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To: rights of way stakeholders

16 March 2008

Dear Stakeholder

You should have heard by now that Natural England has reported to the Minister for Marine, Landscape & Rural Affairs, Jonathan Shaw, on the outcome of its review of the Discovering Lost Ways project.

The Minister has agreed the recommendations put to him by Natural England, and Natural England are contacting stakeholders to explain what this means in practice. My purpose in writing to you is to confirm that the Minister has agreed that implementation of sections 53 to 56 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (which would extinguish any historic rights of way not shown of the definitive map and statement by 2026 and are not yet in force) will not be pursued, at least until the stakeholder group proposed by Natural England has reported to Defra on its conclusions.

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