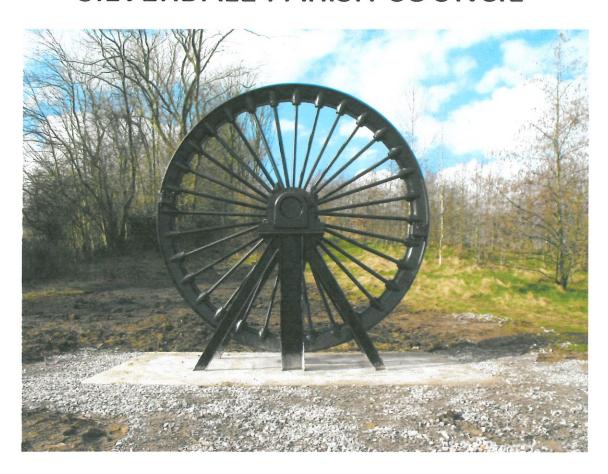
SILVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL



Heritage Projects: Erection of Miners' Wheel (2018) and Restoration of Miners' Tribute (2020)



Application for a Footpath at Former Keele Golf Course

SCC Countryside and Rights of Way S 53 Panel Application 24 April 2011

Report by the Chairman of Silverdale Parish Council

1 Report to Countryside & Rights of Way Panel

- 1.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Panel will meet on 16 September to decide on the application for the Public Footpath from Hulme Close. The letter sent on 12 August to Chairman, Silverdale PC contained the 80 page report covering 16 evidence statements with 19 maps depicting footpaths and a detailed legalistic discussion of the veracity of the claims.
- 1.2 The Director of Corporate Serices recommendations:
- 1.2.1 The evidence produced is not sufficient to show that a Public Footpath ...subsists on the balance of probabilities along the route A to B on a plan attached at Appendix B to the report.
- 1.2.2 That an order should not be made to the alleged right of way.

2 Know How, Justice, Maps and Statements of Evidence and Background

- 2.1 The letter dated 15 August 2011 from the County to Mr Mellon is significant as Thomas Mellon on 18 August confirmed the 'alleged footpath' on the Keele Municipal Golf Course in Document E. However, in agreeing to the new plan Document E in place of the previous Document B plan in April 2021, Appendix E plan was completely detached and that letter opened up the application to additional criticism about consistency. The County report covered this issue in para 51-58 which then developed into a series of points all casting considerable doubt on all other evidence forms. This would seem *unjust* as the second plan should have been taken as a correction and the first plan deleted.
- 2.2 Added to an absence of legal support in drafting the separate statements, the map variations in the documentation highlight the difficulty in drawing lines accurately to represent narrow footpaths round the perimeter of a golf course on a near blank canvas. The common map used by all 16 contributors shows no golfing areas whatsoever; no greens, no fairways and no bunkers. It is not a map of a golf course but 157 acres of land with boundary lines only. That map had no line distinguishing the 18 Hole main golf course from the Junior course of 9 Holes.
- 2.3 Scaling from map can be inexact when tracing footpath lines. 1 cm distance on the map represented 110 metres of golf course, so a line of thickness 1mm represents 11 metres. The line for the Public Footpath was 2mm thick representing 22 meters of golf course, a footpath wider than cricket pitch length.
- 2.4 As no professional help was involved, the 16 member application group were working completely on their own, as amateurs each producing independent statements and plans but doing so in all honesty as naïve participants. The recommendation in 1 is questionable,

because the evidence statements and associated maps were generated without consideration of the legal implications. In addition, there was no correspondence with the Borough Council or anyone else who could have alluded to legal problems or provided better scaled maps for the applicant to use. Photographic evidence of the blockages to the Public Footpath and the positioning of signage were just missed opportunities in 2011.

- 2.5 Assuming that Document E is the application baseline, another assumption to make concerns accessibility. There were entrances from the northern boundary enabling direct access to this alleged footpath at Greenwood Drive and similarly at Alton Close. At Greenwood Drive and Alton Close entrances the Public Footpath was marked by 2 separate signs; a metal sign and a wooden pointer post in locations where the alleged footpath joins Silverdale 20. Another assumption concerns Silverdale 20 which was impassible due to lack of hedge maintenance and difficult terrain at Greenwood Close.
- 2.6 Although the application period covered 1981-2011, the mapping information was frozen in time to the date of application. No previous documentation was considered, despite the considerable local history sources such as the Sneyd Family Archives and detailed Estate records at Keele University and County and Borough Planning records on the golf course development.
- 2.7 A narrative was evidently missing. This is mainly the Applicant's omission, but again no advice was involved or offered. There was no space in the evidence form used by the County to add other relevant maps to the modification information.
- 2.8 The landscape changing from agriculture to recreation as a golf course and adjacent house building would start that narrative. Also a set of drawings from the Borough Council's planning application for the golf course were available to find out more about planning proposals and resulting boundaries.
- 2.9 A circumnavigational Keele Golf Course Public Footpath made sense if Silverdale and Keele parishioners had enjoyed access through the land before ownership changed and a golf course was created to change that access. A new footpath around the golf course would be the end result of residents wanting to continue to enjoy their green expansive environment again.

3 Historic Map Evidence

- 3.1 Silverdale Farm consisted of a series of rectangular fields. It was farmed as mixed livestock/arable (from an entry in Barry William's book, Life and Times on the Dell).
- 3.2 There were originally rectangular divisions forming separate fields (and still visible today in the blank application maps). Historic field divisions at Silverdale Farm included footpaths adjacent to Field 280 and Field 281 and one footpath bisecting Field 285 thus provided a route through the farmland. Footpaths are shown in Ordinance Survey Maps of 1900, 1926 and 1947. Furthermore the Block Plan for the Golf Course of 1970 shows the Spring Pool before the change of use. See Ordinance Surveys for 1900 (2 maps), 1926 and 1947 and Borough Council Plans in 1970 and 1971.
- 3.3 The original farmland on the Sneyd Estate changed hands via Keele University to Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. After aquiring the land, the borough council made

a planning application to the County Council for Change of Use for the Keele Municipal Golf Course over 1970-72, paving the way for the Fred Hawtree design for the 18-holes measured at 6390 yards about 3.6 miles (see Golf Course Plan 1975-2013).

- 3.4 New detached houses in Hulme Close and other cul de sacs off Ashbourne Road were built prior to the golf course development. Other new housing adjoining Keele Golf Couse at Daleview Drive was planned but not completed until later. Overall, considerable development took place north of the golf course with the population of Silverdale Parish expanding to about 5,000 in 2011 (Census 2011 Nomis).
- 3.3 Golfers using Keele Municipal Golf Course navigated the site using a Course Plan. The golf course, between 1975 and 2015 had a well-defined boundary. See Plan 1975-2013 Keele Golf Course use by golfers showing the approximate boundary of 18 Hole Course. That plan was published before 2013 on the internet for golf enthusiasts.
- 3.4 In addition to the main 18 Hole Golf Course, there was a 9 Hole course added to the field east. On the map analysis the land for the 9-hole course is adjacent to Job's Wood.
- 3.5 The additional footpath circumnavigation of the golf courses now makes perfect sense. Earlier records showed a footpath through the area. Residents could have use historic footpaths but these were not well known or the Public Footpath or walk round the perimeter to avoid coming across projectile golf balls.
- 3.5 A consistency applies across the statements with some showing variant routes, but converge on the circumnavigation footpath at the boundary over a large tract of land. Analysis of Named Persons and Map Characteristics from Appendix D Table is included in documentation annotating maps to a particular plan type in order to better understand the claims being made for the nature of the footpaths.
- 3.6 Of the 16 main map types, 5 can be described as Cirumnavigation 100% (18 Hole Golf Course), 8 have at least 90% of the circumference marked on the appropriate map and one has 85% of the circumference. The dominant type of route submitted by the plucky group of independent walkers is Circumnavigation.

4.1 Evidence for a Historic Public Footpath from Hulme Close land across the field to Spring Pool and continuing through the Golf Course to Keele Road

There is consistent Ordinance Survey Map evidence of a footpath from 1900, when the area was agricultural through to the use as a golf course in 1975 following the planning application by the Borough Council.

That footpath with Spring Pool at the centre, crossed the land from north to south prior to the new development, following field divisions visible in the blank application map. This would explain an additionl footpath, including Thomas Mellon's inner diversion showing a northern and western route to the Spring Pool.

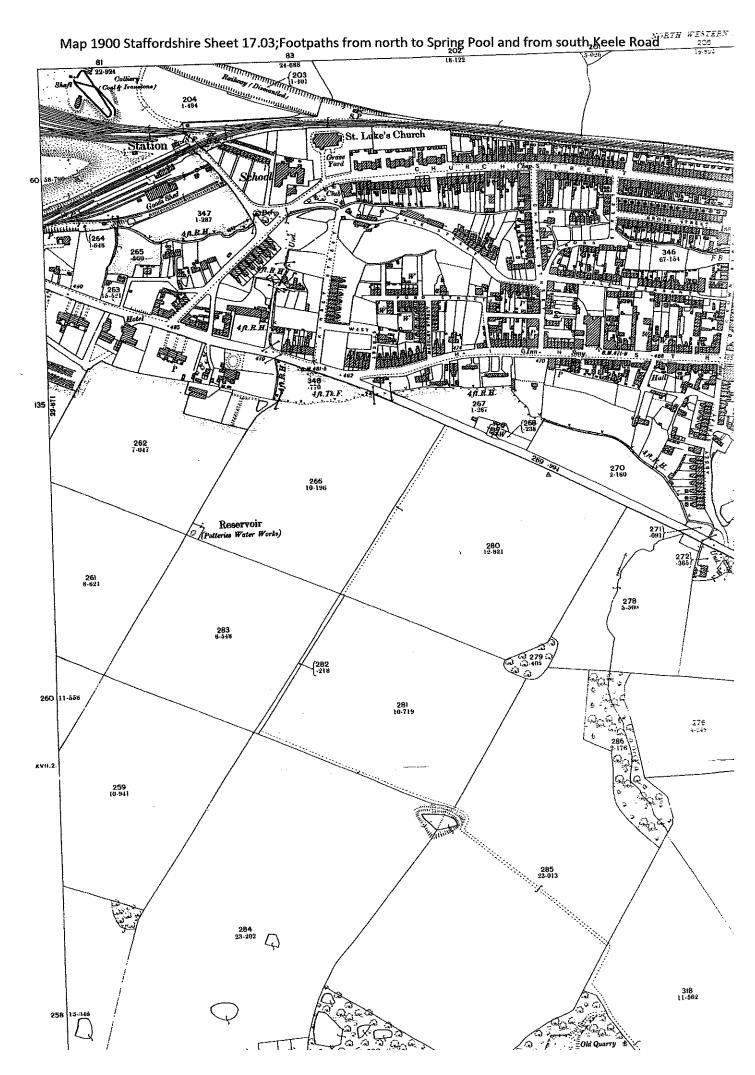
4.2 Evidence for a Public Footpath from Hulme Close Across the field to the outer perimeter of Keele Golf Course

There is evidence from a re-appraisal of maps submitted in the application that an additional circumnavigation footpath was created by walkers from 1975 on completion of the golfing estate. That the main Fred Hawtree 18 hole design from 1975 and the Junior 9 hole course would explain the additional triangle included in some circular routes but not in others. The two courses was a confusing situation to non-golfers and mudied the definition of Keele Golf Course.

5 The Test for a Footpath Circumnavigation of the Golf Course

- 5.1.1 Test A: Does a right of way subsist on the balance of probabilities? This requires the decision-maker to be satisfied that there is clear evidence in favour of public rights and no credible evidence to the contrary.
- 5.1.2 Test B: Is it reasonable to allege that on the balance of probabilities a right of way subsists? If the evidence in support of the claimed path is finely balanced but there is no incontrovertible evidence that a right of way cannot be reasonably alleged to subsist, then the decision maker should find that a public right of way has been reasonably alleged.
- The evidence of an alleged footpath in the County report was summarised in Table Appendix D and was declined for both Test A and B. The evidence in the County report at paragraph 14 page 2 stated 8 out of 16 testified to using the route as of right but at paragraph 17 the statement was that 8 non-relevant users none overlapped and was finely balanced. This report accepts the case was finely balanced and it fails Test A but the additional material presented would suggest Test B was reasonably alleged.
- 5.3 Nothing was heard from the owners of the site so the doubts that were cast were made in the applicant statements alone. There was no evidence of signage to deter users of the alleged footpath but this seemed unjust when the County report had very little information on the context to the Application compounded by administrative problems in completing and collating documentation such as the shortcomings in map used for such a large terrain as 157 acres.
- 5.4 This report has filled in some of the many gaps that were not addressed in the original Application such as the importance of previous map information showing earlier footpaths and included suggestions why there appeared to be inconsistencies in the evidence statements. In addition this report has re-appraied the mapping to identify a much greater measure of consensus among the 16 cases than in the County report.
- 5.5 This report claims that Test A does not hold but Test B on the balance of probabilities APPENDIX E is the circular Footpath which aligns with the Public Footpath to the eastern boundary and bridleway to the west and was a consistent route which followed the boundary of the golf course as indicated in Keele Golf Course Plan for the 18 Hole Fred Hawtree Design.

Henryk Adamczuk Chair Silverdale PC 09.09.2022



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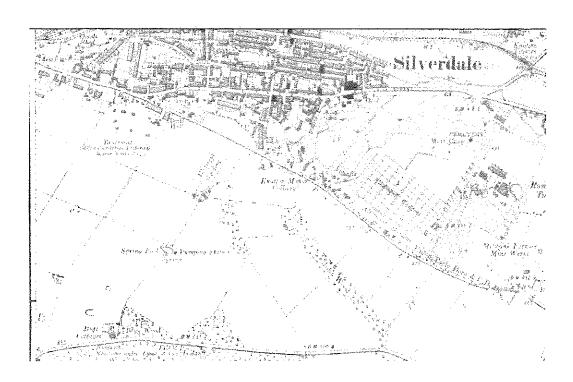
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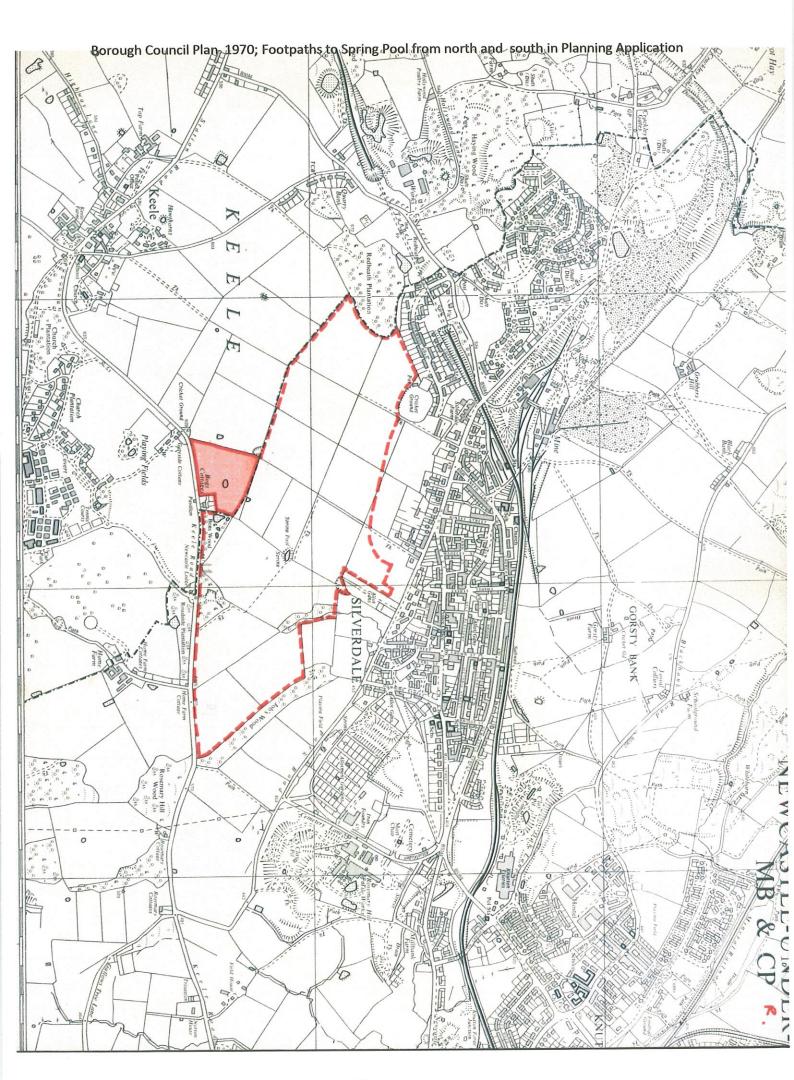
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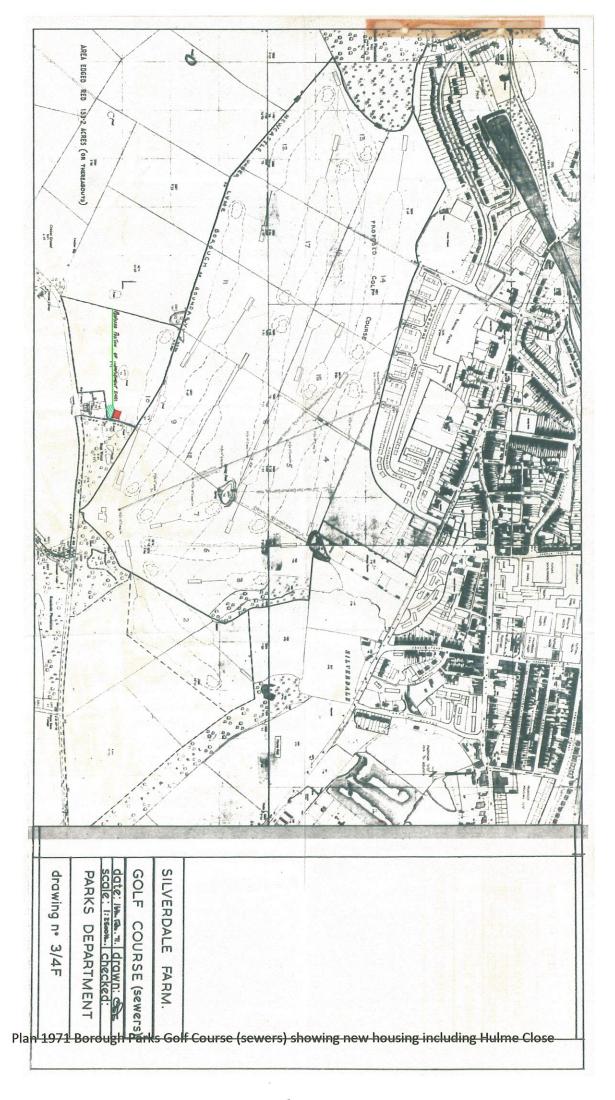
Map 1926 Staffordshire Sheet 17.03; Footpath to Spring Pool from south, from Keele Road



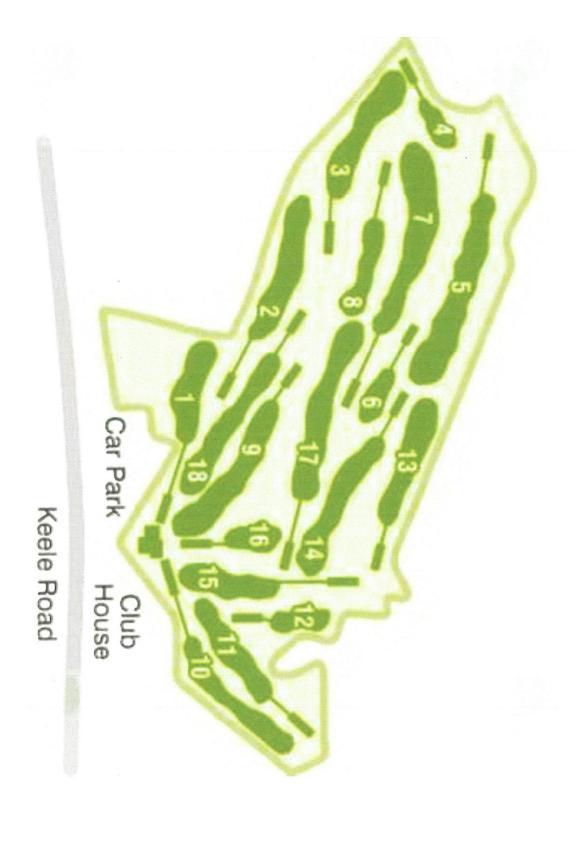
Map 1947 Staffordshire Sheet;Footpath to Spring Pool from Park Road







Source: https://www.golfsmissinglinks.co.uk/index.php/england/central-west/staffordshire/1778-staffs-keele-golf-club



Plan 1975-2013 Keele Municipal Golf Course Course used by Golf Club showing approximate boundary of 18 Hole Course

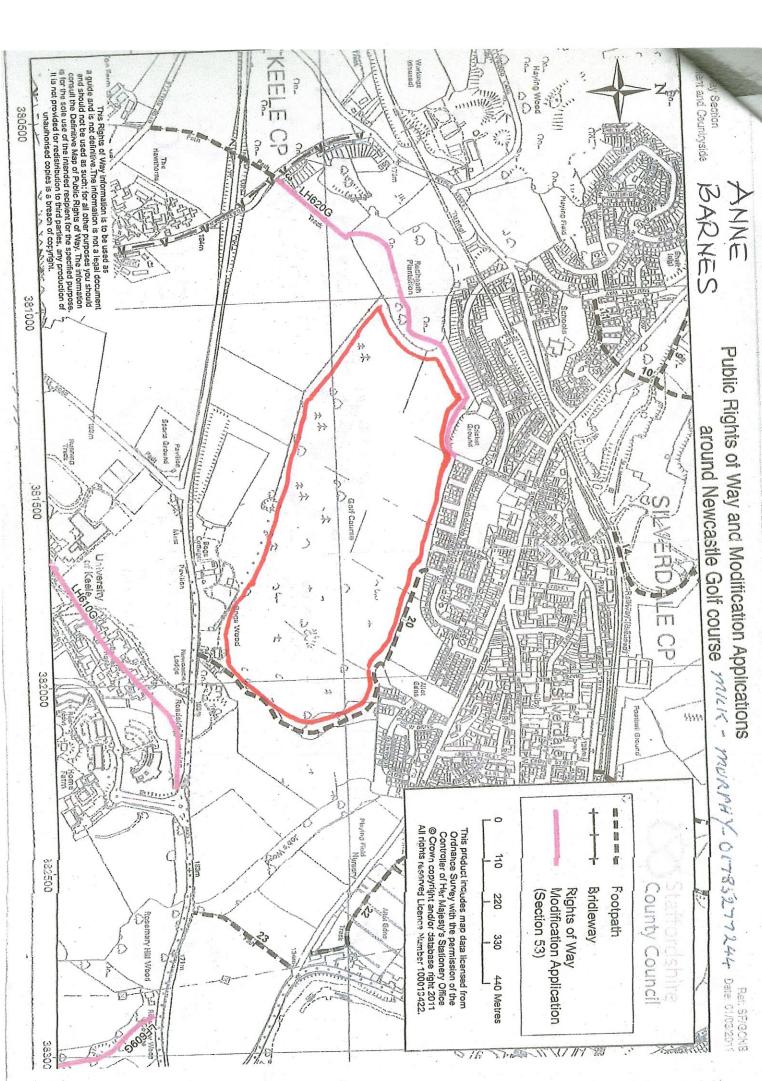
ANALYSIS OF NAMED PERSONS AND MAP CHARACTERISTICS IN APPENDIX D

Footpath Modification W&CA 1981

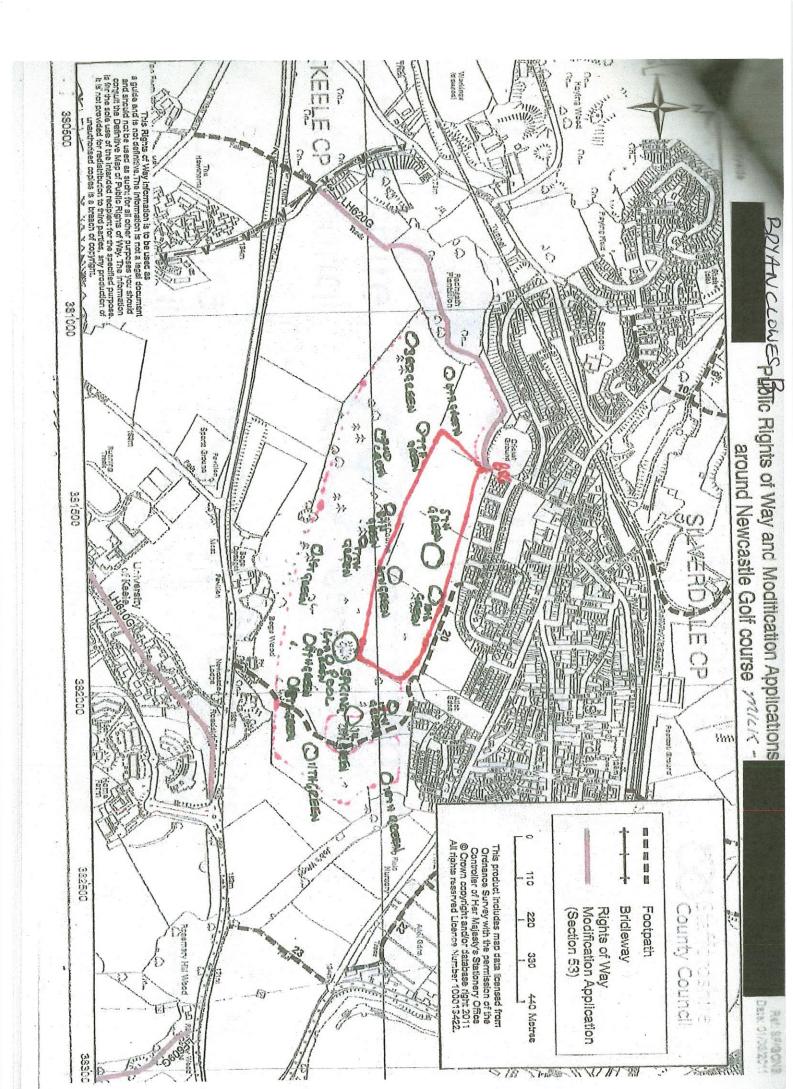
Circumnavigation	100%	Yes	16 Carol Brookes	
Circumnavigation	100%	Yes	15 Thomas Mellon B	
Access via Hulme Cl &added triangle to Job's Wood	95%	Yes	14 Susan Carson	
Access via Hulme Cl and Cricket Club	85%	Yes	13 Steven Barber	
Added full triangle to Job's Wood	50% South arc missing	North arc only	12 Rebbecca Davies	
Circumnavigation	100%	Yes	11 Patrick Carson	
Deviated through Job's Wood	90%	Yes	10 Peter Bagnall	
Deviated in a single path through Job's Wood	90%	Yes	9 Nancy Kilat	
deviated through Job's Wood	95%	Yes	8 Mark Heeland	
Added north path to Spring Pool	100%	Yes	7 James D. Lucas	
Added small circle	95%	Yes	6 John B. Harcus-Heron	
Added access via Daleview Dr and slight deviation to NE	95%	Yes	5 Gary Thompson	
Added triangle path and via Hulme Close diagonally	95%	Yes	4 Mrs Hoskins	
Circumnavigation	100%	Yes	3 Callum Mellon	
Added part triangle to Job's Wood	90%	Yes	2 Bryan Clowes A	
Circumnavigation	100%	Yes	1 Anne Barnes	
Other Comment	Not Circular	Circular Only %	Name	O

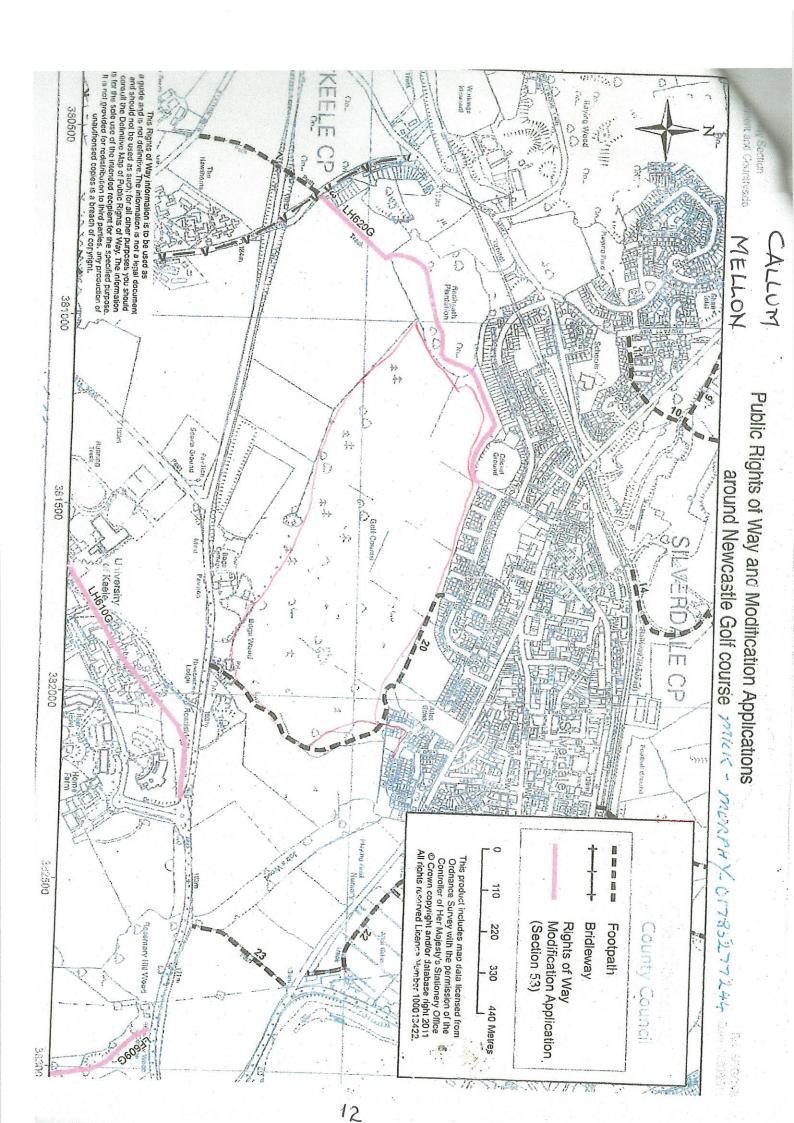
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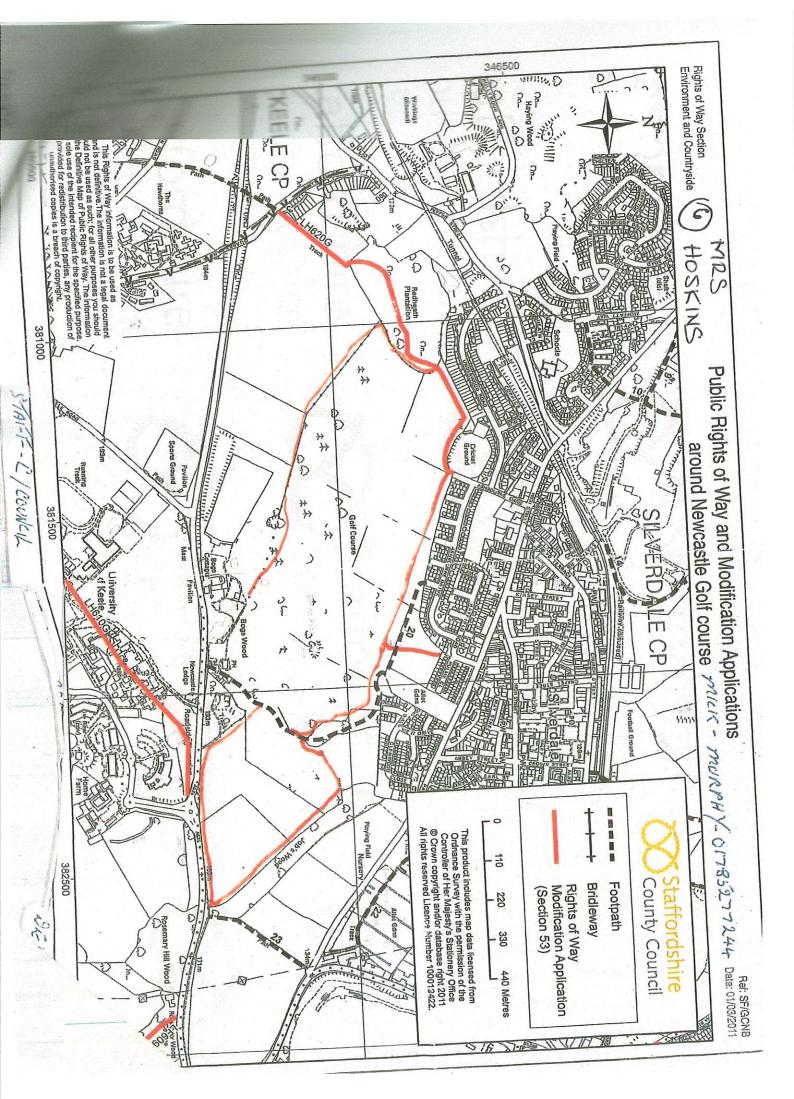
- 1 Bryan Clowes submitten 2 additional maps for illustrative purposes about other footpaths. Both B and C should be excluded.
- 2 Thomas Mellon submitted two maps at App B and App E. One of these should have been deleted in County Report.
- 3 The Applicant's list of Documents has been jumbled up in the report and names do not correspond with the map ordering.
- 4 The application ordering of the statements changes in the County report.

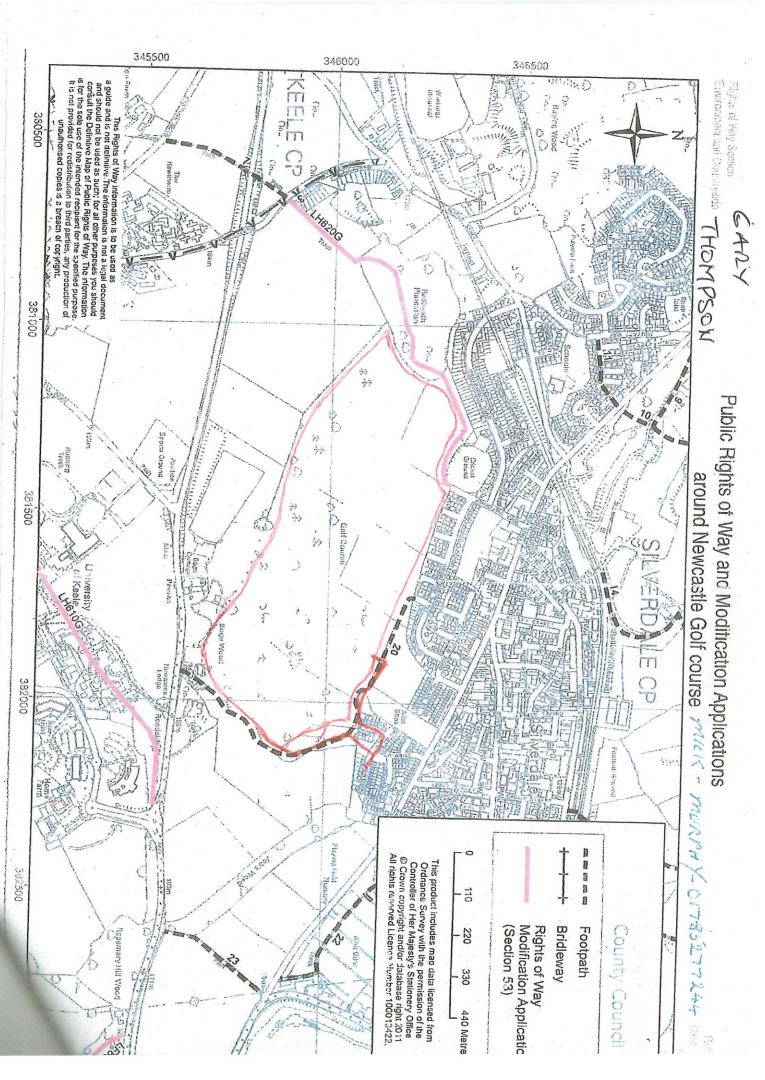


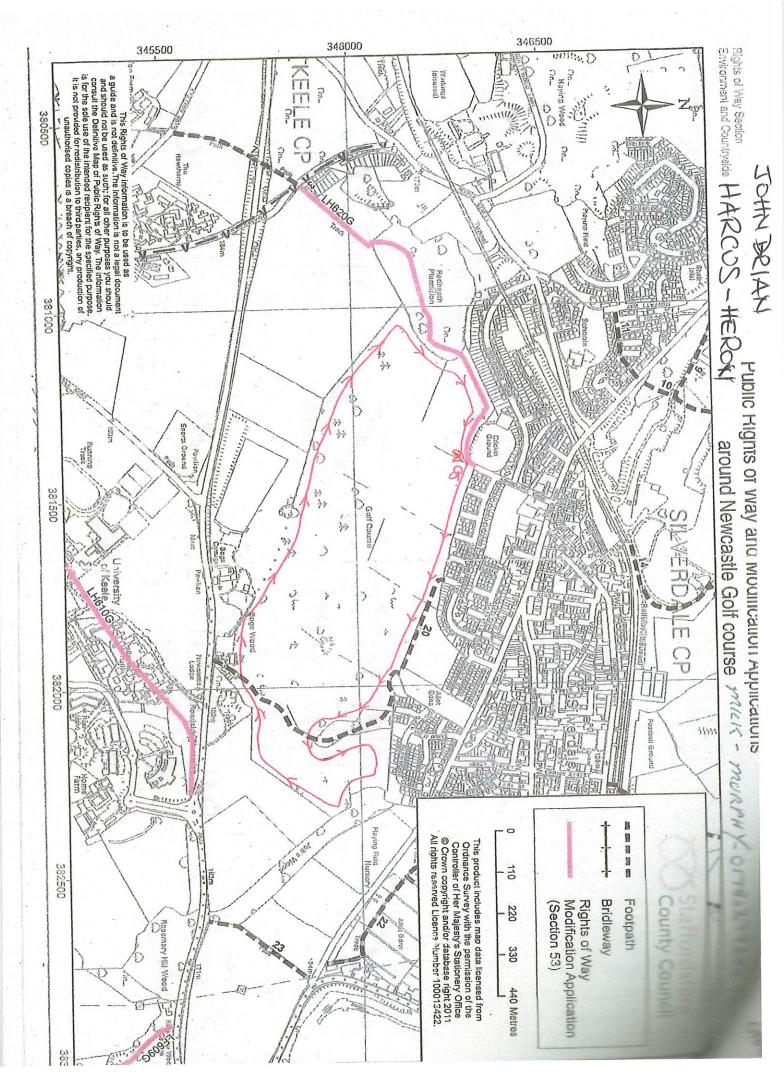
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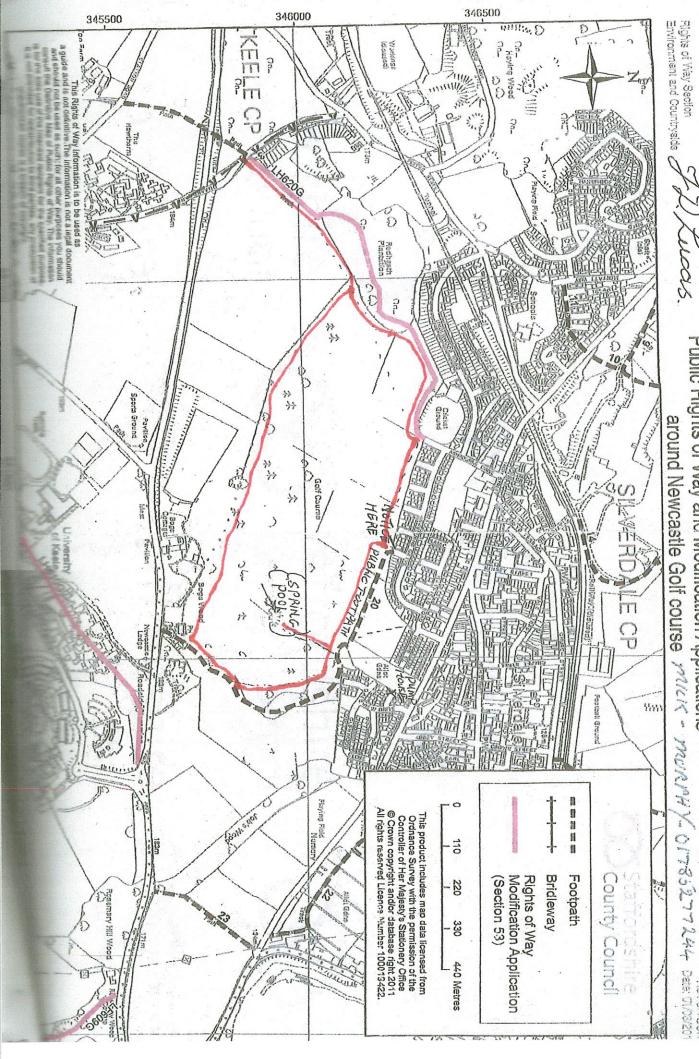


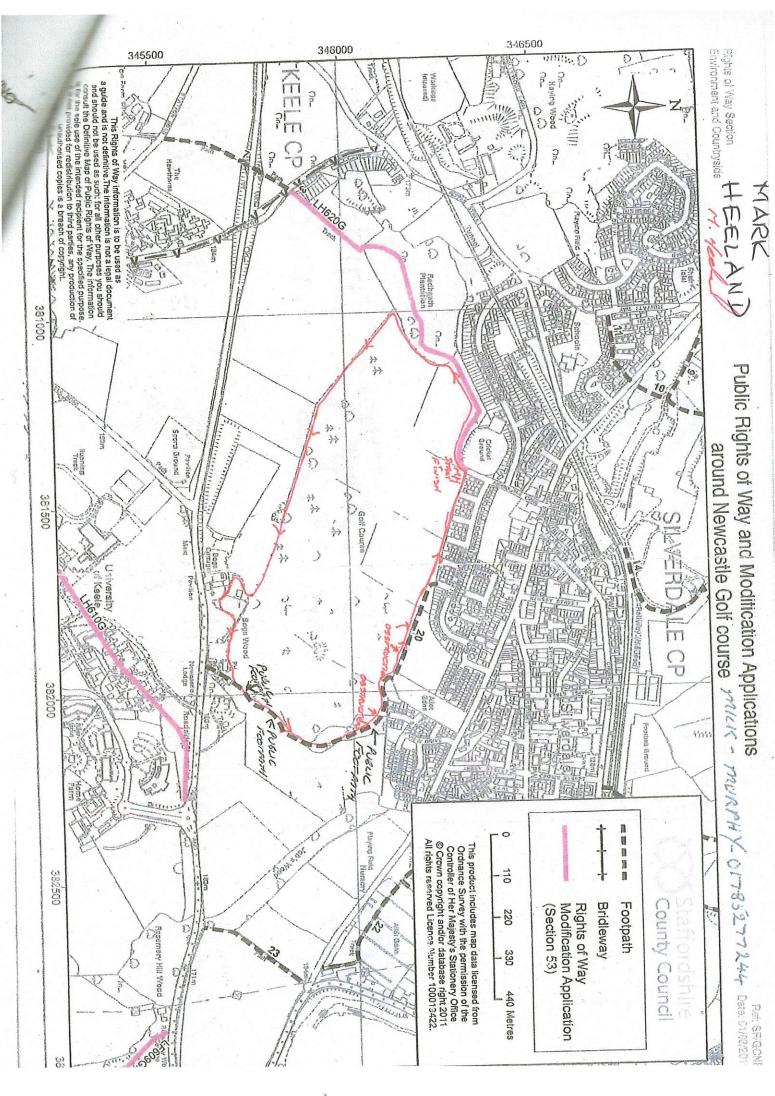


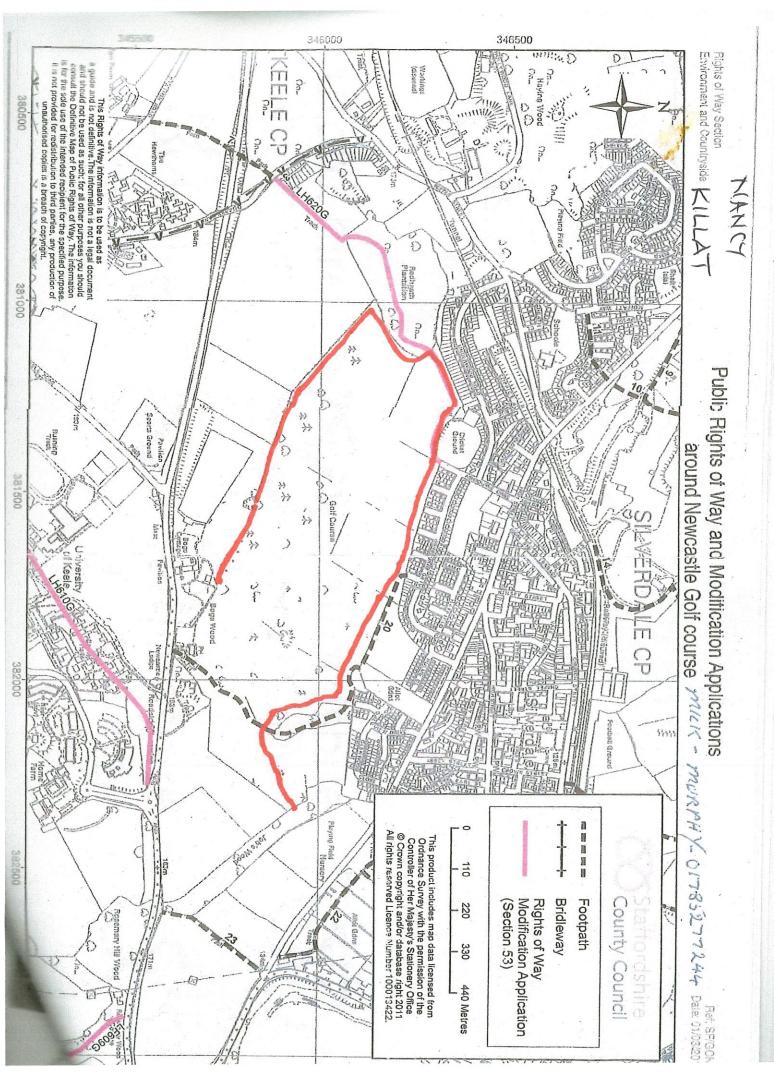


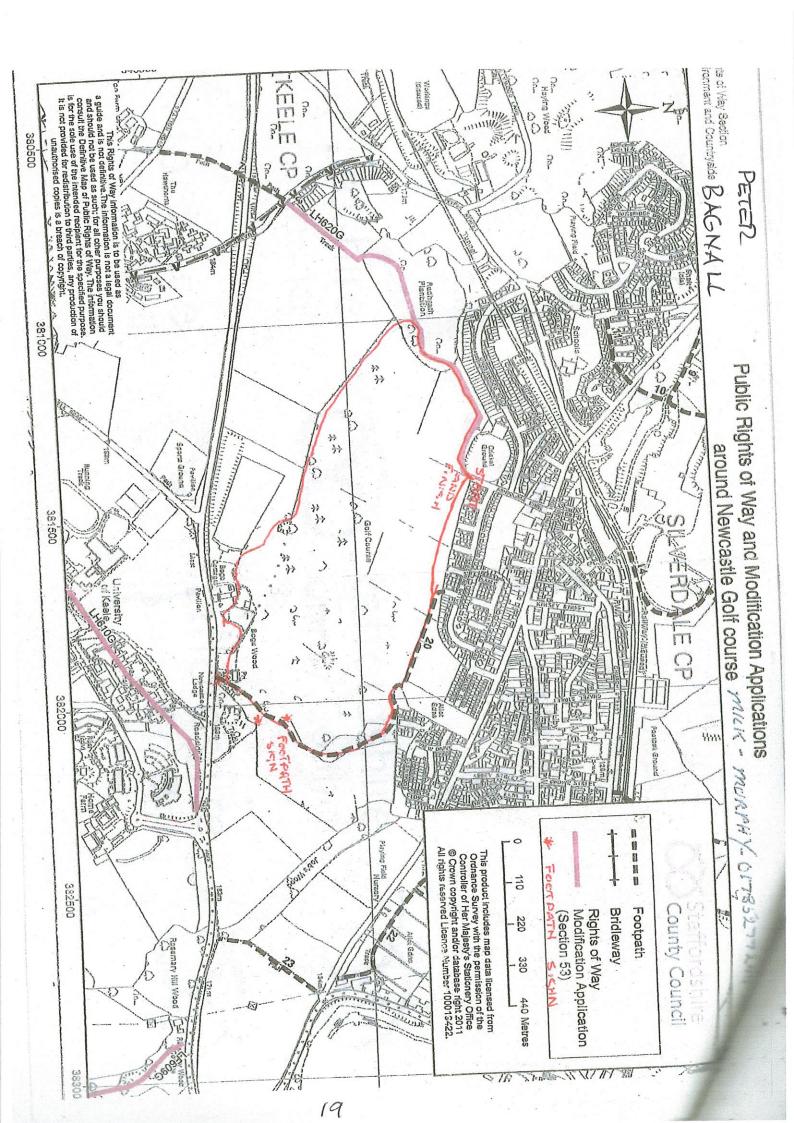


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PATRICK

Public Rights of Way and Modification Applications

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