

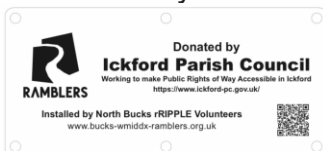
North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise)
Activity Report – 14 April 2026 – 31 August 2026

Copies of before & after photos of all work are available on request. Man hours include some travel time. DaG = Donate a Gate. CAMS (Countryside Access Management System) is a reference used by BC (Buckinghamshire Council) for work requests. All work is requested and authorized by Alastair McVail, BC North Bucks PRow Officer, or Jon Clark, BC Senior Strategic Access Officer. PG = Pedestrian Gate (e.g. Centrewire Marlow or Bison Charnwood); KG = Kissing Gate (e.g. Centrewire Woodstock or Bison Berkswell). DFU = Dinton with Ford & Upton.

“Installed to NB rRIPPLE standard” means the following: “Pedestrian gate installed c/w 22 mm washer, hinges greased, eye bolt thread copper greased and latch oiled. Latch 8 mm nut replaced with 8 mm security nut. Two 1.8 m x 100 x 100 UC4 15 year Redwood posts c/w Postsaver sleeves are attached to the gate’s H-frame with two 10 mm diameter coach screws. The posts and H frame are tamped in firmly with copious quantities of 20 mm and then 40 mm shingle. Improved by the Ramblers square decals and BC way markers fitted as appropriate.” KG slightly different as only one post needed and as from 30/1/19 we are now putting half a 20 kg bag of Post Fix or Remix on top of each of the two galvanized “feet” of the two hoops. Arisings, i.e. the timber from the old stile is cut up by chain saw and removed from site unless stated otherwise.

16/4/26 Marsh Gibbon Gate 387 MGI/6072 CAMS 87669 at SP647238 at junction of MGI/6/1, 6/2 and 6A/1 on the Bernwood Jubilee and Cross Bucks Way - Beds, Bucks, Northants LDWA DaG. Dismantled dilapidated 4-rail, 1-broken step, 1-hand post stile. Trimmed hawthorn hedging with loppers and chain saw. Installed PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. 5x6=30 man hours. BKJerryJulian Phil. 40 miles. Met with several interested and impressed local walkers.

27/4/26 Ickford Gate 388 ICK/3532 on ICK/4/4 at SP649072 CAMS a05018 Ickford PC DaG. Dismantled dilapidated timber kissing gate with rotten gate post. Installed Bison KG to NB rRIPPLE standard less “Postcrete” on hoop feet as haylage field (no stock). Received hospitality drinks from immediate neighbour and also from Peter Jordain, PC representative. 5x7=35 man hours. BKPeterJerryDave. 25 miles; Jerry 25; Peter 20.



29/4/26 North Marston (Pitchcott) NMA/46989 CAMS a05160 at SP775211. Jet washed recycled timber gate.

30/4/26 Expenses. Submitted last activity report’s mileage expenses along with other expense to John Esslemont for payment.

12/5/26 North Marston (Pitchcott) Gate 389 NMA/9254 on NMA/12/2 “Matthew’s Way” at SP775210 CAMS a05161 Oving PC DaG. Dismantled 3-rail, 1-step, no hand post, sheep netted stile. Installed KG to NB rRIPPLE standard less “Postcrete” on coral feet. Fitted DaG plaque. Made good sheep netting to both sides. 5x7=35 man hours. BKJoeJerryMikeT. 30 miles; Joe 15.

1/6/26 Long Crendon LCR/4295 at SP712086 CAMS a05905 Centrewire D Loop repair kit fitted. . 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

1/6/26 Bierton BWB/5536 on BWB/7/1 at SP839153. Jerry requested CAMS for S2G DaG.

2/6/26 North Marston (Pitchcott) Gate 390 NMA/46989 on NMA/12/2 “Matthew’s Way” at SP775211 CAMS a05160 Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. Dismantled collapsed, dilapidated 2-rail,

1-step, 1-hand post, sheep netted stile. Installed 100 mm timber gate. Self-closing, on 150 x 150 post. Made good sheep netting to both sides. 4x7=28 man hours. BJerryPhilJulian 30 miles.

1/6/26 South East Walker Article.

A sleeper (or three) in time ...

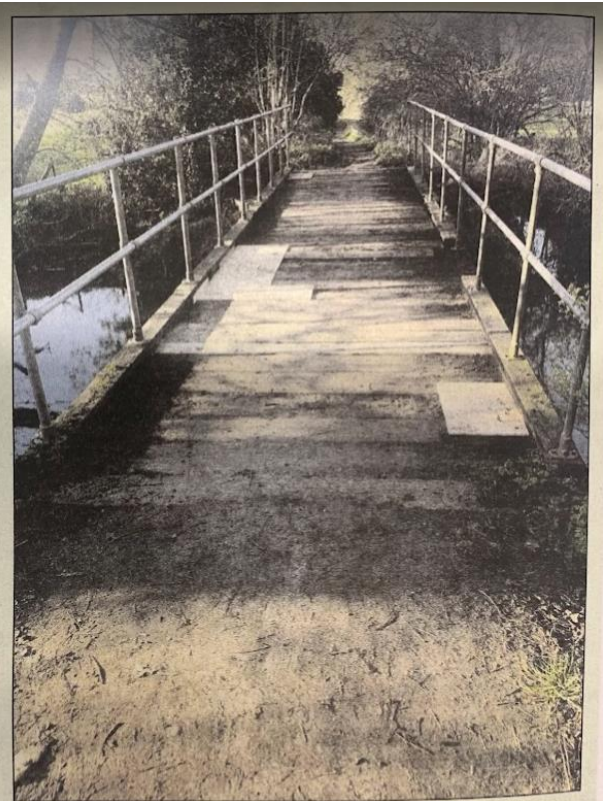
One of the first jobs North Bucks rRIPPLE has done after a very wet winter impeded access to many sites, was an emergency repair of a bridge over the local river. Following a closure order by Buckinghamshire Council on safety grounds, the substantial sleeper bridge, originally built on iron girders to allow occasional agricultural machinery across as well as walkers, had rotted in several places.

The public footpath between Haddenham and Kinsey is a popular walking route, and some pedestrians were ignoring the closure signs and stepping over or around half a dozen gaps in the bridge deck. Three 2.4 metre sleepers were obtained from a local

supplier, who kindly provided them at a staff discount, and these were fitted after carefully unbolting the rotten originals. A couple of square metres of 10mm strand board were then cut to size and nailed over the remaining holes as a temporary measure, pending a more permanent fix by the council's bridge team. Accumulated mud and weed along the edges was also swept away.

This early action has reduced the possibility of accidents and reopened a favourite local walk between villages - all accompanied in two or three hours on a sunny spring day.

Jerry Michell
North Bucks rRIPPLE
(ramblers Repairing and
Improving Public Paths for
Leisure and Exercise).



The patched-up bridge.

Photo: Bill Piers

2/6/26 CRFC - ordered delivery of stones.

2/6/26 Bierton BWB/5536 at SP839153 CAMS a02634. Received this revised CAMS from Jon Clark, forwarded to John Chantler. John Chantler organising with tenant John Flanagan.

4/6/26 CRFC. Collected KG for 9/6/26 job. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

4/6/26 CRFC. Attended delivery of 20 mm gravel by MKM. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

5/6/26 CRFC. Lords delivered 40 mm stones. Collected 13 buckets of stones. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

5/6/26 Buckland. Report (email) received from Mike Shepherd-Smith of Moat Farm, Buckland, that the "D" Loop has broken off gate BLD/1635 at SP886124 on BLD/8/1. Said we'd sort it or send him a repair kit.

7/6/26 John Godfrey of OFWG emailed to say they wish to DaG for a recently departed fellow walker. Bill called him and suggested he find a suitable candidate for an S2G, find out the landowner, obtain permission and let us know. We'd then apply for a CAMS Job Sheet from BC.

9/6/26 Lower Winchendon Gate 391 LNW/2594 on LNW/2/2 at SP726112 CAMS a00309 Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. After lengthy and prolonged negotiations with farmer/landowner, dismantled dangerous and awkward dilapidated 3-rail, 1-rotten wobbly step, 1-handpost, sheep netted stile. Cleared extensive amount of hedgerow and associated roots, towing them out with the Land Rover. Installed KG to NB rRIPPLE standard less the "Postcrete" as corral hoops inside the hedge line. Reattached sheep netting to both sides. Fitted buried blue water pipe for electric fence continuity c/w electric cable left in place. 4x6=24 man hours. BPhilJoeJohn. 10 miles; Joe 15; John 20.

22/6/26 Lewis Developments. Purchased 2no 2.4 m x150x150 gate posts and 2no stand-off field latches for timber gate installations. (Latches on order.) 2 man hours. B. 10 miles.

14/7/26 Lewis Developments. Went to ask what was happening wrt latches purchased and ordered on 22/6/26. Out of stock mix up. Reordered.

14/7/26 Briants of Risborough. Purchased 2no nut, bolt and spacer for Stihl hedge trimmer cutter bar. Fitted one and kept one for spare. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

15/7/26 Toolstation Thame. Purchased gloves and cable ties. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

16/7/26 Bierton Gate 392 BWB/5536 on BWB/7/1 at SP839153 CAMS a02634 Mike & Claire Griffin Charitable Trust DaG. Dismantled incredibly awkward 3-rail, 1-step, 1-hand post, 1-dog latch stile significantly impeded by twin horizontal kee-clamp handrails running over the top of the stile. Used angle-grinder to cut short the handrails and reposition the free ends of them. Fitted a self-closing, self-latching recycled timber gate hung off a 150x150 post and closing onto a 100x100 post. 5x7=35 man hours. BPPJoeJerry. 20 miles; Peter 12; Joe 6.

17/7/26 Lewis Developments. Collected 2no stand-off latches. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

18/7/26 Ashendon. Follow up email with Sian Miller & Andy Howes re getting some agreements from farmers.

23/7/26 Lacey Green Gate 393 LAG/6860 at SP828002 S2G Chiltern Weekend Walkers DaG. Dismantled severely dilapidated 2-rotten-step, 2- rail, no hand post stile. Installed Bison PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. 4x7=28 man hours. BPhilJoeJerry. 25 miles; Joe 16.

29/7/26 Impact Signs. Collected two Chiltern Weekend Walkers plaques. Drove to Lacey Green and fitted both plaques, back to back as requested. 2 man hours. B. 28 miles.



31/7/26 Wynnstay. Haddenham HAD/2435 on HAD/17/1 at SP738074. Purchased 3No 200x109x2100 timbers to be used to repair bridge. 1 man hour. B. 2 miles.

1/8/26 Haddenham bridge HAD/2435 on HAD/17/1 at SP738074. Transported 3No timbers to site via Tythrop Park Farm. Fitted and secured in place timbers where 600 wide gap had appeared due to the loss of two original 300 timbers. 10 man hours. BKPhilJulianDaveW. 10 miles.

1/8/26 Dinton with Ford & Upton DFU/2135 on DFU/9/2 at SP759103. This is Kun Chan's, Ruri Piers' mother's DaG. Keith reported D Loop problem stopping gate from latching properly. This was fixed on 15/8/26 on walk over to Dinton Beer Festival. Not a serious problem. Centrewire fix kit not needed - yet.

3/8/26 Quainton. Emailed Brian Fludgate to ask if any S2G projects in the offing. He said land-owner Eric Sergeant has again refused to permit a stile to be changed for a gate. In particular QUA/7224 on QUA/16/1 on Matthew's Way beside the road immediately east of the church.

11/8/26 Bierton Gate 394 BWB/5537 on BWB/7/1 at SP839153 CAMS a06342 Mike & Claire Griffin Charitable Trust DaG. Dismantled 4-rail, 2-step, 1-hand post stile in reasonable condition. In-

stalled Bison steel PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. 5x7=35 man hours. BPPJohnJulian. 20 miles; Peter 12.

15/8/26 Dinton Beer Festival. This is our Summer outing. Good turnout.



L-R: Julian, Dave, Christine, Bill & Keith. Also in attendance Jerry & Sue with daughter Anna, Phil with son Alistair, Peter & Jane. Good exercise walking both to and from the event at the Seven Stars.

20/8/26 Marsh Gibbon Gate 395 MGI/6075 on MGI/6/2 at SP645237 CAMS a06491 Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. Dismantled dilapidated 4-rail, 2-collapsed steps, 1-hand post stile. Installed Bison PG to NB rRIPPLE standard. Very hard ground conditions. Jack hammer fuel tank sprang a leak through level sight glass. Bill toured Bicester engineering services trying to find a 20 mm by 1.5 mm pitch threaded plug unsuccessfully. Laid a 1.2 m long by 250 mm deep section of old sleeper to cope with height variation. Half sleeper pinned to ground with four no 12 mm steel bent-over pins. Very smart job in the end. 5x7=35 man hours. BKPPJulian. 55 miles; Peter 30.

21/8/26 Lewis Developments. Purchased 20 No 1.8 m x 100 x 100 Redwood posts and Mini Post Hole Digger 48" Wood Handles aka pointy spoons. 1 man hour. B. 10 miles.

29/8/26 Expenses. Submitted last activity report's mileage expenses along with other expense to John Esslemont for payment. Mileage rate now 55p/mile.

24/8/23: Currently outstanding, potential and planned work with DaG opportunities available:

Ashendon: PC allegedly taking an active interest in RIPPLE, DaGs and developing some circular walks from The Ash Tree community buy-out pub. Sian Miller & Andy Howes are leading this initiative. Progress is painfully slow.

Bierton: John Chantler continuing to successfully get landowner permissions for further Griffin Trust DaGs.

Bishopstone: Roger Goodchild gave permission on 9/5/22 for further S2Gs. We need to discuss with him or find a local champion to decide on priorities.

Brill: Several S2Gs on BRI/11/7 through Chinkwell Wood; BRI/11/6 Dorton Grange; BRI/3/4&5 Rushbed Woods to Cuckoo Close Farm. Waiting on Michael Hughes, resident, who may assist with the re-writing of the local footpath walk guides.

Chearsley: Potential S2G CHR/2785 on CHR/12/1 at SP713115 in memory of horse YaYa that died 1/2/22. Rob Mole of Bridge Farm to decide.

Chearsley: Bridge CHR/2803 at SP714097 that links LCR/9/4 and CHR/9/1. Corinne Brownsell the RoW Bridge Inspector made a site visit with Richard Heybrook. She is suggesting a timber bridge over the top of the existing concrete bridge. We are considering a permissive bridge, higher and slightly downstream of the existing bridge.

Cuddington: CUD/8/1 - Cuddington Footpath Team unsuccessful with farmer Steve Timberlake wrt last two stiles.

Great & Little Kimble GLK/27/1 at SP820096 footpath illegally blocked by Travellers' site since early 2020. Steve Miles, of Long Crendon, owns adjacent field but is reluctant to encourage any further land-grab by the travellers. On 23/11/23 Buckinghamshire Council served notice on four residents of Springfield Farm Travellers Site. The council has been prompted by The Ramblers who have served a Form 1 on the council. A newly installed locked gate now blocks access.

Hulcott: HUL/4942 at SP857168 CAMS 93300 on hold. John Chantler getting landowner permissions for further Griffin Charitable Trust DaGs.

Kimblewick: 5xS2KGs. Waiting since c2020 on request to go ahead from landowner Ted Walker.

Long Crendon: Two awkward and/or dilapidated stiles on LCR/11/1 at SP698093 at College Farm, George Morris is the farmer. Sandy Hooper is the interested parish councillor. Followed up with email on 19/1/23. Need to follow up with the Morris family.

Lower Winchendon LNW/2646. Not sure where or what the problem is. Info requested from Ann Catten, BC PRow.

Westcott: Sue Lacey has become local champion but is unwilling to "knock on doors."

Weston Turville: Church Farm – PC to discuss with farmer and potentially fund S2G.

Whitchurch: WHI/7478 on WHI/7/1 at SP799202. Recce of poor stiles and farmyard showed that the definitive map only shows a finger post and one stile whereas on the ground there is a finger post and three stiles, one of which is dilapidated. Landowner would be happy if we were to repair his stile but not replace any stiles with gates.

NB rRIPPLE on site man hours – includes a proportion of travel time but not administration time which is considerable!	S2Gap / Bridge/ Steps	S/KG repair D Latch.	Dog way	S2PG		S2KG		WayMk Post
					DaG		DaG	
224 for period 30 Jan 2015 – 6 Aug 2015	2G	11	9	2	0	1	0	2
66.5 for period 13 Aug 2015 – 17 Nov 2015	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
72 for period 18 Nov 2015 – 16 Jan 2016	1B	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
74 for period 17 Jan 2016 – 15 Mar 2016	1G	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
120.25 for period 16 Mar 2016 – 11 Jun 2016	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1
133 for period 12 Jun 2016 – 14 Aug 2016	1G	0	0	6	1	1	1	0
142 for period 15 Aug 2016 – 21 Sept 2016	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0
104 for period 22 Sept 2016 – 13 Nov 2016	0	1KG	0	1	1	0	3	3
94 for period 14 Nov 2016 – 31 Dec 2016	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
271 for period 1 Jan 2017 – 31 Mar 2017	0	0	0	5	3	1	5	0
216 for period 1 Apr 2017 – 31 May 2017	0	0	1	7	0	0	5	0
185 for period 1 Jun 2017 – 27 Aug 2017	1	0	0	2	5*	0	3	0
193.5 for period 28 Aug 2017 – 25 Nov 2017	1B + 1G	0	0	8	3	0	1	0
187 for period 26 Nov 2017 – 25 Feb 2018	1B + 1G	0	0	3	6	0	3	0
170.5 for period 26 Feb 2018 – 22 May 2018	0	0	1	5	2	2	2	3
300 for period 23 May 2018 – 23 Aug 2018	0	0	0	5	3	3	4	0
231 for period 24 Aug 2018 – 23 Nov 2018	1 Step	0	0	2	3	2	4	0
207 for period 24 Nov 2018 - 23 Feb 2019	0	0	0	5	2	2	2	0
319 for period 24 Feb 2019 – 23 May 2019	0	0	0	5	4	2	4	0
432 for period 24 May 2019 - 23 Aug 2019	0	1	1	5	11	1	2	0
366 for period 24 Aug 2019 – 23 Nov 2019	0	0	0	7	5	2	1	0
276 for period 24 Nov 2019 – 23 Feb 2020	0	0	0	2	1	1	5	0
83 for period 24 Feb 2020 – 31 May 2020	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
37 for period 1 Jun 2020 – 23 Aug 2020	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
346 for period 24 Aug – 25 Nov 2020	0	0	0	4	5	0	4	0
370 for period 26 Nov 2020 – 9 June 2021	1G	0	0	1	9	2	2	0
521 for period 10 June 2021 – 14 Nov 2021	2 steps	3KG	0	1	9	2	5	0
473 for period 15 Nov 2021 – 2 Mar 2022	1G	1KG	0	2	7	0	6	0
232 for period 3 Mar 2022 – 31 May 2022	0	0	0	1	3	3	2	0
323 for period 1 Jun 2022 – 31 Aug 2022	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	0
211 for period 1 Sep 2022 – 30 Nov 2022	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0
241 for period 1 Dec 2022 – 28 Feb 2023	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	0
253 for period 1 Mar 2023 – 3 Jun 2023	0	0	0	1	2	2	4	0
203 for period 3 Jun 2023 – 31 Aug 2023	0	1	1	1	0	4	1	0
267 for period 1 Sep 2023 – 30 Nov 2023	1 step2G	0	0	0	3	4	3	1
77 for period 1 Dec 2023 – 29 Feb 2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
144 for period 1 Mar 2024-31 May 2024	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
243 for period 1 Jun 2024-31 Aug 2024	1G	0	0	1*	2	0	6	0
122 for period 1 Sep 2024-30 Nov 2024	1G	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
298 for period 1 Dec 2024-31 May 2025	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	0
388 for period 1 Jun 2025-1 Oct 2025	0	1	0	1	3	0	6	1
276 for period 2 Oct 2025-14 April 2026	0	3	0	0	3	0	5	2
308 for period 15 April-31 Aug 2026	2B	0	0	0	6	0	3	0
Totals	5B/10G/4	21	18	111	123	46	114	13

*Includes for three Bristol Combination Gates.

S2PG etc. = Stile converted to Pedestrian Gate. (Steel Marlow/Charnwood gate; occasionally timber gate.)

S2KG etc. = Stile converted to Kissing Gate. (Steel Woodstock/Berkswell gate; occasionally timber.)

Total number of gates installed = 395 of which 237 have been DaGs.

Signed: [William \(Bill\) Piers](mailto:williamjsbpiers@gmail.com) North Bucks rRIPPLE Co-ordinator and Donate-a-Gate Scheme Organizer
williamjsbpiers@gmail.com Mobile 07799 110128

Many thanks to the team: myself – Bill Piers, (Allen), Andrew, David, Dave, (Derek), Jerry, Joe, John, Josh, Keith, Michael, Mike Kershaw, Mike Thirlwall, Peter and Phil, but in particular to Jerry who does a lot of the donkey work involving recces, discussions with landowners about access and liaising with parish councils, etc etc. We estimate that for every man hour of work carried on outdoors an hour is spent on admin.



16/4/26 Marsh Gibbon at SP647238 Beds, Bucks, Northants LDWA DaG. (387)



27/4/26 Ickford at SP649072 Ickford PC DaG. (Skoda used as Landy battery u/s.) (388)



12/5/26 North Marston at SP775210 on Matthew's Way - Oving PC DaG. (389)



2/6/26 North Marston at SP775211 on Matthew's Way - Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. (390)



9/6/26 Lower Winchendon at SP726112 Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. (391)



16/7/26 Bierton at SP839153 Mike & Claire Griffin Charitable Trust DaG. (392)



Peter fettled the existing handrails and remounted the ends making a very neat job.



The handrails were reduced in length and finished off nicely using the existing kee-clamp fittings.



23/7/26 Lacey Green at SP828002 Chiltern Weekend Walkers DaG. (393)



1/8/26 Haddenham HAD/2435 on HAD/17/1 at SP738074.

Work in progress.



Both sets of three timbers we've installed. Still waiting for BC PRoW team to get quotes for complete replacement.



11/8/26 Bierton at SP839153 Mike & Claire Griffin Charitable Trust DaG. (394)



20/8/26 Marsh Gibbon at SP645237 Ed & Margaret Kendrick DaG. (395)



Gate 395 - Half-sleeper used to great effect to improve passage through newly installed gate.



1/8/26 Haddenham HAD/2435 on HAD/17/1 at SP738074 following rebuild by BC contractor.