

Tibberton Footpaths Annual Report 2022

The footpaths in Worcestershire are managed by the Worcestershire County Council Public Rights of Way team and I am the volunteer Parish footpath office – responsible for minor jobs such as waymarking, clearing brambles etc. More major works such as replacing broken stiles / bridges are carried out by the County Council.

In the past year several dilapidated stiles have been replaced – notably the one at the corner by Ravenshill Farm (TB554). The broken stile on the path from Plough Road towards the railway line has been reported and is awaiting resolution (TB 527).

As always, all the footpaths get very muddy over the winter and hopefully will dry out rapidly now the weather is improving.

One of the ongoing issues is the gate over the brook at the back of the field behind The Plough (TB 507). Twice now in 6 months the gate has been damaged – possibly by children swinging on it. It was repaired at the end of last year and has been damaged again with the bolts sheared off. (See photos below).



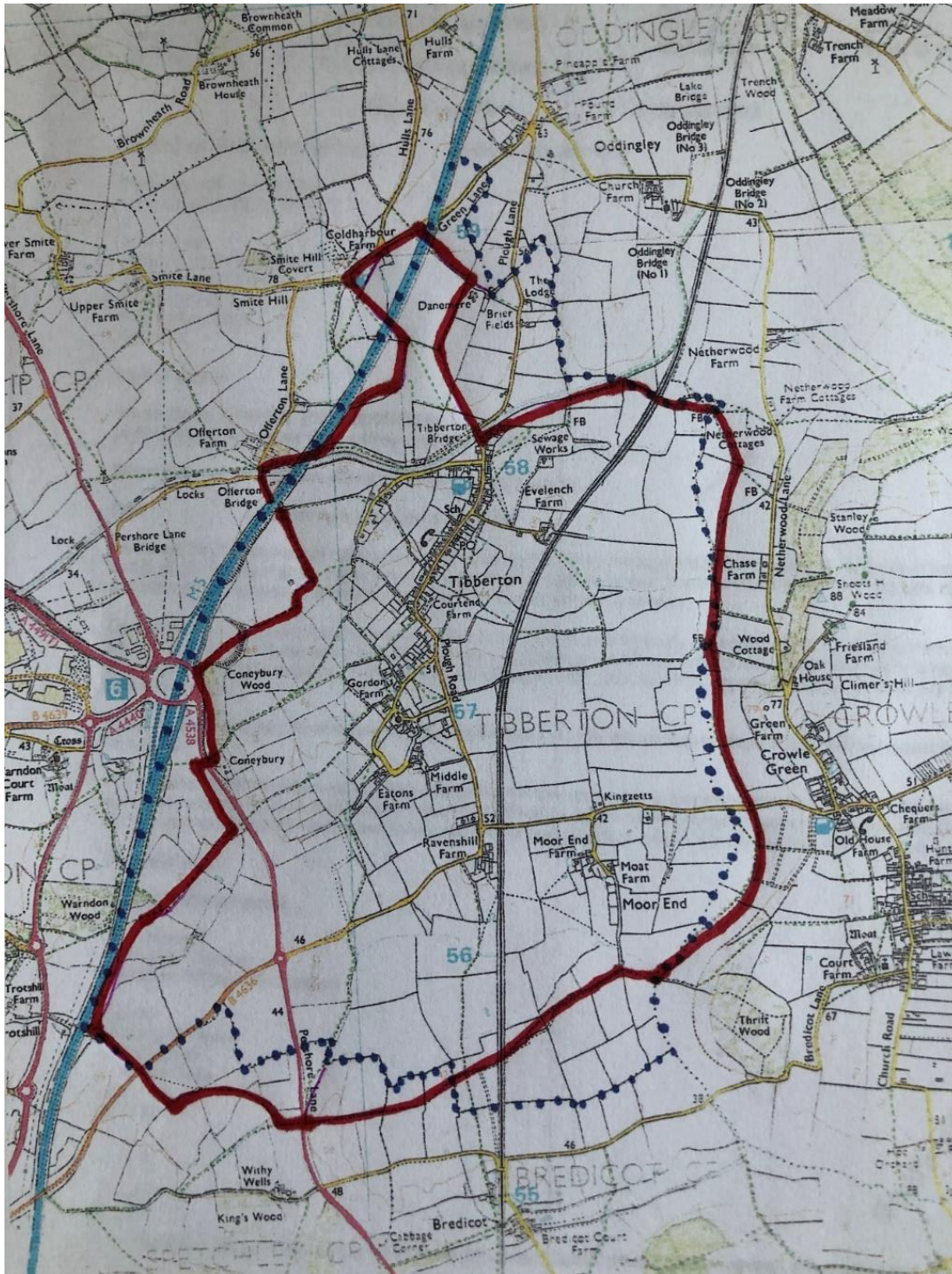
For those more adventurous what about a walk around the parish – see the route below (in red) which is about 14k. Maybe the Parish Council would like to organise this as a formal event to Beat the Bounds every so often?!

Please report any issues with footpaths either to me (rob.grimer@btinternet.com) or direct to the Council at <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/onlinereporting/FindLocation.aspx?FaultType=8>

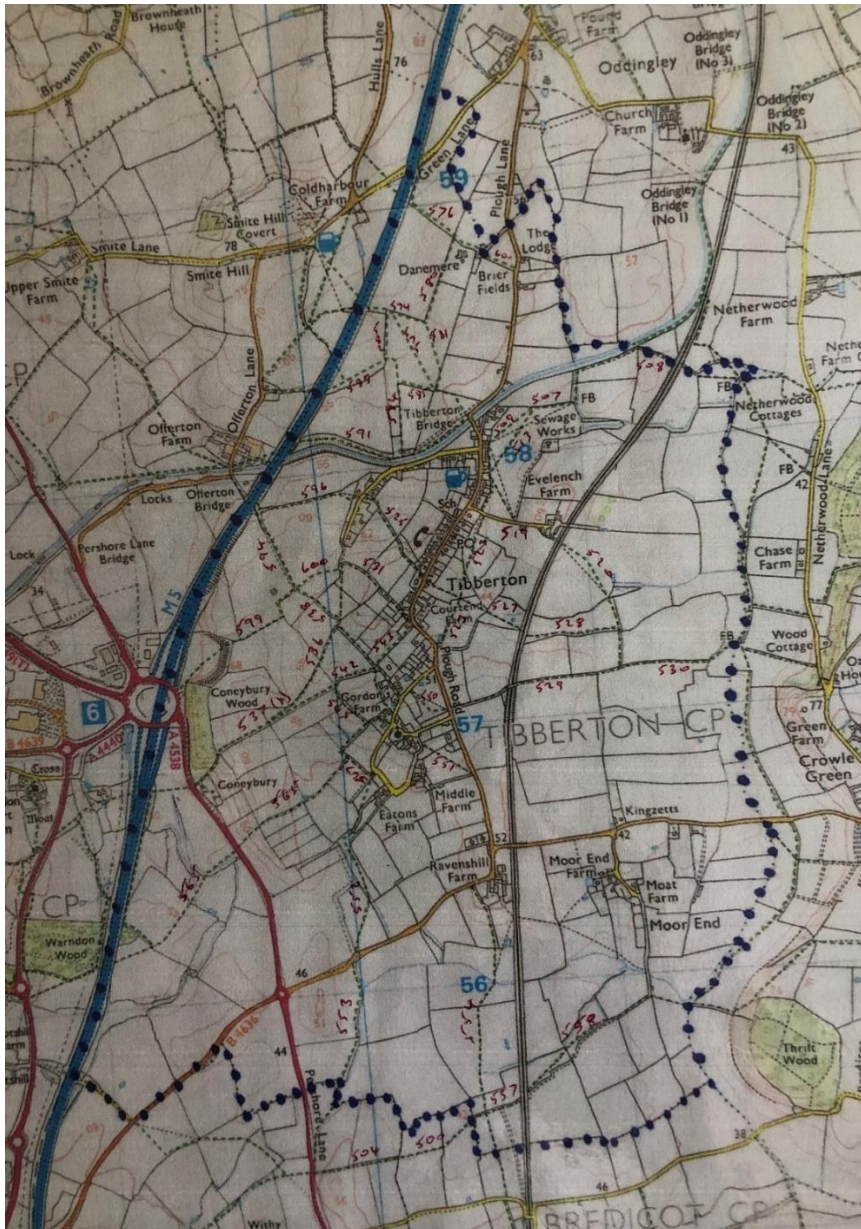
Robert Grimer

Tibberton Parish Footpath Officer

A suggested circular walk (in red) around the Parish (shown in blue dots)



The footpaths in The Parish of Tibberton



Beating the bounds or **perambulating the bounds** is an ancient custom still observed in parts of England, which traditionally involved swatting local landmarks with branches to maintain a shared mental map of parish boundaries, usually every seven years.

These ceremonial events occur on what are sometimes called **gangdays**; the custom of going a-gang was kept before the Norman Conquest. During the event, a group of prominent citizens from the community, which can be an English church parish, or other civil division, will walk the geographic boundaries of their locality for the purpose of maintaining the memory of the precise location of these boundaries. While modern surveying techniques have rendered these ceremonial walks largely irrelevant, the practice remains as an important local civic ceremony or legal requirement for civic leaders.

In England, a parish ale, a feast, was held after the perambulation, which assured its popularity. In Henry VIII's reign the occasion had become an excuse for so much revelry that it attracted the condemnation of a preacher who declared, "These solemn and accustomable processions and supplications be nowe grown into a right foule and detestable abuse".(Thanks to Wikipedia)