

POST MARK 9 AUGUST

Mr O Goodrich & Miss K Davies  
Farm House  
New Farm Drive  
Abridge  
Romford  
Essex  
RM4 1BU

FAO Alan Roscoe  
Definitive Map Service  
Essex County Council  
Seax House  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Victoria Road South,  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1 QH

9 August 2022

**Re Public Diversion Order: 2022 – Footpath 11 Lambourne**

Dear Mr Roscoe,

We are writing with regard to the letter that was sent on 12 July 2022 wherein we objected to the above order, outlining a number of reasons. We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of our letter and assure us that you are taking into consideration all the points raised therein. We would also be most appreciative if you could advise us on, and clarify, the full procedure with regard to the order itself, particularly where objections have been raised, and how such an opposed order is consequently dealt with.

Since having submitted our objection, and while awaiting your response, we have considered a number of additional reasons further supporting our objection. The majority of these reasons, as below, are not only from our perspective as daily users of the footpath, but also relate to the numerous other members of the public who regularly enjoy its benefits:

1. **The diversion significantly extends the distance to cross the pasture:** According to the measurement's quoted in the order, the existing total distance of the current route is approximately 318 metres and would increase to approximately 547 metres under the proposal. It has not been made clear why extending it, with the route being approximately 70% longer, is beneficial or required.
2. **The proposed redirected footpath will, undoubtedly, be a lot more challenging for older, less fit, or slightly physically impaired people and young children:** Putting aside the accessibility concerns we raised in our previous letter relating to the potential flooding of the route between points E and F in the wetter months, the terrain on the proposed route is without a doubt more challenging and, with respect to the second field, at a significantly steeper gradient. At present, the route is a gentle ascent crossing the "upper field" (C - D), whereas the proposed route now includes a steep gradient (within section F- D) given it is approaching the hill head on. A more challenging terrain and a much steeper gradient in parts will make the use of it considerably more difficult for some. We often see people walking across the pasture using walking sticks and suspect it will no longer be possible for them to use this route. One of our Mothers for example, has recently undergone two separate knee replacements. When she visits, we often go

for a brief walk across the field with her dogs, we doubt we would be able to do so should the proposal pass. We also often run along the current pathway and would consider avoiding it given the much more uneven terrain, particularly in the winter months. The above demonstrates that, should the order be confirmed as proposed, a considerable number of regular users of the path would no longer be able to do so and therefore would be excluded from the privilege of enjoying this walk in the future. We understand that this would be considered as discriminatory against the less able and it would be most regrettable, should this group of people lose this privilege.

3. **Safety:** Anyone using the existing footpath crossing the pasture, can currently do so with a sense of safety, with open views all around. In addition, people can clearly be seen walking in the open by local residents. The proposed walk along the brook (C-F) in a southerly direction followed by the ascent along the woods on the top field (F- D) means that it is not possible to see anyone approach from the edge of the field until the last minute. More alarmingly, with some stretches being in a dip and obscured by trees and bushes, there are areas where you could not actually be seen by anyone. In today's climate, the risk of forcing the public to follow a route offering less safety in general, must not be underestimated.
4. **The view from the new route will be impaired:** At present some people, including us when accompanied by our elderly relatives, decide just to take a walk across the two fields (A - D) and back again, simply to relax and enjoy the wide-ranging scenery. The views the new proposed route offers would significantly change and limit the visual aspect from the path.

On a separate note, may we request a copy of the landowner's original application for the diversion as the rationale is unclear. We do have some concern for the animals that currently graze the field and the direct negative impact it will have on them. We noticed the other day during the recent heat wave how very reliant the Alpacas are on the significant amount of shade the woodland running along the majority of E to B offers them, given the wood runs along the entire stretch. The landowner has indicated to us that he intends to fence off the pathway should the proposal pass. Not only would this result in the loss of a significant amount of grazing land, considerably more than the preferred option to fence either side of the existing path, but quite alarmingly, will prevent the animals from seeking the cool shade on this significant woodland edge stretch. The extremely high recent temperatures confirm that access to this shade is absolutely imperative for the welfare of the animals. No field shelter can compete with the cool shade a natural forest edge provides as the concrete floors, timber walls and metal roofing sheets of these shelters simply store the heat.

While we await a copy of the original application, as referred to earlier, it remains very unclear why it is felt necessary to reroute the path. We would therefore reiterate that we are very willing to find an amicable solution with the landowners to try and resolve their reasons for seeking the diversion (once we are aware of them). Fencing the existing route of the pathway would certainly resolve the issues relating to certain users of the footpath wandering astray and would also result in a reduced loss of grazing land for the animals. It would also not limit the animal's access to one side of the field given pass-through gates could be added. The difference in cost between fencing just one side of the considerably longer proposed path, compared to both sides of the existing, is not significant. We have offered to assist with the cost of the fencing should the pathway remain in its original position, but our offer was declined.

Our offer for you to visit our property and discuss any of the above, as well as our concerns listed in our original letter of objection sent on 12 July 2022, remains very much open. It will give you the opportunity to directly view the proposed new route from within our garden and house, and help you appreciate our most serious concerns regarding the safety of our small children and the intrusion of privacy with regard to our property in general should the diversion be confirmed.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter and would expect the order to be treated as an "opposed order".

Kind Regards,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is cursive and appears to be 'Oliver Goodrich'. The signature on the right is also cursive and appears to be 'Katharine Davies'.

Oliver Goodrich and Katharine Davies

ENVELOPE DATED 12-7-22

COLLECTED AT SEAX HOUSE 5-8-22

Mr O Goodrich & Miss K Davies  
Farm House  
New Farm Drive  
Abridge  
Romford  
Essex  
RM4 1BU

FAO Alan Roscoe  
Definitive Map Service  
Essex County Council  
Seax House  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Victoria Road South,  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1 QH

12 July 2022

**Re Public Diversion Order:                      2022 – Footpath 11 Lambourne**

Dear Mr Roscoe,

We write to you in relation to the above recent proposal which seeks to divert the footpath in question to run directly alongside our family home. Please refer to the map appended to this letter where our home is highlighted in yellow. Route A to E of the proposed diversion runs adjacent to the entire length of the most southerly border of our property. We object to the proposed diversion for the following reasons:

**1. The Impact to our family home:**

The previous footpath ran across the middle of the field and therefore quite some distance from our front garden. Having the footpath directly next to our garden will have a significant impact on us:

- The pathway will be intrusive to our privacy. As you can see from the attached photographs in the appendix of this letter, the proposed new route runs along the border of our property in which the front garden is situated and the front of our house faces. Those passing on the proposed new route would therefore not only be extremely close to our front garden, but they would also be able to look directly into every window of the front of our house. This includes our main bedroom and bathroom together with our living room and our younger son's bedroom. In addition, the short distance concerned means that those passing can hear our conversations, and we theirs.
- Aside from being intrusive to our privacy, we are a family with two young children who often play in that part of the garden. We would therefore have a natural concern about our children being too close to the fence given passers-by, in particular those with nervous dogs who may try to bite or growl if our children are near the fence.
- We also have a large, but friendly, dog who barks loudly when strangers approach the house. The dog would therefore be on high alert as people pass close to the house which may cause disturbance to our neighbours, particularly if those passing by have dogs with them. Despite our dog being exceptionally



friendly, there may even be conflict between the animals given they would be encroaching upon what our dog sees as her "territory".

- The value of our home may also be affected. We had purchased our home in July 2018 on the understanding that there were no intentions to move the pathway. Having a public footpath so close to the house will naturally lead to any potential buyers in the future paying a lower price given the increased lack of privacy the proposed route presents compared to the current route. In fact, one of the reasons we bought the house, was exactly for this reason – the privacy it offered our family.

## **2. The Proposed Route may not be accessible all year round:**

Between points E and F on the map of the newly proposed route, there is a stream that would run alongside the path. In heavy rainfall, particularly in Autumn and Winter, this stream rises as all the surface water from the fields runs into it. The area is therefore prone to minor flooding and regularly becomes waterlogged which may make it inaccessible for walkers, particularly those of an older age.

## **3. The History of the Pathway**

It is our understanding that the owner of the land over 400 years ago gifted the pathway to the local parish given it was the only means to access Lambourne Church from Abridge village. The route of the path itself therefore carries much historic importance particularly in light of the fact that it would have acted as the funeral path in former times.

Since the order was published, we have noticed that the current landowner has already encouraged those using the footpath to take the proposed route by cutting the grass down in the area concerned while leaving it longer elsewhere. Although, it is presumptuous for him to do so before any such proposal has been accepted, it has in fact helped evidence a number of concerns expressed above. On a few occasions since he has done so, we have found plastic carrier bags left over our side of the fence that runs alongside the proposed route. On one occasion, our two-year-old son found and even tried to play with one which could have had very severe consequences. In addition, our dog is now on constant alert as people pass by and we are very much aware when hosting playdates for the children of keeping a safe distance from the fence particularly when people are using the proposed route.

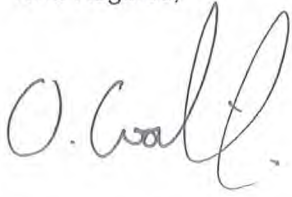
We have spoken to the landowner in the past about his frustration with the current route of the path. He is rightfully no doubt concerned as to the welfare of his animals. This is however something he would have been very much aware of when he bought the land and intended to use the field for grazing purposes. The solution that we had discussed was to fence the pathway by using traditional stock fencing in order to restrict those from wandering into the field itself. We very much sympathise with the landowner's frustrations surrounding the unfortunate behaviour of certain individuals using the path so were supportive of this solution. We were not aware of his intention to move the path itself until we were informed of the above notice by a friend who walks on the route.

We are very willing to find an alternative well-balanced solution to help resolve the landowner's concern and feel that we have a very amicable relationship with them, so we will endeavour to help them do so. In respect of this proposal however, we strongly urge you to reject it and are aware of a number of other members of the community who are opposed to it, including the other neighbouring landowner at Alderwood who is also affected.

In addition, in order to further help your assessment, we would like to invite you to visit our property in order to discuss any of the above concerns while also giving you the opportunity to directly view the proposed new route from within our garden and house.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter. If the proposed route is approved, I would very much like to understand the basis by which it has been and what level of compensation we would receive in light of the impact it has not only on the value of our home but also the repercussions described above.

Kind Regards,

Handwritten signature of Oliver Goodrich in black ink.Handwritten signature of Katharine Davies in black ink.

Oliver Goodrich and Katharine Davies

## Appendix











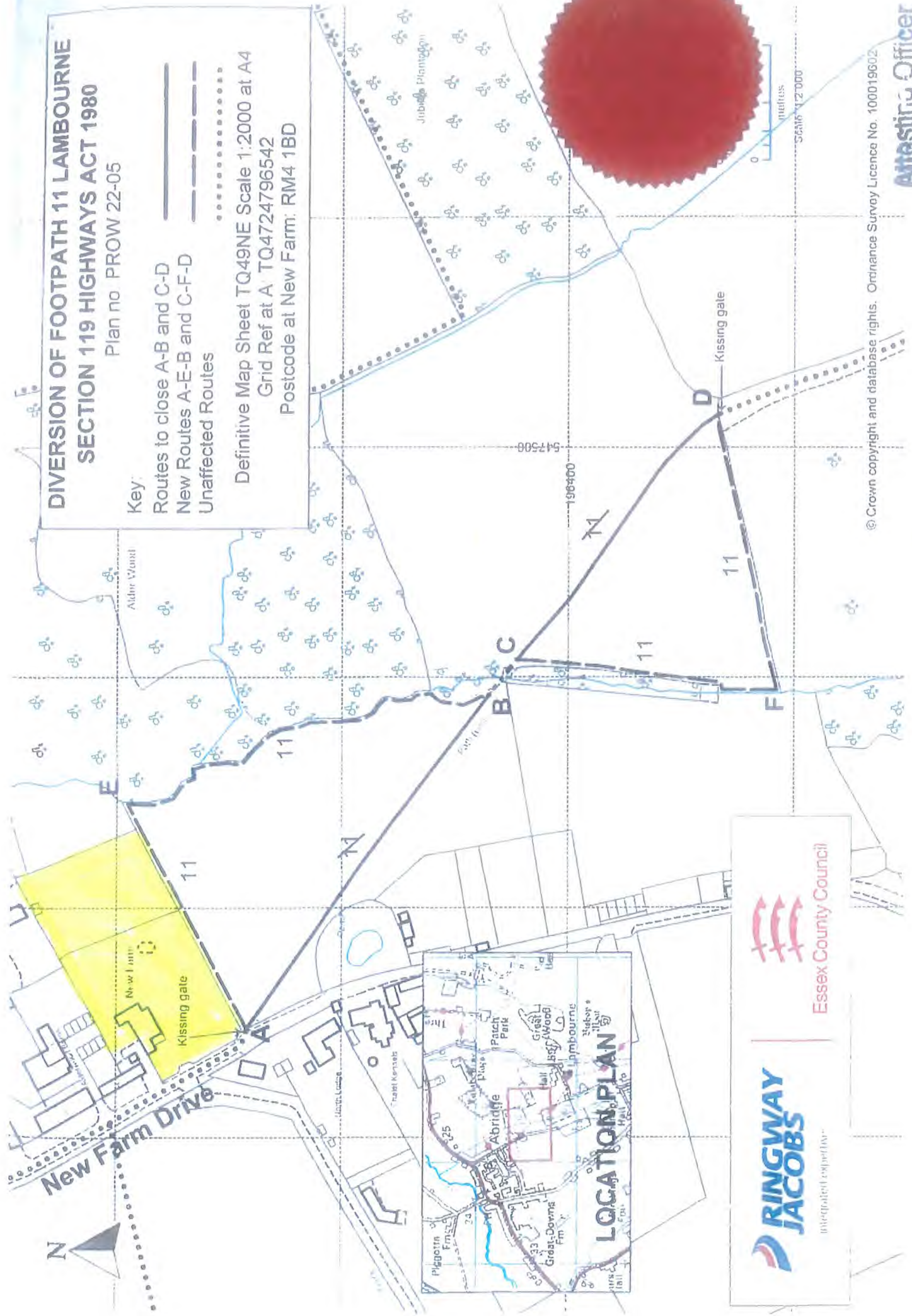
**DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 11 LAMBOURNE**  
**SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

Plan no. PROW 22-05

**Key:**

- Routes to close A-B and C-D
- New Routes A-E-B and C-F-D
- Unaffected Routes

Definitive Map Sheet TQ49NE Scale 1:2000 at A4  
 Grid Ref at A TQ4724796542  
 Postcode at New Farm: RM4 1BD



integrated expertise



Essex County Council

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**Attesting Officer**  
 (A.L.) 17401-001

Mr O Goodrich & Miss K Davies  
Farm House  
New Farm Drive  
Abridge  
Romford  
Essex  
RM4 1BU

FAO Alan Roscoe  
Definitive Map Service  
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Victoria Road South,  
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CM1 1 QH

9 August 2022

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Since having submitted our objection, and while awaiting your response, we have considered a number of additional reasons further supporting our objection. The majority of these reasons, as below, are not only from our perspective as daily users of the footpath, but also relate to the numerous other members of the public who regularly enjoy its benefits:

1. **The diversion significantly extends the distance to cross the pasture:** According to the measurement's quoted in the order, the existing total distance of the current route is approximately 318 metres and would increase to approximately 547 metres under the proposal. It has not been made clear why extending it, with the route being approximately 70% longer, is beneficial or required.
2. **The proposed redirected footpath will, undoubtedly, be a lot more challenging for older, less fit, or slightly physically impaired people and young children:** Putting aside the accessibility concerns we raised in our previous letter relating to the potential flooding of the route between points E and F in the wetter months, the terrain on the proposed route is without a doubt more challenging and, with respect to the second field, at a significantly steeper gradient. At present, the route is a gentle ascent crossing the "upper field" (C - D), whereas the proposed route now includes a steep gradient (within section F- D) given it is approaching the hill head on. A more challenging terrain and a much steeper gradient in parts will make the use of it considerably more difficult for some. We often see people walking across the pasture using walking sticks and suspect it will no longer be possible for them to use this route. One of our Mothers for example, has recently undergone two separate knee replacements. When she visits, we often go



for a brief walk across the field with her dogs, we doubt we would be able to do so should the proposal pass. We also often run along the current pathway and would consider avoiding it given the much more uneven terrain, particularly in the winter months. The above demonstrates that, should the order be confirmed as proposed, a considerable number of regular users of the path would no longer be able to do so and therefore would be excluded from the privilege of enjoying this walk in the future. We understand that this would be considered as discriminatory against the less able and it would be most regrettable, should this group of people lose this privilege.

3. **Safety:** Anyone using the existing footpath crossing the pasture, can currently do so with a sense of safety, with open views all around. In addition, people can clearly be seen walking in the open by local residents. The proposed walk along the brook (C-F) in a southerly direction followed by the ascent along the woods on the top field (F- D) means that it is not possible to see anyone approach from the edge of the field until the last minute. More alarmingly, with some stretches being in a dip and obscured by trees and bushes, there are areas where you could not actually be seen by anyone. In today's climate, the risk of forcing the public to follow a route offering less safety in general, must not be underestimated.
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We look forward to hearing from you on this matter and would expect the order to be treated as an "opposed order".

Kind Regards,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is cursive and appears to be 'Oliver Goodrich'. The signature on the right is also cursive and appears to be 'Katharine Davies'.

Oliver Goodrich and Katharine Davies

Mr O Goodrich and Miss K Davies  
Farm House  
New Farm Drive  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1BU

12 August 2022

Dear Mr Goodrich and Miss Davies

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you for your letter of 12 July and my apologies for the delay in responding.

I note your concerns and confirm I shall be in touch in due course. Please note that should this matter be referred to the Planning Inspectorate, they may make public the details of objections and objectors to the order. In advising you of this, it is not my intention to dissuade you from maintaining any valid objection but rather to ensure you are aware of the approach taken by the Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213



ENVELOPE DATED 12-7-72  
COLLECTED AT SEAX HOUSE 5-8-72

Attn Alan Roscoe,  
Definitive Map Svcs,  
F.C.C.,  
Seax House,  
2nd Floor,  
Victoria Road South,  
Chelmsford,  
CM1 1QH.

Ms. Amanda Khan,  
Alderwood,  
Newfarm Drive,  
Abridge,  
Essex,  
RM4 1BU

Dear Sir,

RE: Lambourne Footpath 11 (RM4 1BB)

I wish to object to the above for the following reasons,

My property known as Alderwood is adjacent to the paddock in which said footpath runs through and I have owned it for approximately thirty years. During which time we have always enjoyed the peace and privacy to which it offers. The proposed re-routing of footpath number 11 will run next to my fence line therefore profoundly affecting the privacy which we have enjoyed, especially as this is a well used footpath.

As a family we often sit in this area as the children aged two and five like to play here with our dogs. However our enjoyment of this would be greatly affected because of the risk to the



children if they were to put their hands through the fence and meet up with an aggressive dog.

We will also be faced with our dogs constantly running over to the fence every time someone passes and in turn incessantly barking which could cause a nuisance. At present the fence is constructed of post, rail and stock proof fencing, in keeping with the surroundings. This would have to be replaced with a solid fence to avoid danger to the children and risk of dogs on either side being able to injure each other. In turn this would prevent the movement of wildlife through this part of the fence line.

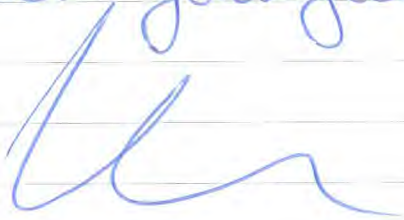
From a geographical perspective the bottom corner of the re-routing, where the paddock area and woodland meet, gets extremely wet and boggy in the winter which could be problematic to a lot of the older people or people with children who frequently use the footpath.

We are also fully aware and deeply concerned that having a footpath road adjacent to our fence line including our woodland would have a significant effect on the value of the property as it will cease to have the privacy and peace it has enjoyed for numerous years.



As a great advocate of animal welfare may I suggest rather than reroute this ancient footpath that is part of the history of Abridge. It could be fenced either side of where it is and a gate put in each side. This would allow the movement of the livestock from one side to the other whilst still ensuring the safety of the livestock.

Yours faithfully



Ms. A.S. Khan



Ms Amanda Khan  
Alderwood  
New Farm Drive  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1BU

12 August 2022

Dear Ms Khan

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you for your recent letter and my apologies for the delay in responding.

I note your concerns and confirm I shall be in touch in due course. Please note that should this matter be referred to the Planning Inspectorate, they may make public the details of objections and objectors to the order. In advising you of this, it is not my intention to dissuade you from maintaining any valid objection but rather to ensure you are aware of the approach taken by the Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213

Re. Public Diversion Order  
Footpath 11 Lambourne

23, Hillcrest Rd.,  
 Loughton.  
 Essex.

IG10 4QH

8.7.2022

Dear Mr. Roscoe,

Today I walked to Lambourne church along the ancient footpath that runs from the top end of New Farm Drive, Abridge. This path has been used by walkers for over 400 years. It was given by deed or gift to the parish in 1589 when a landowner blocked the way to Lambourne church.

The delightful view over undulating countryside as one travels downhill to the stream would be entirely lost if the footpath was diverted to the field edge. It would also be boggy in winter when the stream floods.

I am therefore strongly objecting to a diversion of this historic path on behalf of Ramblers + walkers everywhere, who appreciate what is left of rural England, so close to London.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel Davies

(West Essex Ramblers walks leader)

Hazel Davies  
23 Hillcrest Road  
Loughton  
Essex  
IG10 4QH

22 July 2022

Dear Ms Davies

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you very much for your letter of 8 July concerning the proposed diversion of this footpath. I confirm I have read your comments with interest. When considering objections to any diversion we have a duty to consider these by reference to the applicable criteria of s.119 Highways Act 1980 and, having done so, I would like to respond as follows.

- I note the path has historic associations for the parish. Unfortunately, any such significance is not recognised by the Act and landowners have a right in law to apply to divert regardless of the origins of a footpath. As the order-making authority, when considering a previous case with a similar objection, we made representations to the Planning Inspectorate that this argument is not valid and had our position accepted by the inspector.
- The views of the countryside are very similar to many others in the general area and are not, I would suggest, possessing any particular merit. The current line of the path is, for the majority of its route, within a small valley, thereby negating any views of the wider countryside. There are no landscape or other designations on the site.
- The diverted line would indeed follow the line of the nearby stream. When I receive diversion applications I check the status of the surrounding land as regards flooding and the Environment Agency data confirms the line of the proposed diversion is within neither Flood Zone 2 nor Flood Zone 3. When on site a few months ago, I also checked the plant assemblage on the proposed diversion for evidence of waterlogged soil or irregular flooding and found none, the assemblage being similar to that found elsewhere on these fields.

As such, I do not consider the objection points raised to be applicable under the provisions of the Act and would ask you therefore to give consideration to withdrawing your objection.

To that end, unless I hear from you in writing to the contrary, I shall withdraw your objection in 28 days' time, on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

I very much appreciate the time you have taken to get in touch and thank you for your interest in and support of the public rights of way network.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**

PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team

E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)

T: 07704 278213



5 Fir Trees  
Abridge  
Romford  
RM4 1DG

FAO: Alan Roscoe, Definitive Map Service

6.7.2022

Dear Mr Roscoe,

This letter is my objection to proposed changes in the order to Labourne footpath 11. I object as it will affect the gradient and length of the path, the view from the path and the public's enjoyment of the path.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Robinson

Jo Robinson  
5 Fir Trees  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1DG

22 July 2022

Dear Ms Robinson

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you very much for your letter of 6 July concerning the proposed diversion of this footpath. I confirm I have read your comments with interest. When considering objections to any diversion we have a duty to consider these by reference to the applicable criteria of s.119 Highways Act 1980 and, having done so, I would like to respond as follows.

- I have mapped the gradients of the current and applied-for diverted routes and can find no significant difference between them. If anything, the longer field edge diversion line in the more southerly field actually slightly alleviates the steepness of the overall gradient.
- Although the length of the path would increase by some 230m, in the wider context of just the parish itself (over 18,000m of public rights of way) the increase is not that great.
- The views of the countryside are very similar to many others in the general area and are not, I would suggest, possessing any particular merit. The current line of the path is, for the majority of its route, within a small valley, thereby negating any views of the wider countryside. There are no landscape or other designations on the site.
- I note you would not enjoy the applied-for diversion as much as the current line. In terms of enjoyment however, the diversion would permit closer views of the surrounding hedgerows, stream and woodlands which may appeal to other users of the route. Clearly, this is a very subjective issue but I am afraid I cannot accept your argument as others will hold the contrary view.

As such, I do not consider the objection points raised to be applicable under the provisions of the Act and would ask you therefore to give consideration to withdrawing your objection. To that end, unless I hear from you in writing to the contrary, I shall withdraw your objection in 28 days' time, on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

I very much appreciate the time you have taken to get in touch and thank you for your interest in and support of the public rights of way network.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**

PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team

E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)

T: 07704 278213

110 Pancraft  
 Alindye  
 Essee  
 RMH 10A  
 9.7.22

Dear Mr Hoocae,

I write regarding the pathway to be re-routed around the lower perimeter, on Path 11 Lambourn the farm at the upper end of New Farm Drive.

It is in the field where the Alpacas are, to move it to the lower perimeter would mean people would be walking in a bog it is the wettest part of the field when raining.

I see no reason for this, people walk in this field daily and have no problem with the animals at all they never get upset with walkers because they are calm animals, people have been walking across this field for years without any problems, and I do hope it stays this way

Yours faithfully  
 P. McKean  
 (PAM MCKEAN)



Pam McKeon  
110 Pancroft  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1DA

22 July 2022

Dear Ms McKeon

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you very much for your letter of 9 July concerning the proposed diversion of this footpath. I confirm I have read your comments with interest. When considering objections to any diversion we have a duty to consider these by reference to the applicable criteria of s.119 Highways Act 1980 and, having done so, I would like to respond as follows.

- The diverted line would indeed follow the line of the nearby stream. When I receive diversion applications I check the status of the surrounding land as regards flooding and the Environment Agency data confirms the line of the proposed diversion is within neither Flood Zone 2 nor Flood Zone 3. When on site a few months ago, I also checked the plant assemblage on the proposed diversion for evidence of waterlogged soil or irregular flooding and found none, the assemblage being similar to that found elsewhere on these fields.

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**Alan Roscoe**

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E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)

T: 07704 278213



POSTMARK 25-7-22

Re  
Footpath 11, Lambourne

110 Pancraft  
Albottle  
Essex  
RM4 1DA  
25.7.22

Dear Mr Roscoe

I thank you for your reply,  
I have to disagree with you on the flooding  
I have been in this field when it was  
so muddy you had a struggle to walk, so  
the new walk way would be impossible.

Two or three years ago the RSPCA  
were called because of a horse in the  
field and it was so muddy people were  
really worried about the horse, and the  
state it was in.

I wonder if in a few years this  
field will go up for sale for future  
building as two other fields very close  
to this has already been sold for  
future development,

Yours Sincerely

P J McKern

(PAM MCKERN)

Pam McKeon  
110 Pancroft  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1DA

12 August 2022

Dear Ms McKeon

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you for your letter of 25 July and my apologies for the delay in responding.

I note your concerns and confirm I shall be in touch in due course. Please note that should this matter be referred to the Planning Inspectorate, they may make public the details of objections and objectors to the order. In advising you of this, it is not my intention to dissuade you from maintaining any valid objection but rather to ensure you are aware of the approach taken by the Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213

POST MARK 9 JULY

109 Pancroft  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1DA  
9<sup>7</sup>/22.

Dear Mr Roscoe

Re: Path 11 Lambourne

I have recently found out that a local resident who owns property, which includes public footpaths, is applying to have them relocated.

These are apparently paths that run across two fields adjacent to each other.

These paths have been there for many many years and have historical attachment. They are from the village of Abridge to Lambourne church. I have



walked these footpaths since I moved into the village in 1977, which I love to do.

Unfortunately for the past two years I've been mostly unable to do this due to my fight with cancer. I have every intention of getting back to these walks once I am better.

To re-route the path around the lower perimeter of the Alpaca field would make the walk virtually impossible when wet, as it would be very boggy and almost impassible.

The gentleman who owns the fields apparently says there is a problem with dogs and children with the Alpacas. This would not change if the path was re-routed as it would still be the same field.

The second field only has one horse in it so I don't understand the need to re-route this path either.

I've never witnessed any problems with dogs or children, not that I'm saying it wouldn't happen but people I've encountered on my walks keep their dogs leashed in these fields.

The man who owns these fields knew they had public footpaths when he purchased them. He also has other fields that public have no access to, so maybe his animals would be better located in one of these fields. Maybe another option would be for him to fence along the footpaths as they are now, which would protect his animals and still leave the paths where they've been for ever. It's very sad when things are changed and not caring if it

upsets local residents who care about where we live and get such pleasure from the area.

Please leave these paths in situ in order that people can still walk them all year round in relative comfort, with their history intact.

With respect

S Wood.

(Sandra Wood).

P.S. The Alpaca field slopes down towards the lower perimeter which is why it gets very very boggy.



Sandra Wood  
109 Pancroft  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1DA

22 July 2022

Dear Ms Wood

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you very much for your letter of 9 July concerning the proposed diversion of this footpath. I confirm I have read your comments with interest. When considering objections to any diversion we have a duty to consider these by reference to the applicable criteria of s.119 Highways Act 1980 and, having done so, I would like to respond as follows.

- I note the path has historic associations for the parish. Unfortunately, any such significance is not recognised by the Act and landowners have a right in law to apply to divert regardless of the origins of a footpath. As the order-making authority, when considering a previous case with a similar objection, we made representations to the Planning Inspectorate that this argument is not valid and had our position accepted by the inspector.
- The diverted line would indeed follow the line of the nearby stream. When I receive diversion applications I check the status of the surrounding land as regards flooding and the Environment Agency data confirms the line of the proposed diversion is within neither Flood Zone 2 nor Flood Zone 3. When on site a few months ago, I also checked the plant assemblage on the proposed diversion for evidence of waterlogged soil or irregular flooding and found none, the assemblage being similar to that found elsewhere on these fields.
- The question of the animals' safety is a matter for the applicant and whilst you do not agree that diversion of the footpath will keep the animals safe, this is not a valid objection under the Act.

As such, I do not consider the objection points raised to be applicable under the provisions of the Act and would ask you therefore to give consideration to withdrawing your objection. To that end, unless I hear from you in writing to the contrary, I shall withdraw your objection in 28 days' time, on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

I very much appreciate the time you have taken to get in touch and thank you for your interest in and support of the public rights of way network.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213

107 Purcell,  
Abridge,  
Romford  
RM4 1D6  
26th July 2

Mr Roscoe,

Re: Footpath 11, Lambourne.

Thank you for your letter dated  
22nd July 2022.

You state you visited the site a  
few months ago, this being when  
we've had hardly any wet weather.  
I never considered the area was on  
a flood zone but the lower area of  
the field does become very boggy and  
would be a no go area for walking.  
Why should I not be able to enjoy  
walking across the field as I have  
done since 1977.

If you are going to alter the path  
it would be better walking around  
the top of the field, which doesn't



get any extra rain or boggy in  
the bottom of the field. This is  
obvious as the field slopes downwards  
from the top, allowing wet to run  
down from the top, it then accumulates  
at the bottom. This would make the  
field still walkable whatever the  
weather.

When the man who owns the field  
kept his horse in that field, I've  
seen the horse knee deep in mud  
which could not be walked through.

I, therefore, have no wish to  
withdraw my objection to re-routing  
the footpath to the bottom of the  
field.

with respect

S Wood.  
(Sandra Wood)

Sandra Wood  
109 Pancroft  
Abridge  
Essex  
RM4 1DA

12 August 2022

Dear Ms Wood

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you for your letter of 26 July and my apologies for the delay in responding.

I note your concerns and confirm I shall be in touch in due course. Please note that should this matter be referred to the Planning Inspectorate, they may make public the details of objections and objectors to the order. In advising you of this, it is not my intention to dissuade you from maintaining any valid objection but rather to ensure you are aware of the approach taken by the Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213

Footpath 11, Lambourne - Message (Plain Text) Search

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### Footpath 11, Lambourne



footpathsecretary@west-essexramblers.org.uk

To Alan Roscoe  
Cc Shirley Anglin; Brian Smith

You replied to this message on 13/07/2022 09:35.  
We removed extra line breaks from this message.

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 12/07/2022 20:14

Dear Alan

I'm late in raising my voice although I believe Thursday 14 July is the deadline for receipt of objections to this proposed diversion.

This is not a good deal for walkers, the detour increasing the length of the present two meadow crossing by 50%.

I may have a suspicious mind but it looks as though the farm is tidying up the two plots in readiness for future development, whatever that might entail.

Word on the street suggests the landowner intends to enclose the land using 2 metre high security fencing, of the sort scarring the landscape along Lambourne FP16 at Dews Hall. And also used alongside the footpath running from Gilwell Park to the foot of Dawes Hill.

Use of such fencing is a regrettable development and detrimental to the enjoyment of open spaces. Such fencing should not be permitted alongside footpaths. Not just my view but one widely held by other walkers.

Please treat this email as a formal objection to the proposed diversion from West Essex Ramblers.

Best regards,

Alan Curran

Type here to search

Taskbar icons: File Explorer, Chrome, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Edge, OneDrive, Mail, Weather (8°C), System tray (09:38, 16/11/2022)



Alan Curran  
West Essex Ramblers

22 July 2022

Dear Alan

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you for your email of 12 July and I confirm I have read your comments with interest. May I respond as follows:

- Although the length of the path would increase by some 230m, in the wider context of just the parish itself (over 18,000m of public rights of way) the increase is not that great.
- The applicant has agreed to a 1.2m fence, with mesh, to keep his animals safe, not a two metre security fence as you suspected.

As such, I do not consider the objection points raised to be applicable under the provisions of the Act and would ask you therefore to give consideration to withdrawing your objection. To that end, unless I hear from you in writing to the contrary, I shall withdraw your objection in 28 days' time, on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

I very much appreciate the time you have taken to get in touch and thank you for your continued interest in and support of the public rights of way network.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213



## LAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.lambourneparishcouncil.org](http://www.lambourneparishcouncil.org)

*Serving the Communities of Abridge & Lambourne End*

14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Alan Roscoe  
Definitive Map Service  
Essex County Council, Seax House  
2nd Floor, Victoria Road South  
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

### **RE: Rerouting of footpath no 11**

Dear Mr Roscoe

Following on from a Council Meeting of Lambourne Parish Council last night, 13<sup>th</sup> July, where a resident of New Farm Drive gave a passionate plea for help on this matter, the Parish Council have asked me to contact you.

The resident has lived adjacent to the paddock for approx. 30 years and feels that the rerouting of the footpath to run along the boundary of her property will not only affect her right to privacy and the wellbeing of her family, but also potentially cause a number of other issues.

The resident has dogs running freely within her property and her children make full use of the land. It is felt that with people and dogs walking tight up to her boundary as they will for at least half of the rerouted area, there will be problems with excessive dog barking etc. when her dogs and walking dog owner's dogs are close together. This in turn will affect the livestock that are in the field and could cause them stress and anxiety. As the welfare of the applicant's livestock is a reason for the rerouting, this would seem to not be having the desired result.

On a personal level, the resident feels that she will not be allowed to let children roam freely on her land for the fear of strangers then having close access and also the risk of them putting their hands through her fencing and dogs biting them.



## LAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.lambourneparishcouncil.org](http://www.lambourneparishcouncil.org)

*Serving the Communities of Abridge & Lambourne End*

The applicant purchased this land with a footpath running through the two paddocks. This will have been considered when the value of the land was determined. By moving the footpath on to the boundary of these residents, this could have a detrimental effect on the value of their properties that they could not have envisaged when purchasing. This seems very unfair as the applicants land will no doubt rise without a footpath going straight through it.

The resident, who herself has cared for animals for many years feels that a solution to the worry of the applicants livestock being worried by dogs etc. , a fence could be put up either side or the original footpath with gates to transfer animals between the two areas. This would obviously come at a cost, but fencing the rerouted footpath will also be expensive.

The rerouted footpath will be running along the bottom of the paddock in close proximity to a stream. This area is known to become very wet and boggy in winter months, and is likely to make the path impassable.

Moving away from local residents, this footpath has been established as a Right of Way for approx. 500 years as a way for villagers to carry coffins to Lambourne Parish Church. We understand it is also part of the Essex Way. With this in mind it is not right to reroute the path in a way that will make it very inaccessible through winter months and wet periods.

It should also be noted that the applicant has already let the original footpath become overgrown while mowing a path along the proposed rerouting to suggest that this decision has already been made and encouraging people to walk the new route. This in itself seems to be wrong.

I will post this letter today but will send as an email attachment so that the response is with you on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you for your time.

Tony Carter  
Clerk to Lambourne Parish Council



Tony Carter  
Lambourne Parish Council

21 July 2022

Dear Mr Carter

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you very much for your email and letter of 14 July concerning the proposed diversion of this footpath. I confirm I have read your comments with interest. When considering objections to any diversion we have a duty to consider these by reference to s.119 Highways Act 1980 and I shall respond but, before doing so, may I check a couple of details with you?

Can you confirm that the decision to object to this application is a minuted council decision? We would usually consider an objection from a parish council as an entity but it seems you are representing an individual resident who was perfectly free to object in their own right if they wished. If the letter is not the result of a minuted council decision, we cannot accept it.

I would be grateful if you could confirm the situation and let me have a copy of the relevant minutes, if your letter is as indeed as a result of a minuted council decision. Thank you.

If this is the case, I shall then respond to your objections.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213

Tony Carter  
Lambourne Parish Council

21 July 2022

Dear Mr Carter

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you very much for your email and letter of 14 July concerning the proposed diversion of this footpath. I confirm I have read your comments with interest. When considering objections to any diversion we have a duty to consider these by reference to s.119 Highways Act 1980 and I shall respond but, before doing so, may I check a couple of details with you?

Can you confirm that the decision to object to this application is a minuted council decision? We would usually consider an objection from a parish council as an entity but it seems you are representing an individual resident who was perfectly free to object in their own right if they wished. If the letter is not the result of a minuted council decision, we cannot accept it.

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Yours sincerely


**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213

Re: Footpath 11, Lambourne - Message (HTML)

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Re: Footpath 11, Lambourne

 Tony Carter <lambournepc@gmail.com>  
To Alan Roscoe

You replied to this message on 22/07/2022 09:42.

Thu 21/07/2022 17:51

Reply Reply All Forward

Hello again Alan

I have spoken to my Chairman with regards to this.

The letter put in was in support of the resident that borders the fields in question. It was not an objection from the "Parish" perspective.

The discussion did highlight that Councillors would now want to object on behalf of the Parish but had missed the deadline.

The Chairman would call a meeting regards this whereby a formal response could be sent if this would then be formally considered. It would likely be different to the letter you have as would be in a wider perspective.

If there is any way this would be possible at your end could you please let me know, although the Council understands that it has missed the deadline.

Thank you

Tony

On Thu, 21 Jul 2022 at 16:33, Alan Roscoe <[Alan.Roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:Alan.Roscoe@essexhighways.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr Carter

14:58 06/12/2022




Re: Footpath 11, Lambourne - Message (HTML)

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Re: Footpath 11, Lambourne

 Tony Carter <lambournepc@gmail.com>  
To Alan Roscoe

You replied to this message on 22/07/2022 09:42.

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Thank you

Tony

On Thu, 21 Jul 2022 at 16:33, Alan Roscoe <[Alan.Roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:Alan.Roscoe@essexhighways.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr Carter

14:58 06/12/2022

Tony Carter  
Lambourne Parish Council

22 July 2022

Dear Tony

## Footpath 11, Lambourne

Thank you for your emails yesterday afternoon.

I appreciate you were looking to assist a local resident but, based on your responses and further to my letter yesterday, I regret we are unable to accept your letter as a formal objection to the Made Order. I also regret to say that we are not able to extend the consultation period for formal objections.

Yours sincerely

**Alan Roscoe**  
PROW & Records Analyst | Definitive Map Team  
E: [alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org](mailto:alan.roscoe@essexhighways.org)  
T: 07704 278213