

North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)
Activity Report – 1 September 2024 – 30 November 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.

1/9/24 South East Walker: September 2024 Report on Gate 346 installed 4/6/24.



Bucks to Oxon route finally stile-free

On 18 June, a Haddenham U3A walk celebrated the removal in early June of the last stile on the walking route from Haddenham to Thame. Although about 100 metres inside Oxfordshire, the Buckinghamshire farmer finally agreed to the removal of a stile and the installation of a kissing gate near Keepers Cottage, Kingsey. The gate was generously sponsored by Thame & Wheatley Ramblers through the Donate-a-

Gate scheme operated by North Bucks rRIPPLE. This was our 346th gate installation, with our first and second gates being only about a mile away towards Haddenham.

Bill Piers

North Bucks rRIPPLE (Ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)

For details of the Donate-a-Gate scheme go to www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.html



Haddenham U3A Tuesday Walking Group celebrate with Bill Piers (in centre wearing white cap). Photo: Michael Ayers



The plaque on the new kissing gate funded by Thame & Wheatley Ramblers. Photo: Michael Ayers

11/9/24 Haddenham Surface Improvements. CAMS a01767 at SP751098 on HAD/5/1. Cut back brambles and hedge at kissing gate in preparation for the dumping of some road plannings to allow walkers to reach the slightly higher ground around to the right avoiding the muddy area when wet. Project funded by Dinton Beer Festival. (NB: Sleepers eventually laid instead of plannings.) 2 man hours. B.



11/9/24 Long Crendon. Gate 354 - Adjusted new Bristol gate at Notley Farm, LCR/4315 on LCR/9/3 at SP711088. This gate was funded by Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes & West Middlesex Ramblers Area after some debate due to a reluctant donor pulling out at the last minute. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.



19/9/24 Wingrave with Rowsham CAMS a00518 WIG/5125 on WIG/1/1 at SP857183. Visited site to assess situation where Gavin Caspersz is unable to use this RADAR gate. Job Sheet suggests that gate has been installed backwards. This is not the case. The problem is undergrowth and overgrowth impeding access to and through the gate. John Chantler cleared with loppers on 30 November 2024. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

8/10/24 Briants of Risborough. Purchased 20 No 1.8mx100x100 Redwood posts. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

8/10/24 Slapton. CAMS a01682 SLA/399 at SP941202. Made enquiries wrt landowner for S2KG at Church Farm Solar Park. Parish councillors checking this out.

11/10/24 CRFC. Collected buckets of large stones and a KG. 2 man hours. B & Robin Malduca. 10 miles.

14/10/24 Centrewire. Received by post two replacement latches for gates.

15/10/24 Oakley OAK/3103 at SP643125 on OAK/31/3. Requested CAMS (a02884) to replace missing gate latch.

17/10/24 Bierton Gate 355 CAMS a02629 BWB/5509 on BWB/3/8 at SP838165 S2G Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. Dismantled 4-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile. Hand post rotted off at ground level. Installed Secure-a-Field PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Used jack hammer to get through roots of two adjacent trees. Reattached five strands of barbed wire to south side post. 3x6=18 man hours. BDPhil. 20 miles; David 20.

25/10/24 CRFC. Took delivery, from BC Gawcott depot, of three 2450 mm wide Centrewire Marlow gates and five sets of Centrewire non-reversible hoops as well as a huge number of anti-slip treads for timber bridges as requested in December 2023. Sent email to Jon Clark expressing disappointment that Centrewire products had been delivered rather than the requested reversible Secure-a-Field products for which we have an immediate need in Bierton. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

26/10/24 Oakley OAK/3103 at SP643125 on OAK/31/3 CAMS a02884. Replaced missing gate latch. 1 man hour. B. 22 miles.

29/10/24 Bierton Gate 356 CAMS a02632 BWB/5544 on BWB/7B/1 at SP839155 Gap-to-PG. Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. Installed 1440 mm wide Centrewire Marlow PG in gap to NB rRIPPLE standard. Needed jack hammer on "Postcrete" around adjacent fence post. 4x6=24 man hours. BKPeterJohn. 30 miles.

29/10/24 Bierton CAMS a02632 BWB/5544 on BWB/7B/1 at SP839155. Dismantled dilapidated redundant stile leaving a gap approx. 80 m north of Gap-to-PG job. 2 man hours. B.

1/11/24 CRFC. Picked up a gate, hoops and numerous buckets of stones. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

5/11/24 Bierton Gate 357 CAMS a02633 BWB/5543 on BWB/7B/1 at SP839155. Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post, 1-dog latch stile. Installed 1440 mm wide Centrewire Woodstock KG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Rebuilt 3-rail fence to west side. 4x6=24 man hours. BKJerryPhil. (John "assisted" with access but suffering from strained back.)

6/11/24 Westcott. Recce for Haddenham U3A walk on 19/11/24 showed up a large number of problems - particularly overgrowth and undergrowth blocking a stile, a bridge and paths. Contacted BC and PC.

8/11/24 Westcott Received CAMS a02981 to clear brambles off footbridge WES/4680 at SP720170.

9/11/24 Westcott CAMS a02981. Cleared brambles off footbridge WES/4680 at SP720170. 3x1=3 man hours. BJerryPhil 20 miles

9/11/24 Westcott CAMS a02983. Cleared brambles and thick undergrowth off an approximately 50 m length of footpath WES/15/2 at SP720171. 3x1=3 man hours. BJerryPhil 20 miles

10/11/24 Westcott. Received thank you email from Mandy Ludlow, Clerk to Westcott PC.

26/11/24 Bierton Gate 358 CAMS a02477 BWB/5545 on BWB/7B/1 at SP840154. Dismantled 2-rail, 1-step, 1-barbed wire strand, 1-hand post, blocked by nettles stile. Strimmed nettles. Installed Secure-a-Field gate c/w Centrewire hoops to NB rRIPPLE standard less concrete on hoop feet as hoops deliberately positioned outside field so no risk of cattle pressure. Fence to west side rebuilt and John rebuilt farmer's demountable railed "gate" to east side. 6x6=36 man hours. BKJerryJohnMichaelPeter. 20 miles; Peter 26.

29/11/24 Haddenham Surface improvements on HAD/5/1 at SP751098 CAMS a012767 - at right angle bend on Green Lane. Tel con with tenant farmer Ian Parkinson. Ground still too soft for him

to get bucket loads of plannings dumped there. He agreed to us laying two pairs of old railway sleepers close in to the hedge from the KG to higher ground. These will be provided with anti-slip strips.

30/11/24 Slapton CAMS a01682 SLA/399 at SP941202 Church Farm Solar Park S2KG - Slapton PC DaG. Follow up email to Frank Wakefield, chair of parish council requesting an update from their 14/10/24 email saying they'd be in touch shortly.

30/11/24 Wingrave with Rowsham WIG/5125 at SP857183 CAMS a00588. Cleared overgrowth all around RADAR KG. 1x2=2 man hours. John. John 5 miles.

30/11/24 South East Walker article. Haddenham HAD/5/1 at SP755100 CAMS a01766 Surface improvements.

Chippings laid



The plaque on the gate. Photo: Bill Piers

Four members of North Bucks rRIPPLE (Ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure and Exercise) laid down around a tonne of limestone chippings on a 10m length of footpath on 28 July. The short sloping section of path that leads down to a bridge over a small stream is perennially flooded due to water emanating from a spring in the field. This is a very well-used path linking Haddenham to Dinton and, in particular, the Seven Stars community pub, where a beer festival is held annually to raise funds for village projects. Requests have been made by numerous walkers over a number of years as to whether anything could be done to drain the muddy, slippery and potentially dangerous approach to the bridge to make it safer and easier to negotiate. Funding for any such improvements was promised by Dinton Beer Festival.

The landowner dismissed an initial suggestion of a boardwalk as he didn't want a 'structure' up against the hedge. At a site visit it was agreed that limestone chippings would be appropriate and acceptable. On

the day, the wettest part of the slope was dug out to form an improved gully down to the stream to allow the spring water to by-pass the line of the path. The line of the path was cleared of bricks, stones and odd bits of timber that had been used as stepping stones over the years. These were recycled to form an edge to the path in an attempt to separate it from the newly cleared gully. With the line of path relatively smooth, a premium non-woven geotextile was laid down, onto which the chippings were laid. A wacker plate was then used to tamp down the chippings.

How long this surface will last only time will tell. However, so far we've had nothing but appreciative comments. A plaque acknowledging Dinton Beer Festival's contribution was fitted to the gate at the bridge.

Bill Piers

North Bucks rRIPPLE

For details of the group's Donate-a-Gate scheme for North Bucks go to www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.html



Job done! Left to right are Josh Hilbocus, Dave Watkins and Bill Piers. Photo: Gary Petersen



Great gates for Buckinghamshire

These volunteers in North Buckinghamshire go by the delightful name of rRIPPLE: Ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise. The 10-strong team has been working together for almost a decade, improving infrastructure for local walkers with support from Buckinghamshire Council. At the time of writing, they've installed an incredible 356 gates (the photo shows the 350th). Team member Bill Piers will be sharing the secrets of rRIPPLE's success at the next Ramblers Footpath Forum on 29 January.

Book a free place at January's online [Ramblers Footpath Forum](#)

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

Bierton: John Chantler getting on well gaining 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 and several more. Further follow up with Andrew Hughes of 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.

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.

Whitchurch: Charlotte Lincoln, Chair of PC, suggested three double stiles that could do with being replaced with gates.

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
122 for period 1 Sep 2024-20 Nov 2024	1G	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
Totals	3B/10G/4	17	18	110	107	46	95	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 = 358 of which 202 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, Josh, 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.



17/10/24 Bierton at SP838165 S2G Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. (355)



29/10/24 Bierton at SP839155 Gap-to-PG. Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG. (356)



29/10/24 Bierton CAMS a02632 Removal of redundant stile leaving a gap at SP839155.



5/11/24 Bierton at SP839155. Mike and Claire Griffin Trust DaG.(357)



9/11/24 Westcott CAMS a02981. Cleared brambles off footbridge WES/4680 at SP720170.



9/11/24 Westcott CAMS a02983 cleared 50 m length of foot-path WES/15/2 at SP720171.



26/11/24 Bierton BWB/7B/1 at SP840154. (358) N.B. Photos take from opposite sides of gate.



30/11/24 Wingrave with Rowsham WIG/5125 at SP857183. Cleared overgrowth all around RADAR KG.