



## **BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL**

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### Byways Visit 7th June 2007

Members of the Highways, Byways and Transport Committee walked from The Church Centre to The Deer's Hut to inspect Footpath 2 and Bridleway 49.

Present: Cllr John Tough, Cllr John Carne, Brenda King (Rights of Way Officer, British Horse Society) and Ian Haussauer.

Members assembled at the Church Centre, Liphook and walked along Footpath 2 to Foley Manor Farm. Although they were now dry, two sections of this footpath were observed to have been very muddy until recently, which confirmed reports. The first section was alongside Bohunt Manor where the footpath follows a lane with banks and hedges on both sides. It was noted that the drainage here needed to be improved but that this would be difficult as it was effectively a sunken lane.

The footpath was in an acceptable condition where it followed the edge of the fields. The footpath had until recently been very wet and muddy as it approached Foley Manor Farm, again confirming reports. This appeared to have been caused or exacerbated by heavy agricultural equipment. This section ran from the area around the gateway from the fields and along the lane through the woods and across the lake embankment to the farm. Here the deep ruts need to be filled and drainage channels cleared or cut. It appeared that much of the water would have run off the hard surface of the farmyard. We noticed that slurry had pooled in a disused manure pit fed no doubt from an adjacent pit still containing manure and that this would have discharged onto the footpath when it rained.

Members then walked along the section of Bridleway 1 from Foley Manor Farm to Foley Hatch. This is a metalled single lane estate road which starts at the Old A3.

The section of Bridleway 49 between Foley Hatch and Griggs Green was inspected. This was still muddy and wet in places. The condition of this section had clearly, and from personal experience, got worse since the last inspection here by the committee. It was noted that the ditch alongside this section needed to be cleared again – it is ten years or so since this was last cleared. During the wet part of the year water runs from the adjoining wet heathland across the bridleway at the Foley Hatch end of this section and some drainage should be considered to intercept this.

Further along a pool forms in the bridleway during the wet part of the year. This could be drained by means of channels to the ditch.

There is an extremely muddy section before the bridleway climbs up the hill to the lane to Griggs Green. This section has got very much worse in recent years and it is fed by seepage from an adjacent bog or possibly directly from the spring line which feeds the bog. This needs to be intercepted by some form of drainage along the bog side of the bridleway and then carried under the bridleway.

Because of its condition this section of Bridleway 49 is definitely not fit for purpose. It is an important link between the extensive bridleway networks to the east and to west of this section. It is also part of the off-road cycle route around Liphook as designated and signed by the County Council.

John M Tough