

My ref: A14/OV
Your ref:
Date: 06/08/2024
Contact: Roger Payne
Telephone: 01480 379421
E Mail: roger.payne@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Frank Jordan
Executive Director
Place and Sustainability
Highways Maintenance

Box STA2101
Huntingdon Highways Depot
Stanton Way
Huntingdon
PE29 6PY

Dear, Sir/ Madam

**Formalisation of legal routes of Public Rights of Way
constructed by the A14 improvement scheme**

I am contacting you in relation to a forthcoming programme of changes that Cambridgeshire County Council will be making to its legal record of Public Rights of Way (the Definitive Map and Statement). As one of our standard consultees on all Definitive Map order-making processes, I felt it was important to notify you of the background to this programme and to explain the approach that the County Council is taking to deliver the required changes.

National Highways have delivered the new A14 road under their powers granted by the A14 Development Consent Order ('DCO'). This DCO made provision for amendments and enhancements to the public rights of way ('PROW') network in order to enable the scheme to be built. Most of the scheme was built in accordance with the DCO, but for practical reasons a number of PROW were constructed on different alignments to those detailed in the DCO. These new paths are already in place on the ground and are in use by the public, and Cambridgeshire County Council has accepted responsibility for maintaining them.

However, because these new paths were not constructed in alignment with the routes specified in the DCO, a series of separate public path orders or creation agreements under the Highways Act 1980 are required to formalise those changes and give legal effect to them on the County Council's Definitive Map and Statement. The County Council has agreed in principle to these changes, subject to the relevant statutory processes, and is working with National Highways to make the appropriate orders and agreements.

The requirements in processing these legal changes present a considerable volume of work for the County Council's Definitive Map team, most notably the administrative challenge of delivering this additional work alongside pre-existing demands. Nevertheless, it is important to progress these orders to ensure accurate records, which can then be shown for the public benefit on My Cambridgeshire Maps, the Definitive Map and Statement, and in time, on Ordnance Survey mapping.

Because the affected PROW are already in place on the ground and were established with the legal authority of the A14 DCO and its associated consultations, the County Council intends

to limit the work to legally formalise these routes to the statutory requirements only. This will still include statutory consultation and order making, in line with the relevant legislation, and we will be contacting you in due course as the statutory consultations commence. **However, this letter of notification serves to replace the non-statutory consultation exercise that we would usually undertake prior to making an order.**

The enclosed maps show an overview of the locations and brief descriptions of the routes affected.

I should stress that this exercise will not alter the availability to the public of any PROW that is currently available. The programme will simply amend the legal record so that it formally reflects the routes that were constructed under the authority of the A14 DCO. We welcome that users and communities recognise this is an administrative process to correct the Definitive Map and Statement, and that in the interests of delivering such a substantial programme of work the Definitive Map team is trying to do so in the most efficient way possible. We will carry out this work in full observance of all statutory requirements and without prejudicing any interested parties.

I hope this letter has made the situation and our proposed course of action clear, and that you are reassured that there will be no practical change to the PROW that are currently available to the public user. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Payne
Definitive Map Manager