

RIPPLE activities with Bedford Borough January to November 2025

January 2025:

Roxton	Tree blocking path cleared Improved area around.
Pavenham	Tree blocking entrance to Footpath cleared
Clapham	Reset and replaced waymark posts.

March 2025:

Bletsoe	3 posts put in between village and wigney wood
Cotton End	Footpath improved clearance on gate and bridge
Renhold	Path on edge of golf course cleared and post reset

April 2025:

Brickhill	2 Paths improved, gate cleared Hawk Drive.
Stevington	Suggestion for steps to improve path not liked by Farmer no action. referred back to RP
Clapham	re signed post and cleared a gate. Further work in the area requires landowner permission which has now been received.
Cotton End	3 posts either reset or replaced between Cotton End and Old warden Road.
Harrowden	2 posts reset and some just off Harrowden Lane near the Southern Bypass.

May 2025:

Little Staughton	Path improvements and post resets ongoing
Keysoe	Bridleway 39, annual surface and side cut
Riseley	Improvement to restricted byway 71

June 2025:

Ravensden	Footpath on Sunderland Hill significantly improved.
Wootton	FPs 27 & 40 cleared. BW2 improved.
Thurleigh	BW25 surface and sides on going
Biddenham	Request to assist improving FP14. Initial contact but Biddenham never came back.
Clapham & NB Country Park.	Replace/re-set 6 posts and clearance around posts on golf course, between golf course and Clapham park wood and on northern edge of North Bedford Country Park

July 2025:

Bolnhurst	BW29 request cut Bridleway. unsuitable for us
Little Staughton	FP's 4,13,47,49,114 Check for signage, Bridge repair and field edge cut. On recce found posts needed re-setting, discs OK, plus one post in field off ROW, one post old and should be replaced bridge hand rail repair. To do these we need permission to access land with vehicles. (Awaiting permission).
Wilden	Major clearance on blocked path took 2 sessions. Bridge and gate move and installation passed to BBC ROW.

Route 51 Sewage works to Bypass. Complaint re bench surrounded by nettles. Cleared 28/7.

Pavenham FP13. Posts and discs to clearly show route over Golf course. plus clearance here appropriate and from Felmersham road entrance. 29/7

August 2025:

Stewartby FP3 short section from road to junction with FP10 brambles from Railway fence cut back. Overhang and sides cut back on side of housing.

Melchbourne BW M24 Improved from road to arable field

September 2025:

Pavenham FP8 500 yards up hill improve surface and sides

Roxton FPA3 & FP4 Major surface task from A1 very overgrown. Fallen trees blocking path alongside river and cleared vegetation.

Sharnbrook FP4 sides encroaching path over approx 400yards. cut back. Joined by local ladies walking group for a short time & later invited for tea & cakes.

Wilden FP2 Totally blocked path cleared over two sessions
Path not usable until bridge put in over a ditch.

October 2025:

Kempston/Wootton BW23 Width and surface mostly OK but height needed a lot of attention. Removed dead overgrown shrubs and small trees. Opened up height so light and sun could help dry out surface.

Kempston Green End FPA6/A5 put on directional discs and removed unused waymark post propped up on fence.

November 2025:

Turvey	BW5 some height and shrub clearance <i>To Do</i> plus some other work required in Turvey <i>To Do</i>
Stevington	FP14 Request for some steps to be put in <i>To Do</i>
Kempston	Small clearance task on Lady Walk <i>To Do</i>

Still Outstanding:

Clapham	3 posts on BW 17 awaiting posts
Pavenham	FP7 along side of golf course 3 posts required to complete paths on Golf course
Little Staughton	Awaiting permission to access land with vehicle and to re-set posts on FP's 4,13,47,49,114 and clarification re footpath location (Ref July)

Ramblers RIPPLE volunteers spent just over 300 hours improving Bedford Borough Rights of Way between January and the end of October. At the minimum wage of £12.21 the value to the council is at least £3,600. As a number of the volunteers have qualifications in Brush Cutting and Hedge Cutting the value when they are involved would be much higher. Work done: Putting in waymark posts, clearing trees and shrubs, cutting surfaces, and vegetation, improving height and width of paths, adding directional discs.

Most recently a number of our volunteers have been involved in checking and improving the signage of the 70 North Bedfordshire heritage trail.