

Otterton Footpath and Rights of Way Report for September 2022

General

1. The rights of ways are generally in good condition.
2. As is normal at this time of year the vegetation has been encroaching on the footpaths but DCC have cut most of it back.
3. The 2 exceptions are
 - a. the permissive footpath in the plantation below Mutters Moor - Dee and I have cut back as many of the brambles as necessary to make it reasonably accessible.
 - b. Radway Lane and part of Little Chockenhole Lane (track) ROW 307/306 – again Dee and I have cut back as many of the brambles as necessary to make it reasonably accessible.
4. The latch on the gate to the east side of Bicton Bridge needs to be replaced as it is broken.
5. The post on the bifurcation (3 way split) of Lea lane (ROW 310) needs to be straightened (probably been knocked but undamaged)
6. Fallen tree on Colliver Lane (ROW 3) was cut back.

Trees

7. Ash dieback continues but most affected trees are not too badly damaged.
8. The 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.
9. Should the dieback become more aggressive, which has happened elsewhere in the Parish, then an alternative strategy will be developed.
10. In my opinion (I am not a professional) the Ash trees can be left as they are until next year. However, I suggest the budget is carried over into the next financial year.
11. See below for more details

Iain Ure 30th August 2022

Otterton Volunteer Footpath and Tree Warden

Details of visual survey

- a) Behind Hayes Playground
 - a. No issues
- b) Stantyway Playing field
 - a. Ash tree on verge of Stantyway Road (NW corner of playing fields) more than 10% but less than 25%, tree away from road – leave for moment
 - b. NW corner of playing field – small dead tree not exposed – leave for present
 - c. 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.
 - d. Plantation of young Ash trees in NE corner – a few dead trees but surrounded by others so unlikely to cause concern for present.
 - e. Eastern boundary – a number of small dead elms, leave until next set of Ash trees need to be removed

- f. South of plantation 1 ash tree with less than 25% loss and towards the south west side another ash with less than 25% loss of canopy – leave a year
- g. Small horse chestnut tree near changing rooms seems to have died, maybe water issue– see if it revives next year
- h. Horse chestnut tree on West side of playing field had a limb removed last winter – there is further dead wood. Remove next year if no recovery.