

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORT - DRAFT

NAME: Cllr David Henderson

TOPIC: Footpaths

DATE: 29/09/26

UPDATE SINCE LAST REPORT

This inspection of the footpaths was carried out during w/c 21st September in line with the agreed six-monthly schedule, with the last inspection being conducted during March 2026.

Following a very dry and hot summer this report reflects in most cases the impact of the weather on the footpaths inspected.

1. Jubilee Fields

The overall condition remains good apart from one area reported on in my last report. This is the area between leaving the main area of grassland and heading up towards the Greig Hall and boundary marker with the path still showing signs of being undermined and breaking up – see picture below.



Overall category A, but the part of the path mentioned above needs to be kept under review.

2. Abbey Fields

The recent visit found the footpath to be in reasonably good condition with the various paths being recently mowed. I am sure as we move through autumn and into winter the condition will change and reflect the weather predicted over this period of time.



Overall condition remains at Category B.

3. Allotment Path (between School Road and Abbey Fields)

This continues to be uneven and difficult to walk on in areas. Fortunately, it is only a very short expanse of path.

Start of path into nature reserve is very uneven (not ATC responsibility)



Overall condition remains at Category C.

4. Cemetery Path

The replacement of the gates has been completed now and the path under the lychgate is scheduled for repair between the 14th October and the end of the month. On completion we should have an entrance to the cemetery to be proud of and pleasing to all who have a need to visit the cemetery.



Overall condition remains at category B.

5. Bleachfield Street Swing Park Access

Since the last inspection in March there has been further deterioration to the condition of the surface of the path. This has been reported to WCC but as yet no action has been taken. It is planned to use the most recent photos to yet again report the condition and the concerns of ATC.



Remains category B.

6. Westbury Park

The overall condition of the park and the three access areas remains as reported in the March report. The park does not appear to have many visitors, probably due to its location and condition, with it remaining uneven in many areas and difficult for anyone with a buggy or wheelchair to negotiate.

I believe that we should inspect its condition prior to the weather changing and agree what our position should adopted on the upkeep of the area.



Condition remains at category C.

Recommendations

- 1. Visit to Westbury Park to assess overall condition and determine future course of action.**
- 2. Inspection of path beside river at Greig Hall end of Jubilee Fields.**
- 3. Continue to apply pressure on WCC regarding worsening condition of Bleachfield Road alongside Bleachfield Park.**
- 4. Formal inspection to all paths 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