

**FOOTPATH 51 (DORCHESTER) AND FOOTPATH 6 (WINTERBORNE  
MONKTON)**

**PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2020**

**ROW/3314535**

**STATEMENT OF CASE  
OF THE DUCHY OF CORNWALL**

**1. Background**

The Duchy of Cornwall applied for the diversion and to address a number of issues arising from the existing route:

- 1.1 Safety. Users of FP51 (Dorchester) and FP6 (Winterborne Monkton) requires crossing the A35 Trunk Road (the Dorchester bypass) on a long stretch of the road, with no restriction to the national 60 mph speed limit. In the summer this is often a very busy highway and in the winter affected by times of poor visibility.
- 1.2 Farm management. As a result of the existing FP6 (WM) dissecting the field between points B and C, there have been on-going instances of sheep worrying and fouling by dogs (of particular concern to the health of in-lamb ewes). Adjusting the route to align with field boundaries will also make the path more identifiable.

These factors remain unchanged and the many walkers now choosing to use the alternative route (provided as an interim measure as a Permissive Path), strengthens the justification and need for the Dorset Council Order to be confirmed.

**2. Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

As recognised by the Council officers and Members in Committee, the proposals meet the objectives of the Plan as follows:

- 2.1 **To provide a safer and more accessible route.** The route through the underpass and running along field boundaries provides a much safer and attractive path, therefore encouraging additional use.
- 2.2 **To identify road severances and make improvements.** The proposal eliminates the need to cross the trunk road.

2.3 **To work with partners to address road safety and incorporate Public Rights of Way into initiatives.** The proposal is a positive outcome from the development of Poundbury as an urban extension of Dorchester, enabling easier and more attractive access to the countryside.

2.4 **To develop a network of paths providing attractive, safe, off-road routes for all ages, needs and abilities.** The proposal, particularly eliminating the need to negotiate the slope down to the A35 (from point B) and then cross the A35, recognises these objectives and enables a wider proportion of the community to access the countryside.

### 3. Deliverability

The revised route has now been established for more than five years as a Permissive Path, pending formal re-routing of the definitive route. The path is being regularly used.

### 4. Conclusion

4.1 Advantages of the revised route include public safety, livestock welfare and encouraging public use and enjoyment.

4.2 The Duchy of Cornwall fully supports the “Statement of Case of Dorset County Council”. This includes modifying the Order to recognise it in the interest of the public as well as the landowner should the Inspector deem this appropriate.

4.3 The Duchy of Cornwall and the tenants of the land fully support the amendment to the Rights of Way plan.

JD Bowerman  
Estate Development Manager for the Duchy of Cornwall (Landowner)  
27 March 2024

APPENDIX A

Dorset Council plan – not to scale

