

EVALUATION OF SEWSTERN LANE AND THE DRIFT



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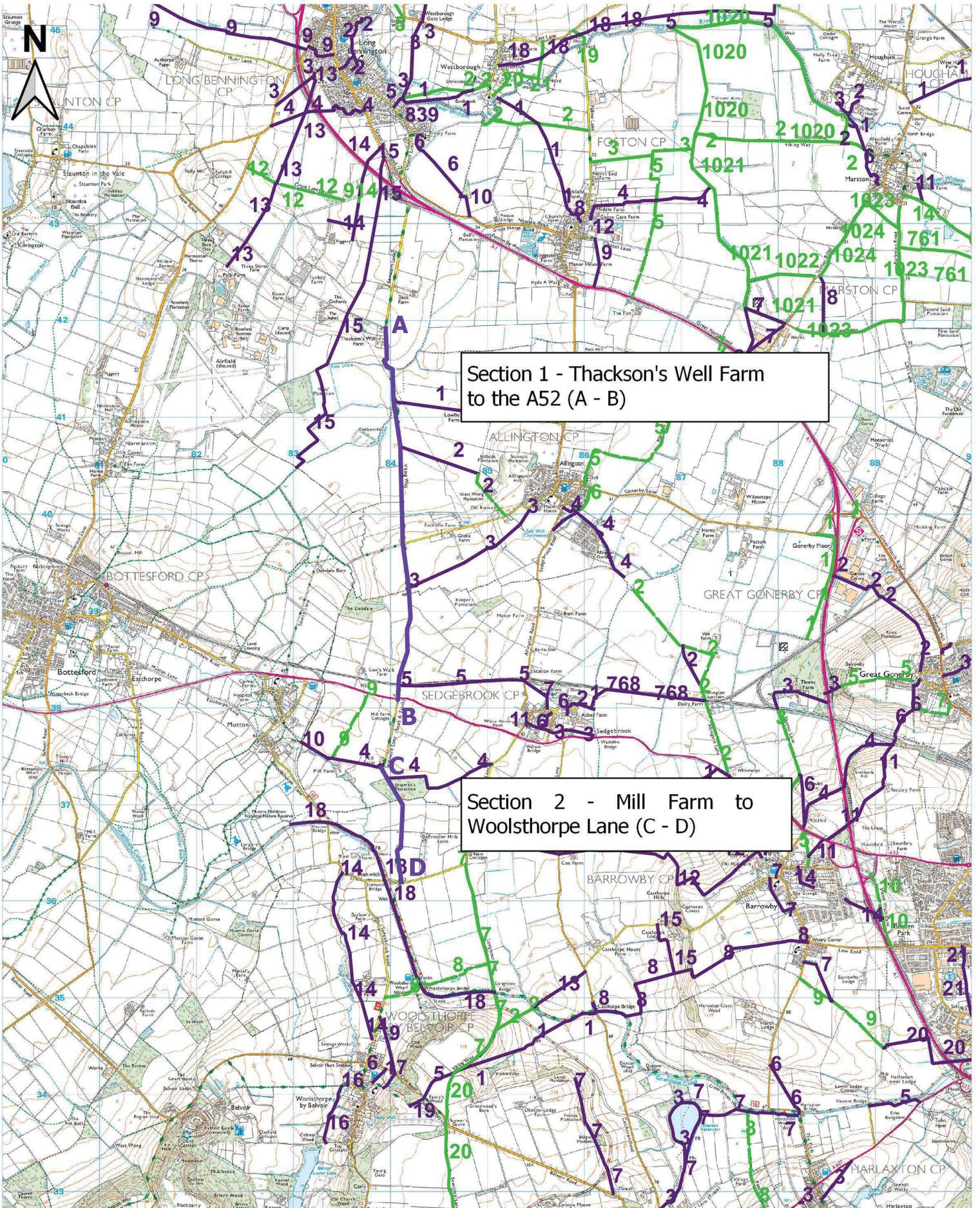
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Sewstern Lane - Overview Plan 1

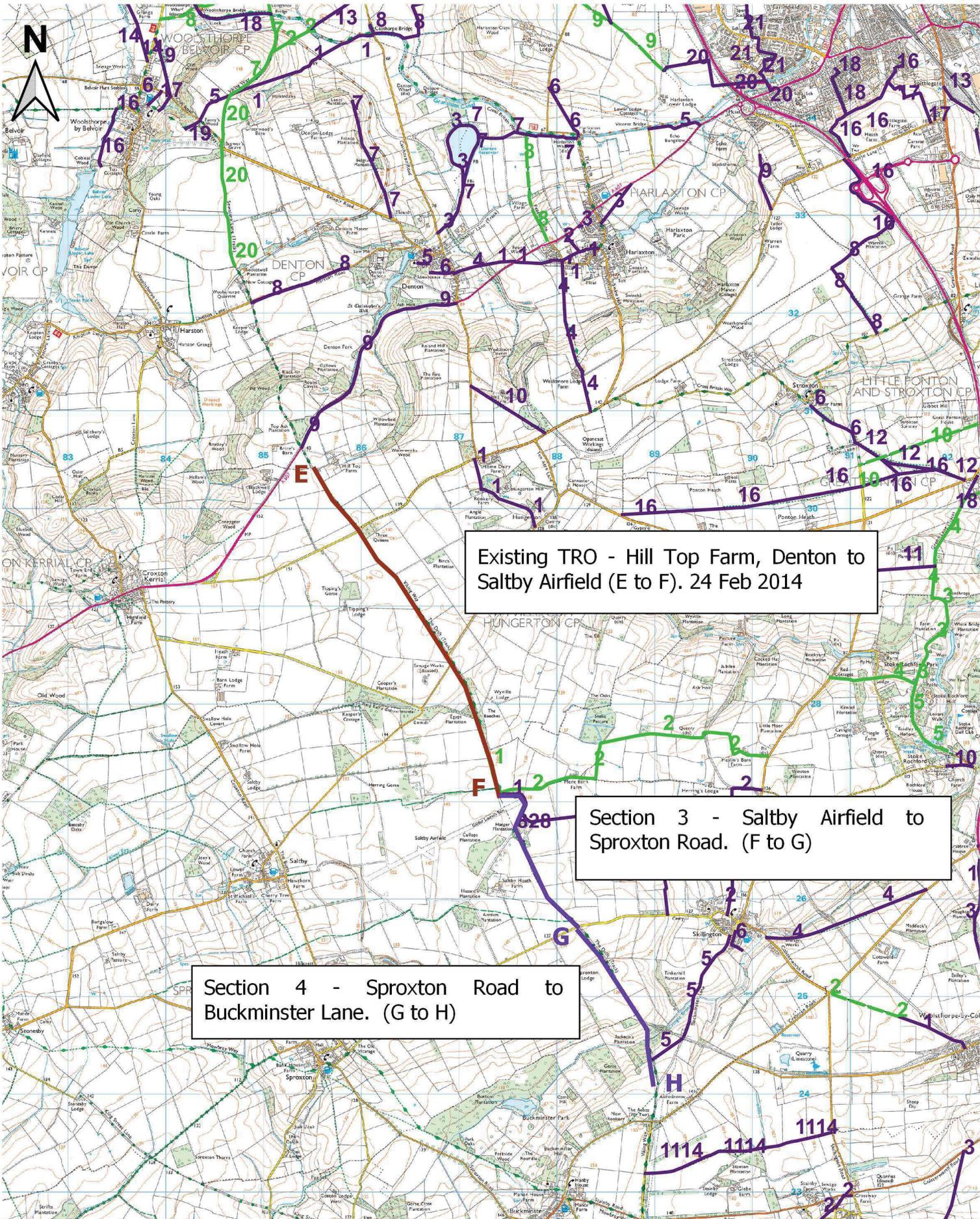
Ref:

Date: 20 June 22

Scale: 1:50000

Legend

- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- Byway Open to All Traffic



Existing TRO - Hill Top Farm, Denton to Salby Airfield (E to F). 24 Feb 2014

Section 3 - Salby Airfield to Sproxton Road. (F to G)

Section 4 - Sproxton Road to Buckminster Lane. (G to H)

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- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- - - Restricted Byway
- Byway Open to All Traffic

Section 1 – Thackson’s Well Farm to the A52

Description of Route: This section of Sewstern Lane links Thackson’s Well Farm to the south of Long Bennington and the A52 to the west of Segdgebrook village. In recent years it has become heavily used by 4x4s and trail riders and this has led to significant surface damage. As a result, the condition of the lane deteriorates significantly each winter and deep ruts form across the full width of the lane making it impassable to all classes of user. The surface damage is most noticeable between Bottesford Road and Allington PF 3 with ruts of upto 700mm deep forming across the width of the highway. A second track has been formed by vehicular use along the western side of Sewstern Lane between PF 3 and the northern side of the rail crossing and this is also badly rutted.

An unknown party placed concrete blocks and piles of soil across the lane at the junction with Bottesford Road in the autumn of 2020. This prevents access to the lane to all users with the exception of any walkers who are prepared to climb over the obstruction. The lack of use has allowed the lane surface to become overgrown and the outgrowth from the adjacent hedges now partially obstructs the highway in several areas. The overgrowth also obscures the deep ruts in the lane surface.

Surface: The landowner at Thackson’s Well Farm periodically surfaces the section of Sewstern Lane to the north of Bottesford Road with road plainings but these works are quickly compromised by heavy use by 4 X4s and motorcycles. The section between Bottesford Road and Allington PF 3 has a natural earth/grass surface and Network Rail has tarmacked the approaches to the rail crossing. The remaining sections have been stoned at some point in the past. The underlying soil is heavy clay and holds water for long periods of time.

Status: Recorded on the List of Streets

Designations: Forms part of the Viking Way and links into Allington Public Footpath Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Issues: Level Crossing – The level crossing is in a good state of repair and has been updated in recent years to incorporate lights, tarmacked approaches and additional signage.

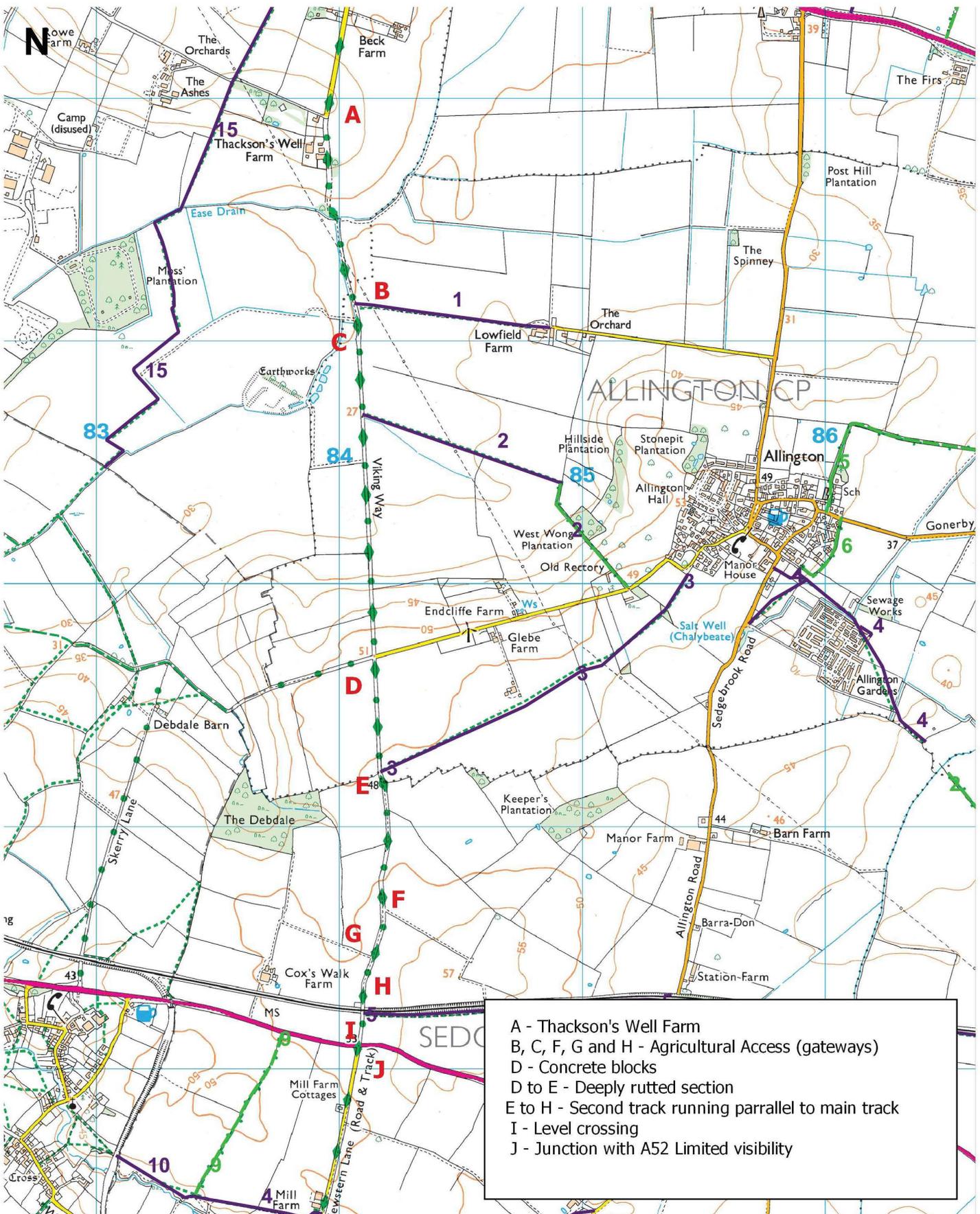
Agricultural Access – This section of lane is used to access a number of fields with access being gained from the A52 and Thackson’s Well Farm. All access points are gated and appear to be in current use.

Access onto the A52 - Visibility is limited in both directions along the carriageway.

Reports and Complaints: The County Council receives multiple complaints each winter from members of the public, walking groups and Allington Parish Council regarding the poor surface condition and the limited accessibility. In addition, reports are now being received regarding the concrete blocks which are currently obstructing the route.

Landowner Consultation: Adjacent landowners consulted in 2022.

Parish Council Consultation - Allington Parish Council
-Sedgebrook Parish Council



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Sewstern Lane - Thackson's Well Farm to the A52

Ref:

Date: 29 June 22

Scale: 1:20000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic

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Thackson's Well Farm to the A52 Photographs

1. Obstruction at the junction with Bottesford Road



2. Deeply rutted section



3. Ruts across the full width of the lane



4. Second rutted track alongside Sewstern Lane



5. Field access



6. Field Access

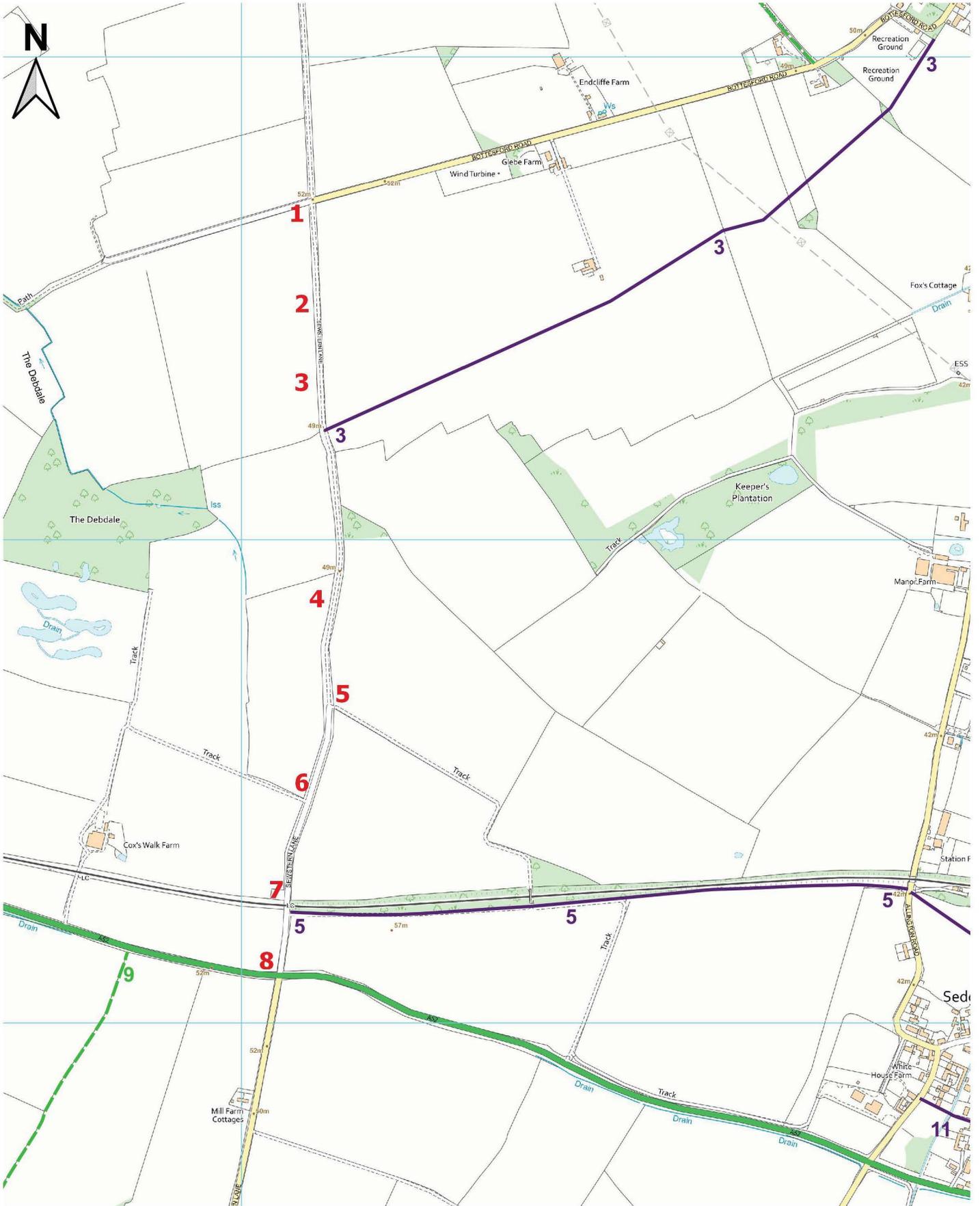


7. Railway Crossing



8. Junction with A52





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Sewstern Lane - Bottesford Road to the A52 - Photo Locations

Ref:

Date: 15 June 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic

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Section 2 – Mill Farm to Woolsthorpe Lane

Description of Route: The section of Sewstern lane connecting the A52 and Mill Farm is a tarmacked public road and extensively used as agricultural and residential access. For the purposes of the survey Section 2 extends from Mill Farm to Woolsthorpe Lane to the east of the hamlet of Stenwith. This section of Sewstern Lane is heavily used by 4x4s and trail riders and forms part of a longer distance green laning route. In recent years the condition of the lane has significantly deteriorated and the route is largely inaccessible to users especially in the wet winter months when water collects in the deep ruts.

The surface damage is extensive to the north of Woolsthorpe Lane and a 200m section of lane contains multiple ruts in excess of 800mm in depth. A second track has also been formed by vehicular use to the west of Breeder Hills Farm and contains ruts approximately 1m in depth.

Surface: The lane has a natural earth/grass surface and the underlying soil is heavy clay and holds water for long periods of time.

Status: Recorded on the List of Streets

Designations: Forms part of the Viking Way and links into Sedgebrook Public Footpath No. 4.

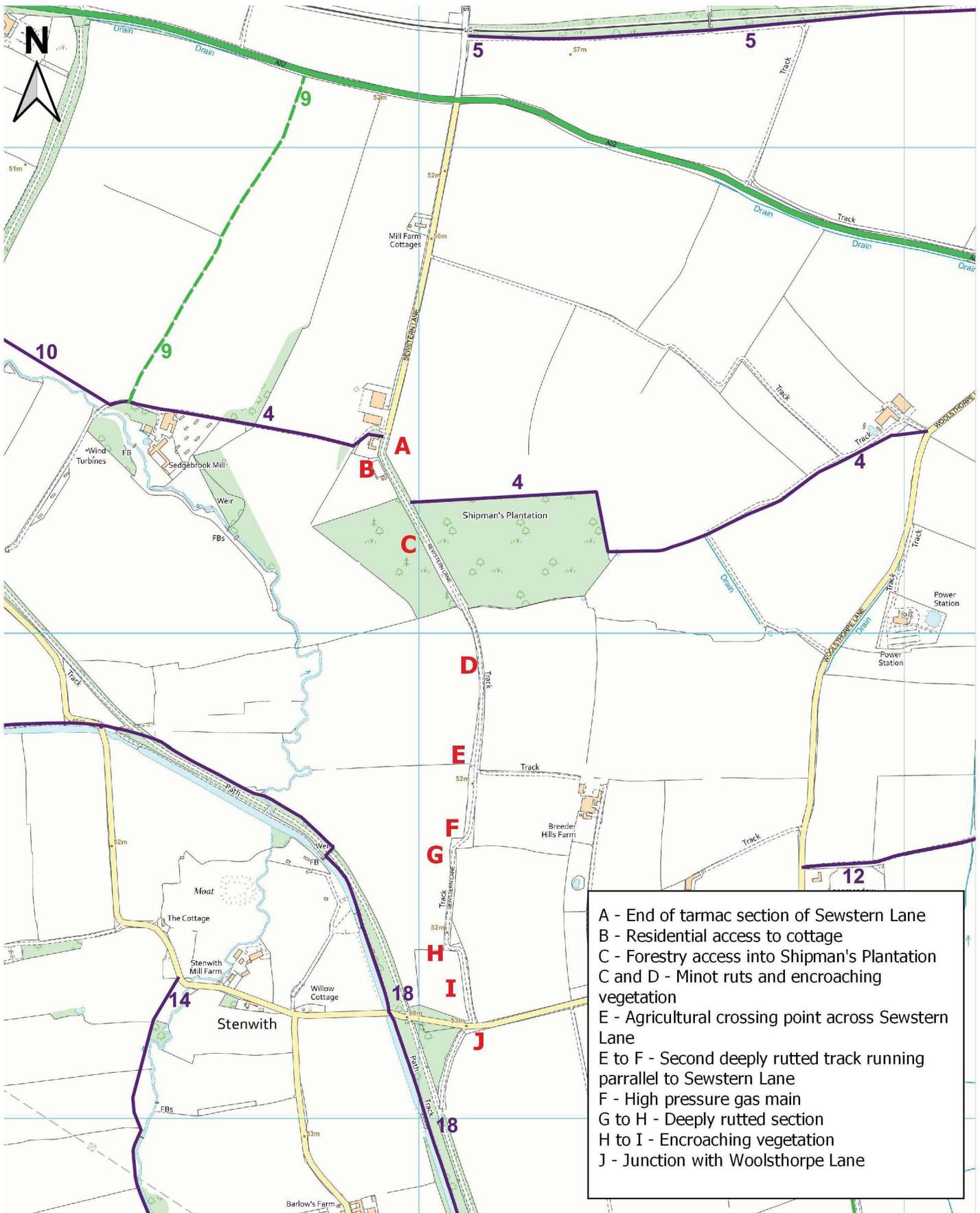
Issues: Agricultural Access – There are two agricultural access points evident on this section of lane which appear to be accessed from Breeder Hills Farm. Both access points are gated and are in current use.

High Pressure Gas Main – The lane is crossed by a high-pressure gas main to the west of Breeder Hills Farm. The National Grid contacted LCC in 2017 as they were concerned at the depth of the ruts in the vicinity of the gas main. The County Council therefore installed crushed stone surface in the vicinity of the crossing point.

Reports and Complaints: The County Council has received numerous reports regarding the condition of the lane surface in recent years.

Landowner Consultation: Affected landowners consulted in 2022.

Parish Council Consultation: -Sedgebrook Parish Council (16 June 22)
-Woolsthorpe Parish Council (22 June 22)



A - End of tarmac section of Sewstern Lane
 B - Residential access to cottage
 C - Forestry access into Shipman's Plantation
 C and D - Minot ruts and encroaching vegetation
 E - Agricultural crossing point across Sewstern Lane
 E to F - Second deeply rutted track running parallel to Sewstern Lane
 F - High pressure gas main
 G to H - Deeply rutted section
 H to I - Encroaching vegetation
 J - Junction with Woolsthorpe Lane

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Sewstern Lane - Mill Farm to Woolsthorpe Lane

Ref:

Date: 29 June 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic

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Mill Farm to Woolsthorpe Lane Photographs

1. End of Tarmac Section of road and vehicular access to cottage



2. Private access to Shipman's Plantation



3. Encroaching vegetation in Shipman's Plantation



4. Agricultural Access/ crossing



5. Second rutted track alongside Sewstern Lane



6. High pressure gas main crossing point



7. Deep ruts



8. Deep ruts

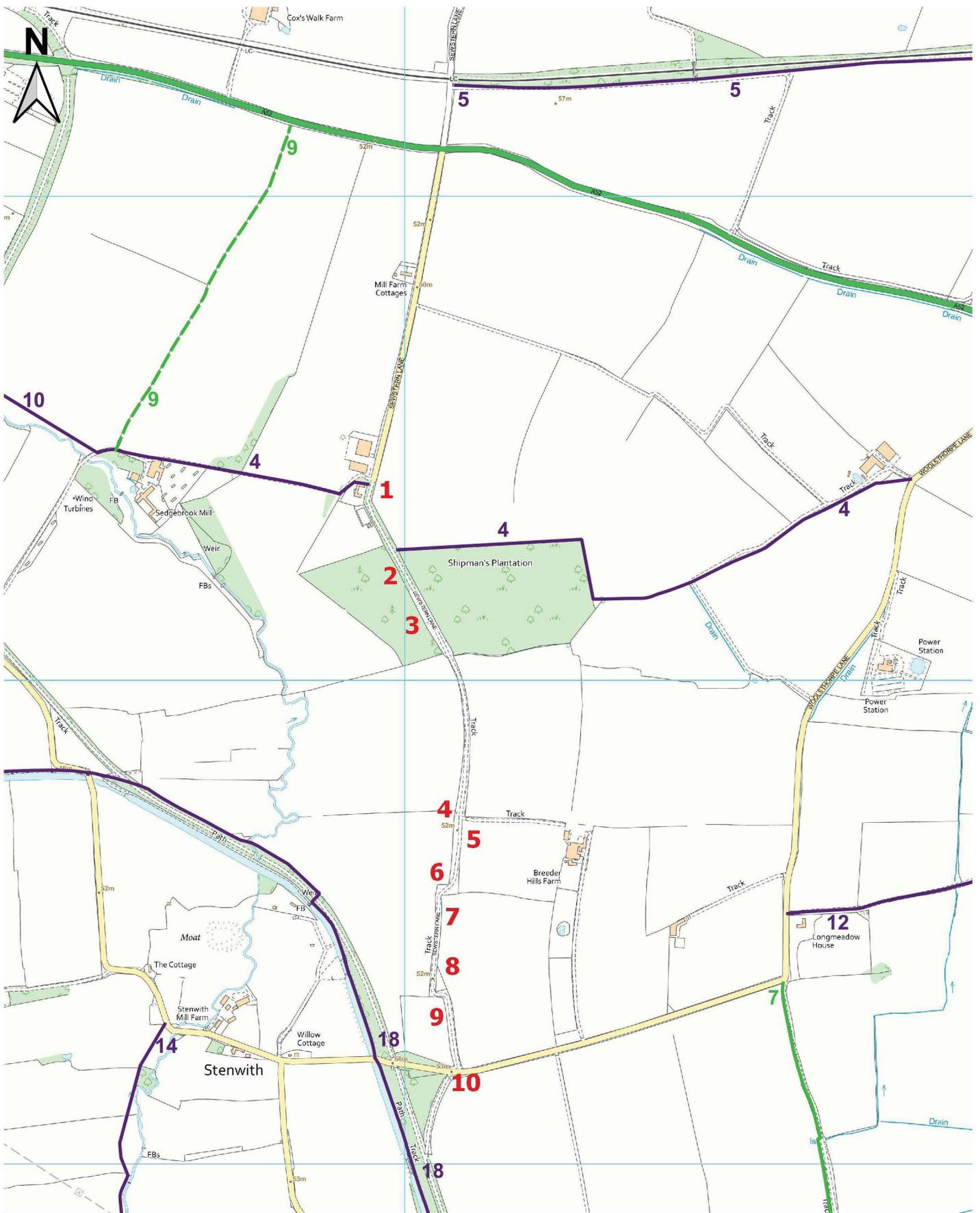


9. Partially overgrown section of lane



10. Junction with Woolsthorpe Lane





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**Mill Farm to Woolsthorpe Lane
-Photo Locations**

Ref:

Date: 16 June 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic

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Section 3 – Saltby Airfield to Sproxton Road

Description of Route:

This section of The Drift commences at the southern perimeter of the Saltby Airfield and proceeds in a southerly direction along the Lincolnshire and Leicestershire border as far as Sproxton Road.

The section is currently a cul-de-sac route to motor vehicle users as a result of the Lincolnshire County Council TRO which affects the section of the King Lud's Entrenchment to the north of the Saltby Airfield. Ref: ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, (DENTON TO SKILLINGTON - VIKING WAY). (PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES ORDER 2014).

It is evident that the green lane has been historically used by 4x4s and in areas the track is heavily rutted with evidence of a secondary track running parallel to the main track. However, it is likely that this use largely ceased on the introduction of the TRO in 2014 and the subsequent obstruction of the route by large concrete boulders at the southern perimeter of the airfield. The affected section of The Drift and the associated verges have now become recolonized with a diverse range of wilder flowers.

Concrete blocks and piles of soil have been placed across The Drift at the junction with Sproxton Road.

Surface: The section of The Drift to the south of the Saltby airfield has a concrete surface from the original WW2 airfield. The remaining section has a natural earth and grass surface and the adjoining verges are rich in meadow species as described above.

Status: Recorded on the List of Streets

Designations: Forms part of the Viking Way and links into Leicestershire Public Bridleway No. E84 and Skillington Public Footpath No. 828.

Issues: Illegal obstructions – Concrete blocks have been placed across the carriageway on the southern perimeter of the Saltby airfield.

Agricultural Access – This section of lane contains two field entrances although both appear to be redundant at the current time.

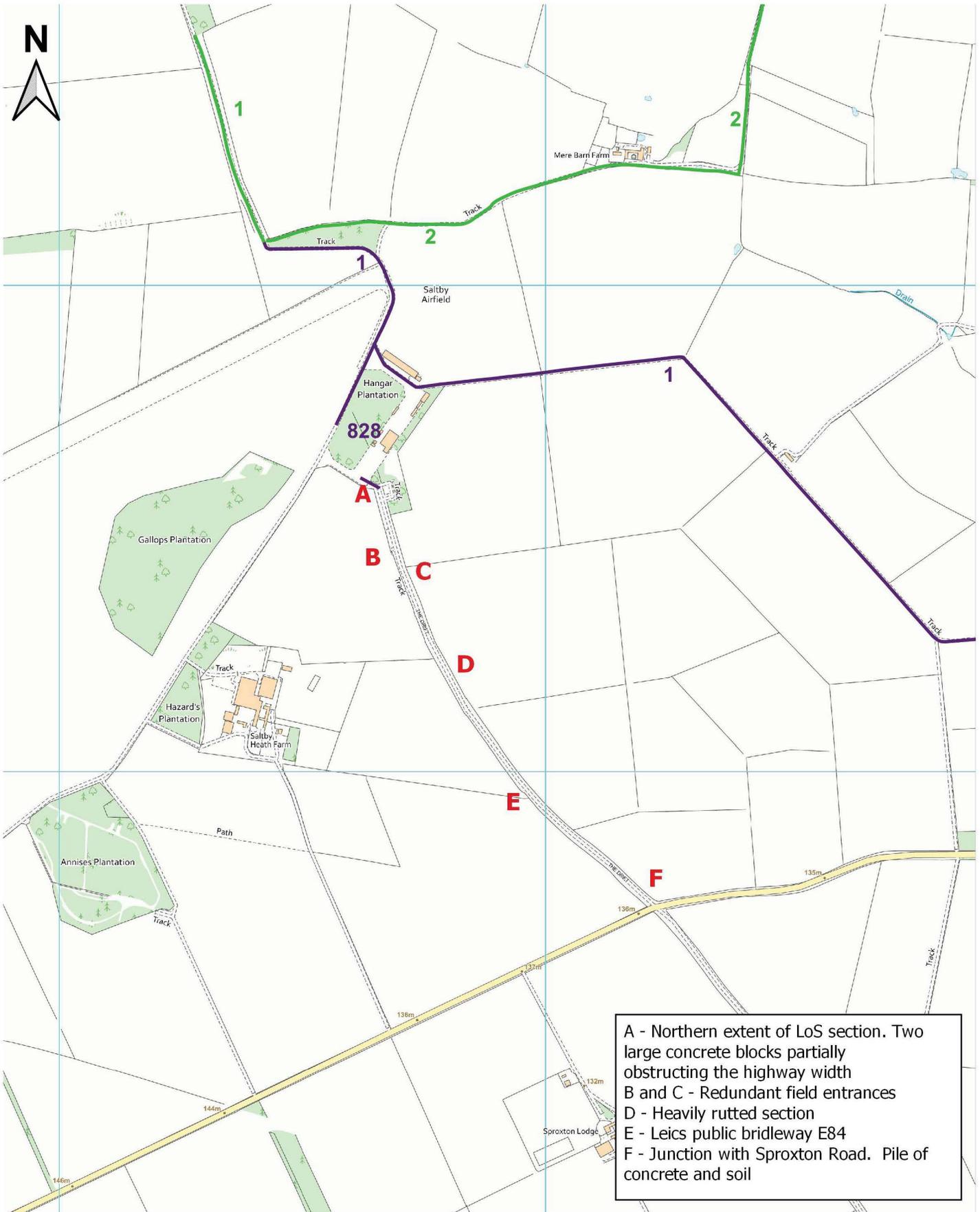
Reports and Complaints: Unknown

Adjoining Landowners

Adjacent landowners consulted in 2022

Parish Council

-Skillington Parish Council



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The Drift - Saltby Airfield to Sproxton Road

Ref:

Date: 1 July 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- Byway Open to All Traffic

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Saltby Airfield to Sproxton Road Photographs

1. Concrete Blocks on carriageway



2. Redundant field entrance (west side of lane)



3. Redundant field entrance (east side of lane)



4. Rutted section of lane



5. Leics. Public Bridleway E84

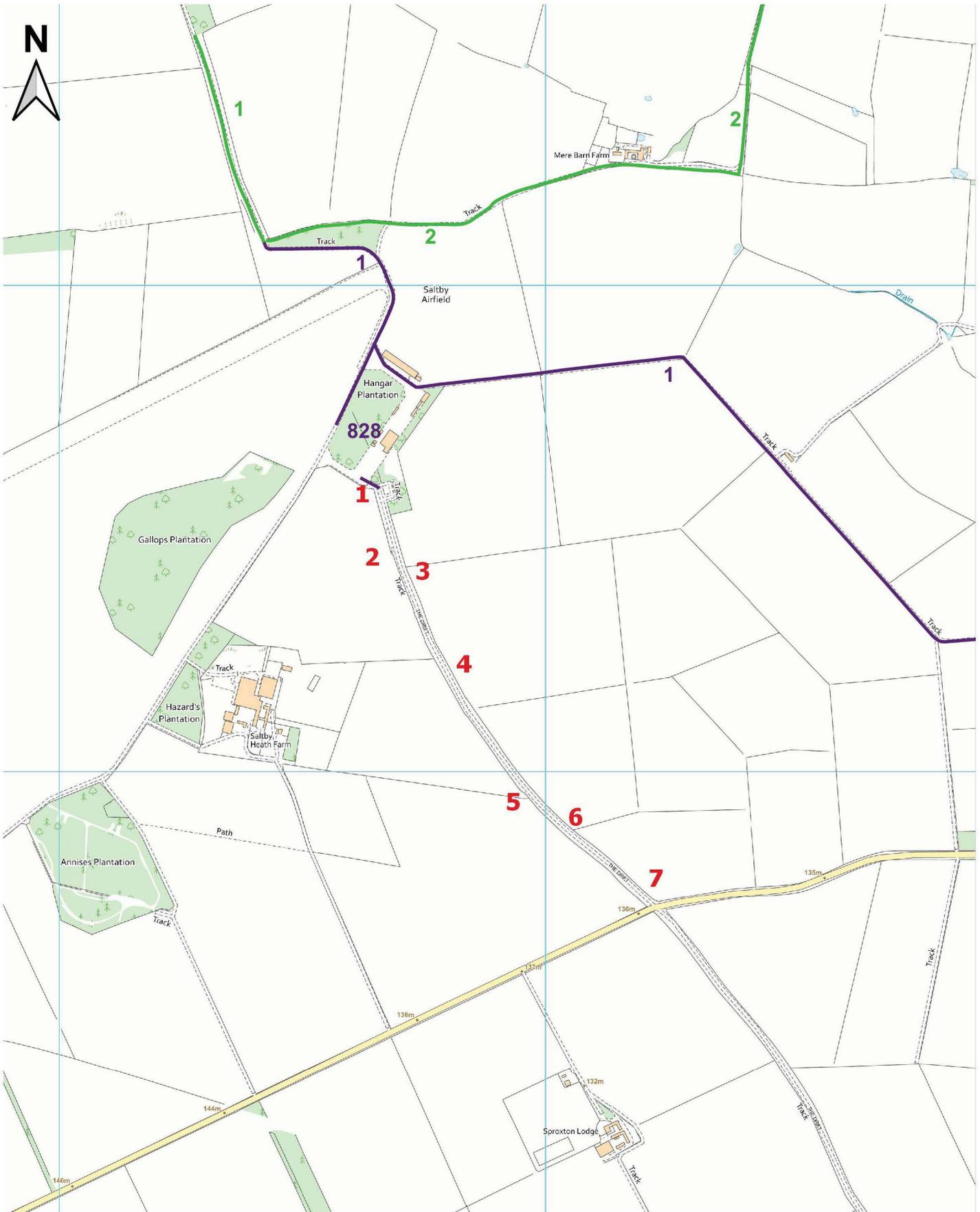


6. View along The Drift to the south.



7. Junction with Sproxton Road/ Concrete and soil obstruction





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**The Drift - Saltby Airfield to Sproxton Road
Photo Locations**

Ref:

Date: 1 July 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic

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Section 4 – Sproxton Road to Buckminster Lane

Description of Route: This section of The Drift is a green lane running on the eastern side of the Lincolnshire and Leicestershire border connecting Sproxton Road and Buckminster Lane. In recent years this section of The Drift has become heavily used by trail riders and in particular 4x4s. As a result the surface condition of the lane has deteriorated especially in the vicinity of Cringle Brook where the deep ruts flood all year round making it inaccessible to non-motorised users.

4x4s have formed a second track in several places along this section of The Drift and this led to further surface damage. The section of track to the south of Sproxton Lane is affected by outgrowth from the adjoining boundary hedges and the useable highway width is now approximately 1.5m. There are deep ruts and flooded areas along the entire length of the route.

Surface: This section of The Drift has a natural surface although some areas have been roughly surfaced with locally quarried stone. The underlying soil is heavy clay and holds water for long periods of time especially above Cringle Brook where the water was approximately 500mm deep at the time of inspection.

Status: Recorded on the List of Streets

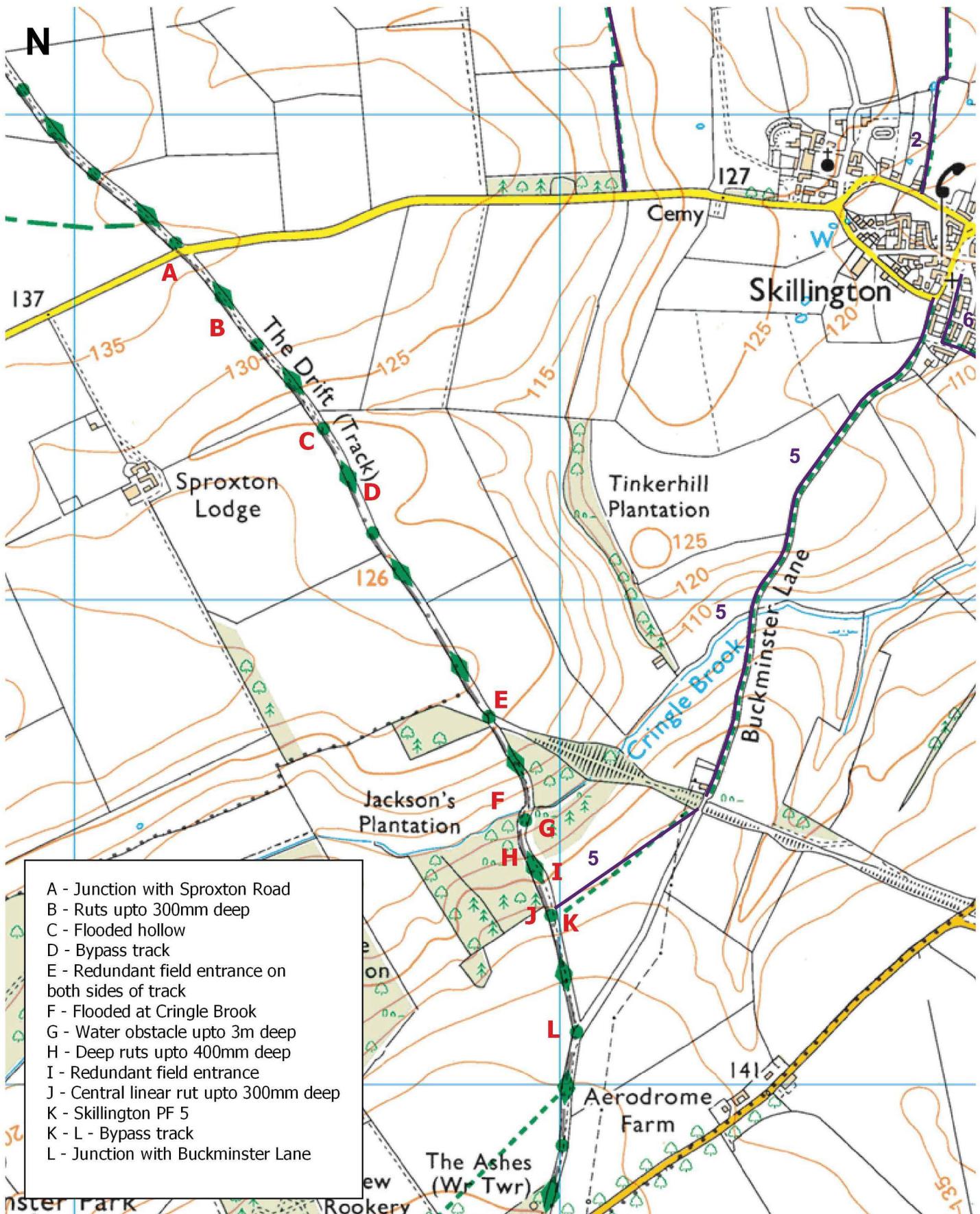
Designations: Forms part of the Viking Way and links into Skillington Public Footpath No. 5.

Issues: Agricultural Access – This section of lane contains three field gateways although all of these appear to be redundant at the current time.

Reports and Complaints: The County Council receives multiple complaints each year from members of the public and Skillington Parish Council regarding the flooded dip at Cringle Brook and the limited accessibility that this causes.

Landowner Consultation: -Adjacent landowners consulted in 2022.

Parish Council Consultation -Skillington Parish Council



- A - Junction with Sproxton Road
- B - Ruts upto 300mm deep
- C - Flooded hollow
- D - Bypass track
- E - Redundant field entrance on both sides of track
- F - Flooded at Cringle Brook
- G - Water obstacle upto 3m deep
- H - Deep ruts upto 400mm deep
- I - Redundant field entrance
- J - Central linear rut upto 300mm deep
- K - Skillington PF 5
- K - L - Bypass track
- L - Junction with Buckminster Lane

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The Drift - Sproxton Road to Buckminster Lane

Ref:

Date: 29 June 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Restricted Byway
- Byway Open to All Traffic

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Sproxton Road to Buckminster Lane Photographs

1. Junction with Sproxton Road



2. Overgrown boundary hedges and ruts



3. Flooded dip



4. Redundant field entrance (west side of track)



5. Redundant field entrance (east side of track)



6. Flooding over Cringle Brook.



7. Water obstacle



8. Rutted section on southern approach to Cringle Brook



9. Redundant field entrance

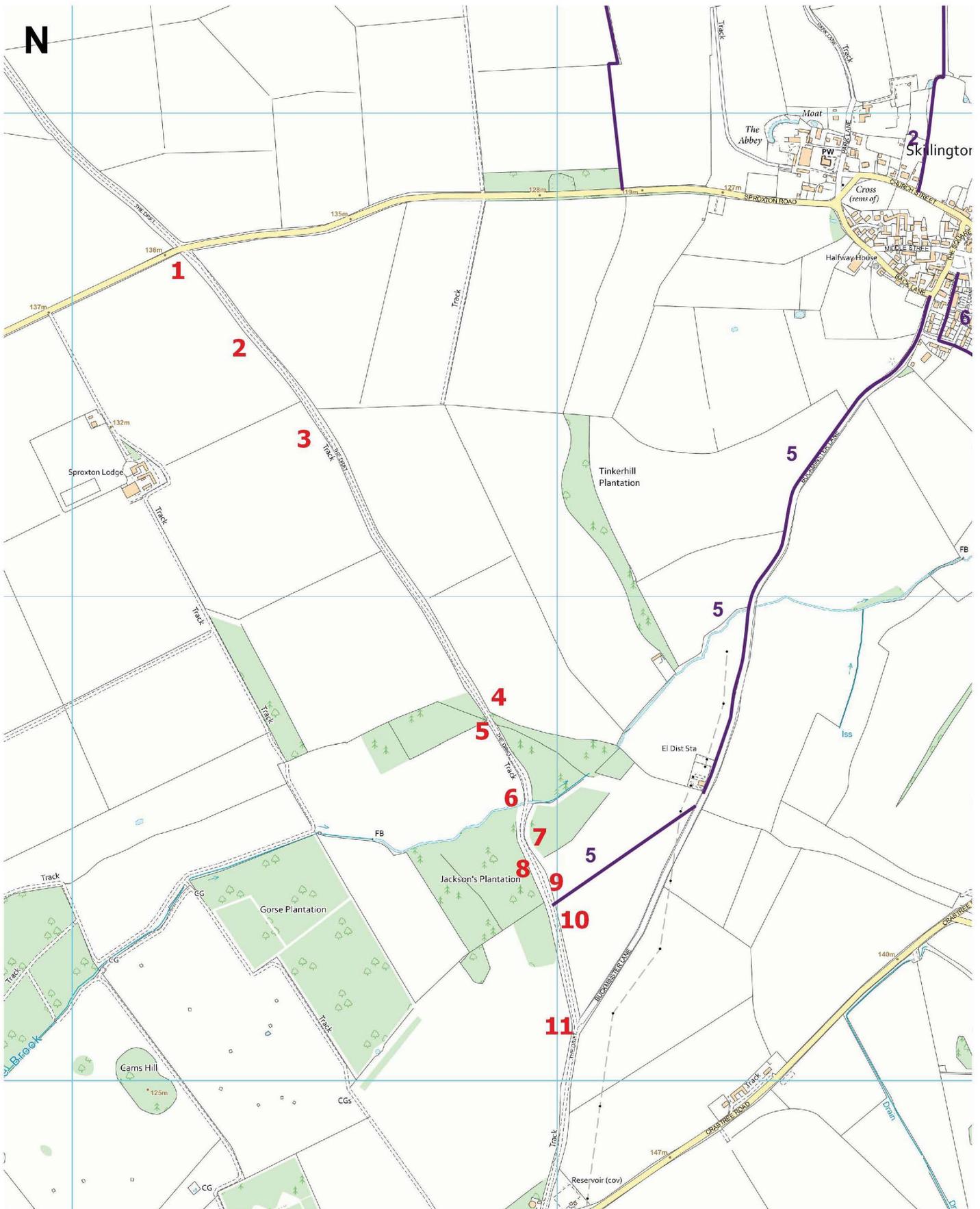


10. Skillington Public Footpath No. 15



11. Junction with Buckminster Lane





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**The Drift - Sproxton Road to Buckminster Lane.
Photograph Locations**

Ref:

Date: 29 June 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
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TRO Section – Hill Top Farm to Saltby Airfield

Description of Route:

This section of The Drift has been included in this report for comparison purposes only.

King Lud's Entrenchment and The Drift have been designated as a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and straddles the border between Lincolnshire and Leicestershire to east of Croxton Kerrial.

The SSSI is one of the best remaining examples of limestone grasslands in Lincolnshire and Rutland. The Drift supports 7ha of species rich, calcareous grassland and is considered to be very rare with less than 3,000ha remaining in England.

The site was first notified in 1968 and renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in 1984.

This section of The Drift was heavily used by 4x4s and motorcycles prior to 2014 and this led to the deterioration of the surface of the public highway and extensive damage to the SSSI. Lincolnshire County Council made a Traffic Regulation Order under instruction from Natural England to prohibit the use of motor vehicles on the section of the Drift between Hill Top Farm and Saltby Airfield.

Ref: ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, (DENTON TO SKILLINGTON - VIKING WAY).

(PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES ORDER 2014.

Lincolnshire County Council subsequently restored the affected section of King Lud's Entrenchment and The Drift in the summer of 2014 using sympathetic restoration techniques. The highway environment is now fully restored and the absence of motor vehicles has allowed the recolonization of the verges with meadow species.

Surface: A mixture of earth and grass with locally sourced limestone.

Status: Recorded on the List of Streets

Designations: Forms part of the Viking Way and the southerly 400m has been designated as Skillington Public Bridleway No. 1. Links into Leicestershire Public Bridleway No. E72 and Skillington Public Footpath No. 2.

Issues: None

Reports and Complaints: Unknown

Adjoining Landowners Adjacent landowners consulted in 2022

Parish Council Consultation - Skillington Parish Council

Wyville Road to Saltby Airfield Photographs

1. Junction with Wyville Road



2. View along The Drift to the south



3. View along The Drift to the north



4. View along The Drift to the north



5. Re-vegetated lane margins



6. View along The Drift to the north

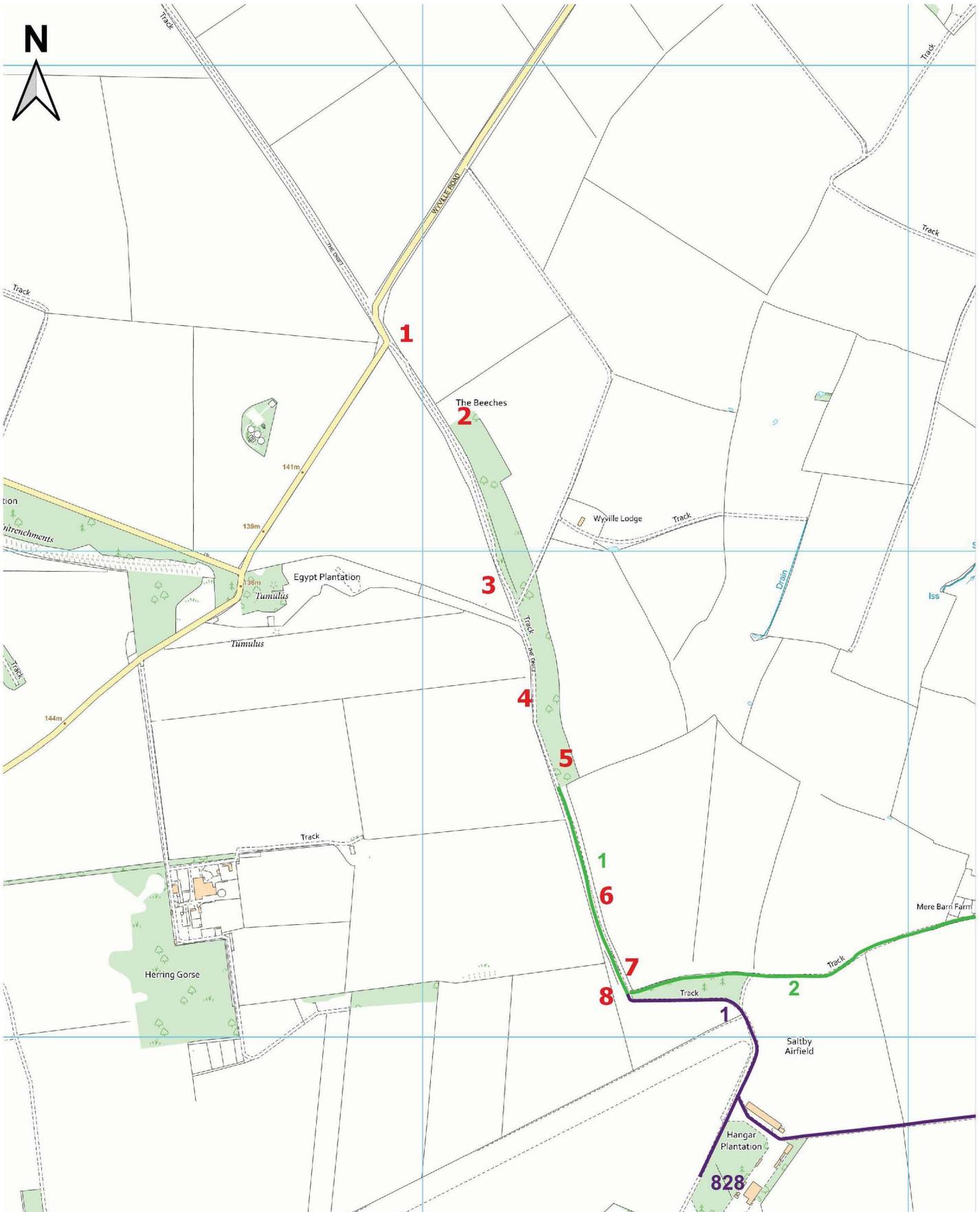


7. Junction with Skillington PF 1 and BW 2



8. Natural England site notice





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**The Drift - Wyville Road to Saltby Airfield
Photo Locations**

Ref:

Date: 1 July 22

Scale: 1:10000

Legend

-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic

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