

Notes and at Parish Meeting on 3 Feb 04

MODIFICATION ORDER CONCERNING BERWICK ST JAMES BRIDLEWAY 3.

Bridleway 3 is the track that goes from opposite The Boot up past the cricket pitch, past the pig barns and free range chicken sheds to the A303. Its general direction is towards Yarnbury Castle, but the last 100 yds kinks right (north) towards the A303, coming out opposite the water tower.

This agenda item is about upgrading it from a **bridleway** to a **byway**. The definitions of these are:

Bridleway	A public right of way for walkers, cyclists, and those on horseback or leading a horse.
Byway open to all traffic	A type of way shown on a definitive map. Although motor vehicles are entitled to use these, the predominant use is normally by walkers, horse-riders and cyclists.

A **modification order** has been raised, (but not yet approved), to do 2 things:

- change the direction of the top end of the track, and
- raise its status from bridleway to byway.

Details of this proposed Modification Order are shown on notices at the top and bottom of the track, and we have been asked to advise of any objections we might have to this before about 7th February.

I found myself confused as to why any changes are needed, particularly regarding a change in direction of the track at the top end. This is where it gets complicated, but be patient!

The official record of 1790 shows the track as a *byway* open to all traffic going *straight towards Yarnbury Castle*, i.e. with no 'kink' to the north. The Definitive map (dated 1952) shows the *route as it now is (with kink), but as a bridleway*. The Modification Order is to change back to the original 1790 layout, making it straight and a byway. **BUT** I have been told the intention is that once this has been agreed the County Council will raise a **Diversion Order** to revert to the current layout (with kink), but *leaving it as a byway*.

Why make it a byway anyway? I gather

'this will enable proper consideration to be given to objections raised to provision made for the bridleway in the Side Roads Order'

connected with the A303 plans. See plan of proposed junction to west of Winterbourne Stoke, and new bit of track connecting this to the current track.

Will the new bit of track be a bridleway or a byway? This is being negotiated with Druids.

I think we need to discuss all this, and then I will write a letter expressing our views.