



Planning Inspectorate

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: ROW/3354541

Cheddleton Parish Council
34 The Walks
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 8BY

17 October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Section 53
Order Making Authority: Staffordshire County Council
Title of Order: Staffordshire County Council (Addition of public footpaths between Deep Hayes and Crownpoint in the Parish of Cheddleton) DMMO 2024

I refer to the above-mentioned Order which has been submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation. In accordance with the Act (Paragraph 10 of Schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981); the Order is to be determined by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

It is understood that the Order was made on the direction of the Secretary of State and I understand from the Order Making Authority that they will be taking a neutral stance. In light of this are you happy to take the case forward? If so, you will be expected to follow the timetable in place of the Authority. I enclose a copy of the Council's statement of reasons for your information.

The Act (Paragraph 7(2) of Schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981); states that where an objection or representation has been made and not withdrawn, the objector/representor has a right to be heard by a person appointed for the purpose. Alternatively, with the agreement of the Order Making Authority, objectors/representors and applicant (if applicable), a decision may be made following an exchange of written representations. If this method is adopted, the Inspector will visit the site before coming to their decision.

By agreeing to this procedure, all parties will be expected to abide by the Inspectorate's procedure for written representations, which can be found at Annex B of our booklet *Guidance on procedures for considering objections to Definitive Map and Public Path Orders in England*. The procedure, which is also summarised in section 5 of the booklet, sets out the timetable for the submission of statements of case. Before agreeing to written representations, we ask all parties to ensure that they are familiar with the procedure and the timetable. Your attention is also drawn to section 6 of the booklet which identifies the various matters to be considered by the Secretary of State or Inspector in deciding whether or not to confirm an order.

Our booklet is available to view/download online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rights-of-way-guidance-booklet>. Hard copies are available on request.

Will you please let me know, by 31 October 2025, whether you would be happy to adopt the written representations procedure. If you have not replied by the above mentioned date, it will be assumed that you are happy for this procedure to be adopted.

The Inspectorate considers that it is in everyone's interest for all objections and representations to be publicly available. I have therefore asked the Council to make the objections/representations made in relation to this case available for viewing at their offices. They have also been asked to ensure that all statements of case and any other document submitted in relation to this case be made available for public inspection in due course.

In any event, please be aware that the Inspector will not have access to the Schedule 14 appeal case that preceded the making of this Order. You will therefore need to ensure that all the evidence you intend to rely on is submitted, even if it was submitted as evidence for the Schedule 14 appeal.

Enclosures:

Order Making Authority's Statement of Reasons (Document Number 2.1)

Index to Statement of Reasons

Yours faithfully,

Helen Sparks

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices>