



F

Our reference: AE69/TJ/hbd
Your reference: 4/OTS/LJ605G

Director of Central Services
Staffordshire County Council
PO Box 11, County Buildings
Martin Street
STAFFORD
ST16 2LH

28th April 1999

Dear Sir,

Re: Alleged Public Bridleway (at Sutton Bank Farm) between A519 and Bridleways 28 & 8

I refer to your letter dated 20 April and enclosures.

As the Estate sold the land over which it is alleged a Bridleway passes in 1977 your questionnaire has not been completed.

The following information may however be of assistance to you.

The alleged Bridleway follows, in part, the route of a former farm track known as Sheeperley Lane which began a few metres south of where Footpath 16 now crosses the continuation of the former track to the farmyard at Sutton Bank Farm and ended at the junction of footpaths 27 and 28.

The alleged track from the A519 to the northern end of Sheeperley Lane is a recent creation and did not exist at the time of the sale in 1977.

The Estate has reserved rights of access to and way over Sheeperley Lane both by foot or vehicle and with or without animals together with the right to carry out certain works on and alongside the lane.

Mrs. Celina Juhre who formerly owned the land is well able to attest to its use for over seventy years and has confirmed that throughout this period, except where it crossed the canal, Sheeperley Lane was considered to be Estate Land.

I understand that at the time of the sale in 1977 the Trustee's solicitor specifically obtained confirmation from the Highway Authority that the Sheeperley Lane was not owned by them. The reputed ownership in the 1826 Book of Reference was presumably an error.

The former tenant Mr. E S Williams is also able to attest to the use of the land.

During its ownership by the Estate the public were positively excluded from using this farm track for any purpose either on foot or horseback. There were gates at the end nearest footpath 16, to the north of the junction of paths 28 and 8, and at the Quarry Bridge all bearing "Private Land Keep Out" notices against trespassers both from the footpaths and the canal tow path.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]

PC ack 4/5/99