

Appendix 13. Correspondence dated 20 February 1981 - 5 March 1981

# Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

MRS. O.C. DEE, J.P. Clerk.  
Telephone: Chard [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
20th February, 1981

Clerk of the County Council,  
County Hall,  
Taunton

Dear Sir,

DEFINITIVE FOOTPATH MAP

When Parish Councils were given the opportunity to review which footpaths and bridlepaths should be included in the Definitive Footpath Map during the 1950's, unfortunately the then Parish Council did not avail themselves, so far as our village was concerned.

Since then, however, my present Parish Council has on more than one occasion had cause to regret that our predecessors did not realise how important to the life of the village it was to establish these rights of way.

In the circumstances, my Parish Council now wishes to establish that the following footpaths are, and have been for many years, public rights of way, and we should be pleased to know that they can now be so established :

- ✓ ✓ Bench Lane
- P ✓ Holland's Wash Drove
- ✓ ✓ Wadeford Hill to Willhayne (Grass Road)
- P ✓ Plyer's Hill - Charmoor Lane to ford at River Ding, incorporating Charmoor Drove back to A.303
- ✓ ✓ Sixteen Acre Lane to Poltimore Covert

If you require further precise details as to where these paths are situated, I shall be happy to furnish them.

[REDACTED]

CLERK

P. Withersland  
P. L. Wainwright

MERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

EXTN. 237

DATE 3rd March 1981

FROM THE COUNTY SOLICITOR	TO THE COUNTY PLANNING OFFICER
REF. A/5/30/7/PW/CP	REF.

Combe St. Nicholas Parish  
Definitive Map of Public Paths

I enclose copy of a letter dated the 20th February received from the Clerk to Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council concerning certain ways which apparently are not included on the Definitive Map as public paths.

Would you please say whether you can identify these ways from the descriptions given and let me know whether they are either shown on the Definitive Map or on the County Surveyor's records as being unclassified roads. In the event that neither is the case, is it possible that the District Council have, notwithstanding, had the ways signposted. Perhaps you could let me have your comments on the contents of the letter at your early convenience.



.....  
County Solicitor

c.c. County Surveyor

COUNTY PLANNING OFFICER  
(Countryside Section)  
763

COUNTY SOLICITOR

RND/PH/Y/CH/COM

A/5/30/7/PW/CP

5th March 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP - COMBE ST NICHOLAS, YEOVIL DISTRICT.

Thank you for your memorandum dated 3rd March 1981.

None of the lanes are definitive and are not on the County Surveyor's road maps. Several of these lanes have been the subject of correspondence before. I refer to my letter to the former County Secretary (your ref CPC SE/17/4/25 (TJD/25) about Sixteen Acre Lane.

The two lanes, Holland's Wash Drove and Piyer's Hill - Charmoor Lane to ford at River Ding, incorporating Charmoor Drove back to A303, are both shown on the County Surveyor's maps with a broken purple line. The former County Clerk's department wrote to Solicitors on 6th June 1957 (your ref LC.66197 and W/WARS/PJS) informed someone in connection with a Search that these Lanes are not highways repairable by the inhabitants at large. Whether or not this ruling was intended to cover footpaths and bridleways, which are of course publicly repairable highways, I do not know. However, I enclose a report on one case by the County Surveyor a copy of which was sent to you in 1957. *LL57457* *31 MAY 56*

There do not appear to be records of Bench Lane or the Lane, Wadeford Hill to Willhayne. There is council housing with a parking bay at the end of Bench Lane and I understand the County Council owns land in this area. The Principal Land Agent may therefore advise further as it is obviously an access lane to farmland. It is a through route to a definitive footpath.

Regarding the above Lanes, will you please ask the Parish Council to refer any further evidence regarding footpath or bridleway rights on them to the District Council, who have to deal with any alleged footpath or bridleway right. Will you please send copies of this correspondence to the District Council.

The question of any future amendment orders will depend on what evidence the District Council find satisfactory in order for them to act now in asserting any public rights.

Will you please let me have a copy of your reply.



Public Rights of Way Officer  
for County Planning Officer