

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19
Sent: 25/03/2025 09:01:00

Good morning both,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] which I know will have been appreciated by them as it is by us.

Thank you also for confirming that you wish to withdraw your objection.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer

Essex
Highways 

[REDACTED]

www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2025 08:53
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello [REDACTED] thank you for your note from last Tuesday.

This is a quick update to let you know that we met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] over the weekend. It was very helpful to be able to talk through all the various points with them, and we understand that they are sympathetic to our, (and others), local concerns. As a consequence, we further understand that they are proposing to establish a permissive path along the edge of their lawned garden and trees which largely preserves the status quo. Of course this negates any need for FP13 to be unblocked, and we feel that should now be left as is to avoid any further complication. This approach meets most of the concerns we had raised and we would therefore be happy to withdraw our objection.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 March 2025 14:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

Good afternoon both,

Apologies for the delayed response.

I have spoken to the applicant who advised that as he works from home, he can be flexible in terms of when to meet and is waiting to hear from you re a suitable time/date.
He has also provided his phone number in addition to the email already provided to make that easier (mob no.: [REDACTED]).

It is unlikely that [REDACTED] or I will be able to attend this visit, but we have both previously visited the site and so can respond to feedback as required.

In terms of the points that you have challenged, I do note your position and respect it, however, the only relevant comparison in a public path order consultation is between current public rights of way (PROW) and those proposed, and not with permissive or other routes, which are not PROW. I am sure that there will be the opportunity to discuss any issues concerning the proposal when you meet with [REDACTED].
The reinstatement of Footpath 13 in due course would enable a very small circular walk albeit one that will likely necessitate a number of structures (gates) to secure animals, but without the proposals for Footpaths 17 and 19 being secured as of right, the opportunity to improve the wider network for the majority would be lost.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 12 March 2025 14:05
To: [REDACTED] >
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

We're following up on your email from last week, and yes we will get in touch with [REDACTED] the applicant and aim to meet with him as you suggest.

We do have to challenge some of the points made in your email as follows:

Firstly, additional meterage on existing walks, whether official or custom and practice, will not always be beneficial. Elderly residents are likely to be disadvantaged in losing a relatively short circular walk in favour of a much longer route. We note your comment about the Ramblers Association but in our opinion this is very much a local issue, as the established walking route around the field adjacent to the applicants' garden offers an ideal distance both for those who may not be able to walk longer distances, and those who simply don't have the time. Most of the usage of this area is local people hurrying about their local lives, dog walking before/after work etc. The Ramblers may well be consulted over these things but given this existing usage we are not surprised that they are not bothered, so the point in our view is irrelevant. You also mention the Parish Council in this context. We cannot speak for them, but have copied in [REDACTED] of the PC.

Secondly, the reason we refer to the reinstatement of FP 13 is linked directly to our first point. Reinstating the illegally blocked FP13 offers a shorter alternate route to the extended route in your proposal and would tackle some of the concerns. We appreciate that any such reinstatement impacts a wider number of landowners and are sure would raise broader concerns from those landowners who currently don't have a problem. Such reinstatement is not our ideal as we, like all other local users, already follow the custom and practice route to avoid going through people's gardens and would be happy to continue doing that.

Finally, we will contact the applicant to have the conversation which you suggest. In our view it would be beneficial in terms of understanding and any follow up if you were also in attendance.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 March 2025 11:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

Good morning both,

Apologies for the delayed response.

I wanted to take this opportunity to respond on a few of the points made below (blue text), but also to extend an invitation to you from the applicant, [REDACTED]

He has agreed that I can provide his email address [REDACTED] with the intention that arrangements can be made between you both to perhaps meet on site to see if an accommodation can be made that suits you all. I know that respondents and applicants have found this approach to be beneficial in other cases so please do get in touch with him if this is something that you are interested in.

"We have just come back from a lovely frosty walk around the local footpaths and remain perplexed at this application. We do of course understand that there is a presumption in the legislation that landowners should be able to divert paths crossing their gardens/land, as long as the new path is not substantially less convenient. We would point out that the proposed new route is significantly longer than the current custom and practice routes which could significantly affect some members of our community."

The footpaths around this area are leisure routes in terms of usage and it is generally accepted in public path orders that adding additional meterage in such circumstances, e.g. the creation of the new circular route here 'as of right', is beneficial to the PROW network. The Ramblers Association (and all other stakeholders/user groups including the Parish Council) were consulted in this proposal and tellingly did not raise an objection. It must also be noted that without this public path order there is no legitimate circular walk and so any connections that may be being made by walkers at present are not protected in law.

"A further reason that the garden part of FP 19 is not walked is that it adjoins solely that part of FP 13 which you already know to be blocked (in fact on land which appears to be owned by the same landowner as is making this application), and again has been blocked for the 21 years we know about and no doubt many years before that. It feels only fair and indeed logical that any diversion of FP 19 as proposed is contingent upon FP 13 being cleared in advance. We note you say that FP 13 will be attended to in due course by the PROW section, but the two matters are clearly linked and Essex as the responsible authority need to address this as a joint concern."

Footpath 13 is not solely in the ownership of the applicant as previously advised when I mentioned why it was not itself included in the order. The diversion of Footpaths 17 & 19 is proposed under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 and is not linked to any reinstatement of Footpath 13, which will be undertaken by a different team. It must be acknowledged that as you say is has been unavailable for some considerable time.

It is not reasonable therefore when reinstatement will involve cutting through vegetation, creating gaps in fences securing these for livestock with licensed gates etc. to precondition the diversion order for two other footpaths on the reinstatement of a footpath that is not itself part of the diversion order. Clearly if a solution cannot be found Footpath 13 will need to be reinstated by PROW colleagues.

"The other part of FP 19/17 running north west (ie before the 45 degree turn across the garden) is well used by walkers. The proposed diversion away from this garden has the effect of removing this well walked path. Collateral damage. Walkers coming in a south east direction along this path then continue along the track to join the Harcamlow Way on Deynes Road – there is no notice to say that this track cannot be walked (again, hasn't been a notice in our 21 years)."

The diversion order can only address PROW as shown on the Definitive Map and Statement and not any other routes. What this order seeks to do within the limits of landownership and the legislation is address a long-standing issue, provide a new circular walk for walkers to enjoy 'as of right' thereby securing rights that are otherwise not established. I would suggest meeting with the applicant to discuss these matters further.

Can we politely ask if you have walked the path [REDACTED]?

Yes, I certainly have walked the proposed diversion routes in their entirety with the PROW Officer when we started this case and assessed the proposal. All applications are thoroughly assessed by the Definitive Map team Officer and the appropriate PROW Officer before being taken forward to make sure that we are confident that meet the criteria of the legislation. It might be tempting if you are unfamiliar with them to view public path orders as akin to planning applications where local planning authority officers may not visit a site. They are not. We always attend site and do not rely on a desktop analysis.

Kind regards

██████████ | Public Path Order and Development Officer



www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: ██████████
Sent: 28 February 2025 15:59
To: ██████████ >
Cc: ██████████
Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear ██████████

Thank you very much for your quick reply to our email, and apologies for our delay in coming back to you.

We have just come back from a lovely frosty walk around the local footpaths and remain perplexed at this application. We do of course understand that there is a presumption in the legislation that landowners should be able to divert paths crossing their gardens/land, as long as the new path is not substantially less convenient. We would point out that the proposed new route is significantly longer than the current custom and practice routes which could significantly affect some members of our community.

The concern we have is that part of the footpath being diverted (the bit of FP 19 through the applicants' garden) is not currently in use, as all walkers have for many years taken the reasonable approach to walk between the garden's edge and the field adjacent. This has been the practice for the 21 years we have lived here and I'm sure for many decades before that, as it was custom and practice before our arrival. A further reason that the garden part of FP 19 is not walked is that it adjoins solely that part of FP 13 which you already know to be blocked (in fact on land which appears to be owned by the same landowner as is making this application), and again has been blocked for the 21 years we know about and no doubt many years before that. It feels only fair and indeed logical that any diversion of FP 19 as proposed is contingent upon FP 13 being cleared in advance. We note you say that FP 13 will be attended to in due course by the PROW section, but the two matters are clearly linked and Essex as the responsible authority need to address this as a joint concern.

The other part of FP 19/17 running north west (ie before the 45 degree turn across the garden) is well used by walkers. The proposed diversion away from this garden has the effect of removing this well walked path. Collateral damage. Walkers coming in a south east direction along this path then continue along the track to join the Harcamlow Way on Deynes Road – there is no notice to say that this track cannot be walked (again, hasn't been a notice in our 21 years).

Walkers have always appeared to be sensitive and pragmatic in choosing to avoid walking over the garden in question. There are no signs indicating that the currently walked paths (by custom and practice) should not be used and there have been no signs in our 21 plus years here. Clearly application could have been made by residents, walkers etc for this route to be formalised as there has been more than 20 years of uninterrupted and unobstructed use; neither have residents, walkers etc (as far as we are aware) pushed for action to be taken against the landowners regarding the illegally blocked FP 13. A pragmatic approach has

always been taken to work around the problem and it is a shame that this appears to not now be the case. We do not feel able to withdraw our objection therefore.

Can we politely ask if you have walked the path [REDACTED]?

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 February 2025 10:31
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

Sorry! I'm having IT issues this morning.

I'll start again 😊

Dear both,

In respect of the points raised please see my responses below.

'FP19 where it crosses the Deynes Farm garden - this could be easily remedied by linking FP19 and FP13 along the boundary of the garden and field to the north. A simple solution which avoids people walking through the garden.'

If I have understood correctly this alternative route that you describe would still have a privacy impact upon the applicant by taking walkers directly behind their garden.

Their application to divert the footpath as proposed is supported both by the s119 Highways Act legislation and the attached DEFRA guidance.

'If the proposal goes ahead as set out in the Order it is essential that FP13 is cleared and made available for use to connect to Deynes Road. This section leading up to Deynes Road from the top left is completely blocked and overgrown.'

Yes, I would agree, however, that is not the function of a public path order nor part of this consultation. The PROW Officer is aware of the issue re Footpath 13 and will attend to that in due course.

It was not possible to include Footpath 13 in this order as 3rd party landowner consent was not forthcoming.

'Why is it necessary to close the whole of FP19? An alternative would be to divert that part of FP19 which runs through Deynes Farm garden and connect it to FP13 at the north west point of the Deynes Farm plot - a route which is well established (we have certainly walked it almost daily in our 21 years of living in Debden) and reflects the fact that FP13 has been blocked and unavailable throughout that time. This would complete and formalise the very well established circular walk.'

Footpath 19 is not being closed it is being diverted. In processing a public path order we can only deal with legal routes and not walked routes. This diversion order will create a new circular route 'as of public right.' No such rights currently exist.

'It all seems like a "hammer to crack a nutshell", but of course the objective behind this proposed Order is not transparent. Why isn't the detail of the application together with consultees' responses made public (such as in a planning application) so that there is clarity of objective and motivation?'

The proposed order necessarily deals with the applicant's right in law to apply to divert the public footpaths over their land 'in their interests.' This is the first test of the legislation and is assessed by the order making authority (ECC) and unlike the proposed route, is not the matter being consulted upon. As advised above the legislation and DEFRA guidance support diversions away from gardens and working farms.

I hope that the above helps explain this diversion order. In the view of the order making authority this order represents an opportunity to create a new circular route that the public will be able to use as of right as well as addressing a long-standing issue.

In view of the above I would ask if you would give consideration to withdrawing your objection.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer

Essex
Highways 

[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: Public Path Orders

Sent: 24 February 2025 10:17

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] >

Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

Good morning both,

Sorry, yes, I saw after I had replied that you had already emailed.

In respect of the points raised please see my responses below.

'FP19 where it crosses the Deynes Farm garden - this could be easily remedied by linking FP19 and FP13 along the boundary of the garden and field to the north. A simple solution which avoids people walking through the garden.'

If I have understood correctly this alternative route would still have a privacy impact upon the applicant by

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 24 February 2025 10:10

To: Public Path Orders [REDACTED] >

Cc: [REDACTED] >

Subject: RE: Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for the reply. In the event I did on 19th February send in our response on this email address, and I also put a hard copy in the post direct to you, in order to comply with the representation deadline. I have copied the text below for ease of reference.

Thank you,

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Attn Mr [REDACTED]
Definitive Map Service
ECC (originally sent on 19th February 2025)

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Representation/objection re Debden Footpaths 17 & 19

We wish to make the following points:

FP19 where it crosses the Deynes Farm garden - this could be easily remedied by linking FP19 and FP13 along the boundary of the garden and field to the north. A simple solution which avoids people walking through the garden.

If the proposal goes ahead as set out in the Order it is essential that FP13 is cleared and made available for use to connect to Deynes Road. This section leading up to Deynes Road from the top left is completely blocked and overgrown.

Why is it necessary to close the whole of FP19? An alternative would be to divert that part of FP19 which runs through Deynes Farm garden and connect it to FP13 at the north west point of the Deynes Farm plot - a route which is well established (we have certainly walked it almost daily in our 21 years of living in Debden) and reflects the fact that FP13 has been blocked and unavailable throughout that time. This would complete and formalise the very well established circular walk.

It all seems like a "hammer to crack a nutshell", but of course the objective behind this proposed Order is not transparent. Why isn't the detail of the application together with consultees' responses made public (such as in a planning application) so that there is clarity of objective and motivation?

We respectfully request that our comments be taken into account.

[REDACTED]

From: Public Path Orders [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 February 2025 07:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:

Good morning,

Yes, an email to this email address would be acceptable.

It would need to state the order (inc. path number/s and parish) it applies to and the grounds on which they are made (which should relate to the relevant legislation).

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2025 08:59
To: Public Path Orders <[REDACTED]>
Subject:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

FAO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] can we send representations in via email please? The public notice reads as if a letter is required, but assume that in this day and age an email would be acceptable. Please confirm.
Thanks - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in this communication may contain confidential, privileged and copyright information and is solely for the use of the intended recipient.

Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorised.

If you are not the intended recipient any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken, or omitted to be taken, or in response to it is prohibited and may be unlawful.

If you have received this email in error, please notify us and then delete this message at once.

VIRUSES

We cannot guarantee that any attachment is completely free from computer viruses and we do not therefore accept any liability for loss or damage which may be caused.

Please therefore check any attachments for viruses before using them on your own equipment.

If you do find a computer virus please inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action.

SECURITY

Unencrypted internet communications are not secure.

As a result the Company does not accept responsibility for the confidentiality of this message nor guarantee that the sender shown is the actual sender.

NOTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO PRIVACY

You are hereby advised that the Company monitors the use of and intercepts emails on its equipment and system.

Emails sent and received may be read for valid business reasons.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in this communication may contain confidential, privileged and copyright information and is solely for the use of the intended recipient.

Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorised.

If you are not the intended recipient any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken, or omitted to be taken, or in response to it is prohibited and may be unlawful.

If you have received this email in error, please notify us and then delete this message at once.

VIRUSES

We cannot guarantee that any attachment is completely free from computer viruses and we do not therefore accept any liability for loss or damage which may be caused.

Please therefore check any attachments for viruses before using them on your own equipment.

If you do find a computer virus please inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action.

SECURITY

Unencrypted internet communications are not secure.

As a result the Company does not accept responsibility for the confidentiality of this message nor guarantee that the sender shown is the actual sender.

NOTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO PRIVACY

You are hereby advised that the Company monitors the use of and intercepts emails on its equipment and system.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Order for Footpaths 17 and 19 Debden.
Sent: 03/03/2025 11:14:00

Good morning Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your confirmation of withdrawal of your objection.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2025 10:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Order for Footpaths 17 and 19 Debden.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

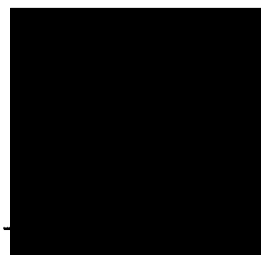
Dear Mr [REDACTED]
Subsequent to a meeting together, Mr [REDACTED] has contacted me by Email with further details of his intentions, and on his assurance, I am willing to withdraw my objections to this Order.


It is timely that the confusion around the paths crossing this area have been finally sorted.

My kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Tuesday 11th February 2025
Five sheets enclosed




Definitive Map Service
Essex County Council
Seax House, 2nd Floor
Victoria Rad South
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Public Path Diversion Order. Footpaths 17 and 19 Debden.

Dear Mr 

I write to object to the above Order as it raises some unsatisfactory outcomes for many walkers. Footpath 13 is not included with these proposed changes and I am puzzled why this is so.

Background

The southern ends of Footpaths 13 and Footpath 19 have been obstructed and unwalkable for well over 45 years. Walkers have come to accept this, and it seems, the land owners too. During this time, properties in this vicinity have changed hands and new ones have been developed. It would be difficult to imagine conveyancing solicitors not seizing the opportunity to make their clients absolutely aware of existing Rights of Way crossing their new purchase.

Over all these years, walkers have simply bypassed the obstruction problem by using an alternative route to continue their intended journey. The alternative route is shown on the accompanying marked up map. It runs from where Footpath 18 joins Footpath 13 (Grid Ref. 55575 23366, Point X). and goes generally eastwards to meet with the southern end of Footpath 19 where it meets the boundary of a garden (Grid Ref. 55591 23370, Point Y). From here the hard standing is visible at the top of what I shall call "Barn Lane". Walkers now go south to connect with Footpath 71 and 24 (Grid Ref, 55595 23355, Point Z).

"Barn Lane", as I have called it, has a well-built high wall running along most of its western side, interspersed with equally well built and stout gates. A concrete surface runs all the way to the hard standing. The eastern edge of the lane is more naturally vegetated with a pond and an entrance drive to a fairly recent property, (on a 45-year time scale), 'Deynes Farm'.

Also enclosed are copies of two maps from the records of The Saffron Walden and District Footpaths Association, showing the alternative routes walked in August 1981 and February 2006. I distinctly remember being on the 1981 walk. The alternative route has been walked by the Footpaths Association on several other occasions, all within the last 46 years.

As they were shorter Evening, Night or Boxing Day Walks, maps were not issued and so we hold no documentary record of the actual routes.

We were never approached, asked or guided on or off this route. Relations and acquaintances living in the village confirm this attitude. No notices have ever been seen and walkers were always just left to get on with it. One is led to ask if this long period of use and indifference to its use, why the whole route (marked in pink on accompanying map) could not just be made 'official'.

Objections

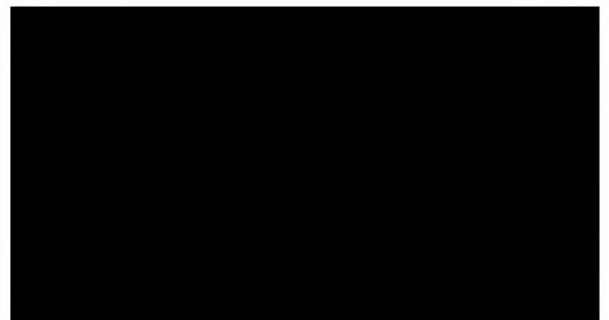
The Order lessens the recreational choices of walkers in that area of the village; a short $\frac{3}{4}$ mile walk from the Recreational Ground or a modest stroll for the elderly, is to be extended to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and over a worse surface. Adding an east west path H - G does nothing for those wishing for a short route. Removing the southern end of Footpath 19 now sends walkers off on a much longer route via points E and D.

Furthermore, D - E is a cross-field path likely to be cultivated and reinstated making it unwalkable for some periods. This is what happens at Footpath 26 situated further east (which also runs north/south). Footpath 19 from point C southwards is a raised and well-established all-season path, and walking northwards, affords a fine view into the Water Lane valley.

The proposed changes significantly reduce the enjoyment to be derived from the footpath network in this area taken as a whole. The diverted path would be substantially less convenient to the public than either the true outlet to Deynes Lane via Footpath 13, or the actual route taken by walkers via "Barn Lane".

I await with interest to hear where matters go from here.

Kind regards,





ALTERNATIVE
ROUTE - USED
FOR LAST 46
YEARS OR MORE

All Technology © Copyright:

Streetmap.co.uk/Streetmap EU Ltd 20201

This site includes mapping data licenced from Open
Street Map, Ordnance Survey & Bartholomew.

[Landscape](#)
[Print](#)

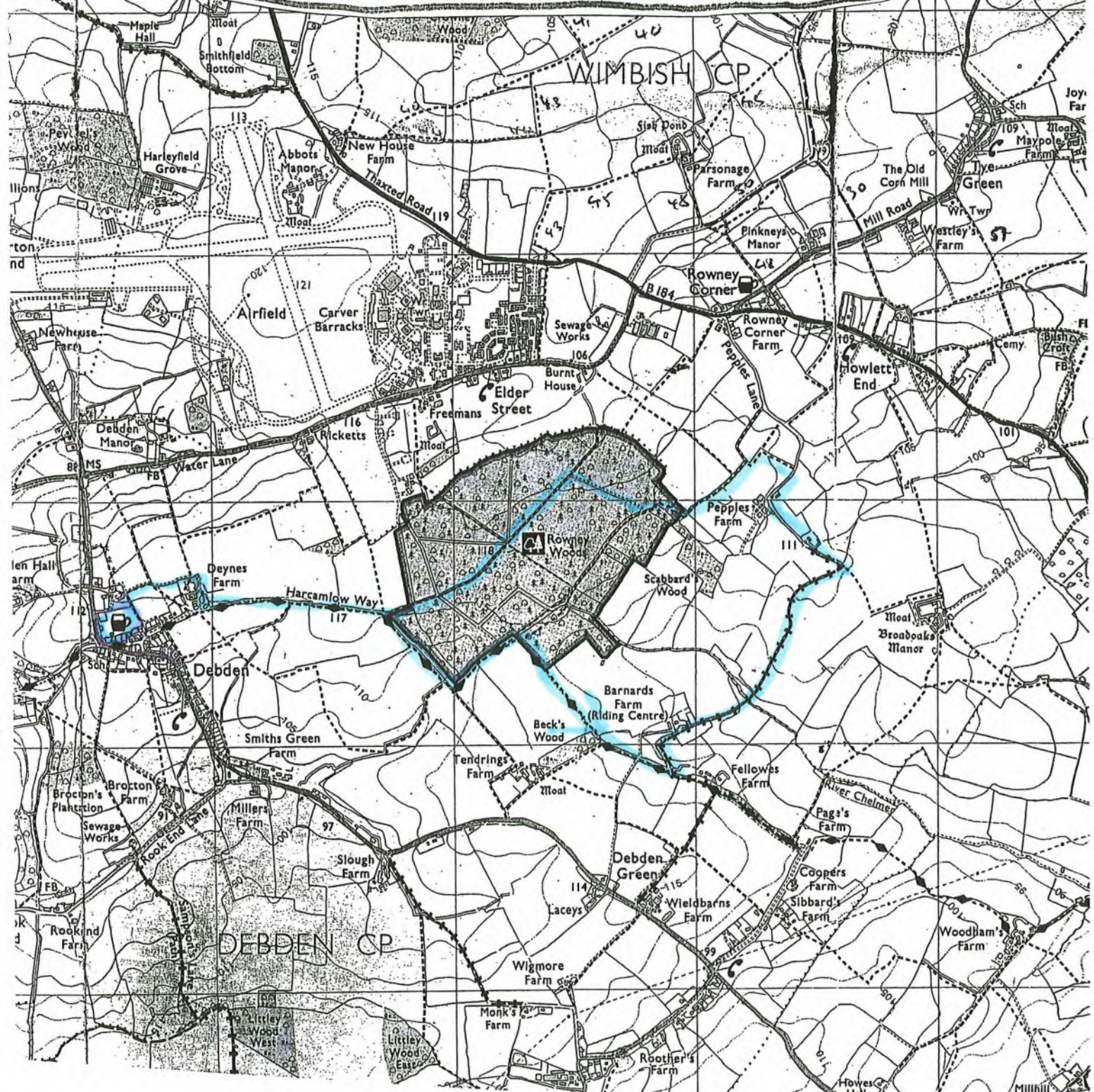
The Saffron Walden & District Footpaths Association

Route for our afternoon walk on Sunday the 19th of February 2006 in the Debden area.
Leave Common car park at 1.0pm & share cars to the walk start point which is Debden Village Hall
car park Grid Ref. 555 335. Leader - David Coe 522590 Walk distance 5 miles.

Our next Sunday afternoon walk will be on the 19th of March in the Debden Green area, leaving
Common at 2.00

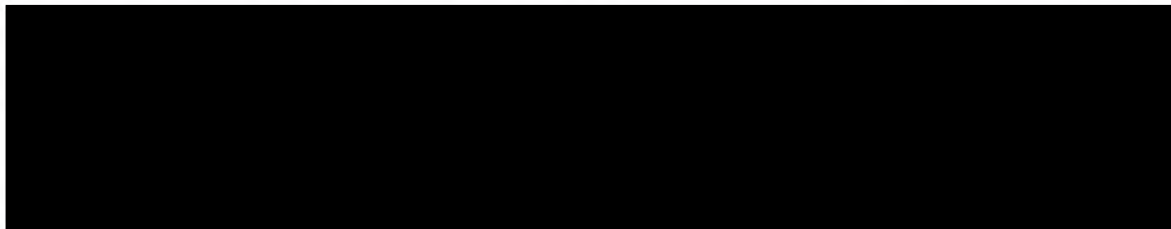
Visitors and newcomers are welcome to all our walks.

31 WALKERS
4 1006





Saffron Walden & District Footpaths Association.



Proposed walk for 16-8-81

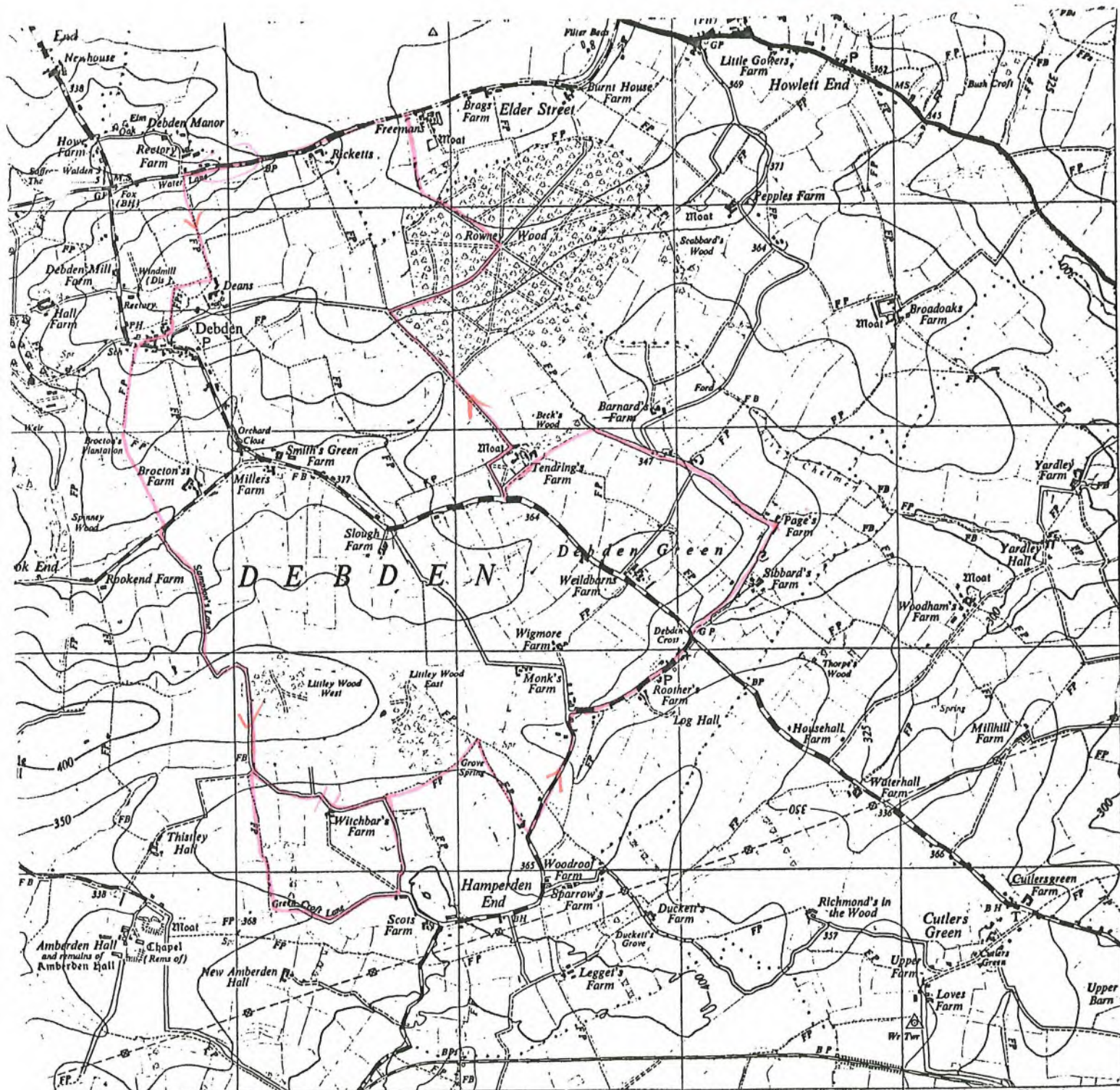
Area Debden - Debden Green

Leader Bill Morris

Distance 7½ miles

Walkers 27+

TWO FIRST. PARTY SPLIT.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Change to footpaths
Attachments: [PROW-24-29.pdf](#)
Sent: 24/02/2025 12:43:00

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I have spoken to the applicant who confirms that if the diversion order is confirmed the route from D to E will be made into a permanent grass strip.
All of the new routes will have a 2-metre width, which is in excess of any of the current legal routes.

The other diversion routes (G-H, F-C) are field edge paths.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 February 2025 17:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Change to footpaths

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

HighWays Act 1980 - SECTION 119
re dIVERSION OF fOOTPATHS 17 &19
Debden in Distric of Uttlesford
Your RE Footpaths 17&19

Im 82 and have walk these paths for years,I would be sad to see them removed.

If you do wish to do away with them
and put new ones in across the middle of the fields,
they need to be 2 meters wide and raised and grassed over, other wise they will just be muddy and impassable.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: UTT Debden 17+19 Deynes Road CB11 3LG - MADE ORDER CONSULTATION
[defra-presumptions-guidance-ppo.pdf](#);s119 MO newspaper s119 MO site notice Debden FPs17 & 19.pdf;HIGH13409FINALAmendedEsealedE0989MadeOrderdd09012025S119FPs1719Debdenpdf-V1.pdf;UTT_14_3488_DOC-Lets DeynesHse BLOCK_PLAN-FP13 NOTshown.pdf;
Attachments:
Sent: 13/02/2025 08:23:00

Morning [REDACTED]

Yes Footpath 13 would almost certainly be obstructed by boundary features and fences, which is a known issue.
Unfortunately, it is not within the ownership or control of our applicant.
It was included in our original proposal for these changes, but in the end third-party landowner consent was not forthcoming.

We are aware of the various planning apps concerning that land as our response to them lead to them changing the plans for the last one so that it very narrowly avoided the PROW, which was a shame as we were hoping to provoke a resolution to the long-standing issue.
I am not surprised if the house has not been built as I doubt that anyone would want to have their new house and windows situated that close to where the public are walking.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 February 2025 00:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: re: UTT Debden 17+19 Deynes Road CB11 3LG - MADE ORDER CONSULTATION

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

re: UTT Debden 17+19 Deynes Road CB11 3LG - MADE ORDER CONSULTATION

Just a query about the connected Debden FP13 whose south-east end passes through the grounds of Deynes House before joining Deynes Road / Debden FP71.

I have not had time to visit the site but I am concerned that Debden FP13 is obstructed as it passes the outbuildings which according to Uttlesford planning applications are let with rear (west) amenity areas - see the attached plan from UTT/14/3488/DOC which does not show FP13. An infill house was also given planning permission but does not appear to have been built (UTT/18/2017 & UTT/21/2864/DOC).

There is a a very recent fault report ref. 2961048 (Feb 2025) showing on the EH Track-It system for "obstruction of FP13".

[REDACTED]
OSS - Essex Local Correspondent
email: oss.essex@gmail.com
te [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:FW: FOOTPATHS 17 AND 19 DEBDEN , UTTLESFORD DISTRICT DIVERSION MADE ORDER CONSULTATION

Date:Thu, 23 Jan 2025 10:17:21 +0000

From:[REDACTED]
To:[REDACTED]

From:[REDACTED]
Sent: 23 January 2025 09:09
Subject: FOOTPATHS 17 AND 19 DEBDEN , UTTLESFORD DISTRICT DIVERSION MADE ORDER CONSULTATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

Highways Act 1980 Section 119

Essex County Council has Made an Order to divert Footpaths 17 & 19 in the parish of Debden in the District of Uttlesford.

Attached is a copy of the Made order and the Notice which will be posted on site and appear in the Saffron Walden Reporter on Thursday 23 January 2025.

You have already been informed of this proposal, but if you have any further comments to make, please do so by 20 February 2025.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in this communication may contain confidential, privileged and copyright information and is solely for the use of the intended recipient.

Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorised.

If you are not the intended recipient any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken, or omitted to be taken, or in response to it is prohibited and may be unlawful.

If you have received this email in error, please notify us and then delete this message at once.

VIRUSES

We cannot guarantee that any attachment is completely free from computer viruses and we do not therefore accept any liability for loss or damage which may be caused.

Please therefore check any attachments for viruses before using them on your own equipment.

If you do find a computer virus please inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action.

SECURITY

Unencrypted internet communications are not secure.

As a result the Company does not accept responsibility for the confidentiality of this message nor guarantee that the sender shown is the actual sender.

NOTIFICATION WITH REGARD TO PRIVACY

You are hereby advised that the Company monitors the use of and intercepts emails on its equipment and system.

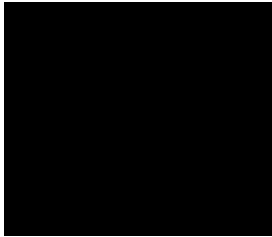
Emails sent and received may be read for valid business reasons.



Virus-free www.avg.com



Seax House
2nd Floor
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH



Our Ref:
Debden FPs
17 & 19
Date:25.04.25

Dear [REDACTED],

Re: proposal to divert Footpaths 17 & 19 Debden, Uttlesford District

Thank you for your letter of the 31st and apologies for my having omitted my email address from my previous communication.

Please allow me to address the points raised in your letter.

The proposed shorter route would run directly behind the applicant's property and so would, like the current legal route, directly impact upon the privacy and security of their house and garden. In response to what has changed? It has always been the right of a landowner to apply to divert public rights of way in their interest, which can include concerns re privacy and security, but it is also the responsibility of a landowner to instigate such an application and to pay the associated costs of doing so. In addition, the DEFRA Presumptions guidance has more recently been issued, and this places additional emphasis on these issues and on order making and confirming authorities considering them when making or confirming an order.

The shorter route would pass along Deynes Farm's vehicle access leading to both residential and barn buildings with use by a variety of vehicles. The current and future vehicle usage of this is something that you could discuss with the applicant at a site meeting, but as the Highway Authority we would be unlikely to support a route that ran along there.

I would advise though that this was simply a consultation on a defined proposal as an alternative route to the current, definitive public right of way route with those being the routes under consideration. I am certain though that you would find it beneficial to meet with the applicant if you were willing to do so, and it would provide an opportunity to directly air your views as well as give consideration to their concerns.



Can I therefore please take this opportunity to suggest that you either get in touch with the applicant via the details already provided or else contact me so that I can make the arrangements between you.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the above.

Yours Sincerely



Essex Highways



www.essex.gov.uk/highways

www.essex.gov.uk/enquiries

Enc. Plan No.PROW-24-29, DEFRA Presumptions guidance, Objection letter



31 March 2025

Dear Mr 

Thank you for your letter dated 28.3.25 ref : Debden FPs 17 & 19

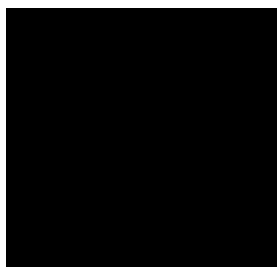
I note the proposed grass path on the alternative route. However, it is still unclear to me why my shorter, more straightforward proposal was rejected for security/privacy reasons? There are many houses in our village that have public footpaths behind them(eg Thaxted Road/High Street) - including my own - why should this re-routing be held to a much higher standard than the pre-existing routes?

Also, as regards to safety concerns on the north-south route it is unclear what this relates to. We live in a semi-rural situation where farm machinery movements are all part of our weekly lives & Deynes Farm is no longer a working farm.

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely


Ps I would have emailed this but you did not include your address






Our Ref:
Debden FPs
17 & 19
Date:28.03.25

Dear 

Re: proposal to divert Footpaths 17 & 19 Debden, Uttlesford District

Thank you for your letter concerning the above and apologies for the time taken to get it touch with you.

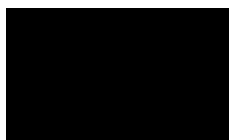
The aim of this diversion proposal is to address a long-standing issue with Footpath 19 while also taking account of the recently issued DEFRA Presumptions guidance to order making and confirming authorities (enclosed) in respect of public rights of way (PROW) located within working farms and private gardens. In addition, the proposal provides an extended circular route for walkers to enjoy 'as of right' where currently such rights do not exist. The intention with the diverted route of Footpath 19 is for it to become a permanent grass strip so that if the diversion order is confirmed there should not be any issues with a muddy surface as it will have the same surface as the other PROW.

Thank you also for your suggested alternative route, which was considered but was not able to be taken forwards. The concerns that both we and the applicant shared with that option were that it would not adequately address their security/privacy and safety concerns (safety: in terms of the north/south route through the farm) as addressed in the DEFRA guidance if those routes became a PROW. However, the applicant, , has asked me to extend an offer for you to meet with him on site at your convenience where he can discuss the section behind The Old Barn & Deynes House with you. If this is of interest he can be contacted on  or via email at . He works from home and so is flexible in respect of timings.

CONTINUED

I would be grateful if after reflection on the above you could give consideration to the withdrawal of your objection and would appreciate it if greatly you could let me know via my email address below.

Yours Sincerely



Essex Highways

Telephone:



www.essex.gov.uk/highways

www.essex.gov.uk/enquiries

Enc. Plan No.PROW-24-29, DEFRA Presumptions guidance, Objection letter



Dear Mr 

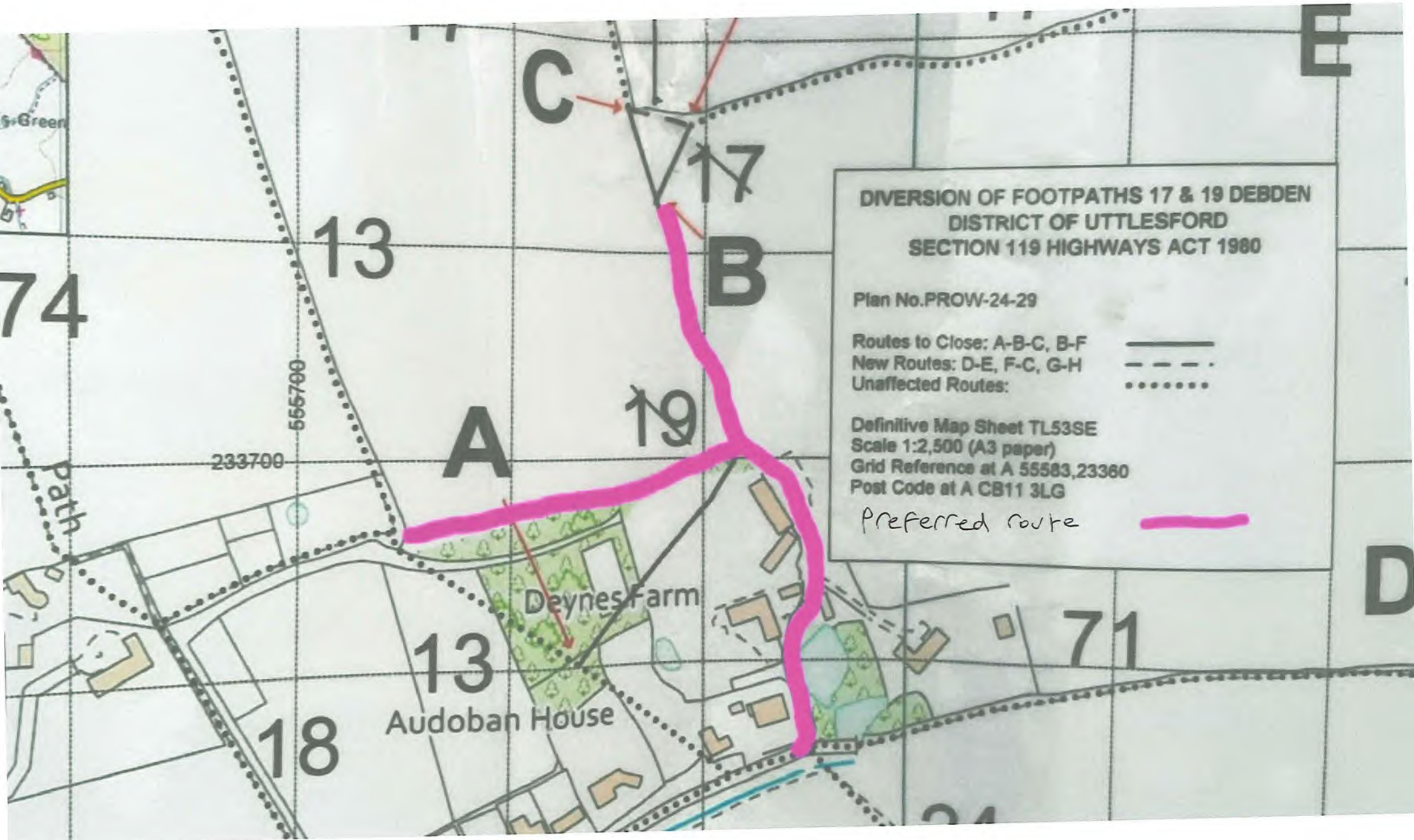
I would like to object to the proposed closure and relocation of the footpath 19 in Debden.

I and many other people use the field part of this footpath a lot and it is a useful short walk or alternative route for avoiding unfriendly/nervous dogs when out with my dog.

Obviously I don't cut through the tennis court or garden built over the right of way but use the commonly used paths around the properties.

It would be preferable to relocate the right of way to these paths instead (which have been used for many many years) ie behind The Old Barn & Deynes House meeting up with Deynes Road, rather than the much longer (& muddier) proposed diversion (C to E to D on your map)?
(please see enclosed)

Yours sincerely,

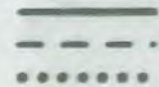
**DIVERSION OF FOOTPATHS 17 & 19 DEBDEN
DISTRICT OF UTTLESFORD
SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

Plan No. PROW-24-29

Routes to Close: A-B-C, B-F

New Routes: D-E, F-C, G-H

Unaffected Routes:



Definitive Map Sheet TL53SE

Scale 1:2,500 (A3 paper)

Grid Reference at A 55583,23360

Post Code at A CB11 3LG

Preferred route



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOOTPATHS 17 & 19 DEBDEN DIVERSION
Sent: 19/05/2025 13:32:00

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Mr [REDACTED]

I have been in touch with the applicant and passed on your concerns to him in respect of the footpath diversion.
He has asked me to extend an invitation for you to meet with him on site to discuss the proposed changes, which I think might be helpful.

His name is Tony, and he works from home and so can be flexible in terms of when to meet.
You can contact him by email on [REDACTED] or mobile no. [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2025 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Notice of footpath closure - Postcode CB11 3LG

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply to the email I sent you on 2nd February, concerning the proposed re-routing of footpaths 17 & 19 in Debden. I fear that the logic in this proposal is seriously flawed. I have therefore decided to object to the proposed changes on the following grounds:-

In the area of Deynes Farm, two footpaths, nos 13 and 19, are joined at point A on the map. Both of these paths are currently registered rights of way. It should, therefore, be possible to walk from the junction of footpaths 18 and 74, via footpaths 13 and 19, to point C on the map. It should also be possible to access Deynes Road from the same starting point via point A. The fact is that neither path is currently walkable, being obstructed by hedges and buildings, and therefore in breach of law.

The most obvious solution would be to realign and re-register both footpaths such that they are no longer obstructed and yet provide a reasonable diversion to allow them to be walked. The proposed closure of a part of footpath 19 from point A to point C denies that right, and the obstructions preventing use of footpath 13 at point A remain unresolved.

Apart from these observations, I have no objection to the other proposals in connection with this matter.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Notice of footpath closure - Postcode CB11 3LG
Sent: 14/02/2025 09:27:00

Good morning Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and your thoughts re this proposal.
I can completely understand the points you have made.

Kindly note Footpath 13 is not part of this order and so an objection based on its exclusion from it would not be considered as valid.

This also applies to current legal routes being obstructed. You are quite right, this should not happen, but it being a fact on the ground is not in itself grounds for objection.
Please allow me to explain.

An original draft proposal proposed to also deal with Footpath 13 as its obstruction is a known long-standing issue and addressing both obstruction issues through the order was our preference.
Unfortunately, the footpath route passes over multiple landownerships and despite considerable effort on the part of the applicant it was not possible to secure all consent of all the other landowners.
I have undertaken a great many diversion orders and third-party landownership is inevitably a complication to them and sometimes, as here, can prevent the resolution you would mist like to see.

It falls outside of my personal remit, but my understanding is that the reinstatement of the legal line of Footpath 13 will be an inevitable consequence of that obstruction issue being highlighted in this consultation and of the successful diversion order, and I believe that will be initiated after the diversion.

To return to the diversion though, I think it would be unjust for the applicant, who has proposed and paid for changes that would resolve a long-standing issue and who in doing so is creating a new circular walk (as of public right) to in-effect be punished for changes that are not being made, which are regrettably completely outside of their control.

I would ask you therefore to have please faith in the process, as while it might seem that the proposal is not the optimum one, I can assure you that all possibilities were considered and exhausted and that as result of this we are proceeding with the best deliverable option to secure public rights and resolve a long-standing issue. Colleagues in the PROW Maintenance and Enforcement team will then take the remaining obstruction issue forwards so that once all these matters are concluded I think that what will result is a much improved situation on the ground for walkers.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2025 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Notice of footpath closure - Postcode CB11 3LG

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply to the email I sent you on 2nd February, concerning the proposed re-routing of footpaths 17 & 19 in Debden. I fear that the logic in this proposal is seriously flawed. I have therefore decided to object to the proposed changes on the following grounds:-

In the area of Deynes Farm, two footpaths, nos 13 and 19, are joined at point A on the map. Both of these paths are currently registered rights of way. It should, therefore, be possible to walk from the junction of footpaths 18 and 74, via footpaths 13 and 19, to point C on the map. It should also be possible to access Deynes Road from the same starting point via point A. The fact is that neither path is currently walkable, being obstructed by hedges and buildings, and therefore in breach of law.

The most obvious solution would be to realign and re-register both footpaths such that they are no longer obstructed and yet provide a reasonable diversion to allow them to be walked. The proposed closure of a part of footpath 19 from point A to point C denies that right, and the obstructions preventing use of footpath 13 at point A remain unresolved.

Apart from these observations, I have no objection to the other proposals in connection with this matter.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 5 Feb 2025 at 08:50, [REDACTED] wrote:

Morning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] original email did find its way to [REDACTED] our Public Path Order and Development Officer who is dealing with this diversion and he has replied to this explaining each point of Roger's concerns. I've attached [REDACTED] reply in case you're interested

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Public Rights of Way Officer



SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.essex.gov.uk/highways

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 February 2025 13:45

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Notice of footpath closure - Postcode CB11 3LG

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

Ned would be the person you would need to contact regarding your belief that the maps that ECC Highways are wrong.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DIVERSION PROPSOAL FOOTPATHS 17 & 19 DEBDEN
[HIGH13409FINALAmendedEsealedE0989MadeOrderdd09012025S119FPs1719Debdenpdf-V1.pdf](#); [s119 MO newspaper s119 MO site notice Debden FPs17 & 19.pdf](#); [PROW-24-29.pdf](#); [53SE.pdf](#); [defra-presumptions-guidance-ppo.pdf](#);
Attachments:
Sent: 03/02/2025 09:34:00

Good morning Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email concerning the above footpath diversion proposal.

I have attached the Made Order for the diversion as well as the site notice and plan and a Definitive Map sheet for your reference (the parish council should also have a copy of the Definitive Maps for Debden).

In terms of the points that you have raised please see my responses below:

1. *The actual layout of some of the existing footpaths is incorrect.*

With respect this statement is incorrect. The plan (attached) indicates the current legal alignment of the footpaths, which may differ from walked routes, but nonetheless remains the legal route until/unless it is changed by means of a legal order.

On the order plan the solid black lines represent the current legal routes (the route proposed to be changed), the dotted black lines are unaffected public rights of way (PROW) which are not proposed to be altered, and the black dashed lines represent the proposed diversion routes. Please also see attached Definitive Map sheet – the Definitive Map is the proof in law of the existence of a PROW on that alignment. I have also provided a link below to our online interactive mapping as this may be useful to you. It is likely that you are basing your conclusion on walked and not legal routes. Any order is restricted to dealing with legal routes.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/highways-information-map>

1. *The proposed diversion and closure is also incorrect, as it is shown to join with a path that is also incorrectly shown on the plan.*

Please see above. The proposed routes (dashed black lines) are correctly shown, but they are not yet required to be instated on the ground until such time as an order is confirmed. The applicant will be obliged to create the new routes if the diversion is successful, and these will then be signed accordingly. All of the paths on the plan (current, unaffected and proposed) are correctly shown in their relevant legal positions (see Definitive Map).

1. *The diversions will rob local dog walkers, myself included, of a well used series of paths that have been in use, to my knowledge, for over 40 years.*

This is not the case. The section of Footpath19 proposed to be replaced (solid black line) is not currently fully available on its legal alignment because it is, as the plan indicates, subject to historic obstructions by various features (corner of a tennis court, trees, boundaries (e.g. fences). What this proposal does is resolve that long-standing issue with an alternative route, while providing walkers with an additional circular walk as of right. Any other, permissive or unofficial route are not the responsibility of the Highway Authority and are not affected in any way by this diversion order. It is also supported by the recently issued DEFRA Presumptions Guidance (attached) as it addresses the security and privacy issues presented by the current legal route. Footpath 17 rationalises that PROW's route by removing a small cross-field section and providing part of the link for the aforementioned new circular route.

Hopefully the above has addressed your concerns and mean that an objection will not be necessary. Please note we can only deal with the legal routes of a PROW as they shown on the Definitive Map and not walked, or 'in-use' routes, which is where I suspect some confusion has understandably arisen, and I can therefore only accept responses made on that basis. The changes proposed here not only deal with a long-standing issue, but they also add additional walking to create a circular route 'as of right.' This is a key phrase and distinction because while people may have used and enjoyed other routes in the area, they are not Public Rights of Way unless they are shown on the Definitive Map and so are not protected or maintained by the Highway Authority. This order would secure that circular route, which otherwise would not be legally available to walkers to use.

If you have further questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer

[REDACTED]
www.essex.gov.uk/highways



Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 February 2025 17:58
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Notice of footpath closure - Postcode CB11 3LG

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I refer to a notice attached to a post, adjacent to a recently renewed plank bridge, at the junction of footpaths 17 and 19 in the parish of Debden, Saffron Walden. The notice takes the form of a plan of the footpaths around the east side of the village, and bears the names of "Ringway Jacobs" and "Essex County Council". So far as I have been able to ascertain, the notice is undated but is referenced PROW-24-29. It is a proposal to part close, and part redirect, footpaths 17 & 19.

I have strong objections to this proposal, but have been unable to find where those objections can be lodged for consideration. I am objecting on three grounds:-

1. The actual layout of some of the existing footpaths is incorrect.
2. The proposed diversion and closure is also incorrect, as it is shown to join with a path that is also incorrectly shown on the plan.
3. The diversions will rob local dog walkers, myself included, of a well used series of paths that have been in use, to my knowledge, for over 40 years.

Will you please look into this matter on my behalf and advise how I may make a formal objection to these proposals?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]