

Aldermore Close,  
Pigtrough Lane,  
Donhead St Andrew,  
Shaftesbury,  
Dorset SP79ES

15th September 2015

Your Reference: JG/PC/81 2015/04

For attention of:-

Janice Green, Rights of way Officer,  
County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

Dear Mrs Green,

**Application to add a footpath to the Definitive Map for Donhead St Andrew.**

Thank you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> September inviting comments on the application for a definitive map modification, to include the footpath linking the Donhead St Andrew footpaths 4 and 5 as shown on the Map attached to your letter.

Our support of the application is based on historical mapping evidence and our own experience of using this footpath for more than 35 years prior to its status being called into question by the current owner of part of the land which it crosses. We hope that the following comments are helpful in expanding the points made in our witness statements.

**Historical mapping evidence.**

The application was accompanied by an extract from the 1901 Ordnance Survey Map Sheet LXIX Section 6, which is held in the Salisbury library. This clearly shows the footpath running from the eastern end of what is now footpath 4 near Kelloways Mill, in a northerly direction, to join what is now footpath 5 near to what was then called Ricketts Mill. (A copy of the extract scaled to 1/5000, approximately 12 inches to one mile, is enclosed for reference). You will see that this map predates the diversion, about twenty years ago, of footpath 4 to the south side of Kelloways Mill.

Earlier editions of the map show the same footpath. We have an 1886 version purchased from the Francis Frith collection; the same map can be found via their website.

The next more recent map we have located is 1925. In this and later editions, the footpath linking footpaths 4 and 5 is not shown, but to the best of our knowledge there was no Closure Order, so we conclude that the omission was probably a transcription error. This conclusion is supported by our experience of the path.

**History of use by the public.**

We moved to our present address in Pigtrough Lane in 1977. The footpath was part of a well known and well used route from Ricketts Mill and Pigtrough Lane via footpath 5 to footpath 4. Footpath 4 gives access to Mill Lane and to the centre of the village and to footpath 3 to the church and the old school which was closed in the 1960's and has become the Henrietta Barnett field centre which is used from time to time for village events. Since 1977, we and our family have used the path fairly frequently to visit neighbours in the village and to attend events at the old school, the church or onward to Donhead St Mary. We have often met other people using the path, and to the best of our knowledge previous owners of the land were aware of its use as a public path and never raised any concerns.

**Additional points.**

The section of path in question is the only footpath linking the footpath network to the South and West of Donhead St Andrew to the network to the North and East.

The land crossed by the path was sold in or about 2012 and divided between two new owners. A new fence, including the stile for the path to cross, was put up by the owner of the smaller southern section in or about 2013. After the fence was put up the owner of the larger section put up notices at the stile and northern end, alleging that the path was permissive. Subsequently, in October and November 2014, notices appeared stating that the path was closed. This has given rise to the request by Donhead St Andrew Parish Council for a definitive map amendment.

We hope these comments are helpful and we would be happy to reply to any further questions you may have.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Christopher and Caroline Kilner.