

OXFORD FIELDPATHS SOCIETY

(Oxford and District Footpaths, Bridlepaths and Commons Preservation Society)

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District Secretaries

Cherwell D Godfrey, 23 Hawkswell Gardens, Oxford OX2 7EX (Tel. 01865-514082)

City of Oxford vacant

South Oxfordshire N Moon, The Cottage, Church Path, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3TL (Tel. 01494-482494)

Vale of White Horse vacant

West Oxfordshire vacant

Scrutineer of Accounts Joyce Dawson

Website address: "www.ofs.org.uk"

Enquiries should be addressed as follows:

Details of the Society's work	Website or Membership Secretary
Membership	Membership Secretary
Walks – specific dates	Leader named in programme

Details of footpath problems should be reported directly to Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Access Team online, by using the Inter-Active Map on the Countryside Access Team website page under the heading - 'How to report a problem'.

Renewal subscriptions (when not paid by Bankers' Order) should be sent to the Membership Secretary. Cheques should be made payable to "Oxford Fieldpaths Society". Taxpayers are asked to sign a Gift Aid declaration if they have not already done so.

Members wishing to assist the Committee by inspecting specific rights of way may offer their services by writing to the appropriate District Secretary or to Jim Parke. For information on public paths and general topographical detail, sheet 164 of the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 Landranger series is recommended (scale 2cm to 1km, roughly 1.25" to the mile). For fieldwork greater detail is shown on the 1:25000 Explorer series (scale 4cm to 1km, roughly 2.5" to the mile), available from many booksellers, stationers and outdoor clothing suppliers.

The Society is affiliated to:

The Ramblers' Association

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

How to review the year 2021, this has caused me to pause and consider how the last two years have affected people: the isolation, the lack of interaction with others and the slowing of active life. In both 2020 and 21 the walking programmes have been significantly disrupted, members were nervous of being in the company of others whose vaccination status was unknown and the levels of infection were high. Last year 2021 began in lockdown so all of us were confined to walking locally, my daily routine was to use the three parks which are on my doorstep – University Parks, Headington Hill and South Parks. Though it might seem boring to walk the same route watching spring unfold was a delight, the new green growth of unfurling leaves and the abundance of white cherry blossom in South Park and the iconic view from the top of the hill of the spires and towers of Oxford. As late spring unfolded into high summer walking together became a reality, first in groups of six with a booking system and then expanded to 30 when team sports were allowed. Since then, we have been free to enjoy the countryside without restrictions.

Despite lockdown measures the committee has continued to meet on-line and despite the odd technical hitches we have held full meetings, discussing diversions and planning applications to ensure that any changes to the footpath network have, where possible, improved access and safety for walkers. David Godfrey and Nick Moon have been most assiduous in this task and seem to know details of the footpaths of the county like their local neighbourhood streets.

OFS has continued to fund the replacement of stiles with gates. A jointly funded project with the City branch of The Ramblers has made it possible to walk the length of Old Marston footpath 3 without needing galoshes. New gates will be installed on the Darcy D'Alton Way and on the footpath between Wheatley and Waterstock. The new gates are wide so that access is being improved for all walkers. If there are poor/broken stiles in your parish then do contact members of the committee to see if the problems can be resolved.

Having missed two AGMs I felt that it was important there should be an opportunity for members to get together for a walk followed by afternoon tea. Jenny Byrne suggested Tiddington, a new venue and with the advantage of being on a bus route and she organised a walk. Forty-five members responded that they would attend and on a beautiful September afternoon thirty of us set out on the walk. Divided into two groups, Jenny leading one and Brian and Julie Dobson leading the other, we crossed paths halfway round. We returned to a sumptuous tea catered by Alison Broadbridge and Ann Partridge. It was a chance to catch up with members some not seen for more than two years as well as to informally thank Sir Hugo Brunner, our President who will retire at the AGM and to welcome our President-elect Lady Sylvia Jay.

At the AGM in April (restrictions permitting) I will stand down from the position of Chairman after a term extended by the pandemic, it has been a privilege which I have enjoyed, and it is the occasion when I can formally thank and acknowledge the committee members who contribute to the success of the Society. Firstly and most importantly to thank Sir Hugo who agreed to be President in 2014 for three years and has been in post for seven years. It has always been a delight to see him on walks. He has chaired the AGMs and has offered advice about the enormous housing plans which threaten to concrete over the Green Belt surrounding Oxford. In the autumn Jim Parke indicated that he wished to retire from the role of Walks Co-ordinator after five years and I would like to thank him for juggling offers of walks so that the

completed programme has walks long and short around the county and beyond. Gwyneth Tyson has been the Membership Secretary for more than ten years making sure the database is correct and ensuring you receive the programmes and Newsletter. The mailing is a large task filling over 200 envelopes and then taking them to the Post Office. She is retiring from this post at the AGM. Sue Crisp takes the minutes at our meetings to ensure the records are correct, Mike Wykes keeps our finances in good order and deals with the Charities Commission and HMRC. Adam Willett maintains and updates the Website; David Godfrey and Nick Moon I have already mentioned. Janice Ure, Jennifer Byrnes and Margaret Jones make lively contributions to the meetings.

Obviously, the Society would not be the success it is without the contributions of all the walks leaders who find new walks as well as recycling old favourite walks, members of OFS who attend/turn out for walks regardless of weather forecasts, conditions underfoot to ensure that OFS will reach its Centenary in 2016 as a vibrant walking community. However new leaders and committee members are needed so that if you feel you can contribute, please don't feel shy and give something back into the Society.

2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met six times during 2021. We now have seven vacancies, and there will be eight at the AGM as Gwyneth Tyson is stepping down.

Your General Secretary will also be 80 in February next year and would like to be able to step down while still able to keep up with under-40s groups (and more to the point, still able to drive to site visits and still able to draft coherent reports to OCC afterwards, and still able to offer coherent guidance to a successor).

We have three vacancies for District Secretaries. This involves reporting problems, responding to requests for diversions, and checking possible claims for new paths. Most of the documents for checking claims are in the County Records Office in Cowley. We badly need people to undertake this work; it is one of the main planks of our charitable status.

3. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

Our work in protecting rights of way is a general public benefit. Our walks programme, as a health benefit, is also open and advertised to the public.

4. MEMBERSHIP

On 31st December 2021 our total membership was as follows:

Life members	33
Annual members	174
Hon. Members	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	<u>211</u>

During the year 19 new members joined, 6 informed us of their intention to resign and 24 did not renew their membership. It is pleasing to see that we did not lose very many members despite the restrictions still in place due to the pandemic.

More members are now paying their subscription by Bank Transfer which is very helpful. If anyone else wishes to pay by this method the account name is Oxford Fieldpaths Society, the Sort Code is 09-01-52 and the Account Number is 85394908.

Let us hope that 2022 will be a better year with more opportunities for some good walking and visits, and some good weather to add to pleasure.

I have enjoyed being Membership Secretary of OFS for the past 14 years. Though I have been considering when I should resign for a few years now the decision was forced upon me in January this year when I was involved in a nasty car crash. May I say thank you to everyone for the interesting walks and trips and for introducing me to the Oxfordshire Countryside when I first came to live here.

5. FINANCE

Main Account

The Abstract of Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2021 are appended in the report. They show how the Society's income has been used and to what extent funds are now being carried forward to meet future liabilities. There was a net deficit of Income over Expenditure of £1099, a deterioration from the surplus of £839 reported in 2020, in large measure due to an increase in grants (from £306 in 2020 to £1,817 in 2021), and the additional expenditure involved in holding a gathering of Society members at Tiddington village hall to welcome our new President. The annual decrease in subscription income in 2020-2021 (£57) was significantly smaller than that between the year 2019 to 2020 (£235) and is perhaps an indication that the trend of annually falling membership seen in recent years is slowing, a welcome development, hopefully to continue.

The net expenditure increased by £2,035 over the year, again mainly due to the increase in grants and the Tiddington gathering.

A useful financial guiding rule is that subscription income should broadly balance normal operating expenditure (taken to be total expenditure less discretionary grants). Applying this measure to the 2021 year-end balances, normal operating expenditure exceeded the subscription income (£1,884) by about 15%, whereas for 2020, the subscription income exceeded the expenditure (less discretionary grants) by about 7%. This deterioration in sustainability was due in the main to the expense of the Tiddington gathering (an event occurring only once every few years) and the payment of 2 years affiliation fees of £131 to the Ramblers (the 2020 payment was inadvertently missed).

Income from the Society's investments increased from £744 in 2020 to £822 in 2021, probably on account of the general improvement in the stock market following the adverse economic climate during first year of the pandemic. The total value of the Society's investment assets increased from £37,922 to £39,713 over the year, having decreased by a similar amount in the previous year, probably for the same reason.

The current account bank balance at December 31st, 2021 (£3,666) shows a decrease over the value a year earlier (£4,764) mainly due to the increase in grants in 2021.

At the Society Executive Committee Meeting of 13th October 2021, there was a discussion about the Society's Reserves Policy in order to evolve criteria for deciding how much of the Society's financial resources can be prudently used for improvements to countryside access in the near term and how much should be retained in reserve to secure the adequate funding of operating expenses of the Society in future years.

The Society currently has 2 types of investments, the first with CCLA, operated by the Charities Commission and the second by M&G, a private investment trust. With the former, accrued interest is added to the principal each year, thereby increasing its value, whereas with the latter, interest is paid to the Society as a quarterly income each year (for example, amounting to £822 in 2021). The main difference between these two types of investment is that the CCLA investment acts as a buffer against unpredictable financial emergencies which may occur in the future, whereas the M&G investments act both as a buffer and additionally provide an income stream to counteract future deficits of income which may occur, for example, because of declining membership numbers. The amount of assets the Society wishes to maintain as a buffer against unpredictable emergencies and membership decline is not an issue that is amenable to any form of financial analysis and is essentially a value judgement to be exercised by all the trustees. The executive committee decided that henceforth the Reserves Policy shall:

- 1). Aim for normal operating costs (total expenditure less grants) to be covered by subscriptions and interest.
- 2). Draw down the CCLA investment account by a maximum of £2,000 annually for 5 years to increase grants for improvement of countryside rights-of-way access.
- 3). Perform an annual review to monitor the operation of the Reserves Policy.

Society members continue to sign Gift Aid Declarations and this is most beneficial to the Society, as it results in a significant amount of tax being recovered from HMRC, thereby reinforcing the Balance Sheet.

Our thanks are due to Joyce Dawson for her unstinting and valuable work as Scrutineer of the Society's Accounts.

It should be noted that the checking of the financial statement for this Annual Report by our Scrutineer had to be adapted to be compatible with government rules and recommendations on conduct during the pandemic. Normally the scrutiny process involves physical meetings between the Treasurer and the Scrutineer and the transfer of material documents to allow the Scrutineer to check the requisite spreadsheets. This was deemed imprudent in the circumstances and it was decided that only electronic transfer of documents was acceptable and this resulted inevitably in the scrutiny exercise being less comprehensive than it normally is. Nevertheless, by electronically transmitting the Society's bank statements and the statements covering all the investments, it was possible to fully scrutinize all external incomes and expenditures to and from the Society. What was not possible was the verification of the internal transfers, for example, the attribution of expenditures over the categories of Grants, Training, Postage, Telephone and Internet etc, so that these attributions, which appear in the Statement of Financial Activities, are in effect self-certified by the Treasurer. Since all external financial transfers are fully scrutinized, the self-certification of the internal transfers is deemed acceptable in the anomalous current situation.

Social Account

The balance of the social account at 31st December 2021 was £197.49, a decrease from the equivalent balance of £347.49 on 31st December 2018. The Social Account paid £150 towards the Society picnic. The turnover for the year was £150.00.

Standing Order

The Society is most appreciative of those who pay their annual subscription by Standing Order. This method greatly assists cash flow at the start of the fiscal year.

6. PUBLICITY

For a number of years the Oxford Fieldpaths Society has organised a Publicity Stall at the annual Wychwood Forest Fair. In 2020 because of the Covid19 Pandemic, like so many events that year, the Fair was cancelled. In 2021 as the progress of the Pandemic was still unknown there were many discussions about the event taking place. Finally it was decided to hold the Fair in August 2021, respecting Coronavirus precautions, at Foxburrow Community Wood on the outskirts of Witney. The stall was manned by Liz Adams, Jenny Byrne, Margaret Jones and Jim Parke who set it up early in the morning in a well-ventilated marquee with good social distancing spaces.

The display on our stall was set out to showcase the main activities of the Society, in particular the walks programme which aims to keep the paths open and well used; we also showed photographs of several gates which the society has funded to replace broken stiles. Photographs of the d'Arcy Dalton survey showed that the Society continues to ensure that this important recreational route is well signed, the path infrastructure is in good condition and the vegetation is under control. It was encouraging to hear from local visitors and walkers that the d'Arcy Dalton Way is known to them. There were queries about the origin and route of the d'Arcy Dalton Way, those who asked were very interested to learn a little more about the path.

During the day nearly a hundred visitors stopped at our stall, which gave the opportunity to describe the work and achievements of the Society. A number of people said that they had enjoyed walks in their local areas during periods of Covid Lockdown. This provided a useful lead-in to explain that walking with the Society would introduce them to other parts of the County, with its varied attractive landscapes and all walks led by experienced walk leaders.

Because of the Pandemic and Government Lockdowns our walks, when allowed, were limited to small numbers of people. Publicity was not possible. Walks which took place were very well received, we were all very pleased to be out in the countryside again with the extra bonus to meet Society members again after a long absence.

We still regret that the Oxford Times suspended its Daily Info page; therefore we rely on Society members to invite their relatives, friends and neighbours to join us for a walk with the possibility to join the Society.

Thank you Society Members for your support over the last year and years.

7. WALKS PROGRAMME

This is my last report as Walks Organiser as I have handed over the baton to Liz Adams.

The year 2021 has once more been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic which has had a major effect upon the walks programme. Unlike the 2001 Foot-and-Mouth pandemic which caused all Public Rights of Way to be closed off to walkers, this human pandemic has seen a period of lockdown when it was not legally possible to walk the footpaths in groups. This lockdown was initially for the three months ending in late March 2021. At other times group walks were allowed. Other measures were introduced, such the need to book a place on a walk and for members to keep a

social distance apart of 2 metres while on a walk. Walk leaders were required to keep a list of members on a walk and also to complete a Health and Safety checklist for each walk they led. Some walk leaders felt they could not lead a walk because of the need to shield themselves at home because of underlying health conditions.

Currently twenty-six members are on the list of walk leaders. Inevitably some leaders feel unable to submit walks for inclusion in future programmes. We are always on the lookout for new walks leaders as it enables the load to be spread more evenly. Help and advice is always on hand to assist any member prepared to come forward, particularly with undertaking the all-important recce.

Again, I am most grateful to all those members who have submitted their proposed walks – long and short – for all of our members to enjoy. The current winter programme of walks totalled 33 which resulted in a walk every weekend with the occasional mid-week walk as well. Thank you everyone!

8. THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND RIGHTS OF WAY MONITORING GROUP

While the coronavirus again prevented any live meetings in 2021, the County Council did manage to arrange two online Teams meetings, which were felt to be a success. Having not met for 18 months, members seemed to take great pleasure in finding a way of re-establishing the Group and seeing familiar faces after such a long time.

The County Council reported that Steve Tabbitt, previously Thames Path Manager, had been appointed to fill the long-vacant Principal Officer post allowing Sarah Aldous, who had been covering it to concentrate on the role of Technical Officer, which has always been her official post and that the team was now up to full strength for the first time for several years. The pandemic has seen a noticeable increase in path use and consequent increase in problem reporting but various covid restrictions had both limited the Council's ability to respond and the ability of volunteer groups to assist with practical work in their accustomed manner. The County Council, however, has tried to minimise the disruption to its efforts to tackle the backlog by concentrating on activities such as footbridge maintenance and replacement which were more compatible with covid restrictions.

The improved progress made by Countryside Records in tackling the backlog of modification order applications since Mike Walker's appointment has continued, but problems at the Planning Inspectorate have meant that a backlog of contested orders is building up there, which was only to be expected. A paper we submitted on the future of the Definitive Map and possibilities for remedying a large number of long-standing anomalies resulted in an interesting discussion, in which the County Council admitted that the Map was seriously out of date and the numerous anomalies pose a significant problem, but current resources allow little prospect of an early solution.

Despite the problems caused by covid, overall progress is being made and a seemingly renewed enthusiasm for the function of the Monitoring Group in promoting mutual understanding between the participating groups and generating a will to bring about genuine improvement was very welcome.

9. OUT ON THE GROUND

Lost Ways

Oxfordshire Area Ramblers are coordinating a project to look for 'Lost Footpaths' in the County and asked Parish Path Wardens, who have an unrivalled knowledge of

the paths in their areas, to help them in this task. Lost footpaths are those that, for one reason or another, were not recorded and shown on when the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way was drawn up for the first time in the 1940s. We have until January 1st 2026, using documentary evidence (and/or evidence of 20 years' use where available), to identify such lost paths and register them as claims on the Oxfordshire County Council list (Stop Press! It has just been announced that the January 2026 deadline is about to be abolished). For the past year or so a team of volunteers under the leadership of Jack Cornish at central ramblers previously checked the whole of England identifying all possible Lost Paths on old maps. This information has been produced on an inter-active map covering England and Wales.

During the past year Oxfordshire PPWs were asked to check the routes of Lost Paths in their parishes and, in particular, identify those that were worthy of being further researched so as to be eventually recorded on the County Council's Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. This is because the majority of Lost Paths are either duplicates of existing PRowS, or have been incorporated into new housing development, or would not improve the general connectivity of the path network.

Some 154 or 48.4% of the County's parishes have been checked so far: a total of 764 Lost Paths were found of which 114 or 15% were found to be worthy of further research. These 114 Lost Paths had a total length of 105 kilometres or 66 miles. A detailed record, including photographs, was made of each Lost Path. This information has been forward to Jack Cornish to follow up.

Members may be interested to inspect the map of Lost Ways. This can be done by following the steps listed below.

1. Open up the webpage www.ramblers.org.uk. Go to Home Page.
2. On the left hand side of the home page click onto the text 'Don't Lose Your Way' – 'Find out More'
3. Next webpage click on to 'Explore the full map of lost paths' *
4. Next webpage click on to 'Love It. Save it' – 'Map of lost paths'
5. If you are a first-time user you then need to provide yourself with a password for future access and sign in using your email address.

The Inter-active map then appears. The map comes up showing the environs of Hatfield Chase (this may change between updates). In the top-right corner you can type in a place name or post-code and the map will automatically move to that location. Existing PRowS are shown in green and potential lost paths in blue. A choice of base maps is given. The most useful to use is the OS map but the most fascinating is the historic 6 inch to the mile survey undertaken around 1900. This reveals the huge amount of urbanisation that has taken place in the County over that period of time. Note that many blue lines end at OS grid lines owing to the method of survey, and the continuation should be claimed to the nearest existing right of way.

For further information contact Jim Parke: jmh.parke@btinternet.com

General

The number of outstanding claims is now 73. At the time of writing, 18 modification orders have been made, with nine receiving objections, two confirmed, two unopposed and awaiting confirmation and five still in progress. Two claims have been refused, one of which is under appeal. Nine further orders have been confirmed during the year, which are therefore no longer on the list.

Comments have been made regarding the A40 and Didcot road schemes; the plans seem to show Appleford and South Leigh being cut off from much of their countryside.

Many developments are proposed to meet “Oxford’s Unmet Need” and other such “targets”. These must be scrutinised (whether or not we oppose them) to ensure that they do not result in severed or unsatisfactory footpaths, and that opportunities are taken to reopen severed rights of way over former airfields etc.

Cherwell

HS2 will affect about six paths in Mixbury, Finmere, Newton Purcell and Godington, including two at Finmere Quarry; the plans involve minimal diversion and disruption. The plans for East-West Railway involve the diversting Launton FP12 and FP21 to stay on the north-west of the line to join FP11 at a single crossing, also a footbridge with cycle ramp at Jarvis Lane between Bicester and Launton and an extra path from the crossing towards the Poundon road, the route of which is under discussion. The diversion of Ardley BR27 has been confirmed, with the promise of an extra bridleway north of the Viridor plant when restoration is complete.

Large areas adjacent to Banbury are earmarked for development including an area between Salt Way and the A361 for which planning applications have been made. The Local Plan also includes 4,400 houses north of Oxford in areas which have been flooded recently. The order for FP28 in the Salt Way development is still outstanding, but work on the development has now started. There are plans for development in both sides of the A361 Bloxham road. A correction to the definitive line of Banbury FP20, which no longer climbs over buildings, and a temporary diversion afor quarrying on Wroxton FP3, have been confirmed.

There are proposals for major development at Upper Heyford which could result in joining up the Avesditch and Portway bridleways and routing Somerton FP13 along the outside instead of it being bisected by the security fence. The proposed diversion on Wroxton FP9 at the mill and a proposal to divert Tadmarton BR12 have received objections. The bridleway at Mixbury is confirmed, but there are objections to the two claims in the school grounds, and to the cul-de-sac claim in South Newington.

A proposal to divert paths at Merton Grounds Farm was found to route the paths through five-foot-high weeds. A plan to divert Noke BR10 and create a connection opposite Woodeaton FP7, eliminating the masochists’ paradise of walking along the B4027, attracted opposition from local horse riders as the route is too close to the road and horses would be frightened by the traffic noise and reflections of the sun off car bonnets. A proposal to divert the paths in Wroxton Quarry away from their near-vertical cliff faces would add a mile to the east-west paths; this is under discussion.

Oxford City

Despite coronavirus some developments have occurred in respect of the public rights of way network in Oxford City.

This year’s highlight was that some years after the County Council’s campaign to improve the path network through the Cherwell meadows in Old Marston, FP3 southwards from Marston Ferry Road has finally been tackled with its awkward stiles being replaced with gates and a sludgy swamp being bridged with a floodwalk. It is to be hoped that more walkers will now discover it and incorporate it in their walks.

The City Council's diversion order for Oxford FP80 at Warren Crescent, to which the Society had objected as it would take the path through the redeveloped social housing and along a road instead of along the edge of the nature reserve as we were seeking, was confirmed; but we nevertheless achieved our aim in objecting, as the City Council resolved to dedicate the diverted route we were seeking as an additional path, so that walkers will not have to pass through the new development if they do not wish.

It has come to light that Oxford FP153, a path through new development in Temple Cowley, was added to the Definitive Map in error as it had been removed from the map of new highways to be adopted within the development, so the County Council has made an order to have it deleted.

Proposals to concrete the section of Old Marston BR8 north of Marston Ferry Road and widen the western end of Cuckoo Lane (Oxford FP32) to enable their use by cyclists met with fierce local opposition. The Cuckoo Lane scheme is in abeyance; the development associated with has received planning permission after two refusals.

Recently the City Council sent out a consultation on a minor diversion of Oxford FP111 round university buildings being redeveloped south of Old Road. As local people have for many years been bypassing this section by staying within a nearby tree belt, we have submitted that it would be far preferable to take this opportunity to formalise this arrangement.

Finally new development east of Banbury Road appears likely to resolve the long-standing anomaly of Gosford & Water Eaton FP8 ending at the City boundary in the middle of an arable field 250 metres short of Banbury Road!

South Oxfordshire

While coronavirus has generally limited progress on public rights of way issues in South Oxfordshire, 2021 has seen substantial progress made on adding missing paths to the Definitive Map. The ancient green lane from Chalgrove High Street to its parish church has, despite objections, recently been added to the Definitive Map as Chalgrove RB20. The green lane leading from Waterstock village to Waterstock FP10 towards Ickford Bridge has been added as FP13 and two woodland paths in Dean Wood have been added as Woodcote FPs 33 & 34. Recently an order was made to add East Hagbourne FP30, a well-used path leading to the village hall, to the Map, but orders for Henley-on-Thames FP33, off Mill Lane and Watlington FP36 near the parish church have received objections and the latter will be the subject of a public inquiry in August.

Following constructive consultation procedures diversion orders have been made for Ewelme FP32 / Brightwell Baldwin FP2 and Tetsworth FP65 / Lewknor FP1 which will resolve long-standing problems with these paths. The two near-impossible stiles on Tetsworth FP65 and Lewknor 1, which gave your Secretary minor (and fortunately temporary) muscle strains on getting over, have now been provided with usable steps, and the former will be replaced with a gate as part of the diversion works. An order to divert Chalgrove FP3 round proposed new development has been confirmed but a claim will need to be made to secure the future of the long-standing path through the allotments which walkers have probably used since the war to access FP3 and is actually shown on the 1900 map as the original line of FP3 before the new road was built.. The diversion order for Goring Heath FP27 and the extinguishment order for part of Culham FP1, to which we have objected, remain with

the Planning Inspectorate and we have no dates for public inquiries or alternative procedures.

Finally a fresh application to build a new house at the end of Haywards Close, Henley has caused us to raise with the County and District Councils the fact that an order was made by the District Council to divert a non-definitive path across the site some years ago but never came into effect as the planning permission to which it was attached was allowed to lapse. The County Council has clarified that this order can still be made effective and the path added to the Definitive Map if the details of the diversion remain the same with any new planning permission and this appears likely.

Vale of White Horse

The claim for footpaths from Appleton BR10 to Northmoor Lock has been refused and is under appeal. The diversion of the extension of West Hendred BOAT 9, claimed as a bridleway, along field boundaries, the order to define the width of West Hanney Byway 2 and a path from a former pub in Appleton have been confirmed. A variation to the line of Drayton FP24 to join up with Abingdon FP3 has received no objections and can be confirmed. The order to divert Kingston Lisle FP4/Sparsholt FP6 at Common Farm, where the definitive line differs on all four versions of the Definitive Map, has been made.

Sunningwell Parish Council has been active in pursuing the closed footpath through the quarry at Bayworth (Sunningwell FP8); there is a possibility of action from the County Council. We are also pursuing the long-standing closure of Marcham BR17, where there are signs of progress. A proposal to divert Wantage FP4 out of the menage has received objections.

West Oxfordshire

A Restricted Byway (open to horse-drawn, but not motorised, vehicles) at Brize Norton and two footpaths at Chadlington have been confirmed. Diversions to eliminate the dead ends at Chadlington and Taston and a diversion round the Hanborough School extension have been confirmed. There are objections to the claim for a byway in Dean Wood near Charlbury.

The proposal to divert the path in front of Coldron Mill near Spelsbury to the north is unacceptable as the route has no views, and there is no proposal to divert the north-south path which is mostly in the lake; the diversion of the path from Charlbury onto the existing bridge is reasonable. A proposal at Perrots Farm in North Leigh to remove the path (and trespassing bicycles) from the farmyard is reasonable, but the attempt to take FP19 out of the wood has no agricultural justification.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We again would like to thank all those members whose hard work and support have helped make a useful contribution to rights of way work in the county. We also thank those who go out unheralded with secateurs and clear out the rampaging weeds and vicious vegetation that block paths in summer. We are also grateful for the work of our colleagues in the Chiltern Society, Open Spaces Society, Cotswold Wardens CPRE and Ramblers' Association.

OXFORD FIELDPATHS SOCIETY

BANKER'S ORDER FORM

Please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary, to start a new Banker's Order. To change an existing order this form should be presented to your own bank branch.

To.....
(name and full postal address of your bank)

Sort Code..... Account Number.....

Please pay to Santander UK plc, 2 Triton Square, Regent's Place, London NW1 3AN, for the credit of the account of the Oxford Fieldpaths Society (Sort Code 09-01-52, Account 85394908) the sum of

£..... (.....)
(amount in words)

on January 1st and thereafter on the same day of each year until further notice.

SIGNATURE.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please complete this form only if you have not already given us a Gift Aid Declaration or your tax status has changed.

Name
Address

Postcode

Please tick one of the following options

I wish the Oxford Fieldpaths Society to treat as Gift Aid Donations all donations (including membership subscriptions) I have paid since 6 April 2000 and all donations (including membership subscriptions) that I may pay from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I understand that I must pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax retained by the Society.

OR

I am not a UK taxpayer

Print FULL name

Signed

Date

Please print your full name; we need your first names to claim tax from Inland Revenue.