

[REDACTED] FARMS



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R.O.W

9th November 2022

[REDACTED]

Helen Sparks
Planning Inspectorate
3G Hawk Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Ms Sparks

Ref ROW/3278538 (Dorset Council Ref T354)

I write in response to Dorset Council's Statement of Case and to the Document Reference 6, which refers to their comments on objections.

I fully endorse all the points made by [REDACTED] in his letter to you dated 7th November.

I strongly maintain that the submission by [REDACTED] dated 21st July 2005, ie. that on the balance of probabilities there is not sufficient documentary evidence in favour of public vehicular status on the claimed route as a whole to prove this claim, should be upheld. The fact that the committee's decision was split 3/2 shows the extent of doubt.

Document Refence 6 Section 8.42 refers to the witnesses' claim that their use of the path not being brought into question. I clearly stated at the meeting and in my letter of objection that the route is very isolated and impossible to police. On the very rare occasion that we encountered a motorist or motor cyclist attempting to drive along the route, they were advised that there was no right for vehicular passage.

Section 8.48 refers to there being no locked gates. Locking a gate on a public footpath and bridle way is unlawful and we could not consider this as a means to stop vehicles.

Section 8.56 refers to the possibility of the use by vehicles constituting the common law offence of public nuisance. I strongly disagree with the committee's view that such use would not constitute a public nuisance. I stressed in my address to the committee on 21st March 2019 and in my letter of objection to the order dated 5th March 2020 that the route, which comprises some of the most beautiful scenery on the West Dorset Ridgeway, was enjoyed by countless walkers and horse riders

and that in places it was very narrow, rough surfaced and vehicular use would be potentially dangerous for horse riders in particular. In the event of the order being confirmed, as the landowner of part of the route, I would hold the Council responsible for any injury to a walker or horse rider caused by a vehicle using the route.

I await the Secretary of State's decision.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Director.

Director