



Planning Inspectorate

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Notified Parties

Your Ref:
Our Ref: ROW/3366900

05 March 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Section 53
Order Making Authority: Worcestershire County Council
Title of Order: ADDITION OF FOOTPATH NC-574 IN THE PARISH OF NORTH CLAINES

Please note that the Council has already consulted/notified you about the making of the above mentioned Order(s). This letter is for your information only. If you are a statutory undertaker, any concerns about your apparatus should be addressed to the Council directly.

I refer to the above mentioned Order which has been submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

The Order will be determined following a local inquiry which is due to be held at 10.00am on 08 September 2026, at The Woodland Room, The Countryside Centre, Worcester Woods Country Park, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2LG.. The inquiry is scheduled to last one day.

Whilst most inquiries will be completed within the scheduled period, some may be shorter and some need to be extended, depending on the amount of evidence produced or the number of people wishing to be heard. It is therefore very important that if you wish to speak, give evidence or contribute to the inquiry in any way, that you attend on the opening day.

It would be useful for the Inspector if you could confirm whether or not you will be attending the inquiry. You should notify me immediately if your circumstances change or you change your mind nearer the date of the inquiry.

It is open to anyone who has made an objection or representation and anyone else with an interest in the Order to attend the Inquiry. However, we expect anyone who has asked us for an inquiry to be there (or send a representative^[1]).

All parties to the local inquiry procedure are expected to abide by The Rights of Way

(Hearings and Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2007, which can be found at Annex A 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 4 of the booklet, sets out the timetable for the submission of statements of case and proofs of evidence. 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. This booklet can be found on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rights-of-way-guidance-booklet> . Hard copies are also available on request.

The enclosed notice, which will appear on our website, contains information about the Order, where queries about the Order should be directed, when and where documents relating to the Order can be inspected by the public and the timetable for sending statements of case and proofs of evidence. Please ensure you read the notice carefully.

All parties must keep to the timetable to ensure that statements of case are with us on time. If you plan to attend and give evidence, you will need to submit a statement of case, along with copies of any documents you wish to submit in evidence and a list of those documents. Late documents will be returned. As I have given details of the timetable, I will not send you reminders.

Please ensure our case reference number is quoted in all correspondence.

Notified parties only (not prescribed organisations) – unless you inform us that you have an interest in this Order, we will not contact you again. In due course the Inspector's decision will be available to view/download at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rights-of-way-online-order-details>

We are encouraging local authorities to retain pdf copies of their submission bundle to the Planning Inspectorate. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Worcestershire County Council to find out if one is available.

[1] Please refer to paragraphs 4.11 and 8.0.4 of our booklet *Definitive Map and Public Path Orders*

Yours faithfully,

Ian Aston

Ian Aston

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

Definitions:

Statement of case – *a written statement containing full particulars of the case which a person proposes to put forward at a hearing or inquiry; it includes copies of any supporting documents which that person intends to refer to or put in evidence, and a list of those documents.*

We expect statements of case to be paginated, labelled, indexed and submitted in a clear order. Appendix E of our guidance booklet refers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rights-of-way-guidance-booklet>

Proof of evidence - a document containing the written evidence which a person at a public inquiry will speak about. It should not rehearse all of the available evidence but should focus on the matters in dispute. It should not contain supporting documents.

If you use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create or alter any part of your documents, information or data, you should tell us that you have done this when you provide the material to us. [See the detailed guidance for further information.](#)

INQ 7 notified