



# Footpath Policy

1. **Purpose.** Alderbury Parish Council (APC) has adopted this policy to define its aspirations, and limitations on responsibilities, for footpaths and bridleways within the village.
2. **Scope.** This policy covers footpaths and bridleways and rights of way within the parish boundary and includes pavements and verges or hedgerows which may impinge thereon
3. **Context.** APC operates within the framework of local and national government to serve local interests at the lowest level. APC has a limited budget for capital expenditure and maintenance, which is used solely for the benefit of the community.
4. **Aim.** To help ensure Alderbury is a great place to live and outline our approach to maximise accessibility to our local footpaths and bridleways, keeping them safe and clear. APC owns only a small percentage of the land in the village, the vast majority of land crossed by footpaths and bridleways belongs to Wiltshire Council and local landowners.
5. **Benefits.** Alderbury has an exceptional network of footpaths and bridleways for recreation, exercise, dog walking and as an alternative to vehicular transport, which bring many benefits to the community, including:
  - a. Improved mental and physical health through walking, running and cycling.
  - b. 'Active travel' leading to reduced environmental noise, pollution and congestion where short journeys, such as school runs, are performed on foot.
  - c. Safe areas for exercising pets away from traffic.
  - d. Access to the surrounding countryside
6. **Objectives:** To
  - a. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of APC regarding the local footpath network.
  - b. Identify and record the wider stakeholder community to be engaged.
  - c. Provide direction for volunteer activity
  - d. Establish an agreed long-term plan for improvements and allocate funding.
  - e. Ensure a coherent and consistent approach to implementing the plan, in concert with the wider stakeholder community.
  - f. Engage the community in keeping the village tidy and accessible.
  - g. Maintain alignment with National and County policies on Rights of Way, and the countryside.

**Document control:** This policy has been prepared by the nominated lead of the Footpath Volunteer Team lead (Councillor Mike Sneddon for consideration and ratification by APC. The initial draft and any subsequent amendments will shall be developed in consultation with the APC Footpath Lead (Councillor Mike Dent) and then submitted to APC for ratification (March 25?).

## 7. Principles: To

- a. Promote 'Active Travel' within the community.
- b. Improve access to the countryside.
- c. Encourage landowners to maintain footpaths and bridleways that across their land.
- d. Generate the support of volunteers to complement the activities of landowners, and Wiltshire Council, assisting with the maintenance burden.
- e. Provide appropriate leadership, training, machinery and personal protective equipment (PPE) to enable volunteers to contribute safely and effectively (see APC Volunteer Policy).
- f. Liaise and collaborate with other stakeholders, to maximise benefits, prioritise effort and ensure cost-effectiveness of expenditure. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Wiltshire Council, in particular:
    1. The Rights of Way Officer
    2. The Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG)
  - ii. Developers.
  - iii. Landowners.
  - iv. Contractors.
  - v. Volunteer groups, such as the South Wiltshire Ramblers 'Heavy Gang' footpath clearance and repair team and our own 'Alderbury Footpath Volunteers'.
- g. Ensure all routes around the village used by the public are accurately reflected in the [Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Explorer](#) (opens new window).
- h. Where routes are in regular use, promote recognition of, and regularise, these as documented Rights of Way - submitting Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications where appropriate, through engagement with Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Officer ([DefinitiveMap@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:DefinitiveMap@wiltshire.gov.uk)) .
- i. Press for improvements and upgrades to be included in the Salisbury Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan:  
[https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/14989/Salisbury-Local-Cycling-and-Walking-Infrastructure-Plan-September-2024/pdf/Salisbury\\_LCWIP\\_Sept\\_2024.pdf?m=1738062274680](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/14989/Salisbury-Local-Cycling-and-Walking-Infrastructure-Plan-September-2024/pdf/Salisbury_LCWIP_Sept_2024.pdf?m=1738062274680)
- j. Comply with all the relevant Wiltshire Council Rights of Way and Countryside Policies listed at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/2893/Rights-of-way-policies/pdf/Rights-of-way-and-countryside-policies.pdf>
- k. Report footpaths and bridleways on new developments which APC feels are non-compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1999 (DDA).
- l. Pursue Accessibility improvements in accordance with the Equality Act (2010) This covers a wide range of disabilities such as visual impairments, difficulty walking or climbing over a stile, being a wheelchair user, a parent with a buggy.

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- m. Identify and record any issues within the village path network and develop a prioritised long-term plan for improvement, which addresses accessibility and/or safety, poor ground conditions or unsafe trees.
  - n. Identify and pursue appropriate sources of funding, including grants, for capital projects (e.g. Walk to School route between Avon Drive and Firs Road through Canal Woods)
8. **Responsibility:** The APC Footpath Volunteer Team lead will be responsible for leading and overseeing implementation of this Policy.
9. **Related documents: This Footpath Policy should be read in conjunction with:**
- a. APC Volunteer Policy
  - b. APC Trees Policy
  - c. APC Budget Current year budget
  - d. Rights of Way - Wiltshire Council

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