

Footpaths Report – May 2025

Footpaths around the parish continue to be well used by residents and visitors alike, most have remained in good condition throughout the winter, with no major problems reported.

Footpath 3. At the time of writing, the section of this path between Holly Close and Playford Mount remains diverted around the cable jointing works, although EA3 have given assurances that the temporary road surface will be removed and the land reinstated towards the end of summer.

The vandalised dog fouling sign attached to the waymarker post at the bottom of Holly Close was replaced in February and has since been broken and removed from the post once again. This is the third time that this sign has been vandalised in three years, having first been put in place in 2022. The Parish Council has two spare signs should replacement be considered worthwhile. Dog fouling continues to be an issue on the crossfield section of Footpath 3 and also along Footpath 5 leading from Holly Lane.

Footpath 18. The section of this path adjoining The Street, past the new sewage pumping station, has been levelled and a quantity of hardcore spread over the surface. A new entrance from The Street has also been constructed and a new kerb installed – it is hoped that this will alleviate the previous flooding and unevenness along this path section. Wardens will continue to monitor the condition of the footbridge across the river – erosion of the river bank to the north end of the bridge does not appear to have progressed any further at present.

Footpath 11. Wardens will monitor this path over the spring and summer following repeated complaints over the past few years resulting from the late cutting by Suffolk County Council of the section behind Firecrest Nursery.

Two footpaths just outside the parish boundary on paths leading from Little Bealings are currently closed due to unsafe footbridges – Playford FP9 (to the south of Playford Mere) and Great Bealings FP12 (the crossing over the River Lark to the south of Cherry Tree Cottage). It is hoped these footbridges will be repaired soon and the paths re-opened.

The Fynn Valley Walks Group, supported by All Saints Church, continues to hold weekly guided walks around the area throughout the year, with around 15 to 20 walkers, both from within and outside the parish, joining us on most weeks. The Group has also held occasional themed walks, including a Dawn Chorus Walk in early May, wild plant themed walks in spring and autumn and a Historic Churches Walk in September.

Francis Mutimer

John Wittgreffe