



Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2035

Annex E Public Footpaths and Bridleways

Draft Mar 2021

Footpaths and Bridleways

Wilstead enjoys an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways surrounding the Village. There are 17 separate paths, all well maintained and marked and with a total of some 11 miles. They provide a range of circular walks and links to adjoining villages and the John Bunyan Trail.

The paths provide access to all parts of the Village taking in the listed buildings, the wildlife sites and woods and the local buildings which are not listed but are an integral part of the character and heritage of the Village. The footpaths to the South rise up to some 60m above the Village to the Greensand Ridge and provide extensive views over Bedfordshire.

Despite the popularity of existing footpaths and bridleways in the village 70% of respondents to a question in the Neighbourhood Plan survey were "Strongly in favour" of creating better footpaths, to make it safer and easier to get around the village and wider parish on foot. Another 20% were "moderately in favour".

Similarly with bridleways: 50% were strongly in favour and another 37% moderately in favour of creating better bridleways to make it safer and easier to get around the village and wider parish by horse or bicycle.

The existing network of footpaths and bridleways is shown on this chart:

Wilstead

Red - Footpaths

Green - Bridleways

List of Paths

- FP1 285m
- FP3 745m
- FP4 1000m
- FP5 - Luton Rd to Ivy Lane 1440m
- FP5 - Ivy Lane to Elms Lane 760m
- FP6 450m
- FP7 1520m
- FP8 820m
- FP9 555m
- FP10 145m
- BW11 440m
- FP12 1520m
- FP13 1000m
- BW14 2340
- BW15 1670m
- BW16 1810m
- FP17 1120m



Description of the Public Rights of Way

Footpath FP1 runs North East from Cotton End Road at Littleworth to the Parish Boundary where it meets Eastcotts Footpath 7 that ends at the A600 at Cotton End. Length 285m

Footpath FP3 runs South West from Bedford Rd, through of Vicarage Farm, just north of Duck End Lane. It then runs across the A6 to the Parish Boundary with Houghton Conquest and Wixams where it meets a Houghton Conquest Footpath 9 and a Wixams Greenway which respectively give access to their centres. Length 745m

Footpath FP4 runs South from the top of Church Rd through the churchyard across Vicarage Lane and along Longmeadow Drive to the A6 which it crosses. It then runs to the Parish Boundary where it meets Houghton Conquest Footpath 8 again giving access to the centre of Houghton Conquest. Length 1000m.

Footpath FP5 runs South East from Luton Road, south of the village Cross Roads, through Dragons Wood and across a County Wildlife Site. It then turns east across the Carriage Drive (rear entrance to Haynes Park) and the southern end of Ivy Lane to Manor Farm on Elms Lane. Length 2200m

Footpath FP6 runs South East from Cotton End Road just east of Chapel lane and runs parallel to the Carriage Drive to meet FP5. Length 450m

Footpath FP7 runs from the southern end of Ivy Lane past Wilstead Woods to the West and up Firtree Hill to the Parish Boundary where it meets Wilstead Footpath 17 (which runs eastwards along the boundary). Length 1520m.

Footpath FP8 runs South East from Cotton End Road, east of Ivy Lane, before turning east to go through The Stables Equestrian Centre and then to meet FP9. Length 820m

Footpath FP9 runs South East from Cotton End Road just south west of Cotton End Farm past the ends of FP10 and then FP8 to join FP5 just before Elms Lane. Length 555m.

Footpath FP10 runs South West from Elms Lane to join FP9. Length 145m

Bridleway BW11 runs North East from the northern end of Bridleway 15 to join Bridleway 14.

Footpath FP12 runs North West from a junction with Bridleway 15 north of Hooked Lane past the junction with FP13 to the Parish Boundary. Here it meets Elstow Footpath 7 which gives access to the village via Medbury Farm. Length 1520m.

Footpath FP13 runs North West from the end of Duck End Lane before turning north east to meet Footpath 12. Length 1000m.

Bridleway BW14 runs North West from Cotton End Rd just east of the northern end of Elms Lane and runs past the eastern end of BW11 to end at the Parish Boundary at Medbury Farm. Here it meets an Elstow Bridleway 4 which gives access to the centre of the village. Length 2340m.

Bridleway BW15 runs North from the end of Hooked Lane, past its junction with FP12 to meet the western end of BW11. Length 1670m

Bridleway BW16 runs from South from the end of Elms Lane at Manor Farm then up the escarpment to the Parish Boundary at Northwood End Farm Haynes where it meets FP17. Here it also meets North Lane which gives access to the village. Length 1810m

Footpath FP17 runs from the southern end of FP7 running east along the Parish Boundary to meet the southern end of BW16. Length 1120m

Footpath FP18 (not shown on map above) runs west from the northern end of Wooding Way to join FP5. Length 50m.