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10 March 2025

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Your Ref: RLB/PLA001/00821 Our Ref: ROW/3340656

Dear Ms Rebecca Buck,

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Section 53 Order Making Authority: Dorset Council**

**Title of Order:** Dorset Council (Part of Bridleway 33, Stourton Caundle) Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2023

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to refer to the above-named Order, which was submitted for confirmation on 28 February 2019.

Examination of the Order and map has revealed that the Order has been incorrectly drafted. Regulation 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside (Definitive Maps and Statement) Regulations 1993 requires that the notation to be used on definitive maps should be as indicated in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The route claimed

in the Order is a bridleway, therefore, the correct notation would be that shown in Schedule 1 section (b) of the Regulations, that being either a continuous green line or by a continuous line with crossbars at intervals. However, it has been indicated on the Order map as a broken line, which is considered significantly incorrect and misleading.

The Secretary of State takes the view that this constitutes a fundamental error which is fatal to the validity of the Order. As he cannot purport to use his power of modification to correct such an error, he has decided not to exercise his power of confirmation.

Please would you inform the interested parties to the Order. The sealed Orders will follow by recorded delivery.

Yours sincerely,

*Caroline Baylis*

Caroline Baylis

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