

HARRIS, Jaci

From: Penny Fernando [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2024 16:20
To: HARRIS, Jaci
Subject: Re: Alignment of MST28 Stonehouse

Hi Jaci

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly.

I can't help you with the alignment of MST28 as I have not been able to walk more than a short bit of it and there was so much undergrowth that it was difficult to work out one's position. Obviously the alignment can't be correct where it passes through the properties in Rosedale Avenue.

I will enquire among SRC and S Cotswold members whether any of them have ever used MST28 in the past and can remember where it went.

Best wishes

Penny

On 13/08/2024 14:18, HARRIS, Jaci wrote:

Penny,

I think that it is fair to say that the official route of MST28, as shown on the Definitive Map, across the quarry and a couple of the houses in Rosedale Avenue, can't be walked.

I have a standalone application for an additional public footpath in the vicinity of this route, but this will be investigated at some point in the future. I don't understand however, why it requires the retention of MST28.

My consultation is based upon the question of whether the alignment of MST28 is actually correct.

Jaci Harris

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From: Penny Fernando [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 2:01 PM
To: HARRIS, Jaci <Jaci.HARRIS@gloucestershire.gov.uk>
Subject: Alignment of MST28 Stonehouse

Dear Jaci

I don't know how much of the content of this letter would be "admissible evidence", and what follows is purely my personal experience of MST28.

I attempted to check MST28 in October 2023, with a group, and we had to turn back; even with walking poles it was impossible unable to gain a foothold on the marl clay and I just kept slipping backwards.

In my personal opinion MST28 is dangerous. However, it was obvious on the ground that people are walking / playing on the marl cliff face.

I see that MST28 has recently been closed. Personally I think this is the right course of action, but I was rather surprised to see MST30 given as the alternative route; MST62 starts much nearer to MST28 and finishes at the same spot. Personally I didn't find MST30 easy to use, in places slippery clay, deep steps and hemmed in by barbed wire.

Are you aware of another group of people, not the same group as the group who are claiming the footpaths on Verney Fields, who want to retain MST28 and claim to have thought up a "safe alternative route"? I told the man who phoned me about this that the proper course of action would be to take it up with PRoW and then, when in due course the DMMO was sent to us SRC would consider the proposals.

Kind regards

Penny

This path is a nightmare. It may have "crossed" the quarry originally but now it goes more-or-less straight up the overgrown back face of the quarry which is marl (this was a quarry for brick making) and extremely slippery. We (SRC Footpath Walk) attempted to check it in October '23 and had to turn back, we just could not get up it. In my personal opinion it should be closed, as MST30 and MST62 go round the edges of the quarry to the same place.

- MST 30 and MST62 are the paths which the owners of Verney Fields have fenced in with barbed wire and "improved", sparking all the controversy.

I am aware of another group of people, not the same as the people who are claiming the unofficial FPs across Verney Fields on the basis of 20+ years' use, who want to retain MST28 and have thought up a "safe alternative route". I told the man who phoned me about this to put it to PROW and I would guess this is what has sparked Jaci's investigation.

Not sure how much of this is admissible evidence, I will contact Jaci next week without mentioning extinguishment. Some additional PROWs on the floor of the old quarry behind the houses would be good as there are several unofficial paths there, made by kids and dog walkers I suspect. Re. MST28 itself a lot will depend on the context following any decisions re. Verney Fields and re-opening paths there. I would have thought it would be wise to wait for that decision before Ramblers supports/opposes anything on MST28.

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