

North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)
Activity Report – 1 December 2023 – 29 February 2024

Copies of before & after photos of all work are available on request. Man hours include some travel time. DaG = Donate a Gate. CAMS (Countryside Access Management System) is a reference used by BC (Buckinghamshire Council) for work requests. All work is requested and authorized by Alastair McVail, BC North Bucks PRow Officer, or Jon Clark, BC Senior Strategic Access Officer. PG = Pedestrian Gate (e.g. Centrewire Marlow or Secure-a-Field Charnwood); KG = Kissing Gate (e.g. Centrewire Woodstock or Secure-a-Field Berkswell). DFU = Dinton with Ford & Upton.

“Installed to NB rRIPPLE standard” means the following: “Pedestrian gate installed c/w 22 mm washer, hinges greased, eye bolt thread copper greased and latch oiled. Two 1.8 m x 100 x 100 UC4 15 year Redwood posts c/w Postsaver sleeves are attached to the gate’s H-frame with two 10 mm diameter coach screws. The posts and H frame are tamped in firmly with copious quantities of 20 mm and then 40 mm shingle. Improved by the Ramblers square decals and BC way markers fitted as appropriate.” KG slightly different as only one post needed and as from 30/1/19 we are now putting half a 20 kg bag of Post Fix or Remix (c£6.00 + VAT per bag) on top of each of the two galvanized “feet” of the two hoops. Arisings, i.e. the timber from the old stile is cut up by chain saw and removed from site unless stated otherwise.

6/12/23 Whitchurch Gate 339 WHI/46924 on WHI/16/1 CAMS a00872 at SP802205 Aylesbury Ramblers & NB rRIPPLE DaG for Roy Johnson. Cleared area of reeds with hedge trimmer. Dismantled 4-rail, 1-step, no hand-post stile in far corner of field behind menage. Installed left-handed Secure-a-Field Berkswell KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fitted Aylesbury Ramblers plaque. 5x6=30 man hours. BJoeKPMikeK. 25 miles; Joe 16; Peter 25. Met with Noble Wilson, highly accommodating and appreciative landowner.



12/12/23 Haddenham HAD/5/1 at SP755100. Met with landowner Clive Brandon at perennially muddy patch to discuss potential surface improvements. He favoured crushed limestone over a plastic boardwalk. Contacted Harry Leach at BC and he will investigate. Also raised the issue of the other perennially muddy area at the KG at the corner of Green Lane at SP751099. 2 man hours. B.

2/1/24 Buckinghamshire Council invoiced us (John Esslemont) for £3,000 donation towards the cost of the next tranche of gates.

6/1/24 Whitchurch. Received £350 DaG donation from Philip & Hilary Derbyshire of Whitchurch. They did not specify any particular location for the DaG to be installed and do not require a plaque. Donation received with thanks and receipt issued by John Esslemont.

10/1/24 Weston Turville. Email received from Sarah Copley, clerk, to say Stan Goss, farmer, is happy to have three gates installed in February 2024 provided we call him in advance. We have the three CAMSs.

12/1/24 Cuddington. Andrew Hughes reported that latch on CUD/2492 aka DaG Gate 326 installed on 17/8/23 had been removed. He asked for a couple of updates.

12/1/24 Beth Stark of Young Chiltern Walkers emailed to ask for the locations of potential DaGs. Responded by saying there is such a list at the end of the activity sheets.

18/1/24 Cuddington. Made contact with Andrew Hughes wrt fixing gate that has had its yellow latch deliberately removed. Re-fitted latch on 22/1/24; requested CAMS from Jon Clark. 1 man hour. B. 5 miles.

19/1/24 Haddenham RIPPLE AGM and lunch held at CRFC – Excellent taster menu:

Haddenham RIPPLE AGM

Butternut squash velouté, toasted pumpkin seeds
Vignier Esprit Cepage FRA

Seared scallop, sweetcorn purée, pancetta
Vouvray Sec FRA

Watermelon sorbet

Ballotine of Guinea fowl stuffed with apricot and pistachio, lemon and tarragon sauce

Guinea fowl thigh stuffed with an apricot and pistachio mouseline, wrapped in pancetta, served on mixed grains with a lemon and tarragon sauce
Bourgogne Pinot Noir FRA

Confit shoulder of lamb, pomme purée, cherries, rich port jus
*Slow cooked shoulder of lamb with garlic & thyme on a smooth mashed potato with cherry compote and a rich port reduction
Lecco Roble Ribera del Duero SPA*

Apple tart tatin, crème anglaise

Chocolate delight

Best of British Cheeses

Taylor Tawny Port FGA

Coffee & Petit Four



24/1/24 Weston Turville WTU/845 on WTU/21/2 at SP846101 - Requested CAMS for S2KG.

25/1/24 Received DaG payment from Ed & Margate Kendrick.

29/1/24 Haddenham HAD/5/1 Surface improvement needed. Called Harry Leach to ask if he'd inspected the route yet following emails in December 2023. Left voicemail. On 30/2/24 He emailed to say not visited yet.

30/1/24 Weston Turville WTU/845 on WTU/21/2 at SP846101 - Received CAMS for S2KG Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG.

3/2/24 Weston Turville. Recce of both S2KGs on A413. 1 man hour. B. 20 miles.

7/2/24 Impact Signs. Collected plaques for Weston Turville PC and Ed & Margaret Kendrick. B. 1 man hour. 15 miles.

7/2/24 Westlington. Attended timber KG that's been reported as knocking noisily in the wind. Decided that a bump stop arrangement, perhaps a length of rubber hose wrapped around the post, and possibly a spring, might resolve the issue. B. 1 man hour. 6 miles.

8/2/24 Wingrave. Jan Warmesley, Ramblers FP Checker, made contact to ask if we could help fix some bridges in need of repair. Unfortunately unable to oblige as we rarely get involved with bridges. BC will help out in time. One has, according to Jan, in fact been replaced very recently.



9/2/24 CRFC Received delivery of 14 gates (7 kissing) from Secure-a-Field. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.



11/2/24. Whitchurch WHI/7478 on WHI/7/1 at SP799202. Recce of poor stiles and farmyard. Definitive map only shows a finger post and one stile. On the ground there is a finger post and three stiles, one of which is delapidated. The under-foot conditions after the middle stile are very bad but not unusual in this area at this time of year. 2 man hours. B. 25 miles.



Double Stile at Point 3



Stile at Point 2



Stile and finger post at Point 1



There are stiles at points 1, 2 and 3. Only the one at point 2 is shown on the definitive map.

14/2/24 Weston Turville Gate 340 WTU/845 CAMS a01259 at SP848100 Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. Dismantled 4-rail, 2- rotten steps, 1-hand post. Retained hand post to support adjacent fencing. Cleared large black bin bag of litter. Cleared small trees and undergrowth and overhanging branches. Installed Secure-a-Field Berkswell gate with Centrewire hoops S2KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fitted DaG plaque. Visited on site by Ed Kendrick. 5x6=30 man hours. BKJerryMikeK & Josh Hilbocus. 25 miles.

We had a serious incident on the way home when front near side wheel of Land Rover fell off due to loose wheel nuts. Very fortunate that no one was hurt and that we were able to continue home shortly afterwards. Many thanks to Mike Phillips of Haddenham who came out in Bill's Skoda to pick up the tools and passengers had we not been able to continue. Skoda 22 miles.



19/2/24 CRFC Collected KG & stones. 2 man hours. B+MikeK. 10 miles.

21/2/24 Weston Turville. PC paid £1,350 to fund three DaGs. Receipt sent to Sarah Copley, clerk.

22/2/24 Weston Turville CAMS a00956 WTU/872 on WTU/20/1 at SP850097 Weston Turville PC DaG. Aborted attempt to install S2KG abandoned due to incessant heavy rain. Thanks to John coming from Berton, Fabien Frontier from Stone and John Beattie from Thames. We retired to Orchard View Farm Shop and café for breakfast. 5x1=5 man hours. BFJJMikeK. 25 miles. John 12.



Absolutely miserable – tipping down with rain.



L-R: John Beattie, Bill Piers & Mike Kershaw.

22/2/24 CRFC. Met with Lewis of BC RoW in Amersham depot. Gave him a Secure-a-Field

Berkswell gate c/w hoops and 10 nuts and bolts. B. 1 man hour. 10 miles.

22/2/24 Whitchurch. Tel call from Andrew Vale of Dunton whose wife owns small holdings at bottom end of Weir Lane. Not interested in gates. Would accept us repairing his broken stile. [He also maintained that he is unable to do anything about deep muddy patch beside stile out of farmyard. He said the cattle congregate there and that's what the countryside is like. i.e. wear wellies when it's really wet. See Recce photos from 11/2/24.

28/2/24 Cublington. Tel con with clerk wrt two outstanding S2KGs for which we have CAMSs.

(19/9/23 Footbridge Grips. Joanne Taylor, BC RoW, offered us some grips. We suggested 50 and 75 cm long ones. Not received yet).



Outer Aylesbury Ring founder honoured

Roy Johnson, a life-long Aylesbury Rambler, who set up and maintained the Outer Aylesbury Ring over many years, was honoured over the Christmas period by having a Donate-a-Gate dedicated to him. Roy received the news at Aylesbury Ramblers AGM and was quite taken aback when the dedication on the gate was read out to him. We wish Roy a

long and happy retirement from footpath checking, hedgerow snipping and waymark fitting. Well done Roy.

The gate was jointly funded by the group and North Bucks rRIPPLE team. The gate was one of five recently installed in Whitchurch and is one of three in a line that completes a very handy 1.2km-long stile-free village mini-circular walk with stunning views across the Vale. All

five new gates were Donate-a-Gates, three sponsored by two landowners and one by the parish council.

For further information about the exact location of Roy's gate and some before, during and after installation photos, please go to the Aylesbury Ramblers website.

*Bill Piers
Coordinator, North Bucks
rRIPPLE*



The plaque thanking Roy Johnson for all his hard work over many years.



Team tea break generously provided by a local resident.



The new gate in Whitchurch.

Photos: Bill Piers.

24/8/23: Currently outstanding, potential and planned work with DaG opportunities available:

Bierton: John Chantler getting landowner permissions for further Griffin Trust DaGs in 2024/5.

Bierton BWB/5484 on BWB/3/1 CAMS a00954 at SP823168 S2KG Five Elms Weedon public house DaG at Grendon Hill Farm. Currently area near River Thame is waterlogged. Gate will be installed when ground conditions allow.

Bishopstone: Roger Goodchild has given permission for further S2Gs. We need to discuss with him or find a local champion to decide on priorities.

Bishopstone: GLK/27/1 at SP820096 footpath illegally blocked by Travellers' site since early 2020. Steve Miles, of Long Crendon, owns adjacent field but is reluctant to encourage any further land-grab by the travellers. On 23/11/23 Buckinghamshire Council served notice on four residents of Springfield Farm Travellers Site. The council has been prompted by The Ramblers who have served a Form 1 on the council.

Brill: Several S2Gs on BRI/11/7 through Chinkwell Wood; BRI/11/6 towards Dorton Grange; BRI/3/4&5 Rushbed Woods to Cuckoo Close Farm. Waiting on follow up with landowners by Hannah Hulme Hunter, Parish Councillor and Rights of Way Rep.

Chearsley: Potential S2G CHR/2785 on CHR/12/1 at SP713115 in memory of horse YaYa that died 1/2/22. Waiting on follow up by Anthony Adams who has made contact with the new landowner.

Chearsley: Bridge CHR/2803 at SP714097 that links LCR/9/4 and CHR/9/1. Corinne Brownsell the RoW Bridge Inspector made a site visit with Richard Heybrook. She is suggesting a timber bridge over the top of the existing concrete bridge. We are considering a permissive bridge, higher and slightly downstream of the existing bridge.

Cublington: Two S2KGs - CUB/4966 on CUB/11/2 CAMS a00741 at SP839220 and S2KG CUB/4965 on CUB/12/1 CAMS a00743 at SP841221. Emailed clerk Mike Joy on 8/2/24 who had been abroad for three weeks when followed up with tel call 28/2/24. He will get back to us wrt any DaG contribution.

Cuddington: CUD/2449 on CUD/1/1 CAMS a00302 at SP737117 Replace two stiles with single timber KG. Permission obtained from Spencer Barnards by Angie Birks, cattle grazier. Currently ground too wet to gain access.

Hulcott: Waiting on John Chantler to get landowner permissions for further Griffin Trust DaGs.

Kimblewick: 5xS2KGs. Waiting on request to go ahead from landowner Ted Walker.

Long Crendon: Two awkward and/or dilapidated stiles on LCR/11/1 at SP698093 at College Farm, George Morris is the farmer. Sandy Hooper is the interested parish councillor. Followed up with email on 19/1/23. Waiting on follow up by Alex Bond, PCMS, who knows the Morris family.

Lower Winchendon: LNW/2645 on LNW/10B/2 CAMS a00310 at SP737120 Replace stile with timber KG as agreed between Angie Birks and Mr & Mrs Spencer Barnard. Access good off the drive past The Old Mill. Tel con with Katherine Cook, local resident, to check on access. Gate will be installed when ground conditions allow. Parish

Lower Winchendon: LNW/2594 on LNW/2/2 CAMS a00309 at SP726112. Anthony Adams has obtained permission from Rob Mole, Bridge Farm. This is close to the Bristol Gate on Aylesbury Road, from Cuddington to Chearsley opposite road up to Nether and Upper Winchendons. Currently on hold due to ongoing dispute/negotiations between Rob and Alastair wrt a Chilton path.

Mentmore: PC & Ascott Estate S2KG DaG MEN/38718 on MEN/3/1 at SP903202. Attempting to find an access route to site. Landowner has now agreed to the S2KG conversion. On 30/8/23 Bridget Knight, clerk to Mentmore PC, submitted a completed S2KG DaG Application Form "Donated by Mentmore Parish Council and Ascott Estate". Receipt for £500 received sent 31/8/23. Gate will be installed when ground conditions allow. Parish Councillor, Caroline Horgan, is friendly with the current landowner, Liz Hough.

Slapton & Grove near Wing: 1 x S2KG. Sept 22 Bridget Knight, clerk, has referred problem back to Buckinghamshire Council - no info re landowner. Followed up with email re any developments on 21/2/23. Waiting on James Spratley or Harry Leach & Alastair McVail, at RoW.

Waddesdon Estate: 20/2/23: In positive discussions with Chris Leach wrt stiles on tenant farms between Upper Winchendon and Cuddington. Awaiting further permissions on Mainhill Farm – Tel con and meeting at CRFC with Steven Jones who is wary of KGs installed too high allowing lambs "to escape". Agreed to reinstall a couple of poorly installed KGs with smaller gaps. Awaiting drier ground conditions. Steven is not a great supporter of gates nor dog walkers.

Weston Turville: Three S2KG DaGs paid for by parish council on 21/2/24.

Weston Turville WTU/848 on WTU/21/2 CAMS a00957 at SP852102 S2KG – Easterly of two.

Weston Turville WTU/849 on WTU/21/2 CAMS a00958 at SP852102 S2G – Westerly of two.

Weston Turville WTU/872 on WTU/20/1 CAMS a00956 at SP850097 S2KG. On A413.

Whitchurch: WHI/7478 on WHI/7/1 at SP799202. Recce of poor stiles and farmyard showed that the definitive map only shows a finger post and one stile whereas on the ground there is a finger post and three stiles, one of which is delapidated. Landowner would be happy if we were to repair his stile but not replace any stiles with gates.

Wingrave. Footbridges in need of repair. Referred back to Buckinghamshire Council.

NB rRIPPLE on site man hours – includes a proportion of travel time but not administration time which is considerable!	S2Gap / Bridge/ Steps	S/KG repair	Dog way	S2PG		S2KG		WayMk Post
					DaG		DaG	
224 for period 30 Jan 2015 – 6 Aug 2015	2G	11	9	2	0	1	0	2
66.5 for period 13 Aug 2015 – 17 Nov 2015	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
72 for period 18 Nov 2015 – 16 Jan 2016	1B	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
74 for period 17 Jan 2016 – 15 Mar 2016	1G	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
120.25 for period 16 Mar 2016 – 11 Jun 2016	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1
133 for period 12 Jun 2016 – 14 Aug 2016	1G	0	0	6	1	1	1	0
142 for period 15 Aug 2016 – 21 Sept 2016	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0
104 for period 22 Sept 2016 – 13 Nov 2016	0	1KG	0	1	1	0	3	3
94 for period 14 Nov 2016 – 31 Dec 2016	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
271 for period 1 Jan 2017 – 31 Mar 2017	0	0	0	5	3	1	5	0
216 for period 1 Apr 2017 – 31 May 2017	0	0	1	7	0	0	5	0
185 for period 1 Jun 2017 – 27 Aug 2017	1	0	0	2	5*	0	3	0
193.5 for period 28 Aug 2017 – 25 Nov 2017	1B + 1G	0	0	8	3	0	1	0
187 for period 26 Nov 2017 – 25 Feb 2018	1B + 1G	0	0	3	6	0	3	0
170.5 for period 26 Feb 2018 – 22 May 2018	0	0	1	5	2	2	2	3
300 for period 23 May 2018 – 23 Aug 2018	0	0	0	5	3	3	4	0
231 for period 24 Aug 2018 – 23 Nov 2018	1 Step	0	0	2	3	2	4	0
207 for period 24 Nov 2018 - 23 Feb 2019	0	0	0	5	2	2	2	0
319 for period 24 Feb 2019 – 23 May 2019	0	0	0	5	4	2	4	0
432 for period 24 May 2019 - 23 Aug 2019	0	1	1	5	11	1	2	0
366 for period 24 Aug 2019 – 23 Nov 2019	0	0	0	7	5	2	1	0
276 for period 24 Nov 2019 – 23 Feb 2020	0	0	0	2	1	1	5	0
83 for period 24 Feb 2020 – 31 May 2020	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
37 for period 1 Jun 2020 – 23 Aug 2020	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
346 for period 24 Aug – 25 Nov 2020	0	0	0	4	5	0	4	0
370 for period 26 Nov 2020 – 9 June 2021	1G	0	0	1	9	2	2	0
521 for period 10 June 2021 – 14 Nov 2021	2 steps	3KG	0	1	9	2	5	0
473 for period 15 Nov 2021 – 2 Mar 2022	1G	1KG	0	2	7	0	6	0
232 for period 3 Mar 2022 – 31 May 2022	0	0	0	1	3	3	2	0
323 for period 1 Jun 2022 – 31 Aug 2022	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	0
211 for period 1 Sep 2022 – 30 Nov 2022	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0
241 for period 1 Dec 2022 – 28 Feb 2023	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	0
253 for period 1 Mar 2023 – 3 Jun 2023	0	0	0	1	2	2	4	0
203 for period 3 Jun 2023 – 31 Aug 2023	0	1	1	1	0	4	1	0
267 for period 1 Sep 2023 – 30 Nov 2023	1 step2G	0	0	0	3	4	3	1
77 for period 1 Dec2023 – 29 Feb 2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	3B/9G/4 Steps	17	18	109	103	42	86	11

*Includes for two Bristol Combination Gates.

S2PG etc. = Stile converted to Pedestrian Gate. (Normally a steel Marlow gate; occasionally an Aston timber gate.)

S2KG etc. = Stile converted to Kissing Gate. (Almost universally a galvanized steel Woodstock gate.)

Total number of gates installed = 340 of which 189 have been DaGs.

Signed: [William \(Bill\) Piers](#)

North Bucks rRIPPLE Co-ordinator and Donate a Gate Scheme Organizer

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Many thanks to the team: myself – Bill Piers, (Allen), Andrew, David, (Derek), Jerry, (Joe), John, Keith, Michael, Mike Kershaw, Mike Thirlwall and Peter, but in particular to Jerry who does a lot of the donkey work involving recces, discussions with landowners about access and liaising with parish councils, etc etc. We estimate that for every man hour of work carried on outdoors an hour is spent on admin, negotiation, preparation, tools maintenance, trailer cleaning/loading etc etc.



6/12/23 Whitchurch
WHI/46924 CAMS
a00872 at SP802205
Aylesbury Ramblers &
NB rRIPPLE DaG for
Roy Johnson. (339)



6/12/23 Fitted a pro-
tective metal strip to
step installed by John
on 28/11/23 at Gate
338.



Gate 339: Good to
see Joe out to give us
a hand and to have a
nice pot of tea provid-
ed by a neighbour.



12/12/23 Hadden-
ham HAD/5/1 at
SP755100. This per-
ennially muddy and
slippery slope has
been referred to
Bucks RoW team.



22/1/24 Refitted yellow
latch that had mysteri-
ously fallen on the
ground. Fitted a tam-
perproof security nut.



14/2/24 Weston Tur-
ville WTU/845 CAMS
a01259 at SP848100
Ed & Margaret
Kendrick DaG. (340)