

Reference: ABS/DIV/109.01.19

**Countryside Records
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Owen Jenkins
Director of Community
Operations**

9th August 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Informal Consultation

Application for Diversion of Part of Public Footpath under S119 Highways Act 1980. Part of Ardley Footpath No 1 at Hunters Green Farm.

The owners of Hunters Green Farm have applied to the County Council (OCC) to divert part of the above public right of way. This is an informal consultation seeking any comments on the proposal. These will be taken into account when OCC decides whether or not to make a diversion Order.

Any Order would be under s119 of the Highways Act 1980 in the interests of the owner and the public. The Definitive route that would be diverted and its proposed widths are shown on the attached plan and key HA1980/589.

Footpath 1 runs south-eastwards from the Fritwell road for 40m along the access to Hunters Green Farm before crossing farmland. It then runs south-south-westwards along a field margin to the farm buildings some of which have been converted to small industrial units housing businesses involved in light industry such as specialist vehicle works. The path meanders tightly between the units and in places the path is obstructed by these buildings. The path is waymarked through the units to assist walkers although the path passes immediately past accesses to working units. The path exits the complex southwards across the garden of a private residence before crossing more farmland to just north-east of the M40 motorway. It then turns south-eastwards along the foot of the motorway and leaves Hunters Green Farm eastwards across adjacent farmland.

REASONS WHY THE DIVERSION IS WANTED

The diversion is requested so that the path would avoid the beginning of the farm access leading from the Fritwell road and the industrial units thereby increasing public safety and enjoyment in both regards. The landowner and occupiers would benefit as work could take place without the need to monitor and be aware of public access and safety in the immediate vicinity. The footpath also runs along the access to a residence and across its

garden. The diversion is not requested for improving privacy in the house, but the route of the proposed diversion would at the same time divert the path from its curtilage.

The diversion route would run south-eastwards from the Fritwell road through a small covert immediately north-east of the access road across two fields to a field boundary. The path would then turn south-south-westwards along field margins to join the existing path at the boundary of the neighbouring landowner. *(NB the consent of the neighbour to agree a more direct route further eastward was not obtained despite approaches made. The diversion is therefore wholly in the ownership of the applicant).*

The width of the new path is shown on plan HA 1980/589.

The administration and advertising costs this Council incurs in respect of any Order will be recharged to the applicant. Any works that will be required will be carried out by the landowner.

Any comments you wish to make are welcomed and will be taken into account when the Council decides whether or not to make an Order. I would be grateful for any comments by **20th September 2019**. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting me on the below number.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Sylvester
Rights of Way Officer

Direct line: 01865 815302

Email: andy.sylvester@oxfordshire.gov.uk

NB

Oxfordshire County Council will consider correspondence and comments received in response to this communication, for further consideration. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.