

Harwell Rights of Way, November 2008

Harwell Parish Council – ed. Martin Ricketts

This note summarises the state of Harwell's Rights of Way at the end of 2008. They were mostly walked around 23rd November 2008 unless otherwise stated. The previous notes on each RoW have been updated, followed by summaries of the 2008 walks and the known problems. The map of the whole Parish at the end has been made using GPS and is not copyright.

For each Right of Way (RoW) the official information is given first in italics, and then notes about its current state. The official information is taken from the 1999 text description and the 2006 map, as found in Didcot Library. The definitive map prefixes the RoW with 243, to identify them as in Harwell Parish.

Types of RoW in Harwell Parish:

BOAT	Byway open to all traffic
BR	Bridle path
CRB	Restricted Byway
FP	Footpath

1 BR *From Townsend at its junction with CRB 18, NE and N across the A34 to S boundary fence of the Didcot Link Road, A4130.*

a) This has been moderately-well reinstated by Thames Water after pipe-laying at about GR 4965 8988.

b) The northmost 200m near the A4130 needs to be cleared in summer as it can be overgrown when the vegetation reaches its peak.



c) Just south of the A34 bridge the track is liable to flooding. The picture shows the track as the Feb 09 snow was melting. The track lacks drainage. The owners, on either side, should be asked to provide drainage channels.



2 FP *From N end of The Barrow (CRB 18), W to FP 3.* ok.

3 FP *From the end of Barrow Road at NE end of FP 11, NNE and N to the S side of the A34, continuing N, towards Milton Parish Boundary from the N side of the A34*

and terminating at the S boundary fence of the Didcot Link Road (A4130). NB. The 1975 side roads Order encompassing the extension to the A34 provided an additional length of FP 3 from the S side of the A34, leading SE along the SW side of the A34 embankment, within the orchard on the SW side of the fence, to Cow Lane (BR 1).

- a) South of the A34: exists but not all is on the route described; along the edge of the A34 the path is within the boundary of the A34. The area within the boundaries of the A34 is classed as an all-purpose highway, which it is believed means it cannot have another RoW within it, and anyway the description says the path is SW of the fence, in the orchard as was. The section where Thames Water laid a pipeline recently has not been properly reinstated.
- b) North of the A34: Walked 8/2/2009. The path does not appear to have been used for a long time. The previous definitive map showed the path some way east of the stream defining the Parish boundary where it meets the A4130, which is adjacent to the gateway to a field. The photo on the left below is taken from the A4130 and shows the sign and stile that were erected a few years ago on the line of the path according to the previous definitive map.

The line of the footpath is shown by yellow dots in the satellite picture below right; the purple dots mostly follow a farm track. The lower photo shows the east-west fence line about 1/3 of the way from south to north, in February '09; there is no crossing point, either where the RoW is mapped, or in the corner of the field.



It is suggested that either:

- a) A stile is put in the fence so the existing route can be followed, and then a path is cleared along the edge of the A34 strip from where the RoW ends, south-east to join Cow Lane just north of the A34, or
- b) The RoW is diverted along the field edges to join 243/1 at GR SU 499 905, as shown by the purple dots.

Also the sign at the A4130 should be moved to the gateway.

4 BR *From a point N of Warwick Cottage on Broadway Hill, SE along the track to Reading Road (A417) E of Warwick Cottage. ok.*

5 FP *From Broadway Hill, opposite FP 4, SW to Reading Road (A417). ok.*

6 FP *From 20m S of junction of Broadway and Holloway, S to BY 16 at head of the Cutting.*

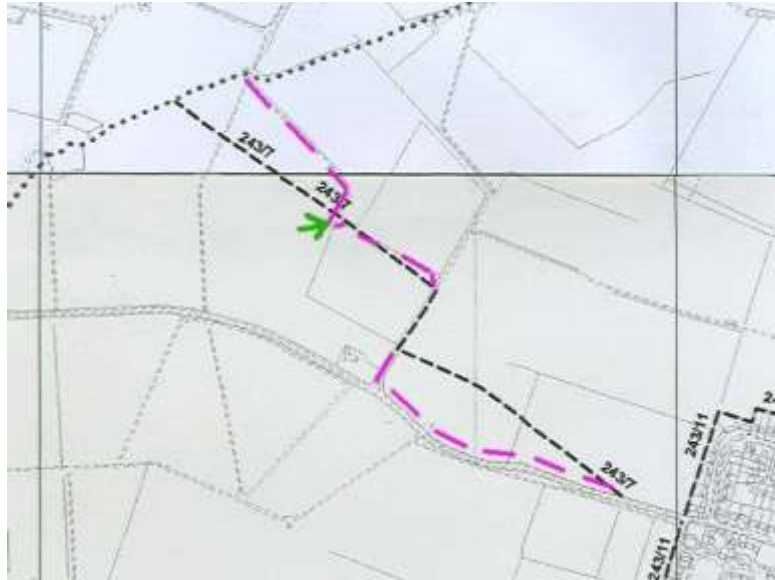
This appears to serve no useful purpose and is of no amenity value. Although cleared by the Harwell RoW group about 10 years ago (mainly Mel Veal and M Ricketts) it is almost impossible to traverse, and there is no reason why anyone would want to. The PC has advised neighbours that it would be happy to see it closed. The procedure requires an application for which there is a significant fee; none of the owners of adjacent property has come forward to take up the offer. It may be that the path was created when only the Holloway properties existed and later properties adjoined it, in which case the land which the path is on would not be within any of the properties. The photos below show: Top left: start of no. 6. Top right and lower left: points along path. Lower right: where no. 6 rejoins the Holloway



7 FP *From Grove Road near crossing of FP 11, NW, NE and NW to Ham House and Milton Parish Boundary. Awarded 6ft width.*

(What is the significance of the awarded width?) This cannot be followed on its defined path. There is a barbed-wire fence restricting users to a strip adjacent to the Grove Road, as far as just before Ham House entrance. Brambles are encroaching on this strip. At the track the route turns north between the trees to GR 4862 8983. From here the path runs south of a line of trees approximately WNW across a field to SU 4847 8992. Cross the hedge line by the oak tree as nettles obstruct the field corner. There is no indication of the proper line across the next field to the Parish Boundary,

so go NNE for about 50m then WNW with the line of trees on the right to the gateway where the path ends. I was asked where I was going as I walked along this section and advised where the FP ended. There is no continuation in Milton Parish. The pink long-dashed line shows the current 'route'.



The picture below was taken from where the green arrow points looking north and west; the true line of the path is across the field just to the left of the farm buildings near the left edge of the picture; the suggested route follows the hedges, N then NW.



8 FP From Reading Road (A417), W of Park Council Houses, NNE and NW to FP 10 at Brook Farm.

The description of this appears to be slightly wrong, in that it says 'W of' rather than 'E of'. Also they are no longer Council houses. Part of this deserves to be a bridleway to Church Lane, as it has been used as such for at least the last 20 years. The status of the farm track joining at GR 4936 8890 is unclear (see X3 below).

9 FP From FP 8 at Brook Farm, SW to Church Lane at Prince's Manor. ok.

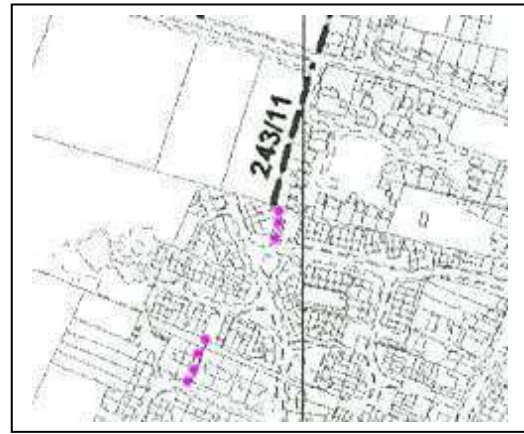
10 FP From School Lane at the School, SE and NE to Burr Street near the Stream. ok.

11 FP From Orchard Way Estate, NNE across Grove Road and generally ESE to Barrow Road at southern end of FP 3.

Remarks: 1. Part closed with effect from 26.6.1959 2. Diversion Order 6.8.1971

The definitive map shows the path only to the west of houses in Manor Green, ie not extending to Gaveston Road.

Before the surrounding houses were built, it included the short path between Orchard Way and The Styles, shown by The southern group of purple dots in the adjacent map. See X1 below.



12 BR *From Blenheim Hill, SE across A34 to West Hagbourne Parish Boundary with a spur running NW from the Bypass, adjacent to the E side of the Bypass, to Didcot Road, then ESE across the bridge over the A34 for approximately 90m, adjacent to the S side of Didcot Road.*

It's not clear what is meant by 'across A34'! Or what purpose is served by the bit adjacent to the B4493 over the A34. This joins 401/15 of West Hagbourne Parish. The part east of the allotments and west of the A34 gets overgrown in summer – needs a cut before the peak in the growing season. The sign at the B4493 needs re-erecting.

14 FP *From Burr Street adjacent "The Crispin" Inn, generally S to King's Lane.*

The ground is clear but on the east-west section the fence on the north side needs attention. It is partly rusted corrugated iron and is leaning over the RoW. The property-owner should be asked to repair it.



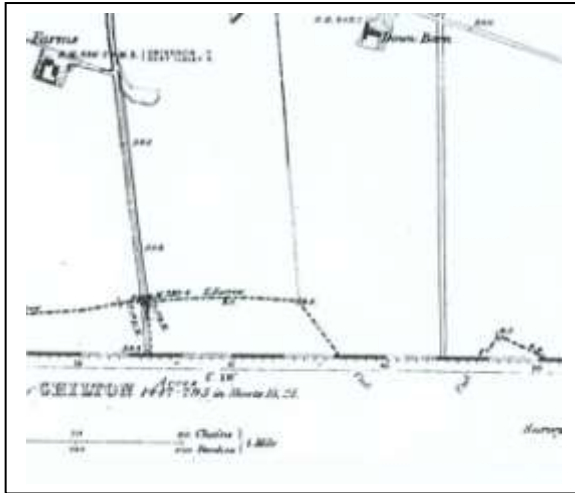
15 CRB *From Abingdon/Newbury Road (A4185), opposite A.E.R.E. and South Drive, leading ESE across BY 16 and the A34(T) Abingdon Bypass to the West Hagbourne Parish Boundary on Hagbourne Hill.*

Hard track all the way. Adjoins no 19 and 401/13 in West Hagbourne Parish. This along with no. 19 is part of route 44 of the National Cycle Network

16 BOAT *From Hollow Way at its junction with FP 6, S across the Icknield Way (CRB 15) to Chilton Parish Boundary.*

The part from SU 490 880 to the junction at SU 489 873 is rough and muddy at times. South of the junction with no. 15 it is a hard track. This joins 164/10 of Chilton Parish. A stone at SU 489 867 may be an original Parish Boundary stone from nearby; there was one in the field to the west of where this stone is now sited. The section of

the 1883 map below shows some of the southern edge of the parish; there was a boundary stone in the field between CRB 15 and the road from Rowstock to Chilton.



17 FP From Reading/Wantage Road (A417) at Harwell Turning, SSW to Abingdon/Newbury Road (A34) opposite A.E.R.E.

This has been used as a BridlePath for many years. The route is clear but there are times when boots are required to walk the southern part; although it is surfaced the surface is below the level of the surrounding ground.

The route is included in various OCC and other planning documents so may one day be improved.



18 CRB From Village Street adjoining Talbot's Lane? N and NE to N end of Townsend.

This is along Barrow Lane. The description needs updating, as Talbot's Lane has been known as Grove Road for many years.

19 BR From Abingdon/Newbury Road (A34) opposite junction of CRB 15, WNW and SW through the A.E.R.E. site to the East Hendred Parish Boundary S of the A.E.R.E. sewage works at its junction with East Hendred CRB 24.

OK – This along with no. 15 is part of route 44 of the National Cycle Network from Didcot to Wantage. There is a board by the A4185 – see photo below.



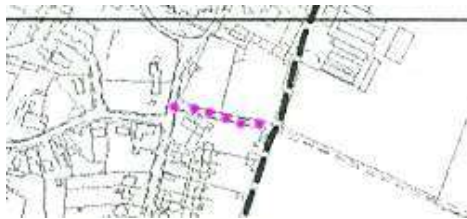
20 From High Street at Technical Institute (Village Hall) WNW to the Car Park adjoining property No. 38 Westfield Road. – ok.

Not yet existing:

X1. There is a short path between Orchard Way and the Styles, as noted above under RoW 11. A note in Parish Council minutes (MR to find) indicates that in 2010 sufficient time will have elapsed for an application to be made for it to become a definitive footpath, although it shouldn't have been lost from earlier lists.

X2. Path from RoW 1 to Didcot Road. To be incorporated in GWP.

X3. The status of the farm track from GR 4927 8892 to GR 4936 8890 is unclear. It has been used as a bridleway for many years; it is marked with pink dots below:



RoW Walks November 2008:

Our thanks to the walkers: V & G Tennent, Reg & Dee Waite, Mary & Don Hayter, Colin and Ann Lamont, Keith and Kate Beswick, David Marsh, Terry & Joyce Doughty, Stephanie & Gary Taylor, and P Millward, plus any others whose names were not on the report forms.

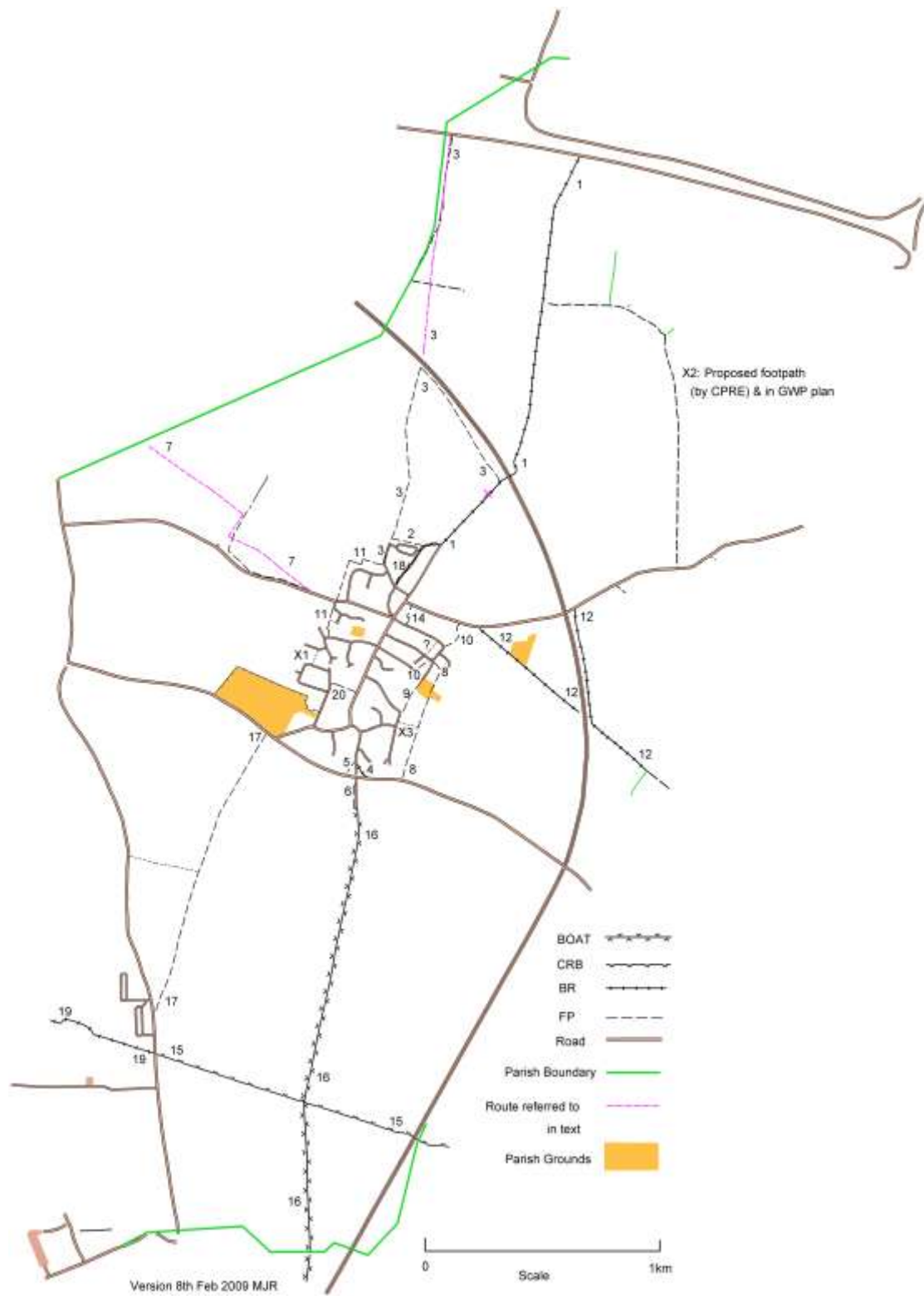
RoW	Walked by:	Comments
1,	V & G Tennent	Potholed in places, liable to flood S of A34
2	M & D Hayter	Muddy but clear
3	C & A Lamont (S of A34), M Ricketts (N of A34)	Damage by TW needs reinstating. No signs. Obstructed; see notes.
4 & 5	K & K Beswick	19/11/08 ok
6	-	PC agreed could be closed (? 2008)
7	P Millward	Problems with route & brambles
8	M & D Hayter	ok
9	R & D Waite	ok
10	R & D Waite	Some rubbish needs clearing
11	D Marsh	Probably needs weed cutting in summer. Trees recently cut to 4-foot stumps.

November 2008 continued.

12	D Marsh	Sign leaning, E of A34.
14	D Marsh, Waites	Fence on E-W section leaning over path
15	K & K Beswick, T & J Doughty	Icknield Way
16	T & J Doughty, K & K Beswick	Holloway – ok.
17	K & K Beswick, S & G Taylor	Signpost at S end needs repair -T & J Doughty
18	R & D Waite	Description needs updating
19	K & K Beswick	Icknield Way - ok
20	R & D Waite	ok
(X1)	M J Ricketts	tbd. Make RoW in 2010.
(X2)	D Hayter, MJR	Ensure it is in GWP plans, as promised.

Summary of work required on Harwell RoWs

RoW	Work Required
1	a) Northernmost 200 metres needs clearing in summer b) Improve drainage just south of A34 crossing
3	a) The description says ‘on the SW side of the fence’; the existing path is NE of the fence on A34 land. Find out from OCC where path should be. b) Needs restoring following pipeline installation. b) Ask OCC for either - I. the path is extended SE to join Cow Lane just north of the A34 II. a diversion of the path along the field edges to join 243/1 at GR SU 499 905 III. move sign on A34 to field entrance
6	Could be closed. Owner of land unknown.
7	Ask OCC for diversion to field edges as shown above.
8	Ask OCC to correct the description, and give status of the marked farm track. Also ask OCC to make southern part into bridleway, turning west into track to end at Church Lane.
11	Ask OCC to change definition and alter definitive map.
12	Ask OCC about definition, which includes ‘across the A34’ – as this is not an acceptable or accessible footpath route. The path needs clearing in midsummer between the A34 and Allotments.
16	The description says it starts where FP 6 joins the Holloway; if FP6 removed then description needs changing.
17	Surface needs improving. Should be changed to a Bridleway or Restricted Byway.
18	Description needs updating
X1	Application should be made in 2010
X2	Ensure included in GWP plans
X3	Ask OCC status; should be bridleway.



Harwell Parish RoWs

