

From: Ben Edwards
Sent: 12 October 2022 11:50
To: Rightsofway <Rightsofway2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Dorset Footpath SE9/30 Modification ROW/3278109

For attention Helen Sparks

Dorset Footpath SE9/30 Modification ROW/3278109

Dear Helen,

My name is Ben Edwards. I have lived at Creech for 55 years. Last night I became aware of DCC's proposed Amendment to the route of FP 30. I just thought I would mention to you the following information. Whilst I appreciate that on the OL 15 map dated 2004, the route is marked as per the amendment DCC is proposing:

- I have used this path very often throughout my life, and it has always followed the line of the old road towards Barnston and Whiteway. The finger posts and styles have always been around the Water Tank at Bare Cross. The footpath throughout my life then follows the easily walked gently sloping track to the underhill path.
- Practically speaking, the route DCC proposes is an oddity. If you study the current footpaths and the old rights of way over the Purbeck Hills there are very few that go straight over. Most of them, as you would expect, take an angled route up the slope as people would have done. Although there are a few examples of paths that are perpendicular to the slope they are rare and tend to be where the gradient is not so steep. The climb out of Charmswell on the route DCC proposes is really very steep. It does suggest there may have been an error in mapping at some time. You would expect air photographs to show that years ago steps or a zig zag might have existed, but there seem to be none of these indications.
- I would ask that DCC consider the opportunity they have to cement the currently signed route of FP 30 as an accessible path to more than the very fittest. If DCC were to wish to retain the amendment they have tabled, the new route would make this section of FP 30 only accessible to the very fittest and most agile. How much better a service would it be to agree the alignment as the path has been signed posted for all my life, which almost all abilities can enjoy.

If you would like any more information please make contact.

Yours aye

Ben

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