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NEWLY OPEN

West Sussex News- provided by WSCC rights of way team

New interactive map on the way

West Sussex County Council is updating its iMap facility, which will give customers access to public rights of way, paths and walks information.

There are currently 3 different on-line mapping facilities on our website, all offering very different user experiences. In order to present a consistent look and feel, and to update our mapping in line with other councils, we have redesigned iMap and hope that this will provide customers with a user experience more in line with today's commonly used mapping sites. The new iMap uses a product called "ESRI LocalView" which, as its name suggests, is designed to display information locally to where you are or where you want to be. LocalView also offers more reliability and scope for future development, and we hope to achieve more improvements for customers by gathering their views and comments on our new-look website.

Keep an eye on our webpage (www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow) as to when the system will be going live. (*Editor's note, you can find the locations of the reports below by using the current map at www.westsussex.gov.uk/imap*)

Billingshurst bridleway number 1918



A culvert has been installed where this bridleway had previously been getting very wet and poached (see before and after photos). This was a project organized by the Access Ranger, with the work being carried out by contractors with the help of machinery borrowed from the landowner. It has been well re-

ceived in the local area.

Hurstpierpoint bridleway number 80Hu

A new culvert and surfacing improvements have been carried out on what had been a badly poached section of Pangdean Lane. This forms part of the Green Circle improvement programme.

Ashurst public bridleway FP1872

After initial proposals from the landowner, a partnership developed with them, a local contractor and West Sussex County Council to deliver the works. We hope that this provides a greatly improved route, particularly in combination with bridleway 1868 to the west, which was resurfaced a few years ago.

Burgess Hill bridleway numbers 16BH and 18BH

Working in partnership with Burgess Hill Town Council, surface improvements on these bridleways have recently been completed. They form part of the Green Circle improvement programme to encourage sustainable access and recreation. It provides an year-round route that is easily accessible.

Stile-free loops in the Horsham area

West Sussex County Council has recently installed three kissing gates to replace stiles at Denne Park with kind agreement from the landowner and in collaboration with the Green Gym, a local conservation volunteers group. Together with work previously done by Horsham District Council, there is now a network of routes to the south of Horsham that is free of stiles. It has not been possible to include the map here because the size of the file is very large, but if you would like a copy please email prow@westsussex.gov.uk Local residents and the Health Walks coordinator for Horsham District Council have welcomed these improvements.

New Footbridges



A replacement 4m bridge has been erected on **Bolney** footpath number **27Bo**.

New 6m footbridges replace rotten structures on the following paths: **Coldwaltham** footpath number **2426**; **Hurstpierpoint** footpath number **30aHu** (pictured) and **Upper Beeding** footpath number **2738**.

'Horsted Keynes Hackers' - Volunteer Group

This volunteer group was established nearly a year ago with a vision to help maintain and improve the local rights of way network in Horsted Keynes. The group has around 25 members with 8 - 10 people regularly coming out on each task. They will have met 13 times by the end of August 2010 and completed almost 2 km of vegetation clearance. This work is undertaken on top of the regular maintenance cycle. The local Access Ranger works with the group to provide experience and guidance, with the group receiving tools and training through the County Council. The aim is to get more involved in improvement works and offer a variety of projects. If readers are aware of any projects local to the group that should be considered for action, please contact prow@westsussex.gov.uk

Volunteering Opportunities

It is recognised that volunteers have an important role to play both for personal benefits and in terms of added value to the public rights of way network. West Sussex County Council is seeking to support individuals or groups who wish to play a part in this way. The public rights of way service is currently under review, which means that the structure of volunteering across the county is still to be decided. More information will be made available at the earliest opportunity.

OPEN ACCESS- NEWS FROM THE SOUTH DOWNS JOINT COMMITTEE

We fought for the right to roam, but with access land on the South Downs being so patchy it has been hard to know what you can actually use in practice. No more! SDJC tells us:

"South Downs Joint Committee area teams have now completed a report on the status of access land within the South Downs. It shows that there are 311 statutory access land sites, covering 8500 hectares, or 5.3% of the total National Park area. 297 of these can be classified as being open (although there are many where access to / from the site could be improved). 14 currently have no access, for reasons detailed in the report. A full audit of access land areas is contained within the report.



From April 2011, the South Downs National Park Authority will take on the role of Access Authority and with this, responsibility for access land. It is then hoped that recommendations within the report for both opening up areas that currently have no access and the enhancement of existing access land provision can be considered / implemented.

To read the report and the complete audit of access land within the South Downs click the link below.”

http://www.southdownsonline.org/protecting/content/page/5259/SDJC_ACCESS_LAND_REPORT_AUGUST10.pdf

Up to now comparatively little use has been made of access land. Lots of us still just do the old walks we know even though there are now new opportunities. Do send us details of your walks that involve this land. A group that has been running regular monthly walks exploring access land is “Action for Access. Their most recent walk explored Malling Down near Lewes. To get on their mailing list email action4access@googlemail.com

BINSTEAD WOODS

Don Ayling. (Arun District Councillor for Arundel) writes to encourage us to publicise Binstead Wood, just west of Arundel He says “Binstead Woods is listed as Ancient Woodland and is now within the Southdowns National Park because of this. West Sussex County Council have just done some good work on repairing the Footpaths.” The wood is centred at SZ995065

Details of walks through the wood can be found at <http://www.brooksideuk.com/binsted2.html> and <http://www.walbertonag.org.uk/sixwalks.htm>

Some pictures and a story about the wood can be found at <http://www.lindakennedy.com/kennersblog/labels/Binstead%20Woods.html> and some history at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22940#s1>

PERMISSIVE PATHS

Let us know of any permissive paths you think could do with some publicity..

Countryside stewardship walks can be found at <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/>

WALKS ON NEWLY OPENED ROUTES

Are you organising a walk that takes in a recently opened path? Send us the details. Please say what new path(s) you are using, a brief description of the walk, the time date and meeting point, mileage and how to contact the organiser if people want to come. We also welcome short accounts of walks you have done. Bear in mind that the newsletter goes out at the beginning of each month with a deadline of 25th of the month before.

STILL CLOSED

Sadly, there are still a lot of paths that have been closed for some time.

Others are hard to use. Here is an example in East Sussex at Framfield, right opposite the famous “Hoogstraaten path”. It is the responsibility of a different landowner and serves to remind us that there is still work to do. The path is also tightly hemmed in by an electric fence and other stiles are out of repair. The signpost is missing. This route could be part of a really beautiful walk south from Framfield.

Photo by Kate Ashbrook



WEST SUSSEX

Unavailable paths in West Sussex

You can see a list of these for West Sussex at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure-and-tourism/public-rights-of-way/4--unavailable-routes On this page there are links to paths that are temporarily closed and those that are long term unavailable for other reasons.

EAST SUSSEX

East Sussex currently only has available a list of paths temporarily obstructed for maintenance. This list is at <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/pathclosures.htm> This list is updated on a fortnightly basis. They hope to have a list of long term unavailable paths on their site soon.

OTHER THINGS

PATH NUMBERS AND GRID REFERENCES

In this newsletter paths are identified by grid references. In some cases path numbers are used. There is no easy way to find out the path number in East Sussex but in West Sussex you can find a map of paths with numbers at www.westsussex.gov.uk/imap . The map can also provide a quick way of checking grid references as if you put the cursor over the spot you want the grid reference appears in the bottom left corner. Otherwise visit www.streetmap.co.uk and type in the grid reference you want to locate prefixed by TQ for most of Sussex or SU for western West Sussex. You will need to go to zoom level 3 or 4 in the zoom control on the right hand side.

COULD YOU BE (MORE) ACTIVE IN THE RAMBLERS?

Throughout Sussex Ramblers volunteers are active, checking paths, reporting problems, lobbying for more access, organising walks and putting out information like this. We always need more members and, in the current financial situation your support is particularly valuable. If you are not yet a member why not join now? It's easy. For further information visit <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/membership/about/joinand-share-the-joy.htm> Walking groups can affiliate to the Ramblers.

If you are already a member but are not yet active could you do something practical? Sussex area is always looking for people to help by checking paths, lobbying for open access, leading walks, helping with publicity, monitoring the press, to name just a few things. If you are interested email me at chris.smith@hbhelp.co.uk, saying what you might be interested in and I will point you in the right direction.

Reporting Path Problems

Footpath problems can be reported to West Sussex County Council at <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/prowfeedback>

and to East Sussex County Council at

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus/emailus/email.aspx?n=Rights+of+Way&e=rightsofway&d=eastsussex.gov.uk>

If you know that the problem is inside the South Downs area of outstanding national beauty(AONB) it may be quicker to report the problem to the South Downs Joint Committee

<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/rte.asp?id=158>

The committee will also deal with problems over problems with access areas on the downs.

If you know who your Ramblers local footpath secretary is please also report it to them.

This information was compiled from usually reliable sources, but mistakes get made and things do change. Please let us know about any mistakes or changes.

This newsletter is now being received by people active in the Ramblers in Sussex, as well as people and groups outside the Ramblers who are interested in receiving it. They include councillors, walking groups, parish councils and others. If you have received it via someone else and you want to get the newsletter in future then you need to email Chris Smith at chris.smith@hbhelp.co.uk. (If you want to be taken off of the list then email the same address). Your email will not be given to anyone else or used for any other purpose. You can chose to have your mailing with pictures (which makes a bigger file) or without (which may be better if you have a dial up connection- you can still see the pictures on the web site above.)

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