

King's Sutton Parish Council

Rights of Way Report 2017/18

Rights of Way are:-

Footpaths; for walkers only.

Bridleways; for Walkers, Horse riders, Cyclists.

Byways; for all the above and Motor vehicles.

Rights of Way in all English parishes have numbers, or letters and numbers, or should have, just like the road system eg. A, & B roads and Motorways M1, M6, etc .

I have not found out how the letters were arrived at; the Rights of Way office did not know either. I do not find the letters have any logic. Eg. I think King's Sutton should be KS. not AS. Newbottle and Charlton NC. not AW. etc.

So King's Sutton parish is AS followed by a number.

Adjoining Northamptonshire parishes are:

Newbottle and Charlton parish is AW and a number.

Farthinghoe is AM plus a No.

Aynho is AB plus a No.

The Byway AS2 going up the steep hill from Walton Grounds Farm to Aynho, known as the Portway is closed by locked gates for 7 months of each year, October to April inclusive, to prevent vehicles making deep tracks in wet weather which make it dangerous for others like walkers and horse riders. There are gaps at the side of the gates so that Walkers and Horse riders are still able to use the track.

There is a Byway from the Farthinghoe to Charlton road known as Sandy Lane that heads West down a hill and turns right, North, as you travel along it, at the bottom to join the bridleway AS34 that leads to Purston Manor.

On the Ordnance Survey 1/25,000 map it is marked with green dots partway, which is just the part that is in Farthinghoe parish. The rest in King's Sutton is not marked with green dots. According to OS. green dots indicate a route that travellers should check the validity of the route.

I have checked this with Northants Highways. It is a public road but unsurfaced. It has a route no. of U42201.

Due to unfortunate circumstances I have been unable to do as much walking of the parish paths as I normally do or would like to do.

The times I have managed to walk the paths during the last year I have found them to be dry and comfortable to walk. Perhaps I was just lucky but I think it was generally a good mud free year.

As I write this in March, the fields near the railway line are well flooded!

The start of the bridleway AS2 at College Farm is being slightly altered, legally, which does not unduly affect the path users.

Since I moved into the village nearly 50 years ago the number of houses has increased enormously with the number of residents going up from ? in 1970 to 2305 in the last census in 2016. Twelve housing estates and a few other odd houses have been built since then adding ? extra houses and ? village residents.

Inversely the number of paths that people have walked in the past has gone down by about 30 as landowners have closed them off to the public.

I hope that those who live in small houses with little or no gardens will join in to help preserve the current Rights of Way and possibly increase them so everyone can enjoy the countryside.

Stiles are a dead-end barrier to the Elderly. Infirm, and those with large dogs.

It is the aim of the Rights of Way office where possible, to get rid of stiles that are a barrier to the elderly and less able.

In the nearly 23 miles of Rights of Way in this parish we have some 28 stiles.

Stiles can be replaced with gates, kissing gates, of which a special design can open fully like a gate, best of all why have any barrier at all; just have a gap, as many fields now are arable and do not have any animals to keep penned in.

I had organised for the replacement of one stile with a gate by a friendly farmer, and the field on one side had cattle in it; but as everyone must well know Northamptonshire Council has no spare money, so it has not happened. If money could be raised by other means then the alteration and improvement could go ahead.

Filthy and lazy dog owners.

I have seen a photograph, taken Sunday 25th March of a heap of dog muck bags piled on the bin up Paradise. As the bin was full why did they not take it home.

I am in favour of getting rid of these bins, which cost the Parish Council some £1,500 to empty every year and having cameras for a while and fining heavily those who drop muck around the village.

Following in red is from Northants ROW office:

Dogs are considered to be a 'usual accompaniment' and so are permitted on a PRoW; however, landowners and the Rights of Way team are not required to make any provision for dogs such as dog flaps beside a stile.

Though not required to be on a lead dogs should be under close control i.e. they should not be permitted to stray from the line of the path, the same as walkers, therefore except for extremely well trained dogs this means keeping them on a lead.

The most common and justified complaint from landowners regards members of the public who consider fields to be dog exercise areas and allow dogs to run amock all over fields and also do not clear up dog fouling.

It has been known for flocks of sheep to be condemned for human consumption at slaughter due to ingestion of dog faeces; this is a severe financial burden for a landowner and can take up to five years to free pasture from contamination (See the countryside code as it applied to dog walkers).

Many dog muck bags have been found at the path sides in the village that the bone idle dog owners who do not use the several bins that have been provided, at great expense, by the parish council.

Parish Path Wardens

Dave Hall