

### 1. Introduction

This report describes the findings of a route recce undertaken on 2022-April-03, to ascertain what may need to be done when PRoW Battle FP76 is long term temporarily closed during the major development of a roadway for the Blackfriars (200 dwellings) development. (RR/2019/604/P and RR/2020/2307/P)

It has been suggested that to compensate for the temporary loss of FP76 that a route should be established using the A2100 footway and FP77 with, as necessary, extra signs to direct walkers between Battle Hill and Harrier Lane and *vice versa*, so that they will be walking a route well away from the road and house building operations.

The recce was undertaken walking south to north from the junction of St Mary’s Villas and Battle Hill opposite the Esso/Tesco Express to Harrier Lane.

<p>This fingerpost is somewhat overshadowed by the adjacent hedge, but would be most suitable for attaching a “FP Temporary closed sign”.</p> <p>Given the intention to direct walkers to use FP77, it is suggested that a sign with the following text is affixed to the post, with appropriate direction arrow:  <b>“Footpath ahead in 250m is temporarily closed due to road building work. Follow arrow (in Hastings direction) for 500m to reach accessible footpath for route to Harrier Lane.”</b></p> <p>It is proposed that this sign is provided from BTC funds and attributed to BTC and Battle Ramblers.</p> <p>This proposed sign location will avoid non-local walkers, who are only following a map, into Kingsdale Close and then finding the FP76 closure and having to walk back to Battle Hill.</p>	 <p>Fingerpost at St Mary’s Villas/ Battle Hill junction, viewed from footway.</p>
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<p>Fingerpost, with Esso/Tesco site opposite</p>	<p>Low level road names sign/Cul-de-sac label</p>

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<p>Having taken the advice of the St Mary’s Villas sign and direction arrow a walker will stay on the Battle Hill footway and next encounter directly ahead the junction labelled “The Spinney”.</p> <p>They should cross over at this point. They will see a house labelled “Starrs Green House (with Number 27 on the gate)” on their right.</p>	
<p>A walker will see to the left of the house the start of the lane labelled: “STARRS GREEN LANE”; this is the start of a PRoW Battle FP79a, as it leaves the footway.</p> <p><b>In view of the fact that this is a FP/Road junction, it is suggested that ESCC RoW team install a Fingerpost [to accord with CA 1968 (c41) s27] at this location pointing along the lane.</b></p> <p>Signage at this point will ensure that a walker reaches the junction and start of FP77b into a narrow downward slopping twitten.</p>	 <p>Private low level sign</p>
<p>The FP79/FP77 junction is well signed with a fingerpost and needs no further improvement.</p>	

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<p>Emerging from the twitten a walker sees a set of steep steps, across an access road to a few houses, between brick walls with a hand rail.</p> <p>There is one ESCC FP Yellow disk, so it is adequately signed. (FP77b)</p> <p>The twitten at the bottom of the steps is narrow but quite accessible, with a fence on the left for the whole length.</p>	
<p>Emerging from this twitten there is a fingerpost pointing back up the twitten and, across the estate access-road, a finger post can be seen among the bushes on the other side of the road.</p>	
<p>At the north side footway of the access-road the finger post and path route are clearly visible.</p> <p>The FP 77b route continues downhill and its route is obvious within the rough woodland as it tends to be close to the back gardens of Starrs Mead houses.</p>	

View of stops top and hand rail

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Eventually a walker reaches a gate across the path (G1738).

The gate latch is missing, so the gate “falls” as shown past the hinge point, so with increased use it would be sensible to either remove the gate or replace the latch rod.

The path continues in a generally straight direction until a turn to the left over a footbridge, when Harrier Lane becomes visible.



Gate viewed from south, looking north further downhill

At Harrier Lane there is a metal finger post with correctly two fingers showing the direction for FP76 and FP77, however the printing on the metal fingers is nearly worn away, so it would benefit from renewed fingers.

The post could also be used for signs to direct walkers when the closure is actioned, thus: **“Footpath ahead, past the Emmanuel Centre, in 170m, is temporarily closed due to road building work.”** on the finger pointing in the FP76 direction.

Additionally on the finger pointing at FP77 another sign should advise walkers:

**“This footpath is signed uphill towards “The Spinney”. There are steep steps with a handrail on this route. It is then an additional 500m walk downhill towards Battle to reach the closed footpath, via the roadside footway, as it meets Battle Hill.”**

Ideally these signs should be provided from BTC funds and attributed to BTC and Battle Ramblers.



## 2. Actions required

- 2.1. This report to BTC and ESCC RoW team for consideration of signs proposals
- 2.2. BTC and ESCC agree to fund their actions and agree signs wording.
- 2.3. BTC and Battle Ramblers to order high quality weatherproof signs.
- 2.4. Each party to install signs when TRO path closure is posted by ESCC RoW team.  
There may ideally need to be 2 or 3 more yellow arrows installed to enhance directions.
- 2.5. BTC and Battle Ramblers to publicise on their websites and send PR To B&B Observer newspaper.