



The Planning Inspectorate

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Your Ref: RLB/PLA001/00461

Our Ref: ROW/3323995

Ms Rebecca Buck
Dorset Council
Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall, Colliton Park
Dorchester
DT1 1XY

04 June 2024

Dear Ms Rebecca Buck,

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Section 53
Order Making Authority: Dorset Council
Title of Order: (Footpath from East Lane (D20502) to D20503 Public Road East of
Coombe Cottages, Bradford Abbas) Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order

Thank you for your letter of 9 June 2023 submitting the above-named Order.

An examination of the Order and submitted documents has been carried out and I can confirm that we have everything required for us to proceed. In accordance with the provisions of the above Act (Paragraph 10 of Schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981); the Order falls to be determined by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

In view of the objections/representations which have been made, it is proposed to hold a local inquiry. All parties to the local inquiry procedure are expected to abide by The Rights of Way (Hearings and Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2007, which can be found at Annex A of our booklet *Guidance on procedures for considering objections to Definitive Map and Public Path Orders in England*. The procedure, which is also summarised in section 4 of the booklet, sets out the timetable for the submission of statements of case and proofs of evidence. Your attention is also drawn to section 6 of the booklet which identifies the various matters to be considered by the Secretary of State or Inspector in deciding whether or not to confirm an order.

Our booklet is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rights-of-way-guidance-booklet>. Please let me know if your Council requires a further hard copy of this publication.

You will shortly be contacted by Clive Richards, who is responsible for charting Rights of Way Inspectors, about a suitable date and venue for the Inquiry. As far as possible, please ensure you have secured a venue before agreeing a date with us. Where this is not possible, please provide us with the venue details as soon as you can. Failure to provide venue details within a reasonable period may result in the Inquiry having to be re-arranged.

**The Planning Inspectorate actively encourages email correspondence. As submissions can exceed 100 pages, using an email address improves efficiency whilst reducing impacts on the environment. Therefore, please consider approaching parties who have not yet supplied an email address and provide us with updated contact details if applicable*.*

If you have not already done so, it would be helpful if you could provide Clive with an estimate of the number of days the Inquiry is likely to run. You can contact Clive on 0303 444 5502 or by email at clive.richards@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

For the reasons set out in paragraph 4.7 of our booklet, should you be aware in advance of any dates you are unavailable over the next 11 months, you should notify us by 18 June 2024. Whilst we will do our best to avoid any dates you provide to us, we are unable to give any guarantees.

Could you please let me know by the above-mentioned date if your Council is proposing to take a neutral stance or not supporting the order at the inquiry. Before agreeing to any dates, please ensure that the person who has agreed to present the case has confirmed that the date and venue is acceptable to them. As per the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Circular accompanying the new procedure rules, your Authority will continue to be responsible for ensuring that all documents are submitted according to the timetables set out in the procedure rules. Please let me know immediately if you have any concerns with regards to this request.

Please refer to the Inspectorate's *Facility Note for Public Inquiries and Hearings* to assist you in arranging a suitable venue. This can be viewed online at <http://www.gov.uk/planning/countryside/rightsofway/rightsofway>. If parking will be limited at the selected venue, it would be much appreciated if a space could be reserved for the Inspector.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Sparks
Helen Sparks

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice>