

**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WOKING)**

**APPLICATION FOR A MAP MODIFICATION ORDER TO ADD A
FOOTPATH TO THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR
SURREY BETWEEN FOOTPATH NO. 102 (WOKING) AND
FOOTPATH NO. 28 (WOKING) AT WOKING GOLF CLUB**

28 March 2011

ANNEX 2

Landowners' Evidence



2011/Jan/31/600127

WOKING GOLF CLUB

POND ROAD · HOOK HEATH · WOKING · SURREY GU22 0JZ

TELEPHONE: 01483 760053

FACSIMILE: 01483 772441

Ms S Briant
Countryside Access Officer
Surrey County Council
Countryside Access
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey
KT1 2DY



28th January 2011

Dear Ms Briant

Surrey County Council: Application for a Modification to the Definitive Map and Statement under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to add a footpath running from footpath No. 102 (Woking) to footpath No. 28 (Woking) at Woking Golf Club

Thank you for your letter of the 17th January and I note your points.

In answer to the request to identify signage, I enclose a map of the golf course with the Woking Golf Club signs highlighted with a pink dot. The two dots with circles round them are where signs were erected, but which have unfortunately been vandalised over the last few months. They will be replaced this year. This signage is in addition to the many "Finger posts" and "way leaf" posts placed around the course.

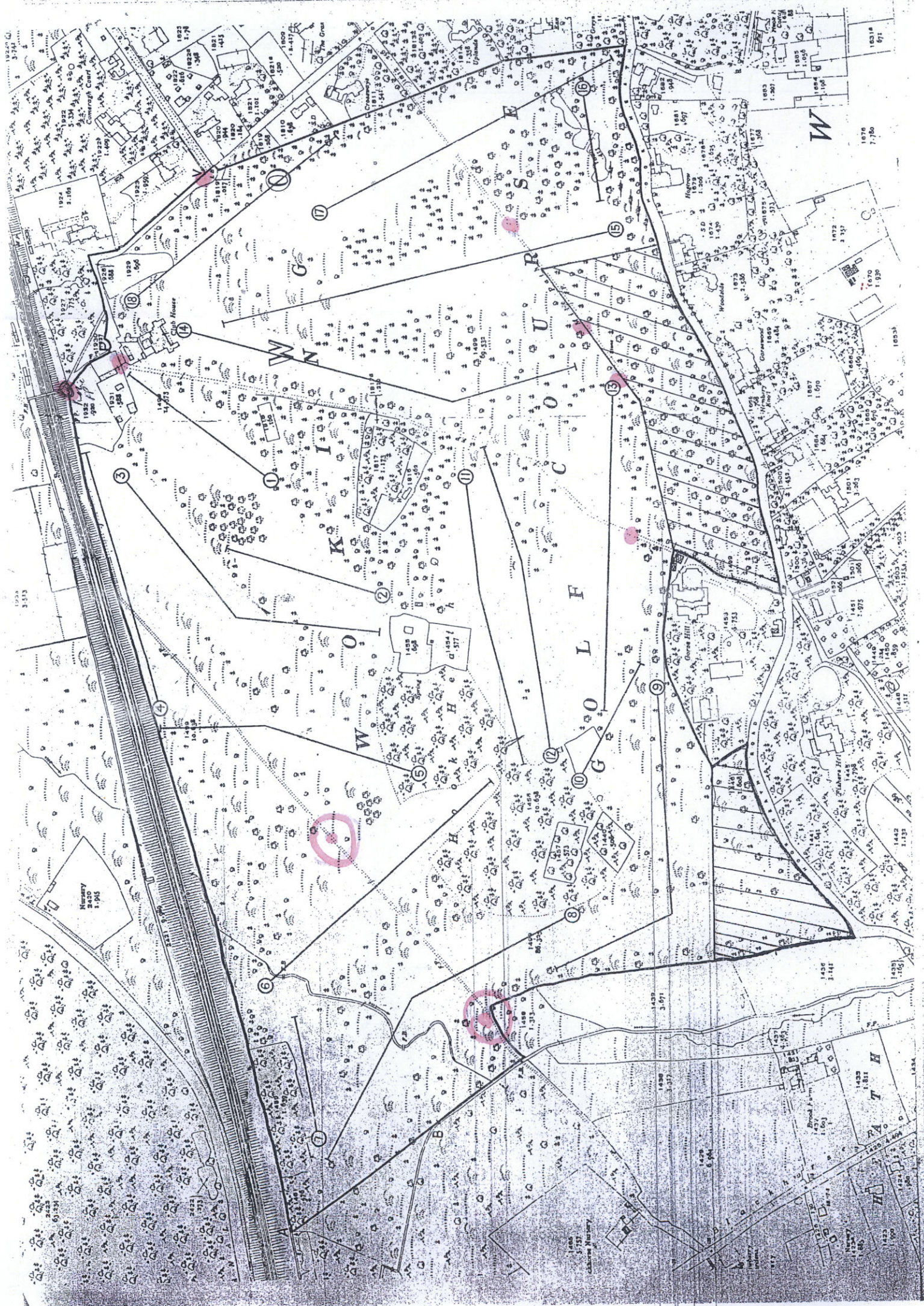
Your second point asking for approximate dates that challenges have been made to members of the public when straying on to the Club's land is impossible to give as this action can happen on a daily basis. To endorse this point I enclose a copy of a letter that was handed to members of the public in 2006 by a late Past Captain, Mr John Matheson. Mr Matheson, the Head Greenkeeper and I approached members of the public who deviated from the public footpaths during their early morning walks and cycle rides, and handed them this letter.

Finally I acknowledge your confirmation of the meeting on the 28th March 2011 and will advise the Surrey County Council Local Committee who will be representing Woking Golf Club.

Yours sincerely

G.T. Ritchie
Secretary

Encl.





WOKING GOLF CLUB

POND ROAD · HOOK HEATH · WOKING · SURREY GU22 0JZ

TELEPHONE: 01483 760053

FACSIMILE: 01483 772441

13 September 2006

Dear visitor,

We would like to draw your attention to some concerns we have about our situation as a golf club and ask for your co-operation in helping to preserve our environment:

- Woking is a celebrated golf club - regularly featuring in surveys as one of the "top-100" courses in the UK and Ireland.
- Our staff take great pride in their work and always strive to maintain the course in top- class condition.
- While we are delighted that walkers, families and other visitors should enjoy our unique natural "heathland" environment, we, naturally, have a strong preference that they should remain on the marked public footpaths and respect our rights as the owners of **private property**.
- Increasingly we have encountered problems with visitors, many of them with dogs which are allowed to roam across the course, not adhering to the notices exhorting them to keep to the paths and to keep their pets under control.
- This has resulted in repeated interference with our staff and their work on the course. For example, there have been numerous instances of dogs, off their leads, despoiling newly prepared/raked bunkers. More worryingly, when our staff have approached the dog-owners, they have frequently been abused when they have asked the person concerned to keep the pet on the footpath.
- We wish to inform you that we will be adopting a more active policy of asking (very politely) that individuals who are themselves "jay-walking" or are exercising their pets on the course should move on to the public footpaths.
- In instances where this request is rejected (it will most usually be made by a staff member or by our dog-handler) we are proposing to photograph the person(s) concerned with a view to passing a dossier to the Police.

- We hope that you will appreciate that our concerns are very real ones and relate to environmental considerations and to our interests as a substantial local business. We are sure that the significant minority who have been abusive when challenged would take a quite different attitude were they, themselves to be affected by incursions on to their gardens or other property.

We regret that we have had to approach you in this way but we hope that you will recognise that our concerns are very real ones. We are proud of our golf course and pursue environmentally friendly policies wherever we can. We would be grateful if you could co-operate with us by being sensitive to our interests as well as your own and those of your pets.

Should you have any questions about this matter please contact the Club Secretary (01483 760053)

Yours sincerely

John Matheson
Chairman of Green Committee

**Mr D J Gould
The Flat
Woking Golf Club
Pond Road
Hook Heath
Woking Surrey
GU22 0JZ**

To Whom It May Concern:

11 January 2011

I am currently employed at Woking Golf Club as House Manager and have held this position since 1996. A condition of my employment is that I am required to reside in the flat at the Club and as such I have responsibility for the security of the premises.

Over the past fourteen years I have on numerous occasions had cause to challenge individuals, who are not visitors or members of the Club, from taking short cuts through the Club car park.

Prior to the Club installing the automatic gate I have also had to approach individuals who have used the Club's private car parks as public car parks. On one occasion I had to challenge and pursue youths who were attempting to break into a vehicle that had been parked without permission.

The increase in security around the Club's car park – the aforementioned gate and also new fencing – has improved overall security and decreased the number of incidents which have required assistance from Surrey Police.

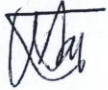
I trust the above is of assistance to you but if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.



Darren Gould
House Manager

Rights Of Way Statement:

Since my employment commenced at Woking Golf Club in January 1999 and being promoted to Head Greenkeeper in January 2003 it is within our duty to not only recognise public access points to and from the golf course but to challenge any trespassers where necessary. On a number of occasions, members of the public were, by our terms, trespassing on the strip of land in the car park and therefore questioned about their whereabouts. Always, the members of the public are approached in a professional manner and redirected to the official 'Rights of way'.



Jon Day

Head Greenkeeper

Woking Golf Club

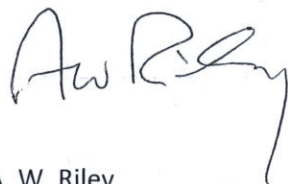
51 Swallow Rise
Woking
Surrey
GU21 2lh

10. 01 2011.

Dear George

In answer to your request, in my period as Secretary at Woking Golf from 1979 to 1994, I would speak, when necessary, to members of the public regarding their illegal use of our car park.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. W. Riley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

A. W. Riley