

Hemingford Abbots Footpath Warden Report April 2025

This report covers the period from the last report in January 2023 to date.

During this period my husband and I have walked all the footpaths as illustrated in our village leaflet 'Public Rights of Way in and around the Hemingfords', including paths 9 and 10 which are our most distant from the village. The building of the new A14 rerouted the paths beyond the new A14 and according to Cambridge County Council website footpath 9 has been reallocated to Hemingford Grey and appears as their footpath 13. These changes mean that during 2025 it would be appropriate to update our leaflet and website.

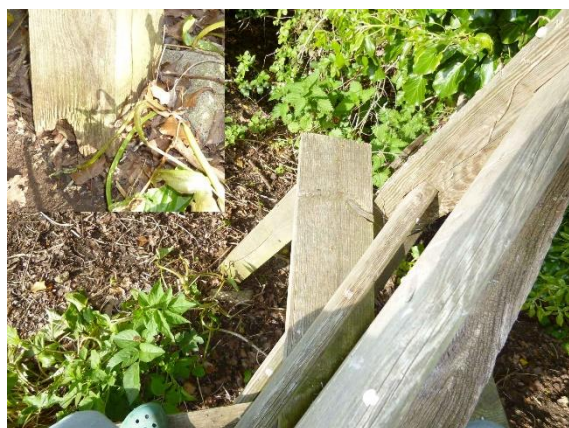
Footpath updates:

Footpath 1: This footpath runs from New Road to the A1307, although the stretch from where it branched to become footpath 6 towards the A1307 is difficult to identify and does not appear to be used much.



Footpath 2: This path runs across Chapmans field along the river to Hemingford Grey footpath 12. The gate at the Quiet Waters end has been repaired recently by the addition of a capping bar to the top of the gate (Photo 1). The other two gates along this path have been replaced and are in good order.

Footpath 3: This path branches from footpath 2 and runs down to the sharp bends near The Pavilion. The gate has one damaged cross bar (Photo 2 and insert) that will need repairing at but the gate remains safe and usable at present.



Footpath 4: This foot path remains the most challenging to maintain due to the overgrowth of weeds and nettles along the length of the path from the end of Common Lane through the pony field. This path is little used which makes keeping it clear problematic. The stile at the Common Lane end (Photo 3) is becoming unsafe because one of the upright legs is rotting (Photo 3 insert) and should be repaired.

In addition, the 5 bar metal gate (Photo 4) into the farmers field remains in poor repair. This path suffers from fly tipping at the A1307 end.

Footpath 5: This is the bridleway across Hemingford Meadow and is in good repair. In early 2025 my husband and I cleared the build-up of rubbish, soil and plants along both sides of the bridge over the backwater.

Footpath 6: This is a very short path between Hemingford Abbots footpath 1 and Hemingford Grey footpath 2.



Footpath 7: This path runs from Houghton lock to the sluice and is well used. This footpath merges with Godmanchester footpath 4 after the sluice. The gates at either ends of the stretch over the sluice are in good repair.

Footpath 8: This path runs in the opposite direction from footpath 7 along the river from the lock.

Footpath 9: As mentioned above this bridleway has been renamed as Hemingford Grey footpath 13.

Footpath 10: This path is a bridleway and starts after the track leading from Gore Tree Lane crosses the new A14. This path ends at the A1198 and is our most distant path from the village.

Summary:

On the whole our footpaths remain in good order.

Unfortunately littering along our paths continues to be an issue although it is my impression that littering is not as bad as it was during and immediately after Covid. I would like to thank everyone who, throughout the year, litter picks when they are using our paths. This is a great help and is much appreciated.

If time permits this year I will revised out footpath map to reflect the changes made by the Cambridge County Council and try to illustrate more clearly where our footpaths run. Many of our footpaths appear to end abruptly but 'unofficial' paths have sprung up since Covid and these paths are well used and make walking in our parish more interesting. Updating the footpath content on the Village website remains an ambition.

Anne-Marie Farmer
Footpath Warden