

Footpath Report

16th September 2026

Due to the severe weather that we have been experiencing over the past couple of months, I have found it very challenging getting out with my dog, Grayson, to check many of the footpaths and have been relying on other walkers to point out any issues that they might have encountered whilst walking along the public rights of way.

Footpath 20

I received an email from a concerned resident, regarding the encroaching brambles and weeds, also the overhanging trees, behind the houses between the village green cricket pavilion and Rowans way, which I duly reported on the Suffolk council reporting tool, after getting a response from Andy Graham, the Arboriculture officer for the Public realm, it was dealt with quickly with the exception of the trees, which will be cut back when the birds have finished nesting, however, the rest of footpath 20, all the way from Rowans way to the A134 is so overgrown, that it is now impassable.(see photo). This has also been reported on the reporting tool.



Footpath 14

There have been two, separate, problems regarding this path, firstly, the issue with the voice recording warning that went off every time someone walked past the garden belonging to 30 Edies lane. An email was sent to the owner from the council's chairwoman, Clare, asking for details as to the reasons behind the decision to employ this technology. As a result, the recording seems to have been removed.

The second issue concerns the area of the footpath that runs adjacent to the driveway for Oaks Cottage. The fencing is being forced over onto the footpath by the overgrown hedging belonging to the landowner. This has been reported many times over the past year or more but to no avail. The PROW department of Babergh council have been in touch with the landowner, who has agreed to address the problem, if it is not, they will be taking the matter further.



Leavenheath circular walks leaflet.

Having been contacted by Jane Skoulding, the Green access officer for SCC, regarding the Leavenheath circular walks leaflet being old and out of date. She made a number of suggestions that would make the leaflet more user friendly. After some input from myself, she has updated the leaflet and has organised a reprint. 1,000 copies have been purchased by the Parish Council and are now in my possession. We need to decide where the leaflets are to be placed for use by anybody that maybe interested in walking these routes. Jane has also kindly produced some plaques with a QR code link to the walks leaflet, these can be put up at some strategic places around the village. I have already placed one of them in the notice board opposite number 1 the green. There are three more.

It might be an idea to take a look at the other, *walks*, booklet for Leavenheath to see if we need to consider getting that updated too.

All other footpaths

As far as I can tell, all the other footpaths that I have visited recently, are in reasonable condition, with the exception of brambles and weed encroachment, which my fellow walkers and I tackle with our secateurs as and when we find them. There are still a few previously reported problems that still remain to be sorted, however, I have been assured that they are on the list of things to be done.