

### **SCC Consultation: claimed public bridleway at Hillside Manor, West Horsley**

Surrey County Council has advised the Parish Council that an application has been received to recognise and record a route which links two points of West Horsley bridleway no. 100 at Hillside Manor as a public bridleway. The application was made in 2018 and has now reached the top of the Council's priority list. Their intention is to investigate the evidence for and against the claimed bridleway and reach a decision on the application in the coming months.

The route currently has no recorded status. The application claims that public bridleway rights have been acquired under common law. 15 people have submitted witness statements in support of the application, each describing their personal use of the route during the period 2006-2018.

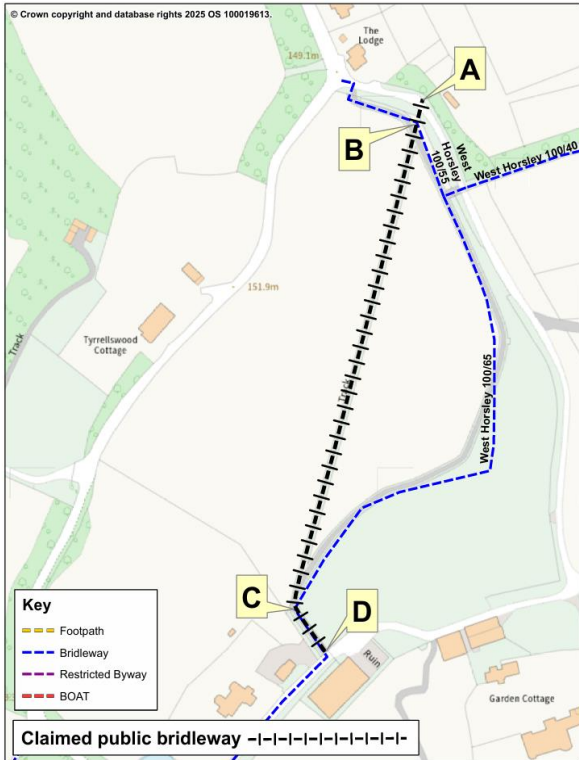
Surrey County Council has a legal duty under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to investigate the application and reach a decision. In making that decision, the only thing that the Council may consider is whether the available evidence shows that public access rights have already been acquired in law. The legislation does not allow any other factors to be considered, regardless of how important these may seem.

Public access rights may be established under common law if it can be demonstrated that there was an express or implied dedication of a public right of way by the landowner. An inference of dedication may take place if the landowner encourages public use, ignores known public use, or if use is sufficient that a reasonable landowner must have known of it and taken no action.

The Council will also consider any counter evidence provided by landowners or objectors. If landowners have taken actions to prevent or challenge public access, for example by installing signs or barriers or verbally challenging the public, those actions may have prevented access rights from being acquired.

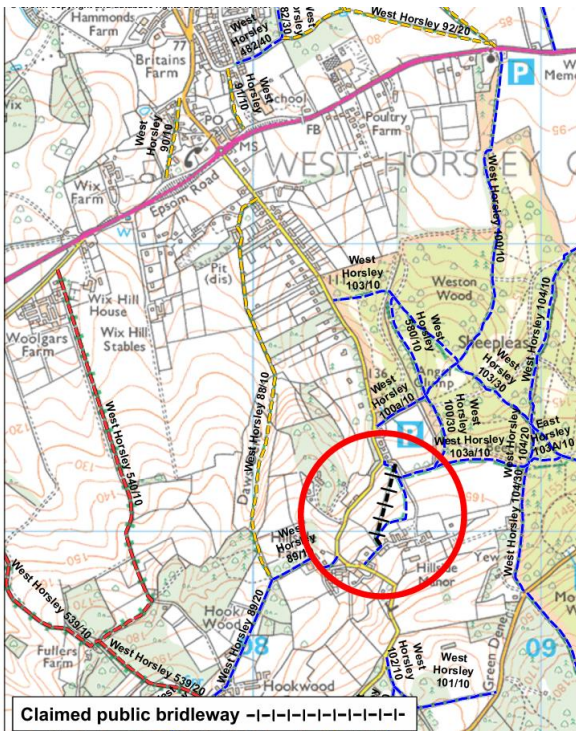
The Parish Council has until 14 February 2025 to submit any comments. On the following page are 2 maps provided by SCC showing the location of the bridleway.

Prepared by the Deputy Clerk, Karen Young  
West Horsley Parish Council  
24 January 2025



N  
1:1,500

**Claimed public bridleway at Hillside Manor, West Horsley**



N  
1:10,000

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