











Hodgemoor Riding Association

Planning of trail works for summer 2024.

We have funds and Forestry England is keen to have initial proposals to get our works into their programme. We have completed the tasks we set ourselves, a) solicit input from riders on the places that most need work. B) assess Susie and Marcus's recommendations for work on the following sites marked with pink circles on the map. Those items marked  have been withdrawn from the schedule following decisions of the AGM of the Hodgemoor Riding Association 20 November 2023.

Map at <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Hodgemoor-trails-2023-needing-work-2024-MB-SAB-alpha-idents.jpg>

- a.  **Wickham Way.** Jo Read, the land-owner, agreed in our AGM of 20 November 2023 to approach Buckinghamshire Council to fill the 4-metre puddles at the most westerly corner of the Wickham Way bridleway under the big distressed oak tree at the nearest point to Lana's fields.
- b.  **Spring Link.** Dig out the stream over a 50 m length next to the bridle path, clearing small trees as required, then continue it to the left, east, through the blackthorn thicket into the depression at the top of the Bicknell/Read field, across which walkers go. Improving the flow of this stream would prevent the flow of ground water onto the bridleway where it enters the wood, otherwise we might have to lay a pipe under the trail there. The second part of the work is probably best started from the field end.
- c.  **Spring Link.** Repair with proper materials the parapet of the culvert bridge which was done 3 years ago with canvas bags with sand in. They gave way within a year. Forestry England propose to proceed with this work during 2023, but if it does not get done please include it in the quote for the sake of completeness.
- d.  **Amber's Trail link to Bracken Ride.** Rebuild a 5-10 metre section of the trail which has turned to mud because it was not built up enough in the first place.
- e.  **Yellow Brick Road.** 10 metre section half way up where a footpath crosses. ^{PRIORITY}
- f.  **Rawlings Corner.** Build up the ground between the two southerly posts preventing vehicles from getting into the woods, puddle all year. ^{PRIORITY}
- g.  **Rawlings Corner.** Build up ground on the corner with The Dell, 10m from road. ^{PRIORITY}
- h.  **The Dell, ford.** The ford over the stream in The Dell is a major obstacle for horses unwilling to cross water and a minor obstacle for cyclists and walkers. We propose a two-metre-wide bridge with some 6-inch culvert pipes running underneath. Requires site visit and engineering advice.
- i.  **The Mount.** Break-up of surface on the slope due to uncontrolled flood flow. The solution is to install water bars or interceptor dykes, large stones or strong wood embedded diagonally in the trail at intervals. See the second image at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterbar>. They both divert running water off the path and reduce loss of material. For the horses they make about the same impact on their footing as uneven surface and certainly less than tree roots. We have noticed water bars

in Ashridge and they look simple and effective. Diagonal water run-offs on the south side were dug out again in Oct 2023 and are working adequately. ^{PRIORITY}

- j. ☒ **The Mount.** The tree roots at the top of the Mount are quite an obstacle now. We would have to raise the surface of the path with new material. In turn, that makes water bars all the more important. Discuss with experts.
- k. ☒ **The Mount.** New culvert half way down the Mount towards The Glade needs resurfacing as it has turned to mud over the culvert pipe. ^{PRIORITY}
- l. ☒ **The Glade.** Truck size puddle at the bottom of the Glade towards Widmer Corner, junction with the Dell. Advice so far is to raise a 1.50m trail on the east side of the low lying part and lay a 6inch pipe from its west to the sink hole 10m to the south. Also a clay boggy patch nearby to rebuild. ^{PRIORITY}
- m. ☒ **Western Bridle Path** (aka Old Bridle Path). break-up of surface on the slope at the Widmer end. The solution is to install water bars or interceptor dykes, large stones or strong wood embedded diagonally in the trail at intervals.
- n. ☒ **Western Bridle Path** (aka Old Bridle Path). Some work needed one third of the way up where boggy/clay part is bad enough to pull shoes off. ^{PRIORITY}
- o. ☒ **Highfield.** Creation of a surfaced trail here would be difficult because of the irregularity of the tree roots and the high cost of works there. The Committee has agreed not to do work there and to leave it wild.

Map at <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Hodgemoor-trails-2023-needing-work-2024-MB-SAB-alpha-idents.jpg>

Prepared by Susie and Marcus Bicknell and revised following decisions of the AGM of the Hodgemoor Rising Association 20 November 2023.

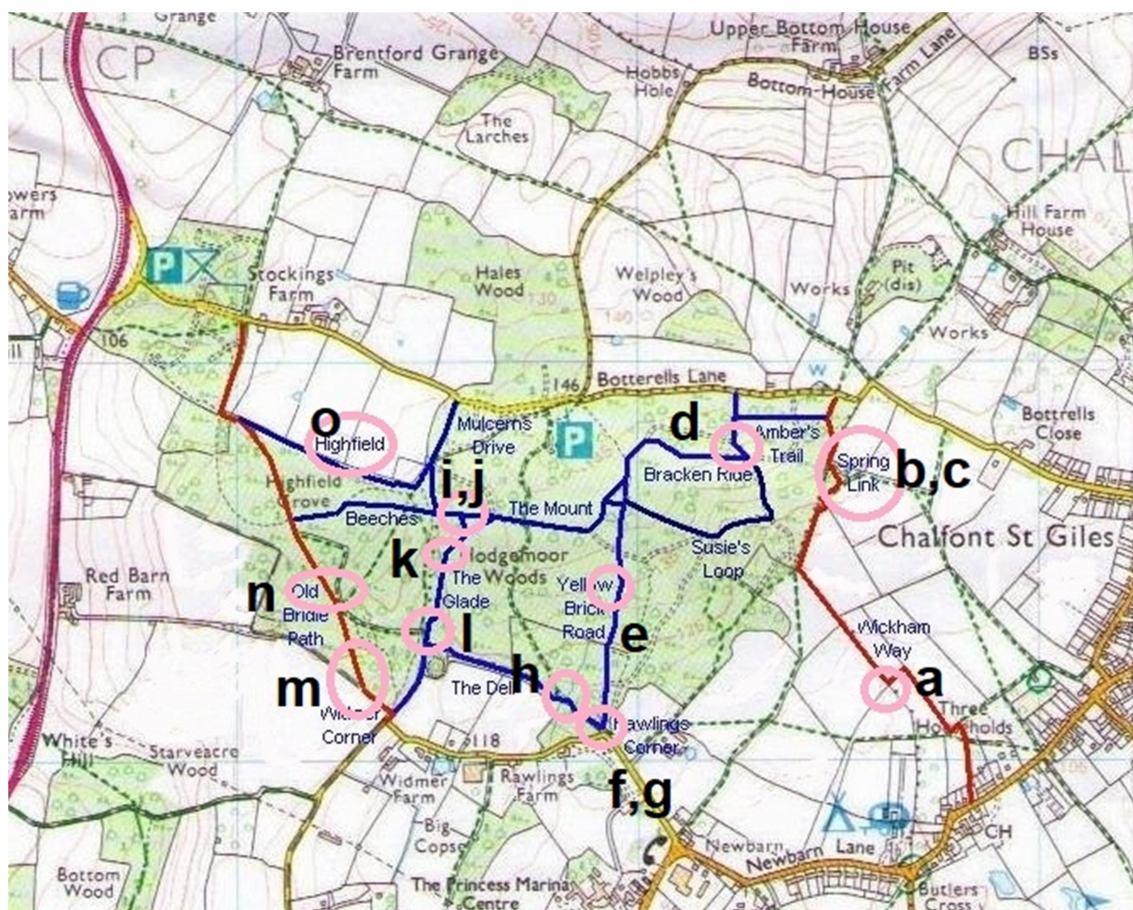
Marcus Bicknell, chairman, Hodgemoor Riding Association
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Susie Bicknell, secretary, Hodgemoor Riding Association

Hodgemoor Riding Association

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Latest information and map on www.hodgemoor.org.uk



Map also at <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Hodgemoor-trails-2023-needing-work-2024-MB-SAB-alpha-idents.jpg>