



Unclassified

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To: Owners, Occupiers and Interested Parties

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Date: 23 June 2014
My ref: RW/T474
Your ref:

Dear Sir/Madam

**WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
APPLICATION FOR A DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER – BRADFORD ABBAS**

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act the County Council is required to maintain a “definitive map and statement of rights of way”. The County Council is also required by the Act to keep the map and statement under continuous review and to modify them if there is evidence that they are incorrect. The evidence may be in the form of historical documents or modern usage or both. Members of the public may apply to the Council to modify the map and statement and the Council must investigate their claims, examine the evidence and, in the light of the evidence, decide whether or not the claimed rights or other rights exist.

An application has been received to modify the definitive map and statement of rights of way by adding a footpath from East Lane to the public road east of Coombe Cottages, Bradford Abbas. The application can be viewed by accessing our website at <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/countryside/dmmo> and entering the reference number (T474) into the DMMO reference box. I enclose Drawing 14/18 to illustrate the route.

Dorset County Council has a duty to investigate the matter to assess the available evidence and decide whether to make a legal order. The effect of the modification order, if granted in accordance with the application, would be to recognise and record the right of the public to use the route on foot. In addition, the evidence may lead the County Council to make another type of order.

Please note that applications for DMMOs do not seek to create new public rights but to record those rights that already exist. Our investigations will evaluate the evidence, from users of the route and from historical documents, and make a recommendation in a report to a meeting of the Roads and Rights of Way Committee in the near future. However, if there is no indication of opposition the Director for Environment, after consultation with Chairman of the Committee and the local County Council member, has delegated powers to decide whether an order should be made and published.

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It is hoped to bring the matter before the Roads and Rights of Way Committee (or the Chairman and local member) for consideration in the near future. They will be acting in a quasi-judicial capacity and will have to base their decision solely on the evidence. The desirability, suitability or necessity of adding the route are not matters that can be taken into account under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and information on these points is not required. However, information on the following points would be of assistance: -

1. The use of the route by the public.
2. Any actions taken to prevent the public from using the path as a public right of way.
3. Any documentation recording or relating to the route.

Any evidence received by **28 July 2014** may be incorporated in the Director for Environment's report and will be treated as public information (please refer to the Data Protection information at the end of this letter). In any response it would be helpful if you could give an email address for future correspondence. If you need additional time in which to respond please let me know. The file is available for public inspection at the Rights of Way offices by appointment.

Members of the public are allowed limited public speaking at a Committee meeting. If the case is to be brought before the Committee we will write to those directly affected to advise them. If you wish to be informed of the details of the meeting please let me know.

Yours faithfully

Roger Bell

Roger Bell
Rights of Way Officer
Definitive Map Team

Dorset County Council is a Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act regulates how we obtain, use and retain personal information. The information you supply will be used for the purpose of fulfilling our functions and duties, including those under the Highways Act 1980 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Any information provided, including personal details will be available for public inspection, disclosed to interested third parties and may be used during public inquiries and other proceedings. By replying to this consultation you are consenting to your personal information being retained and used for these purposes. Further information about the use of personal information and data protection is available on our web-site at www.dorsetforyou.com or by contacting the Council's Data Protection Officer.