

Otterton Footpath and Rights of Way Report for June 2022

General

1. The rights of ways are generally in good condition thanks to the extensive work Devon County Council carried out early last year.
2. The breach in the river bank just north of Clamour Bridge has been repaired a number of times but has failed again.
3. As is normal this time of year the vegetation is growing quickly, the brambles in particular.
4. All the world war memorial waymarks and finger posts were in position by this time last year. There are 16 WW1 and 2 WW2 posts. It was expected that when funds allow the remaining 5 WW2 names of the fallen will be marked. A suitable time might be after the LOPR is completed as there is at least one post there that needs replacing.

Major Issues

5. River Otter footpath 1
 - a. The river bank is prone to local collapse from time to time.
 - b. Every time DCC want to repair the bank they have to get various permissions which is time consuming.
 - c. I am not sure of the EA's commitment to allowing repairs
 - d. I am concerned that in future the long term maintenance of the river footpath may not get funding

Minor Issues

6. Seven Stones Lane (23) has a large hanging branch over it. CDE have been informed.
7. The post marking the turn to the way down towards Ladram from Mutter's Moor Car Park has disappeared - just outside Otterton boundary. This has been reported to DCC.
8. The short post marking Chockenhole Lane (305) by Sea View may have disappeared – difficult to say as the vegetation might be hiding it.

Trees

9. The trees to be removed last winter were felled just before bird nesting season. A neat job by Toby.
10. Providing the deterioration of the Ash trees remains slow then a strategy of modest annual removal is working nicely. Natural regeneration of both new ash and other species is filling the gaps thus minimising any visual impact.
11. Should the dieback become more aggressive, which has happened elsewhere in the Parish, then an alternative strategy will be developed.
12. Ash Trees come into full leaf quite late so it is difficult to survey at present. However, there may only be 3 trees of concern and it might be possible to leave them until next year.
13. Last year I asked the Parish Council to check who owns the trees on the boundary on the north side of Stantyway Playing Field. Please could I have a response. The ash tree on north boundary that stands alone at NW corner of football pitch has a 25%+ loss of canopy and may need to be removed. It is leaning but away from the playing area.

Iain Ure 4th June 2022

Otterton Volunteer Footpath and Tree Warden