

BY E-MAIL

James Lytton-Trevers  
Planning Officer  
Northern Team  
Dorset Council  
Dorchester  
DT1 1UZ

18 October 2021

Dear Mr Lytton-Trevers

**Planning Application:** P/RES/2021/02745  
**Proposal:** Erection of 5 No. dwellings (Reserved matters application to determine appearance and scale following the grant of Outline Planning Permission No. 2/2020/0351/OUT).  
**Address:** Norton View Shaston Road Stourpaine DT11 8TA

I am writing on behalf of the Ramblers, North Dorset Group, and with their authority, in respect of the above application, and the diverted route (once Confirmed) of footpath 13, Stourpaine. (E18/13).

The Ramblers works to help everyone enjoy the pleasures and benefits of walking, and to enhance and protect the places where people walk. As walkers and users of the countryside, we understand the importance of our environment for the health and wellbeing of all. We are committed to encouraging and supporting walking, protecting and expanding public rights of way and access land, and protecting the beauty of the countryside and other areas.

It is most disappointing to note that in Drawing No. 1277/101 A, it is stated, alongside the route of footpath 13: *“Line of new relocated public footpath from site entrance to boundary of the adjacent field with **new stile** transition over existing fence – footpath 2m wide.”* (My highlighting). This is also re-iterated in the document entitled ‘Supporting statement’: *The public footpath, which originally ran through the site, has been proposed (and agreed with the local authority) to continue along the adjacent field to the south eastern corner of the site where the **new style** will be located.*

I object to this: the Order for the diversion of footpath 13 (DC reference P225) made on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021, has one of the conditions *“Gap of 2 metres to be created in the fence at point F (ST 8617 0936)”*, and whilst there are no ‘Limitations and Conditions’ as part of diversion Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, it was my understanding that a **gate** would be required at F, for stock control, which would need separate authorisation under Section 147 of the Highways Act 1980.

All new structures on paths should follow the 'least restrictive' option, and comply with BS5709:2018<sup>1</sup>.

*"The selection of a gap, gate or stile, which permits people to use a path crossing a boundary such as a hedge fence or stone wall, shall meet the needs of the land manager and shall cause as little restriction as possible for all lawful users. [4.1]" On public paths lawful users includes people of all ages and abilities, including users of mobility vehicles (wheelchairs and pushchairs) etc and dogs. (Understanding the British Standard for Gaps Gates and Stiles: BS5709:2018 explained. Page 4)*

Thank you for your attention, and I trust that this point will be addressed.

Yours sincerely

*Jan Wardell*

Mrs Jan Wardell  
Ramblers, North Dorset Group  
Footpath Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> See Pittecroft Trust <http://www.pittecroft.org.uk/5709.pdf>