5 along the side of Ansty Down. Ansty PYO in the background. May 23rd 2018



The path way (FP 11) through 12 Acre Copse has been kept cleared by volunteers. August 25th 2018



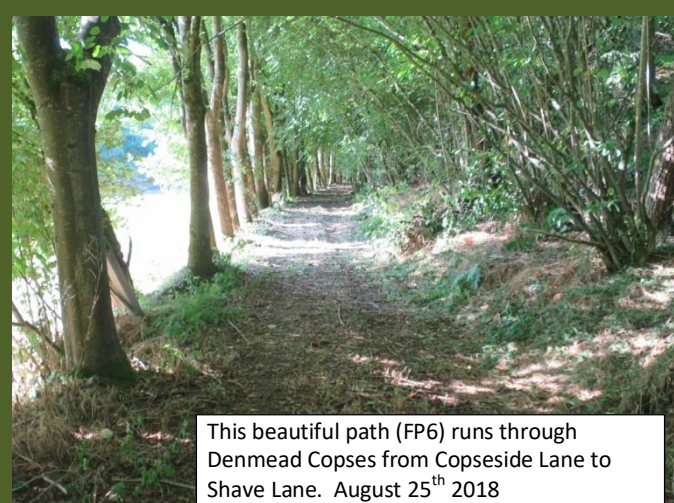
New stock proof gate and repaired fencing, FP 7, Ansty Coombe Lane to New Barn. This gate replaced a broken stile. January 2018.



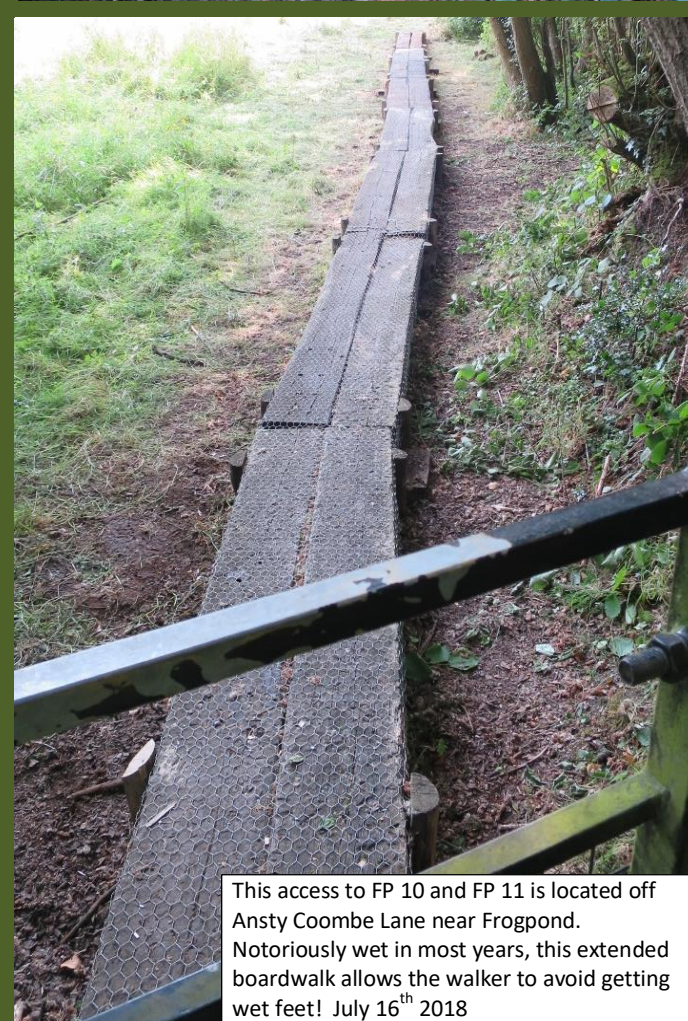
Stile to Horwood (FP13) located on Ansty Coombe Lane 'top'. This snow cover was the result of the 'mini beast from the east'. March 18th 2018



Stile on Kings Lane, Ansty, with access to FP8. The powdery snow came in on a biting wind dubbed 'the beast from the east'. March 1st 2108



This beautiful path (FP6) runs through Denmead Copses from Copseside Lane to Shave Lane. August 25th 2018



This access to FP 10 and FP 11 is located off Ansty Coombe Lane near Frogpond. Notoriously wet in most years, this extended boardwalk allows the walker to avoid getting wet feet! July 16th 2018

Ansty Parish Council Footpath Maintenance Report

November 2017 – November 2018

- **We** can report that our entire 6 mile parish footpath system has been kept well maintained this year, with regular vegetation clearing and trimming by the Ansty Volunteer Footpath Maintenance Group. Like last year shrub and weed growth was again phenomenal but the hot dry summer did slow down grass growth and most paths demanded at least two if not three 'clearance' visits during the year.
- **The** Ansty Parish Volunteer Footpath Maintenance Group logged in 80.7 man hours clearing/repairing and working on bigger upgrading projects. We even installed a hand rail to improve access on and off the High Street (north) to Swallowcliffe on FP1.
- **We** were very lucky in that we were able to upgrade several footpaths to improve accessibility and safety with the help of Wiltshire Council (under the direction of Nick Cowen, Alex Howson and Derek New; South Wiltshire Ramblers Heavy Gang (SWRHG) under the leadership of Graham Read and Norman Martin and a Youth Group from Mere led by Jaki Farrell and her 'Seeds4Success' project.
- **In** December 2017 we installed a hooped gate on FP7 behind 'Keeper's Cottage and a similar gate replaced a stile on FP 12 just above The Hundred on Ansty Coombe Lane both with the help of Wiltshire Council and the SWRHG. Despite our reacting to initial requests by parishioners for these improvements to be made and obtaining permissions to do so from the relevant landowners the AONB approved standard agricultural metal gates were not universally liked.

- **In** July 2018 we extended the sleeper style boardwalk on FP11 off Ansty Coombe Lane and made it 'anti-slip' for safety. This received general approval from all quarters.
- **In** August 2018 we completed our most ambitious project: to put in a wooden footbridge linking FP8 (Kings Lane to Ansty Coombe Lane) across a boggy section and a stream. It was the culmination of a 5 year exercise and the bridge was dedicated to Aileen Fisher-Rowe who instigated the idea. Again the Ansty FP Maintenance Group; Wiltshire Council and the SWRHG all took part. Joining them was Jaki Farrell's 'seeds4 success' youth group who built the boardwalks. We also installed a short sleeper boardwalk to link two stiles allowing access to the field below Ansty Coombe Lane. Again this project seems to have been met with general approval.
- **Before** attempting any of these installations, permissions were obtained and we have thanked all who were involved in any of these upgrades.
- **There** is plenty of visual evidence that indicates most of our footpaths have seen a heavier 'footfall' this year. Only FP14 (Ansty Coombe) seems to have tailed off despite its lovely rural views with very few parishioners using it. Some people are also wary of the frisky horses encountered for part of the year on FP 7 across the large open field to New Barn.
- **The** Ansty Milestone was also kept cleared of brambles and bracken throughout the growing season.
- **We** have recently picked up a new Ansty volunteer to join our Maintenance Group: welcome aboard Mr Jon Gooding!

R Wilkinson, Ansty Parish Footpath Officer and Tim Martin, Ansty Parish Chairman

ANSTY FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE 2018

FP	Dist km	PROBLEM	SOLUTION	DATE COMPLETED	TIME TAKEN (MAN HOURS)	VOLUNTEER LABOUR
1	0.3	Vegetation obscuring entrance to FP1	Strim cleared entrance to FP1 off High St to Swallowcliffe; cleared around signpost	09-05-2018	0.5	TM & RW
		Difficult to ascend on to road High St End. G Powell.	Cleared access entrance; installed handrail/posts; cut in larger step	29-06-2018	4	TM & RW
2	0.5	Needed clearing??	Tim cleared	?	1.5	TM
		Path somewhat overgrown plus debris; top access long grass	Cleared overgrown veg by strimming; raked off debris/ strimmed top section; Oliver Simm ran topper over it on 30th June; other tidying along road/noticeboard area.	27-06-2018	4	TM & RW
		One of the boundary metal gates doesn't shut properly	Farmer J edgley removed hooped gate and put in two posts. Request made for hooped gate by TM early August. Hoop gate supplied and erected by Farmer	07-07-2018		
		People using private track to access footpath to Swallowcliffe	Two poles erected with definitive waymarker directions showing line of footpath at top of steep ascent to Ansty maypole. Footpath itself given minor clearance.	15-11-2018	3.5	TM & RW
3	0.5	Gate obscured by vegetation	Strim clear vegetation around gate area	04-07-2018	0.5	TM & RW
		Gate obscured by vegetation	Strim clear gate entrance	09-10-2018	0.3	TM & RW
4	0.28	Top and bottom stile need veg clearance; Also bottom way clear brambles/nettles to scarp grass slope	Strim cleared both bottom (including steps) and top stiles; strim a clear way through nettles and brambles. Integrity still OK	09-05-2018	1.5	TM & RW
		Top stile fairly overgrown	Strim clear top stile	04-07-2018	0.5	TM & RW
		Top and bottom stile need veg clearance; Also bottom way clear brambles/nettles to scarp grass slope	Strim cleared both bottom (including steps) and top stiles; strim a clear way through nettles and brambles. Integrity checked	08-07-2018	1.45	TM & RW
5	1.02	Stiles from Shave Lane to Scarp Bottom above Horwood Dairy need clearing; FP way needs to be strim cleared up the slope to the middle windbreak	Strim cleared from Shave Lane to top fence line below stile	18-05-2018	5	TM & RW
		Top of scarp slope/windbreak edge needs clearing; Shave Lane to Foot of Scarp needs clearing; Scarp slope path needed defining	Brush cut/strim from byway stile to down to Shave Lane access stile	04-07-2018	4	TM & RW
		Define path way from Shave Line stile to field access stile PYO	Strimmed cleared pathway and around stiles	09-10-2018	1	TM & RW
6	0.7	Need to reestablish the FP way in from Copse Side Lane; Tree blocking waymark sign post	Strim cleared a length of footpath from lane to edge of bluebell wood; cut and removed branches blocking waymarker signpost	09-05-2018	1	TM & RW
			Rob Beale very kindly cleared 'new' FP Way through Denmead Copse	18-05-2018		n/a
		Shave Lane entrance to FP6 (W) needs clearing	Walked down and strimmed entrance and area around newly installed gate	27-05-2018	0.75	RW
		Shave Lane entrance to FP6 (W) needs clearing	Walked down and strimmed entrance and area around newly installed gate	06-08-2018	0.75	RW

		Shave Lane entrance to FP6 (W) needs clearing	Strimmed entrance area	09-10-2018	0.3	TM & RW
7	0.96	Temporary stile across path to 'Jockey Field' in poor state of repair above Keepers Cottage	Installed hooped gate with the help of S Wilts HG & Wiltshire Council to replace stile behind Keeper's Cottage. Site tidied and cleared.	18-12-2017	6	TM & HG
		Overgrowing vegetation on stile New Barn /Ansty Coombe Lane; Signpost not visible	Cleared hedge covering sign post finger point; strimmed area clear of veg around stile both sides. Checked integrity of Stile. OK	09-05-2018	0.5	TM & RW
		Overgrowing vegetation on stile New Barn /Ansty Coombe Lane	Strimmed stile area clear of grass, bramble and bracken	06-08-2018	0.5	RW
		Vegetation needs 'tidying at New Barn stile	Quick strim around entrance	09-08-2018	0.25	TM & RW
8	0.52	FP8 Stile Small copse to Squalls needs partial clearing; FP8 path to Squalls needs clearing copse end	Still and path strim cleared	08-05-2018	0.25	RW
		FP8 Vegetation needs clearing from 3 stiles across field to Ansty lane. Small bog field needs 'waymarking' by strimming	All stiles cleared of overgrowing vegetation; Path across bog field 'marked by strimming through the very marshy areas	16-05-2018	1	RW
		FP8 stile off Kings Lane access to Ansty Coombe Lane badly overgrown	Strim clear stile off Kings Lane. Sheep in field only did one side; Stile not very stock proof!!	08-05-2018	0.25	RW
		As above: vegetation needs cutting back and around	Strim cleared boths sides amd partially strimmed the way across long grass in field	14-06-2018	0.25	RW
		Kings Lane access stile needs clearing of vegetation	Strimmed cleared stile and surrounds		0.2	RW
		FP8 Vegetation needs clearing from 3 stiles across field to Ansty lane. Small bog field needs 'waymarking' by strimming; overhanging branches on 1 stile	All stiles cleared of overgrowing vegetation; Path across bog field 'marked by strimming through the very marshy areas; lopped off a few small branches; worked out narrowest crossing and tidied for next HG	07-08-2018	1.5	RW
		Long standing need to improve access across stream and bog field via FP8 . Footbridge needs to be to be installed	Phase 1a. Help unload heavy items needed to construct Footbridge plus Phase 1b constructing access boardwork to bridge from Kings Lane end with Seeds4Success Youth Group	13th/14th - 08-2018	5	RW
			Phase 2. Construct Footbridge with help of HG		12	TM & RW
			Phase 3 Constructing another access board walk to bridge from Ansty Coombe end with Seeds4Success youth group		3.5	RW
		Clear stile and way through copse area on way to Squalls from Kings Lane	Cleared stile and way through copse area on way to Squalls from Kings Lane	06-08-2018	1	RW
		Stile linking Chris's Field with Bog Field very boggy in winter	Installed two sleepers (left by Alex & Nick) between the two stles to raise FP level above winter waterline. Covered with chicken wire and stapled in	07-09-2018	1.5	TM & RW
		Crossroads sign on Ansty Coombe Lane linking FP 8 from Ansty Coombe Lane to Kings lane and FP 7 & FP 14 fallen down/knocked down	Carried pole home detached & cleaned up finger plates; sawed off rotten bits	14-09-2018	1	RW
			Transported tools/and materials to site and refitted shortened post	24-09-2018	3	TM & RW
9	0.09	FP15 access to FP9 Stile. Very overgrown already	Strim stile clear of vegetation (both sides)	08-05-2018	0.2	RW
		FP 9 stile -access from Kings Lane partially overgrown	Removed debris and strim clear stile area	08-05-2018	0.25	RW

		Cleared both stiles from FP15 access to Kings Lane access	Strim cleared both stiles and partially cleared the way across field	14-06-2018	0.25	RW
		FP 9 stile -access from Kings Lane partially overgrown	Removed debris and strim clear stile area; marked out access 'way'	05-08-2018	0.25	RW
		FP15 access to FP9 Stile. Partially overgrown	Strim stile clear of vegetation (both sides)	05-08-2018	0.25	RW
10	0.57	Debris on path entrance to stile; stile needs clearing of veg growth	Removed debris and strim clear stile area FP10 (Turner's Copse)	08-05-2018	0.25	RW
		Debris on path entrance to stile; stile needs clearing of veg growth	Removed debris and strim clear stile area FP10 (Turner's Copse); marked out access by strimming 'way'.	05-08-2018	0.25	RW
11	0.33	Debris and vegetation encroachment FP 11 to FP 12	Cleared part of FP 11 from junct with 12 to junct with FP10	08-05-2018	0.25	RW
		FP11 Ansty Coombe Lane entrance to 12 Acre Copse needs tidying	Strimmed around fingerpost and black gate area; strimmed along sleepers	08-05-2018	0.2	RW
		FP 11 Edge of 12 Acre Copse stile area: vegetation covering lower steps	Cleared vegation around the stile and steps FP11 to Ansty C Lane; marked access way		0.5	RW
		FP11 Ansty Coombe Lane entrance beyond sleepers needed clearing to show way to three destinations	Strimmed cleared through long grass and brambles		0.25	RW
		Foot path partially overgrown along entire length	Strimmed cleared from entrance to stile above Thatchers Cott; cleared stile and part way; strimmed sleepers/gate area and some way up the field to mark the way (long grass). This field is full of orchids etc. being swamped by lush bracken/bramble/docks etc.	12-07-2018	0.5	RW
		Extension to sleeper causeway needed to improve access during wet seasons	Heavy Gang involved. Cleared overhanging branches; unloaded and pegged in 8 more sleepers and covered with chicken wire		4	RW
		Debris and vegetation encroachment FP 11 to FP 12	Cleared part of FP 11 from junct with 12 to junct with FP10 inc stile	05-08-2018	0.5	RW
12	0.35	Stile on FP12 access from Ansty Coombe Lane just above The Hundred difficult to access by all walkers	Installed metal hooped gate with the help of S Wilts HG & Wilts C replacing stile just above The Hundred making access much easier for all. Site tidied and cleared.	18-12-2017	3	RW & HG
		Old brambles and debris encroaching on gate area	Tidied up hooped gate area: Ansty Coombe Lane End	24-04-2018	0.5	RW
		Rapid growth around gate and hooped fence area	Strimmed whole area clear	08-05-2018	0.25	RW
		Vegetation obscuring entrance to stile on Ansty C Lane	Strimmed cleared through long grass and a few nettles	14-06-2018	0.2	RW
				14-06-2018	0.2	RW
		Approach to stile 12 acre copses needs defining	Strimmed 'way' up to stile	05-08-2018	0.2	RW
13	0.89	Stile to Horwood Fm needs tidying up (over grown vegetation)	A quick strim clearance; integrity of stile OK	09-05-2018	0.25	TM
		Stile to Horwood Fm needs tidying up (over grown vegetation); approach path needs 'way' strimmed out	Stile cleared and approach path cleared	06-08-2018	0.3	RW
		Install permissive route labels/strim clearway path	Not done yet			
14	0.43	Access to FP14 obscured by vegetation either end and across field	Strim/Brushcut vegetation clear	August	0.5	Mathew Feltham

15	0.11	Access stile becoming overgrown (grass mainly)	Strimmed cleared grass	08-05-2018	0.25	RW
		Access stile overgrown (grass/bramble/bracken)	Strimmed cleared vegetation	14-06-2018	0.2	RW
		Access stile overgrown (grass/bramble/bracken)	Strimmed cleared vegetation	05-08-2018	0.2	RW
		Stile needs additional bar + stock proof wire (Stock in field)	Not done yet			
16	0.62					
17	0.82					
18	0.01					
MST		Ansty milestone on A30 covered by vegetation	Vegetation cleared from immediate vicinity of milestone	27-05-2018	0.3	RW
		Ansty milestone on A30 covered by vegetation	Vegetation cleared from immediate vicinity of milestone	05-08-2018	0.3	RW
		Ansty milestone on A30 partially covered by vegetation	Vegetation cleared from immediate vicinity of milestone	09-10-2018	0.3	RW & TM
				TOTAL MAN HOURS	80.7	