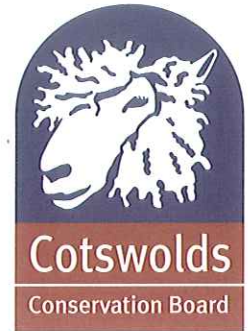


BY EMAIL: Graeme_Stark@BATHNES.GOV.UK

Graeme Stark
Mapping Officer
Public Rights of Way
Bath and North East Somerset Council



29th April 2009.

Dear Mr. Stark,

Consultation on Draft Public Path Order Policy.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board welcomes the Draft Public Path Order Policy which is clear and concise. The Board has only three comments on the draft:

- Some areas of the Cotswolds are seeing an increase in field sub-division for horses, using tape or post and rail fences. The keeping of horses usually requires planning permission (the grazing of horses does not). Public Path Orders involving equine land use should ensure any consents are in place.
- Additional Criteria – width. The sentence about enclosing of new paths needs strengthening. Closely enclosed paths, particularly using wire or post and rail fences should not be agreed to. However, a wide path enclosed by dry stone walls or properly maintained hedges, depending on how they relate to landscape character, can be very pleasant.
- Local distinctiveness and landscape character should be added to the list of additional criteria. Any proposals should take account of local distinctiveness and landscape character when considering design and materials to be used. Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils and the Cotswolds Conservation Board have Landscape Character Assessments. The Conservation Board also has a set of comprehensive Landscape Strategies and Guidelines and guidance on local distinctiveness.

.If you wish to clarify or discuss further any of the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M.A. Connelly'.

Mark Connelly
Land Management Officer

Conserving, enhancing, understanding and enjoying the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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