

## Annual Report on the footpaths of Wingham Parish for 2024/2025

from the **Wingham Foot Path Group** (WFPG) acting as Parish Footpath Warden

**Introduction** This is eighth annual report since WFPG was appointed as the collective warden for the Parish.

**Activities** There are 30 footpaths lying wholly in or crossing the Parish boundaries. All the paths have been walked at least twice during the year and records maintained. We have responded to concerns raised by members of the public and/or passed on by the Parish Clerk. Where necessary, reports have been made to the Kent County Council (KCC) Public Rights of Way (PROW) team about blocked paths etc.

We try to attend the annual FP meetings organised by The Ramblers, sharing experiences and with relevant talks. With regard to maintenance, the law is very clear, however, it is one thing to state the legal position and quite another to find the resources to manage the network.

**Results** As usual all our footpaths have been much used this year, but KCC PROW teams seem to have been overwhelmed at times. By a process of prioritisation, they do of course respond to health and safety issues, and most other problems are eventually dealt with. Pedestrians have been seen using the very short EE 58 beside Sessions House (previously almost impassable due to rubbish dumping). The finger posts at both ends of EE 167 by the Wildlife Park are broken – reported with photos.

The quantity and quality of signage continues to deteriorate in general; there are branches intruding on to the path beside the Cemetery, but it is passable.

Path EE181, (East, behind the Adisham Road Water Works) lies partly within the Parish boundaries. The stile from the path on to the very busy road has collapsed and is overgrown and would in our view be very dangerous to re-instate anyway. By happenstance there is an informal roadside track available between the hedge and the electric fences of a paddock, this leads on to Gibson's carpark. Presumably usage could be withdrawn at any time but is far preferable over attempting to walk on the B2046. Although some ramblers were seen on that path recently, it does appear very little used. The PC might like to take a view on that situation.

Members of the Wingham Foot Path Group who have covered the Wingham footpaths:

Kevin Fletcher, Marcus and Michelle Benton, Dennis Liman, Mike and Vivien Leeming, Cally and Mike Vaile.

NB. WFPG members might well carry small secateurs with them, and cloths or marker pens to clarify signage, but we do not conduct any other repairs or clearances.