

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORT

NAME: Cllr David Henderson

TOPIC: Footpaths

DATE: 27/03/25

UPDATE SINCE LAST REPORT

This inspection of the footpaths was carried out in late February / early March 2025 in line with the agreed six-monthly schedule, with the last inspection being conducted during September 2024.

The weather during the winter has been very wet, impacting the condition of all the unmade paths, the path at the Orchard end of the Jubilee Fields has noticeably deteriorated since the last report.

1. Jubilee Fields

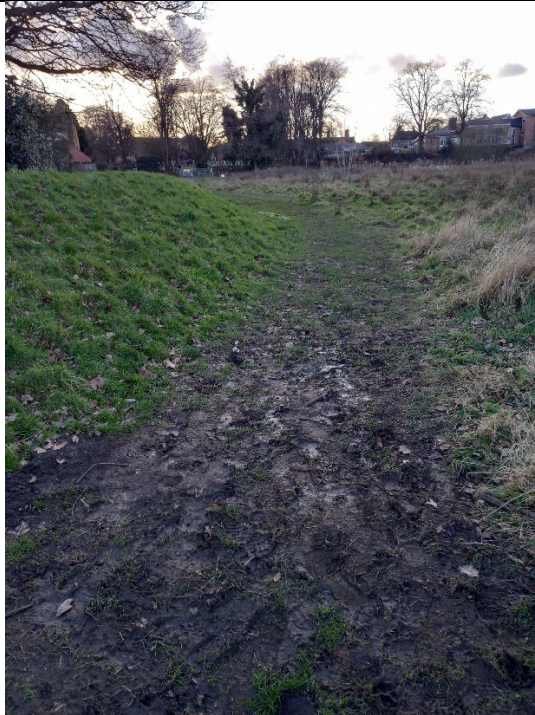
The roughcast area continues to receive complaints from the public regarding when it will be improved. As you can see from the photo below the recent bad weather has rendered it in a state it requires heavy footwear to use it safely. It appears that the path is now attracting more foot traffic than in the past, this could well be the result of the Alcester Park residents using it for both school and town access. The remainder of the footpath remains in good condition.



Due to the roughcast area overall condition remains at category C.

1b. Abbey Fields

Compared to the last visit this area was found to have deteriorated considerably due to the heavy rain over the winter period. The paths can still be used by the public but considerable care must be taken. The photo attached the poor condition of the path at the time of the visit.



Overall condition remains at Category C.

1c. Allotment Path



The path was found to be in very poor condition (see above). When the path is in this condition it is safer to access Abbey Fields through the cemetery.

Overall condition remains at Category C.

1d. Cemetery Path

The pavement at the entrance to the cemetery has not been repaired and the cracking is gradually worsening (see below). The path through the cemetery is being maintained by adding chippings to areas which become muddy.



Overall condition remains at category B.

1e. Bleachfield Street Swing Park Access

Found to be in a similar condition to the last visit in September.
Overall condition remains at category B and no repairs required at this time.

1f. Westbury Park

The main entrance steps have been repaired since the last report and overall condition of the paths is acceptable. The very wet weather has not had the same level of impact as other locations in this report, however the amount of use may be a factor in this.



Overall condition is now at category B.

- 1. Funding is now available for some improvements to the Jubilee Fields unmade paths, with Tim exploring the options available to us.**
- 2. Options for funding repairs to the Cemetery path around the gates is being explored by Vanessa.**
- 3. Formal inspection to be repeated in 6 months.**

Appendix – note of category definitions

The footpaths inspected have each been assigned one of the following categories.

Category A - in good condition and safe for use

Category B - current condition requires monitoring but still deemed safe for use

Category C - in need of repair, however can still be used with care being applied

Category D - unsafe and not recommended for public use