

FOOTPATHS IN MOTTISFONT PARISH

Mottisfont Parish Council is investigating replacement of stiles on the public footpaths across the parish. The objective of such a project would be to improve accessibility by removing unnecessary stiles, or replacing stiles with suitable gates. This would have the additional advantage of removing stiles that are unsafe.



This report shows the routes of all registered footpaths in the parish, and identifies stiles and gates that have been found on those footpaths. It also suggests actions at each location.

References

1. Information on Rights of Way in Hampshire including extracts from “The Hampshire Definitive Statement of Public Rights of Way” at <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/rightsofway/definitivestatement/Mottisfont.pdf>
2. Map of Public Rights of Way, <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/rightsofwaydefinitivemap/>

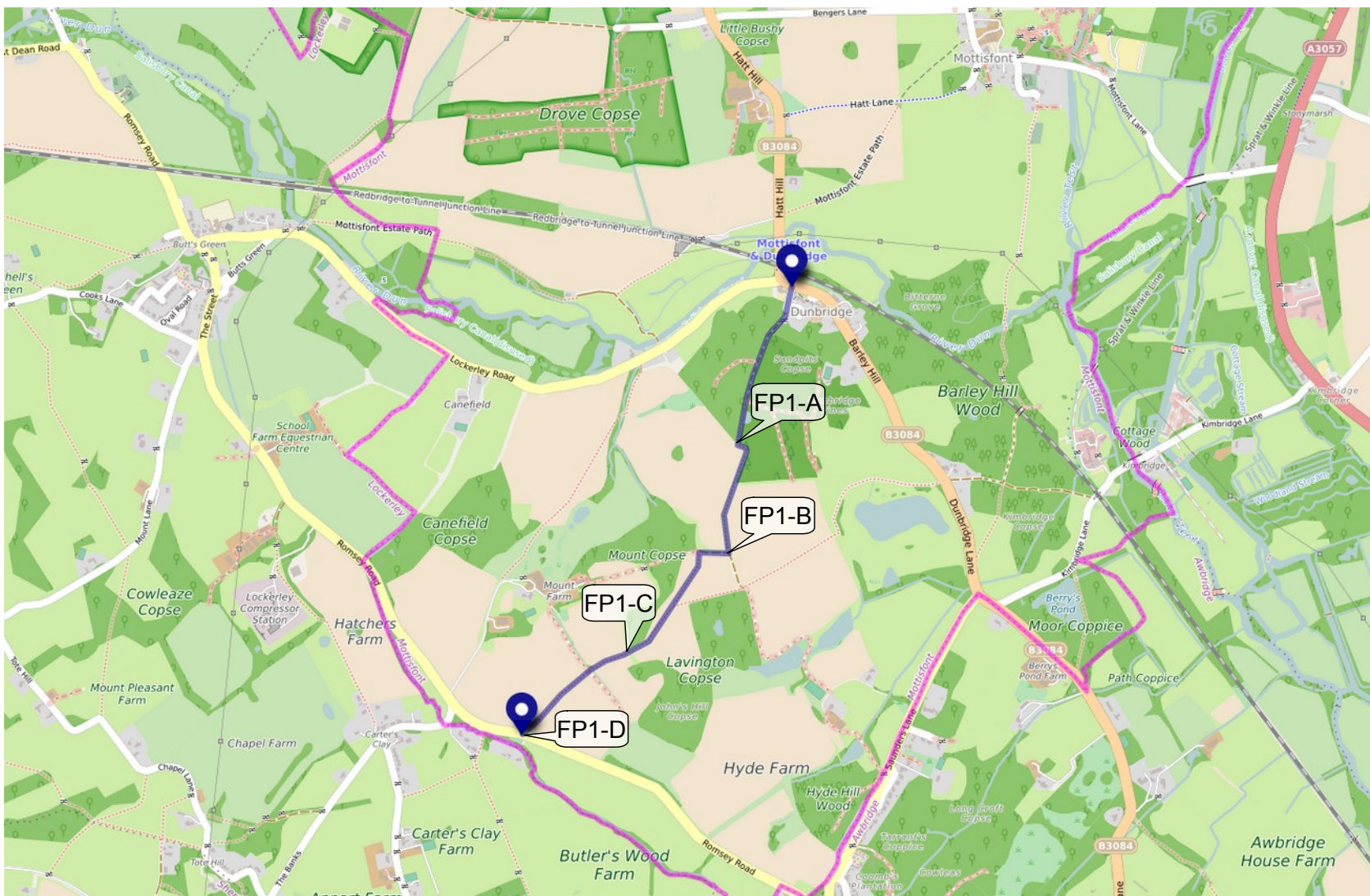
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Map Key	
Parish Boundary	
Footpath	

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February 2022

Mottisfont Footpath 1



Mottisfont Footpath 1

Stile FP1-A comprises a metal frame and wooden steps. It is in a poor condition, and can be walked around.

It is located adjacent to a galvanised metal gate that appears not to have been used in a long time.

It is at the end of a track that can be accessed from the road, so it may be prudent to keep the existing gate locked to discourage vehicle access, and replace the stile with a pedestrian-only gate.

The field to the south of FP1-A is not currently used for livestock.



FP1-A seen from the north



FP1-A seen from the south

Since a nearby fence was taken out some years ago, it has become possible to walk round the end of the fence where stile FP1-B is located.

This stile appears no longer to be required.



FP1-B

Mottisfont Footpath 1

Stile FP1-C is located in a post-and-wire fence. It was replaced a few years ago, when the two posts had rotted at ground level, and is still in reasonably good condition (there is some movement in the steps).

The wire adjacent to the steps has been lifted, presumably to allow dogs and possibly wild animals to pass more easily, and the wear in the grass indicates that this is used quite frequently.

The fields either side of FP1-C are not currently used for livestock.



FP1-C seen from the east



FP1-C seen from the west

Stile FP1-D comprises a metal frame and wooden steps that have collapsed. The state of repair is clearly poor. Nonetheless, the wear in the vegetation shows that this route is used fairly frequently.

The field is not currently used for livestock.

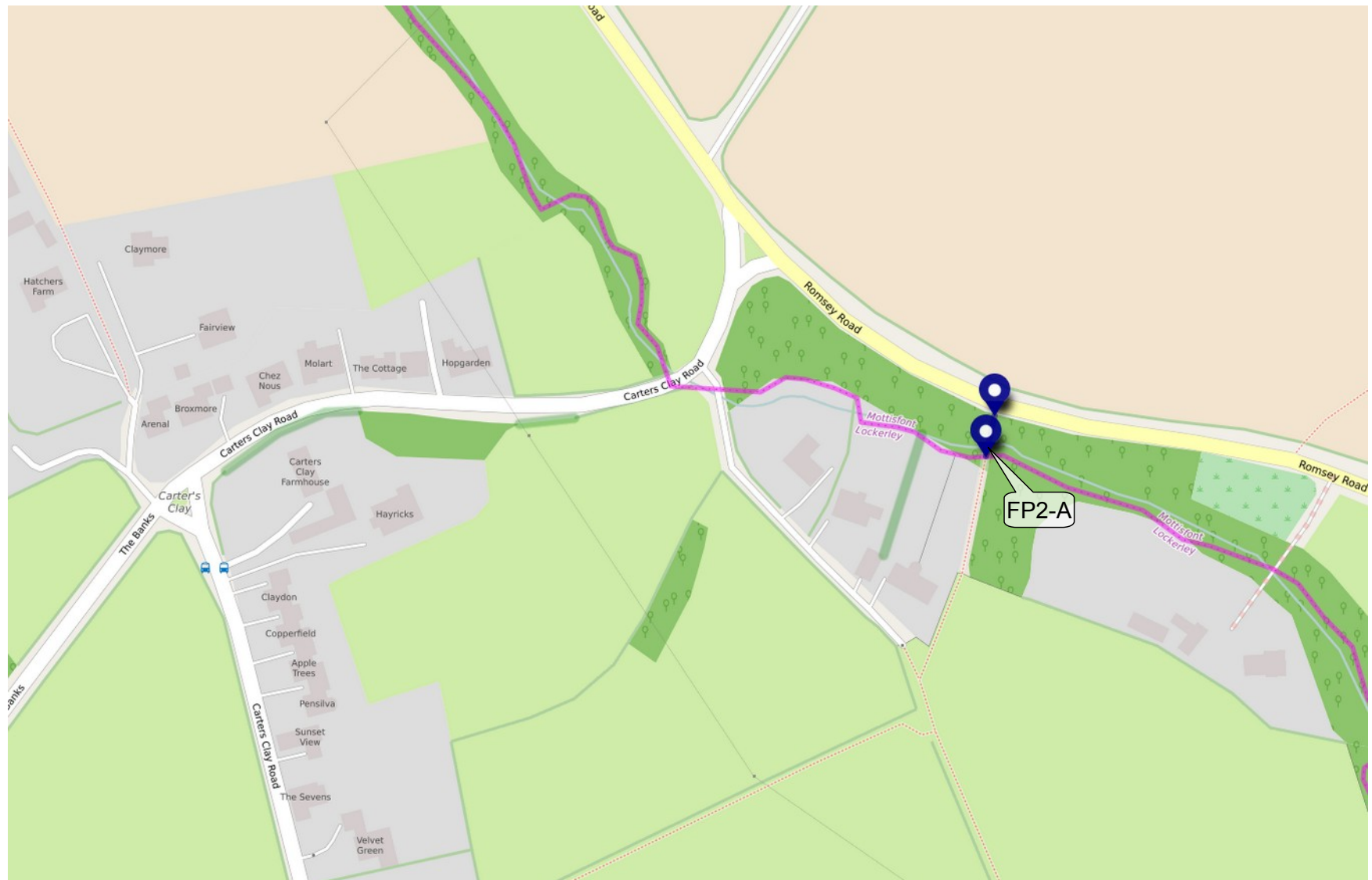


FP1-D seen from the north



FP1-D seen from the south (road)

Mottisfont Footpath 2



Mottisfont Footpath 2

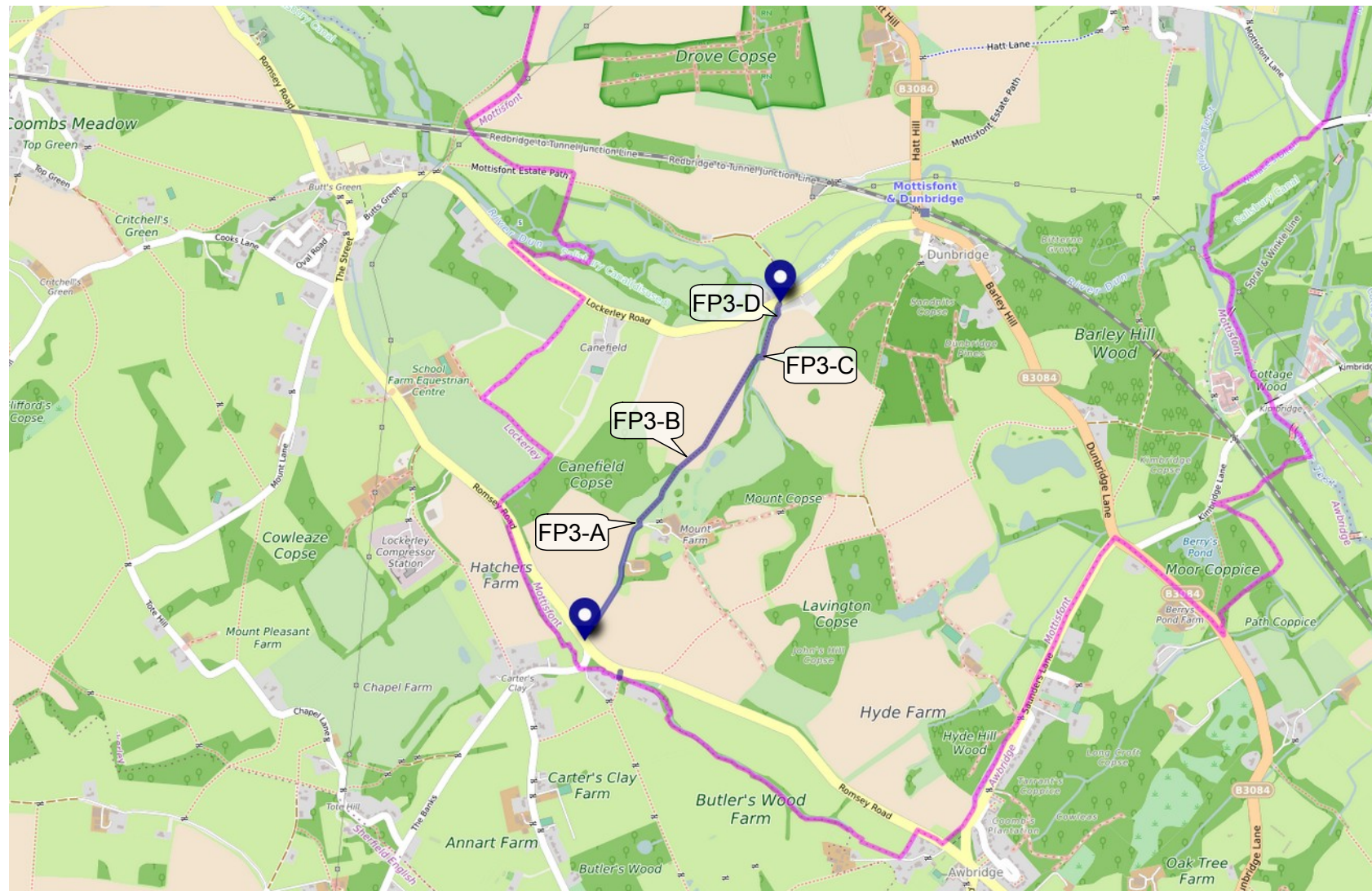
Footpath 2 extends only a few metres from the road before it crosses the parish boundary. The remnants of stile FP2-A can be seen, but the fence it crossed is in disrepair, and has been removed from the immediate vicinity of the stile.

It is not clear on which side of the parish boundary FP2-A lies, but given the current state of the fence, it appears not to be required.



FP2-A seen from the road

Mottisfont Footpath 3



Mottisfont Footpath 3

Stile FP3-A is located in a wooden fence, and appears to be in good condition. However, in common with most stiles at this time of year, the surfaces of the steps are quite slippery.

At the time of the visit, the field had no livestock present.



FP3-A seen from the south



FP3-A seen from the north

Stile FP3-B crosses a post-and-wire fence between two fields. The field to the south is set to grass, but no livestock were present. The field to the north has recently been used for a crop of maize.



FP3-B seen from the south

Mottisfont Footpath 3

Stile FP3-C is at the eastern end of a footbridge over a small stream. The stile is in fair condition, and has a convenient pillar to assist crossing.

The fields either side of the footbridge appear to be arable; no livestock could be seen.



FP3-C seen from the west



FP3-C seen from the east

Mottisfont Footpath 3

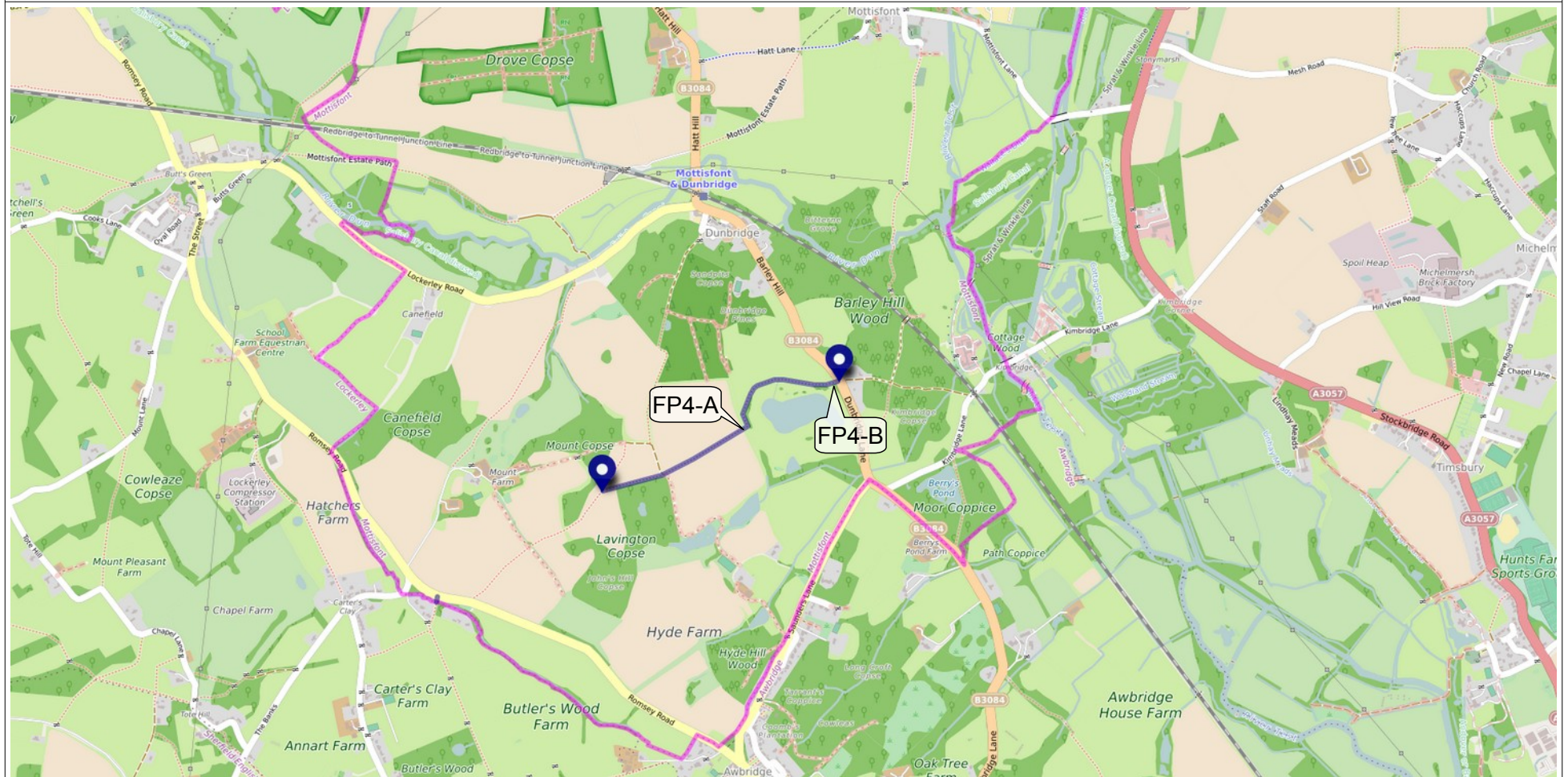
Footpath 3 passes through the garden of a private house, which is entered via the gate FP3-D.

The gate appears to be in good condition.



FP3-D

Mottisfont Footpath 4



Mottisfont Footpath 4

FP4-A is a stile located in a boundary between two fields. The upper field has been used exclusively for crops in recent years, and the lower field has been grassed following the completion of the gravel extraction some years ago. No livestock have been seen in the lower field.



FP4-A seen from the east



FP4-A seen from the west

FP4-B is a kissing gate leading from the B3084 into a field where the footpath has been fenced on both sides (note: the fencing, particularly on the south side of the path is in very poor condition, having collapsed due to posts rotting in the ground).

Part of FP4-B has collapsed due to the post rotting in the ground, and can be seen in the upper photograph lying to one side of the path.

As the fence on the north side of the footpath is stock-proof, they may be no need for a kissing gate here; a simple gate may be sufficient.

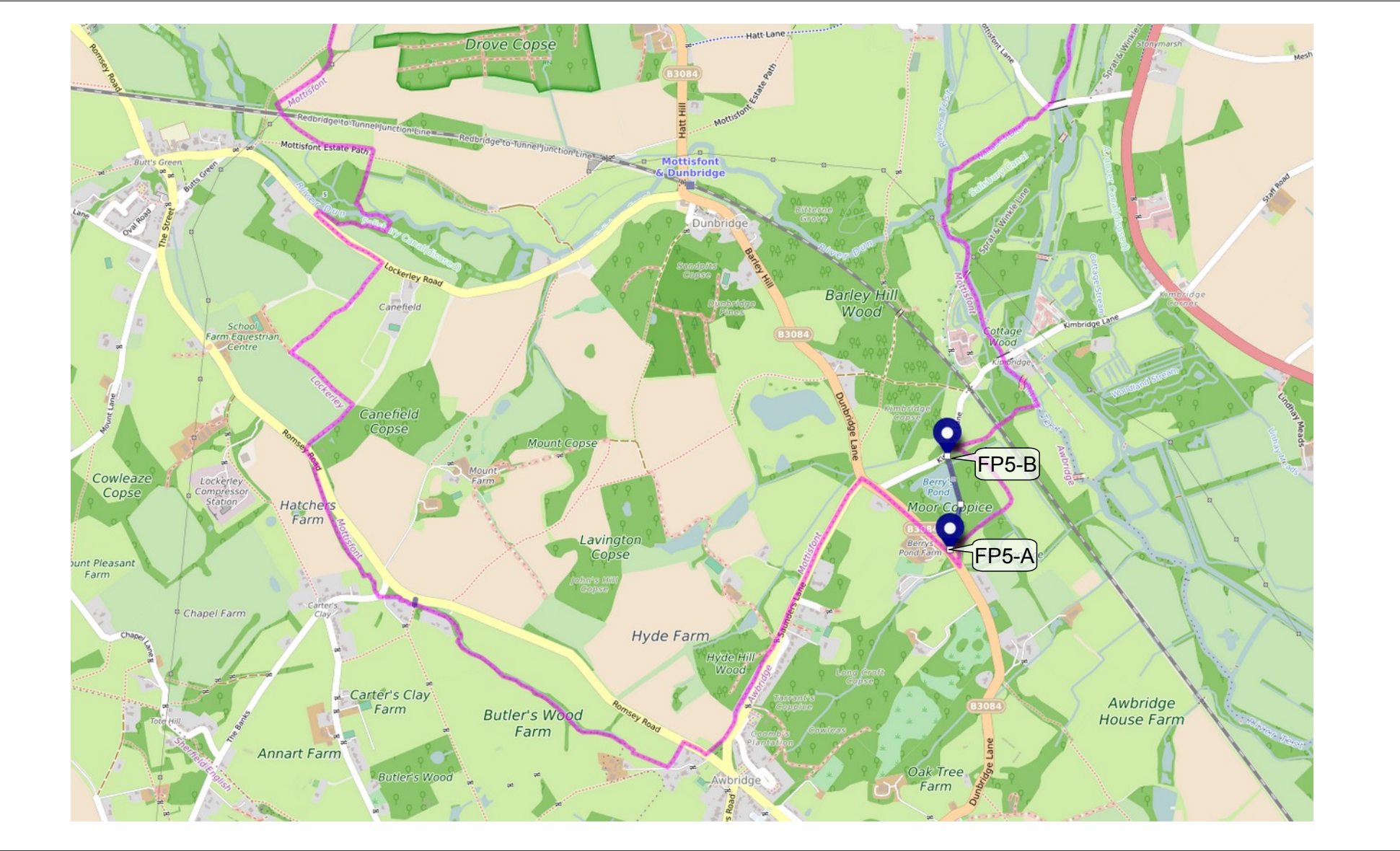


FP4-B seen from the road



FP4-B seen from the footpath

Mottisfont Footpath 5



Mottisfont Footpath 5

A few metres from the start of the path at the B3084, FP5-A is the remains of a kissing gate that has had the gate removed. It does not block the path, and there seems no need to have any form of gate here.



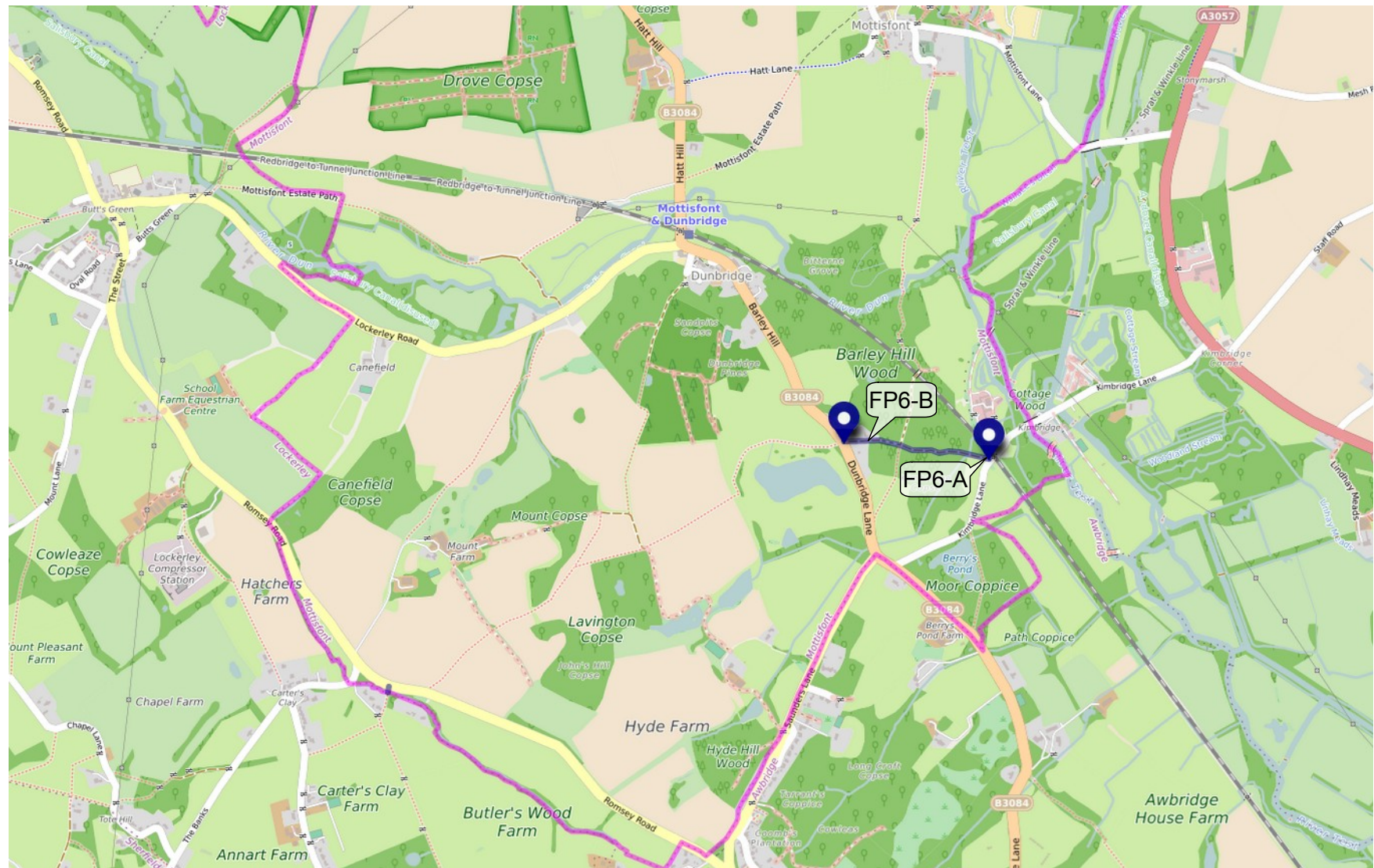
FP5-A

Where the footpath meets Kimbridge Lane, FP5-B is a set of closely spaced sturdy metal posts that have been inserted to block access by all but pedestrians.



FP5-B

Mottisfont Footpath 6



Mottisfont Footpath 6

Close to the Kimbridge level crossing, FP6-A is a wooden gate for pedestrian access, next to a wider gate for vehicles and machinery.

The gate appears to be in fairly sound condition.



FP6-A

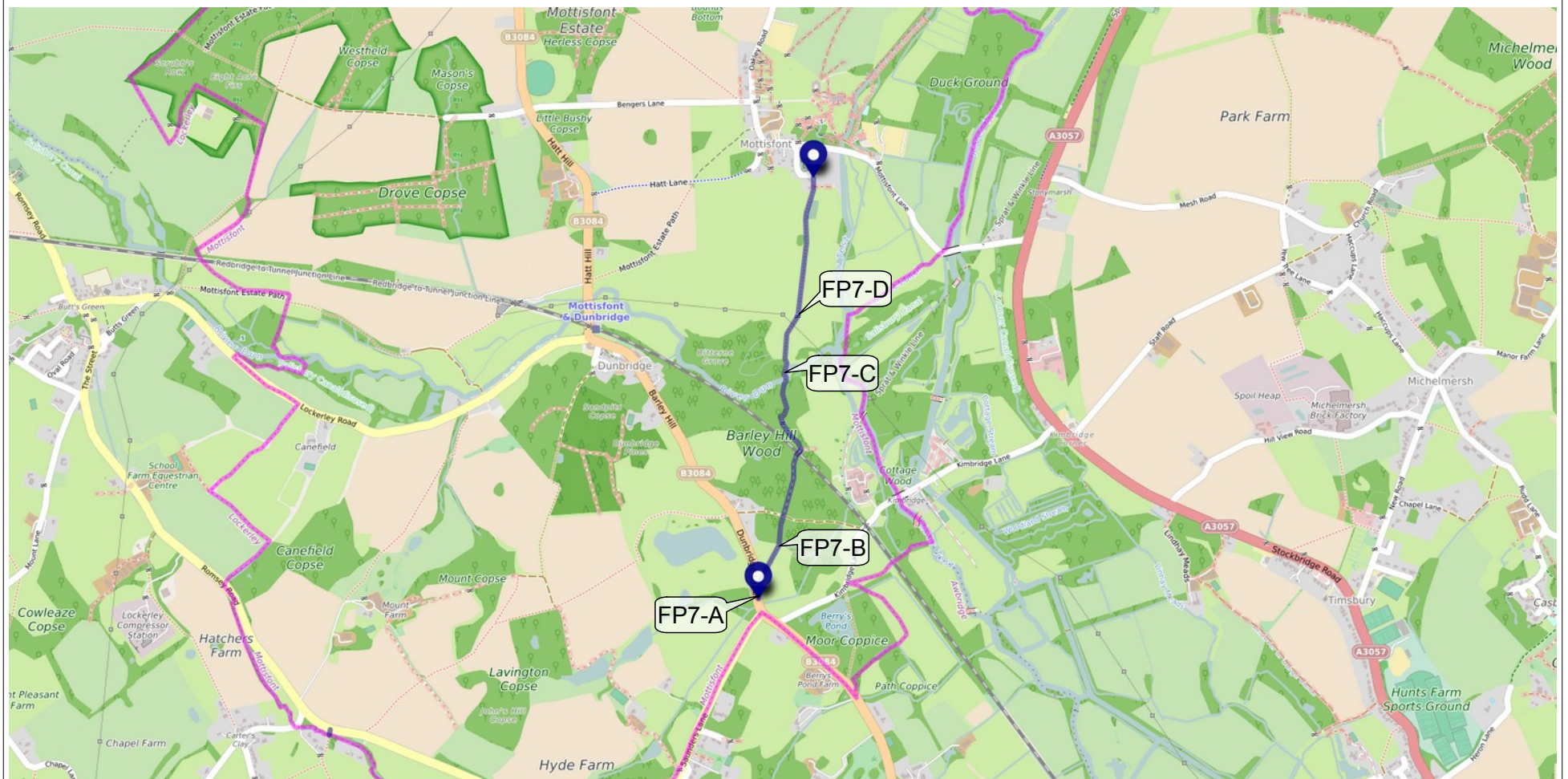
FP6-B is a stile with an adjacent dog gate, next to a wide metal gate for vehicles and machinery.

The stile is in fair condition apart from a missing piece on the dog gate.



FP6-B

Mottisfont Footpath 7



Mottisfont Footpath 7

FP7-A is a wooden stile with adjacent dog gate, similar in some respects to FP6-B.

The stile appears to be in fair condition, and unusually has wire netting on the treads to help avoid the surfaces becoming slippery.



FP7-A

FP7-B is a wooden pedestrian gate next to a wider gate for farm vehicles. The gate appears to be in fair condition.

The gate is on a boundary between woodland and an open grassy field, which is presumably used for grazing, although it was empty at the time of our visit.



FP7-B

FP7-C is a metal kissing gate at the north end of a footbridge across the river Dun.

The gate appears to be in fair condition.



FP7-C at the north end of the footbridge

FP7-D is a metal pedestrian gate next to a slightly wider gate in a similar style.

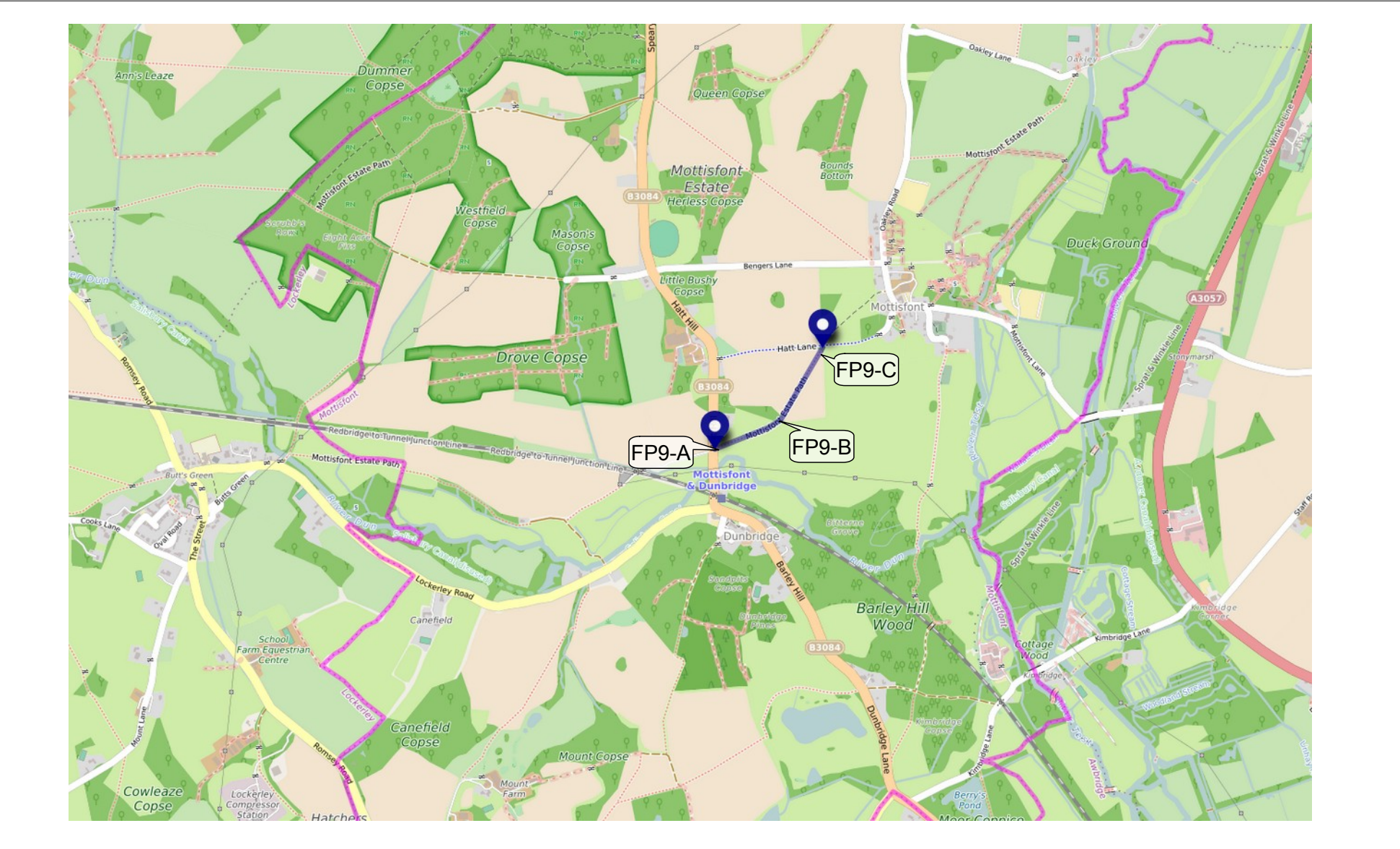
This gate appears to be in good condition.

The field beyond it is believed to be used for grazing, although it was empty at the time of our visit.



FP7-D, view from the north

Mottisfont Footpath 9



Mottisfont Footpath 9

FP9-A is a wooden kissing gate next to a metal gate used for farm vehicle access.

The pedestrian gate appears to be in fair condition.

The field beyond the gate is used for grazing livestock, although it was empty at the time of our visit.



FP9-A, seen from the B3084

FP9-B is a wooden kissing gate in a boundary fence between two fields

The gate appears to be in fair condition.

The field beyond the gate is used for grazing.
The field this side of the gate is used for crops.



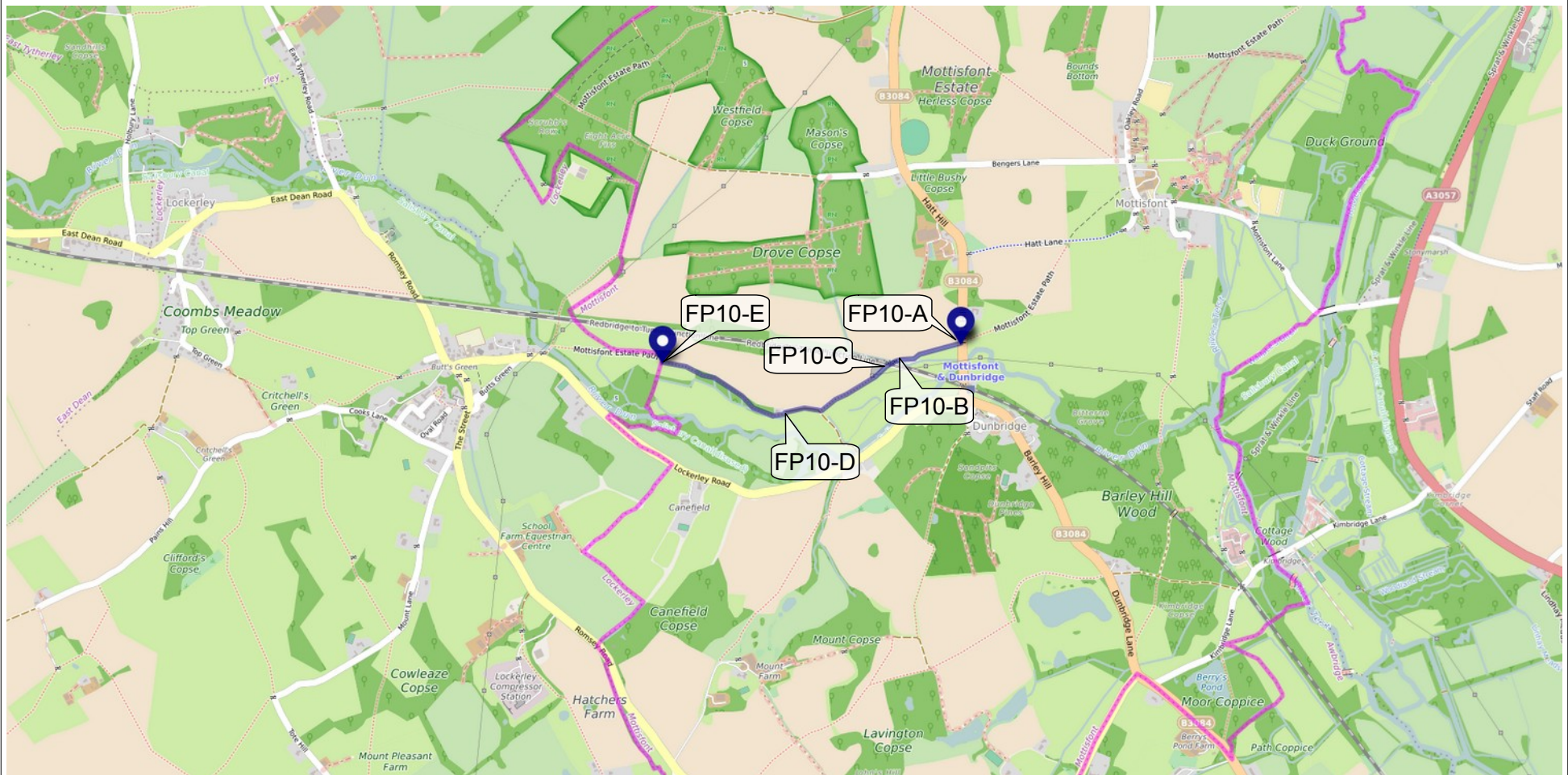
FP9-B, seen from the northeast

FP9-C is a pair of offset wooden barriers without a gate between them, presumably intended to prevent vehicular access to the field.



FP9-C, seen from the southwest

Mottisfont Footpath 10



Mottisfont Footpath 10

FP10-A, the entrance to footpath 10 from the B3084 is simply an opening adjacent to a metal gate (frequently closed due to fly-tipping).



FP10-A, entrance to footpath 10 from the B3084

FP10-B is a wooden kissing gate on the east side of the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing for the railway line.

This gate appears to be in fair condition. It is not known at this stage whether this gate is the responsibility of the rail network operator.



FP10-B seen from the east

FP10-C is a wooden kissing gate on the west side of the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing for the railway line.

This gate appears to be in fair condition. It is not known at this stage whether this gate is the responsibility of the rail network operator.



FP10-C seen from the west

Mottisfont Footpath 10

FP10-D is a metal kissing gate located adjacent to the entrance gate to the thatched cottage.

This gate appears to be in good condition.



FP10-D seen from the east

FP10-E is a wooden gate that lies on or close to the parish boundary.

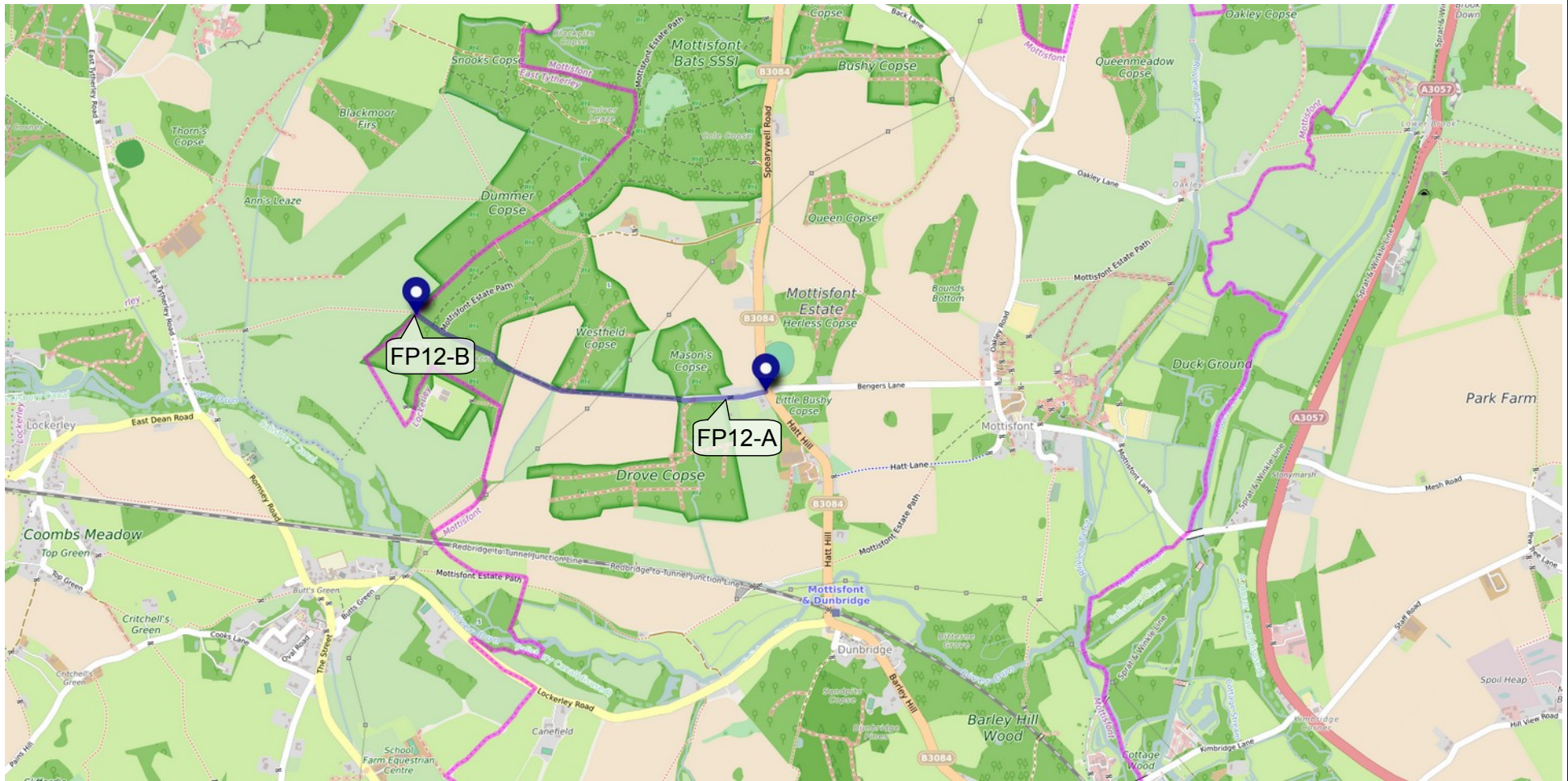
This gate appears to be in fair condition.

Just beyond this gate there are sleepers forming a footbridge crossing a ditch, then a wooden fence with a stile, which is in the adjacent parish. There is presumably therefore no requirement for FP10-E to be stock-proof.



FP10-E seen from the east

Mottisfont Footpath 12



Mottisfont Footpath 12

Footpath 12 starts at the junction of Keepers Lane and the B3084. FP12-A is a double metal gate located just beyond the last house on Keepers Lane, with a pedestrian bypass.



FP12-A seen from the east



FP12-A seen from the west

FP12-B is a wooden stile located at the parish boundary, in a fence separating woodland from a grassy field. It is not known whether the field is used for livestock.

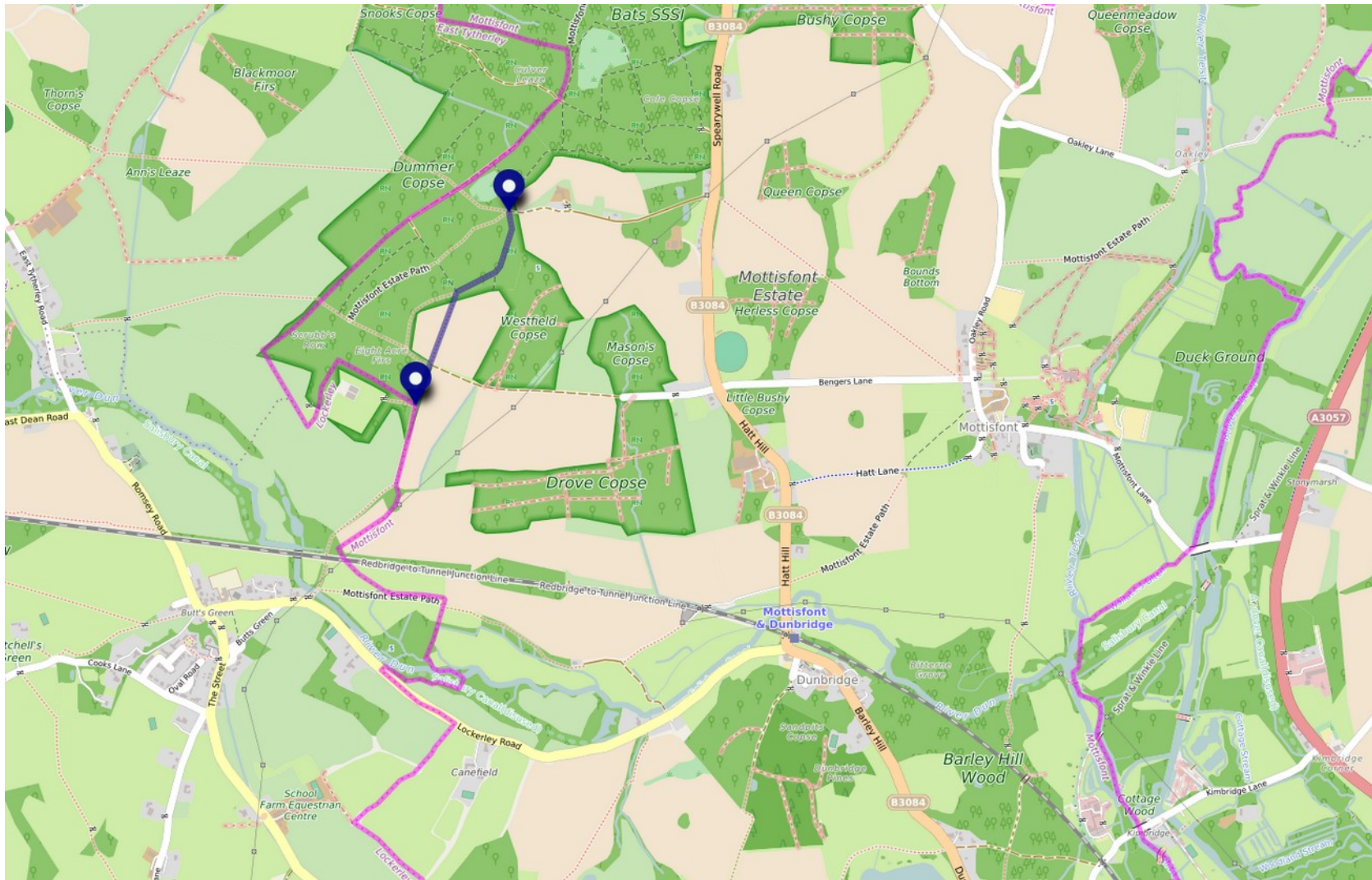
This stile is on poor condition, with bottom rail detached at one end.

FP12-B seen from the east



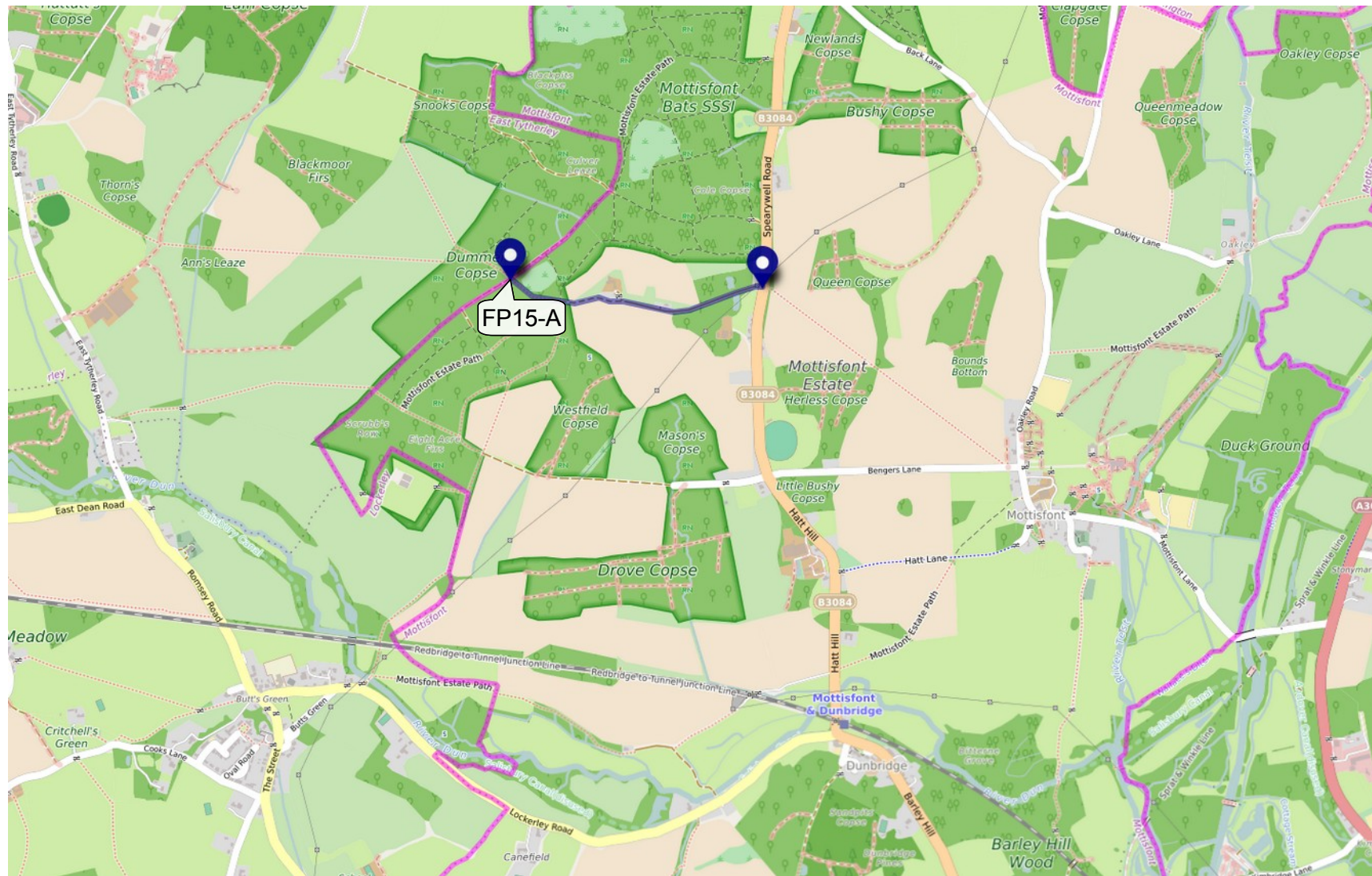
FP12-B seen from the west

Mottisfont Footpath 14



Mottisfont Footpath 14	
No stiles or gates were found on Footpath 14.	

Mottisfont Footpath 15



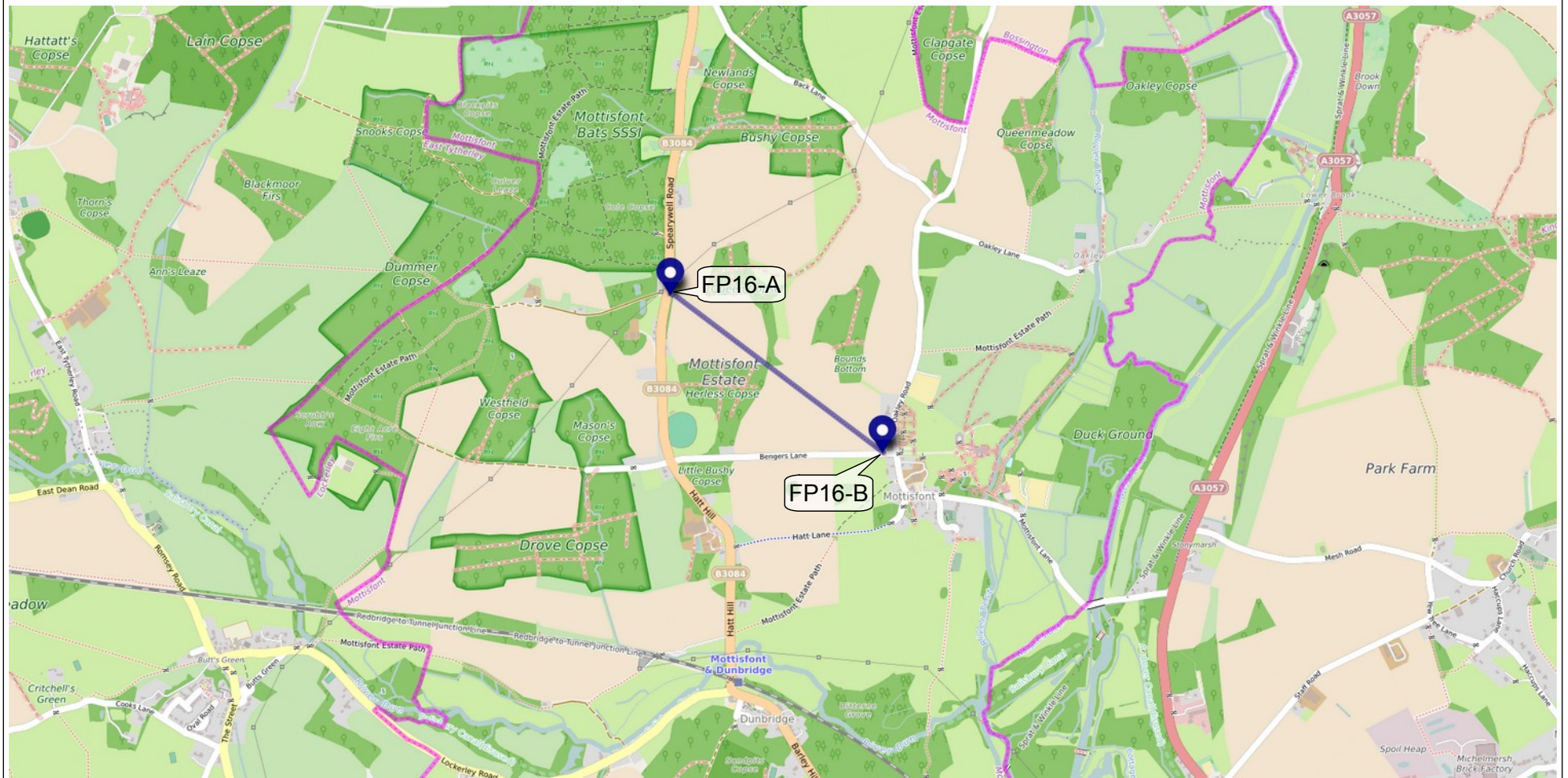
Mottisfont Footpath 15

Footpath 15 starts at the parish boundary, which appears to coincide with a small ditch, crossed by a pair of sleepers. The marker post bearing a footpath number label has collapsed into the ditch.



FP15-A seen from the west

Mottisfont Footpath 16



Mottisfont Footpath 16

Footpath 16 starts on the B3084. FP16-A is a metal gate with a pedestrian bypass.



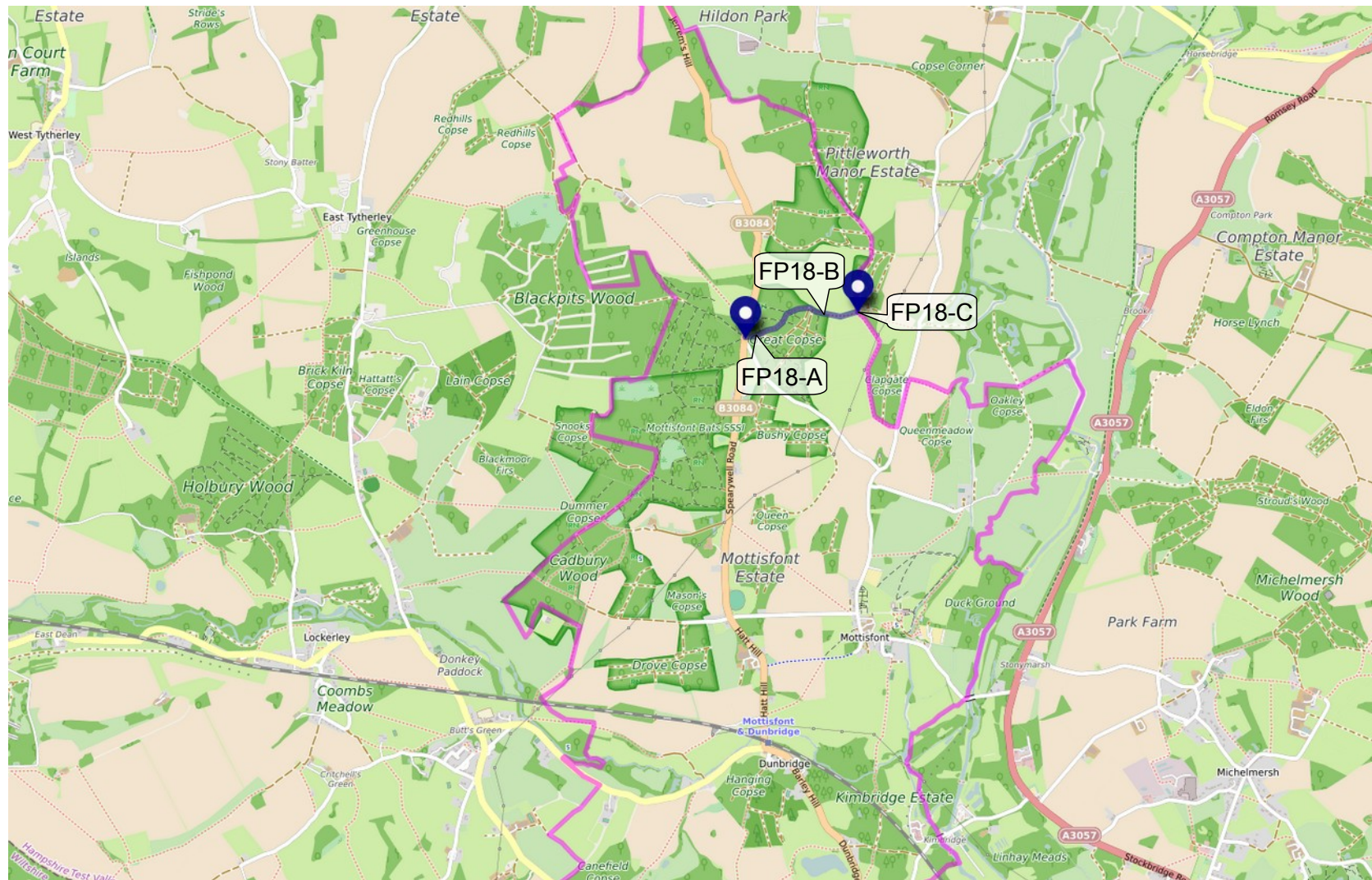
FP16-A seen from the B3084

Footpath 16 ends on Bengers Lane, where there is a pedestrian opening adjacent to a double metal gate.



FP16-B seen from Bengers Lane

Mottisfont Footpath 18



Mottisfont Footpath 18

Footpath 18 starts on the B3084. Roughly 50m from the road is FP18-A, a metal gate with a pedestrian bypass.



FP18-A seen from the east

FP18-B is a metal pedestrian gate, located near the edge of woodland.

This gate appears to be in good condition.



FP18-B seen from the east

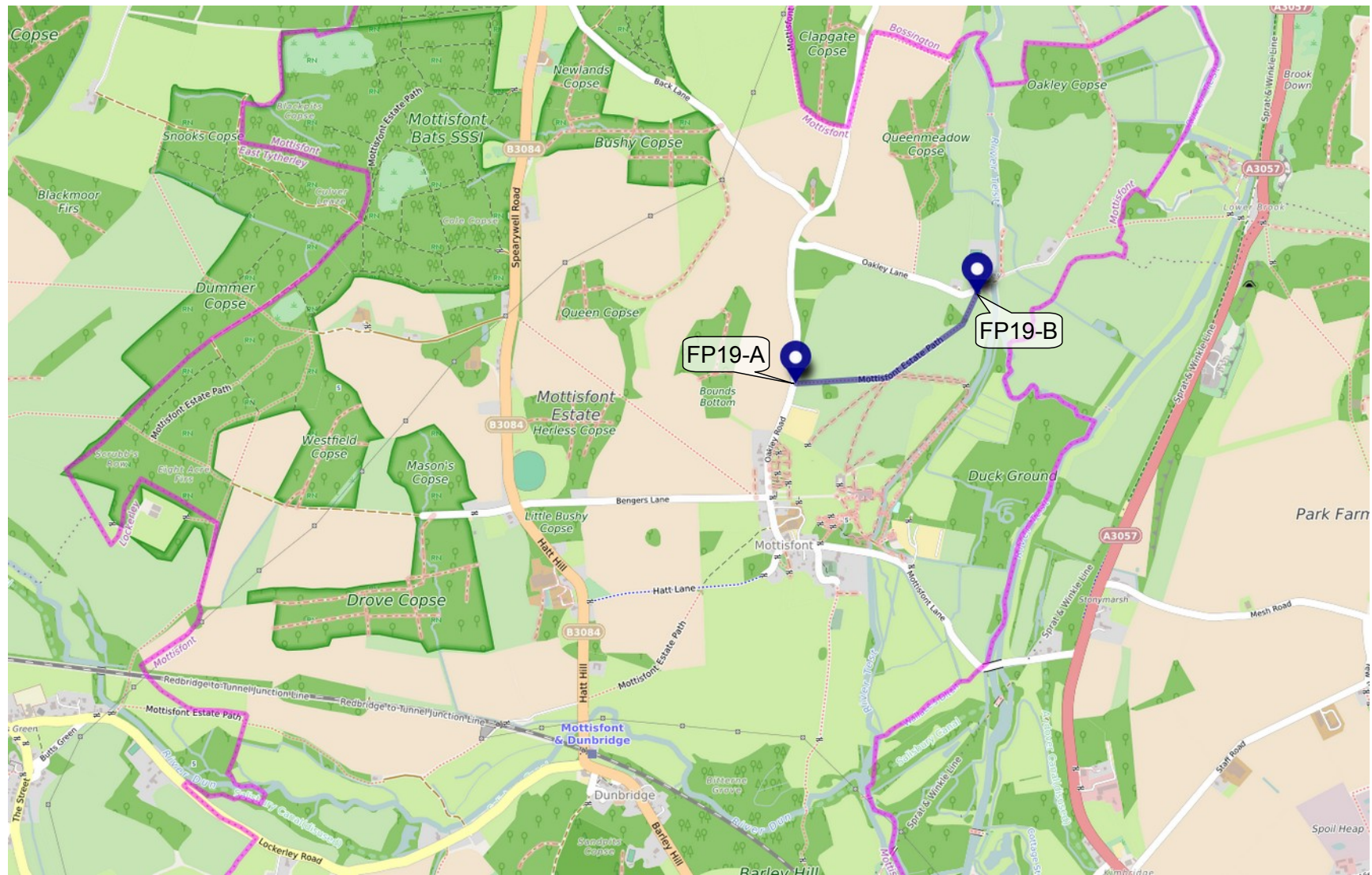
FP18-C is a wooden stile located on a corner of footpath 18, where another footpath (not in the definitive list of rights of way) branches off.

This stile is in poor condition. The steps appear firm, but the posts and rails are loose.



FP18-C seen from the south

Mottisfont Footpath 19



Mottisfont Footpath 19

FP19-A is the entrance to the footpath on Oakley Road. This is an open entrance with no gate or stile.



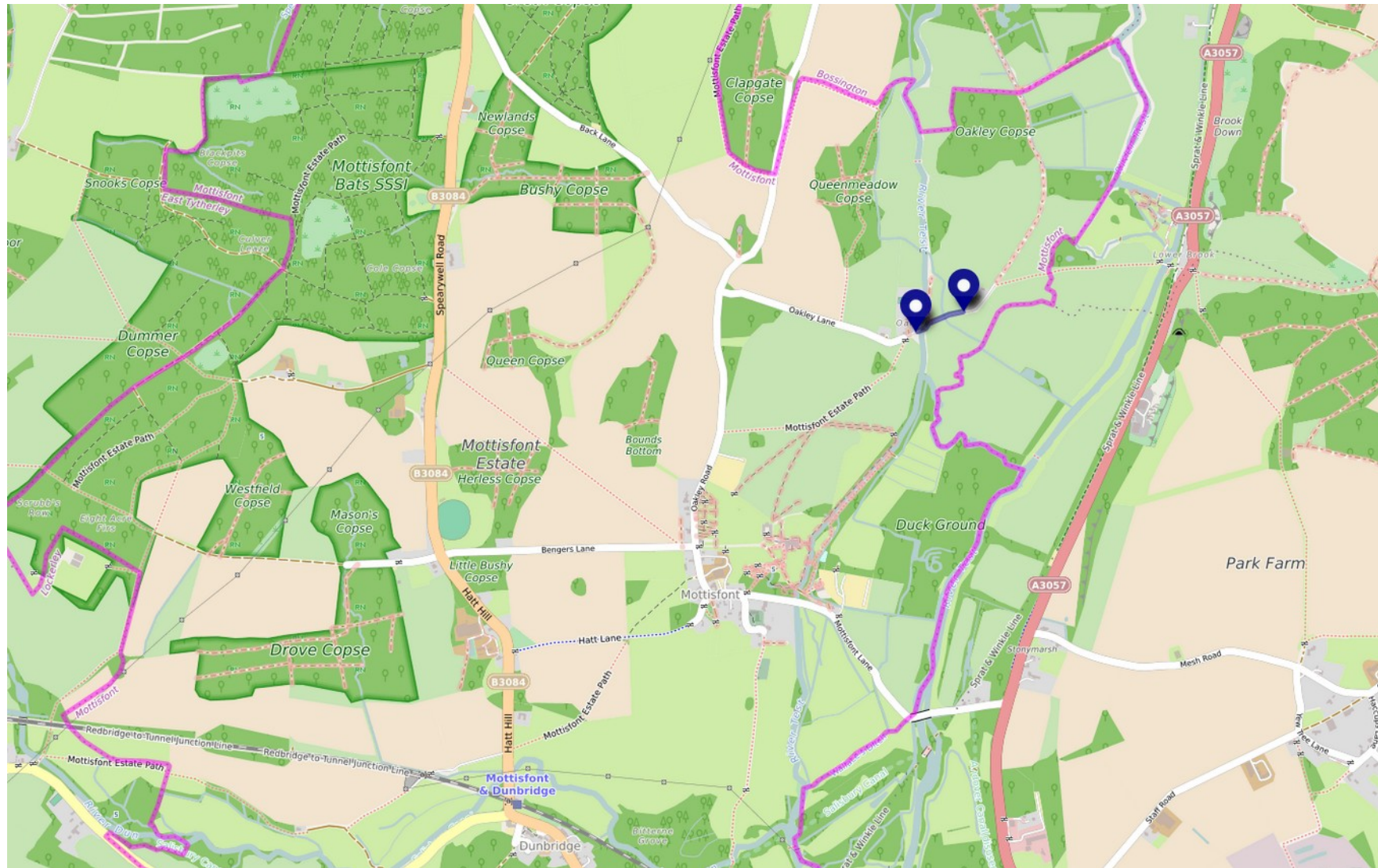
FP19-A, seen from the west

FP19-B is the open entrance to the footpath on Oakley Lane. This is an open entrance with no gate or stile.



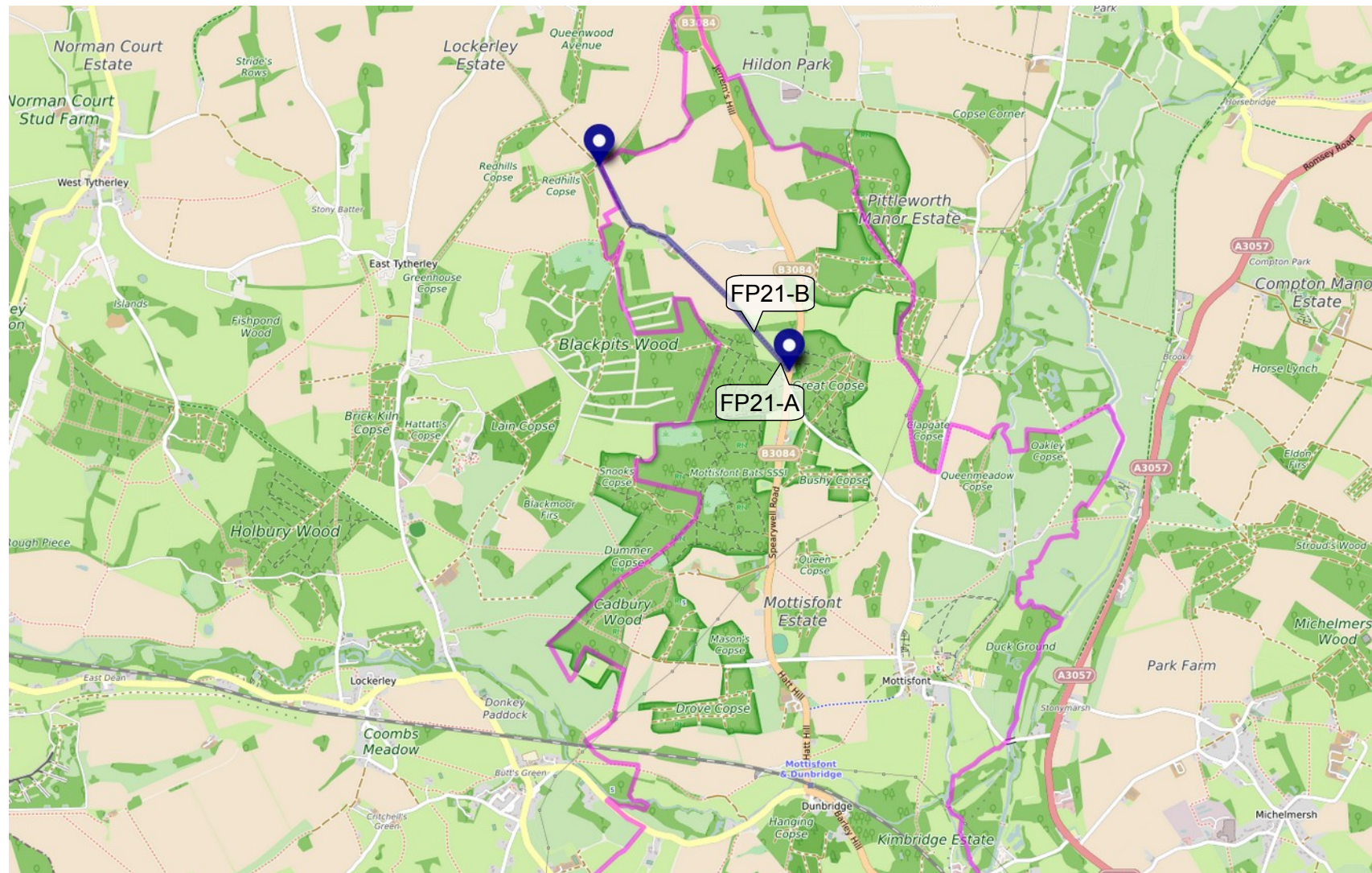
FP19-B, seen from the north

Mottisfont Footpath 20



Mottisfont Footpath 20
Footpath 20 is on a gravel road, and has no gates.

Mottisfont Footpath 21



Mottisfont Footpath 21

FP21-A is a wooden stile in a mixed hedge.

The condition of the stile appears to be poor.



FP21-A, seen from the north

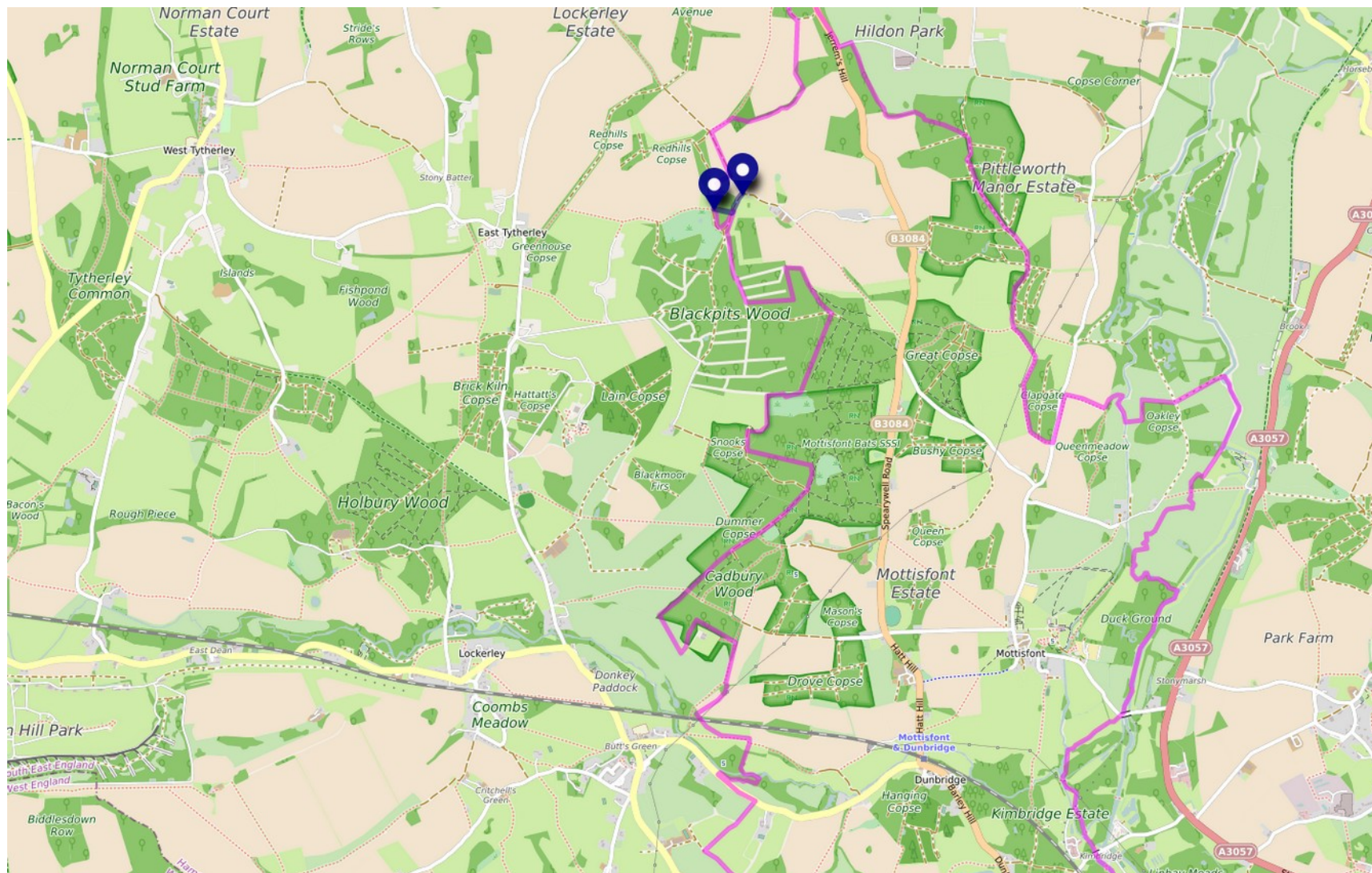
FP21-B is a wooden stile in a post and wire fence.

The condition of the stile appears to be fair.



FP21-B, seen from the north

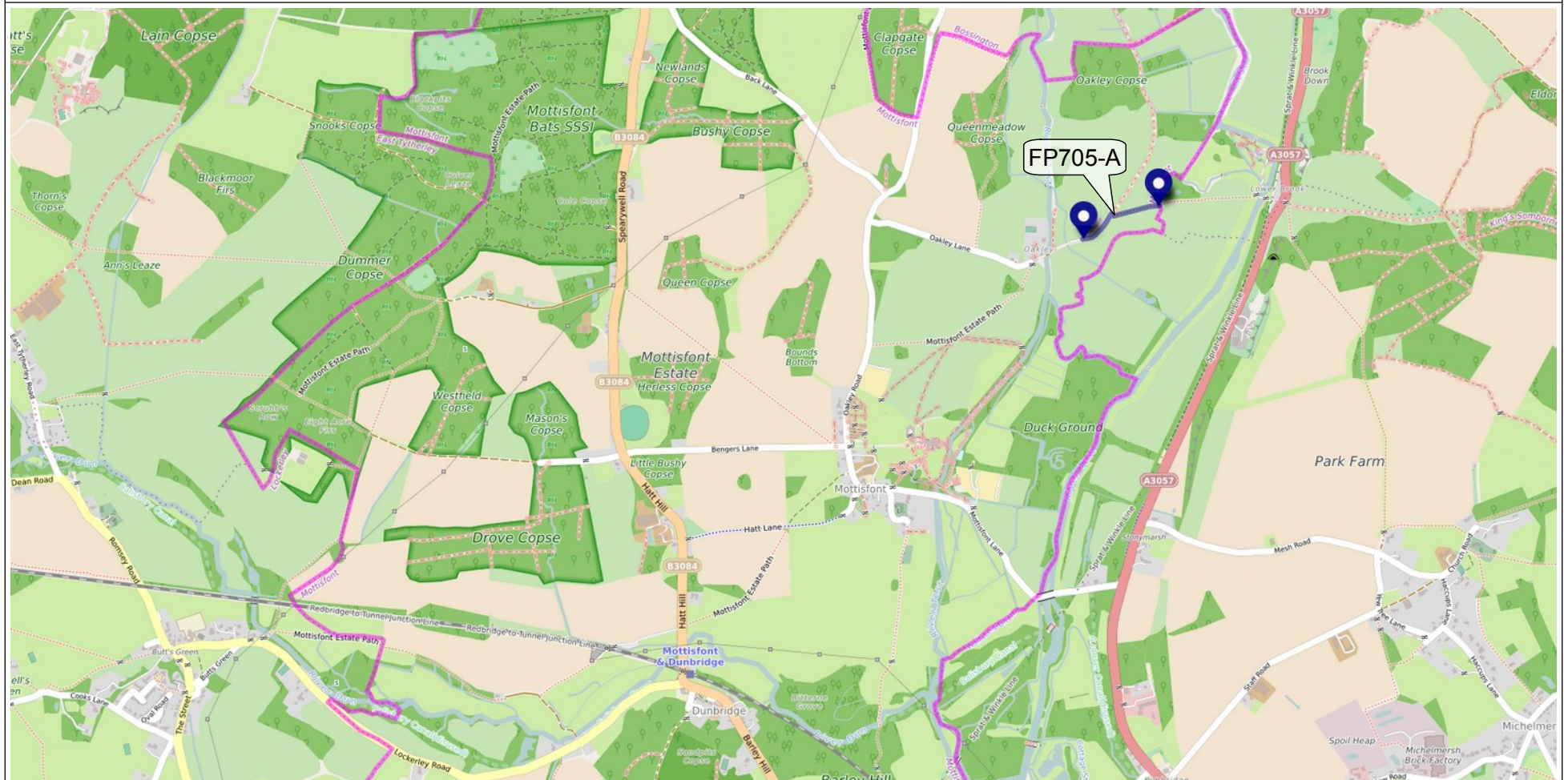
Mottisfont Footpath 22



Mottisfont Footpath 22

The footpath starts on a gravel track and heads roughly south until it turns right into woodland. The path through the woodland could not be identified, and is presumably overgrown. No relevant stiles or gates were seen.

Mottisfont Footpath 705



Mottisfont Footpath 705

FP705-A is a simple low fixed barrier at the east end of a pedestrian bridge over a small stream.



FP705-A, seen from the east

Summary

Footpath	Item	Suggested action
1	A	Replace dilapidated stile with gate.
	B	Remove unnecessary stile.
	C	Replace stile with gate.
	D	Replace dilapidated stile with gate.
2	A	Remove remains of stile. Do not replace.
3	A	Replace stile with gate
	B	Replace stile with gate
	C	Replace stile with gate
	D	None - existing gate appears satisfactory.
4	A	Replace dilapidated stile with gate
	B	Repair or replace existing kissing gate.
5	A	Remove remains of metal kissing gate. Do not replace.
	B	None - leave existing posts.
6	A	None - existing gate appears satisfactory.
	B	Replace stile with gate.
7	A	Replace stile with gate.
	B	None - existing gate appears satisfactory.
	C	None - existing metal kissing gate appears satisfactory.
	D	None - existing gate appears satisfactory.
9	A	None - existing kissing gate appears satisfactory.
	B	None - existing kissing gate appears satisfactory.
	C	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
10	A	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
	B	None - existing kissing gate appears satisfactory.
	C	None - existing kissing gate appears satisfactory.
	D	None - existing metal kissing gate appears satisfactory.
	E	None - existing wooden gate appears satisfactory.
12	A	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
	B	Replace dilapidated stile with gate.
14	-	None - there are no stiles or gates.
15	A	Replace marker post.
16	A	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
	B	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
18	A	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
	B	None - existing metal gate appears satisfactory.
	C	Replace existing stile with gate.

19	A	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
	B	None - existing opening is satisfactory.
20	-	None - there are no stiles or gates.
21	A	Replace dilapidated stile with gate.
	B	Replace stile with gate.
22	-	None - no gates or stiles found on overgrown path.
705	A	Replace low static barrier at end of bridge with a gate.