

Chiltern Society Path Representative North and West Nuffield

Report for Nuffield Parish Council October 2025 to May 2026

I have continued making regular checks of footpaths in my part of the parish through the winter making 15 visits in all to ensure they remained free of obstruction and were fit for purpose. Most paths in this part of the Parish are in good or reasonable condition but there are some improvements still to be made.

The largest obstacle I found was a fallen tree with a hanging trunk above which was across the Ridgeway just below Morrell's Bottom in early April this year. Although it was passable by walkers it had a diameter in excess 300 mm and was potentially a danger so I reported it to the County Council in accordance with the procedures in place with them and the Chiltern Society. This has now been cleared recently with the help of the landowner.

The Chiltern Society has continued its work of path maintenance and improvement across this and neighbouring parishes and, again in April, replaced a difficult to cross stile on NU36 near Whitcalls Lane as part of a long term plan to provide a stile free circular route via Stoke Row.

Similarly, the Chiltern Society improved the path (NU14) going past the end of Bradley Road where it has in the past got regularly overgrown and hopefully it will be easier to keep clear in future.

I am also keeping an eye on NU33, running parallel to the Ridgeway, because even though it is a reasonably popular bridleway the growth increasingly threatens to obstruct the path and I have requested some mechanical help later in the year.

As I have noted several times before, NU2 and NU6 both exit on to the busy A4130 which is a bit of a concern by itself but they also need additional attention to keep them useable. NU2 in particular, where it meets the A4130, has had a load of cut boughs unloaded across it blocking the stile but I hope the Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers will be able to clear it.

We are blessed that this part of the Parish, like much of the Chilterns, is so well served with footpaths and other rights of way which are generally well maintained.

John Case

Chiltern Society Parish Path Representative

May 2026.