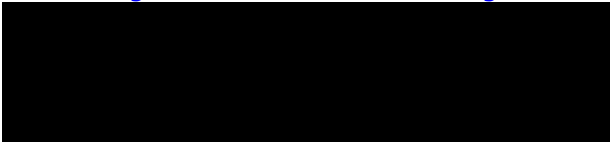


Protective Marking Scheme Level 3

Staffordshire Moorlands District
Council
Via email
planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Kate Loader
County Solicitor
Staffordshire Legal Services
Staffordshire County Council
1 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street
Stafford, ST16 2DH

DX 712320 Stafford 5
Service: legalservices@staffordshire.gov.uk



My Ref: LL620G **Your Ref:**

Date: 05/02/2026

Dear Sir/madam,

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
S53 Application to add Footpaths between Public Footpath 50
Rushton Spencer and Dial Lane Link Rushton Parish

I am writing to you as the District Council for the area in connection with an application submitted under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as referenced above.

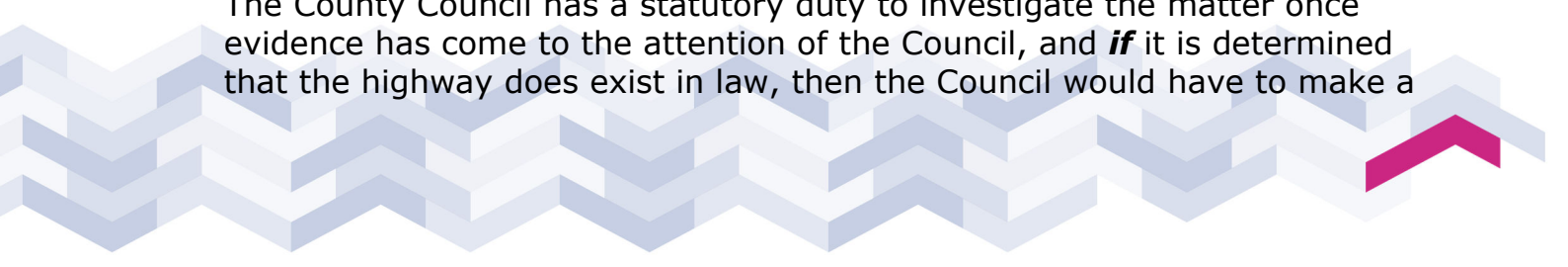
The application, which was originally submitted in 2002, is based on both historical and user evidence of the alleged route. For your consideration, I have enclosed a copy of Officers report containing the recommendation for your review. Due to the size of the Appendices, I will send them via the Council's secure file transfer system.

The report and evidence will shortly be put for determination.

If you would like to share any comments or provide additional evidence regarding this matter, we would be most grateful to receive these by 4th March 2026.

The applicant is claiming that based on both historical and user evidence that the alleged route already exists in law as a public highway and therefore should be legally recognised on the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way.

The County Council has a statutory duty to investigate the matter once evidence has come to the attention of the Council, and **if** it is determined that the highway does exist in law, then the Council would have to make a



Definitive Map Modification Order to add the route to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way.

The report will not usually undergo further amendments before determination, unless new, relevant evidence is submitted that is significant enough to either support or refute the claim.

Any comments or evidence you provide will be thoroughly analysed by Officers. The decision to defer the matter will only occur if the new evidence is substantial enough to impact the determination of the public rights over the route.

If the further evidence does not change the recommendation, it will be responded to and any submission and reply will be appended to the report.

It is important to mention that while we do respect any concerns that you or others may have regarding safety, privacy, or maintenance, at this stage of the investigation, the law requires us to focus solely on matters relating to the existence or status of public rights over the route in question.

If the Panel agree with the current recommendation to add the alleged route to the Definitive Map and Statement, a Modification Order would be made, and it is at that time that there will be opportunity for landowners, and any member of the public, to object to the making of such an Order at that time under Schedule 15 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

If objections to any such Order are made, the matter would then be referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine whether the Order should be confirmed.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding the application, report or the process regarding section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Stephanie Clarkson

Stephanie Clarkson
on behalf of Kate Loader, County Solicitor.
LL620G / 8046503

