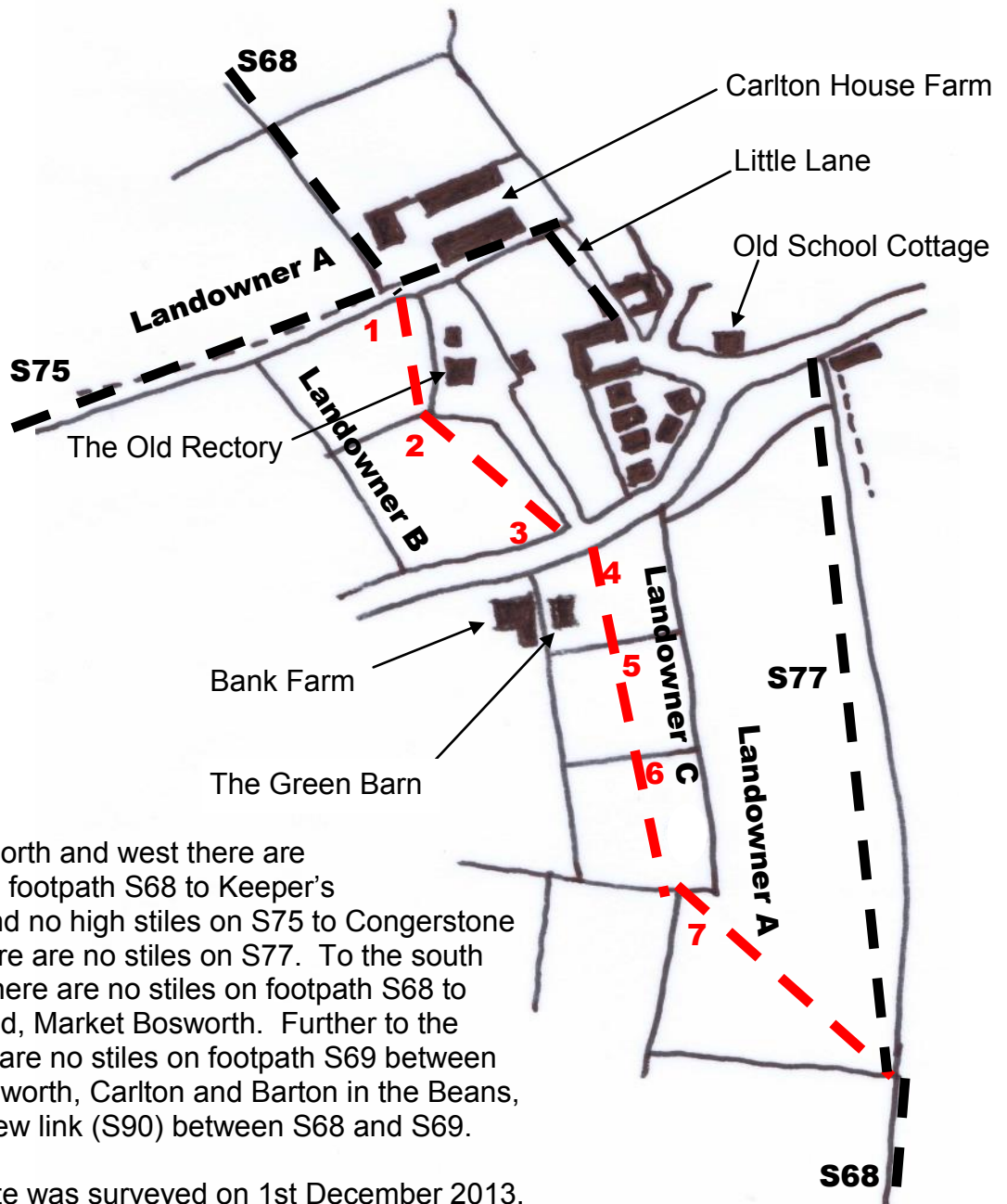


Proposals for physical Improvement works to part of public footpath S68

1. There are seven stiles on footpath S68 between footpaths S75 and S77, as marked in red on the plan below. The replacement of these seven stiles by kissing gates would improve access to the local countryside for Carlton parishioners, create new stile-free circular walks close to Carlton village, and link in to existing stile-free routes, including the Leicestershire Round, in an area popular with walkers.



2. To the north and west there are no stiles on footpath S68 to Keeper's Cottage, and no high stiles on S75 to Congerstone Road. There are no stiles on S77. To the south and east, there are no stiles on footpath S68 to Barton Road, Market Bosworth. Further to the east, there are no stiles on footpath S69 between Market Bosworth, Carlton and Barton in the Beans, or on the new link (S90) between S68 and S69.

3. The route was surveyed on 1st December 2013.

Point 1. At junction with S75. Steep stile next to nailed gate. Ground level on northern side of stile is 2' below that to the south. Install kissing gate, with raised platform on north side.

Point 2. Farm gate in middle of field. Gatepost rotten and gate very heavy. Gate is shut when sheep are in field. Water trough near to western end of gate. Discuss with Landowner B. Options: Landowner to repair gate with catch; install kissing

- gate on definitive line and Landowner to move gate to west; install new farm gate with integral handgate for walkers.
- Point 3. North side of Congerstone Lane. Sleeper bridge in good condition. Install kissing gate in highway hedge.
- Point 4. South side of Congerstone Lane. Sleeper bridge displaced. Install kissing gate in highway hedge, dig out ditch and replace/repair sleeper bridge.
- Point 5. Southern side of new woodland. Gap in new hawthorn hedge; stile in barbed wire back-fence. Discuss with landowner C: ? install kissing gate on line of wire backfence.
- Point 6. Stile in middle of field fence. Install kissing gate.
- Point 7. Deep ditch with hedge on each side. On Landowner C side there is a latched kissing gate in excellent condition. The ditch is crossed by a sleeper bridge in excellent condition. Both hedges and scrub need cutting back (refer to Carlton Footpath Group). On Landowner A side, replace stile with kissing gate.

Requirements: 7 kissing gates, 1 sleeper bridge, 1 platform, ditch digging, possible alterations to gateway or provision of dual access gate.

4. Leicestershire County Council Rights of Way section has advised that a galvanised kissing gate costs just under £400, including delivery, and installation by an LCC approved contractor costs £118. The estimated cost of the works listed above would be £3,700 (assuming a kissing gate is installed at Point 2).

5. Leicestershire County Council Rights of Way section has also advised that in principle the County Council is prepared to match fund physical improvements to this length of path.

6. The Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Parish Initiatives Fund 2014 is open to applications before 7th Feb 2014. The key aims of H&BBC include the promotion of activities in rural areas; improving neighbourhoods and the quality of life for residents; and ensuring people are safer and have healthier lifestyles. Awards will be notified in June 2014, and works must be completed and grants for 50% of the project costs claimed before the end of February 2015.

7. Recommendations

- (i) that the Clerk (acting in consultation with the Chairman) be authorised to - discuss this proposal with Landowners A, B and C; prepare a revised project plan and costing; discuss and agree the plan with LCC RoW; prepare and submit an application to the H&BBC Parish & Community Initiative Fund for 50% project funding; implement the necessary works if a grant is awarded; claim the grant on completion; and keep the PC informed.
- (ii) that a budget allocation of £1,000 be made to cover contingencies and any additional unexpected works or funding shortfalls.
- (iii) that any unspent money be carried forward for additional footpath works.

C J Peat
27th December 2013