



Dorset County Council

Dorset Highways

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Date: 23 February 2018

Ask for: Carol McKay

My ref: CAM RW/P189

Official

BY EMAIL

Dear Sir or Madam

SECTION 119, HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 9, WEST PARLEY AT DUDSBURY FORT

The County Council has received an application to divert part of Footpath 9, West Parley at Dudsbury Fort as shown on the enclosed Drawing (18/02).

This diversion is being made in the interest of the landowner as the current route runs through Dudsbury Guide Camp and the grounds of the neighbouring property, 176 Christchurch Road. The diversion would improve privacy and security for both landowners. In addition, a number of improvements have been made to the proposed new route to enhance the public's enjoyment of the Iron Age Hill Fort.

The current definitive route of Footpath 9, West Parley runs from point A to point B through the edge of a wooded area south of the property 176 Christchurch Road. At point B the footpath continues across an open grass area, which is part of the guide camp, to point C.

The proposed new route runs from point A south west along a woodland path to point D, then north west to point E, continuing around the edge of the guide camp via points F, G and H to point C. At point F vegetation has been cleared to create a viewpoint to the south west and at point H an interpretation board for Dudsbury Fort has been installed. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by the Secretary of State for the creation of the new footpath within the ramparts, including the erection of fencing, vegetation clearance and the installation of the interpretation board.

The current route of Footpath 9, West Parley between A – B – C is approximately 244 metres long and the proposed new route from A – D – E – F – G – H – C is approximately 415 metres long. The proposed diversion will therefore increase the length of the footpath by approximately 171 metres. The width of the new route will be 2 metres.

Before the Order is confirmed, the barbed wire fence alongside A – D will be removed, and overhanging vegetation and obstructions will be cleared from the new route between these points. In addition, minor improvements will be carried out to the surface of the proposed new route between D and E.

The Stour Valley Way, a long-distance walk running from Stourton in Wiltshire to Hengistbury Head in Dorset, runs along the existing route of Footpath 9, West Parley between A – B – C. If the

Mike Harries, Director for Environment and Economy

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diversion is successful, the Stour Valley Way will be routed along the new footpath A – D – E – F – G – H – C.

Under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, the ends of the diversion must be in places substantially as convenient to the public. Regard must also be paid to the effect the diversion would have on public enjoyment of the footpath as a whole, and on land served by the existing and proposed routes.

Section 29 of the Highways Act 1980, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, says that when making diversion orders the County Council must have regard to the needs of agriculture, forestry and the desirability of conserving flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features.

The current and proposed routes are available for inspection.

I should be grateful to have any comments you may wish to make in writing by **Friday 4 May 2018** so that they may be taken into consideration. If you think you will need more time to respond please let me know as soon as possible. Your comments will be treated as public information (please refer to the Data Protection information at the end of this letter) and may be incorporated if a report is made to the Regulatory Committee.

The file is available for public inspection at County Hall, by appointment. Members of the public are allowed limited public speaking at a Committee meeting. If the case is to be brought before the Committee we will write to those directly affected to advise them. If you wish to be informed of the details of the meeting please let me know.

Yours faithfully

Carol McKay

Carol McKay
Definitive Map Technical Officer (Public Path Orders)
Regulation Team

Dorset County Council is a Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act regulates how we obtain, use and retain personal information. The information you supply will be used for the purpose of fulfilling our functions and duties, including those under the Highways Act 1980 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Any information provided, including personal details will be available for public inspection, disclosed to interested third parties and may be used during public inquiries and other proceedings. By replying to this correspondence you are consenting to your personal information being retained and used for these purposes. Further information about the use of personal information and data protection is available on our web-site at www.dorsetforyou.com or by contacting the Council's Data Protection Officer.