

My ref: P127  
Your ref:  
Date: 22 October 2024  
Contact: Tom Ruzala  
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Frank Jordan  
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Consultee  
Sent by email only

Dear Consultee,

**Consultation on a proposal for a Public Path Order to divert part of Public Bridleway No. 14, Weston Colville**

I am writing to consult you on a proposal to divert the legal alignment of Public Bridleway No. 14, Weston Colville under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 in order to bring it into line on the Definitive Map with the route which has been used on the ground by the public for many years.

I have attached with this letter a plan depicting the Public Path Proposals at Weston Green which shows the following:

- The existing route of the bridleway as recorded on the Definitive Map between points 1-2-3-4-5.
- The proposed diversion route of the bridleway between points 1-6-7-8-5.
- A permissive footpath which runs parallel to the proposed diversion route of the bridleway between points 9-10-7.
- A permissive footpath which runs from the permissive footpath parallel to the proposed diversion route of the bridleway to Lower Wood between points 10-11.

**Proposed Width of the Diversion Route**

The width of the proposed diversion route of the bridleway is as follows:

- Between points 1 and 6 – the full width of the existing track which varies between 3 and 5 metres.
- Between points 6 and 7 – the full width of the existing track located between hedges – 3 metres.
- Between points 7 and 8 – the width of the field headland – 4 metres.
- Between points 8 and 5 – the width of the field headland – 3 metres.

The width of part of the proposed diversion route is 1 metre less than the standard width which the County Council would ordinarily accept for a new or diverted public bridleway (4

metres). The County Council does have the discretion, in certain circumstances, to accept routes which are less than its width standards where the overall circumstances may not make it possible to achieve the standard width.

In this case a large part of the proposed diversion route, between points 6 and 7, is located between two mature hedges (see attached photographs). In order to widen the width of the route, one of the hedges would be required to be removed. It is considered that the removal of such a significant hedge to allow additional width would have a negative environmental impact. In addition to this, the route in its current form has been used by the public for many years. Officers of the County Council are therefore minded to retain the route in its current form.

In order to ensure that the width of the route available for the public to use is as wide as possible, the landowners have made an agreement with the County Council to keep the hedges regularly cut back as far as they are able to within environmental regulations. Furthermore, the landowner of the section of the proposed route between points 7 and 8 has widened the existing field headland in order to provide additional width to users of the bridleway. The legal width of the existing bridleway recorded on the Definitive Statement is 9 feet (approx. 2.7 metres). The proposals therefore would result in a wider bridleway throughout than what exists already.

#### **What happens next?**

The County Council are currently inviting comments on the proposals. Should you wish to make a comment, please can these be to me at the email above by **19 November 2024**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruzala', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Tom Ruzala**  
**Definitive Map Officer**