



ENVIRONMENT SERVICE, COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS TEAM

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

THE CORNWALL COUNCIL (ADDITION OF A FOOTPATH AT TRERIEVE, DOWNDERRY IN THE PARISH OF DEVIOCK) MODIFICATION ORDER 2022

THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE ORDER

FILE REF: WCA 544

Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, local authorities have a statutory duty to keep the definitive map and statement under continuous review and under Section 53(2)(b) by Order make such modifications to the definitive map and statement as appear to be requisite in consequence of the occurrence of events.

After assessing the available evidence the Council is satisfied there is sufficient evidence to meet the test for an event in *Section 53(3)(c)(i)* of the Act and has made an Order to add a Footpath in the Parish of Deviock to the Definitive Map.

Notice of the Order has been advertised on the site in question and in the local press. This provides an opportunity for the public to make representations or objections to the proposed change. This statement has been prepared to explain the Council's grounds for making the Order which are set out below:

THE COUNCIL'S REASONS FOR MAKING AN ORDER

Section 53(3)(c)(i) The discovery of evidence of a hitherto-unrecorded right of way
Before making an order the surveying authority must have discovered evidence which (when considered with all other relevant evidence available to the authority) shows that a right of way subsists, or has been reasonably alleged to subsist.

- Cornwall Council has discovered evidence of deemed dedication of a length of footpath under Section 31 of the Highways Act 1980. This evidence is sufficient to show that between points A-B on the Order map a footpath is reasonably alleged to subsist and that the map and statement should be amended accordingly.

HOW THE EVIDENCE MEETS THE TESTS FOR THE INFERENCE OF DEDICATION AT SECTION 31 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980:

Section 31 sets out a test for the statutory inference of dedication 'where a way over any land, other than a way of such a character that use of it by the public could not give rise at common law to any presumption of dedication, has been actually enjoyed by the public as of right and without interruption for a full period of 20 years, the way is to be deemed to have been dedicated as a highway unless there is sufficient evidence that there was no intention during that period to dedicate it'.

- Regarding the claim for the footpath shown between points A-B on the Order map, Cornwall Council as the relevant surveying authority has considered evidence of use on foot against the following required criteria:
 - that the public right of way has been shown to follow a defined route and is not an area over which the public have wandered to establish multiple alternative routes;
 - that 'actual enjoyment' of the way has been shown over a period of 20 years sufficient to demonstrate use by the public;
 - that use has been by the public at large, not simply by a class of people such as employees in exercise of access to a workplace, or customers accessing a business;
 - that use has been 'without interruption' for the full period of 20 years;
 - that use has been 'as of right' without force, secrecy or permission;
 - that for the purposes of calculating a 20 year period retrospectively it is considered that the landowner blocked the access to the land by constructing earth bunds in 2006 this was the date identified by users of the path and shall be taken as the date when the public's right to use the way on foot was 'brought into question';
 - that there is no relevant evidence prior to this date of a landowner's negative intention to dedicate represented with an overt contemporaneous act by way of erecting a notice, evidence to show a gate had been locked, or lodging a declaration under Section 31(6) of

the Highways Act 1980 to bring to the attention of the public their contrary intention.

- In respect of evidence of pedestrian use of the route between points A-B on the Order map the Council has concluded all the tests have been met sufficient to show the way has been used as of right for the relevant 20 year period before rights were brought into question and therefore has been dedicated as a public footpath.

GROUND ON WHICH REPRESENTATIONS AND OBJECTIONS MAY BE MADE UNDER WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

The right of objection to an order is a statutory right, but it should be exercised in a reasonable manner. Definitive map modification orders do not create new rights. Relevant representations or objections are those based on evidence of the existence or non-existence of rights, evidence that shows a path does or does not exist. Representations or objections to a definitive map modification order adding, upgrading or removing a way to the map which concern privacy, suitability, desirability, damage or the safety of users or landowners, or which claim that new rights are being created are not relevant to the existence of public rights of way.

The order will come into effect only after it has been confirmed. Making and advertising the order simply provides an opportunity for representations or objections to be made.

Reports containing the evidence upon which the determination was based are available for consultation under file reference WCA 544 on the Cornwall Council website at the following address:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/dmmo-reports/>

A copy of the Order and Order map can be downloaded from Cornwall Council's website at the following address:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/definitive-map-modification-orders/made-definitive-map-orders/>

and may also be viewed and copies requested at:

Liskeard Library and Information Service
Luxstowe House

Greenbank Road
PL14 3DZ

And

County Hall
Treyew Road
Truro
TR1 3AY

To make an arrangement to view a copy of the report, or to discuss your concerns about this order, please contact the DMMO Team at the address above or by email DMMOOrders@cornwall.gov.uk or by telephoning 0300 1234 202

Copies of the Order and Order Map may also be requested as follows:

- By email from DMMOOrders@cornwall.gov.uk
- By telephoning 0300 1234 202
- In writing by post to the Senior Natural Environment Records Officer, Cornwall Council, Environment Service, PO Box 676, Threemilestone, Truro TR1 9EQ

DATE OF DOCUMENT

26 January 2022