

Enquiries to Tara Potheary

My reference **PPO 5270**

Date 19 November 2025

E-mail tara.potheary@hants.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposed Creation of Bridleway Rights on Fleet Footpath 503 and Part of Fleet Footpath 502 and Part of Crookham Village Footpath 7b
Extinguishment of Part of Fleet Footpath 502 and Part of Crookham Village Footpath 7b**

Hampshire County Council proposes to make concurrent orders under sections 26 and 118 of the Highways Act 1980 as part of development works. A plan showing this proposal is attached.

The Legal Tests

Section 26 Highways Act 1980

Compulsory powers for creation of footpaths [bridleways and restricted byways].

(1) Where it appears to a local authority...that there is need for a footpath [bridleway or restricted byway] over land in their area and they are satisfied that, having regard to—

(a) the extent to which the path or way would add to the convenience or enjoyment of a substantial section of the public, or to the convenience of persons resident in the area, and

(b) the effect which the creation of the path or way would have on the rights of persons interested in the land, account being taken of the provisions as to compensation contained in section 26 below, it is expedient that the path or way should be created, the authority...may by order...create a footpath [bridleway or restricted byway] over the land.

Section 118 - Stopping up of footpaths and bridleways

Where it appears to a council as respects a footpath or bridleway in their area that it is expedient that the path or way should be stopped up on the ground that it is not needed for public use, the council may by order made by them and submitted to and

confirmed by the Secretary of State, or confirmed as an unopposed order, extinguish the public right of way over the path or way.

Guidance published by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in August 2023, provides a steer for local authorities as to the weight they should attach to the impact of public footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways where they run by private houses and gardens, farmyards and commercial and industrial premises. The guidance sets out Government policy on changes to public rights of way in circumstances where a right of way may cause hardship because it goes through the garden of a family home, a working farmyard or other commercial premises.

Proposed Bridleway Upgrade (A-B-D)

SU 7937 5354 and SU 7971 5366 and SU 7978 5336

The proposed upgrade to a bridleway commences on Fleet Footpath 703 at a junction with Hitches Lane SU 7937 5354 (Point A on the plan), proceeding north-eastward to a junction with Footpath 502, SU 7971 5366 (Point B). It will continue along Fleet Footpath 502 to SU 7978 5336 (Point D).

Approximately 845 metres in length.

Definitive Alignment (D-E-F)

SU 7978 5336 and SU 7982 5336 and SU 7980 5327

Fleet Footpath 502 commences at SU 7978 5336 (Point D), proceeding eastward to SU 7982 5336, (Point E) then proceeding southward to SU 7980 5328 (Point F).

Approximately 130 metres in length.

Proposed Bridleway Alignment (D-H-C)

SU 7978 5336 and SU 7977 5327 and SU 7977 5321

A 2.5 metre wide bridlepath commences at SU 7978 5336 (Point D), proceeding southward to SU 7977 5327 (Point H) continuing around play area to SU 7977 5321 (Point C).

Approximately 152 metres in length.

Definitive Alignment (F-G)

SU 7980 5327 and SU 7977 5325

Crookham Village Footpath 7b commences at a junction with Fleet Footpath 502, SU 7980 5327 (Point F) proceeding south-westward to SU 7977 5325 (Point G).

Approximately 32 metres in length.

Proposed Alignment (F-H)

SU 7980 5327 and SU 7977 5327

A 2.5 metre wide footpath commencing at a junction with Fleet Footpath 6 and Crookham Village Footpath 7b, SU 7980 5327 (Point F) proceeding westward to a junction with the new bridlepath at SU 7977 5327 (Point H).

Approximately 25 metres in length.

Background

The path upgrades and diversions are to improve the routes as part of the wider development in the area.

If you have any comments to make and wish them to be considered by the Council, I would be grateful if written submissions could be sent to me at the email address above by the 17 December 2025, if possible. Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The personal data you provide in any response will be treated in accordance with Data Protection Legislation, and may be published in a decision report, be disclosed to other interested parties, including the landowner (or their representatives). It may also be made public if the matter is referred to the Planning Inspectorate. Your data will be retained for a maximum period of 3 years from the date that the application is resolved. In the event that this changes to a legal event order, it will become part of the permanent records kept on rights of way in Hampshire. The legal basis for our use of this information is the compliance with a legal obligation – Highways Act 1980.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see our website *Data Protection* page for further details: www.hants.gov.uk/dataprotection You can contact the County Council's Data Protection Officer at data.protection@hants.gov.uk If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours faithfully,

Tara Potheary

Tara Potheary
Countryside Access Development Officer