

# HELP WANTED!

Come and join the Working Party to help clear the byway that runs from Murthering Lane (opposite the byway that goes through the golf course) and comes out on Curtis Mill Lane.

It is very overgrown, but get enough of us together to do clearance works and it will soon be passable again, making a nice addition to the local network.

The intention is to remove enough vegetation so that horse riders and walkers can get through. We will then also be able to look at the surface of the byway to assess its condition.

**WHEN: Monday 17 February** 10.30am to 3.00pm (but you don't have to stay all day, just helping for a couple of hours will make a difference)

**WHAT TO WEAR:** clothing suitable for clearing heavy vegetation  
clothing suitable for the weather on the day

STOUT footwear and bear in mind it could be wet and muddy underfoot

**WHAT TO BRING:** drinks, snacks and lunch

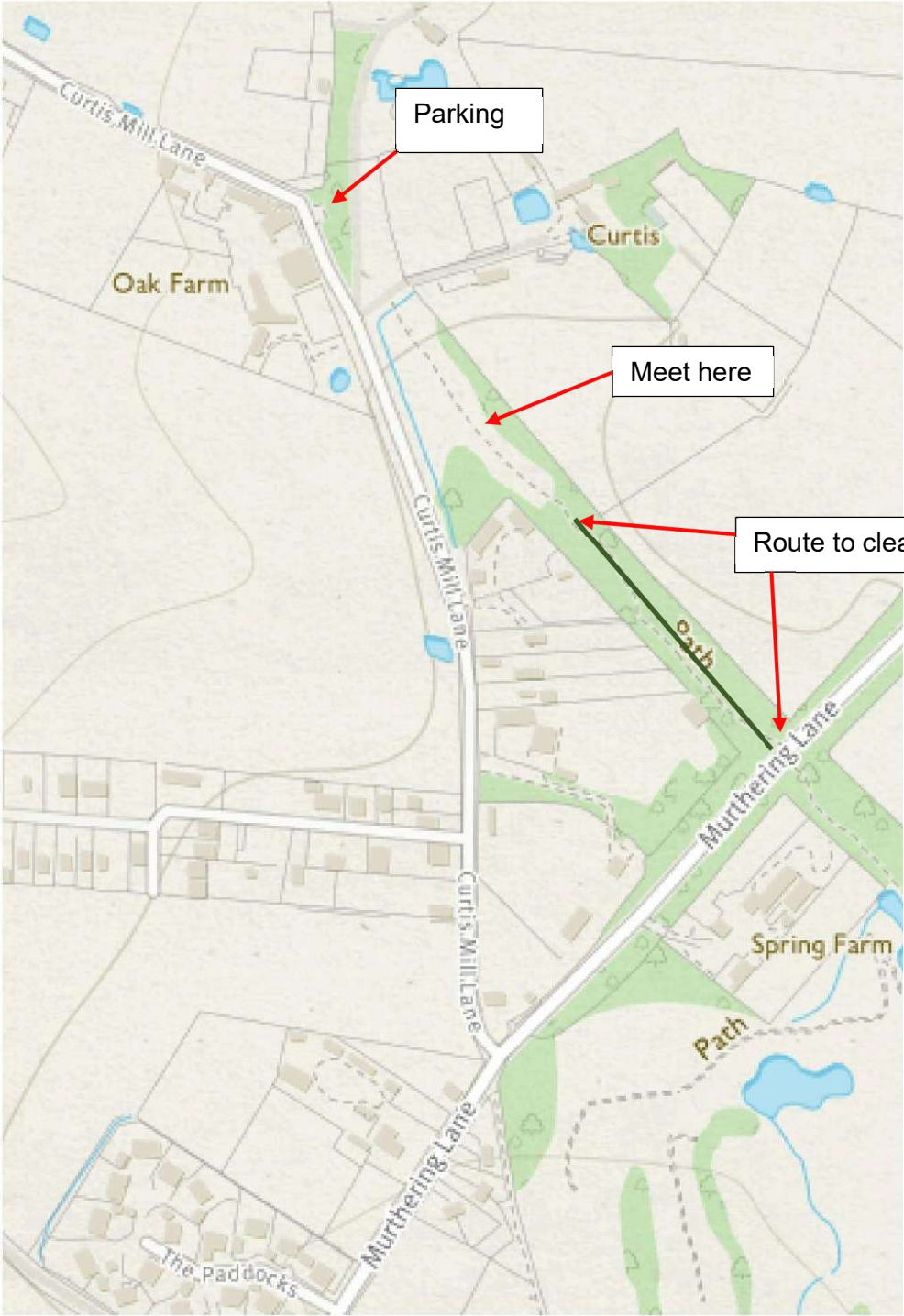
Equipment will be provided but bring any useful tools you have e.g. loppers, secateurs, shears, saws

**WHERE TO MEET:** at the top end of where we will begin clearing

see map below

There is a small parking area opposite Oak Farm in Curtis Mill Lane; please try and carshare, use the space sensibly, and only double park with someone you know.

Address: Curtis Mill Lane, off Murthering Lane, Navestock post code RM4 1HT will get you to the junction of Murthering Lane and Curtis Mill Lane



**RISK ASSESSMENT:** please read the risk assessment before you come

## Generic Risk Assessment

<b>Activity</b> ix) <b>VEGETATION CLEARANCE</b>
<b>Significant hazards / risks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slips, trips and falls</li><li>• Overhead services</li><li>• Use of tools</li><li>• Livestock</li><li>• Vegetation</li></ul>
<b>Who could be harmed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteers</li><li>• Members of the public</li><li>• Livestock / animals</li></ul>
<b>Competence Requirement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All volunteers should understand the risks, the procedures to be followed to minimise the risks and what to do if an accident or incident occurs.</li><li>• All volunteers to have had appropriate training on equipment.</li><li>• There should be at least one first aid trained volunteer and first aid kit on site at all times.</li></ul>
<b>Control measures which should be in place:</b>  <b>Slips, trips and falls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any trip hazards should be identified in the 'local' section of the risk assessment and all volunteers informed e.g. tree roots, paving slabs etc.</li><li>• The site should be kept tidy throughout, keep all tools and debris away from the PROW so that they are not stepped on by volunteers or members of the public. At the end of the day, the site needs to be left tidy and safe.</li><li>• Make sure that volunteers are wearing suitable footwear for conditions, should be sturdy with a good grip.</li></ul> <b>Overhead services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No work should be undertaken within 15m of high voltage overhead power lines on metal pylons and within 9m of low voltage overhead power lines on either wooden, concrete or steel poles.</li></ul> <b>Use of tools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All volunteers to be made aware of the safe use of tools and trained in their use.</li><li>• Check tools before use to make sure they are safe and sharp; any unsafe tools must not be used.</li><li>• Gloves are not to be worn when using a swinging tool e.g. hammer, billhook etc. Take care that handles do not become slippery and wet.</li><li>• Make sure that there is at least 5m between volunteers who are using swinging cutting tools and that this distance is maintained.</li><li>• Do not swing the cutting tool towards the legs or stand astride a branch that is being sawn.</li></ul> <b>Livestock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are going to be working in a field which has livestock in it, contact the landowner beforehand. It may be possible for the livestock to be moved.</li><li>• If the livestock cannot be moved and you are removing stiles / gates, make sure that all livestock are kept away from any gaps and cannot escape. Do not leave a gap unattended, make sure the job is finished before leaving site.</li><li>• Landowner will also be able to inform you of the temperament of the livestock. Some are excitable when there are people around but soon calm down.</li></ul>

- Be sure to keep all cuts covered as leptospirosis or Weils Disease can be caught from cow urine.
- Wash hands before eating, especially if you have touched the animals.

### **Vegetation**

- Be aware of the type of vegetation you are clearing, e.g. blackthorn can cause wounds to go septic so wear thorn proof gloves and non-snag outer clothing as well as eye protection when working in tall woody vegetation.
- Keep any ditches free of cuttings.
- Do not cut anything above 4m in height.

### **Additional Control Measures: Hints / tips for what needs to be considered as part of local /specific assessment:**

#### **Signage**

Signage to be in place to make the public aware that works are being carried out on the PROW ahead. If there is a particular danger to the public, then volunteers should be assigned to warn of dangers. Work should always be stopped so that users can safely pass.

#### **Suitable clothing**

Make sure that all volunteers are suitably clothed for the conditions and you have enough PPE to go round. If you need more, then contact your P3 Officer. If volunteers are not suitably clothed for the task at hand (they should have been informed beforehand of the type of work that you will be carrying out) then they should be sent away from site or given a task that is appropriate, e.g. short sleeves and shorts should not be worn when undertaking clearance of blackthorn.

#### **New volunteers**

Make sure that all new volunteers are trained and competent and supervised to ensure that they are safe to work on site.

#### **Tetanus**

All volunteers should be up to date with their tetanus injections and keep any cuts or open wounds covered to prevent infection.

#### **Refreshments**

Make sure that all volunteers have enough water and food to last them throughout the day, especially in hot weather.