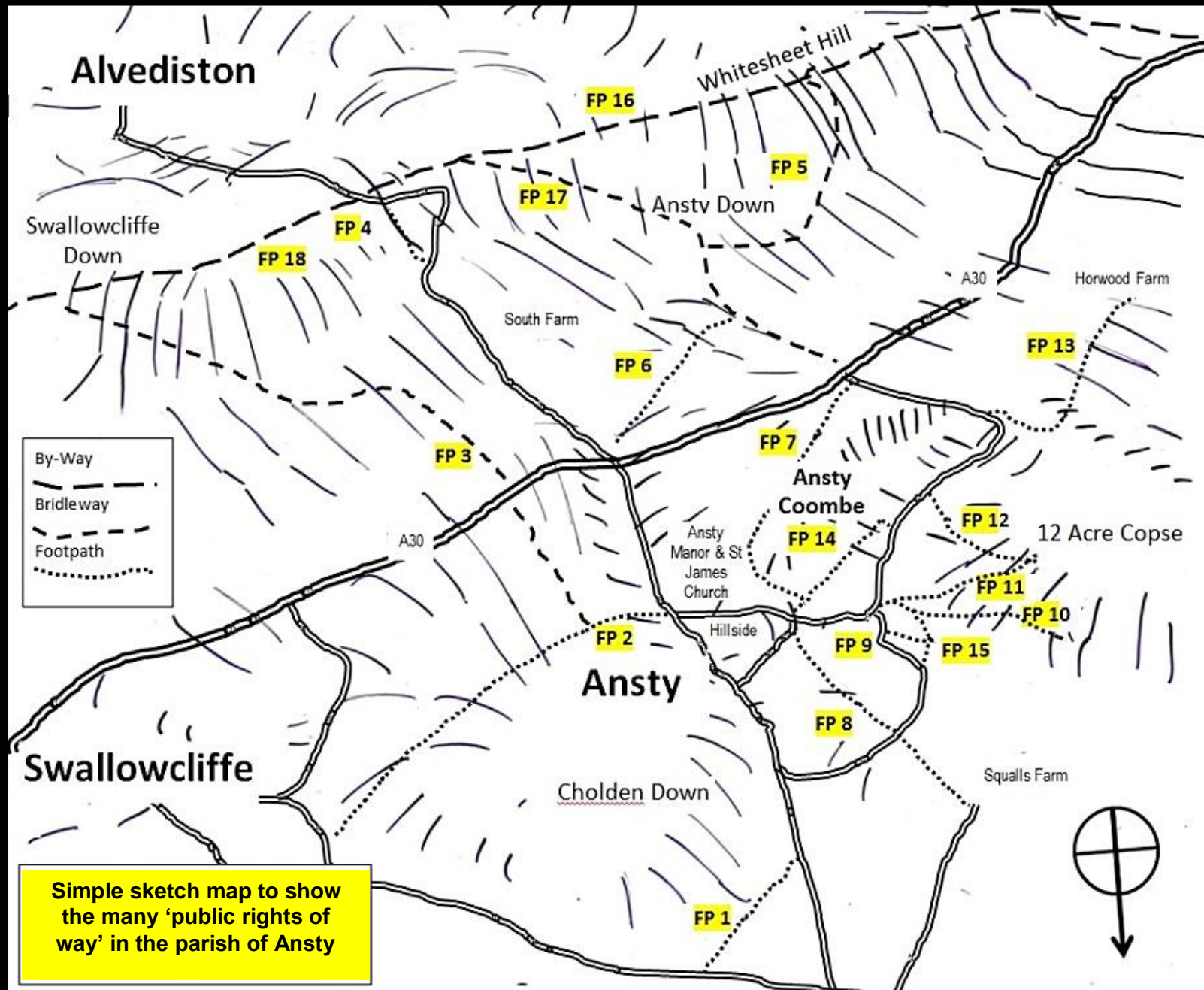


Explore the beautiful and varied environment of our parish by using our public footpaths and bridleways (and keep fit at the same time!)



Ansty Footpath Report, November 2016.

After identifying that our parish footpaths were in a relatively poor state as far back as 2013 a small group in Ansty participated in several projects to help improve our parish footpaths by working on their own or with help from the county council and the South Wiltshire Heavy Gang. By late 2015 they had erected 8 new stiles to replace rotten ones; cleared 4 sections of our parish footpaths and installed two kissing gates,

In October 2015 two members of the newly formed 'Ansty Footpath Maintenance Group' undertook a second major survey of the state of our parish footpaths which established that after these earlier improvements 81% of our paths were now readily accessible but 13% were rated as 'difficult' and 6% were classed as impassable. This survey set the small group a set of targets to achieve during 2016.

We can happily report that this year a further 8 stiles have been replaced; others upgraded and many pathways cleared of scrub, vegetation and debris. This means that all 5.8 miles of our parish footpaths are currently accessible. To keep this just so we will need to continue to apply a repair and maintenance schedule year on year. Bigger projects such as installing a sleeper bridge or a boardwalk across a bog would likely involve the South Wiltshire Heavy Gang an area volunteer group.

If, on your rambles along any of our parish footpaths you come across a problem such as a rickety stile or the access is blocked by vegetation or perhaps a fence or you lost your way because of inadequate signage please contact the Ansty FP Officer: rgwilk@hotmail.co.uk or anneandtimmartin@gmail.com

You might even feel like helping us out occasionally – we would love to see you!

A summary of tasks achieved in 2016 by the 'Ansty Footpath Maintenance Group'.

FP	Task	Completed	Comments
FP1	Cleared entrance to FP off Ansty High Street	25/08/2016	FP Sign still needed pointing off High St
FP2	Cleared FP slope from top T junction down to High St. Cutting back and clearing lane of debris	25/08/2016	Need to install wooden rail at top section
FP3	'New' gate put in by landowner	?	Proper access to 'bridleway'. Thanks to landowner.
FP3	Cleared entrance gate area off A30 to (Bridleway) and affixed Way marker	16/09/2016	Technically a bridleway but very dangerous access off/on to A30
FP5	Installed 3 new stiles from access with Shave Lane to above PYO fields	22/07/2016	Thanks to Derek Newland from Wiltshire Council; Landowners Peter Dalton and Ansty PYO for being so helpful and encouraging
FP5	Did reconnaissance to place order for timber to replace more stiles	22/09/2016	
FP5	Cleared footpath and 3 'new stiles of vegetation; tidied up 4 others ready to be replaced	6/10/2016	Contacted all parties affected
FP5	Replaced all 4 stiles from foot of scarp to byway exit/access.	7/10/2016	Thanks to Derek Newland from Wiltshire Council; Peter Dalton and Ansty PYO for being so helpful and encouraging
FP5	Waymarked all the stiles	9/10/2016	Still to do some scrub clearance along line of path on the steep slopes. However FP5 is fully accessible and offers quite a challenging walk for those who think they are really fit!
FP5	Scrub Clearing on the lower slopes of the downs to clarify line of path using pole chain saw and trimmer	24/10/2016	It was pouring with rain! Some steep drops on this section. Walkers take care!
FP6	Met Landowner Mr Rob Beale to check on status of FP6.		Temp Permissive Path part installed; main line of FP6 intact. Waiting for planning planning app to be resolved before we can discuss any actions.

FP	Task	Completed	Comments
FP7	Cleared vegetation from Ansty Coombe Lane entrance to large former jockey field	May, August and 16/09/2016	A good summer's evening walk
FP8	Repaired stile on Kings Lane-Squalls section. Installed new treads/steps plus cleared pathway section	18/08/2016	A good link to other footpaths outside of our parish
FP8	Recut and cleared gap in hedge to allow access to FP8 from Kings Lane	16/09/2016	This FP was blocked by a barbed wire fence from April 2016 but is now fully accessible. See notes below*
FP8	Fitted half round battens to cover exposed barbed wire running along top of step over bars on 2 newly installed stiles by tenant farmer	25/10/2016	
FP9	Cleared much vegetation from stile at entrance to Kings Lane;	16/09/2016	Rolled up barbed wire 'gate' which was blocking access
FP11	Created composite photo survey highlighting access difficulties through this part of 12 Acre Copse	28/02/2016	Posted on Ansty Parish website Thanks to all parties involved
FP/11/12	Following clearance of trees in 12 Acre Copse by landowner FP was cleared of debris etc. from both stiles from field to 12 Acre Copse.	6/06/2016	Access to TIS77 to/from Ansty via FP11 now good Thanks to landowner for finally clearing the fallen trees and branches.
FP13	Cleared entrance/exit stile to FP 13 (to Horwood) of AC Lane	16/09/2016	
FP14	Cleared a way through waist high grass from Keeper's cottage to Badgers Cottage	23/06/2016	Ironic that cattle grazing started the day after!!
FP15/FP9	Cleared veg around kissing gate; and stile at junction with FP9	16/09/2016	
Ansty MS	Cleared overgrown veg from PYO milestone	18/08/2016	