

NFAF 33/9

Item 11 - Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum 12.06.2013.

Southern Area Board Rights of Way Volunteer Initiative.

In response to a questionnaire which asked what facet of life should be improved the Southern Area board selected Public Rights of Way as its project for the year.

The Southern Area Board is comprised of 15 parishes including a small area of the New Forest National Park. It was decided after consultation with the Senior Rights of Way Officer/Warden that the best way forward would be to replace stiles with kissing gates. Financial support came from the Parish Improvement Grant Scheme and from the New Forest National Park (for parishes in the Park). The South Wiltshire Ramblers Group and the parishes provided most of the volunteer labour. In addition the need for volunteers was advertised widely and some were recruited.

Getting permission for the work from landowners was not plain sailing.

A book of walks is to be produced with 1 walk in each of the 15 parishes.

Salisbury Plain Training Area Greenlaning Good Practice Guide.

The MOD are seeking input and support from user groups and stakeholders rather than publishing something independently. Military roads and BOATS (byways' open to all traffic) are being used by motorised vehicles. Four wheel drive organisations are co operating.

Cow Attacks.

Two recent incidents were considered and the conflicting advice to users of rights of way where there are cattle was discussed.

Ruth Croker.