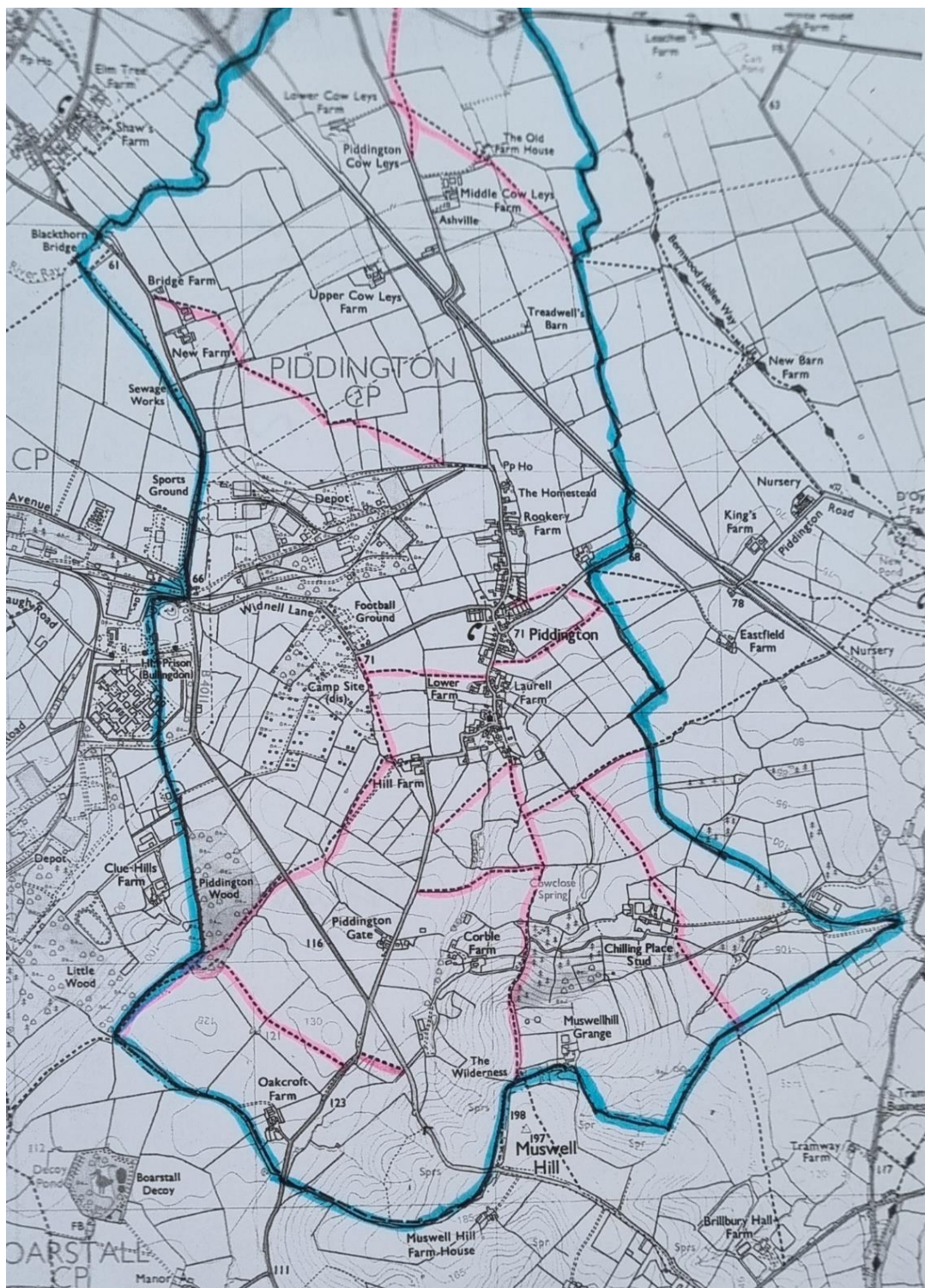


PIDDINGTON PARISH

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 180



Parish boundary – blue line

Parish footpaths - pink

1. **PIDDINGTON CIRCULAR WALK** - All the gates and footpaths from the Playing Field and Widnell Park around the Circular Walk are in a good state. NO ACTION REQUIRED

2. **THAME ROAD TO LUDGERSHALL BRIDGE**

Access to footpath also through metal 5 bar gate if unlocked.

SP640,172: 1st stile from Thame Road. NO ACTION REQUIRED

SP642,172: 2nd stile. ACTION: TOP STEP REQUIRES FIXING AS VERY UNSTABLE



SP643,173: 3rd stile. Wet weather makes this a difficult stile to navigate as water pools here before going into the ditch. Imperative this stile is maintained. ACTION: STEP IS UNSTABLE AND WILL NEED IMMEDIATE MAINTENANCE



SP645,174: 4th stile. Not in Piddington Parish but part of a popular walk to Ludgershall. ACTION: TOP STEP UNSTABLE AND NEEDS IMMEDIATE REPAIR



SP648175: 5th stile onto Ludgershall Road next to Eastfield Farm. Whilst not in the parish of Piddington it is part of a popular walk to Ludgershall undertaken by villagers. ACTION: IN SHORT TERM THE STILE IS FIT FOR PURPOSE BUT IT DOES HAVE LIMITED LIFE AND WILL NEED ATTENTION SHORTLY. NOT EASY ACCESS FOR DOGS.



3. ALONG LUDGERSHALL ROAD FROM THE VILLAGE

SP643,175: First stile and gate into the grazing field on the right as you leave the village. ACTION: THIS STILE IS IN URGENT NEED OF UPGRADE AS STATED IN THE PREVIOUS REPORT. IT IS NO LONGER FIXED ON ITS HINGES AND IS VERY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TO USE ON EITHER SIDE, WITH ONLY ONE STEP. THERE IS NO OBVIOUS OPENING FOR DOGS WHICH MEANS THEY NEED TO BE CARRIED OVER THE GATE/STILE.



SP643,175: First stile into grazing field on the left as you leave the village. ACTION: BOTTOM STEP IS ROTTEN AND UNSTABLE. THIS NEEDS IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENT



SP644,175: Stile to field from Ludgershall Road opposite Plantasia. Area now has good access since trees were cut down. ACTION: BOTH STEPS ARE UNSTABLE AND SHOULD BE REPAIRED



4. LOWER END (FOOTPATH TO THE LUDGERSHALL ROAD)

SP641,174: Access for grazing field behind bungalows along Lower End. ACTION: WOODEN STILE WHICH ITSELF WORKS WELL ENOUGH ALTHOUGH VERY DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE AS VERY HIGH WITH ONLY ONE STEP.



5. SHADY LANE (FOOTPATH TO BRIDGE FARM, TOWARDS BLACKTHORN)

Metal Gate off the lane: This gate is off its hinges and is difficult to move around. The vegetation and brambles have been cut down to allow access which previously was impossible. ACTION: VEGETATION NEEDS TO BE KEPT AT BAY TO ALLOW ACCESS.



1st Stile along the footpath: The overgrown brambles have been cut back to allow access. ACTION: VEGETATION NEEDS TO BE KEPT AT BAY TO ALLOW ACCESS



2nd Stile: The overgrown brambles have been cut back to allow access. ACTION: STEP HAS NOT BEEN FIXED SECURELY AND NEEDS ATTENTION. VEGETATION NEEDS TO BE KEPT AT BAY TO ALLOW ACCESS



3rd Stile: Footpath to New Farm. Vegetation has been cut back to allow access. ACTION: EXIT IS A DEATH TRAP – IT IS VERY UNSTABLE AND COULD BREAK AT ANY TIME. THIS NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION. SIMILARLY, THE VEGETATION WILL NEED CUTTING BACK AGAIN AT SOME POINT.



4TH Stile: The stile is functional, but vegetation does need to be cut back and maintained to help accessibility.



5th Stile: This stile has been left to totally overgrow and I was unable to check if the stile was functional as unable to see it. If you want to carry on with the route you must go through the farm's sheep pens that are to the side of the stile. ACTION: TO CUT DOWN VEGETATION COVERING THE STILE AND THEN CHECK IF THE STILE IS ACTUALLY FIT FOR PURPOSE.





6th Stile: This stile is currently difficult to navigate over. It is a 3 bar fence surrounded by vegetation. Would be a struggle for most people to get over and no access for dogs so you have to carry them over. **ACTION: CUTTING BACK OF VEGETATION AROUND THE STILE/FENCE. ACCESS COULD BE IMPROVED WITH STEPS EITHER SIDE BUT STILL ISSUE WITH CARRYING DOGS OVER.**



7th Stile: There is no stile!! The walker has to climb over a double metal gate more like an assault course! There is sufficient space under the gates for small/medium size dog. ACTION: A SIDE PEDESTRIAN GATE AS SEEN ELSEWHERE WOULD MAKE THIS MUCH SAFER.



At this point it is impossible to find the next stile although the ordnance survey map shows the route crossing the field between New Farm and Bridge Farm. This means you either have to walk back to Piddington or walk through the farm itself. ACTION: LOCATE THE STILE AND MAKE IT OBVIOUS FOR WALKERS.



CONCLUSION: The stiles and footpaths in Piddington Parish are generally of a good character, particularly for the advertised Piddington Circular Walk. However, keeping vegetation back on those routes that are not regularly used is clearly not a priority. There are certain stiles in need of basic maintenance to improve safety, but these are few.

The route towards Blackthorn is in most need of attention and improving access. It is a shame that the footpath that runs towards the B4011 between New Farm and Bridge Farm could not be found as there is the ability to carry on walking to Arncott from this point across country and then back to Piddington via Palmer Avenue and Widnell Lane thus creating another circular walk.

IAN DARBY

5 OCTOBER 2022