

Wacton Footpath Warden's Report No 34

The previous report dated 27th June 2018 was be emailed to Fiona Pratt at Highways on 5th July. An acknowledgement has not been received

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July was a very quite month regarding footpaths and the weather too hot to walk and inspect (H & S). I spoke to another local footpath warden and she had done no walking either.

1st Aug -30th August

Wacton FP16 (Stratton Road to Junction with Wacton RB17 [Haynton's Lane]) Complaints regarding the mess left by the hounds along this footpath continued throughout the month. With residents providing photographs.

Church Road A new complaint was reported by a resident living in this road about the same issue of the faeces from the hound along the road, grass verges and in gateways/driveways.

Various letters, emails (with photographs) and telephone call have gone back and forth via the Parish Clerk, the resident and myself to Adrian Nicholas, Community Protection Team Leader, at SNDC. I also believe the residents whose driveway is FP16 spoke to Adrian Nicholas in person.

This matter is coming up as a separate item on the agenda, and therefore I am not commenting further.

25th Aug

Wacton FP37 (Sallow Lane to the junction with Gt Moulton FP9) The Parish Chairman (Calvin Goreham) and I inspected the first section of this footpath.

The copses area at the beginning was again shoulder high with nettles. We had to cut through to make a form of path way.



The next section appears to have been cultivated and is back to grass, however the white post with the Norfolk County Council waymarker disc indicating the direction the footpath should take has for the third time been pulled out and thrown into the nettles. We did not retrieve.

Further the path itself is not defined i.e. the grass cut to the required width of 1m to the gate that allows walkers to continue along the footpath.

On reaching the gate, this has still not been attended to by the landowner (owner of Wacton Hall) or his agent, although requests have been made several times over the past two years by myself and highways PROW officer.



Not only is there a problem with the overgrown hedge but the gate still has to be lifted in order for it to be opened due to the poor state of the post on the hinge side.

In the second photograph is the second white post where a NCC directional disc is broken.

Previously the agent for the owner disputed that the gate was the responsibility of the landowner. However, the solicitor for the neighbouring landowner has checked and his clients are certainly not responsible for the gate.

The architect plans of the ground, which are the same as that from the Land Registry clearly show via pink/orange shading that this particular corner where the gate is belongs to the owner of Wacton Hall.

I wrote a letter, approved by the Chairman and sent by the Parish Clerk addressed to the owner of Wacton Hall, there is now a letter box at the property, outlining the issues and pointing out his responsibilities as

landowner rather than the agent he employs. I also included a link to the appropriate government web site <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities>.

At the time of writing this report, I am waiting to hear via the Parish Clerk if a response has been received and from whom.

Wacton FP25 (Behind Black's Meadow to The Green) This is fine for walking.

27th August

Wacton FP26 (The Green – from the well to The White House) This footpath is unique in that it is a PROW and a road maintained by highways.

A resident enquired about the use of a CCTV camera which appears to be used by a neighbour and to be recording all movement of cars and walkers along The Green beyond the boundary of the property. There is no sign to say CCTV is in operation.

The complainant was first aware of any recording going on, when the CCTV owner told them that the complainant's domestic cleaners appeared to be caught looking at his car!! (in other words he let the cat out of the bag about the CCTV), although the complainant was not shown the assumed captured goings on.

The complainant is very concerned about being 'spied upon' and the effects on other users of the footpath/road and visitors to their property. This may or may not affect those working and using the woodland project, as the distance the lens can pick up and angle is not at present known.

The complainant has told me where they think the camera is positioned in order to get a view of comings and goings.

I suggested that a good starting point for information might be

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-cctv-using-cctv-systems-on-your-property/domestic-cctv-using-cctv-systems-on-your-property>

I spoke to someone at both SNDC and NCC, both claim it is not in their remit and to talk to the police. This I did. The person I spoke stated the police would intervene if recordings went beyond a property boundary and there was inappropriate use of a CCTV camera. How one gathers evidence of what has been recorded I do not know.

With private residents with concerns about protecting their property, this raises the question of future private surveillance of public spaces in the village which may fall under the Data Protection Act.

The Parish Council might like to consider some information publicity about the use of CCTVs and other technology which could fall foul of the law.

Christine Goreham
30th August 2018

