

Ruby Riders drop-in session

24th November 2011

'Visitors'

Mark Betson	Ride the Ruby Country
Russ Collins	Forestry Commission
Philip Hackett	British Horse Society
Debbie Hackett	
Pam Human	British Horse Society
Sandra Boycott	British Horse Society
Elaine Freestone	
Christine Ingram	South West Riders (by telephone!)

Points of interest

1. Latest draft of the Ruby Rides guide available to view including detailed route maps and proposed waymark disk for new routes.
 - a. Russ is happy for the Cookworthy route to be waymarked through the Forest.
 - b. Philip recommended checking with BHS head office about use of logo on cover.
 - c. Draft route 3 has been replaced with a route that incorporates the Tarka Trail from Petrockstowe (Moormill) to Dunsbear Moor. Pam and Sandra suggested that other good off road routes exist in the Langtree area and would be worth including in the proposed online guides (which can easily include any other good routes additional to the 6 in the published guide).
2. Northcombe Plantation proposals available to view including detailed plan of A3079 road crossing proposal.
 - a. Elaine suggested that a similar situation exists at Halwill Junction, where it would be good to create a straight over crossing of the A3079 at Beaworthy Cross.
3. Pam and Sandra explained the background to two routes that are currently unrecorded on the legal record of public rights of way (the Definitive Map and Statement).
 - a. Buckland Filleigh Footpath No. 6 was proposed for an upgrade to bridleway but this has previously failed at Public Inquiry.
 - b. Unrecorded track from Bonds Cross to Heanton Barton (Petrockstowe) would make a useful addition to the network.
4. Sandra reported that an issue with Black Torrington Bridleway No. 7 remains unresolved at its eastern end, where a car is regularly parked at the end of it. Tim Freeman has looked into this in the past.
5. Elaine and Christine both mentioned problems finding the correct route of the recent Lower Melbury diversion (Beaworthy Bridleway No. 4). Tim is going to look again at the waymarking of the new route. Steve is going to add 'Ruby Rides Route 2' specific waymarking to this in due course. Christine recommended that Mark and Steve / Tim arrange a small opening event on this route and invite

people to walk the route. This would be an opportunity to thank Tim for the excellent work he has done negotiating the new route (the old route has been a problem to users for perhaps 20 years).

6. Christine reported that the recently created public bridleway in the West Bowerland Plantation is boggy at its southern end (Sourton Bridleway No. 39). Steve knew of this problem which has also been reported by Sourton Parish Council and suggested that he could try to track down some recycled road planings to put down or, if budget became available, some new stone.
7. Philip and Christine asked for a Pegasus Way update. The County Council's agent has met twice in the past month with the landowners' agent (one agent is acting for most of the landowners). Steve is meeting the County Council agent on 29th November 2011 for an update on the negotiations. Steve has also put in a bid for funding in 2012-13 to enable construction of the route if, as and when agreement can be reached with landowners.
8. Christine asked for an update on Burley Wood, where the County Council had asked the Forestry Commission whether it would consider upgrading Bridestowe Footpath No. 2a and Lewtrenchard Footpath No. 9 to a public bridleway. Steve believed that the Forestry Commission had not yet considered this as it is very busy on other matters. Russ suggested that the Commission is hoping to be able to employ a Recreation Officer soon who would be able to consider such matters. Russ also confirmed that he is now additionally responsible for forestry land in North Devon.
9. Christine reported that a property has been put on the market near Bratton Clovelly and the description of it suggests that there is no public access. However, the site is crossed by a public bridleway.

Proposed dates of future drop-in sessions (to be confirmed but 6 dates spread throughout 2012):

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...

Venue: Cookworthy Forest Centre