

Alleged Public Footpath between Byway No. 15 and Bridleway No. 16, Mickleham

I am one of those who submitted evidence for the use of the above path, having walked along it unchallenged from 1967 to date. I wish it to be noted that at no time, during the long period that I have used the path, have I damaged any fencing, gate or notice. I have not seen or heard of anyone who has committed the offences alleged by Longshot Cherkley Court Ltd.

The fence to the north of the footpath was put up in about 1998 so that the large field it enclosed could be grazed by cattle. I propose that this fence be retained. It will serve to keep the public off the golf course, which is something the landowner desires. Its presence has protected the remaining BSP Priority Habitat of unimproved chalk grassland, the rest having been destroyed by the construction of the golf course.

I am aware that Longshot are proposing to make another path to the south but as can be seen from satellite images, this route would go through woodland. For the most part, this is mainly mixed deciduous/beechness and yew woodland, itself a BAP Priority Habitat. This proposed route would be unsatisfactory in many ways, for example there would be no views and no access to the Churchill Yew. In addition, it is known that *Cynoglossum germanicum* Green Hound's-tongue occurs in this woodland. This plant is a BAP Species of Principle Importance and is protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Longshot state that they wish to avoid conflict between walkers and golfers. The course to the north is already crossed by Byway No. 15 and another bridleway and footpath. The additional path will make very little difference. There are many golf courses on common land where the public have right of access at all times. A nearby example is the prestigious Walton Heath Golf Club. I am not aware of any conflict here between golfers and the public.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Sankey

Mickleham resident since 1967

Recorder for Surrey Botanical Society
and
Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland

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