FOOTPATHS VOLUNTEERS REPORT Feb 25

* HANDOVER. Handover from Phil Spooner is largely complete; I have contacts list etc.
* PATHS. A late pass over the entire network in late autumn with a mower means vegetation is under control at the start of the season; it should be easy to keep it that way.
* MUD. Mud is the main issue at this time of year; previous work by the South Wilts Ramblers Heavy Gang in concert with WCC has improved a number of areas such as along ALDE 20, but others remain treacherous and we may have to wait a long time for WCC Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) or the Heavy Gang to return.
* POLICY. Policy has been drafted and shared among the Footpath WG as a precursor to wider circulation within APC; subject to feedback it is proposed this be ratified at the March APC meeting.
* CANAL WOODS PROJECT. We await proposals/costings from Longford Estate for creation of a nature trail/walkway through canal woods between Avon Drive and Firs Road to promote active travel/walking to school, meeting 'Accessibility' criteria (accommodate wheelchairs, visually impaired, pushchairs etc).
* DOWNTON GREENWAY. The Possibility of pursuing a Greenway cycle route along the former railway to Downton has emerged from discussions about removal of the old bridge at Matrons' College Farm by Historic Railway Estates. Similar initiatives are being driven at the Downton end, exploiting the former railway past Burgate and Fordingbridge to join the Castleman Trail at/to West Moors from Ringwood. Does APC support this initiative?
* PAVEMENTS. With countryside paths starting the year in good condition, it is proposed that volunteer team effort could be diverted to other areas such as pavement margins, verges and gutters (eg by tennis courts).