



APPEAL FORM

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981, SECTION 53 AND SCHEDULE 14

Appeal to the Secretary of State Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under paragraph 4 (1)

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Return completed application to: rightsofway2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Where possible, please send in your application by e-mail. If you are unable to submit your application by email and require a postal address please telephone: 0303 444 5625 or 5177.

Please ensure you refer to the current [Notes for making an application](#) when completing this form and advertising your proposals. Failure to do so may delay your application if you do not follow the current guidance in full.

1 - Name:	Andrew [REDACTED] Meads
2 - Address:	1A High View, Hempsted, Gloucester.
Postcode:	GL2 5LN
Telephone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
3 - Name of surveying authority:	Gloucestershire County Council
4 - Title of definitive map:	FOOTPATH FROM RECTORY LANE TO THE SEVERN WAY ZGL 64, HEMPSTED (573/11/99(10))
5 - Description of the way:	A way has existed for many years, at least back to the 19 th century with minor variations. The current one has existed on its present route for at least 60 years. The path starts in the village of Hempsted to the River Severn on land owned by Enovert Company and Mr Harwood
6 - Date and reference of application to surveying authority:	19 September 2024 573/11/099(10)
7 - Date of service of notice of decision:	4 June 2026

Grounds of appeal: *please note that your appeal cannot be considered if you have not submitted grounds of appeal (please continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary):*

I was unable to attend the hearing as I was given only 4 days notice and had already had a doctor's appointment for a heart condition. However, I was later able to watch the hearing via video available on the Gloucestershire County Council website: https://gloucestershire.public-tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/1096871 and was disappointed by various issues described as follows.

There was no indication that the evidential documents supplied had been studied by the committee members if they were indeed actually seen by them. The data was summarised by a Council officer backed up with slides, but it seems the officer was unable to describe the requested footpath accurately and incorrectly stated that the majority of the local people who had submitted Evidence Forms knew the way was of a permissive nature. It may be that from Points F to G on the Enclosed Google Earth Image might have been permissive, but there was no visible signage to that effect. The landowners – Enervate Company – has not objected to the map modification. The slides shown of small roundels indicating permissive path were covered by vegetation and were very unlikely to have been seen by walkers. There were no signs of any sort seen between A to E on the Google Earth image

.The people who completed the Evidence Forms were residents who had lived in Hempsted for very many years. For example, I have lived at Hempsted for nearly 40 years during which time I used the way from its start at "A" Rectory Lane to the River Severn very often. I and many others had not seen a permissive sign in all of that time. I don't know anyone who had. It was just referred to as "a footpath" that had existed for decades.

The evidence forms contained descriptions of usage of the way and reasons why it was wanted to be retained. No mention was made of this by the Council officer. In short, the summary seemed to be very selective in the data presented and seemed to have wrongly focussed on the idea that there was an awareness that the relevant "way" was of a permissive nature.

The hearing finished with a small number of appropriate questions leading to unsure or suggestive answers. **3 of the member councillors voted in favour of modifying the requested path. 3 others voted against based upon a presentation that ignored and misunderstood some of the evidence and details.** This led to the need for a casting vote. There was clearly confusion about this and it was suggested that it should be decided by a coin toss! Perhaps this was intended as a joke, but the Chairperson had to be advised that she held the balance. Thereupon instead of giving a detailed reason for her conclusion her response was "I agree with the officer" and voted against the modification.

The decision is described on the Gloucester County Council
:[[https://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/PROW/ApplicationForm.aspx?RecordFilter=573%2f11%2f099\(10\)](https://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/PROW/ApplicationForm.aspx?RecordFilter=573%2f11%2f099(10))]

as "Refused application on basis of insufficient relevant evidence" but was based purely upon the aforementioned suggestion that the majority of people who had presented evidence were aware that the path was permissive. I and people who presented their own evidence strongly reject this assertion! Little if any attention was paid to the content of the evidence forms supplied with the modification application

The availability of the path allows ordinary people on the edge of a growing city and young families to undertake a regular walk in the countryside to enjoy wildlife in all its forms close to home and of a manageable distance. It was highly valued by the residents of Hempsted Village and Gloucester City as an easy access to the River Severn. It was especially busy at times of the Severn Bore. It was also used as nature walks for Hempsted School.

The footpaths were assumed by many to be public rights of way as they were made accessible with gates, stile (at one time) and bridges by the Council. This may have been reinforced by the misleading direction given by one of the Public Footpath signs at the end of Rectory Lane pointing directly at the track in this application. This assumption included the footpath following the perimeter of the landfill site to the Severn Way as this completed the connection from Rectory Lane. I have never seen any unseemly or inappropriate activity on this route.

Although in my case it is unlikely that advancing age will permit me to use the requested footpath for many more years it is important that the younger residents of Hempsted can continue to benefit from it. The land surrounding our cities and towns is being hugely urbanised and it is generally recognised that getting into the open countryside is important for their physical and mental wellbeing. People of my age were lucky to have enjoyed a time when we could walk in the countryside and appreciate it. Families were often close enough to be able to take Sunday walks and schools nature walks which taught us to respect the countryside, its nature and wildlife. This does not happen very much these days because the opportunities are no longer there and footpaths are being lost all over the country. We should cherish the footpaths in this crowded country and I urge the authority to support this application.

The fields in question appear to be fallow at present with no livestock as I write this and in the past, during my time, they have been used for summer/autumn cattle grazing and hay making. They regularly flood in Autumn and Winter. I have never heard of any danger to the animals, birds or vegetation other than a time when I rescued a cormorant with a broken wing between map points A and B. It had collided with electricity cables and it was taken to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre for treatment.

I enclose copies of:

- The application made to the surveying authority ☐ +
- The notices associated with the application ☐ +
- A map showing the alleged right(s) of way ☐ +
- The authority's decision letter ☐ +
- Other Relevant supporting documentation: To follow as required

To assist the appointed Inspector, please ensure your Grounds of Appeal and all other documentation submitted is properly paginated and indexed.

I understand that a copy of this appeal and supporting papers may be made available for public inspection.

SignedAndrew [REDACTED] Meads.....
Date 25/6/2026.....

Certification

I served notice of this appeal on the surveying authority on:

SignedAndrew [REDACTED] Meads..... Date 25/6/2026
.....

Note: Your appeal will be invalid if you fail to correctly serve notice of your appeal on the

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Please provide an index of the documents submitted with this form and ensure your documents are clearly labelled.

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