

INTRODUCTION

Definitive Maps and Statements record the existence and route of any public rights of way that exist over a parcel of land. These maps and statements provide conclusive evidence of the existence of public rights of way and are very important for both landowners and users as a record of where the public has a right to walk, ride horses, and drive vehicles.

Under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 you can apply to have a public footpath diverted. Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 allows the Council to create new paths.

THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE ORDER. It has been prepared to explain why the order has been made.

THIS ORDER

Central Bedfordshire Council has made an Order to divert two sections of Bridleway No. 49 and create a new section of Footpath No. 57, Houghton Regis at Thorn Turn.

Central Bedfordshire Council has made Orders to :

- **Divert two parts of Houghton Regis Bridleway No. 49, Houghton Regis to allow the installation of a new permanent culvert over the Ouzel Brook and to move the bridleway's junction with Thorn Road away from the junction of the new vehicular access road.**
- **Create a new section of Houghton Regis Footpath No. 57 to connect one of the diverted sections of Bridleway No. 49 with the unaffected section of Footpath No. 57.**
- **The new routes of the sections of Houghton Regis Bridleway No. 49 will have a grass surface and retain a width of 4 metres. The new section of Houghton Regis Footpath No. 57 will have a width of 2 metres.**

OBJECTING TO THE ORDERS

Objections or representations relating to these orders must be made in writing by the date stated in the Public Notice to: Senior GIS Officer, Rights of Way Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5QT

The Council is willing to discuss the concerns of anyone considering objecting or making representations relating to the orders. Please telephone 0300 300 6530.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

If there are no objections to the orders, or if all objections are withdrawn, the Council will confirm the orders which will then come into operation.

If objections are made and these are not withdrawn, the Council must forward the orders to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who will appoint an independent inspector to consider the evidence and hear the objections, normally by holding a public inquiry or by means of an exchange of written representations. Objectors to the orders will be given the chance to put their case at an inquiry and will be able to cross-examine any witnesses produced by the Council. The inspector may then decide to confirm the orders, with or without modification, or may decide that it should not be confirmed.

These orders have no effect until and unless confirmed.