



Planning and Community Services

County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
DT1 1XJ
☎ 01305 221000
🌐 www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Date: 30 July 2019
Ref: AB RW/T539
Officer: Anne Brown
☎ 01305 221565
✉ anne.brown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Dorset Council (Part of Bridleway 18, Chideock at Mill Lane to be upgraded to Restricted Byway)
Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2019**

I am sorry there is a delay in referring the Mill Lane Chideock case to the Secretary of State for determination but limited resources have led to a backlog of cases. The case has been prioritised but there are also other priority cases ahead of it in the queue, if we find it can be dealt with any quicker we will let you know.

The extent of Mill Lane as a carriageway formed a central part of my investigation, and it is this matter which is being referred to the Secretary of State for determination. You are correct in saying that the recorded status of Mill Lane has not been changed because the order of 3 May 2019 has not been confirmed. However, the determination of public rights along Mill Lane will make no difference to any private vehicular rights which may exist. If you believe that vehicles are being driven along a bridleway / restricted byway without authority this matter should be referred to the police.

We cannot put gates on the route as a result of the modification order because the route was not dedicated with gates. If the order were to be confirmed by the Secretary of State and illegal use of the route by the public occurred as a result, this may need to be addressed by the Countryside Rangers. However, anyone with a private vehicular right would still need access.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Brown
Definitive Map Technical Officer
Planning and Community Services

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