



Dorset County Council

Planning and Regulation Team

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Date: 1 February 2019

Ask for: Carol McKay

My ref: CAM RW/P178

Official

Kate Gocher
The Ramblers
BY EMAIL
kgocher@dsl.pipex.com

Dear Kate

SECTION 119, HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 51, DORCHESTER AND FOOTPATH 6, WINTERBORNE MONKTON

Thank you for your response to the above consultation. The concerns raised have been discussed with the applicant and advice sought from Dave Ackerley (Senior Ranger) and Highways England.

A. Large holes along the southern edge of the fenced path (the eastern half of the path O-P) most likely badger setts (not active).

With regards to the holes along part of the proposed new route, my colleague Dave Ackerley has inspected these and advises that the badger sett appears to be abandoned and is some distance to the side of the path. It is not necessary to carry out any works at present since the footpath is unaffected. However if an Order is made, it will only be confirmed after inspection and certification by Dorset County Council. Therefore if the badger sett becomes active, appropriate action will be taken.

B. The section O-N runs parallel to the A35, which has a stretch level with, and close to the road, with only a post and wire fence between walkers and the road, without a safety barrier.

Your request was passed to Highways England who are responsible for this section of the A35. They support the footpath diversion since it "will remove an existing at grade pedestrian crossing of the A35 where the national speed limit applies. Whilst there is no record of collisions involving pedestrians at this location, the relocation of the path and hence crossing does reduce risk and is a safety improvement. A controlled at grade crossing at this location is not possible, due to speed of traffic."

Highways England has indicated that it does not have any proposal in its forward programme to introduce such a barrier / extension of the existing barrier. Highways England's Road Safety Team have confirmed that there is "not likely to be a case to require a barrier in this circumstance". It is unlikely that a business case for a barrier at this location would be a good use of "limited public funds". Highways England further advise that a barrier would also require the relocation of the footpath further into the field at this point to be compliant with current standards.

Mike Harries, Director for Environment and Economy

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C. The underpass itself has the potential for flooding.

The applicant will carry out works to the underpass to improve drainage and prevent flooding. Before an Order can be confirmed, all agreed works must be carried out and the route inspected and certified by Dorset County Council

D. Alternative route

With regards to the alternative diversion that you have suggested, this has been considered, however other consultees have indicated that the increased length of the new route is a negative factor. Whilst a longer path is preferable to a dangerous road crossing, it is felt that an additional increase in length could inconvenience the public. The applicant consulted with several groups and organisations before creating the proposed new footpath.

From point H, there are permissive routes available north to Middle Farm Way, and also east to Holmead Walk. The route chosen for the footpath diversion ends closer to the original termination point A. Your suggested alternative route terminates 170 metres further east along Middle Farm Way from the proposed termination point at point D, which may be considered to be less convenient.

Your comments will be treated as public information (please refer to the Data Protection information at the end of this email) and may be incorporated into the report which will be made to the Regulatory Committee. It is anticipated that the case will be considered on 21 March 2019, but this will be confirmed in writing nearer the time. Members of the public are allowed limited public speaking at a Committee meeting and further details will be given when you are notified of the date of the Regulatory Committee.

Yours sincerely

Carol McKay

Carol McKay
Definitive Map Technical Officer
Planning and Regulation Team

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cc Jan Wardell, The Ramblers
Duchy of Cornwall
Dave Ackerley, Senior Ranger, Dorset County Council