



## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **THIS EXPLANATORY STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE 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 of way. Dorset Council is responsible for the definitive map and statement and has a legal duty to change them when evidence suggests that they are inaccurate or incomplete. One of the ways these changes can be made is by means of modification orders under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. These orders do not come into effect until they are confirmed. Before that happens, members of the public have a right to make objections or representations about the order. If there are any objections then the Council must refer the order and the objections to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which will decide whether or not to confirm the order.

In this case an Inspector appointed by The Secretary of State for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs has confirmed a modification Order to the definitive map and statement to upgrade Bridleway 8 (part), Cheselbourne and Bridleway 18, Dewlish to Byways Open to All Traffic.

For your information, definitions of the categories of public rights of way are given overleaf.

The order came into effect on 08 April 2024. If any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or on the grounds that any requirement of the Act or of any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, you may within six weeks from 13 June 2024, make an application to the High Court.

**Definitions:**

- Footpath: A highway over which the public have a right on foot only, other than such a highway at the side of a public road.
- Bridleway: A highway over which the public have the following, but no other, rights of way, that is to say, a right of way on foot and a right of way on horseback or leading a horse, with or without a right to drive animals of any description along the highway.
- Restricted byway: A highway over which the public may have restricted byway rights, with or without a right to drive animals of any description along the highway, but no other rights of way.  
"Restricted byway rights" means –  
(a) a right of way on foot,  
(b) a right of way on horseback or leading a horse, and  
(c) a right of way for vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles.
- Byway: (i.e. byway open to all traffic) A highway over which the public have a right of way for vehicular and all other kinds of traffic, but which is used mainly for the purpose for which footpaths and bridleways are so used.