Order Decisions

Inquiry held on 21 February 2017 Site visit made on 22 February 2014

by Alan Beckett BA MSc MIPROW

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Decision date: 28 March 2017

Order Ref: FPS/M1900/6/1 (Order A)

- This Order is made under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 ('the 1980 Act') and is known as the Hertfordshire County Council (Knebworth Park) Public Path Creation Order 2014.
- The Order is dated 11 December 2014 and proposes to create a public right of way as shown on the Order plan and described in the Order Schedule.
- There were 21 objections outstanding at the commencement of the inquiry.

Summary of Decision: The Order is confirmed subject to the modification set out in the Formal Decision.

Order Ref: FPS/M1900/3/9 (Order B)

- This Order is made under Section 118 of the 1980 Act and is known as the Hertfordshire County Council (Knebworth 21 and 44 and Stevenage 108) Public Path Extinguishment Order 2014.
- The Order is dated 11 December 2014 and proposes to extinguish the public rights of way shown on the Order plan and described in the Order Schedule.

Summary of Decision: The Order is confirmed.

Procedural Matters

- 1. I held a public local inquiry into the Order at Robertson House, Stevenage on Tuesday 21 February 2017. It was not possible to undertake a formal inspection of the Order route following the close of the inquiry due to the lack of daylight and an accompanied site visit to inspect points J to P of the route in Order A was undertaken on the morning of Wednesday 22 February 2017 as it was this part of the Order A route which was the principal point of contention between the parties.
- 2. Following the accompanied inspection I also undertook an unaccompanied inspection of the remainder of the Order A route, that part of footpath 21 to be extinguished and viewed the course of Knebworth footpath 44 and Stevenage 108 from public vantage points as it had not been possible to view the paths the evening before the inquiry.
- 3. On the day of the inquiry, a letter containing a representation from Natural England was handed to me by the Clerk of Knebworth Parish Council. An attempt had been made to submit this letter in advance of the inquiry but had been rejected as being outside the timetable set for the making of submissions. Other than an email sent to Mr Pym dated 6 June 2014 in which Mr Andrew Mills had said that Natural England would "agree to a footfall" over the

common, no other communication had been received from Natural England. Mr Pym and Knebworth Estate ('the Estate') had proceeded on the basis that Natural England had no objection to the creation of the footpath. The letter handed in to the inquiry took a different view and claimed that the increased footfall on the common arising from the creation would result in damage to the sward. Mr Mills did not appear at the inquiry to speak to his assertions or answer questions on them.

- 4. Although it is asserted that the sward of the common would be damaged, there is no detail within the letter as to what species of special interest are likely to be affected by increased footfall along O P. Given the scarcity of information in the letter and given that the common is already subject to a right of public access under a 1952 Scheme of Management pursuant to the Commons Act 1889, I have attached little weight to this late written representation in my consideration of these Orders.
- 5. On behalf of the Estate, Mr Pym requested a modification to Order A to record that the width of the path at point J would narrow to 1.5 metres. Subsequent to the making of the Order, the Estate had erected a gate across the track at this point for management purposes and to prevent unauthorised vehicular access towards Lake Lodge. It is proposed that the path would pass between the western side of the gate and a post inserted in the ground. It was considered that a constriction of the width of the path at this point would still provide adequate access for pedestrians using the created path.
- 6. Mr Westley submitted that it would be more appropriate for the Council to use its powers under s66 (3) of the 1980 Act to provide barriers or posts to limit the available width as point J may not lie on a field boundary at some future date and consequently there would be no reason for the width of the path to be restricted.
- 7. It may well be that at some point in the indeterminate future the Estate will no longer require the gate to prevent vehicular access along the proposed route from J, but the Estate currently has such a requirement . A constriction of the width to 1.5 metres at this point will still be sufficient for pedestrians to pass along the created footpath without having to negotiate any structures along its length. If I conclude that the Order should be confirmed, I will modify the Order in the manner requested by Mr Pym.

The Main Issues

Order A

- 8. Section 26(1) of the 1980 Act requires that before confirming the Order I should be satisfied that there is a need for a footpath and that it is expedient to create that footpath having regard to:
 - (a) the extent to which the footpath would add to the convenience or enjoyment of a substantial section of the public, or to the convenience of persons resident in the area; and
 - (b) the effect which the creation would have on the rights of persons interested in the land, taking account of the provisions as to compensation in Section 28 of the 1980 Act.

9. Section 29 of the 1980 Act requires the Council to have due regard to the needs of agriculture, forestry and nature conservation; in relation to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 imposes a duty on relevant authorities to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the site is of special scientific interest.

Order B

- 10. Section 118 (2) of the 1980 Act requires that before confirming the Order I should be satisfied that it is expedient to stop up the footpaths in question having regard to the extent that it appears that they would, apart from the Order, be likely to be used by the public; and the effect which the extinguishment of the rights of way would have as respects land served by the paths, account being taken of the provisions as to compensation.
- 11. Section 118 (5) provides that where proceedings preliminary to the confirmation of a public path extinguishment order are taken concurrently with proceedings preliminary to the confirmation of a public path creation order (as is the case here) then in considering the likely extent of use of the path proposed to be extinguished, regard may be had to the extent to which the creation order would provide an alternative path.

Orders A and B

12. In determining whether or not to confirm the Orders, sections 26 (3A) and 118 (6A) of the 1980 Act require that I should give consideration to any material provision of a rights of way improvement plan (ROWIP) prepared by any local highway authority whose area includes land over which the Orders would create or extinguish a public right of way.

Reasons

Background

- 13. In September 2011 the Council determined an application made under section 53 (5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the definitive map by the addition of a public footpath over land within Knebworth Park. The modification order route (shown in Order B as Knebworth 44 and Stevenage 108) accords with the line of a footpath which was diverted by order of the Quarter Sessions in 1845 but which was not recorded in the definitive map and statement. The line of this footpath crosses the ground of Knebworth Cricket Club, the parkland of Knebworth House, the site of Fort Knebworth (one of the visitor attractions within the Park) through the site of the Novotel Hotel to terminate on the slip road from junction 7 of the A1(M).
- 14. The Council considered that as the modification order route ran from the slip road of the motorway, through the hotel, the visitors' area of Knebworth Park and the cricket club, the needs of the public could be better served if the modification route could be diverted to a line more convenient to the public and the Estate. The Orders before me are the result of negotiations between the Council and the Estate and seek to create one new route, to extinguish that part of Knebworth 41 between Lake Lodge and North Lodge and to extinguish public rights over the modification order route. Knebworth 41 is a cul-de-sac at

its western end and has been so since the closure of Warren Spring Lane as part of the construction of the A1(M).

Order A

Whether there is a need for the footpath

- 15. The objectors questioned whether there was a need for the footpath to be created and pointed to the responses received by the Council following the publication of Order A as 22 letters of objection had been received but only two letters in support. Subsequent correspondence between the Council and local user groups had generated letters of support but it was not considered that this demonstrated a need for the path.
- 16. At the inquiry I heard from representatives of local walking groups, local residents and an employee of a company located on the business park near the Six Hills Way underpass regarding their support for the proposed path. All were of the view that the path would be used for circular walks or runs within the area and that it would provide a useful link in the network between Old Knebworth and the western edge of Stevenage. Whereas the level of support for the created path demonstrated at the inquiry may not have been readily apparent in response to the Council's notice of the making of the Order, that support undoubtedly exists.
- 17. The proposed path would provide a link to other public rights of way within the locality in addition to providing the opportunity to undertake a circular walk around the woods on the Estate. The proposed route would also enable a journey from Old Knebworth to the western edge of Stevenage to be undertaken which did not require the user to negotiate vehicular traffic using the roundabout at junction 7 of the A1(M). I am satisfied that there is a need for the path described in Order A.

Whether it is expedient to create the footpath having regard to

- (a) the extent to which its creation would add to the convenience or enjoyment of a substantial section of the public, or to the convenience of persons resident in the area
- 18. There was no evidence submitted to the inquiry of a survey of numbers of pedestrians who currently used the public rights of way within and in the vicinity of Knebworth Park and the oral evidence given at the inquiry related to the likely future use of the proposed path by individuals or by groups of users.
- 19. Mrs Goodchild is employed by MBDA at its premises on Six Hills Way and her evidence was that the company placed a high priority on the health and wellbeing of its employees. Over 60 members of staff took part in running activities before or after work and during lunch time making use of the footpath and bridleway network to the west of the Six Hills Way underpass. Mrs Goodchild considered that the proposed route would add to the variety and distance available to colleagues and was to be welcomed. The company would not encourage its employees to utilise the modification order route as it would bring them into contact with traffic entering and exiting the A1(M) at junction 7.
- 20. Mr Singleton lives within Knebworth Park and would use the proposed path as a means of access to Stevenage station without having to resort to using a

vehicle. Mr Courtman welcomed the opportunity to walk on the eastern side of Knebworth Woods. Mr Ashby, Dr Faulkner and Mrs Harvey are members of the North Herts branch of the Ramblers' Association and members of other local walking groups. All three witnesses spoke of the benefits the additional link between existing public rights of way would provide. The North Herts Ramblers Group organises a programme of walks within the area with several walks per week taking place. It was considered that the proposed route would feature in these walks on a regular basis which catered for between 15 and 20 people.

- 21. Mr Westley is Secretary of the Herts and North Middlesex group of the Ramblers' Association and spoke of the benefits that would arise for those wishing to access the countryside in and around Knebworth Park from Stevenage via a path which linked to the underpass at Six Hills Way.
- 22. Concerns were expressed by the objectors that the created footpath would be promoted by the Estate as a means of pedestrian access to the Park for those attending the large outdoor events which are periodically held there. According to Mrs Lytton-Cobbold, the underpass at Six Hills Way and the created route would not be suitable for the safe and efficient movement of the numbers of people who would attend such events. Pedestrian access to the organised events was and would remain via the roundabout at junction 7 where traffic could be regulated in conjunction with the police and the highway authority. The Estate provided evidence of their event planning and there is nothing in that evidence from which it could be concluded that the path to be created would be promoted as a means of access to the Park for those attending outdoor events of any size.
- 23. I consider that the proposed path will provide opportunities for members of the public and residents of Old Knebworth, Norton Green or Stevenage to undertake circular walks within the local area. The proposed path would provide the user with contrasting views between Knebworth Woods, the adjacent parkland and the urban and industrial areas of Stevenage beyond the A1(M). To the west of point J the proposed path would provide good views of Knebworth House in its parkland setting. The proposed route would provide visual interest and enjoyment for those pedestrians who seek it out.
- 24. Although the evidence adduced in support of the Order was not substantial, it comprised evidence from those resident in the area and representatives of active local users of the rights of way network. I am satisfied that the creation of the proposed bath would add to the convenience and enjoyment of both local residents and the public.
- (b) the effect which the creation of the footpath would have on the rights of persons interested in the land, taking account of the provisions as to compensation in Section 28 of the 1980 Act
- 25. The proposed path would have an effect upon the Estate with regard to F O as that part of the proposed path would run on Estate land adjacent to Cowleys Corner Wood and Parson's Grove. However the Estate fully supports the creation of the proposed path and compensation issues under the provisions of section 28 of the 1980 Act are unlikely to arise.
- 26. That part of the proposed route shown as O P in the Order plan crosses part of Norton Green Common to join BOAT 41. As Norton Green Common can already be accessed by the public along BOAT 41 and as the public has a right

of access to the common for air and exercise under the provisions of the Commons Act 1889, the creation of the footpath between O and P is unlikely to have any adverse effect upon the interests of Stevenage Borough Council. Norton Green Common is owned by Stevenage Borough Council which has given its consent to the Order; accordingly, a claim for compensation under section 28 of the 1980 is unlikely to arise.

- 27. I understand that Knebworth Parish Council has taken over the management of the common and has entered into a Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England to provide the necessary management of the common for the benefit of the flora and fauna that is found on the site. A question was raised as to whether compensation would be payable if the Rural Payments Agency penalised the parish council if damage to the common resulted from the creation of the footpath.
- 28. If the creation of the footpath is considered to have a demonstrable negative effect on the common, then compensation for damage or disturbance in the enjoyment of the land may be payable under the provisions of section 28 of the 1980 Act. It would be for those who claim that their interest in the land has been diminished to demonstrate to the Council that this was the case.

Regard to the needs of agriculture, forestry and nature conservation

- 29. The principal ground of objection to the creation of the footpath was the likely impact upon Norton Green Common which is part of the much larger Knebworth Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest. Knebworth Woods has been notified as being woodland of a type which is nationally rare but locally well represented in Hertfordshire. The objectors are concerned that increased footfall generated by the creation of the footpath may cause damage to the vegetation and ground cover of the common and that increased access to and through the common may also have a detrimental impact upon Watery Grove and Cowleys Corner Wood.
- 30. The initial proposal made by the Estate was for the created footpath to continue along the southern boundary of Watery Grove and then run north within the woodland to Norton Green. This option was not pursued in the light of representations made by Natural England with the proposal being amended to enter the common at point O. In June 2014 Mr Mills of Natural England emailed Mr Pym to say that "we would in principle, agree to a footfall, beside through the common, to connect with the existing prow......". The Estate has placed reliance upon this communication as to Natural England's position with regard to the proposed route up to the opening of the inquiry.
- 31. As noted in paragraph 3 above, a letter from Mr Mills on behalf of Natural England was delivered to the inquiry but Mr Mills did not attend in person. In this letter Mr Mills objected to the creation order on ecological grounds but failed to specify which aspect of the ecology of the common would be adversely affected by the creation of the footpath other than asserting that the sward of the common may be damaged by an increase in footfall over it. In this respect the concerns raised by Mr Mills are not dissimilar to those raised by the other objectors. Neither Natural England nor the objectors provided any evidence as to which species of special interest were to be found on the proposed route O P or what impact increased footfall would have on any species present.

- 32. It is not the intention of either the Council or the Estate to delineate in any way the route of O P on the ground; Norton Green Common is subject to a public right of access over the whole of the common such that when a pedestrian reaches point O he or she can walk where he or she pleases and is not confined to any defined route. Nor is it the intention of the Council to physically construct a footpath between O P; consequently there would be no requirement for consent to be obtained from the Secretary of State under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006.
- 33. The access to the common at O will be via a kissing gate which will be erected on the Estate's land and as the boundary ditch between the common and the estate is not apparent at this point no works are required to facilitate pedestrian access; the site visit demonstrated that there was no discernible change to the level of the ground at this point. As the public already have a right of access over the whole of the common, it is not considered that the proposed path will have any detrimental impact upon the common as part of the SSSI.
- 34. It was submitted that the existence of a gate at O without any other treatment of the boundary would be of little value as unauthorised access between the common and the Park could be had by avoiding the gate. A request was made for dead hedging or fencing to be installed along the boundary of the common to restrict unauthorised access. These are matters which should be considered by the parties if further mitigation measures are considered to be necessary. The Estate had already taken steps to prevent access from Watery Grove into the Park; the kissing gate at O would help to prevent access to and from the common other than on foot and would demonstrate where public access to the common was available.
- 35. The proposed path has been routed around the pond to the east of Parson's Grove to prevent interference with the migration of Great Crested Newts between the pond and the woodland. No evidence was presented which demonstrated that the proposed route would have any adverse impact upon the needs of agriculture or forestry. If the Order was confirmed, the Estate will bring forward its woodland management plans for the management and maintenance of the hornbeam hedge which marks the boundary of Cowleys Corner Wood.
- 36. I am satisfied that due regard has been paid to the needs of forestry, agriculture and nature conservation in relation to the creation of the proposed footpath.

Consideration given to the provisions of a ROWIP

37. The Council has prepared a ROWIP which encourages an increase in access to the countryside from urban areas and circular walks of 1-2 hours in interesting places. The creation of the footpath accords with these aims of the ROWIP.

Other matters

38. Evidence was given of unauthorised access to Watery Grove by 4 x 4 vehicles and it was not disputed that such unauthorised access did occur. However, the Estate was doubtful that such access was taken from the Park and the majority of the problems appear to originate to the north of Knebworth Woods. The

- problems described are of long standing and are unlikely to be compounded by the creation of a public right of way on foot to the common from the south.
- 39. Mr Westley requested that consideration be given to the movement of points O and P northwards to an undisputed public right of way in the light of the definitive map modification order application made by Knebworth Parish Council with regard to BOAT 41. Whilst a modification order application may have been made, until such time as that application has been determined by the Council, BOAT 41 remains a public right of way to which the created footpath can link. Consequently there is no requirement to move points O or P northward to connect with BOAT 40 as suggested by Mr Westley.

Whether it is expedient to create the footpath

- 40. In considering whether or not it is expedient to create the footpath, I must weigh in the balance all the circumstances. The support for the proposed footpath from some residents, from representatives of local walkers' groups and from a business whose employees make regular use of the existing rights of way network to the west of the A1(M) demonstrates that there is a need for the footpath and that it would add to the convenience of persons resident in the area.
- 41. Whilst it is submitted that the creation of the footpath would lead to an increased footfall over Norton Green Common which would be detrimental to the special interest of the common as part of Knebworth Woods SSSI, the common is already subject to public access on foot via BOAT 41 and under the provisions of the Commons Act 1889. Furthermore, no specific evidence has been submitted which demonstrates what flora or fauna would be adversely affected by the creation of the footpath. Given that the public already has access to the whole of Norton Green Common for air and exercise, I consider that the creation of the footpath would not have any significant adverse impact. Accordingly, I conclude that it is expedient that the footpath described in Order A should be created.

Conclusion - Order A

42. I conclude that the requirements of section 26 (1) which are set out in paragraph 8 above are met in respect of this Order and that it is therefore expedient that it be confirmed.

Order B

The extent to which the footpaths would, apart from the Order, be likely to be used by the public

43. There was broad support for the extinguishment of the two paths which are the subject of Order B. As noted above, that part of footpath 21 proposed for extinguishment is currently a cul-de-sac which terminates near North Lodge as the public road to which it connected (Warren Spring Lane) had been stopped up as part of the construction of the A1(M). The second route proposed for extinguishment (the modification order route comprising Knebworth 44 and Stevenage 108) runs from a point near Church Lodge in a generally northerly direction to the slip road of junction 7 of the A1(M). This path is not visible on the ground and there is no evidence that it has ever been used by the public.

- 44. The Estate submits that the modification order route is not used and is unlikely to be used given that pedestrians travelling from Stevenage would be required to negotiate the roundabout at junction 7 in order to access the northern terminus of the footpath. The terminus at the northern end of the off slip road would be dangerous for anyone who attempted to use the path.
- 45. I saw from my unaccompanied site visit that anyone approaching the northern end of the modification order route would have to cross both the on and off-slip roads irrespective of whether the path was approached in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction. Although traffic leaving the motorway is controlled by traffic lights, the traffic entering the motorway is not. Furthermore, on the roundabout the footway only runs on the overbridge and there is no footway either side of the slip roads. Whilst it was possible to negotiate the slip roads to reach the northern end of the footpath, it was time consuming and required constant awareness of road traffic movements. The potential risk to both pedestrians and road users would be eliminated if the footpath were to be extinguished.
- 46. The remainder of the path also poses a number of obstacles to pedestrians in the form of a steep embankment between the slip road and the hotel, the hotel itself, a number of fences which stand on the line of the path, Fort Knebworth (one of the commercial attractions in the Park) and the fences which mark the boundary of Knebworth Cricket Club. There is no evidence that this path is currently used or has ever been used.
- 47. In accordance with the provisions of section 118 (6) of the 1980 Act, I have disregarded the obstructions currently found on the modification order route and have considered the matter as if the footpath were open and available and free from the restrictions present on site. I consider that the position of the northern terminus of the path on the slip road of junction 7 to be a significant deterrent to public use of the modification order route and that even if the path were open and available, the level of future public use is likely to be extremely limited.
- 48. The section of footpath 41 proposed to be extinguished is a cul-de-sac near to North Lodge and anyone walking to North Lodge has no option but to turn back once there. The footpath also follows the hard surfaced estate road along which all vehicular traffic in the Park passes. Whilst there may be some use of this path, it does not serve any utilitarian purpose and its recreational value is likely to be very limited as there is no onward connection to other parts of the rights of way network. I consider that the future use of the path is likely to be limited.
- 49. One objection raised to the extinguishment was that the modification order route and footpath 21 intersected at point B and that a circular walk around the park between Church Lodge and Lake Lodge would be possible if those parts of the footpath south and west of B were retained. In theory it would be possible to undertake a circular journey using the modification order route south of B although this would require the user to traverse one of the parks commercial attractions and the cricket club ground. There is no evidence that anyone has attempted to make use of such a route and whilst it would be possible for the path to be diverted around the perimeter of these features or for those features to be moved, the current use of the modification order path remains at zero and for the reasons given above, it is unlikely that it would be used to any significant extent in the future were it to be made available.

The effect which the extinguishment of the right of way would have as respects land served by the path, account being taken of the provisions as to compensation

- 50. Mrs Lytton-Cobbold's evidence was that the extinguishment of the modification order route would have a beneficial effect upon the management of the Estate as the path is currently shown as running through Fort Knebworth, a commercial visitor attraction which generates important income to support the operation of the Estate. It is submitted that Fort Knebworth could not operate with a public footpath running through it as the security and safety of visitors would be compromised. Whilst it may be possible for Fort Knebworth to be relocated elsewhere, such a move would be dependent upon the necessary consents being granted by the local planning authority.
- 51. In Mrs Lytton-Cobbold's view, the extinguishment of the footpaths at issue would have a beneficial impact upon the management of the Estate as it would allow the management of the park activities, including Fort Knebworth, to continue as now and the income generated by such activities would continue to support the management and conservation of Knebworth House.
- 52. With the exception of that part of Stevenage 108 which crosses the site of the hotel, the footpaths at issue are located on land belonging to the Estate and the evidence before me is that the extinguishment of the footpaths would have a beneficial effect upon the management and operation of the Estate. Compensation under section 28 of the 1980 Act is not an issue in this case.

Consideration given to the provisions of a ROWIP

53. One aim of the Council's ROWIP is to address issues of safety where paths terminate on busy roads. The extinguishment of the modification order path accords with this aim of the ROWIP.

Other matters

54. The objectors expressed concerns that the extinguishment of the footpaths was a precursor to the development of estate land to the west of the A1(M). Mr Lytton-Cobbold acknowledged that in the 1990s the Estate had ambitions to develop the land as a Science Park, but such plans had never materialised and the option to develop the land had lapsed. Mr Lytton-Cobbold's evidence was that the field to the west of the access road was required for overspill car parking for the large events held in the Park; if the land were to be developed, the ability to put on large events would be compromised. Mr Lytton-Cobbold stated that planning permission was not currently being sought for any of the land west of the A1(M).

Whether it is expedient to extinguish the footpaths

55. Section 118(5) of the 1980 Act provides that in considering the likely future use of the path proposed for extinguishment account can be taken of whether a path proposed for creation would provide an alternative route. The path to be created by Order A would provide a means whereby pedestrians could travel between Stevenage and Old Knebworth via the eastern side of Knebworth Woods. The underpass at Six Hills Way provides a means whereby pedestrians can negotiate the A1(M) without coming into contact with vehicular traffic and this has significant benefits over the northern terminus of the modification order route.

- 56. The views across the park of Knebworth House which will be available to pedestrians between points I and J are not dissimilar to those which are available from parts of footpath 21. I consider that the views into Knebworth Woods which will be available from almost all parts of the created footpath will provide variety and interest to those undertaking a walk through the Park and that the contrast between the views of the woodland and parkland and that of Stevenage beyond the A1(M) would also add interest.
- 57. I conclude that the footpath proposed to be created will provide a suitable alternative to the footpaths to be extinguished. It follows that I also conclude that it is expedient to extinguish the modification order route and that part of footpath 21 at issue.

Conclusions - Order B

58. I conclude that the requirements of section 118(2) which are set out in paragraph 10 above are met in respect of this Order and that it is therefore expedient that it be confirmed.

Formal Decision - Order A

59. I confirm the Order subject to the following modification:

in the Schedule Part 1 under 'width' modify the description of the width between points I and P to read "3 metres between TL 2299 2160 and TL 2287 2260 (points I-P on Parts 1 and 2 of the Order Plan) with the exception of point J where the width is 1.5 metres'.

Formal Decision - Order B

60. The Order is confirmed.

Alan Beckett

Inspector

APPEARANCES

For Hertfordshire County Council

Mrs Helen Denton Definitive Map Officer, Access and Rights of Way

Service, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13

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For Knebworth Estate

Mr Andrew Pym FRICS Chartered Surveyor

Who called:

Mr Henry Lytton-Cobbold

Mrs Martha Lytton-Cobbold

Mrs Linda Goodchild-Okonkwo

Mr Andy Singleton

Mrs Gill Harvey

Dr Ronald Faulkner

Mr David Ashby

Objectors

Mrs Claire Graham Clerk to Knebworth Parish Council

Mrs Rosemary Pateman

Mrs Karen Stainthorne-Robinson

Interested Parties

Mr Don Courtman

Mr J Turner

Mr Mark Westley

Inquiry documents

- 1. Letter from Mr Andrew Mills of Natural England dated 10 February 2017.
- 2. Statement from Mr Ian White in response to proofs of evidence submitted on behalf of the Knebworth Estate.
- 3. North Hertfordshire Ramblers Group Walks Programme August to November 2016 submitted by Mr Ashby.
- 4. Extract from NHRG Newsletter Summer 2010 "An Aston-End man's commute to work in 1920" submitted by Mr Ashby.
- 5. Copy of a deed of release dated 18th February 1965 between the Church Commissioners for England and Stevenage Urban District Council submitted on behalf of the Knebworth Estate.
- 6. Copies of documents referred to by Mrs Robinson in her statement of case.
- 7. Closing submission on behalf of the East Herts Footpath Society.
- 8. Closing submission by Mrs Pateman.
- 9. Closing submission on behalf of Knebworth Parish Council.
- 10. Closing submission on behalf of the Knebworth Estate.







