

North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)
Activity Report – 1 June 2024 – 31 August 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 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.

4/6/24 Thame & Wheatley Ramblers S2KG DaG. Gate 346 at SP728066 just in Oxfordshire. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile. Installed Secure-a-Field KG to NB rRIPPLE standard except that no Remix/Postcrete was used on the hoop feet. Very heavy going. Had to use the jack hammer extensively. Former coaching road. 4x7=28 man hours. BPMMikeT. 16 miles. Peter 16.

7/6/24 Bierton BEB/3/3 at SP826167. Received CAMS a02030 for S2G.

8/6/24 Hogshaw Gate 345. Returned timber gate to Tom Morrison. 1 man hour. B. 26 miles.

8/6/4 Mentmore Gate 347 at SP903203. Recce for access. 1 man hour. B. 20 miles.

(13/6/24 Bill to SMH A&E with urine retention.)

14/6/24 Ludgershall. Rosemary Harris called to ask which paths are official paths. We sent a clip of the definitive map and the web page address.

17/6/24 Cuddington. Andrew Hughes emailed wrt when we’ll resume work and provided details of two additional S2 KGs towards landowner permissions have been obtained.

25/6/24 Web Page: Called David Gibson, webmaster, to ask if he’d had any luck wrt uploading higher resolution activity reports. He said still investigating but was on holiday in Scotland.

27/6/24 Long Crendon LCR/4296 at SP714090 D Loop repair - request for CAMS. 2 man hours. B. 12 miles. Received CAMS a02148.

(8/7/24 Bill to urology at Wycombe Hospital for TWOC – trial without catheter.)

11/7/24 Mentmore Gate 347 MEN/38718 on MEN/3/1 at SP903203 CAMS 99071 Mentmore PC and Ascott Estate DaG. Met with Liz Hough on site. Dismantled rotten and overgrown 4-rail, 2-wobbly steps, 1 hand post stile. Cleared vast amount of blackberry brambles overgrowth to make room for corral on far side of fence away from the horses. Installed KG to NB rRIPPLE standard

except that no Postfix used as no animals will be in vicinity of corral. Made good fencing to both sides. 4x7=28 man hours. BJohnMikeKPhil. 35 miles.

(12/7/24 Bill back in SMH A&E with severe urine retention.)

15/7/24 Briants of Risborough. Purchased two "D" latches for timber gate installations. Also 1.8 m length of Arris rail for timber KG corrals. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

16/7/24 Lower Winchendon Gate 348: Met with Angie Birks, grazier, to discuss arrangement of timber KG corral. She insisted that we maintain a "flat" face along the fence line which was agreed to. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

17/7/24 Lower Winchendon Gate 348 LNW/2645 on LNW/10B/2 CAMS a00310 at SP737120 Cuddington PC DaG. Dismantled dilapidated 2-rail, 1-step, 1-hand post stile. Installed 0.9 m timber kissing gate arranged for self-closing and self-latching along line of fence and immediately adjacent field gate. Met on site with very appreciative locals, Angie Birks, grazier, and Andrew Hughes, parish councillor. 5x7=35 man hours. BPeterPhilJerry and Richard Marshall. 20 miles (2 cars); Peter 12.

21/7/24: Cuddington PC DaG S2Timber KG CUD/2449 on CUD/1/1 CAMS a00302 at SP737117. Recce to check for tree roots and overgrowth. 1 man hour. B. 5 miles.

22/7/24 Cuddington. Recce wrt access into field at Holymans. Combination padlock now a keyed padlock. 1 man hour. B. 5 miles.

22/7/24 Cuddington. Contacted Lizzie Goodman at Savills, Oxford to ask about access through the field at Holymans.

22/7/24 Wingrave. Email enquiry from Jan Warmesley about whether we could install some steps on a slippery slope. Advice given.

23/7/24 Bierton Gate 349 CAMS a00954 BWB/5484 at SP823168 Five Elms Weedon DaG. John Chantler met with farmer Adam Lear at 09:00 to recce a safe route for us to travel to site. Cut electric fence. Dismantled step-over/step-through end-of-footbridge construction. Lopped willow tree and made space for KG hoops. Installed Secure-a-Field KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Fitted blue underground tube c/w length of electric fencing continuity wire. Farmer, Adam Lear, reconnected electric fence after we'd left site. 5x7=35 man hours. BDKPhilMikeK. 25 miles. Unfortunately Phil had accident and broke his hand. Accident report submitted to Ramblers HQ.

20/5/24 Haddenham HAD/5/1 CAMS a01767 at SP751098 surface improvements. Tel con with Ian Parkinson, tenant. He is busy with harvest but will lay some road plannings just through the KG and around to the right to higher ground. He may also drop some into the dip in the middle of the next KG over the field.

31/7/24 Cuddington Gate 350. CUD/2449 at SP737117 CAMS a00302 Cuddington PC DaG. Very long and hot day - 30°C. Dismantled two dilapidated stiles and replaced them with a single 1.2 m timber KG with square timber corral. Josh brought his hand auger and it proved to be very effective and efficient. Quite surprised but then he's a strong lad. Removed vast quantity of bramble and hedging to make space for the corral. Made good fencing both sides. Doug Kennedy, photographer resident in Cuddington and part of the PC's footpaths group took photos throughout the day for Ramblers Media Team and lent a hand as well. 6x7=42 man hours. BPJerryDougJosh and Fabien Frontier. 15 miles; Peter 16; Josh 18.

2/8/24 CRFC. Collected eleven buckets of stones, a PG and a KG. 3 man hours. B, Mike Darnell and Steve Hemmings. 10 miles. Retired to The Rising Sun, Haddenham.

5/8/24 Briants of Risborough: Bought two different lengths of fuel tank pipe for jack hammer and split pins for timber kissing gates. To Aylesbury to try and get clutch anti-vandal screws for fitting plaques onto timber gates. Tried CH Morgan, also for 24 mm field gate eye bolts, then tried Impact Signs. To Toolstation to exchange green bungees for blue ones. Recce of access to SBH/31919 CAMS 99469 at SP800128 Coldharbour Sports Pavilion, HP19 8WA. 2 man hours. B. 26 miles.

5/8/24 Cuddington Gate 350. Email from Adrian Beals asking us to confirm we'd disposed of all the arisings from the job. Responded we'd removed timber but not brambles which was not strictly correct. Returned to site 14/8/24 to tidy up properly.

7/8/24 Weston Turville Gate 351 WTU/849 on WTU/21/2 at SP852102 CAMS a00958 Weston Turville Parish Council DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step stile attached (nailed) to timber footbridge. Installed KG to NB rRIPPLE standard within the field boundary. Refitted fallen off handrail to one side of the footbridge. The opposite handrail needs replacing as it's rotten. Made good both sides to be lamb proof. 3x8=24 man hours. BMMikeKJerryJosh and John Hawley, Josh's stepdad. 32 miles, Josh 20 miles as he went off to Aylesbury to get a bag of Postfix.

7/8/24 Weston Turville Gate 352 WTU/848 on WTU/21/2 at SP852102 CAMS a00957 Weston Turville Parish Council DaG. Dismantled 5-rail, 2-step stile, no hand post stile. Installed PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Made good fencing on both sides. 3x8=24 man hours. BMMikeKJerryJosh and John Hawley who is a member both of Aylesbury Ramblers and Chiltern Weekend Walkers.

14/8/24 Cuddington Gate 350. CUD/2449 at SP737117 CAMS a00302 Cuddington PC DaG. Returned to site to clear arisings that were left behind on 31/7/24 when we were all suffering from heat stroke due to the 30°C temperature. Chain sawed all timber arisings and hedge trimmed all bramble arisings. Loaded all arisings into trailer and removed from site. Added a third rail to corral to properly finish off the job. Very pleased with end result. 4x2=8 man hours. BPeterMikeTJohnH.



14/8/24 Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell CAMS 99469 at SP800128 on AYL/39/1. Dismantled broken down old style metal hinged stile to leave a gap. Removed metal components along with some timber. Left one firm post in place together with associated rails. Lopped and hedge trimmed over hanging branches along footpath as it heads NW from site. 4x1.5=6 man hours. BPeter-MikeTJohnH. John collected keys from Buckinghamshire Council Street Scene Operations, Neighbourhood Services. 20 miles; JohnH 20. Included going to Cuddington.

14/8/24 Haddenham: Bridge HAD/2412 on HAD/5/1 over stream CAMS a01766 at SP755100. Slippery slope down to stream on path from Haddenham to Dinton. Met with landowner Clive Brandon and carried out a recce of the site where surface improvement is needed. Agreed to return and carry out improvement works on Wednesday 28/8/24. 2 man hours. BMikeT.

18/8/24 Weston Turville. To Josh to service and repair fuel line on 2-stroke jack hammer. 2x2=4 man hours. BJosh. 20 miles.

19/8/24 Bierton Grendon Hill Farm field gates. To Westfield Fasteners, Long Crendon to purchase 24mm washers; to Kingswood to purchase Replacement recoil handle for jack hammer. 2 man hours. B. 20 miles.

22/8/24 Bierton Gate 353 on BWB/3/3 at SP826167 CAMS a02030 Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, no-steps, 1-hand post stile. Installed PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Hedge comprising blackberry brambles trimmed back very considerably. Made good both sides with 4-rails. 3x7=21 man hours. B Peter Mason & Julian Watson. 35 miles.

22/8/24 Bierton Farmer's field gate BWB/5488 on BWB/3/1 at SP824168. Cleared brambles away from closing post and latch; adjusted eye bolts so that latch entered hole in closing post; fitted "Please close the gate" signs on a piece of timber to show on both sides of gate.



24/8/24 Long Crendon Gate 354 LCR/4296 on LCR/7/3 at SP715090. Ramblers sponsored Bristol Gate at cost of £300 to replace farmer's field gate that would otherwise have been converted to a stile. Farmer installed it somewhat high at step-over end. Needs adjusting. 2 man hours. BJoe. 10 miles; Joe 16 – picked up plaque from Impact Signs.



26/8/24 Cuddington Gate 350. Returned to fit "350th Gate" plaque. 1 man hour. B. 5 miles.



28/8/24 HAD/4/1 at SP755100 CAMS a01766 Transported approx. 1 tonne of crushed limestone to site. Took gate off its hinges to allow easy passage along path. Cleared stream of logs and other detritus. Cleared gully down the side of path where the spring emanates from the field and drains into the stream to try to alleviate the perennial flooding of the adjacent footpath. Used petrol driven jack hammer to break up roots blocking gully. Cleared 10 m length of footpath of random rocks, bricks and stones to leave a relatively smooth pathway. Set logs, bricks and stones to form some sort of an edge for the laying down of two 5 m lengths of Ekotex Premiun Non Woven Geo-

textile. Spread out 1 tonne approx. of crushed limestone and compacted it using wacker-plate compactor brought to site in second vehicle. Replaced gate. 4x6=24 man hours. BDJosh & Dave Watkins. 5 miles.

(31/8/24 Bill underwent prostatectomy procedure – so there will be a break in our activities through most of September.)

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

Bierton: John Chantler getting landowner permissions for seven further Griffin Trust DaGs in 2024/5. CAMSs applied for by Jerry on 1/9/24.

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

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.

Cuddington: CUD/8/1 - See 17/6/24 re two in field towards allotments. Further follow up with Cuddington Footpath Team 2/9/24.

Great & Little Kimble 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.

Great & Little Kimble GLK/4219 on GLK/27/1. Request from Harry Leach as to whether we could carry out a S2G here. Responded that as far as we know the path is obstructed by the travellers' camp and that there are problems associated with the path.

Haddenham: Surface improvements on HAD/5/1 at SP751098 CAMS a012767 (sharp bend on Green Lane) to be sponsored by Dinton Beer Festival. Ian Parkinson, Tenant, committed to putting down road plannings at KG.

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/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.

Slapton with Horton & Ledbury. Frank Wakefield, PC Chair and Maggie Godsland, councillor with special interest in PRoW are pursuing several S2Gs within the three villages that form the parish – see 1/5/24 report above. They say there is little future prospect of an S2KG at Grove near Wing – landowner unwilling to co-operate. Previously: 22/9/23 Bridget Knight, clerk, has referred problem back to Buckinghamshire Council. Followed up with email re any developments on 21/2/23.

Slapton SLA/399 at SP941202 CAMS a01682 S2KG Slapton PC DaG. DaG plaque incorporating village's crest has been developed by Impact Signs for Bridget Knight, Clerk to PC.

Whitchurch: WHI/7508 Two x S2Gs CAMS 84294 at SP800205 either side of dilapidated bridge. Potentially John Russell DaGs. Agreed with Alastair that BC's work party will now replace both the bridge and the two S2Gs as one job, therefore off our list.

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 Mainshill Farm – Tel con and meeting at CRFC with Stephen Jones who is wary of KGs installed too high allowing lambs "to escape". Installed one new S2KG on 24/5/24 – see above and below.

Weston Turville: 25/6/24 email from Sarah Copley, Clerk to PC, confirming PC had agreed to two further S2Gs on WTU/24/4 and WTU/29/2. Jerry liaising with Sarah for access, landowner permissions, and gate types.

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 dilapidated. Landowner would be happy if we were to repair his stile but not replace any stiles with gates.

Whitchurch WHI/7508 on WHI/59/1 at SP800205 CAMS 84294. Replace two stiles either side of collapsed bridge with PGs. BC RoW team to replace bridge after we've replaced stiles. Potentially John Russell DaGs.

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 Dec 2023 – 29 Feb 2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
144 for period 1 Mar 2024-31 May 2024	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
243 for period 1 Jun 2024-31 Aug 2024	1G	0	0	1*	2	0	6	0
Totals	3B/10G/4	17	18	110	105	46	93	11

*Includes for three Bristol Combination Gates.

S2PG etc. = Stile converted to Pedestrian Gate. (Steel Marlow/Charnwood gate; occasionally timber gate.)

S2KG etc. = Stile converted to Kissing Gate. (Steel Woodstock/Berkswell gate; occasionally timber.)

Total number of gates installed = 354 of which 198 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, Peter and Phil, 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,



4/6/24 Thame & Wheatley Ramblers S2KG DaG at SP728066. (346)



11/7/24 Mentmore at SP903203 Mentmore PC and Ascott Estate DaG. (347)



17/7/24 Lower Winchendon at SP737120 Cuddington PC DaG. (348)



17/7/24 In The Crown afterwards with Kiki in Cuddington School uniform, Jerry, Richard and Phil.



23/7/24 Berton at SP823168 Five Elms Weedon DaG. (349)



31/7/24 Cuddington at SP737117 Cuddington PC DaG. (350)



Proud, but utterly exhausted. L-R Fabien, Josh, Peter, Bill & Jerry. Photographer for the day: Doug Kennedy, Doug@doug-kennedy.com



7/8/24 Weston Turville at SP852102 WTPC DaG. (351)



7/8/24 Weston Turville at SP852102 WTPC DaG. (352)



14/8/24 Return visit to Gate 350 to clear the arisings that we left behind on 31/7/24.



14/8/24 Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell at SP800128.



14/8/24 New recruit John with Dylan after clearing AYL/39/1.



22/8/24 Bierton at SP826167 Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. (353)



22/8/24 Bierton Farmer's field gate at SP824168.



29/8/24 Haddenham HAD/4/1 at SP755100 CAMS a01766 Surface improvements sponsored by Dinton Beer Festival.



24/8/24 Long Crendon at SP715090. Ramblers sponsored Bristol Gate (354)

