

Ambling Around – How you can help!

Our parish rights of way wardens try to monitor, on a monthly basis, all our footpaths and bridleways but problems, like broken stiles and fallen trees, can happen at any time and getting help from everyone to identify these is really helpful. So how can you help?

First, identify the location of the problem. The most accurate method, using a smart phone, is to use the three word grid system. The World has been mapped into 3 metre squares with each square being uniquely identified by only three words. For more information and to download the free App refer to <https://what3words.com>. Interestingly this system is now the preferred way for the Emergency Services to identify a caller's location. Alternatively if you have an Ordnance Survey map, or the OS App on your phone, then the OS grid reference provides a pretty accurate location. Or use the map within the Hampshire Countryside Management System (HCCS) to provide a more general location (see below).

The next step is to report the problem, or check whether the problem has already been reported. The preferred method is to use HCCS at <https://hantsrow.esdm.co.uk/standardmap.aspx>. Use the 'Search Map' function to zoom into your general location as shown in Image 1. This illustrates a footpath with several problems already and by clicking on a problem symbol a detailed description is shown (image 2). To report a problem you will need to create an account (easily done).

An alternative is to email ahahrightsofway@gmail.com with your name and telephone number, the number of the right of way and a brief description of the problem. One of our local wardens will then contact you.

A further very useful resource, especially for planning walks and rides, is the Hampshire CC definitive rights of way map at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/row/maps/definitive-maps.pdf>. A grid based map, most of our parish is covered by grid references 13.24, 13.25, 14.24 and 14.25. Just click on a grid reference to see an expanded view which will show the route and number of each right of way with helpful context information such as road and house names. If you fancy venturing across the border into West Berkshire then use the on-line map at <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/28884/The-Definitive-Map>.

Thanks for your help.

