

Wickham Market Parish Council

Report by Footpaths warden to Full Council November 2025

Work undertaken since the September Council Report

1. Circular walks. Following the publication of the revised leaflet guide to the three WM centred walks I have completed the updating and repair of waymarking and signage along all 3 routes. The larger part of the routes lie outside the Parish boundary so some access and signing issues have been referred to SCC via the online reporting tool.
2. BW7 Little Lane. Following a report by horse riders I have cut overhanging branches to give a 3.5m clearance on height at various points along Little lane, particularly at the B1078 end.
3. I have agreed a 'dead hedge' disposal arrangement with larger branches for the Parish Clerk.

Recommended Public Rights of Way widths

There is no statutory width to a PROW but the recommended widths to achieve are

Footpath	2.2m
Bridleway	4m
Restricted Byway	4m

PROW Ownership

The land over which a PROW passes is not owned by the Highway Authority (SCC) but it has a legal duty to maintain the surface of the PROW and to ensure that it is not obstructed in any way. There are a number of points along Parish PROWs where hedges have encroached on the width of the PROW including the well used FP10 George lane to Spring Lane, FP11 Church to Spring Lane and BW7 Little Lane. This results in vigorous spring growth quickly obstructing PROWs as there is no margin. This issue needs to be addressed.



Left – FP10 George Lane with large, tall hedge encroaching on tarmac path.

Centre – FP11 Church to Spring Lane with sections narrowing to less than 1m and adjacent wire fencing with barbed wire topping

Simon Harrington 31.10.25