

North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)
Activity Report 24 November 2019 – 23 February 2020

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 BCC for work requests. All work is requested and authorised by Alastair McVail, BCC North Bucks PRoW Officer, or Jon Clark, BCC Strategic Access Officer. OPAG = Oving Paths Action Group. PG = Pedestrian Gate (e.g. Centrewire Marlow); KG = Kissing Gate (e.g. Centrewire Woodstock). DFU = Dinton with Ford & Upton.

“Installed to NB rRIPPLE standard” means the following: “Marlow 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 stones. Improved by the Ramblers square decals and BCC 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 Fencemate (£3.91 per bag) on top of each of the two galvanised “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.

25/11/19 Ford DFU/53/2 at SP780093 and SP781094. Called Susan Carr to see if she and her husband had looked at the information I took over on 21/11/19. Not yet. Tel con 27/11/19 with Patrick Carr who agreed to S2KGs at three locations.

25/11/19. CRFC. Collected gates. BJ. 2 man hours. 10 miles.

25/11/19 Padbury. Telephoned and emailed Pam Molloy, clerk to PC to alert her to our presence in the village tomorrow. Requested details of anyone involved or interested in PRoW in Padbury. She returned the call and as a professional dog walker is very interested and said she’d forward our email to the councillors and put us on the agenda for the next parish meeting.

26/11/19 Padbury PAD/1/2 CAMS 89136 at SP718308. Dismantled 3-rail, 1-step, 2-hand post stile. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. 6 x 6 = 36 man hours which included some recce of Padbury by Bill and BJ in Great. AllenBCJJK. Allen 24 miles; Joe 16; 60 miles.

26/11/19 Padbury. Met with Stephen Dickens, 30 years on the PC who has in the past replaced most of the village’s stiles and laid hedges etc. He is supportive of improvements so long as the paths don’t end up “like the M1”.

28/11/19 DFU. Received 3 CAMS 90895/6/7 on DFU/53/3 at two nearby locations at SP781093/4. Two KGs and a Stile to Gap conversion.

28/11/19 DFU. Received CAMS 90898 on DFU/41/1 at SP779092.

28/11/19 Great Horwood. Received GH0/5/1 CAMS 90889 at SP758319 and GH0/2/1 CAMS 90890 at SP762301 (done on 3/12/19).

30/11/19 Padbury. Tel con with Chris Morris of Grange Farm, Thornborough Road, Padbury. He farms the fields indicated C on the map, and is therefore responsible for the stiles at Points 4-7. The land is owned by All Souls College, Oxford. He said he’d take a look at the kissing gate we’ve just installed at Point 3 and we can contact him again to see if he’d be happy for the other stiles to be changed for gates.



2/12/19 Briants of Risborough to get 6 bags of Fencemate. Jerry 11 miles. 1 man hour.

2/12/19 Hulcott recce. Jerry 21 miles. 2 man hours. Jerry in touch with Peter Fenton O'Creevy regarding work requirements.

2/12/19 Hulcott. Jerry emailed Derek the grazier regarding existing and proposed gaps/stiles/gates etc. Maps showing locations highlighted.

3/12/19 Marsh Gibbon. John Esslemont acknowledged the PC's £50 donation for the 3 gates we've installed per BCC's request.

3/12/19 Great Horwood GHO/2/1 CAMS 90890 at SP762301. Great Horwood DOGGOF DaG. Dismantled dilapidated 2-step, 4-rail, 1-hand post stile and installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Reinstated sheep proof fence and rails. Cleared surrounding brushwood and weeds off sleeper bridge. 4 x 6 = 24 man hours. CJJk. 40 miles; Charles 36 miles; Joe 16 miles.

5/12/19 Waddesdon. Very positive and proactive email received from Melanie Rose, clerk to the PC. She's interested to know if we've already done any work on Waddesdon FPs or whether we know of any work that needs doing to improve access for villagers to the footpath network. Responded to say none completed so far but Peter & Lesley Spinks who live in Waddesdon are the local Ramblers reps and they should be able to help her.

5/12/19 Dinton. Received £375 cheque from Dinton Footpath Action Group, c/o Helen Wild, for DOGGOF DaGs on FP 12 at SP765214 and 771211. Permissions are being obtained by Rosemary Bird for the White's land.

5/12/19 Padbury. Called Chris Morris, tenant farmer, re gates on PAD/1/2. He said he'd not had a chance to take a look yet at the one we installed on 26/11/19.

6/12/19 CRFC. To load trailer. 10 miles. Charles 10 miles. 2 x 1 = 2 man hours.

7/12/19 Dinton. Rosemary Bird reported on "progress" wrt the Whites and agreements to replace stiles with gates.

8/9/19 Aylesbury Ramblers 1st DaG In Memory of Mike Roe. Received paper work from Bob Turner, Treasurer. He's sent £250 cheque directly to John Esslemont.

8/9/19 Aylesbury Ramblers 2nd DaG In Memory of Mike Roe. Received tel call from Bob Turner, Treasurer, to say that a second DaG £250 cheque has been sent directly to John Esslemont from a generous member.

9/12/19 CRFC. To receive delivery of 10 Marlow gates from BCC. 10 miles. 1 man hour.

9/12/19 Hulcott. Jerry submitted 4 CAMS requests for 4 Hulcott Parish Council DaGs, 3 of which are on the Aylesbury Ring.

Roy submitted 7 suggestions for stiles-to-gates on the OAR.



22 - SAM_2433 - QUA - 1 (SP757226)



23 - SAM_2435 - HOG - 3 (SP754225)



24 - SAM_2436 - QUA - 3 (SP750202 - North)



26 - SAM_2442 - QUA - 19 (SP746198)



27 - SAM_2444 - QUA - 19 (SP746189)



28 - SAM_2445 - QUA - 19 (SP747186)



35 - SAM_2454 WAD-3 (SP740171)

10/12/19 Ford DFU/53/3 CAMS 90895 at SP781094. Dinton with Ford & Upton (DFU) Parish Council BOGGOF DaG. Dismantled awkward 3-double rail, 1-step, 1-hand post stile. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fitted landowner's "Dogs to be kept on lead" and "Horses" signs with 6 mm nuts, bolts & washers. 4.5 x 6 = 27 man hours. BALLenCKJoe. Allen 24 miles. Joe 16 miles. Charles 10 miles.

10/12/19 Ford DFU/53/3 CAMS 90897 at SP781093. Dinton with Ford & Upton (DFU) Parish Council BOGGOF DaG. Dismantled homemade 3-rail, 1-step, no hand post stile. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. 4.5 x 6 = 27 man hours. BDAndrew John Chantler and guest from Ramblers HQ Michael Hopkins. 10 miles. John Chantler 15 miles.

10/12/19 Ford DFU/53/3 CAMS 90896 at SP781094 NOT COMPLETED. This CAMS was for a stile to gap conversion but when we called the landowner Paul Roads to check with him he was adamant that he wanted the stile left in place. It is a low stile with one step. We added and securely fixed a hand post to make it easier to negotiate and left it as it was.

23/12/19 Padbury. Called Chris Morris, farmer, and offered him a side gate to his new field gate at Point 7 on the map – see 30/11/19. He still hadn't been to check out the new KG we installed at Point 3.

31/12/19 sent Happy New Year message to the team with an outline programme of work days.

31/12/19 Sent Charles advance notice of a perceived need for a note to give to farmers & landowners why they shouldn't fear the installation of gates.

3/1/20 Thame. To Glynswoods for A4 Medium White Card, 225 gsm, to make business cards.

3/1/20 Ford DFU/41/1 CAMS 90898 at SP779092. Recce to check for "Dogs to be kept on lead" signs etc. Brought one home to make and drill a suitable backing plate. 1 man hour. 16 miles inc. Thame.

6/1/20 Area AGM. Wrote NB rRIPPLE's contribution which was reviewed by Charles Boon and submitted.

7/1/20 Ford DFU/41/1 CAMS 90898 at SP779092. Eric & Lucy DaG. Dismantled awkward and high 5-rail, 2-step, 1 rotten and very wobbly, 1-hand post stile. Retained in situ old existing BCC steel finger post in good condition. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Ran and fixed a 2 m length of plastic water pipe below ground surface for electric fence continuation. Ran a length of cable through hose knotted at each end. Fitted landowner's "Dogs to be kept on lead" sign with 6 mm nuts, bolts & washers. 6 x 5 = 30 man hours. BCDJKP. 8 miles. Peter 18 miles.



Eric, with Lucy on her lead, pays a visit.

8/1/20 Weedon WEE/11/1 CAMS 90989 at SP815182 and CAMS 90991 at SP815183. Received these two CAMS from Rose Gibbard, BCC. Landowner is Chris Measures. Jobs discussed and agreed by landowner, PC and Alastair.

8/1/20 Ford. Emailed nine residents and parish councillors about a report of a complaint about a stile in the Bucks Herald.

A resident updated the council on a discussion he has had with the Rights of Way Team at Bucks County Council concerning a stile in Ford. Jon suggested that he send details to him to see if there was anything the parish council could do to assist him.

9/1/20 Ludgershall. Emailed Alan Turner-Smith who was very keen at the end of 2018 when we installed 3 gates to ask if any FP improvements are proposed for 2020.

9/1/20 South East Walker. Submitted NB rRIPPLE gets stuck in the mud article c/w 3 photos proof read and amended by Charles Boon.

9/1/20 Oving. Tel con with David Barnett explaining that we need OPAG to come up with ideas and proposals for stile-to-gate conversions c/w SP 6 fig ref, type of gate needed and landowner name and confirmation of their agreement.

10/1/20 Chearsley. Alastair asked if we might be interested in getting involved with Chearsley Parish Council wrt replacing 10 stiles with gates – see below. Responded positively.

Hello Bill

Happy New Year to you, I hope you're well. I have been approached by Chearsley Parish Council to carry out some improvements to the path network in the village consisting of replacing around 10 stiles with gates. There may be an opportunity here to carry out a couple of bridge replacements as well as I think we were looking at this as a possibility for your group. I have the details of everything from the Parish Footpath warden but they don't have any of the landowner information as yet. Looking at what he has sent me they don't appear to be broken but are more general access improvement requests. Is this something you wish to take on in which case I suggest passing on your details to the warden and you can liaise over it?

Regards

Alastair
Alastair McVail
Area Rights of Way Officer

12/1/20 Oakley. Emailed BCC to request 2 CAMSs on OAK/12/6 at SP636118 and OAK/15/2 at SP637118 per Paul Kilpin, the Parish Councillor organising.

12/1/20 Weedon. Recce of sites outlined on 8/1/20 above. Met with one of two landowners, Beau Samuelson at 11 Northcroft. He's keen to have gates installed ASAP.



13/1/20 Weedon. Tel con with landowner Mr & Mrs Leasure at 7 Northcroft. All very amenable.

14/1/20 Hulcott HUL/7/1 CAMS 90962 at SP850163. Griffin Trust/Hulcott PC DaG. Filled in gap between locked field gate and hedgerow alongside road with a Woodstock kissing gate – sheep in field. Installed KG to NB rRIPPLE standard, trimmed hedge and cleared vegetation around BCC steel finger post. Met with a number of villagers including dog walkers, parish councillor and farmer. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours. BJJoeKP. 20 miles. Peter 14 miles. Joe 8 miles.

14/1/20 Weedon. To CRFC to collect two timber gates and 4 x 2.1 m x 150 x 150 posts. 4 x 1 = 4 man hours. BJKP. 10 miles.

14/1/20 Oakley OAK/12/6 at SP636118 and OAK/15/2 at SP637118. Received 2 CAMSs for 2 Woodstock KGs. BCC reported that the bridge inspector is going to see the damaged bridge.

15/1/20 Bishopstone. Bob Turner of Aylesbury Ramblers called re Mike Roe's DaGs. He's suggested likely location in Bishopstone and has talked to the farmer who's in agreement.

15/1/20 Chearsley. Tel con with Anthony Adams, Chearsley PC Footpaths Officer. He's sent Alastair Word docs detailing problem stiles. Will talk 20/1/20 about a way forward. Emailed Alastair for the docs.

16/1/20 Postsaver. Tel order for 7 x SKU9s for the 150 x 150 posts. Received 17/1/20. Fitted to Posts for Weedon gates 20/1/20.

16/1/20 Waddesdon. Melanie Rose, Clerk to PC, emailed to say the PC had confirmed following a presentation by Peter Spinks, Aylesbury Ramblers resident of Waddesdon, that they'd like to install a Stephen O'Shea DaG at SP740171 just north of the churchyard as discussed 9/12/19.

16/1/20 Oakley PC. Paul Kilpin agreed to request £375 from PC for DOGGOFF KGs

17/1/20 Bishopstone SBH/18 at SP804106. Got farmer info, Michael Woodford, from Bob Turner. Recce of Mike Roe DOGGOFF DaGs on SBH/18/2 and SBH/18/3 on either side of where it crosses bridleway SBH/20. CAMSs requested 19/1/20.

17/1/20 Great Horwood. Request from Sue Brazier, clerk to PC, for an invoice for £375 for the DOGGOFF. We installed one DaG on 3/12/19. Forwarded request to John Esslemont on 20/1/20.

17/1/20 BCC PROW Liaison Group meeting. Emailed Joanne Taylor NB rRIPPLE's annual report for 2019 – same one prepared for Ramblers Area AGM.

17/1/20 Bishopstone. In touch with Bob Turner to get farmer's contact details so can get CAMS.

19/1/20 Bishopstone. Requested 2 CAMSs for SBH/18/2&3 either side of Bridleway 20 for Aylesbury Ramblers' DaGs. On 21/1/20 Alastair explained that the farmer for SBH/18/2 is different to the farmer for SBH/18/3 and that currently BCC is in dispute with him over something else. Long tel con with David Weston of Model Farm Bishopstone. He doesn't want a gate fitted on SBH/18/3 at the moment until problem with BCC resolved.

20/1/20 Chearsley. Met with new local hero Anthony Adams and gave him full briefing of how we operate and how the DaG scheme operates. He's to put some suggestions to the Chearsley PC tonight. Sounds promising.

21/1/20 Dinton (Westlington). Email from Rosemary Bird saying that Roger White doesn't want his three stiles converted to gates. But that Edwin Good would allow the stile at SP771101 to be converted.

21/1/20 Bishopstone. Alastair emailed to say farmer on east side of Bridleway probably not keen to agree to a stile to gate conversion on BSH/18/3. Tel con with David Weston of Model Farm confirmed that. Sent supportive email to him saying hope we can help in the future.

22/1/20 Dinton Simply Walk Donate a Gate. Rosemary Bird supplied farmer Edwyn Good's address and contact number in Ford.

22/1/20 Bishopstone. SBH/18/2 CAMS 91192 at SP804106 stile to Marlow received from Rose Gibbard.

22/1/20 Chearsley. Anthony Andrews reported back positively from PC meeting saying they're having a site meeting with landlord John Lloyd of Chilton on Monday or Tuesday next week. Asked Peter if he could attend.

22/1/20 Weedon WEE/11/1 CAMS 90991 at SP815183. Potential Weedon PC DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile. Installed self-closing 3 ft wide Aston timber gate between 2-2.1m x 150 x 150 BCC supplied pine posts c/w size 09 Postsaver sleeves. Considerable difficulty encountered using gate furniture to make self-closing onto faces of the 2 posts. Successful eventually after return trip to Haddenham for more bits. 5 x 6.5 = 33 man hours. AnCDJK. 40 miles. Jerry i/c.

23/1/20 Weedon. Received thank you email from satisfied landowner Jane Measures.

1/2/20 Ramblers Area AGM Great Missendon.

(e) North Bucks ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise (NB rRIPPLE) Report:

Bill Piers reported that the group's 208th gate would be installed the following week. He invited ideas on how to convince farmers who are concerned about attacks by dogs on sheep.

2 & 4/2/20 Weedon WEE/9/2 CAMS 90989 at SP815182. Preparing gate posts and gate fittings on Aston gate. B 4 hours.

2/2/20 Padbury. Preparing document for parish council meeting on 11/2/20 for Pam Molloy, clerk to PC.

3/2/20 Bierton BWB/4/4 at SP842160. John Chantler emailed filled in CAMS form for a stile to gate. Requested a photo 5/2/20 and asked whether Marlow or Woodstock needed 9/2/20.

4/2/20 Weedon WEE/9/2 CAMS 90989 at SP815182. DaG In Memory of Ed and Margaret Kendrick. Installed Aston timber gate c/c sprung loaded handle latch between two 2.1 m x 150 x 150 BCC supplied timber posts c/w Postsaver sleeves. Met on site with adjoining landowner Sadie Samuelson and parish councillors Wendy Kett, Footpaths & Joanna Rose, Chairperson. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours. Al BJoeKP. Peter 14, Allen 22, 30 miles.

4/2/20 Weedon WEE/6/1 at SP815181. Surveyed stile with Wendy Kett and Joanna Rose. Agreed we could install an Aston gate but if they wanted to convert it into a KG they would need to do that afterwards not involving us. Apparently Alastair has frowned upon installing an all timber kissing gate. PC to be consulted as to whether it really needs to be timber or if a galvanised KG would be acceptable. Emailed BCC to request CAMS on 5/2/20 for an Aston gate.

4/2/20 Weedon WEE/4/1 at junction with WEE/3 on field boundary at SP815175. Surveyed stile with Wendy Kett and Joanna Rose. Stile is on land operated by Fields Farm where the farmer is retiring. Fields Farm is a BCC owned Farm. Emailed BCC to request CAMS on 5/2/20 for a Woodstock KG.

5/2/20 Impact Signs. Requested plaques for Ed & Margaret Kendrick for Weedon and Great Horwood PC. Accepted proof for Ed after him agreeing it. Asked for change of font sizes for PC one. Font sizes changed and approved 10/2/20.

5/2/20 Padbury. Emailed clerk Pam Malloy 2 x A4 page Word doc attachment:

North Bucks rRIPPLE

(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)

Padbury Footpath 1 Improvement Plan – PC Meeting 11/2/20

Further to the parish council's response to our email dated 9/12/19 and an attached document, where we see the potential for an immediate benefit to the walking public, such as creating and completing a short, circular, stile-free walk, we are prepared to fund the replacement of stiles with gates at no cost to the parish council.

Pam responded that it had been forwarded to councillors and would be on the agenda for 11/2/20.

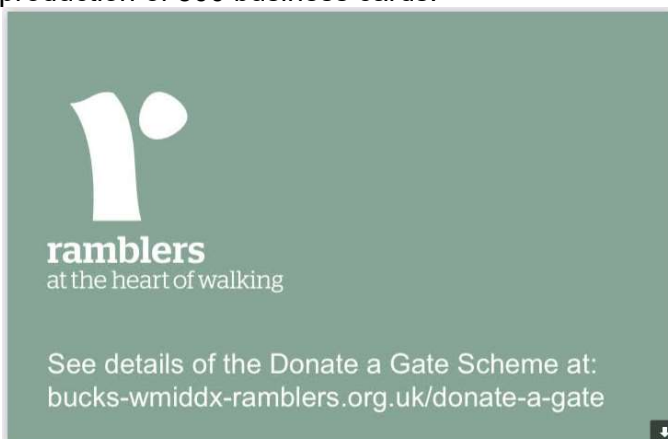
6/2/20 Ickford. Met two ladies dog walking at the KG we installed on 8/5/18 opposite the Rising Sun Pub. Asked about any other gates that need installing. They know Peter Jordain and mentioned a stile near the church. Gave them a NB rRIPPLE card. Emailed Peter 9/2/20 to ask if PC and/or landowner might be interested in gating the stile they mentioned.

6/2/20 Brill. Met lady dog walker who suggested Roger & Pat Stone might know of any stiles that need gating. Met with Pat Stone who is a landowner and knows many others in the area. She was supportive and suggested contacting the PC through the clerk, Lesley Shaw. Popped NB rRIPPLE card through Lesley's letterbox and sent follow up email explaining we installed a KG on 26/7/16. Asked Lesley to tell PC we had contacted them through her wrt gating stiles.

6/2/20 Ludgershall. Met Michael Tiffin in the Bull & Butcher. He knows numerous landowners whom he believes are quite reasonable. He also knows Alan Turner-Smith for whom we installed 3 KGs Oct-Dec 2018. Called Alan and suggested a softly softly catchy monkey approach. He immediately emailed PC clerk Bobs with suggestions for 3 stile to gate conversions on FPs 10, 12 and 13.

7/2/20 CRFC. Collected 2 standard Marlow gates and 1 x 1.2 m wide one, full load of stones, 2 x 1.8 m x 100 x 100 posts. 10 miles. Jerry 10 miles. 2 x 1 = 2 man hours. Fitted Postsaver sleeves to posts.

7/2/20 Impact Signs. Asked Daniela to go ahead with production of 500 business cards.



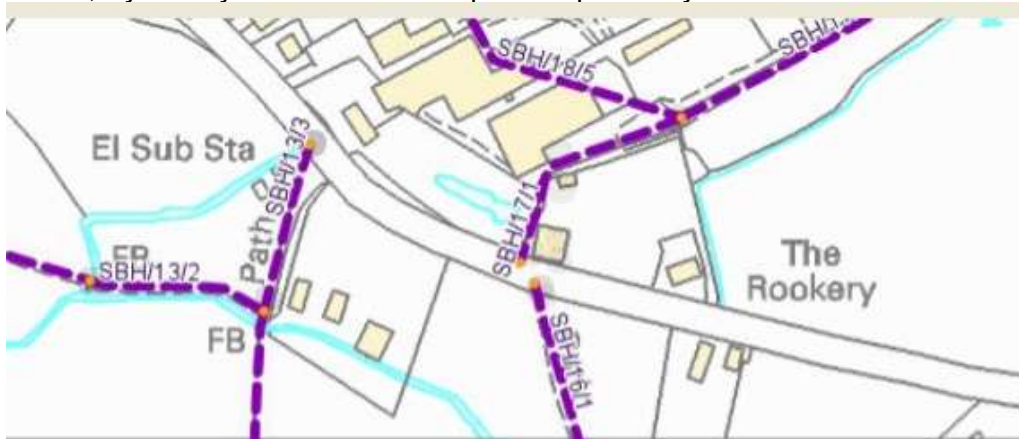
10/2/20 Ridgeway National Trail Officer contact for recycled plastic posts. Emailed Phil Fox of BCC to see if he had a working contact as we've tried numerous time to get a response from Sarah Wright. Emailed Sarah directly yet again. Phil suggested Whitehill Direct who in turn mentioned Hahn Plastics who in turn quoted c£35 per 2 m length of 100 x 100 brown post. Minimum order 80 on a pallet so a non-starter.

10/2/20 Bishopstone SBH/18/2 CAMS 91192 at SP804106. WhatsApped Michael Woodford, farmer, to remind him to unlock field gate on bridleway SBH/20/1.

10/2/20 Bishopstone. Emailed David Weston, of Model Farm, Bishopstone, see 21/1/20, to invite him to make our acquaintance tomorrow.

11/2/20 Bishopstone SBH/18/2 CAMS 91192 at SP804106. Aylesbury Ramblers DaG In Memory of Mike Roe. Dismantled 2-rail, 1-step stile. Retained existing vertical "timber sleeper" posts. Face fixed with 4 x 10 mm coach screws 1.2 m Marlow gate to sleepers. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours. AI BCDP. AI 15 miles; Peter 14 miles; 12 miles. Met on site with farmer Michael Woodford. Also Mr & Mrs David Weston came by for a chat.

11/2/20 Bishopstone additional stiles. Emailed Mark Turner, Chairman PC, to ask if he'd make contact with farmer Roger Goodchild of Standells Farm wrt changing stiles on the roadside to FPs 13 & 16. Copied Bob Turner, Aylesbury Ramblers. He responded positively.



11/2/20 North Marston NMA/17/2 CAMS 86739 at SP767226. Tel con with Archie Dancer wrt stile to KG on St Johns Lane. Said I'd caught him on the hop; he'll think about it; call again in a week or so. Explained that we're short of jobs we can reach from the roadside.

12/2/20 Hulcott. Jerry emailed chap to ask if possible to access site across fields to install a gate on The Pigtle. He said no, submitting a very convincing photo of a flooded field.



12/2/20 Chearsley CHR/10A/1. Jerry asked what the status was of the two stile to gate jobs close to the road at points 1 & 3 were – see 13/2/20 for map. Emailed Anthony Adams of Chearsley to ask the question. Tel con to confirm need for work. Anthony following up with farmer John Lloyd.



12/2/20 Weedon. Acknowledged receipt of two CAMS. Forwarded them on to Wendy Kett and Joanna Rose.

13/2/20 Weedon. Emailed WVS to say a steel KG wouldn't look out of place beside the steel 7 bar field gate. Jerry and I suggested they get the steel field gate changed for timber if they want a timber KG. They said they're already working on that.

13/2/20 Bierton. John Chantler emailed photos of the stile he wants fixing.

13/2/20 Chearsley CHR/10A/1. Recce to stiles 1 and 3 on the map. 1 man hour. 8 miles.

15/2/20 Chearsley. Chased Anthony Adams re getting permissions from farmer John Lloyd. He said he still hasn't made contact – will try again Monday.

15/2/20 Ford. Followed up with email to Jon Horn re reported problem stile - see 8/1/20. He replied he'd ask the person who reported it if it's been sorted or not.

17/2/20 Padbury. Emailed Pam Molloy, Clerk to PC, to ask if anything to report following the PC meeting on 11/2/20.

17/2/20 Team. Emailed team to say no work arranged for next two weeks due to none on the side of the road available. Field access impossible due to flooding and waterlogged fields.

18/2/20 Oakley PC DOGGOF. Received £375. See 14/1/20.

18/2/20 Oakley PC DOGGOF plaque design. Emailed Paul Kilpin Re design. He responded not too bothered.

19/2/20 Shabbington Query from Jon Clark Re a Marlow needed by a resident. Emailed her with DaG cost @ £250.

20/2/20 Bishopstone. Email from Mark Turner, PC Chairman explaining farmer Roger Goodchild's response to S2G suggestions which included the comment that people could hurt themselves exiting out onto a road through a gate.

20/2/20 Bishopstone SBH/16/2 CAMS 91385 at SP809098. Requested and received CAMS same day. Asked Mark Turner to confirm with Roger Goodchild what sort of gate required and that we would do it on Weds 27/2/20. Jerry organised work party for Wednesday 27/2/20. 12 miles. 1 man hour.

20/2/20 Impact Signs. Picked up 2 plaques for Kendrick & Great Horwood and proper business cards. 15 miles. 1 man hour.

21/2/20 CRFC. Collected KG hoops and 4 posts. BJ. 2man hours. 10 miles. Jerry 10 miles.

22/2/20 Bishopstone. See 20/2/20. Mark Turner, farmer, made contact with Jerry to say Roger Goodchild still hadn't actually agreed to us doing the work at SP809098 but would make up his mind shortly. Very frustrating to say the least and time consuming.

23/2/20 Chearsley. See 15/2/20. Contact and tel con with Anthony Adams. Anthony has met with John Lloyd, farmer, who wants KGs but still hasn't actually agreed to converting his stiles to KGs. Frustrating to say the least. Anthony is also concurrently working on permissions for other S2Gs in Chearsley.

200th gate installed in North Bucks

On 5 November, North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure and Exercise) group reached a significant landmark when they installed their 200th gate, although they estimate there are probably another 2,000 stiles in the area needing similar treatment -

so there is no fear of running out of work any time soon!

The group was set up in 2015 by Bill Piers of Haddenham who had become frustrated by the many old and poorly maintained stiles he had to negotiate when out walking with his wife Janet and dog Mollic. This led to him forming the group, a team of like-minded volunteers

who every week replace one or two damaged stiles with robust galvanised steel gates. The replacement gates are self-closing and supported by treated redwood posts guaranteed for at least 15 years.

The work is often commissioned by Bucks County Council or local parish councils and supported by the relevant landowner. More recently the 'Donate a Gate' scheme has been introduced to give individuals and organisations the opportunity to have a gate dedicated to a specific person or cause.

If you are attracted to the idea of donating a gate or learning more about the work of the group, or indeed reporting a stile in North Bucks you feel might be in need of replacement, full details are available at www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.

Charles Boon

(See also *Stuck in the mud* on page 4).



One less stile to cross: The installation team with their 200th gate which was donated by Stone, Haddenham & Dinton's Simply Walk group.

Photo: Bill Piers

News from Bucks, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex

Stuck in the mud

We installed two kissing gates (our 204th and 205th) in Ford, south west of Aylesbury, donated by the parish council, on 10 December 2019. Our team of eight was joined by Michael Hopkins, Central Office Delivery Officer, to experience a day with a Ramblers volunteer group.

It turned to be one of our more challenging ventures. It was very wet and muddy underfoot and rained pretty much the whole time. Although I'd carried out our usual advance check for access for the Land Rover and trailer I'd misunderstood from the landowner the route, ie not across her lawn, and had to drive through

a narrow field section bordered by a post and rail fence beside the drive to the property, and a hedge. Unfortunately, this narrow area had been pretty much trashed by a couple of horses and so we unloaded the trailer of the gates, posts, buckets of tamping stones, water bottles and most of the tools. We then managed to drive through this section and reload on firm ground.

Surprisingly the trailer on the outward journey can still be pretty heavily loaded with all the tools plus we take away the 'arisings', the timber from the old stiles. To get back out of the field I decided to take a 'run at speed' to get through the muddy section. Big mistake. Unfortunately, the 'rig', the Land

Rover and trailer, started slipping and sliding and heading rapidly towards the post and rail fence, which would have been very costly, and embarrassing, to repair to say the least. Having come to an unplanned halt in the muddiest area we were well stuck and had to unload the trailer contents over the fence, unhitch it, move the Landy on its own and tow the empty trailer out by hand, before reloading it yet again.

Thank goodness the Dinton Hermit pub in Ford has just reopened where we regaled Michael with stories over a pint, stories that before today's adventures he might have found hard to believe!

Bill Piers

North Bucks rRIPPLE



Assessing the situation before unloading the trailer.

Photo: Bill Piers



The bedraggled team ready for the pub after getting stuck in the mud. L - R Michael Hopkins, Ramblers Delivery Officer. Joe Fontoura, Charles Boon, Allen Fairbrother, Andrew Hearsey, Derek Holland, John Chantler and Keith Wheeler-Cherry. Photo: Bill Piers

NB rRIPPLE Summary:

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 Steps	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
Totals	3B/5G/1 Steps	13	17	91	52	18	49	10

*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 steel Woodstock gate.)

Total number of gates installed = 210 of which 101 have been DaGs.

Signed:

William (Bill) Piers

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

williamjsbpiers@gmail.com Mobile 07799 110128

Many thanks to the team of nine, myself, Allen, Andrew, Charles, Derek, Jerry, Joe, Keith 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 OPAG etc etc. John Chantler is our man in Berton who also comes along occasionally. We estimate that for every man hour of work carried on outdoors an hour is spent on admin, preparation, tools maintenance etc etc.

For current opportunities for sponsoring a DaG and our work in progress see our web page www.Bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate



26/11/19 Padbury
PAD/1/2 at SP718308.
(202)



Making use of our Gazebo in Padbury.



3/12/19 Great Horwood
GHO/2/1 at SP762301.
Great Horwood PC
DOGGOF DaG. (203)



10/12/19 Ford DFU/53/3
at SP781094. Dinton
with Ford & Upton (DFU)
Parish Council BOGGOF
DaG. (204)



10/12/19 Ford DFU/53/3
at SP781093. Dinton
with Ford & Upton (DFU)
Parish Council BOGGOF
DaG. (205)



10/12/19: Michael Hopkins, Ramblers Delivery
Officer, far left, got stuck in for a very wet day out
with L-R Joe, Charles, Allen, Andrew, Derek, John
Chantler and Keith. Photo Bill. Largest ever team.



10/12/19: We had to unload the trailer to get it out of
the mud after stopping here on the way out. The
Landy started heading dangerously close to the
fence on the right due to the slippery nature of the
field entrance/exit. We should never have tried to
pull such a heavily laden trailer through here.



10/12/19 Ford DFU/53/3
CAMS 90896 at
SP781094 NOT
COMPLETED. Gate 205
in the foreground. Hand
post added to stile.



7/1/20 Ford DFU/41/1 at
SP779092. Eric & Lucy
DaG. (206)



14/1/20 Hulcott HUL/7/1
at SP850163. Griffin
Trust/Hulcott PC DaG.
(207)



22/1/20 Weedon
WEE/11/1 at SP815183.
(208)



4/2/20 Weedon WEE/9/2
at SP815182. DaG In
Memory of Ed and
Margaret Kendrick. (209)



11/2/20 Bishopstone
SBH/18/2 at SP804106.
Aylesbury Ramblers
DaG In Memory of Mike
Roe. (210)

28/1/20 RIPPLE Lunch at Black Horse Thame.



(N.B.: Allen & Anne and Derek & Daphne attended separately on 10/2/20)