

[REDACTED] (Countryside)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2023 11:45
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Long Row DMMO Update

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the report by Robin Carr. I am doing so as the current Chair of the King Charles III England Coast Path Partnership (Tyne to Tees). The route within South Tyneside, including Long Row, clearly falls within the Tyne to Tees stretch, so I have an interest in the quality and availability of the Coast Path, and the experience of those using it.

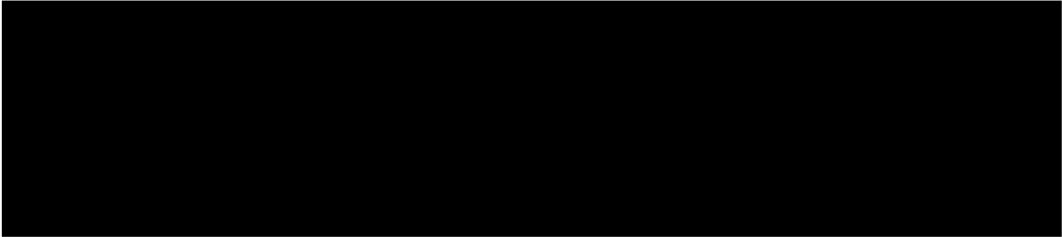
I have no comment on the overall assessment of the evidence made by Mr Carr, or his conclusion. Based on my experience as a Rights of Way Officer it seems an accurate and balanced report. I have been copied in to the comments from [REDACTED] of Natural England, and I would agree with the three points she makes in clarification/correction regarding the England Coast Path. I think some clarification might also be required in respect of the various documents listed as 'coastal path information', particularly in terms of the purposes for which the various documents were produced, when, and by whom. For example, some of the documents include maps with the annotation " ECP signs changed without permission"; this didn't seem to be mentioned in the report and it was unclear to me as to exactly when this happened, and who had produced the maps with this annotation. It may well have been after the alleged right of way was obstructed, so has no bearing on the evidence of use, but clarification of the timeline would be useful and may assist the Committee in their decision making. The development of the England Coast Path had various stages, from initial site visits through to the submission of a route to the Secretary of State for approval, with extensive consultation during those stages, and it might be useful to relate that timeline to the various changes which occurred on the ground.

Whilst it is not part of the consideration of the Committee when assessing the evidence, it may be useful to outline to Members what the options for the Authority are should a public footpath eventually be found to exist. In my experience that question is likely to be asked during the Committee's deliberations. In summary I guess those options would be a) to enforce the reopening of the path, or b) to process an application from the landowner to either extinguish or divert the path, and consider any such application against the relevant legislation, with any subsequent Order to be open to public consultation and potential determination by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State if objections are received.

I hope these comments are useful and assist the decision-making process.

Regards

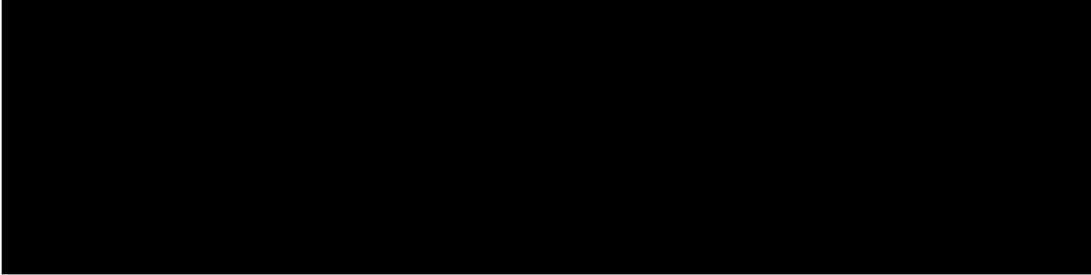
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