

Knowstone Footpaths

Since May 2016, there have been very few problems associated with our public footpaths in Knowstone Parish. Although some paths were quite wet during the winter months, all are in a good state now to take us through the summer.

Looking back over my report of May 2016, there are only three items which need updating:

Firstly, I had anticipated two strims – one in late Spring and one in late Summer. First strims are free, provided by Devon County Council, but subsequent strims must be paid for out of the Knowstone Parish Council P3 budget. As it turned out, the DCC strim was very late last year due to lack of labour and high levels of work required on coastal paths. This resulted in our strims being very much delayed, therefore negating the need for a second strim. As explained in the past, one can't order a date/time for strimming; DCC turn up on a rota basis, as their workload allows. The plus factor of all of this was that a second strim was not required, thus saving the KPC money.

Secondly, I had requested that the Two Moors Way signage around Owlaborough and Knowstone Church be upgraded, but the Public Right-of-way Officer decided that the current signage was sufficient. I have, however, installed additional 'way markers' to help visitors follow the footpath correctly.

Thirdly, the revival of the plan to install a raised walkway over the boggy section at the top end of the Shapcott Barton footpath (# 7) is still being negotiated. However, the owner of Knowstone Manor has done some great work in removing several layers of mud and stone, which has made an improvement in accessing this section of the footpath.

There has been one recent difficulty related to the Enfield House – Wadham Bridge footpath (# 3). Construction has started on the plot next to Enfield House, and the owner of the plot has removed the path and re-sited the stile. This was brought to my attention by local residents in Knowstone, and the matter was reported to DCC who, along with the Planning Department, are dealing with the situation.

I am liaising with Wendy Vigus on updating information about our local footpaths on the Knowstone website (www.knowstone.org.uk), including easy access to maps and keys to individual walks. Keep checking the website for availability of this information (currently under construction). We hope this will be up and ready in time for summer.

Beaples Standing Stone

After many years of neglect, the Beaples Standing Stone area (on the road to Rose Ash, south of A361) has been cleared to reveal this local monument to the past. Unfortunately, the clearing revealed two stones were missing, but it is still an interesting and important feature of Knowstone Parish. A new sign has been erected at the site, and Mr David Morgans has written a brief historical description of Beaples Standing Stone. To read his account and see photographs of the stone, visit the Knowstone website (www.knowstone.org.uk).

Timothy Browse