

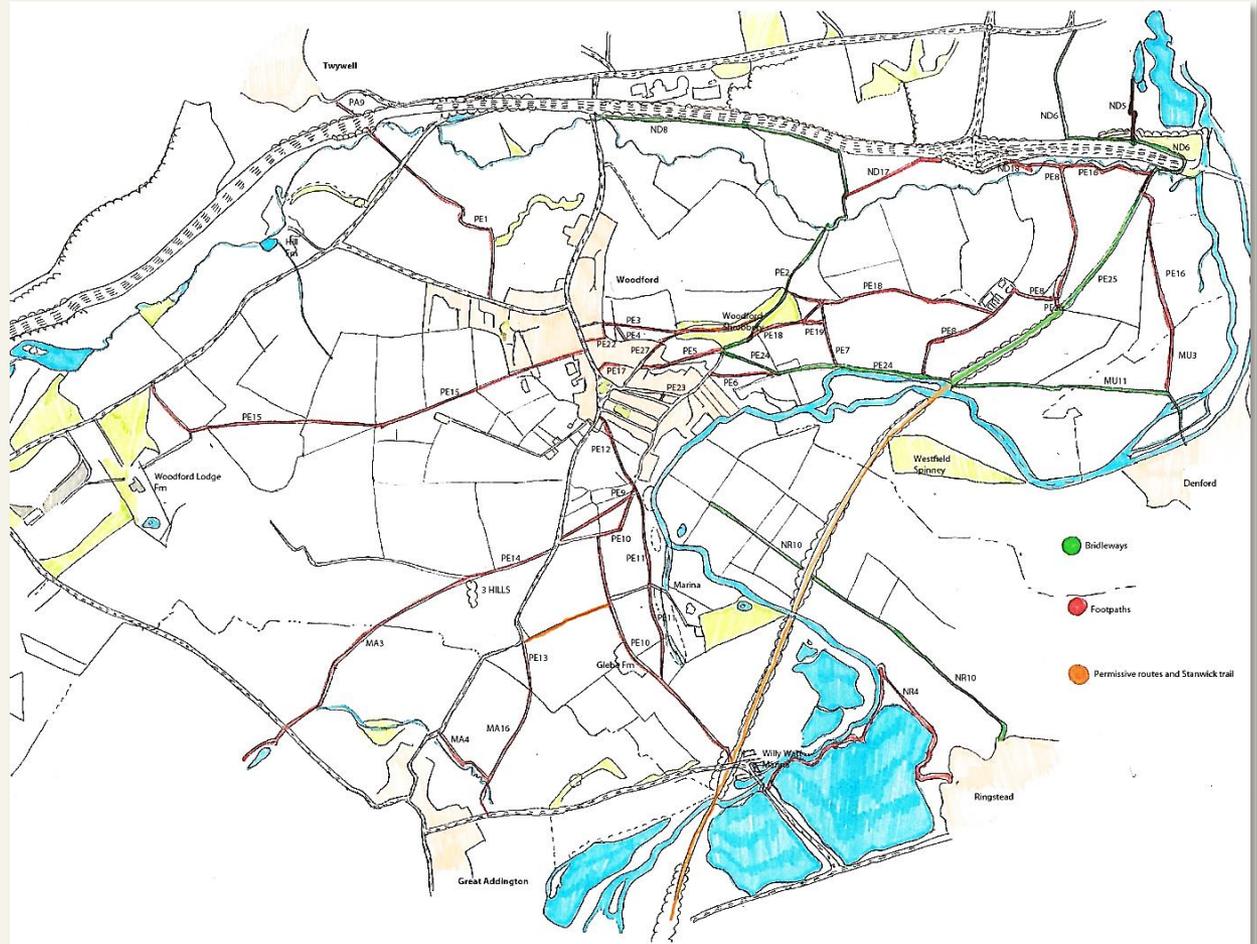
RIGHTS OF WAY

Public footpaths and Bridleways

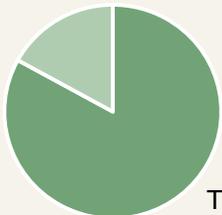
The village is a hub at the centre of a network of public rights of way and footpaths.

There are 23 footpaths and bridleways located within the parish boundaries which link the village to neighbouring villages and the market town of Thrapston. These are identified by the prefix PE in front of the digit on the definitive footpaths map.

There is a significant permissive route running between Thrapston and Stanwick Lakes that is an all weather track suitable for horses, cycles, disabled and able bodied people.



Do you know where the local public footpath/bridleways are?



Total responses 201

■ Yes 83% ■ No 17%

Map of Woodford Right of Ways see appendix E

RIGHTS OF WAY

Public footpaths and Bridleways

Most people said that that they can use the public rights of way within the parish without difficulty.

A significant minority also said that they would be willing to help maintain footpaths.

Most people said that they wanted safe cycle routes giving access to and through the village.



Public Right of Way



RIGHTS OF WAY

Existing Bridleways and Footpaths

An audit of the state of the existing footpaths has been undertaken to confirm and identify the improvements that are required to bring them up to standard. There is a list of footpaths needing action in appendix D. A number of issues have been identified. These include:

- Barbed wire fence closing off one footpath and the destruction of another
- Overgrown stiles
- Missing signs
- Non re-instatement of footpaths following cultivation within legal timeframe
- Footpath widths not meeting legal requirement
- Overgrown paths



Recommendations

1. The PC ask the Parish Path Warden (PPW) to confirm the finding of the audit.
2. Council receives annual report on state of footpaths from PPW.
3. The landowners and County Council are requested by the PC to improve the standard of the existing paths in line with the attached audit.
4. A small booklet / flier should be produced with a map and description of the various paths and suggested round trip walks
5. Encourage walkers finding problems eg life saving equipment damaged to report them to the Parish Clerk for action.

Considerations

1. Village volunteers are prepared to support this work but the County Footpaths Officer has pointed out that this cannot be supported on health and safety grounds.
2. The establishment of a small parish subcommittee to liaise with landowners and county council.

RIGHTS OF WAY

Accessing the Thrapston to Stanwick Lakes permissive route

There is considerable support as identified in the village survey for an all weather fully accessible foot and cycle pathway to the track. Historically, funding was available to support this work at the time of the track becoming open. At that time this option was not pursued.

The use of the track by Woodford residents has grown since it's opening, with pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders accessing the route along a by way that is poorly maintained and forms part of a route that starts at the end of Church Street (PE24).

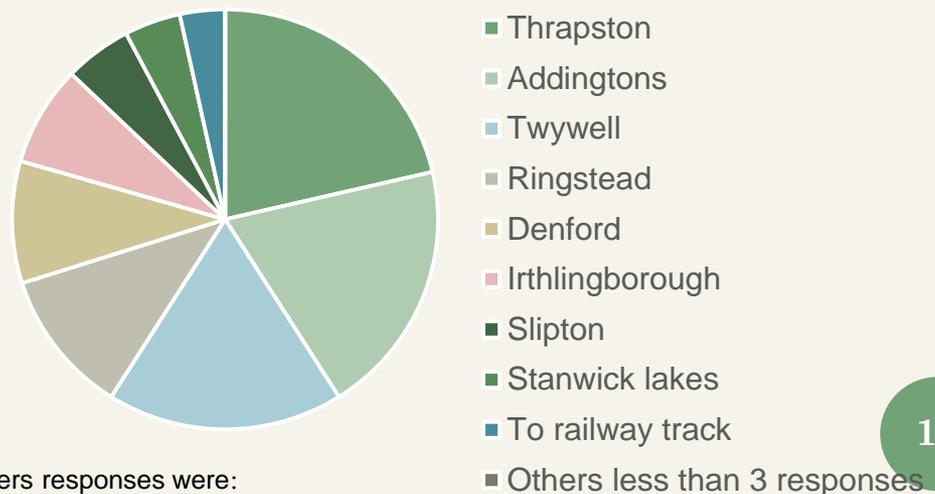
Alternatively it is accessed by footpath PE10. After Glebe Farm which transforms into a very rutted and often very muddy track. Villagers appreciate the support of the farmer who has opened gates at each end of the track to enable pedestrians to avoid the mud.

Recommendations

1. PC to formally approve desirability of all weather fully accessible route to Thrapston-Stanwick lake permissive route as part of the East Northamptonshire Greenway Project
2. PC to work with County Footpaths Officer team to cost and prepare bid under Natural England P4C which has been set up to improve the public rights of way and access to the countryside.

Considerations

1. Landowner resistance on grounds that motorbikes might use the all weather surfaces becoming a nuisance
2. The Church St to the lock is the favoured route but the alternative from Glebe Farm would create a pleasant circular route
3. P4C due to cease in 2014, additional sources of grant maybe required .



When asked would you like to see cycle path links to other villages, 70% answered Yes. When asked where to, the villagers responses were: