

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Definitive Map Modification Order

Public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic are recorded on definitive maps and statements. These maps and statements provide conclusive legal evidence of the existence of public rights. The Staffordshire County Council is responsible for the definitive map and statement and has a duty to amend them when evidence suggests that they are inaccurate or incomplete. Such amendments are made by means of modification orders made under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. These orders do not come into effect until confirmed: if there are any objections the County Council must refer the Order and objections to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who must decide whether or not to confirm the Order.

The Staffordshire County Council has made a modification order under Section 53 to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for the District of Lichfield for the upgrading of part of footpath no.73 in Longdon Parish a length commencing at its junction with Bridleway no.25, point A on the map (NGR 408362-314743), running in a generally south-south westerly direction for approximately 200 metres to its junction with footpath no.28 at point B on the map (NGR 408250-314575). Then running in a generally west-south westerly direction for approximately 131 metres to point C on the map (NGR 408132-314529) the eastern extremity of "Ford Lane". Whereupon the route splits onto two courses. A length running in a generally west-north westerly direction along "Ford Lane" for approximately 78 metres to point E on the map (NGR 408056-314545) at the northern junction of "Ford Lane" and "Brook End" opposite the front door of "The Swan With Two Necks" public house, and another length running in a generally west-south westerly direction along "Ford Lane" for approximately 79 metres to point D on the map (NGR 408063-314493) at the southern junction of "Ford Lane" and "Brook End" adjacent to the entrance of the Village Hall car park.

The minimum width of the Public Bridleway will be 3 metres.

This Order simply recognises the public rights that are believed to exist already: The Order does not create any public rights. This statement has been prepared to explain various aspects of the Order.

THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE ORDER

The Staffordshire County Council has made the Order for the following reasons:-

The discovery of historical and user evidence the analysis of which and the relevant material are contained in the report considered by the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel at their meeting on 29th May 2018 a copy of which is available on the Panel's dedicated page on the County Council website.

A copy of the Order and Order Map may be consulted free of charge at the offices of Lichfield District Council of 20 Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6HS during normal office hours.

A copy of the Order may also be consulted free of charge at Staffordshire County Council Reception, Staffordshire Place 1, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH during normal office hours.

Copies of the Order, Order Map and Explanatory Statement may be purchased.

Objections or representations relating to the Order must be made in writing by 17th September 2021 to the Director for Corporate Services, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Place 1, Stafford, ST16 2DH quoting Ref No SC:LH630G. Any representation or objection may be made available to interested parties to view at the Council's offices on request.

To be relevant, objections or representations should relate to the question of the existence or status (i.e. public rights appertaining) of the right of way: other objections or representations (e.g. relating to privacy, security, suitability or amenity) may be irrelevant.

The County Council will be willing to discuss the concerns of those considering objecting or making representations relating to the Order.

The right of objection to an order is a statutory right, but it should be exercised in a reasonable manner. The costs involved in dealing with objections to orders are normally awarded against objectors only in cases of unreasonable behaviour.

If there are no objections to the Order, or if those made are withdrawn, the County Council may confirm the Order, and the definitive map and statement will then be modified. If there are any objections, which are not withdrawn, the County Council must refer the Order and objections to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Secretary of State will appoint an independent Inspector to consider the Order and hear the objections, which may be by holding a public inquiry, a hearing or in writing. The Inspector may confirm the Order, with or without modifications, or may decide that the Order should not be confirmed.