

## **Proposed Diversion of Part of Hordle Footpath 739**

Hampshire County Council proposes to divert part of Hordle Footpath 739 under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. A plan showing the route of the proposed diversion is attached.

Hampshire County Council has published a guidance document outlining the criteria that will be considered in assessing applications for diversions, either in the interest of the landowner or of the public. This document can be viewed on the HCC website at the following address and should be read in conjunction with the requirements of the Highways Act

1980. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/definitive-map/pathorders>

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.

### **Definitive Alignment (A-C)**

#### **SU 2861 5398 and SU 2832 5460**

Hordle Footpath 739 commences at Point A on the plan (SU 2861 5398), proceeding north-westward through woodland, then westward to a junction with Footpath 740 at Point C (SU 2832 5460).

Approximately 307 metres in length.

### **Proposed Alignment (A-B-C)**

#### **SU 2861 5398, SU 2835 5380 and SU 2832 5460**

A 2 metre wide path commencing at Point A on the plan (SU 2861 5398), proceeding westward through the edge of the woodland to Point B (2835 5380), then northward to a junction with Footpath 740 at Point C (SU 2832 5460).

Approximately 351 metres in length.

### **Background**

The application has been made by the landowner; they wish to move the path to allow them to better manage Arnewood's, an ancient woodland. In their application they have expressed concerns of the extreme overgrowth of rhododendrons and laurels which they say is starving the forest floor of light, and any new growth is quickly eaten by deer. By moving the footpath to the southern perimeter of the woods will enable them to clear the invasive Rhododendron growth and erect Deer fencing to allow new growth.