

ROW no.	Location	Report to Parish Council 19/3/2014
<b>Footpaths</b>		
1	from Peat Edge, over railway, along Bowburn Beck and Tursdale Beck and up to High Croxdale	<p><u>From east to west:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Byzak compound area was removed late last year, so FP1 diversion now ended. It was pretty muddy through that area at first, but that may have more to do with the weather than the quality of the restoration. At the top of the field, near the entrance to the STW, it remained exceptionally muddy for a long time. FP10 (q.v.) is still diverted, though it shouldn't be, as the fence across it has not been removed. So, coming up from the railway, you have to walk through the mud, use the stile at NZ 430290 / 536916 and double back a few yards towards the STW gate.</li> <li>The stile to the railway embankment (at NZ 430095 / 536890) still has loose bottom step.</li> <li>Ditch clearance beyond the embankment has not affected the footpath.</li> <li>The path along the side of the field between the railway and the crossroads with FPs 2 &amp; 3 has been left unploughed for the first time for many years! Good.</li> <li>The field west of the crossroads with FPs 2 &amp; 3 was not ploughed last year. It looks as if this may be pasture this year.</li> <li>The bridge below Tursdale House (approx. NZ 429392 / 536855) has been almost submerged again. Though clearly visible, it has mud / silt on it, making it slippery, as the small stream beneath it is almost silted up. This could be dangerous.</li> <li>The stile at NZ 429310 / 536908 still needs an extra step, unless the higher bar put across it by Mr Stevenson is removed.</li> <li>Along through the woods from Hett Mill, it is very muddy. Although some parts of the path always got muddy, in winter, it was never so muddy all the way along. The problem is that, although Mr Stevensons' contractors (the second ones, presumably) did indeed level out the deep vehicle tracks left by the forresters, they did not reseed it or make other efforts to restore the ground.</li> <li>Going up through the woods towards High Croxdale, the damaged stretch of footpath has been repaired, with a board to hold it in.</li> <li>The stile next to the hemmel, near High Croxdale, is still in need of the repair – the step is shaky and the upright pole is loose. (NZ 428453 / 537596).</li> </ul>
2	= FP 3 ctd., north of Bowburn Beck to Tursdale House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems</li> </ul>
3	= FP 2 ctd., south of Bowburn Beck to Tursdale	<p><u>From north to south:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dredging and beck/ditch clearance work done last year has been remarkably successful: the whole path is quite firm. It has not flooded this winter, as it did last year.</li> <li>However most of the southern end, from about NZ 429845 / 536497 to about NZ 429992 / 535957 has again been ploughed rather too near to the edge of the field. The landowner appears to be reverting to practice of previous years, after the loss of crops in 2012 and last year's flooding. (Even the very southern portion is pretty narrow, too. This hasn't been so bad in the past.) While it is up to a yard wide in some places, even there it is very rough and covered with brambles. Much of it is less than 3ft wide, though. The fields are very firm and the crops have not yet grown enough to be a problem to walk over. This will presumably not be the case in due course.</li> <li>The bridge across the stream from Tursdale Colliery, at NZ 429927 / 536119, has still not been repaired. (It still consists of two planks, with a gap between them.) This is no problem at the moment, as it is easy to see. It will become dangerous if/when it gets overgrown.</li> <li>At the very southern end of the path (NZ 430062 / 535674), the ground is fairly rough, where it joins the track between the two railways. The lack of a stile here does not really matter, as there is no fence now. But the path through the site of this stile is a bit tricky. Network Rail have been doing work in this area. If a boundary fence is re-established, so must a stile.</li> </ul>
4	from FP no. 3 near Tursdale, under main line railway towards Broom Hill Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems with FP4 itself. On Croxdale &amp; Hett Parish FP33, I have found the gate near Broom Hill Farm closed and locked with chain. However I can climb through gap in fence OK.</li> </ul>
5	past Tursdale Workshops to railway, then between the two lines and under main line towards Broom Hill Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strict line of the footpath, beyond the railway, has long been lost, and one has for a long time had to walk round edge of field. This has not generally been a problem, though ploughing has sometimes been a bit close to the edge. Now, however, even that is covered all the way round to the bridge (at NZ 429937 / 535585), by the dredging work done last year. (These have been VERY extensive along this whole stretch of Tursdale Beck, as well as ditches draining into it.)</li> <li>(Beyond the parish boundary, Croxdale &amp; Hett's FP34, as always, is sent round the edge of the field. It is many years since it was cleared along its correct line, across the field toward Broom Hill.)</li> </ul>
6	through Tursdale allotments to road opposite Hoggersgate Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fence across the field, which blocked the ROW, is now in severe disrepair. So no problem for walkers.</li> </ul>
7	Tursdale to Park Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The footpath west of the motorway is in extremely good condition – and was so even when most paths elsewhere were so muddy.</li> <li>However three out of the four stiles are still in need of steps. These are at NZ 430780 / 536351, NZ 430852 / 536609 and NZ 430831 / 536695. (The one nearest the Tursdale road, at NZ 430428 / 536094, is OK.)</li> <li>The stile at NZ 431104 / 536497), between the field east of the motorway and the path towards Park Hill, still consists of two stiles, one of which still has no step. The other stiles heading towards Park Hill are OK.</li> </ul>
8	from old Tursdale road near Cornforth Moor Farm, south towards Clarence Railway, after crossing motorway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From north-west to south-east:</li> <li>There is no step on the stile next to the old Tursdale road (NZ 430627 / 536724) but there is no longer any barbed wire along the top of it.</li> <li>No step either on the stile at NZ 430831 / 536695, which is shared with FP7. (See above.)</li> <li>Immediately east of the motorway, the horses are being supplied with hay just inside the gate (at NZ 430914 / 536685), presumably by it being dropped over the gate. So it is a quagmire in the area near the stile. Most of the field has been very muddy anyway, because of the heavy rain this winter, some of the footpath being under water. However this horse-created quagmire has got worse while the rest of the field has started drying out. I climb over fence and make my way along the motorway embankment past the worst of it.</li> <li>The official stile from that field, heading south (at NZ 430962 / 536437), is still completely blocked with barbed wire. The unofficial stile just south of there (at NZ 430988 / 536405), however, is OK. On the other hand, you have to walk through 50 yards of mud to get there. (Walkers only walking along FP7, from Parkfields, to join FP8, towards Cornforth, can avoid that same 50 yards of mud, by using the unofficial stile.)</li> <li>FP8 south of these two stiles is in good condition. It was not ploughed over last year, grass on it is still short and with the exception of just one short lower-lying stretch, it is not muddy.</li> </ul>
9	from Four Mile Bridge to Peat Edge, including by-way (crosses motorway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems, apart from the stile on to Tursdale road (at NZ 430702 / 537074) still has no step. (This is not much of an inconvenience.)</li> </ul>
10	from Wellsprings Business Centre (ex-cinema site) to sewage works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From north to south:</li> <li>The track from behind the Whitfield Business Centre (dentist's etc.) is excellent: the second grass cutting last year, plus hedge strimming, have left it very nice to walk... until you reach the field below Peat Edge farm buildings!</li> <li>The cattle feeder below Peat Edge farm buildings (at 430482 / 537300) was, thankfully, removed this winter. However the area just inside this field is still a complete quagmire – even after the weeks of drying weather that have worked so well elsewhere. I climb over the fence by the concrete structure, to avoid wading through it (and losing my dog and/or my boots).</li> <li>The stile at NZ 430371 / 537134 is now so unsteady as to be potentially dangerous.</li> <li>The field north west of the STW has been set and a root crop is coming through. The path running diagonally across it has not been rolled nor its route marked in any way. The crop is now up to 2ft high. This is a real problem and getting worse.</li> <li>There is still a short diversion by the entrance to the STW, to the junction with FP1. (See above.) This is because the wooden fence (running east-west) is still in place. So you have to walk over the cattle grid and use the stile at NZ 430290 / 536916 (and then wade through mud at the top of the field beside the STW!)</li> </ul>
11	from A177 up through allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems (except that the street lights seem not to have been adopted yet!)</li> </ul>
12	(now part of BW 39)	N/A
13	= Cassop Vale wagonway, down from Cassop village, all the way down the Vale and then across ex-opencast site at Cassop Moor towards Whitwell	<p><u>From west to east:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems along three western sections.</li> <li>The western end of Mr Rutherford's field (at NZ 432276 / 539186) is boggy, as usual, where there is a spring. But otherwise this stretch is fine.</li> <li>As I have suggested before, some more direction arrows could be useful in Cassop Vale. The paths are well used and so largely "signpost themselves" – except that there are other, unofficial paths at the top of the vale, near the ponds and old colliery village. Most needed, probably, are arrows on the wooden seat at foot of bank from Cassop (at NZ 434255 / 538324), pointing north along FP13 and west along FP21, and a different one east of the junction with BW 34, pointing south. (See BW34 notes.)</li> <li>A stile at about 433910 / 538617 is totally broken. Not a problem though, as there is no gate across the path.</li> </ul>
14	from Heugh Hall Farm to Sherburn road, towards Cassop Moor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stile at NZ 431812 / 538748 still broken. However the gate next to it was open and, in any case, hardly anyone uses this footpath.</li> </ul>
15	from Heugh Hall Farm to Grey Gables (ex-vicarage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems.</li> </ul>
16	[Formerly through Lambs Close farm. Closed by A1(M)]	N/A
17	from Grey Gables to Woodhouses, west of Heugh Hall Row	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems</li> </ul>
18	"Elephants' Graveyard" – gully north of Beacon Hill (Northern end in C-c-Q; rest = Coxhoe 36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hedge beside Coxhoe FP36 has been cut. No under / overgrowth problem now, as there was last year. There is, however, a depression that could be a sink hole or even old pit shaft (?) at abt NZ 433693 / 538025 – 130 yards north of the junction with Coxhoe FP38. Reported to Owen Shaw 16/3/14.</li> </ul>
19	from Luke Avenue, Cassop, to Cassop Hill Farm (former wagonway) (Western end = Coxhoe 38.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have not yet walked this in 2014.</li> </ul>
20	up from BW 34, in Cassop Vale south, to Cassop Hill Farm (Southern end = Coxhoe 37.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stile at top of woods, at NZ 433806 / 538270, could do with a new step. (Gate post is also a bit wobbly.)</li> <li>I have not yet walked through Mr Forde's farm in 2014.</li> </ul>
21	from bottom of bank at Cassop along southern edge of Cassop Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems.</li> </ul>
22	(now BW 34, whose former path has been extinguished)	N/A
23	across Cassop playing field towards Thornley Moor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have not yet walked this in 2014.</li> </ul>
24	wagonway behind Dene View, Cassop, towards Thornley, but starting with path through Ecclesiastical Commissioners' land and round south of Lynn Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have not yet walked this in 2014.</li> </ul>
25	from half-way up road to Old Cassop down to Cassop Vale pit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stile on to Old Cassop road, at NZ 432998 / 539321, could do with new step. Existing one is loose from rotting upright.</li> </ul>
(26-Kelloe Parish)	(behind Luke Avenue, Cassop)	N/A
27	beside Cassop School to Cassop Hill Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have not yet walked through Mr Forde's farm in 2014.</li> </ul>
(28)	(now part of BW 39)	N/A
29	from Four Mile Bridge, round old Bowburn pit/brickworks, to BW 39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This path appears to have been used quite a bit lately. Its line across the arable field (on Mr Johnson's land) is perfectly obvious, perhaps from usage rather than from having been rolled. I don't think crop will over-grow, it though.</li> <li>The line of the path through Redscape's grazing field / rough land is still extremely erratic. This does not at the moment make it a problem to walk. But there do not appear to be horses here, now, so it will grow over again this spring / summer if it is not strimmed. Hopefully that strimming will establish a more accurate line this year than it did in 2013.</li> </ul>
30–31	???	N/A???
32	behind Lynn Crescent, Cassop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have not yet walked this in 2014. (Especially not through the house...)</li> </ul>
(33)	(was from Church Street, Quarrington Hill, to Belle Vue – no longer in parish)	N/A
34–40	(Nos. 34–39 are bridleways.)	N/A
41	new footpath over pit heaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elaine Crow will be organising a working party to fence this path off from horses &amp; bikes, on 3/4/14. I have suggested that the fence at the eastern end be above David Laing's two gates, at NZ 429341 / 537770, not near the crossroads with BWs 36 &amp; 37.</li> </ul>
42	[See bridleways]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
43	path from John Hare's Wood to Bowburn North Ind Est (but not rest of Bishopleys Close)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The path behind Jacques Vert was designated a right of way (no. 43) in December 2013. Excellent! A footpath arrow appeared from the Industrial Estate North soon afterwards.</li> <li>However that part of the path that continued north and then west from here, behind PC Henderson's and past Esh House, looks never likely to be designated a RoW, now, after Mathewson's blocked their section.</li> <li>I understand the Council still hope to designate John Hare's Drive, on Ogden's land, but are awaiting supermarket development.</li> </ul>
No number	path established by opencast restoration, connecting FP14 and FP13, north of the C12a	<p>A satisfactory width has been left unploughed down the edge of the field at the northern end of this path, though perhaps not quite 1 metre wide. This has been left in previous years, too, and is likely to overgrow. There is still an unopenable gate between this field and the grazing area to the north: this has to be climbed. Harris fencing no longer obstructs the path. One piece has been tied to block access to the ditch, probably to stop horses, not walkers.</p>
No number	railway track from Coxhoe to Ramsay's Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is currently quite walkable. Since it was fenced off from the adjacent field, however, it will overgrow in coming months unless it is strimmed and hedge cut – which is unlikely to happen, as it is not a designated RoW.</li> </ul>
<b>Bridleways</b>		
34	from south of Heather Lad down into Cassop Vale, across vale and up to Old Cassop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From south to north:</li> <li>The path down from the Heather Lad is evidently well-used now, presumably because of the new permissive bridleway cutting the corner behind the churchyard. The gates at top and bottom of this field don't close properly: ropes loop over the post. Not a problem for walkers!</li> <li>The path across field in Cassop Vale was fenced off a year or more ago. This is not a problem in itself – and it didn't overgrow last summer through not being grazed. But an arrow way-marker from FP13, at NZ 433822 / 538666, coming from Cassop, might send some one turning south field-side of the fence, in error. I suggest this arrow be re-located.</li> <li>The track across the top of the hill, towards Old Cassop, was made up with road planings and dolomite recently (last year?) So it is good and firm. A new steel gate at northern end, near Grange Farm (approx. NZ 433787 / 539432) might not be liked by horse riders, but it's easy to walk round it.</li> </ul>
35	from Old Quarrington towards ex-St. Paul's Church site, Quarrington Hill (The eastern part is now Coxhoe BW34.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems. This will close when quarrying begins to remove the ridge. However the quarry has not been operating lately. So perhaps that is some time away.</li> </ul>
35 diverted	"Bottom track" that will replace BW35 & Coxhoe BW34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is not yet the official diversion (but is meanwhile an undesignated route, with history of use, anyway). Last year, heavy rain washed away much of the dolomite that had been laid, presumably after water supply pipe was diverted from the "top track", down much of the steep slope below church yard (south of NZ 433529 / 537841). This has not been repaired. No problem for walking. Horse riders (and cyclists) may not like it.</li> <li>There is a spring at about NZ 432853 / 537811, which will probably keep this track wet for ever, at this point, unless a drain is laid beneath it. Not a serious problem.</li> </ul>
36	from A177 (opposite Bowburn Community Centre), round pit heaps, to High Croxdale	<p><u>From east to west:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No real problems between A177 and disused railway, in terms of access. The from areas to remove large puddles, a couple of years ago, were obviously not successful. But you can walk round them (or, if you're a horse, presumably walk through them: they ground beneath is firm.)</li> <li>Access is also easy for fly-tippers and bikers, however. I understand that plans are afoot to place lockable bollards here to obstruct the former, as well perhaps as vehicles seeking access at night to cheap fuel and machinery from the industrial estate.</li> <li>Specifications for drainage works to BWs 36 &amp; 37 (see below) were amended to include some work on BW36 just west of the [disused] level crossing. This has successfully tidied up and dried out that area.</li> <li>A large concrete block has been put across the bridleway at NZ 429271 / 537863 - presumably by Mr Stephenson, as it is just west of the entrance to his field, and tractor tyres came from the east. Horses should be able to get round OK. But not the many vehicles that appear (from the tyre tracks) to have gone that way recently.</li> <li>These may have been from Mr Stephenson's Tursdale House farm, or on behalf of Mr Laing, of East Grange farm, Shinccliffe, who I think owns it. It was possibly Mr Laing who cleared the hedge on either side of the "yellow brick road" a few months ago.</li> <li>This track, along the western side of the reclaimed pit head, has been getting pretty muddy, lately. So, of course, have most paths this winter. But I report this because it was a fairly solid, dolomite-covered track after it was first constructed in the 1970s. I suspect it will only get worse, over time.</li> <li>Drainage works to BWs 36 &amp; 37 were done between September and December 2013. (See also BW37, below.) They included the short stretch of BW 36 just west of the BW36 / BW37 / FP42 crossroads (at NZ 429260 / 537731), leading down to the beck / ditch there. Given that we have had heavy rainfall since then, it appears that this has been very successful.</li> <li>Just west of the crossroads (where the bogs are now the driest place on the network!), the ditch has been dug out, possibly by farmer, not the DCC contractor. This has created a bit of a ridge between it and the bridleway leading west towards High Croxdale, which may continue to hold water, even when things are drier.</li> <li>Nonetheless, it is not much worse than the path is further up the field, towards High Croxdale: since a fence was built a couple of years ago, the channelling of traffic along this designated path has ruined it up rather. It has been very muddy.</li> </ul>
37	= southern end of Strawberry Lane, connecting Shinccliffe with Tursdale House and Hett Mill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bulk of the drainage works to BWs 36 &amp; 37 has been along BW 37. It appears to have been extremely successful.</li> <li>The stretch of BW37 north of the BW36 / BW37 / FP42 crossroads, however, has not been improved.</li> </ul>
38	from Sherburn road, past Heugh Hall Farm to Old Quarrington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major problems.</li> <li>At the top, the entrance to the field (at NZ 432107 / 537776) is very muddy. I can't see this being easily corrected, as the source of the stream that runs south from here (once known as "Watergate") is near here.</li> <li>The path across the field south of the quarry road is clear and obviously used.</li> <li>Gates just north of there, like the one at "Watergate", are closed with ropes.</li> </ul>
39	= Ramsay's Drive, Park Hill, and through Woodhouses up to Old Quarrington (formerly FPs 12, 28 and part of 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems</li> </ul>
42	over new bridge across A688 at Heugh Hall Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems</li> </ul>
No number	New [permissive?] bridleway round Tarmac's field, from future BW34 (lower track) and round near Crowtrees LNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have not yet walked this in 2014.</li> </ul>
No number – in Coxhoe	New [permissive?] bridleway from Coxhoe BW35 to Heather Lad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No problems.</li> </ul>