

GISLINGHAM FOOTPATH WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2026

I endeavour to keep everyone up to date with what is happening with the footpaths through my occasional articles in 'the Messenger' and on 'Help & Support in Gislingham' Facebook page, so I trust everyone has found this of assistance.

My role is to ensure that our footpaths are free from obstructions which I regularly check and from the help of villagers who contact me. I report any issues to the Parish Council and also to Suffolk County Council (SCC) who will facilitate any necessary work.

I am pleased to report that all the footpaths have been cut twice during the last summer months, keeping them open and this will continue this year. If by chance you do find a footpath that is obstructed by long grass, brambles or hedges, please let me know.

The past few months we have had a few trees blown down, which have blocked the footpaths. They were cleared by SCC, however, it was suggested that smaller obstructions could be cleared by local volunteers. I therefore propose to advertise for a list of residents who would be willing to help out with these smaller issues of blocked footpaths and also replacing 'field side' finger posts.

To make identification easier, I continue to re-number the waymarkers with the FP number, so if you do have an issue you can quote the number, which will help me identify the location much quicker. If any have faded, please let me know. There are still a few finger posts that either need resiting or replacing, which have been added the SCC contractor's list,

In the past we have had many comments about dog fouling on the footpaths, but I must say, this has been much better, however, there a few lazy dog owners who do not clear up, so please remember, you can be fined if you do not clear up after your dog. One footpath that seems to be the worst is from Coldham Lane around the field. I have erected several posts and signs on some footpaths to highlight the need to pick up after your dog.

Earlier this year, following a report of a ditch being unsafe to cross, it was identified that the ditch was not on a designated footpath. Further to investigations, the correct route was identified and SCC were able to remove the hedge to re-instate the correct route of the footpath. I did publicise this in the Messenger and the Gislingham Help & Support Facebook page. I hope that everyone has been able to use the new route, which is the junction of FP's 003, 42, 56 & 59, which is west of the Charity Meadow.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the residents of Gislingham who do contact me to report any concerns which is really helpful. My details are on the PC website.

Martyn Bryant
Gislingham Footpath Warden