

## RoW Report – January 2025

1. Since the November Parish Council Meeting the weather has continued to make many footpaths wet and boggy. This has also made several stiles unstable, or unusable, because the posts are not solid and firm in the wet mud.

Parishioners are requested to report any incidents they encounter via the Somerset Roam Website. <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map#>

2. The Emily Estates (EE) have now officially opened the new Permissive Path over EE land that runs from the new bridge over the A359 to the point where the Monarch's Way, Macmillan Way and Leyland Trail (WN 22/16) meets Hick's Lane. It has been signposted by EE both at the top and bottom. This does not mean that the current Right of Way has been cancelled or redirected, and signs for both the Monarch's Way and WN22/16 should still be in place.
3. The largest issue facing the Rights of Way within the Parish area at present is the deterioration of ROW WN19/105 has deteriorated in part due to illegal use by off-roaders completely destroying the surface of the lane. Additionally the failure of the landowners to maintain the ditches either side of the path and not preventing their own tractor traffic from damaging the bridleway.

Somerset Council have currently received a quote for £17,500 - £20,000 to repair the damage and are in the process of securing 2 other quotes as part of the relevant procurement process. However, any such works are now subject to an ecology report into whether the visible badger setts are in current use and advice from the relevant ecologist for what steps need to be done next. If the setts are live, then works under a badger licence can only be carried out between July and November.

There was a question raised as to whether the Parish Council could help to fund any repairs, but based on a current quote of £17-20k, any funding from the Parish Council would be de minimis.