



South Milford Parish Council  
Stewards House,  
Lumby  
LS25 5JA

North Yorkshire County Council  
Public rights of way section  
Business and environmental services  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AD

cc: Mel Hobson, County Councillor for South Milford

**Subject: Public paths in South Milford Parish**

1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Sir, Madam

South Milford Parish Council (SMPC) wrote to you on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to request your assistance regarding paths with and without public rights of way in and around the parish. In this letter, we signposted you to our recent report on public rights of way and listed the issues that we identified with the paths, requesting action. We also asked for your support in securing public access to existing paths which do not have public rights of way; and your permission to attach way makers to signposts.

You replied on the 15<sup>th</sup> March telling us that our report was logged on your system, with the reference numbers for each issue, and that you would update us once the matters were resolved.

Since then, and despite following up informally, as far as we are aware, the issues still are unresolved, and we haven't had any further official communication from yourselves about paths.

**We would like clarification from NYCC, in writing, about the following:**

**1. London Road status and ownership**

London Road is not an official public right of way despite being paved and signposted as a bridleway. We are unclear regarding the ownership of London Road given the recent private land sign erected by a homeowner (which we understand was approved by NYCC) and having had access to a letter from yourselves stating that "*Land at this location is recorded on the Property Terrier as being within the ownership of North Yorkshire County Council*" (your reference: 95352). London Road is frequently used by walkers and cyclists between South Milford and Lumby. Therefore, we would like your assistance in securing public access to London Road and clarification on its ownership (hence maintenance).

**2. The route of the public path 35.59/11/1 Well Lane - Garden Lane**

According to the Definitive Map, the route of the path goes across private dwellings, marked on the map as Mill Farm Nursery. For some years, it is the understanding of South Milford Parish Council that walkers walked on the private dwelling's driveway to access Mill Lane. Recently, a sign has been erected stating this (unofficial) route is private property. South Milford Parish Council would be grateful for clarification on the definitive line. This issue was noted in our report on paths and recorded in your system as CAMS issue number 65126.

**3. Installation of way markers and signposts**



As per our previous letter, we seek to enquire whether we require your permission to attach way markers to the signposts signalling that the path is a public right of way and/or installing new posts.

**4. An update on the status of applications for definitive map modification orders in the parish**

Specifically, the application DMMO reference SEL/2007/05/DMMO made on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 for the path between Westfield Lane - Beech Drive; SEL/2018/03/DMMO made on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018 about the path between Ingthorne Lane to Meadow Lane; and SEL/2021/01/DMMO made on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to upgrade Turpin Lane into a bridleway.

**Furthermore, we are contacting you to reiterate our request for a meeting with our councillors Tim Grogan and Rita de Faria Dean**, who are spearheading South Milford Parish Council's initiatives on paths.

**The objectives of the meeting are to discuss the issues around paths, prioritise issues for action and set out a timeline.** Although there may be some paths which may be unfeasible to reinstate, our view is that the large majority of paths require little action to put them into a good condition for the public to use.

Thank you very much for your work with public paths. Public paths are a valuable asset to ours and other parishes, providing safe and pleasant routes between villages, an opportunity to admire the nature around us, and a space for exercise. In the COVID-19 crisis, public paths have been a respite from lockdown, with the uptake of walking and cycling increasing. We hope that North Yorkshire County Council is committed to maintain and improve public paths now and, in the future, and will help us in our endeavours.

Kind regards

South Milford Parish Council