



South Milford Parish Council
Stewards House,
Lumby
LS25 5JA

North Yorkshire County Council
Public rights of way section
Business and environmental services
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD

cc: Parish Councils from parishes which neighbour South Milford Parish: Sherburn-in-Elmet Parish Council, Huddleston with Newthorpe Parish Council, Hambleton Parish Council, Monk Fryston Parish Council, Ledsham Parish Council
cc: Mel Hobson, County Councillor for South Milford

Subject: Public paths in South Milford Parish

9th March 2021

Dear Sir, Madam

South Milford Parish Council (SMPC) has started an initiative to improve the paths with and without public rights of way in and around the parish. We would be grateful for the assistance of North Yorkshire County Council in this work.

Our goals are to:

- (1) To ensure that public paths are unobstructed, well signposted and in good condition to be used by the public;
- (2) To secure public access to existing paths which do not have public rights of way;
- (3) To create circular routes using public paths and potentially permissive paths, including waymarking and producing maps.

To achieve these goals, we would like to work with yourselves, landowners, other Parish Councils, and the public. The Councillors spearheading the South Milford Parish Council's initiatives on paths are Tim Grogan and Rita de Faria Dean. **We are grateful for your contact at your earliest convenience, either via our Clerk (████████) or directly to their emails (████████ and █████████).**

More details on our goals, and how you can help us achieve them, are below.

Goal 1: To ensure that public paths are unobstructed, well signposted, and in good condition to be used by the public

With respect to the first goal, we have conducted a survey of all the public paths in the parish that we are aware of, assisted by volunteers. The survey covered 22 paths. Of these,

- Seven paths are blocked or impassable at places.
These are: 35.59/14/1, 35.59/10/1, 35.59/17/1, 35.59/5/1, 35.59/11/1, 35.59/2/3, 35.59/4/1
- Fourteen paths require new signage.



These are: 35.59/13/1, 35.59/9/1, 35.59/12/1, 35.59/11/1, 35.57/11/2, 35.59/20/1, 35.59/6/1, 35.59/7/1, 35.59/16/1, 35.59/2/2, 35.59/1/1, 35.59/15/1, 35.59/4/1, 35.59/2/1

- Six paths require maintenance.

These are: 35.59/9/1, 35.59/12/1, 35.59/11/1, 35.59/4/1, 35.59/1/1, 35.59/2/1.

The report on the survey was approved at the February 2021 meeting and is available at <https://www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk/public-rights-of-way>, with a summary of the suggested actions for North Yorkshire County Council reproduced at the end of this document. Please note that the survey took place over a few months in 2020, and some of the issues may have been resolved, while other issues may have occurred since then.

Given that the majority of paths has one or more issues, we suggest having a video call with yourselves to prioritise the paths and actions and decide on the best course of action. Although there may be some paths which may be unfeasible to reinstate, our view is that the large majority of paths require little action to put them into a good condition for the public to use.

Goal 2: To secure public access to existing paths which do not have public rights of way

As you may be aware, some of the parish paths do not have public right of way status, therefore public access is not secured for the future. To remedy this, we will contact landowners to discuss the possibility of either doing creation agreements, or we will consider supporting the application by members of the public for definitive map modification orders. For example, we have supported the application by a member of the public for a definitive map modification order for Turpin Lane to be upgraded into a bridleway and for a short variation to the public path route. **We understand that you are extremely busy but would appreciate your swift action upon receipt of such applications.**

Goal 3: To create circular routes using public paths and potentially permissive paths, including waymarking and producing maps

We wish to create circular routes using public paths and potentially permissive paths. This involves designing routes, waymarking, and producing maps, the costs of which the Parish Council would fund. **We seek to enquire whether we require your permission to attach way markers for the circular routes to the signposts signalling that the path is a public right of way.**

Thank you very much for your work with public paths. Public paths are a valuable asset to ours and other parishes, providing safe and pleasant routes between villages, an opportunity to admire the nature around us, and a space for exercise. In the COVID-19 crisis, public paths have been a respite from lockdown, with the uptake of walking and cycling increasing. We hope that North Yorkshire County Council is committed to maintain and improve public paths now and, in the future, and will help us in our endeavours.

Kind regards

South Milford Parish Council

List of actions

Number in report	Footpath code	Actions
2	35.59/14/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As per the Joint Statement by South Milford Parish Council and Monk Fyston Parish Council, the Councils asked that the path was reinstated and signposted, acknowledging the landowner's right to apply for a diversion order.
3	35.59/10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This path is not usable and has not been since the construction of the A1M, unless a footbridge or underpass is constructed across the motorway it will remain unusable. If it is not feasible for a method of crossing the A(1)M to be built, our suggested action is for NYCC promote an extinguishment order.
4	35.59/13/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To install a signpost at the A1246 end. - To remove the sign asking people not to visit the location.
5	35.59/17/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This path does not exist as a usable path, as there is no access to the path and it would require extensive clearing of undergrowth and fencing at the access points and along the way to make it usable. - As the roadway which runs alongside the path from the A63 to the back of the hotel is currently used as an alternative, we suggest that NYCC works with landowners to diver the path onto the roadway and install signposts.
7	35.59/9/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The way through the fence at point F (Whin Lane) requires maintenance. - To help walkers, we suggest a new signpost after the first signpost at the south end.
8	35.59/12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure signpost at the southern end. - Install signpost at the gate. - Repair steps. - Correct the location of the signpost at the northern end
9	35.59/11/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install signposts. - Install traffic lights on the railway crossing, given that it is heavily used by young people to and from Sherburn High School. - Confirm the path route by the former Mill Farm Nursery. - Repair the handrails in footbridge.
10	35.57/11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install signposts at both ends of the footpath.
11	35.59/5/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMPC is aware that Network Rail intends to apply for this level crossing to be permanently closed, which would lead to the extinction of the path. The application process involves a public consultation with the community. Therefore, SMPC will await for more information from NYCC and Network Rail, and will put forward its views through the consultation.

12	35.59/20/1	- To install signposts at both ends.
13	35.59/6/1	- To install a signpost at the Ingthorns Lane end and at the hole in the edge to the west of Milford Grange.
15	35.59/7/1	- To install signposts.
16	35.59/16/1	- To install signposts at both ends of the footpath.
17	35.59/2/2	- Install a signpost at the 35.59/1/1 end.
18	35.59/2/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To bring this path into use, it would be necessary to open the railway crossing and reactivate the historical link to the bridleway to the west of Owlett Hall and install signage. - An alternative to creating a new railway crossing is to establish a new link between Common Lane and the bridleway to the west of Owlett Hall, and to extinguish this path.
19	35.59/1/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To install signposts. - To prune overgrown vegetation at the north section.
20	35.59/15/1	- To install signposts.
21	35.59/4/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To fix the footbridge between path 35.59/4/1 and path 35.32/2/1. - To install signage. - To link the path to 35.57/25/1, either by opening a passage as per definitive line, or by creating a diversion to 35.59/1/1.
22	35.59/2/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To install signage to the footpath. - To remove notices asking the asking the public not to visit this location. - To improve the condition of the path.