

Review of the Definitive Map Landowner Guidance

These guidance notes explain what the review of the Definitive Map is and how claims for rights of way under the review are dealt with.

If a claim has been made to add a right of way on your property, or if evidence has been discovered during the review which indicates that a right of way may cross your property, these notes will explain what will happen and how you can put your views forward.

What is the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way?

The Definitive Map & Statement is the legal record of public rights of way. Not all paths and ways used by members of the public as rights of way are recorded on the Definitive Map; therefore it is only a minimum record.

Why does it need to be reviewed?

Under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Shropshire Council has a statutory duty to keep the Definitive Map under continuous review. The Act also states that if evidence is discovered indicating that a public right of way exists which is not recorded on the Definitive Map the council must investigate that evidence and, if necessary, publish a legal order to record the right of way on the Definitive Map.

Since 1984 the council has reviewed the Definitive Map on a district-by-district basis and each district has been reviewed on a parish-by-parish basis.

Some people may have already submitted information or evidence to claim unrecorded rights of way in your parish in the past. In some cases people claim a right of way where none is recorded at all on the Definitive Map and in other cases people may claim a change in status, for example, that a footpath shown on the map should be recorded as a bridleway. Additionally, the council investigates anomalies shown on the Map. Anomalies could be footpaths which become bridleways half way along their length or rights of way which suddenly end in the middle of fields or at parish boundaries and go no further.

How can I find more information about the processes involved?

Shropshire Council has produced guidance notes for landowners and others involved in claims for rights of way. You may find the following notes particularly useful:

Public Guidance Note 13: Applications to Change the Definitive Map Landowner Guidance

Public Guidance Note 15: Providing Personal Evidence in Rights of Way Cases

Public Guidance Note 16: Providing Documentary Evidence in Rights of Way Cases

Public Guidance Note 17: Objecting to Definitive Map Modification Orders