

## Middleton Emma

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**From:** Gaskin Peter  
**Sent:** 09 June 2015 13:13  
**To:** Kemp Robert; Smith Laurence  
**Subject:** FW: Fen Ditton boathouse field path

Hello Rob and Laurence

I'm forwarding the message below for your information.

Yours

Peter Gaskin  
Public Rights of Way Officer

**From:**   
**Sent:** 08 June 2015 19:38  
**To:**  [bidwells.co.uk](mailto:bidwells.co.uk)  
**Cc:** [secretary@friendsofdittonmeadows.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofdittonmeadows.org.uk); Gaskin Peter;   
[SouthCambsFP@cambridgeramblers.org.uk](mailto:SouthCambsFP@cambridgeramblers.org.uk)  
**Subject:** Fen Ditton boathouse field path

Dear

In response to your email, I would like to make a number of comments, which I have placed beneath your statements.

Given the significant steps that the College has taken, and continues to take, in enhancing the environment on the meadows, increasing accessibility, providing a venue for charity events and local groups, and defending the open space against inappropriate forms of development, I sincerely hope that those who benefit from all of this will understand and accept the College's reasons for the recent changes.

*Enhancing the environment and increasing accessibility:*

- But with the Right of Way (RoW), you are forcing the public into conflict with nesting and the rare breeding birds you wish to attract.
- It will flood, causing people to try and find other ways to walk across the meadows,
- By working with the county council to ensure it is passable, will cause yet more disturbance in the wetland area.

*The events:*

- They do more damage to the field in two days than any walkers do in a whole year, especially when there has been a lot of rain.
- The Bumps occurs at what is the most intensive bird-nesting time, but you don't cite that as a problem.

*Defending the open space against inappropriate forms of development:*

- If that is so, then all this talk about building a bridge across the meadows should never happen,
- how could you justify all damage the machinery would cause to the environment of the meadows?
- Yet, refuse public access to a riverside path in the boat house area
- or would you class that as appropriate development?

I note your point on the s31 of the Highways Act. It is true that the College has recently tolerated access along the 'unofficial' route through the boathouse field. I can confirm, however, that the College has protected its estate against the creation of new public rights of way, having deposited the County Council (over many years) a series of declarations with under s31(6) of the same Act. The route through the boathouse field therefore is not, and will not become, a public right of way.

*You have protected the ownership of your estate and the unofficial route is not a RoW, but:*

- its long been in use, members of the Cambridge Ramblers Association can date access back to 1965,
- It is a scenic walk, a tranquil green lung to and from Cambridge.
- The village of Fen Ditton has a long association with Bumps etc, and go to great lengths to assist.
- As an individual, I have helped in this for a number of years, as have many others.
- Villagers accept the inconvenience of moving parked cars to ease traffic,
- it is disappointing see that you have “tolerated” access to your meadow/riverside

Where people have used the route through the boathouse field in the past, significant damage has been done to the pasture and to the hedges and fences, where users have tried to skirt around muddy areas. We hope that the true public right of will remain passable at all times of the year and will continue to work with the County Council to ensure that it the case.

*Boathouse field damage*

- Could it not be the cattle that are mostly to blame, their weight could easily damage a hedge or fence.
- the narrow opening that is trampled down by them, could have been made good with hardcore (for an event, these areas are soon attended to).
- It is hardly a good nesting area, because college crews are often racing up and down, unlike the RoW wetland area.

*Those that would benefit*

- They are those you wish to deprive, the people of Cambridgeshire.
- Unless you refer to those attending the events...?
- By keeping to the unofficial path in the boathouse area, it will impact much less on the wildlife than using the RoW.
- And when you have an event, an need a temporary closure to erect tents etc, close the path with an explanation why.

I urge you to reconsider your decision and permit (not tolerate) people using it and ask that they respect it (explaining why). That way perhaps we can all benefit for the good of the meadows.

Yours sincerely



## Summary of CRNo 229930

Received **15-Jun-2015**

Call Type: **Public rights of way** **Miscellaneous**

Location: **fen ditton meadows**  
**FEN DITTON FOOTPATH 2**  
**FEN DITTON**

Easting / Northing: **548121** **260350**

Recorded by: **Online Reporting**

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Customer Details:

**Anonymous**

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Description: **no gate for access to fen ditton from walk through meadows**

History (may be printed on the next page)

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17-Jun-2015 13:50

Recorded by

Event: **Contacted Customer**

Action:

Email to customer

Dear

Thank you for contacting Public Rights of Way about Fen Ditton Public Footpath Number 2. Attached is a map showing the legal line of the Public Footpath for your information. Please note that this is a drawing taken from the Definitive Map, which is held within Asset and Information at Cambridgeshire County Council. You will see that the legal line of the Public Footpath is on the southern side of the hedge.

Landowners' have the right to stock proof their land and to maintain any barriers installed, e.g. kissing gate. As the kissing gate was directing the public along the river side of the hedge and it has changed so that the public can walk along the legal line of the footpath through the water meadow. The change to the kissing gate has been made by the landowner.

Our contractor has slightly raised the ground level, on the legal line of the Public Footpath, next to the hedge. This has a small section of fencing and gates at either end should stop cattle damaging the area. However, as the field is part of the water meadow it is expected that at certain times of the year the Public Footpath is likely to become waterlogged or impassable.

We, (Cambridgeshire County Council as Highway Authority), have a duty to maintain Public Rights of Way that are recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. As the route used on the river side of the hedge is not recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement we are not obliged to undertake any maintenance.

It is possible for the public to claim that Public Rights exist and add these to the Definitive Map. There is more information on how to make such a claim on Cambridgeshire County Council's website at [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/199/definitive\\_map\\_and\\_statement](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/199/definitive_map_and_statement) and by scrolling down to the section 'Making changes to the Definitive Map'.

Please note that it is also possible for a landowner to protect their land from claims that Public Rights exist by depositing a Section 31(6) 'deposit' with the Highways Authority. Information about 'Landowner Deposits' can be found at [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/200/landowner\\_deposits](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/200/landowner_deposits). We understand that records indicate that the landowner made such a deposit effective from 8th April 1999 and any potential claims would have to be made with evidence from those with twenty years or more use prior to this date.

We hope that the information above is of assistance.

Should you be inclined to begin to make a claim for Public Rights on the river side of the boundary hedge we will pass on your report to our colleagues in Asset Information Definitive Map.

Yours

Peter Gaskin  
Rights of Way Officer

Local Infrastructure and Street Management  
Cambridgeshire County Council

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01-Jul-2015 16:54

Recorded by **Peter Gaskin**

to **Peter Gaskin**

Event:

Action: **MOBINS**

**Email to customer**

**Dear**

**Having not received a response to the message below we will now be closing your report.**

**Thank you again for contacting Public Rights of Way.**

**Please continue to report any problems found on Public Rights of Way in Cambridgeshire.**

**Yours**

**Peter Gaskin**

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**01-Jul-2015 16:54**

Recorded by

Event: **Contacted Customer**

Action:

**Email to customer**

**Dear**

**Having not received a response to the message below we will now be closing your report.**

**Thank you again for contacting Public Rights of Way.**

**Please continue to report any problems found on Public Rights of Way in Cambridgeshire.**

**Yours**

**Peter Gaskin**

## Middleton Emma

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**From:** Kemp Robert  
**Sent:** 02 June 2015 09:03  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Fen Ditton FP 2

Hello Peter,

Hello Peter,

Our records show that this land was covered by S31 from 08/04/1999, therefore any DMMO claim would have to be from April 1979 or before.

Regards

Robert Kemp  
Asset Information Definitive Map Officer

Direct Line:

Contact Centre 0345 045 5212

Assets & Commissioning, Box No CC1305, Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, Castle Street, Cambridge CB3 0AP

Would you like to view the highways records for Cambridgeshire online?

\* For public rights of way please click here

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/199/definitive map and statement](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/199/definitive_map_and_statement)

\* For all other highways please click here

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads\\_and\\_pathways/116/highways\\_records](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/116/highways_records)

### Notice to all our customers

As you may be aware, how customers request and pay for highway, public rights of way and village greens/common land information has changed. Customers can now submit and pay for search requests online via our website. As from the 10<sup>th</sup> April we will no longer be accepting payment by cheque. Any search requests accompanied by cheques will not be processed.

Customers paying online will be able to take early advantage of our new fees that come into effect on 1st April 2015.

For further information or to make a request, please see our page,

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20092/business\\_with\\_the\\_council/573/highway\\_searches](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20092/business_with_the_council/573/highway_searches)



## Summary of CRNo 232016

Received: 18-Jul-2015

Call Type: Public rights of way Miscellaneous

Location: Ditton Meadows  
FEN DITTON FOOTPATH 2  
FEN DITTON

Easting / Northing: 548072 260339

Recorded by: Online Reporting

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Customer Details:

Anonymous

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Description: For years I have walked along the river bank from Cambridge to Fen Ditton, but now I cannot!  
Why has this lovely riverside walk been closed to the public?

Gonville and Caius, as the land owner   
should not be permitted to exclude the public from this riverside walk.  
So everybody can trample a field for a bumps event yet I cannot even walk through it

Why is the established footpath closed? It is a lovely green corridor route to Cambridge, along the river.  
Yet the planners can talk about building a bridge for all to access the new station from the meadows yet we the public are being fenced off from the riverside meadow and made to walk through a very wet area?

History (may be printed on the next page)

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21-Jul-2015 14:17

Recorded by

Event: **Contacted Customer**

Action:

Email to customer

Dear

Thank you for contacting Public Rights of Way about Fen Ditton Public Footpath Number 2. Attached is a map showing the legal line of the Public Footpath for your information. Please note that this is a drawing taken from the Definitive Map, which is held within Asset and Information at Cambridgeshire County Council. You will see that the legal line of the Public Footpath is on the southern side of the hedge.

Landowners' have the right to stock proof their land and to maintain any barriers installed, e.g. kissing gate. As the kissing gate was directing the public along the river side of the hedge and it has changed so that the public can walk along the legal line of the footpath through the water meadow. The change to the kissing gate has been made by the landowner.

Our contractor has slightly raised the ground level, on the legal line of the Public Footpath, next to the hedge. This has a small section of fencing and gates at either end should stop cattle damaging the area. However, as the field is part of the water meadow it is expected that at certain times of the year the Public Footpath is likely to become waterlogged or impassable.

We, (Cambridgeshire County Council as Highway Authority), have a duty to maintain Public Rights of Way that are recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. As the route used on the river side of the hedge is not recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement we are not obliged to undertake any maintenance.

It is possible for the public to claim that Public Rights exist and add these to the Definitive Map. There is more information on how to make such a claim on Cambridgeshire County Council's website at [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/199/definitive\\_map\\_and\\_statement](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/199/definitive_map_and_statement) and by scrolling down to the section 'Making changes to the Definitive Map'.

Please note that it is also possible for a landowner to protect their land from claims that Public Rights exist by depositing a Section 31(6) 'deposit' with the Highways Authority. Information about 'Landowner Deposits' can be found at [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/200/landowner\\_deposits](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/200/landowner_deposits). We understand that records indicate that the landowner made such a deposit effective from 8th April 1999 and any potential claims would have to be made with evidence from those with twenty years or more use prior to this date.

We hope that the information above is of assistance.

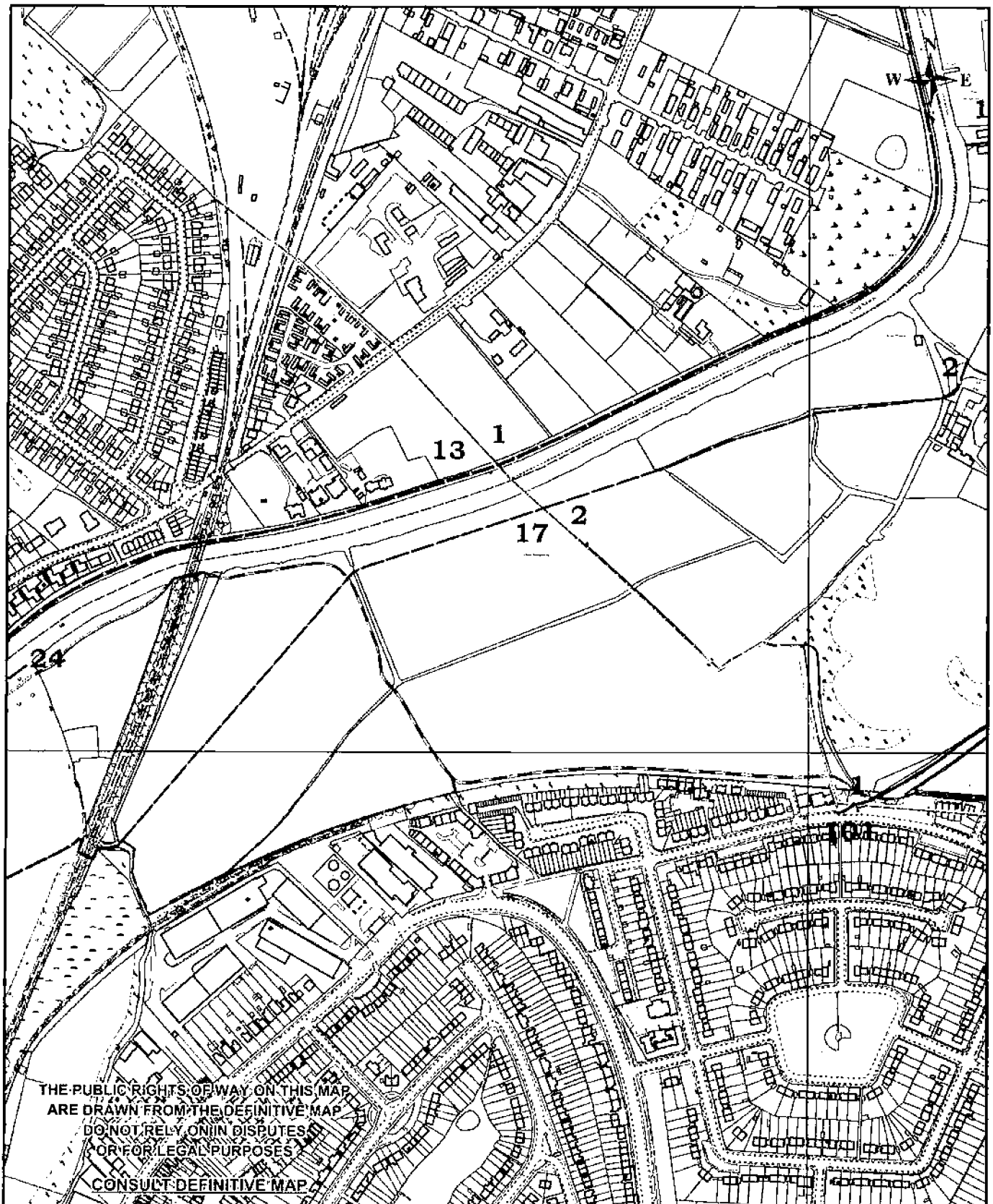
Should you be inclined to begin to make a claim for Public Rights on the river side of the boundary hedge we will pass on your report to our colleagues in Asset Information Definitive Map.

Yours

Peter Gaskin  
Rights of Way Officer



# Fen Ditton Public Footpath 2



THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ON THIS MAP  
ARE DRAWN FROM THE DEFINITIVE MAP  
DO NOT RELY ON IN DISPUTES  
OR FOR LEGAL PURPOSES  
CONSULT DEFINITIVE MAP

Scale: 1:5000

Date: 02/06/2015

By:

## Key - Drawn from the Definitive Map

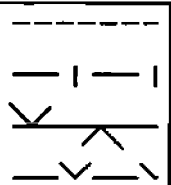
Permissive Footpath (red)	-----
Permissive Bridleway (red)	- - - - -
Permissive Access (red)	□
Parish Boundary (yellow)	

Public Footpath

Public Bridleway

Byway Open to All Traffic

Restricted Byway



## Middleton Emma

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**From:** Champion Karen  
**Sent:** 26 February 2013 13:14  
**To:**   
**Subject:** Fen Ditton Footpath No 2.

Dear  I have attached a plan showing the walked route and the registered Definitive Route so that you can see the discrepancy between the two. Naturally, Rights of Way maintenance needs to take place where the Right



Fen Ditton2  
DR-Walked.pdf

of Way is registered.

I have included some pictures taken on the definitive route, for completeness-



Dr.pdf



Drlookback to  
Hall.pdf



DrlookbackChur...

And, as you asked, a picture of a nice family tackling the mud, only the tiny boys had the right footwear for the job.



Fen  
Dittonwalkers.pdf

I have asked the owner's agent to consider improving the gap, and explained that we may need to work on the definitive route to bring it into better order. As you have noticed, the current conditions are very unusual, and make for some interesting photos.

Thank you for raising this with us, on a more positive note, the Probation team are working on Filly Lane, Byway No 5 for us, to make sure that some of the vegetation that is encroaching on the path, is cleared away before the birds start nesting.

Best wishes, Karen Champion.

Karen Champion, Public Rights of Way Officer,  
Rights of Way and Access Team  
Cambridgeshire County Council, Box CC1305  
Castle Court  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge CB3 0AP  
Tel.  Fax. 01223 475956

Click on the link below to access our interactive map of Public Right of Way.

<http://my.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mycambridgeshire.aspx?&tab=2&layers=Public%20Rights%20of%20Way&layers=Permissive%20Access%20Paths&layers=Permissive%20Access&layers=Public%20Rights%20of%20Way%20-%20PRoW>

## Middleton Emma

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**From:**  bidwells.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 13 April 2015 10:14  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Cc:**   
**Subject:** Fen Ditton Meadows

Dear Mr Gaskin

I write to you following various fencing works which we have carried out a Fen Ditton Meadows as part of the exercise to guide pedestrians back onto the public footpath and away from the route which many currently take.

We have installed a new gate at the end of the first field, the bridge has been levelled up and we plan on reversing the direction of the kissing gate soon.

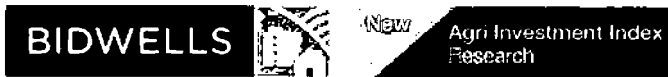
As previously discussed with  we will need finger signs to direct pedestrians in the right direction. Please can you advise if our contractor would be able to collect some from your offices?

Kind regards



Graduate Rural Surveyor  
Land & Business

Bidwell House, Trumpington Road, Cambridge CB2 9LD  
t: 01223 841841  
dd:



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[www.bidwells.co.uk](http://www.bidwells.co.uk)

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For further information about Bidwells please visit our [website](http://www.bidwells.co.uk)

Before you print, please think of the environment.

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## Middleton Emma

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**From:**   
**Sent:** 05 January 2015 22:41  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Fen Ditton FP2 photos

Hi Peter

I tried to send through a batch of photos relating to Fen Ditton FP2 on the 'share' facility on my iPhone. Did you get them? If not, I will have to send them individually.

Regards



## Middleton Emma

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**From:** Kemp Robert  
**Sent:** 22 July 2015 11:55  
**To:** Manning Ian Cllr East Chesterton  
**Subject:** RE: #488 - access from Ditton Fields to Fen Fitton  
**Attachments:** Fen Ditton FP2 reduced.pdf

Hello Cllr Manning,

We have had a large number of information requests about this route lately.

I have attached a map showing the legal position of the Public Footpath. As you can see the legal line of Footpath No.2 Fen Ditton runs alongside the hedge of the field, not across the field adjacent to the river (which has been the walked route for some time). Recently the landowner has closed off the walked route and opened the legal line of the path, which has led to this public interest.

Cambridgeshire County Council only have the power to ensure that public access is available along recorded public rights of way. This means that we cannot take action against the landowner for the former walked route of the path by the river because it is not a recorded public right of way.

If the legal line of the path is overgrown or has other similar issues then please report these online reporting form at the link below (Report a pothole or other highways fault). The issue will then be inspected by the Rights of Way Officer and we will take any action that is appropriate.

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads\\_and\\_pathways/10/roadworks\\_and\\_faults](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/10/roadworks_and_faults)

### Making an application to modify the definitive map

It may be possible to have the former walked route recorded as a Public Right of Way if it has been used by the public for at least 20 years and this use conforms to certain conditions. If the public uses a path without interruption or challenge for at least 20 years, a right of way is presumed to have been dedicated, even though the landowner has made no formal dedication. "Interruption" means that the land manager has not asked people to leave, put up a notice (such as "private road"), locked a gate, or obstructed a path in order to exclude people. The use must have been by the public and not by a special group of people such as employees of the landowner. The landowner must not have objected, and the public's use must have been so open and frequent that he ought to have known about it.

Landowners are able to protect their land from a claim for public rights by depositing certain documents with the council under section 31(6) of the Highways Act and section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006. In this case the landowner registered their land in this way with us on 08/04/1999. This means that any claim to record a right of way on the land would have to demonstrate that the land was used for 20 years before April 1999 – i.e. public use that has taken place since April 1999 cannot count towards a claim for public rights.

If you think that you have sufficient user or historical evidence to claim usage for this time period and would like to make an application then please give me a ring, I will give you more information about the process.

Likewise, if anything in the above email is not clear, please let me know.

Robert Kemp

Asset Information Definitive Map Officer

Direct Line:

Contact Centre 0345 045 5212

Assets & Commissioning, Box No CC1305, Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, Castle Street, Cambridge CB3 0AP

Would you like to view the highways records for Cambridgeshire online?

\* For public rights of way please click here

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\* For all other highways please click here

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads\\_and\\_pathways/116/highways\\_records](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/116/highways_records)

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Customers paying online will be able to take early advantage of our new fees that come into effect on 1st April 2015.

For further information or to make a request, please see our page,

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20092/business\\_with\\_the\\_council/573/highway\\_searches](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20092/business_with_the_council/573/highway_searches)

**From:** Ian Manning [mailto:manning.ian@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 22 July 2015 11:25

**To:** Kemp Robert

**Cc:**

**Subject:** #488 - access from Ditton Fields to Fen Fitton

Hi Robert

Could you take a look at this tweet please?:

<https://twitter.com/RTaylorUK/status/621798502423756801>

Realise this isn't my ward, but it is a route many of my constituents use regularly. Can you see whether this is a right of way or not please?

Ian

--

Cllr Ian Manning

Cambridgeshire County Councillor for East Chesterton

<http://eastchestertonfocus.org.uk>

Tel: 07931958169

Twitter: @IanGManning

## Middleton Emma

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**From:** Fen Ditton Parish Clerk <clerk@fenditton-pc.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 01 June 2015 13:12  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Ditton meadows.

Good afternoon Mr Gaskin,

I am receiving a number of concerns from parishioners regarding a newly erected kissing gate in Fen Ditton onto Ditton Meadows and re-direction of the established route. I have re-directed all of these concerns to you.

I would be grateful if you would investigate and respond with your findings. Should you wish to meet to discuss please let me know.

Regards,

Parish clerk  
Fen Ditton

## Middleton Emma

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**From:** [redacted]@environment-agency.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2014 09:04  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** RE: Fen Ditton Footpath 2 & Cambridge Footpath 17 - works to bridge  
**Attachments:** consent application form.pdf; Guidance\_Flood\_Defence\_Consent\_England\_Wales.pdf

Hello Peter

Looking at your attached map it appears that any works may require the prior consent of the Environment Agency if they are within 9 metres of the main channel of the Cam (main river). While the Cam is designated a main river, tributaries would be classed as ordinary watercourses and the byelaws apply differently.

Under the recent transfer of powers ordinary water courses are now the responsibility of the lead local flood authorities. So if the bridge is further than 9 metres from main channel (where the footpath crosses the tributary is 30m from main channel on our map) then the works may require consent from your Flood and Water team within the Council- Emily Clarke [redacted].

I have attached consent application form and guidance from ourselves but it may be a good idea to contact the relevant team within the council to discuss if it falls within their remit.

I hope this helps

[redacted]

**From:** Gaskin Peter [<mailto:Peter.Gaskin@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2014 13:32  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fen Ditton Footpath 2 & Cambridge Footpath 17 - works to bridge

Hello [redacted]

Thank you for calling me and discussing the proposed maintenance works to the ground either end of the Bridge adjacent to Cambridge Footpath 17. I have a map showing the location of the bridge with a red star, which is for your information. Our contractor is suggesting the following works:

- filling the depressions at both ends of the bridge, which have been caused by use and water erosion, with 40mm down road planings. To prevent further build-up of water in these areas, a length of perforated drainage pipe would be laid in both depressions, with their outfalls beneath the bridge. This solution should give a relatively level surface to walk on and serve to mitigate further erosion.

Would you consider this as being suitable works next to the river?

Yours

**Peter Gaskin**  
**Rights of Way Officer**

**Local Infrastructure and Street Management**  
**Cambridgeshire County Council**

[redacted]

**For general countryside access queries and to report any problems with the rights of way network please ring the County Council Contact Centre on 0345 045 5212.**



## Middleton Emma

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**From:**   
**Sent:** 25 July 2015 21:33  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Fen Ditton FP2  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0894.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Hi Peter

I haven't made a formal complaint about the 'new' Fen Ditton FP2 route but it is impassable after Friday's rain. I couldn't get across this new bridge and was already very muddy from the gap in the hedge. I had to retreat to the meadow next to the river and climb over the new fence by the kissing gate. It is rather flimsy and won't stay up long.

Is there no chance of getting Gonville & Caius College to divert the path to the causeway in the meadow Next to the river? So much wasted expenditure on a water-logged route.

Regards



## Middleton Emma

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**From:** Highways Systems <highways.systems@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 August 2015 08:59  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Insight report: CRNOEVNT  
**Attachments:** FH267-CRNOEVNT-20150804-085836.PDF

Report Attached

## Middleton Emma

---

**From:** Champion Karen  
**Sent:** 05 January 2015 09:40  
**To:** Gaskin Peter; Day Kate  
**Subject:** FW: Cambridge Rambling Club's PROW maintenance offer

Hi, just to remind you that the boggy mess is not on the definitive line, the DR is if anything different but worse problems, KC.

Karen Champion  
Public Rights of Way Officer  
Local Infrastructure and Street Management  
Cambridgeshire County Council, Box ET1029  
Highways Depot  
Stirling Way  
Witchford  
Ely CB6 3NR  
Tel.  Fax. 01353 667179  
I am not available on a Wednesday.

### **Would you like to view the highways records for Cambridgeshire online?**

- For public rights of way and village greens/common land please click [here](#).
- 
- Please use our fault reporting link to report your rights of way issues:
- 
- <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>
- 
- If you click the link to **report a highways fault**, this will come through directly to the local officer for the area, and will also be logged onto our system for future reference.
- 
- This is to ensure your highway or rights of way issue is recorded and dealt with according to our customer response standards.

**From:**   
**Sent:** 04 January 2015 20:28  
**To:** Gaskin Peter; Day Kate  
**Cc:** Champion Karen  
**Subject:** Cambridge Rambling Club's PROW maintenance offer

Hi Peter & Kate

This is a bit of a long shot! However, is there any way that the £800 on offer from Cambridge Rambling Club for path maintenance can be spent on much needed work on improving Fen Ditton FP2, ?  
This riverside path is a total quagmire at the point where it intersects with a hedge and ditch. The path is very heavily used; on good weather days several hundred people use it. During winter months the crossing point is dreadful. I noticed last week that people have now forced a way through the hedge nearby, but this is also now a muddy mess. I think that Gonville & Caius College own the land; they may have no interest in much-needed drainage or building up the path. However, this treatment has been relatively successful around 300 yards further west on the same path, near the footbridge.

If this isn't possible, can I please ask again that you contact 3P parishes to request if they have any PROW maintenance or improvement schemes where £800 would be useful? It is ridiculous that we can't find a single scheme which meets the simple criteria of improving a PROW on a through route.

Also, can I again request that a link is provided on the CCC 'public rights of way' page to 'report a problem'. If this simple request is refused I will be approaching the Chief Executive to request why.

Regards



## Middleton Emma

---

**From:** Gaskin Peter  
**Sent:** 05 January 2015 10:37  
**To:**   
**Subject:** RE: Cambridge Rambling Club's PROW maintenance offer  
**Attachments:** Fen Ditton FP 2 - map.pdf

Hello

Ops! Please find attached.

Yours

Peter Gaskin  
Public Rights of Way Officer

**From:**   
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**From:** Gaskin Peter [<mailto:Peter.Gaskin@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>]  
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Cheers



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Hello 


The land is owned by Gonville & Caius College do own the land and the Land Agent has similar concerns to yourself.

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Would you like me to contact the Land Agent about your offer and get them to liaise with you directly?

Yours

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Public Rights of Way Officer

**From:** Day Kate  
**Sent:** 05 January 2015 09:26  
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**Subject:** RE: Cambridge Rambling Club's PROW maintenance offer


We emailed all South Cambs Parishes before Christmas - I've had one suggestion so far which I will forward to you but there should be some more Parish meetings coming up soon so might get more suggestions from them.

**Kate Day**  
*Project Manager.*


*Local Infrastructure and Street Management*  
*Cambridgeshire County Council*

Tel: 

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## Middleton Emma

---

**From:** Gaskin Peter  
**Sent:** 02 June 2015 13:40  
**To:** 'Fen Ditton Parish Clerk'  
**Subject:** RE: Ditton meadows.  
**Attachments:** Fen Ditton Public Footpath 2 - 2015.pdf; ... image two 2 June 2015 - Copy.jpg

Hello

Following on from my telephone call I have responded to one other person who has a similar issue about Fen Ditton Public Footpath 2. My response to them is as follows and which I hope you'll find useful.

"Thank you for contacting me about Fen Ditton Public Footpath Number 2. I have attached a map showing the legal line of the Public Footpath for your information. Please note that this a drawing taken from the Definitive Map, which is held within Asset and Information at Cambridgeshire County Council. You will see that the legal line of the Public Footpath is on the southern side of the hedge.

Landowners' have the right to stock proof their land and to maintain any barriers installed, e.g. kissing gate. As the kissing gate was directing the public along the river side of the hedge it was required to be changed so that the public could walk along the legal line of the footpath through the water meadow. The change has been made by the landowner and not Cambridgeshire County Council.

Provisional work was undertaken by our contractor to raise the ground level, on the legal line of the Public Footpath, next to the hedge. The work is shown in your image attached to your original message. (**now attached for your information**) A small section of fencing and gates at either end should stop cattle damaging the area. However, as the field is part of the water meadow it is expected that at certain times of the year the Public Footpath is likely to become waterlogged or impassable.

We, (Cambridgeshire County Council as Highway Authority), have a duty to keep open and maintain Public Rights of Way that are recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. As the route used on the river side of the hedge is not recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement we are not obliged to undertake any maintenance.

It is possible for the public to claim that Public Rights exist and add these to the Definitive Map. There is more information on how make such a claim on Cambridgeshire County Council's website at [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/199/definitive\\_map\\_and\\_statement](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/199/definitive_map_and_statement) and by scrolling down to the section 'Making changes to the Definitive Map'.

Please note that it is also possible for a landowner to protect their land from claims that Public Rights exist by depositing a Section 31(6) 'deposit' with the Highways Authority. Information about 'Landowner Deposits' can be found at [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts\\_green\\_spaces\\_and\\_activities/200/landowner\\_deposits](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20012/arts_green_spaces_and_activities/200/landowner_deposits). I understand that records indicate that the landowner made such a deposit effective from 8<sup>th</sup> April 1999 and any potential claims would have to be made with evidence from those with twenty years or more use prior to this date.

I hope that the information above is of assistance.

Should you be inclined to begin to make a claim for Public Rights on the river side of the boundary hedge I will pass on your report to my colleagues in Asset Information Definitive Map."



It would be appreciated that you could report the problem as requested below and encourage other to do so when reporting any problems on Public Rights of Way in Cambridgeshire.

Yours

Peter Gaskin  
Public Rights of Way Officer

**From:** Gaskin Peter  
**Sent:** 02 June 2015 08:17  
**To:** 'Fen Ditton Parish Clerk'  
**Subject:** RE: Ditton meadows.

Thank you for reporting this issue, but I would ask that you use our online fault reporting system to report it please:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults>

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This is to ensure your highway issue is recorded and dealt with according to our customer response standards.

Alternatively, please call our Contact Centre on 0345 045 5212.

Thank you for your assistance.

**From:** Fen Ditton Parish Clerk [<mailto:clerk@fenditton-pc.org.uk>]  
**Sent:** 01 June 2015 13:12  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Ditton meadows.

Good afternoon Mr Gaskin,

I am receiving a number of concerns from parishioners regarding a newly erected kissing gate in Fen Ditton onto Ditton Meadows and re-direction of the established route. I have re-directed all of these concerns to you.

I would be grateful if you would investigate and respond with your findings. Should you wish to meet to discuss please let me know.

Regards,

Parish clerk  
Fen Ditton

## Middleton Emma

---

**From:**   
**Sent:** 05 January 2015 13:02  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** RE: Cambridge Rambling Club's PROW maintenance offer - Fen Ditton FP2

Thanks Peter

I've been down to have a look and will send the photos through separately,

Starting from Fen Ditton, by the kissing gate, the FP sign is somewhat ambiguous as it points straight along the hedge. As access to the actual RoW is obstructed by a wooden fence (part of the kissing gate) everyone turns into the field by the river. At present, with so much surface water, this is the only logical route, as there is a slightly raised embankment which keeps you out of the water. There is a sign by the gate which informs everyone that the footpath RoW is clearly marked – which it obviously isn't!

The first opening through the hedge which you can, in theory, take to rejoin the definitive line of the FP, is now deep in water; this is also true of the next breach in the hedge line. I will send photos of both openings.

I will also send photos of the regularly used gap in the hedge which leads into the next big field alongside the river (and where the unofficial path meets up again with the true line of the RoW). There is a photo as well of the unofficial hole(s) in the hedge and the messed up ground. Finally, on this section, I walked to the corner of the hedge where the definitive FP goes, only to find a large expanse of water which you would need waders to get through. So – even if there was access to the FP alongside the kissing gate you would be unable at present to use it because of significant flooding further along.

Because of the slight embankment in the field closest to the river, which is accessed from the kissing gate, this should be the preferred route, even if it isn't on the strict line of the RoW. The latter is impassable whenever there is even moderate rainfall. So I would ask for the unofficial line to be improved at the junction with the hedge. Can some hardcore be put down here, or some sort of ramp over the flooded area?

Regards

**From:** Gaskin Peter [mailto:Peter.Gaskin@cambridgeshire.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 05 January 2015 10:37  
**To:**   
**Subject:** RE: Cambridge Rambling Club's PROW maintenance offer

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## Middleton Emma

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Regards,

Parish clerk  
Fen Ditton

## Middleton Emma

---

**From:**   
**Sent:** 01 June 2015 12:49  
**To:** Gaskin Peter  
**Subject:** Footpath in Ditton Meadows

Dear Peter,

I wanted to get in contact regarding the new metal gate at the entrance of Ditton Meadows. The gate was replaced last week and now you can only enter the meadows to the left of the hedge (i.e. the far side of the hedge from the river). There appears to be a plan to re-route the footpath all the way along the left-side of the hedge. I have a few concerns about the new footpath route.

1. Lack of signage. There is no signage to explain the changes if you are approaching from Cambridge, so many walkers are reaching the gate and finding they have to climb over the new fence, because they do not know how to get to the gate on the other side. Not everyone can climb the fence.

2. Unsuitability of the path for some walkers and safety. One elderly lady I met who walks that route daily was clearly struggling to walk through the extremely uneven gateway (where the cows have churned up the mud) to reach the new gate. The new path is very close to the ditch/cut and is uneven, so it is quite possible that someone who is less stable on their legs could fall down the bank. In winter this route will be virtually impassable due to flooding and mud. I have been dog walking here  and I know that the mud/water can get quite deep.

3. Impact on wildlife. There is a lot of wildlife in the meadow behind the new hedge, for example water voles are active there, and the amount of walkers and joggers who use the meadows will disturb the wildlife.

I am aware that the 'official' footpath does run behind the hedge, but the route on the river side has been in use for several decades and I don't see why the gate has been changed now. The reason given by Bidwells

was that the previous kissing gate was originally put on the wrong way round (over 30 years ago!) and they are keen to keep cows off the meadow adjoining the river for the Dragon Boat, Bumps and Rowing Regatta events. I am not sure why this also includes re-routing walkers.

I am very keen to establish the reasons for making this change and to find out what involvement the County Council has had in discussions with Bidwells and Natural England.

Kind regards,

