

Reference: ABS/DIV/03626

**Countryside Records
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Director of Environment and
Place**

29th July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Informal Consultation

Highways act 1980 s119 and s118.

Proposed Diversion of Spelsbury Footpath No 19 and 21 (parts) and Charlbury Footpath No 3 (part) and Extinguishment of Spelsbury Footpath No 19 (part) at Coldron Mill, Spelsbury.

This consultation is to seek any comments regarding an application by the owners of Coldron Mill to re-route parts of the above footpaths. Any comments received will be considered when OCC decides whether to make a public path Order.

The Proposal.

The Definitive routes to be diverted and extinguished and the proposed routes together with their widths are shown on the attached plan HA1980s118&119/675/03626

The lengths ABF (Fp 19 part) and EDCGHI (Fp 3 19 and 21 parts) would be diverted in the interest of the owners of the land crossed by the footpaths whilst the short length BC (Fp19 part) would be extinguished on the grounds that it is not needed for public use. The new routes would be AJKLMNOP (Fp 19), QGF (Fp 21) and EQ (Fp 3).

The current definitive route of Fp 19 runs from the entrance gate to Coldron Mill southwards through the property's garden, across a pond and to the Charlbury Parish Boundary. The path continues as Charlbury Fp 3 (ABCDE). A spur of Fp 19 also runs westward from the middle of the garden close to Coldron Mill and crosses a small stream (BFI). In the middle of the pond Fp 21 runs from Fp 19 westward across the pond and then north-westward across enclosed garden to reach the small stream (CGHI).

The current owners bought the property in 1998 with the pond already in place over the definitive lines. The bridge that was in place has since been maintained by the current owner although its alignment does not accord with that of the definitive paths.

The owners would like to divert the paths from running through their garden and in front of the house so as to improve their privacy. The owners previously requested a diversion of

the paths in 2001 but the request was refused due to the Council's policy at the time. The current Fp 19 runs diagonally through two parts of the garden whilst Fp 21 through another enclosed section. They would provide one bridge across the pond constructed to this Council required standard and would enter into a maintenance agreement with the Council whereby the bridge would be maintained by the landowner in perpetuity.

The new footpath AJKLMNOP begins to the side of the entrance gate so that it will be able to be separated from the garden by open metal fencing. The path then runs westward beside the stream leading to the mill race and be bordered by hedging before turning southward alongside the mill race. The path crosses the race over a bridge, continues beside the race, through a wood and re-joins the unaffected length of Fp 19 (Point P). There would be a boardwalk at Point O, also maintained in perpetuity by the landowner.

The new footpath EQGF begins south of the Charlbury Parish boundary and runs over the new bridge crossing the pond. It then runs around the enclosed area to re-join the unaffected length of Fp 19.

By virtue of the new paths around the property providing access to the existing destinations and the provision of the new bridge to cross the pond, the section BC will in turn not be needed and will be extinguished. The alternative of diverting the path to the east of the pond, whilst looking fine on the plan, is limited by wet ground conditions.

There would be two gates on the diversion route - at Points J and Q.

Any comments you wish to make are welcomed I would be grateful for any comments by **Friday 10th September 2021**. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting me on the below number.

Yours faithfully



Andy Sylvester
Rights of Way Officer

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GDPR and Data Protection Act: Oxfordshire County Council will collate correspondence and comments received in response to this communication, for further consideration. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.