

Annex 1: Our Policies on Changes to the Public Path Network

Policies on changing the public path network have been developed and approved by the Authority. These are listed below, and reference is made to them, where appropriate, in the discussion part of the paper. The first and last are the only really relevant ones here.

- There will be a presumption in favour of preserving the historical integrity of the network.
- The concerns of those managing land, especially for agriculture and forestry, will be recognised where legitimate operations may affect the public's enjoyment of or safety in using a public right of way. Under schedule 6 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, we also have to look at the impact of all changes on agriculture and forestry.
- There will be a presumption against re-alignment of cross-field paths onto routes following field edge boundaries.
- There will be a presumption against any reduction in the amount of public access in the National Park.
- Where the route in use at present differs from the definitive line, there will be a presumption in favour of restoring the original route before considering a legal diversion.
- The future maintenance and management implications of any proposed change to the network will be considered.
- Changes should, if possible, enhance public benefit through enabling the better enjoyment of the cultural landscape and nature conservation interest and should not reduce the ability of the public to discover any of the special qualities / features of the National Park.