

REPORT ON SUGGESTED CHANGES TO RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE PARISH OF EDMOND

Background

The Parish Plan

The Edgmond Parish Plan was published in April 2009. When asked what improvements would help them make use of the rights of way, most people who responded to the questionnaire indicated that they would make greater use of the network if:

- a rights of way map was published;
- missing signposts were replaced;
- surfaces were better maintained;
- there was better control of vegetation;
- gates and stiles were suitable for the less able.

In order to achieve these aims a number of Action Points were identified:

- Ensure that a physical audit of the rights of way network is carried out;
- Carry out any repair work and improvements identified in the audit;
- Nominate a Councillor or other interested person to monitor the rights of way;
- Encourage the formation of a 'local access group';
- Prepare an up-to-date map of the Parish rights of way that would be downloadable from the community website and on display in the village.

The Footpath Group

In September 2009 a group of volunteers supported by the Parish Council, organised an *Environment Open Day* at the Village Hall. One of the purposes of this event was to collect the names of people who were interested in getting involved in different environmental projects in the Parish. By the end of the event a list of 24 people interested in getting involved in practical rights of way projects had been collected.

These people became the *Footpath Group*; reporting to the new Chairman of the Parish Council Environment Committee - Scott Kirby.

In late September 2009 the Senior Rights of Way Officer at the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, **Andrew Careless**, led a training session to explain how best to conduct an audit/survey of the rights of way. He also helped the Footpath Group by producing some standardised report forms. In early November the group held a meeting attended by 17 of their members. Everyone was briefed; they divided into groups and took on the responsibility of auditing the rights of way in their chosen areas.

The Audit of the Rights of Way

By March 2010, all of the forty-nine individually numbered rights of way in Edgmond Parish had been surveyed once and reports submitted to Andrew Careless at T&W. The rights of way will continue to be walked and audited over years to come, thus building up a dossier of reports for each path and helping to guide maintenance and other priorities.

The audit work has highlighted that a considerable number of replacement signs and way markers are needed. This work was already in hand with T&W and will continue to be monitored over time.

Initial findings have also confirmed significant discrepancies, in some areas, between what is indicated on Ordnance Survey maps and the Definitive Map and what is actually found 'on the ground'. This has a significant bearing on the Action Point to provide a map of rights of way as well as the ongoing project to provide an Information Board in the village. It is important that rights of way are unobstructed and visible on the ground - otherwise many people will be put off making use of the network - thus making the aims of the Parish Plan unachievable.

There is an added complication that informal agreements made between the Parish Council and some landowners over 10 years ago have resulted in confusion about where the rights of way actually are. In some cases signs are in the wrong place and point in misleading directions. These alternative routes are not shown on the Definitive Map or any Ordnance Survey map so people moving into the area or just visiting will have difficulty finding them and will meet obstructions to the actual rights of way. It is anticipated that all such anomalies will be resolved as a high priority.

Other Rights of Way work

In parallel to the audit work of the Footpath Group, Andrew Careless has also organised replacement signs where they are needed. A Parish Information Board showing rights of way and points of interest is being financed by Telford & Wrekin Council and planned in consultation with members of the Environment Group and Parish Council. This can be easily updated as changes are made.

Eventually it is hoped that a guide to walks and points of interest in and around Edgmond can be produced.

Resolving discrepancies

There are four main areas where there are discrepancies between what is 'walkable' on the ground and what is indicated on the map.

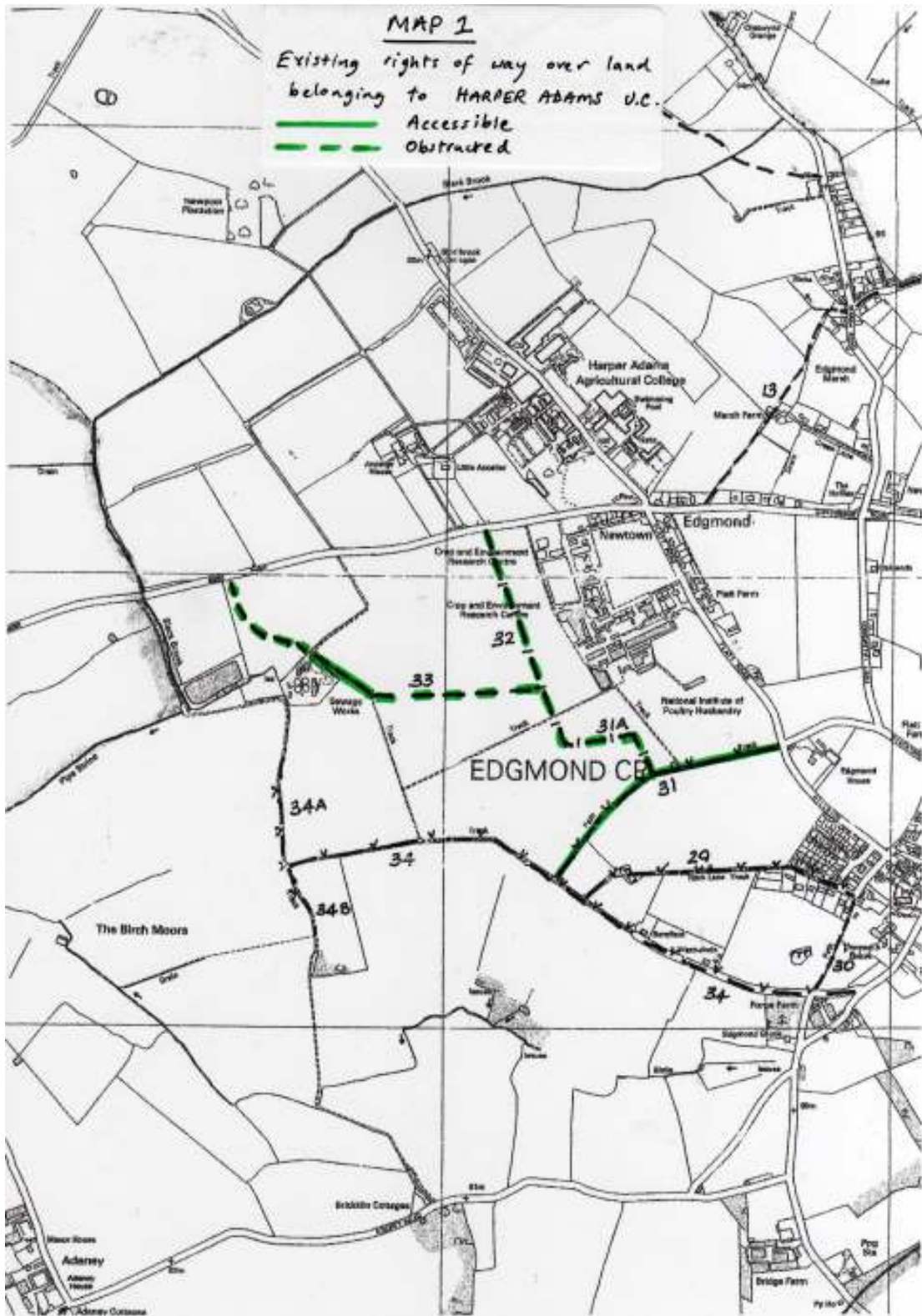
1. Harper Adams land west of the CERC & the Poultry Unit - maps 1 & 2
2. Land around Caynton House Farm - maps 3 & 4
3. Land around Calvington - maps 4 & 5
4. Land belonging to Standford Manor - map 6

The following suggestions represent a consensus of views from the Footpath Group and the relevant landowners. The proposals will be presented to the Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Borough Council. The Ramblers & British Horse Society have both been consulted. It is anticipated that wider consultation and publicising within the community will be needed to inform people of the wider picture linked with the individual changes. The key to success will be a 'holistic' approach to the issues.

Andrew Careless (Rights of Way Officer) has indicated that he is prepared to develop suitable diversions so long as they are in the interests of all users and supported by the community. He has said that his department will cover the costs. The timescale is anticipated to be up to two years to see all proposals reach a satisfactory conclusion.

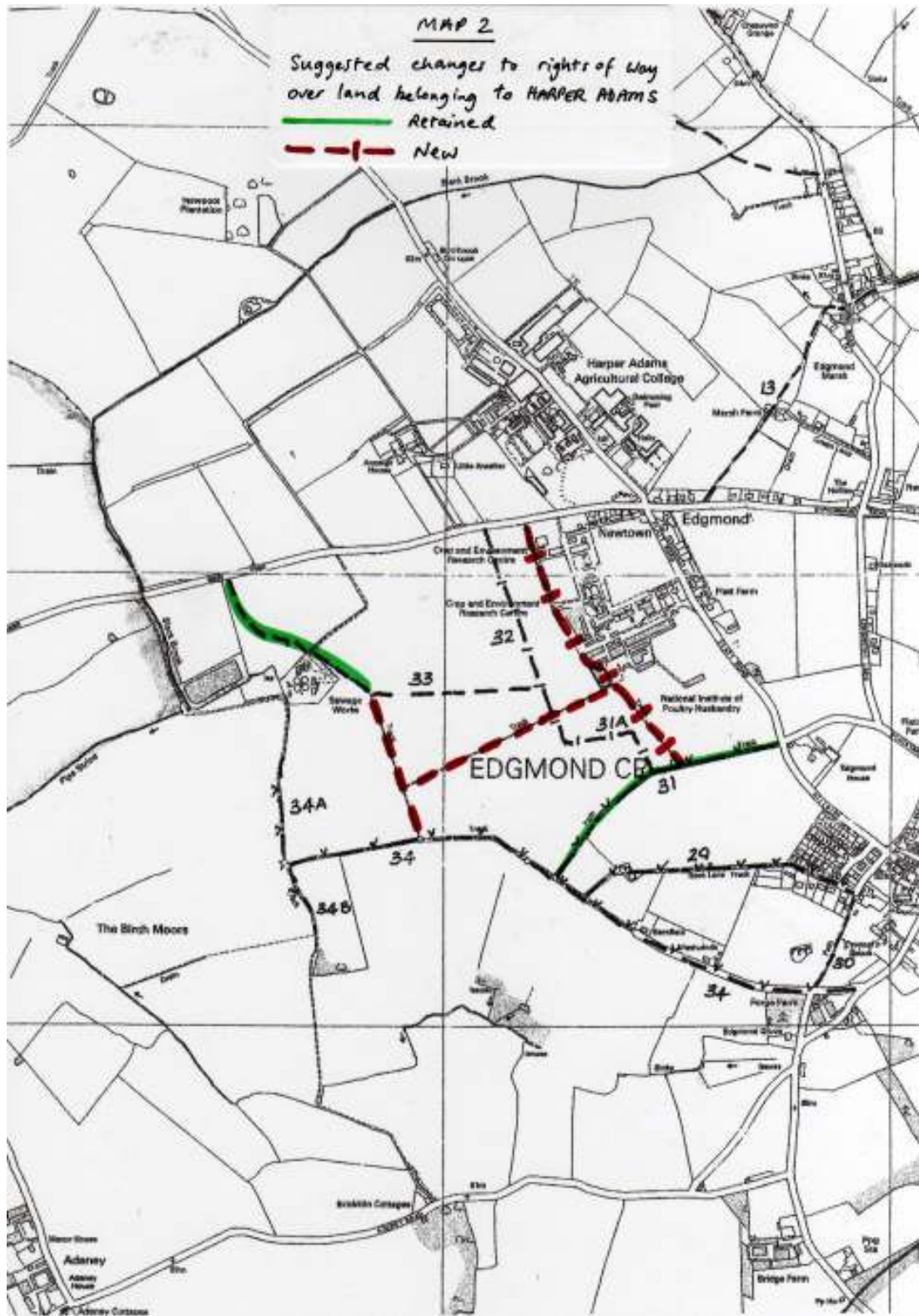
Map 1

Existing Rights of Way over Harper Adams land west of the CERC & the Poultry Unit



Map 2

Suggested Changes to Rights of Way over Harper Adams land west of the CERC & the Poultry Unit



Key Changes to Rights of Way over Harper Adams land

1. Divert bridleway 31A
2. Divert bridleway 32
3. Divert part of footpath 33

Notes

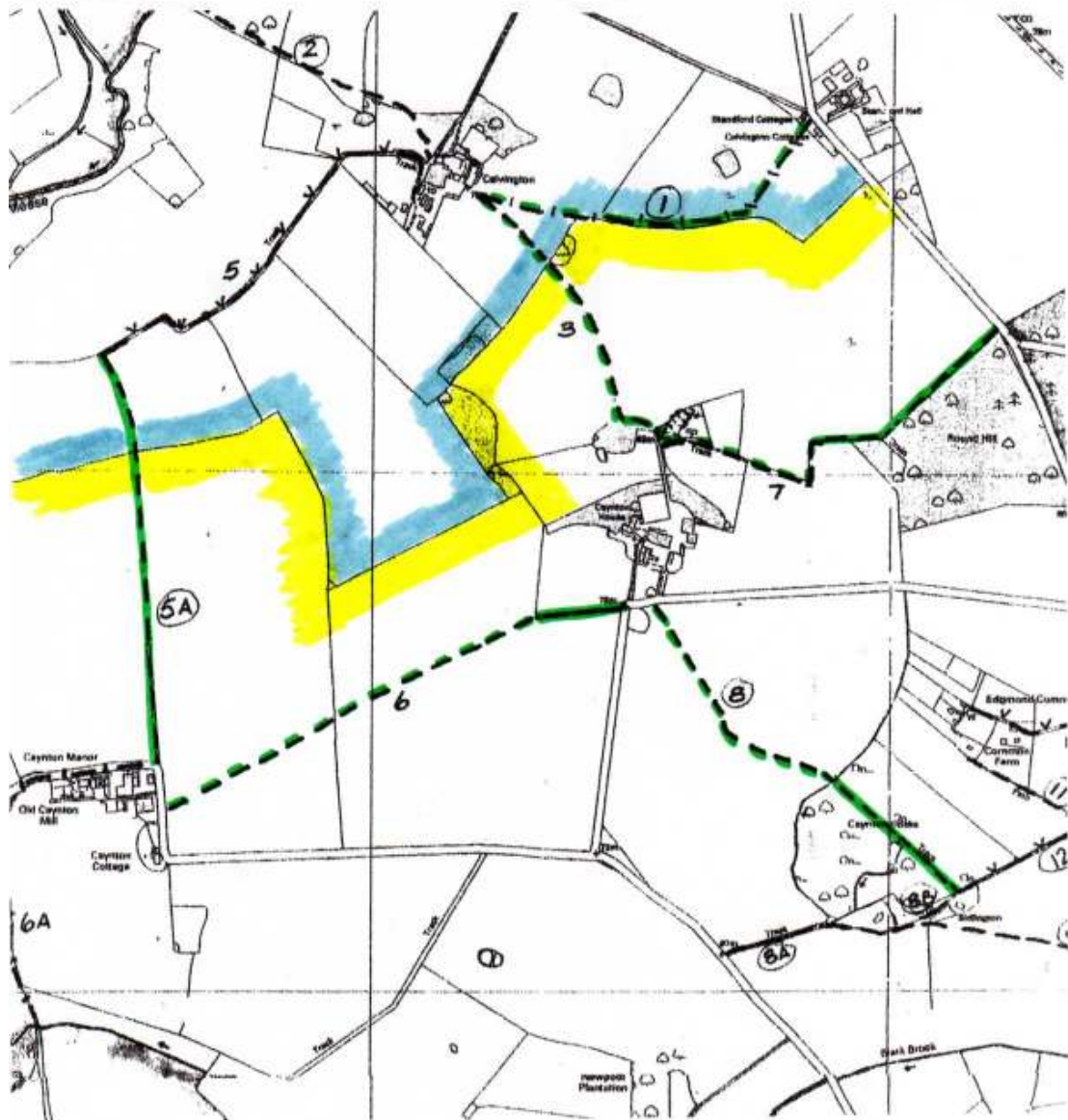
- (1) Consideration was given to diverting part of 33 to follow the existing dog-legged track servicing the sewage works rather than going across the field. However, this gives no additional benefit to users, so the northern section of 33 will be retained. At present this is incorrectly signed at the top of the track leading to the sewage works and is incorrectly called a restricted byway. The access to both ends of the retained portion of 33, as it passes through the field, need re-establishing and signing.

Map 3

Existing Rights of Way over land around Caynton House Farm

MAP 3 Rights of Way over land belonging to, and adjacent to CAYNTON - Mr + Mrs N. Furniss.

-  Caynton land
-  Calvington land
-  Existing RoW - accessible
-  Existing RoW - inaccessible or obstructed

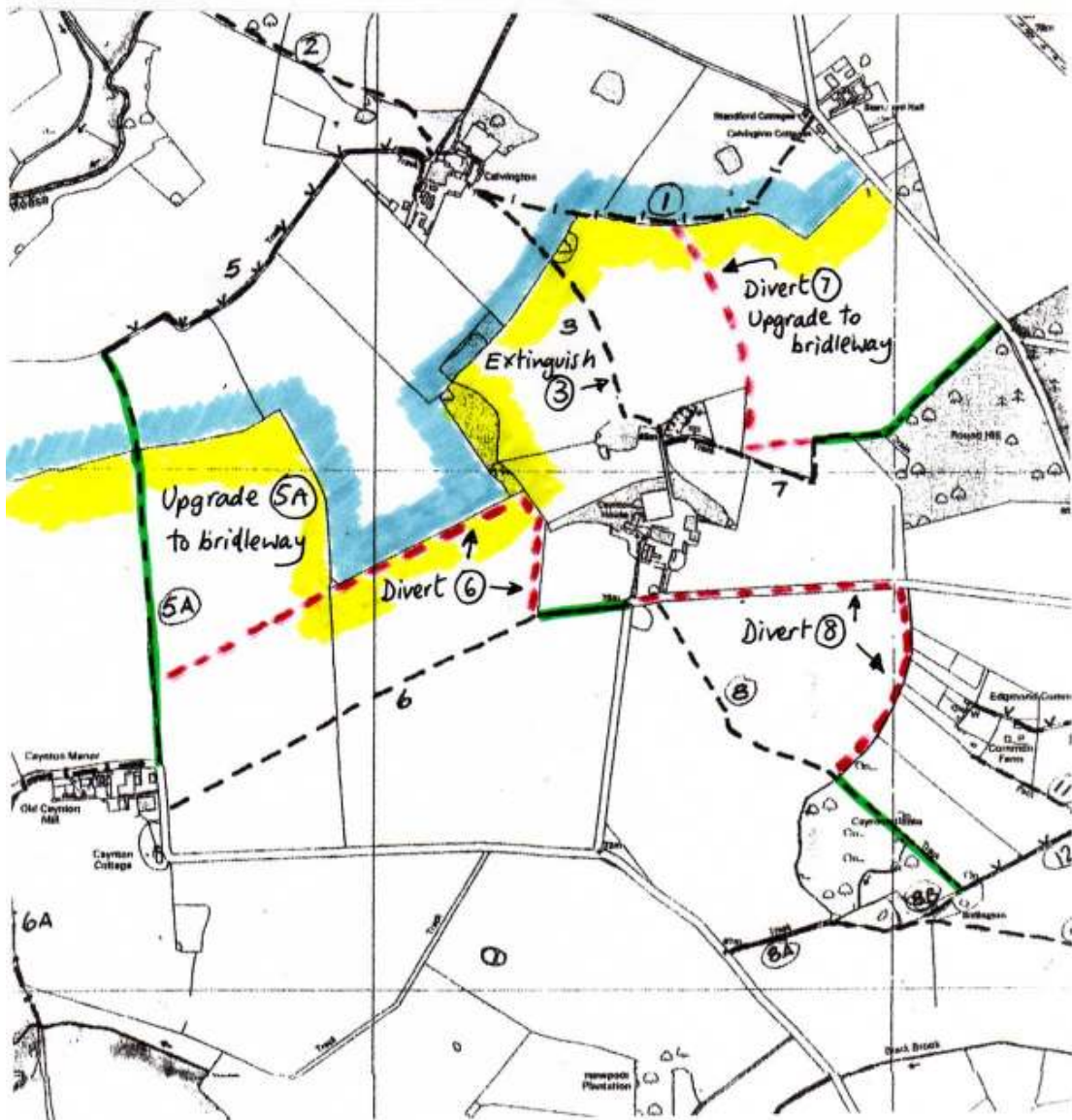


Map 4

Suggested Changes to Rights of Way over land owned by Caynton House Farm

MAP 4 Proposed changes to Rights of Way over land belonging to CAYNTON - Mr + Mrs N. Furniss

-  Caynton land
-  Calvington land
-  Row retained.
-  New Row



Key Changes to Rights of Way over Caynton House Land

The rights of way over land belonging to Caynton, Calvington, and to a lesser extent Stanford Hall, are all intimately linked. The overriding aim of this report has been to create a circuit of the estates without compromising safety or privacy. Overall - the total length of rights of way in this area has been reduced by about 0.5km but the length of paths open to horses and cyclists has been increased by over 2km. The most important benefit has been to extend route 4 down part of the private drive to Calvington. This creates a circuit of Calvington.

1. Divert 7 and extend to connect with 1.

This new route currently follows a field break and it is anticipated that it will replace route 3 which cuts across a cultivated field. It is anticipated that the main benefit to users will be that it will be upgraded to a bridleway to create a loop with route 1. Access through the hedge (belonging to Calvington) to connect with route 1 has been agreed in principle.

2. Extinguish 3.

This is only of benefit to users if point 1 (above) is accepted.

3. Divert 8 and extend to connect with 6.

It is a more pleasant route along the field edge than across the field. The new footpath up the drive will then give access to 6.

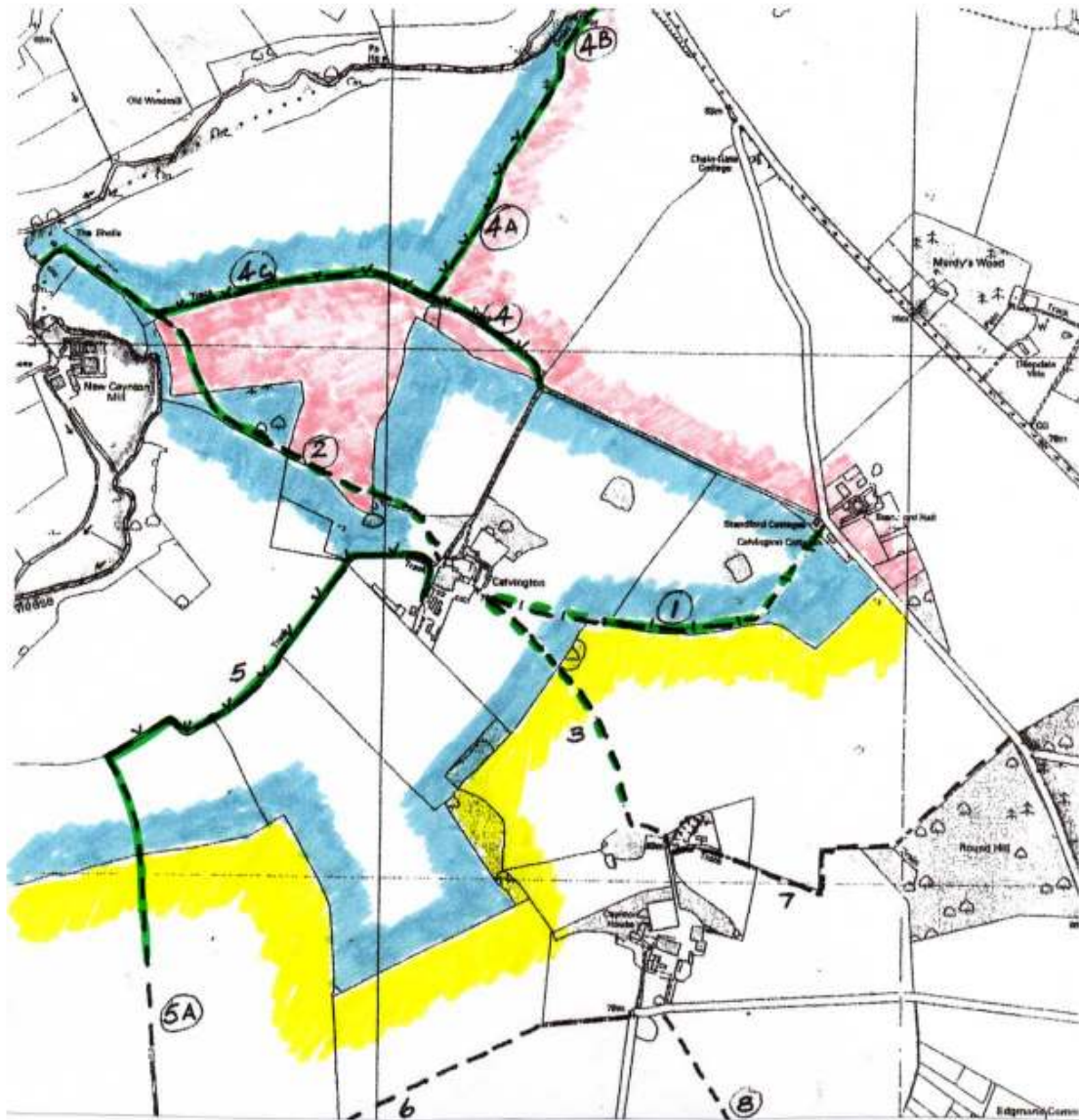
4. Divert 6.

This route is more pleasant than the existing route and is also of benefit to the landowner as the route is along a field edge and field break.

5. Upgrade 5A to a bridleway to connect with the restricted byway 5.

Map 5

Existing Rights of Way over land around Calvington



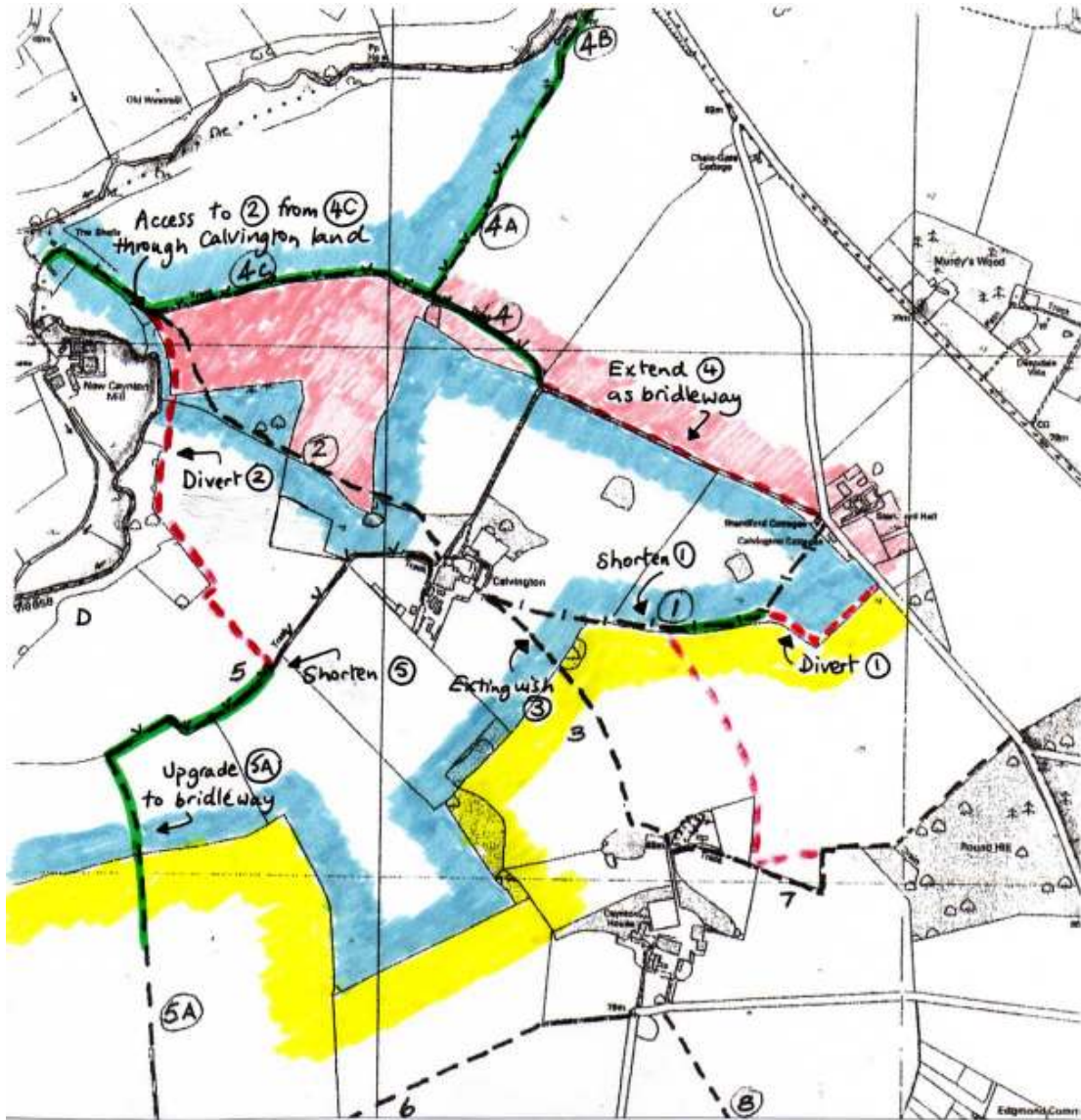
MAP 5 Rights of Way over land belonging to, and adjacent to CALVINGTON. - Mr + Mrs A. Morris - Eyton.

-  Calvington land
-  Caynton land
-  Standford land
-  Existing Row - accessible
-  Existing Row - inaccessible or obstructed.






Map 6

Suggested Changes to Rights of Way over land owned by Calvington

(The diverted route 7 on Caynton land is shown to indicate the circuit created)



MAP 6 Proposed changes to Rights of Way over land belonging to CALVINGTON - Mr + Mrs A. Morris-Eyton.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------|
|  | Calvington land |  | ROW retained |
|  | Caynton land |  | New ROW. |
|  | Stamford land | | |

Key Changes to Rights of Way over Calvington land

The rights of way over land belonging to Calvington, Caynton, and to a lesser extent Stanford Hall, are all intimately linked. The overriding aim of this report has been to create a circuit of the estates without compromising safety or privacy. Overall - the total length of rights of way in this area has been reduced by about 0.5km but the length of paths open to horses and cyclists has been increased by over 2km. The most important benefit has been to extend route 4 down part of the private drive to Calvington. This creates a circuit of Calvington.

1. Divert & shorten 1

This takes the bridleway away from the rear of the house and also follows a route away from Calvington & Stanford Cottages. A junction will need to be made through the hedge (belonging to Calvington) to connect with the diverted route 7 on Caynton land in order to make a bridleway loop. This has been agreed in principle by Calvington and Caynton landowners.

2. Extinguish 3

This can only happen if the necessary agreement is made with Caynton to divert and extend route 7.

3. Extend 4

By extending route 4 as a bridleway it prevents 4 from becoming a dead-end. This uses part of the drive to Calvington but no physical changes would need to be made and has been agreed in principle with the landowner. This is an important extension as it will create a right of way to link with route 4.

4. Divert 2 (and upgrade to a bridleway)

Diverting this route takes the footpath away from the front of the house thus giving the owners much greater privacy. The replacement route is very pleasant. It is hoped that this route may be upgraded to a bridleway (agreed in principle by Mr & Mrs Morris-Eyton) in order to create a horse and bicycle - friendly circuit. However, this suggestion has not met with support from the landowner of Stanford Hall. Andrew Careless has suggested that there may be a way of resolving this issue and will pursue it further in due course. It has been agreed that the junction between route 2 and 4C can be moved to Calvington land where the bank is less steep and that other practicalities can be resolved.

5. Shorten 5

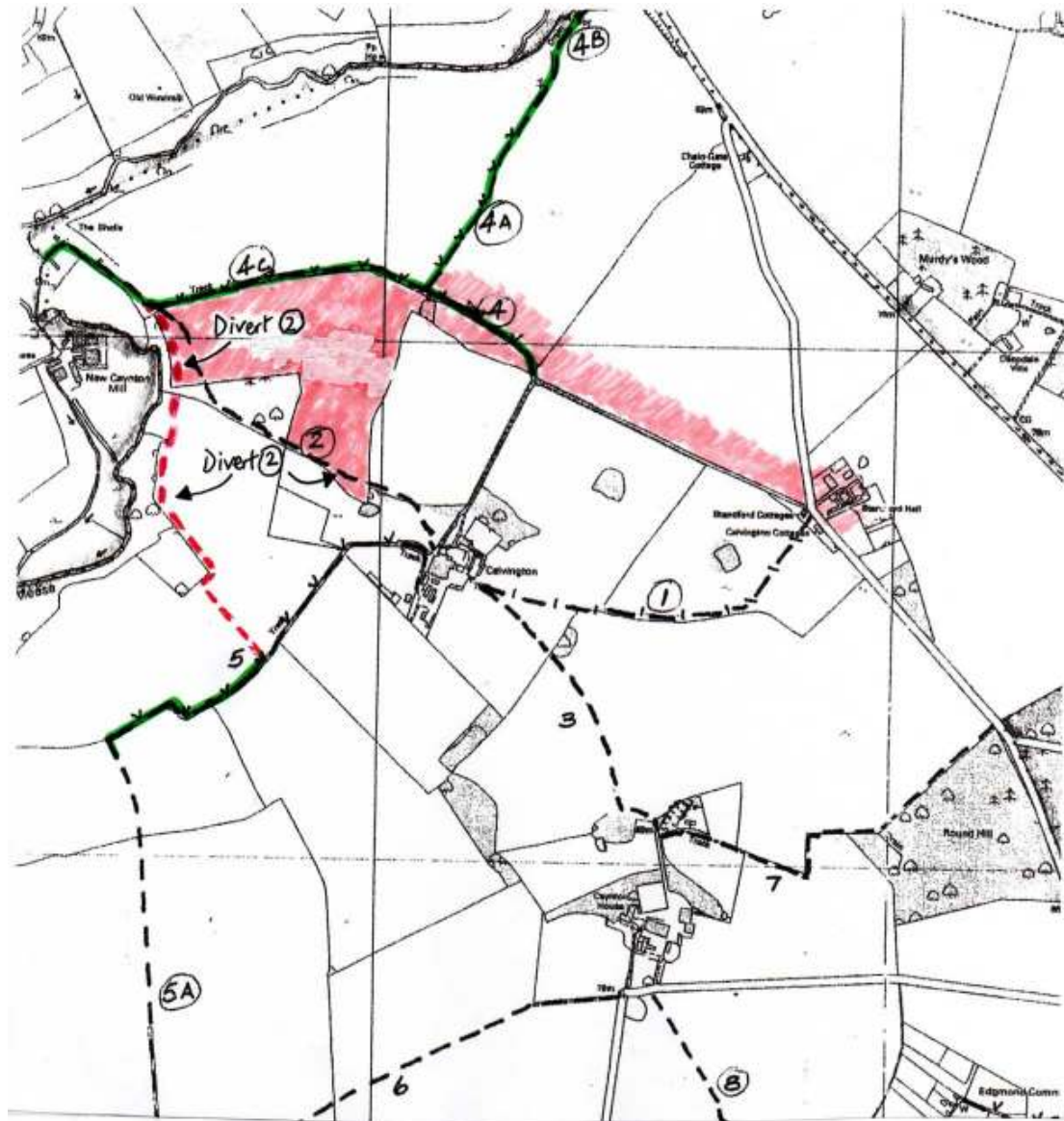
This will restrict access to the front of the house but is only desirable if the changes to route 2 are accepted.

6. Upgrade 5A



By changing 5A to a bridleway this will allow a connection with restricted byway 5 as well as the upgraded 5A over Caynton land.

Map 7

Suggested Changes to Rights of Way over Stanford Hall land



MAP 7 . Proposed changes to Rights of Way over land
belonging to STANFORD HALL - Mr P. Williamson

-  Row retained
-  New Row.

Key Changes to Rights of Way over Stanford Hall land

Divert 2

Part of route 2 will be diverted over Calvington land. The re-positioning of part of route 2 to the edge of the most northerly field will aid land management. The junction between route 2 and 4C will be moved to Calvington land. Upgrading to a bridleway was not supported by the landowner but further options will be discussed in due course.

Useful Information

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