

Chiltern Society Path Representative North and West Nuffield

Report for Nuffield Parish Council May to September 2026

Nature does keep us guessing doesn't it? I look back at my report for this period last year and see it starts with the line 'after all the rain this summer'!! Well, we all know what happened this year – high heat and severe drought which has brought serious consequences for many.

However, the footpaths have not been adversely affected and after the early spring there was plenty of vegetation which needed cutting back at the beginning of the summer, not least on the lower part of the path down the hill from Whitcalls Lane (NU33) again: it's taken me 5 visits since May to ensure this particular path is without obstructions. Altogether though I have made 18 visits to the area to keep the paths free for use.

I reported last time on a large hanging tree along the Ridgeway at Morrell's Bottom and there was another one just as big and fallen further up the hill in June – because of their size I reported both of these to OCC who arranged clearance quickly. Another smaller tree was also cleared by the Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers (PMV).

They also put in a new waymark post on NU8 to replace a fallen one and erected a handrail down the steps of the Ridgeway (NU9) where it crosses the main road. After all their work on NU10 last winter it should be OK without further clearance this year. Hopefully, amongst all their other jobs, PMV may be able to clear the cut boughs across NU2 over the winter.

John Case

Chiltern Society Parish Path Representative

10th September 2026