

19 March 2020

Vanessa Perry
Definitive Map Team Manager
Spatial Planning
Dorset Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
DORCHESTER
Dorset
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Dear Sirs

We write on behalf of the Beaminster Ramblers' Club to lodge our objection to the Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order of 24 January 2020 to upgrade the status of Crabb's Barn Lane and BR35 to a Byway Open to All Traffic.

We realise that this has been a long standing, on-going issue and that the evidence we give to support the refusal might not fit with the criteria for successful objections. However, we would ask you, particularly in these times of increased environmental awareness and the raised profile of the importance of the great outdoors towards the population's general well-being, to consider the following points.

The route in question is completely unsuitable for 'normal traffic'. The only traffic which could use it would be motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles. This is totally incompatible with the needs of the many hundreds of other people who use this route on a regular basis - for example ramblers (both local and visitors), dog walkers and horse riders. People who are hoping to enjoy the local countryside for their health and well-being. People for whom protection of the environment is a priority.

This track is prone to rainwater damage and flooding. Use of it by 4x4 vehicles makes it dangerous for those mentioned above and also has a further impact on many parts of the surrounding road network. Off road vehicles have already been known to use Fleet Street and Newtown as a racetrack, ignoring speed limits, endangering residents and schoolchildren and putting strain on the already dreadful road surface.

We would be grateful if our objections could be circulated at your next meeting and would appreciate it if you could advise us of the outcome.

Yours faithfully


Chair, Beaminster Ramblers Club
