



FOOTPATH WORKING GROUP REPORT JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025

Balterley Gated Routes

The Footpath Working Group can now progress the next stage of gated routes over and around Balterley as kind residents have expressed interest in funding three gates. The awkward Landowner issue has been resolved by way of land ownership change in our favour. Four gates are planned, we do have one in stock so this project can be accelerated forward now with the help of Staffordshire Rural Ranger Nige and the team.

Mandy Gareth and Neil met on 07/01/2025

We have plans for a **“New Project”** and would like to call it

“FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT” and launch it in the spring when we hopefully have secured some funding from various grant schemes. This project will replace dangerous stiles for gates, where landowners agree, and/or stile kits which can be collected from SCC. This will not necessarily create fully gated routes although that would be what we will encourage.

This project will be less reliant on the grants and funding, but we shall go after all we can get to have as many new gates as possible along our routes.

GO continues to update our GIS map and is investigating the Denise Coates foundation for a grant and oversees liaising with school to continue to install the children’s way markers. GO is also drafting a revamp of the booklet 6 walks of Betley along with our summer promotion leaflet championing our Gated routes between the village pubs **“Paws, Pints, Pop and Prosecco”**

NB is collecting information on interesting facts to include in the QR code for the signage and updating the website information planned to cover the Gated route from Cricket Club to Main Road at Ravenshall.

MB is project managing the Balterley Route, no funds needed from the parish Council direct payments for gates met by a landowner and purchases direct to supplier from anonymous residents.

The Mere remains in the hands of Defra and County Council, although **MB** will poke them along this month

The Scouts have been in touch and have offered their help so that is good news.

Should you come across anyone who wishes to donate a gate or part fund a gate to the next project then please get in touch with me **MB** and will discuss the procedure needed from the suppliers

Thank you

Mandy, Gareth and Neil

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