

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING APRIL 2022

All rights of way within the parish were inspected and a report submitted to the County Council prior to the deadline of the 14th February 2022.

A damaged bridge on the border of All Saints has been repaired.

There is a bridge missing on the footpath from Weycroft to Lodge Lane. It was swept away during the storms last year. County will replace it as soon as possible.

There are two other missing bridges, one is on the path that goes from the lay-by on the road to Kilmington below the railway station. This one should be replaced very shortly, the other is on the borders of Axminster and Kilmington parish beyond Abbey Farm. The County Council are having discussions with the Environment Agency over this one, and I am awaiting an update.

The area Rights of Way Warden met with me to look at the footpath that goes from the Fire Station towards Woodbury Lane some time ago. There are major works to be undertaken on this path, which the County will deal with.

At present we are having problems getting contractors to undertake works, and there are also, I understand, shortages of materials, caused by all sorts of factors going on in the world today.

Having painted a rather negative picture I need to make the point that most of our footpaths and bridleways are actually in good order and can be enjoyed by walkers, and in the case of a bridleway by those of you on a horse.

Please remember that our rights of ways, many of which appear on old maps of Axminster from hundreds of years ago, give us the right only to walk on the defined route and not the freedom to roam anywhere we want. I would also ask that walkers keep to the Countryside Code by keeping their dog on a lead when there is livestock in the field. This is very important at the moment whilst we are in the lambing season.

John Vanderwolfe

Hon. Rights of Way Warden