

## **Walking and Riding in Ottery St Mary**

There are 98 footpaths and bridleways totalling well over 30 kilometres of paths for recreational use or navigating around the Parish of OSM. These paths require regular checking and upkeep for the benefit of all. The P3 scheme is designed to help with this.

### **Ottery St Mary – Parish Paths Partnership, OSM – P3**

P3 is an initiative to ensure that the entire rights of way network in the OSM Parish is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised. The main aim of the scheme is to improve and maintain the condition of the local rights of way and keep them open and in use. Funded by Devon County Council, P3 is designed to encourage community involvement in the enjoyment of the public rights of way. Devon County Council works in partnership with Parish/Town Councils, landowners and local voluntary groups.

### **Mapping**

An Ordnance Survey map is available in the OSM Town Council Offices that shows all of the 98 numbered footpaths and bridleways in the Parish, totalling over 30 kilometres, which come under the scheme.

### **Path Improvement and Maintenance**

Devon County Council, does some work annually to clear and maintain the footpaths, bridleways etc.

In addition OSM Town Council receives a modest annual grant (from DCC based on the total distance of the paths), under the terms of a P3 Partnership Agreement, to undertake further rights of way work and any special projects. In addition to the grant there are opportunities to apply for further funding for special projects. Funds are used for developments and improvements such as upgrading and re-opening paths by undertaking practical work such as vegetation clearance, repairing stiles and way marking , in consultation with farmers and landowners as required.

### **Path Survey and Inspection**

Each year before the Town Council receives its annual grant it organises a full survey using volunteers to assess the condition of the rights of way. Since funds are very limited the scheme does rely heavily on input from OSM Town Council and work by a number of local volunteer surveyors. Volunteers walk the paths looking for any issues and feedback information annually, and as needed, via the OSM Town Council P3 coordinator. Surveyors look for obstructions, broken gates/stiles, missing signage etc. This information allows corrective action to be taken either by Devon Council Contractors or in some cases by local volunteers.

### **How Can You Help, Should You Wish To?**

Pass this information sheet on to all your friends and walking companions. Report any issues you see en-route to one of the OSM P3 coordinators as detailed below. Please be patient it can take time to address issues raised. Volunteer to be a surveyor. Or simply

take a pair of secateurs or a pruning saw when walking and cut around gates, stiles or signs etc. that have become overgrown - every little helps.

### **OSM P3 Points of Contact**

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