

North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)
Activity Report – 26 November 2020 – 9 June 2021

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 authorised by Alastair McVail, BC North Bucks PRow Officer, or Jon Clark, BC 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. BOGGOFF = Buy One Gate Get One For Free.

“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 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 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.

3/12/20 Hulcott HUL/3/1 CAMS 93495 at SP851170 Griffin Trust BOGGOFF DaG. Dismantled 4-rail, 2-step, 1 hand post, sheep netted stile. Installed Marlow PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Made good fencing in form of sheep netting and barbed wire to both sides. 4 x 5 = 20 man hours. BJJJ 22 miles, Jerry 22, Joe 10.

3/12/20 Hulcott HUL/3/1 CAMS 93496 at SP851170 Dismantled 4-rail, 1-step, 1 hand post, isolated and redundant stile. Left gap and way marked route through copse. 4 x 0.5 = 2 man hours. BJJJ. Alerted Buckinghamshire Council to poor condition of timber bridge across ditch. Jerry & landowner Nick Green in discussion wrt NB rRIPPLE replacing timbers to make it safe.

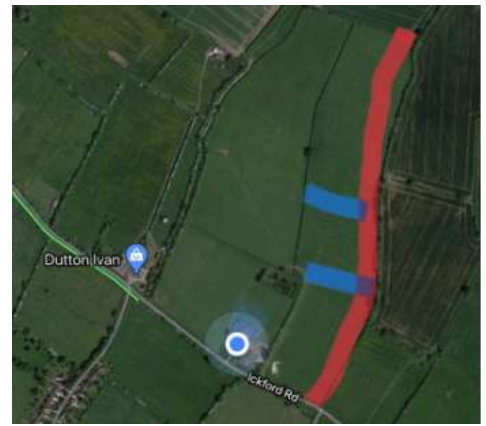
3/12/20 Impact Signs. Collected two DaG plaques for Michael Hughes and Two residents of Great Horwood. 1 man hour. 15 miles.

4/12/20 CRFC. Collected stones and gates. BJ. Serviced/oiled stiff rear opening flap on trailer, loaded trailer ready for Ickford job on 8/12/20, Applied Postsaver sleeves to 3 posts. 4 man hours in total. 10 miles. Jerry 10 miles.

5/12/20 Great Horwood GHO/5/1 at SP761319. Jerry fixed plaque and way markers to gate installed on 4/10/20 and way marker to gate at Singleborough Lane end of GHO/5/2. Also surveyed stile at SP752324, the Pilch Lane end of GHO/5/1, which is sound, but a kissing gate would ensure the route is completely stile-free. Jerry 40 miles. 3 man hours.



15/12/20 Ickford ICK/15/2 CAMS 93150 at SP655074. Unable to install gate due to flooding – see photo below. Sat and had coffee and a chat in the field and brought forward a pre-planned lunch at The Fishermans, Shabbington to noon. ABDJerryP. 25 Miles, Allen 26, Peter 10, Jerry 25.



20/1/21 Ickford. Email from Julia Castle saying she has the need to install 2 gates on her land, see marked up aerial shot above, and is looking for advice.

20/1/21 Dinton with Ford & Upton. Westlington – received two CAMS from Jon Clark, following input from Dinton Footpath Action Group, and an on-site meeting between Jon Clark and Andrew Wild.

11/2/21 NB rRIPPLE - Dinton DFU/3/1 at SP765115 - Request for CAMS for DaG. Received 23/2/21.

31/3/21 Dinton Castle DFU/3/1 CAMS 94248 at SP765115. Met Mark Nicholson on site to discuss grubbing up large tree root. Messaged James Gibson to clear what was planned. 1 man hour.

11/2/21 Dinton fitted three way markers in Westlington.

12/2/21 Ickford called Julia Castle re email sent 5/2/21.

16/2/21 Ford DFU/39/2 SP776042 Recce of timber gate in Bridge Farm that is somewhat dilapidated. 1 man hour. 10 miles.

17/2/21 Starveall Farm. DFU/3/1 Got agreement from Mike Lambert to go ahead with getting CAMS for the series of stiles.

19/2/21 Ford bridleway DFU/39/2 - Replace dilapidated timber gate at SP775097 - requested CAMS - received 23/2/21

23/2/21 Ickford. Received email from Julia Castle. She mentioned another awkward stile her mother can't negotiate on SHB/11/1 op at SP659073. Asked her if she knows the landowner.

24/2/21 Ramblers Walk magazine walks editor, Roger Butler, called to request info on a walk he could write up that had benefitted from a number of our gate installations.

25/2/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 Met with Anthony Hawes of Fennemore Farm. Recce of the path. Anthony agreed to replacing a dilapidated timber PG with a Marlow PG and two stiles with KGs.

1/3/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 Email with photos to Alastair McVail.

1/3/21 CRFC BC delivered one-way bridleway gate for Ford.

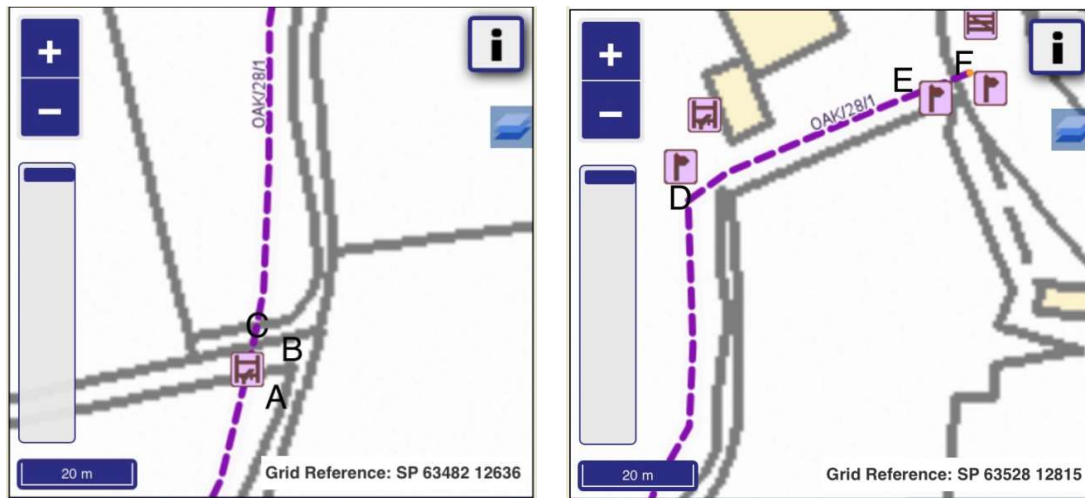
2/3/21 CRFC. Visited to check on bridleway gate. 10 miles. 1 man hour.

2/3/21 Bierton BWB/5/1 CAMS 93712 at SP836147. Rose rang to say the originally proposed Woodstock KG has been upgraded to a RADAR KG.

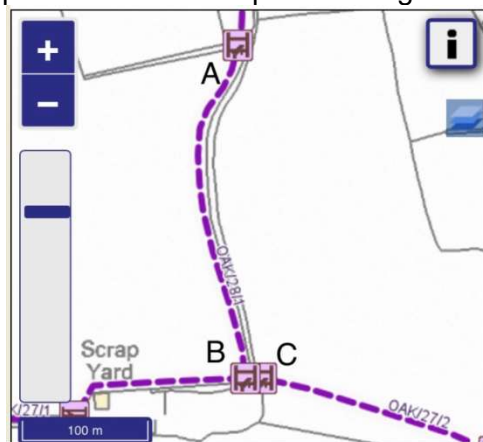
3/3/21 Dinton DFU/21/1 CAMS 94036 at SP763103 Mike Trotman DaG. Sent Pam Trotman's plaque design proof from Impact Signs to Mike Trotman for approval.

3/3/21 Stratford gate frame recovered from Oakley. Nick Witney reported that he has now straightened the damaged "H" frame. Collected from Chearsley. – two beers - £5. 1 man hour. 10 miles.

4/3/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 Received go-ahead email from Alastair McVail. Requested from Rose four CAMSs at points "CDEF" on the maps. Also got contact details for Mrs Billie Johnson of Addingrove Farm for stile at "A".



5/3/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 Tel con with Trevor Johnson of Pasture Farm, Boarstall and got permission for two kissing gates at Points A & B on map below. Tel con with Julian Hawes of Meads Farm, Oakley and got permission for one pedestrian gate at Point C. Requested three CAMSs from Rose.



26/3/21 Dinton Castle DFU/3/1 CAMS 94248 at SP765115. Contractor employed to remove massive ancient tree stump.

28/3/21 Gawcott. Email contact from Chris Armitage, who lives in Gawcott, saying he'd like to join in our activities and help out.

29/3/21 Briants of Risborough. Purchased twenty 1.8 m x 100 x 100 and one 2.4 m x 175 x 175 gate post for Westlington. Delivered Stratford gate from Haddenham to CRFC and then new posts to CRFC. 2 man hours. 25 miles,

31/3/21 Dinton Castle DFU/3/1 CAMS 94248 at SP765115 Beatie's Gate 1935-2019 DaG. Site cleared by stump grinding contractor on 26/3/21. However tree root left behind that needed to be removed by extensive use of the 2-stroke jackhammer – see photos at back. Installed Marlow gate to NB rRIPPLE standard. Made good fencing to both sides of gate, three rails one side, four to the other side, using recycled rails, Fitted plaque. 4 x 5 = 20 man hours. BKP Jerry. Retired to Bill's garden for bottle of beer. 20 miles – 3 return trips. Peter 17. Returned to fit new latch for field gate. K & Jerry took opportunity to recce DFU/3/1 CAMS 94437 at SP763118; unable to reach CAMS 94438 at SP764121 due to waterlogged field.

6/4/21 Bierton with Broughton BWB/4/3 CAMS 93713 at SP840158 Griffin Trust DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile. Detached barbed wire and sheep netting to both sides. Installed Marlow PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Made good fencing to both sides. DaG plaque to be fitted when available – on order, 5 x 6 = 30 man hours. BDJJJ. 20 miles, Derek 20, Joe 10.

6/4/21 Bierton with Broughton BWB/4/3 CAMS 93713 at SP840158 Griffin Trust DaG. Recce to assess access.

6/4/21 Bierton with Broughton BWB/5/1 CAMS 93712 at SP836147 Griffin Trust DaG. Recce by BJohn Jerry to assess access for the RADAR KG that Jon Clark has requested here.

6/4/21 Bierton with Broughton BWB/4/3 (Awaiting CAMS) at SP840158 Griffin Trust DaG. Emailed Alastair re outstanding request for a CAMS for a S2G at stile

7/4/21 Cost of Gates. Joanne Taylor reported back that the Secure-a-Field gates are considerably more expensive than the Centrewire ones. PG £232.70 v £161.87, KG £448.13 v £309.87.

8/4/21 Oakley. Paul Kilpin emailed to say Parish Council had agreed to a £250 DaG grant for a S2G on FP28. John Esslemont issued PC Clerk an invoice.

8/4/21 Stewkley. Gill Bunker of the Beds Bucks Northants Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association said at their AGM it was agreed that a donation of £250 be made for a gate in the Swanbourne/Mursley/Stewkley area. We responded to say we had a couple of outstanding jobs in Stewkley that would be suitable. Explained that the LDWA logo and their web site could be incorporated on their plaque.

13/4/21 Bierton with Broughton BWB/4/4 CAMS 93714 at SP842160 Griffin Trust DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile. Detached barbed wire and hurdle. Installed Marlow PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Reinstated fencing and hurdle. DaG plaque to be fitted when available – on order. 5 x 6 = 30 man hours. AJJJJ. 20 miles, Allen 10, Joe 10, Bill 10 returning Allen to Aston Clinton.

15/4/21 Dinton Castle to Eythrope gating. Emailed Mike Lambert to ask if ground conditions had firmed up sufficiently to get his loader to fill the two “ponds” on DFU/2/1 near Eythrope.

15/4/21 Stewkley. Finalised negotiations, £375 and plaque design, with Gill Bunker of Beds Bucks and Northants Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association for their DaG kissing gate at Stewkley.

19/4/21 Oakley, OAK/28/1: emailed Trevor Johnson to ask if the ground had dried up sufficiently for him to be able to drop off some hardcore in the two boggy corners of his field - Points A & B on map see 5/3/21.

20/4/21 Hulcott HUL/5/2 CAMS 90965 at SP857168. Griffin Trust DaG. Dismantled dilapidated 4-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile. Installed Secure-a-Field Charnwood pedestrian gate to NB rRIPPLE standards. Laid electric fence blue pipe bypass. 5 x 6 = 30 man hours BJJJJ 25 miles. Joe 10.

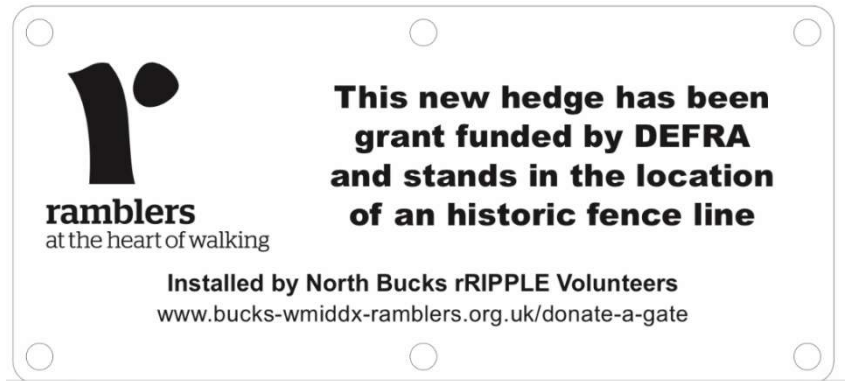
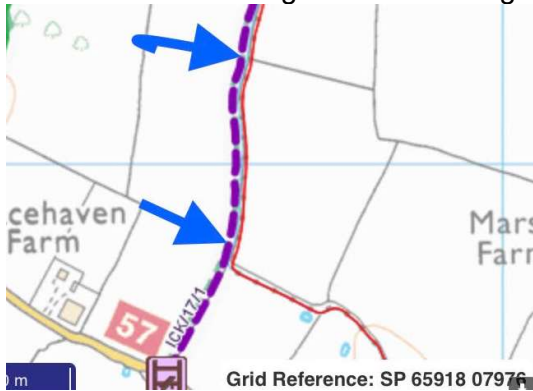
22/4/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 Requested two CAMSs from Rose for Julia Castle of Oak Tree Farm.

27/4/21 Ickford ICK/15/2 CAMS 93150 at SP655074. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, no hand post stile alongside steel field gate. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fixed gate to field gate post, a vertical timber rail sleeper. Cleared large mound of soil – see photo below - to improve access and trimmed back encroaching hawthorn. Removed hawthorn roots as necessary to fit KG hoops. 5 x 6 = 30 man hours. BJerryJoeKP. 15 miles. Joe 15. Peter 15.



5/5/21 Dinton with Ford & Upton DFU/3/1 CAMS 94437 at SP763118. Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG – see photo of plaque above. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile on steep slope. Graded ground and installed 1.2m Marlow gate to NB rRIPPLE standard. Reinstated 3-rail fencing on both sides, replaced strain-er post and barbed wire. $4 \times 6.5 = 26$ man hours. Jerry, Joe, DK. Joe 15, Derek 8, 25 miles including to CRFC on return journey to unload arisings and load gates, stones and posts.

9/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 at SP656078 and 656081. Two Julia Castle, Oak Tree Farm, DaGs. Requested two CAMSs from Rose. Agreed the wording on plaques as shown below:



11/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 CAMS 94671 at SP654076. Michael Hughes (of Brill) DaG. Dismantled 4-rail, 2-step, no hand post, sheep netted stile. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard less any Fence-mate – used copious quantity of rubble. $5 \times 6 = 30$ man hours. ABPJoeJerry. Bill on light duties following his TIA on 29/4/21. 20 miles, Joe 15, Allen 26. Had problems with poor quality eyebolt with nut slipping on poorly formed thread on neck of bolt.

11/5/21 Ickford. Met with Peter Jordain, Ickford PC and Rambler. He provided a map indicating 6 potential DaG S2Gs.



18/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 CAMS 94671 at SP654076. Dismantled 2-rail, 2-step, 1 hand post, sheep netted stile. Removed adjacent normally locked-closed timber "hunt gate". Installed Marlow PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Made use of one existing gate post. Made good fencing and sheep netting. Returned timber gate c/w all fittings to landowner. 5 x 6 = 30 man hours. BDJKP 25 miles. Peter 18.

18/5/21 Ickford. Recce of gates 1 and 3 on map above.

25/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 CAMS 94782 at SP655078. Julia Castle, of Oak Tree Farm, DaG. Replaced tied up hurdles in line of proposed new hedge with Marlow PG installed to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fitted DaG plaque with the following inscription: "This new hedge has been grant funded by DEFRA and stands in the location of an historic fence line". 3 x 6 = 18 man hours. AJJoe Joe 35 miles, Allen 40.

25/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 CAMS 94784 at SP655081. Julia Castle, of Oak Tree Farm, DaG. Replaced tied up hurdles in line of proposed new hedge with Marlow PG installed to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fitted DaG plaque with same DEFRA inscription. 3 x 6 = 18 man hours. BK & Michael Ayers on his first trip out with us. 25 miles.

1/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 CAMS 94394 at SP634128. Dismantled 3-rail (formally 4-rail), 2-step (1 broken), 1 hand post stile. Installed our first Secure-a-Field kissing gate to NB rRIPPLE standard. Trimmed back large amount of brambles, undergrowth and hanging tree branches. 4 x 6 = 24 man hours. BJoePMichael. 26 miles, Peter 18, Joe 15.

1/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 at SP635128. Rehung timber self-closing gate beside road. Firmly fixed timber gate post to "I beam" gate post.

1/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 at SP636130. Travelled with landowner Anthony Hawes to recce Marlow PG that he wants changed into a Woodstock KG by adding two hoops. This is so he can use the field for grazing sheep. Asked Alastair McVail of Buckinghamshire Council for a CAMS but he responded that that was not allowed. Checked with The Ramblers and they too said a KG restricts access for the public and so not allowed. Will follow this up as this means a farmer can't convert an arable field to a stock proof one.

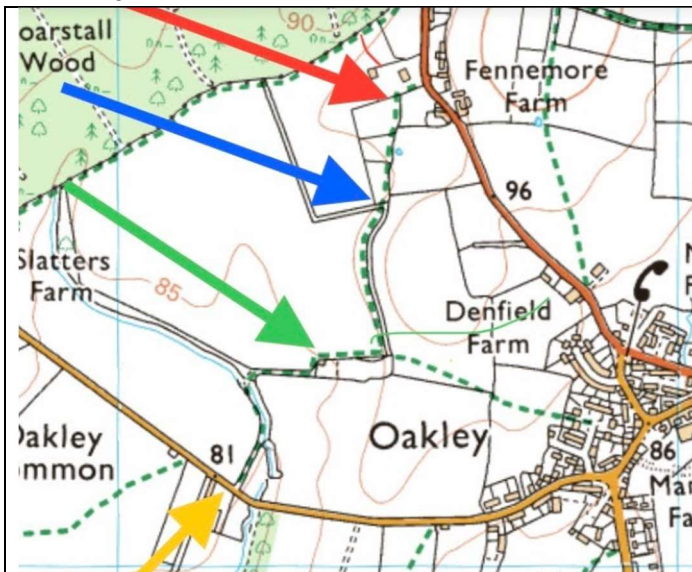
4/6/21 CRFC. Loaded 16 buckets of stones and 7 posts onto trailer. BJ. 2 man hours. 10 miles, Jerry 10 miles.

4/6/21 Dinton with Ford & Upton DFU/21/1 at SP763103 – Westlington DFU/21/1. Mike Trotman DaG. Extracted some of the remains of 200 x 200 oak five-bar gate post and prepared site for installation of new 175 x 175 post. 5 man hours. BJoe. 10 miles. Joe 15 miles.

5/6/21 As above continued. Eventually extracted base of rotted 200x200 oak post, the top surface of which was about 700 below ground level, using Connect Scaffolding tripod and a 4-pulley mini block & tackle provided by Joe. Installed new 175 x 175 post using large quantity of stones in 1 m deep hole. Rehung five bar gate. 9 man hours. BJoe plus Jerry for 1 hour. 20 miles. Joe 15. Jerry 10. Video of lift on YouTube.



6/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 CAMS 94395 at SP634126. Recce by Peter to check access into field. 1 man hour. 16 miles.



Red arrow where we were last week – 1/6/21

Blue arrow where we are this week – 8/6/21

Green arrow gate access into field

Yellow arrow access off road to breakers yard.

6/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 CAMS 94395 at SP634126. Oakley PC DaG. Dismantled 4-rail, 1-step, 1-hand post high and awkward stile. Installed Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard but without the use of Fencemate on hoop feet as hoops away from cattle. Cleared path to next stile other side of wide hedge with strimmer and hedge cutter. Fitted Oakley PC DaG plaque. 5 x 6 = 30 man hours. BJoeJerryKP. 27 miles. Peter 16, Joe 15.

6/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 CAMS 94395 at SP634126. Return trip to The Clifden Arms to pick up folder left at pub after drink. Jerry 1 man hour. 20 miles.

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
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	1	0	0	1	9	2	2	0
Totals	3B/6G/1 Steps	13	17	97	70	20	55	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 galvanised steel Woodstock gate.)

Total number of gates installed = 242 of which 125 have been DaGs.

Signed:

William (Bill) Piers

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

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Many thanks to the team of ten, myself, Allen, Andrew, Charles, Derek, Jerry, Joe, John, Keith, Michael 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 Bierton who is a trustee of the Griffin Trust and is the primary mover for improvements in Bierton and Hulcott. 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



3/12/20 Hulcott
HUL/3/1 at SP851170
Griffin Trust BOGOFF
DaG. John Chantler,
pictured, is a Berton
resident and trustee of
the Griffin Trust. (229)



3/12/20 Hulcott HUL/3/1
CAMS 93496 at
SP851170. Stile to Gap.
Poor state of bridge re-
ported to Buckingham-
shire Council.



18/3/21 Ford DFU/39/2
CAMS 94206 at
SP775097. Emergency
replacement of bridle
gate for farmer John
Tapping. Not an official
NB rRIPPLE job due to
Covid lockdown. Help
given to farmer due to
lambs escaping. (230)



26/3/21 Dinton Castle
CAMS 94248 at
SP765115. Contractor
employed to remove
massive ancient tree
stump.



31/3/21 Dinton Castle
DFU/3/1 at SP765115
Beatie's Gate 1935-2019
DaG. (231)



Jack hammer needed to
remove buried root at
Gate 231



6/4/21 Berton with
Broughton BWB/4/3 at
SP840158 Griffin Trust
DaG. (232)



Pubs still closed so
sampling XT & Animal
ales al fresco. (232)



13/4/21 Bierton with Broughton BWB/4/4 at SP842160 Griffin Trust DaG. (233)



20/4/21 Hulcott HUL/5/2 at SP857168. Griffin Trust DaG. (234)



27/4/21 Ickford ICK/15/2 at SP655074. (235)



1/5/21 Dinton with Ford & Upton DFU/3/1 at SP763118. Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. (236)



11/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 at SP654076. Michael Hughes (of Brill) DaG. (237)



18/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 at SP654076. (238)



25/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 at SP655078. Julia Castle DEFRA DaG. (239)



25/5/21 Ickford ICK/17/1 at SP655081. Julia Castle DEFRA DaG (240)



1/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 at SP636130 (241)



6/6/21 Oakley OAK/28/1 at SP634126. Oakley PC DaG. (242)