

I have known Barcroft Hall and the footpaths around it since 2001 when my husband and I started to housesit and dog-walk for Mr and Mrs Herrick.

At that time there were no defined footpaths on the land and broken stiles.

The footpaths are now better maintained than any other footpaths in the area and we have seen people in wheelchairs using the footpaths. It is an improvement to have taken out the stiles.

When I first knew the property there was a wooden five bar gate at the front entrance.

The gate pillars are now no narrower than the original gateway at that time.

Mr and Mrs Herrick always left instructions that the handles which were made for the gates always worked and the gates were never locked.

We were asked to check that that was the case on a daily basis when we worked for them, which amounts to around 12 weeks a year.

In my opinion Mr and Mrs Herrick take their responsibilities of having footpaths on their land extremely seriously and look after them to a very high standard.

*Carol Hartnell 2008*