

Footpath name	About Hitchin number	Definitive number	From	To	Conclusions or comments if text	Suggested actions
Oughtonhead Way	3	3	Oughtonhead spring	Oughtonhead Way / Talbot St jctn	A well used well loved path that could be so much better.	Surface repairs Talbot street to Lucas Lane + section at west end of concrete road surface at Redhill Road section. Scrub clearance of Lucas Lane to Redhill Road section to widen the path. Wheelchair access could easily be established and create an enjoyable route to Oughtonhead Common. Lighting.
Lucas Lane	7	7	Redhill Rd	Grays Lane	A good path used by many for access to open countryside and Oughtonhead, but cars, bikes, horses and occasional lorries also use it.	Speed restrictions should be signed. Hedge trimming and clearance needed Fosman Close to Maxwells path and south of Victoria Road.
NA	NA	11	Jctn of Old Hale Way and Strathmore avenue	Jctn of King Georges Close and A600	A very well-used path by local people, but could become part of a network of paths leading from the Westmill estate to Hitchin station or the Purwell area. Good free recreational facilities in KG playing field. No signage – no indication of prohibition of cyclists or any indication of potential danger from cyclists. Some cyclists but space means less potential for intimidation – no significant bends – segregated lane unnecessary? Litter is a problem.	Improve signage e.g. to give details of facilities and useful destinations e.g. Westmill, Oughtonhead, Hitchin station and Purwell meadow. Also warning signs to indicate presence of cyclists. Consider ways to reduce littering
NA	NA	12	Bearton Rd	Lancaster Rd / Ave	A utility path to connect the town centre with N Hitchin, which can save an estimated 0.5mile if walking by road from the Bearton Rd / Old Hale Way junction to Lancaster Ave / Bearton Ave junction. Local people would say that dog fouling is a low level, but persistent issue. Graffiti is extensive, but inoffensive	Improve signage (consider this as part of a pedestrian route from the town centre to N. Hitchin / Ickleford)

NA	NA	14	Bearton Avenue Gudwara	York Road Nursery	no signage, useful connection, interesting rather than attractive, good view of school and back gardens, rutted surface mainly due to tree roots so good to see, boundaries interesting rather than spick & span, wide for wheelchairs, has barriers, would not prevent motor bikes, no lighting, little passive surveillance, I would not walk this after dark, no vandalism, no bins, has dog poo bin but it's been vandalised, no fouling, plenty to look at on this path as urban meets rural, disordered yes, but therefore interesting	
NA	NA	15	York Road Nursery	Fishponds Rd	no signage, good connecting path, very enclosed, surface OK, boundaries OK, interesting back views, OK for wheelchairs, no barriers yet leads to major road, unlit, it's short so you can keep an eye on both ends, but I wouldn't walk it after dark, no vandalism, no dog bins or fouling	Install kerb barrier at Fishponds Road end.
Chalkdell Path	6	17	Maxwell Path	Oughtonhead Way	A comfortable walkway normally. No indication of possible destinations by signage. A potentially useful path as part of a N-S off-road route from the Samuel Lucas school area to the Priory school and beyond. Condition provides evidence of the power of passive surveillance in preventing graffiti, litter and vandalism – Maxwell's path and Union path are a few yards away and are both much affected by these problems. A useful well kept path.	Consider making this part of a N-S off-road route. Improve signage to give ultimate destinations (e.g. Westmill, Priory School, Samuel Lucas School) and distances. Initiate best-kept footpath award? (This would be a front-runner). There should be a barrier or sign at the Oughtonhead Road end to prevent children running onto busy road.
Maxwell Path	5	18	Lucas Lane	A600 Bedford Rd	A well used path.	The path needs attention when the old hospital site is developed. It could be made much safer by cutting trees and widening one short section

Union path	4	20	Maxwell Path	Beaumont Close	No signage - no indication of length, destination or potential to linkages to other paths. A utility path which forms part of a useful network and is well-used during the day (e.g. for school runs) but is unattractive due to its surroundings and poor maintenance. Litter, graffiti and fly tipping signal that this may not be a safe path to walk at night. In spite of good illumination, many would choose to walk along the main road. Little evidence of litter removal or attempts to prevent its accumulation.	Improve signage to show ultimate destination (e.g. Priory School, Westmill, Kings George's Playing Field). Improve maintenance, especially in removing litter and graffiti.
Braunds Alley	8	23	Grays lane /Westfield Lane	A600 Old Park Rd	A very handy path for everyone in Crow Furlong, Grays Lane, Lucas Lane, West Hill etc. Much used by pedestrians. Provides speedy access to Waitrose and to the town centre via Nuns Close and West Alley. For cyclists it allows avoidance of the huge and dangerous library roundabout. No barrier at E end where it meets Bedford Road (and it is used by children accessing the playground)..	Signage might be useful. Gritting or salting when icy and more frequent litter-clearing. Barrier on kerbside of pavement at Bedford Road end.
Elmside Walk	30	24	Fishponds Rd	Bedford Rd / Christchurch	A very well-used path giving access to the Swimming Centre and the gym. No signage apart from 'Elmside Walk' at both ends. Some cyclists can be intimidating to pedestrians.	Improve signage e.g. to give details of facilities, Gudwara (in Bearton Avenue) and pedestrian route to N Hitchin and Ickleford. Provide segregated cycle lane and appropriate warnings.
NA	NA	30	Pirton Rd between Mt Pleasant and Tudor Court	Offley Rd	A potentially attractive utility path which forms part of a useful network but suffers from poor maintenance. Litter and fly tipping signal that this may not be a safe path to walk at night. Little evidence of litter removal or attempts to prevent its accumulation. No safety barriers even though both ends are downhill approaches to busy roads.	Improve maintenance, especially in removing litter and clearing vegetation. Improve lighting. Install safety barriers at both ends.

Coopers Alley	11	35	Tilehouse Street	Paynes Park (entrance to Coopers yard flats)	signage at one end only, good connecting path, neutral on attraction, rather uneven, interesting back views of surrounding buildings, clear of graffiti, & hedges, bit narrow for wheelchairs, barriers at ends not needed, unlit, no surveillance I would hesitate to use after dark but it is very short, no dog bins or fouling. This could be an attractive path once the lighting and surface are improved. <b>NB The 'dog leg' lighting was installed during the survey period.</b>	Improve surface.
Russells Slip (north)	10	36	Upper Tilehouse Street / Grays Lane	Wratten Road West	North. Generally a useful connecting route which could do with a bit more maintenance.	
Russells Slip (south)	10	37	Wratten Road West	Cranbourne Ave	<b>South.</b> Generally a very attractive easy use well signed route from the Willow Estate towards town. if the stroller wishes to continue, say to Charlton via Hawthorne Close , they come into conflict with Charlton Road (50mph) with no pavement.	
NA	NA	43	Hitchin Hill / Priory End	Bridge over bypass	This is part of a complex of footpaths that are urban/semirural, and have lost definition through neglect and poor signage. They are however well used, and could be developed as part of a link route perhaps onto the HOOP.	Better signage, and repair of fencing
Ayres alley	13	47	Brand St / High St traffic lights (next to Vodafone shop)	Churchyard	A useful well maintained but not very attractive connection.	
Munts Alley	13	47	Brand St / High St traffic lights	Churchyard	needs signage, otherwise a good short connecting path with no issues	

Churchyard Walk	14	49	North gate of St Mary's churchyard	Portmill Lane carpark	needs signage, acknowledgement that it is a path, otherwise it's a bit lost in other parts of the built environment, good connection, attractive, lots of variety, surface good and very wide for wheelchairs, no vandalism, at night it is lit but again very quiet and not overlooked after dark, little used after dark from my experience. Very attractive a destination as well as a route.	
Hitchin Hill Path	26	51	London Road	Stevenage Road	Historically interesting and attractive little path. It does cut off the corner and is used as such.	None
Folly Path	24	53	St Johns Road	Stevenage Road / Folly Close	Excellent and useful route that would benefit from better signage to show where it goes. When linked with Cemetary Road and Taylors Hill paths, makes a good route into town from the south and west.	Little required, but better signs would be a help to new visitors. Resurfacing, shrub maintehance required.
Cemetery Path	27	55	Standhill Road	Hollow Lane / Whitehill Road	OK. needs signage, needs better lighting, otherwise a good path, I would be wary of using this path at night	Nil.
St John's Path	23	62	Hitchin Hill Standhill Road jnctn	St Johns Road	Could be better. Useful link route in dry conditions and avoids the road. However steepness at one end prevents heavy use.	Handrails on steep section. Clear soil & organic stuff on steep section.
Taylor's Hill	22	63	Park Street	Standhill Road	Good path. No real problems at present. Good path and part of link. No real problems at present.	Improved signage to develop a link across town to the SW area. Most locals know it, but have occasionally met people who are lost and do not know where the path is going.
Storehouse Lane	21	65	Kershaws Hill / St Andrews Place	Taylors Hill	an interesting and varied path, lots to look at, rough and varied under foot, not good for wheelchairs through its entire length, but perhaps some of it, no barriers, has signage both ends, I wouldn't walk this after dark, no lighting, no dog bins or fouling	
Storehouse Lane	21	65	Kershaws Hill / St Andrews Place	Taylors Hill	A very accessible and pleasant leafy path. A bit muddy in the winter.	

Ippolytts Brook	NA	70	Aston Rise / Ninesprings Way	Wymondley Rd rlwy bridge	Although only part of the path walked on this occasion, I have walked the whole length to the Stevenage Road recently and the above comments would apply to the whole path. Signage is not specific when not joining the path from the ends. The Council footpath numbering system is unclear.	Improve signage, especially directing HOOP walkers under railway bridge, and making it clear that there is no footway beyond the Wymondley Rd / St Michaels Rd rdbt and make numbering consistent with definitive map.
Riddy Lane	18	71	Hollow Lane gyratory system (W. corner)	Manor Crescent	A potentially useful path to connect the town centre with Ninesprings and routes to open country to the east. Access at W end involves crossing potentially hazardous gyratory system. Poor signage means that anybody without a map who does not know the area might have difficulty in finding the start of the path at the W. end, and the garages might deter the casual explorer. At the E. end, no signage indicates how to access the rest of the path in Westwood Avenue, and there is nothing to show how to find the Ninesprings shops or the HOOP. Minor improvements to surface would make the path more usable by wheelchair users, but access at the western end is problematic due to the road system and gradients on approach.	Improve signage to give destination and distance, route from end of path to open country (e.g. HOOP), road route to Ninesprings shops at eastern end, and the dog-leg where route crosses Westwood Avenue. Consider steps to improve safety of road crossing at W end. Check requirements for wheelchair access and improve surface to west of Willoughby Way.
Burton Path	16	74	Station Approach	Benslow Lane	More utilitarian than pleasant and attractive. Very useful connection to station avoiding roads.	Mechanical seeping to remove leaf litter. Graffiti guerillas to remove graffiti. Re-surface rest of path (some work done on about 1/3 of path).
Benslow Path (NB This is referred to as Avenue Path in the About Hitcin map)	17	75	Benslow Lane (St Andrew's school)	The Avenue	Pleasant walk. Very useful short cut avoiding roads.	Mechanical sweeping needed. Potholes need attention. Directional sign to station.

Avenue Path	17	77	The Avenue	NH Music school	Quite overgrown with neighbours vegetation, but in a pleasant sort of way.	Replacement signs. Add sign to show station is x minutes away. Repair potholes. Mechanical seeping needed.
NA	NA	81	Meadowbank / Cambridge Rd rdbt NE corner next to NHC entrance	Chaucer Way	A potentially useful path which may be underused because of poor lighting, litter and surface (has the current situation something to do with the relatively close proximity of housing on the SW side?) Little evidence of litter removal or attempts to prevent its accumulation	Consider the re-designation of this as a cycle track (widening would make very little difference to the playing fields) or even dual use. Increase frequency of lights. Make surface safer.
West Alley	12	90	High Street	Paynes Park	needs signage, good connecting path, very interesting and attractive, its historical origins are clear, surface fine, too narrow at one end for wheelchairs, no dog bins and no fouling	Needs signage.
West Alley	12	90	High Street	Paynes Park	This is an attractive useful route. The rear of the house at the High Street end has been nicely improved. The barn remains a concern.	
Gypsy Lane	19	94	Hitchin Rd	Purwell Lane / Kingswood Ave	A pleasant rural walk marred by some vandalism, dog-fouling and litter. The above may signal to some that this is a route that is best avoided at certain times of day. The removal of the recycling bank at the N end when the kerbside plastic collections begin may help. There are no signs to direct walkers along the road to the path and nothing to warn motorists of the likely presence of walkers.	Steps to reduce litter, vandalism and dog-fouling need consideration. Signage to the path along the road is needed, ideally together with a footway and a warning to westbound motorists to indicate the likely presence of walkers.
NA	NA	119	Charlton Road (East)	to Priory End	A very pleasant walk on the edge of the Priory Grounds. A short bit over the Hiz is alongside the Priory Bypass. Some traffic noise and could be muddy in winter also the Priory End has steps so not wheelchair friendly. This path connects 122 with 38.	
NA	NA	119 and 122	Meadow Way / Wratten Rd West	A602 Parkway at S end of Priory Gardens	An important route connecting the country with the town centre under the bypass. NB Charlton Road is dangerous it should have a pedestrian crossing to access this footpath.	

Kershaw's Hill / Kershaw's Hill path	20	56/57	Lyles Row	St John's Road	Useful path from the centre to St Johns in frequent use especially during term time as access to Highbury School. It is very rare to walk down there without passing someone. Whole section is in good condition and no significant problems are seen at present	Barrier at lower end of path near the town centre on St Andrews Place. Warning signs at both ends that this is a path shared with vehicles (and vice versa). Speed limit for vehicles (although they cannot go very fast, and most users are residents and know the problems).
Broadmeadow Path <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	Larch Avenue N51 56.076 W0 16.138	London Road N51 56.138 W0 15.915	Excellent path in good condition.	Barrier at London Road end. Litter / dog bin required.
Crow Furlong	9	NA	Grays Lane / Lucas Lane	Pirton Rd	A well used path that needs better signage. The only downside is the minority of drivers who go at an inappropriate speed. Difficult to deal with as the Council has no responsibility. I think possibly SatNavs may show Crow Furlong as straight through to Grays Lane, as quite a few vehicles roar down to the bollards and then turn round and roar out again, despite the 'no through road' signs at the Pirton Road end. But some residents also drive too fast.	Improved signage both for walkers and a speed restriction sign at Pirton Road end. It would be wise to get Crow Furlong registered as an official bridleway as it doesn't feature as a RoW on the definitive map and there is certainly more than 20 years of use by pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists.
Dale Close Path <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	London Road N51 56.299 W0 16.397	Dale Close N51 56.339 W0 16.385	Useful path, should be better known, and could be with signage	Needs some sort of Signage at either end – it needs a name as well. Barrier required at London Road end – visibility onto road is restricted by bank, and should extend towards roundabout until view is clear. Lighting halfway along.
Lyles Row	15	NA	Queen street	Kershaws Hill / St Andrews Place	signage at one end, has barriers, interesting historic path up out of Queens street into housing, attractive but a bit soulless. A good connection to Kershaws Hill and Queen Street.	



Redhill Path	28	NA	Redhill Rd	Path linking Westmill Rd with Wellingham Ave	Untidy, but not much worse than some of the streets around this area. No signage - no indication of length, destination or potential to linkages to other paths. A utility path in the sense of giving access to the rear of properties on Nutleigh Rd and Wetmill Rd. Lack of lighting, litter, graffiti and fly tipping signal that this may not be a safe path to walk. Little evidence of litter removal or attempts to prevent its accumulation.	Beyond any thoughts on my agenda. You try!! Clarify the status of this path – is it a right of way, who is responsible for its maintenance? If it is a path; Put in some lights, improve signage to show ultimate destination (e.g. Priory School, Westmill, Kings George's Playing Field), improve maintenance, especially in removing litter and graffiti
Rowan Grove <sup>1</sup> link	NA	NA	Rowan Grove N51 56.187 W0 16.030	Langbridge Close N51 56.219 W0 16.040	Good path in excellent condition. Quite heavy use as you will find someone going in the opposite direction on most occasions. No problems	Needs a sign to say where it is going. It could do with a name as well!
Saunders Walk	27	NA	Standhill Road	Nursery Hill	this is a new build series of steps providing a useful connection between two roads, needs to be lit at night and signposted both ends. This provides a good connection from the Whitehill area in to town. It was probably more pleasant before the houses were built. I can recall it being surrounded by blackberry bushes previously. It is not an obvious path when it shares the dog leg access road.	