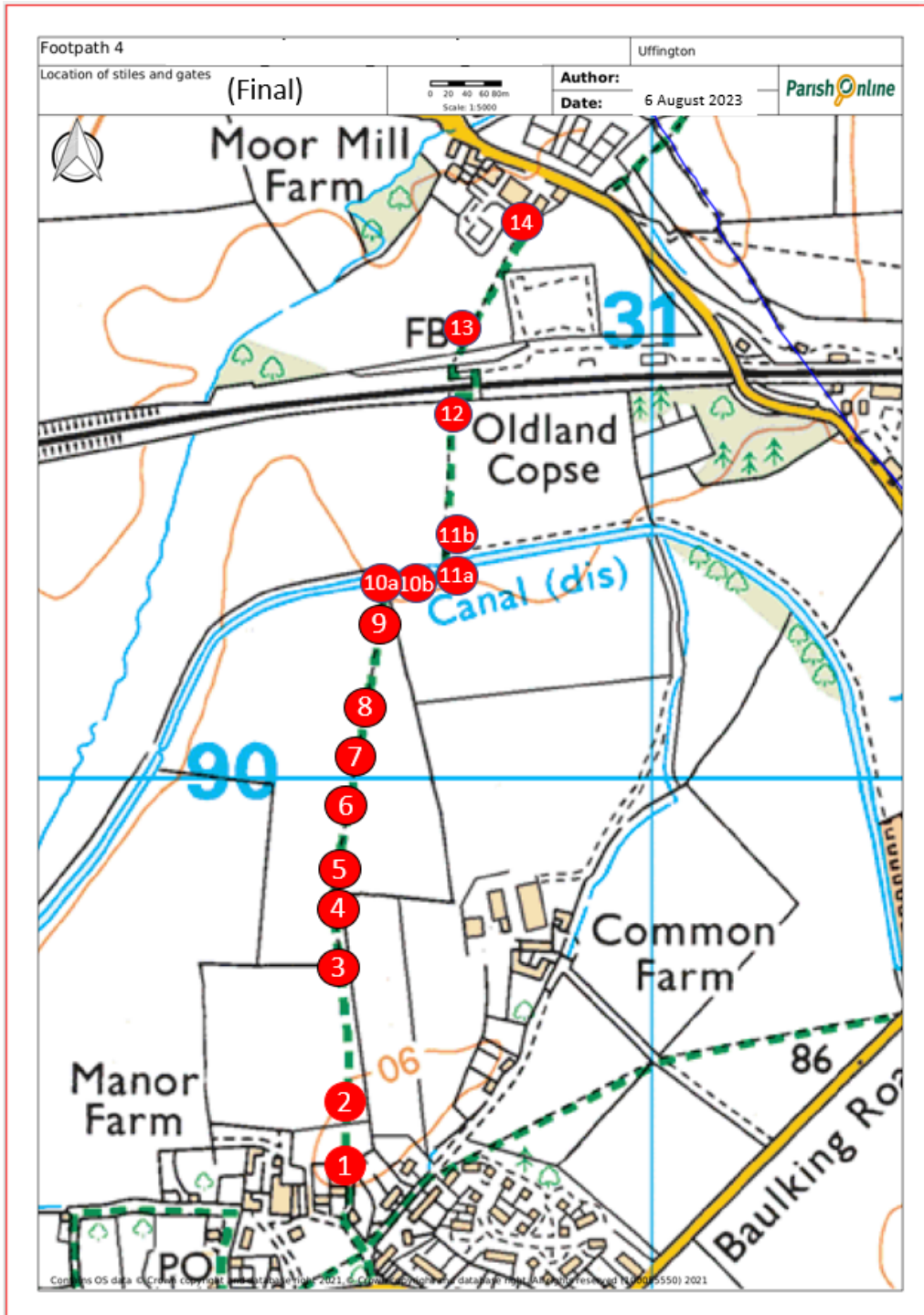


Revitalisation / Upgrading of Uffington Footpath 387/4 - stiles to kissing gates – a record of the project

Introduction.

Fifteen new galvanized gates (a mixture of kissing and self-closing gates) were installed by Uffington Parish Council ('the Council') in July 2023 to replace stiles on Uffington Footpath (FP) 387 / 4. This was the fourth in a series of projects by the Council to improve access to the footpaths in and around Uffington for walkers of all ages.

The location of the new gates is shown on this plan:



Footpath 387/4 (FP 4) is used by many people for walking in a northerly direction from the village towards Moor Mill Farm, and thence on further to Fernham, Baulking or Shellingford, or returning in an extended loop to the village via Uffington Gorse (Uffington Fox Covert) and the kissing gates on FP 12. In Uffington, FP 4 is accessed from a passage behind the 'Cottage on the Green'; it crosses a small paddock initially, followed by a number of larger fields in agricultural usage, a wooden footbridge over the disused Wilts and Berks Canal, and an elevated footbridge over the railway before reaching Moor Mill Farm.

The old stiles having been replaced by kissing gates, or, in some cases, simple self-closing gates, and the ground around the new gates improved, more people can use FP 4, and everyone will have a safer experience. The footpath is now easy to access and walkable by people of all ages. Starting close to the centre of the village, near the village shop, this is excellent for community involvement and therefore beneficial for the health and well-being of our residents.

The project was funded by a number of donors, to all of whom Uffington Parish Council is very grateful; they are (with the amounts):

Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funds from Grundon Waste Management Ltd, from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund	£3,486.00
White Horse Show Trust	£1,577.50
Oxfordshire County Council – Countryside Access Team	£721.70
Uffington Parish Council	£1,577.50
Total	£7,362.70

The Council is also extremely grateful to the following:

1. All the landowners upon whose land the new gates have been installed, and who supported the project from the start. They are: The Executors of the late Mrs E Rosser, Mr and Mrs T Matthews, Network Rail and Mr and Mrs Stephen Green.
2. Noll Countryside Services Ltd (of Lambourn) who have done a very professional job for us in the installation of all fifteen gates.

The purpose of this record is to provide a full picture – 'before and after' - of the stiles and their replacement gates, using the numbering on the map above.

Stile 1:



Replaced by kissing gate 1:



Stile 2:



Replaced by kissing gate 2:



Stile 3 and an old footbridge have been by-passed, with agreement of the landowner:



Stile 4:



Replaced by kissing gate 4:



Stile 5:



Replaced by kissing gate 5:



There then follow four self-closing gates, to provide access to walkers over the large field after Gate 5, which is usually sub-divided by electric fences for strip-grazing purposes. Note the blue hose, providing a safe conduit for the electrified wire, where required, under all the new gates. The last of these, below, is **Gate 9**:



The footpath then goes on to Stile 10a, leading onto a small bridge:



Replaced by kissing gate 10a:



Gate 10b, looking back over the bridge towards kissing gate 10a:



Stile 11, leading onto the footbridge over the Wilts and Berks canal:



Replaced by gate 11:



This is followed by kissing gate 11b, heading north, from the Wilts and Berks Canal, towards the railway:



Stile 12, on the south side of the railway footbridge:



Replaced by gate 12:



Stile 13, on the north side of the railway footbridge:



Replaced by gate 13:



From here, the footpath heads north to the gate at Moor Mill Farm (14). The old one:



And the new one:



Some pictures of Kieran and Peter, of Noll Countryside Services Ltd, at work on the improvement of FP4:



