

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

### **HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

#### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WILLOUGHBY ON THE WOLDS FP NO.10) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2026**

Under the Highways Act 1980, the County Council as the Highway Authority for Nottinghamshire has the power to make orders to create, extinguish (close) or divert public rights of way. A notice that such an Order has been made has to be advertised on the site of the path(s) in question and in the local press. This provides an opportunity for objections or representations to be made to the proposed change.

**The Nottinghamshire County Council has made an Order to divert WILLOUGHBY ON THE WOLDS FOOTPATH FP10.**

**Nottinghamshire County Council initiated this order in the interest of the public. The proposal seeks to divert a section of Willoughby on the Wolds Footpath No. 10 away from its current alignment, which runs through the landowner's property and is not easily accessible for public use and presenting potential safety concerns for both users and visitors.**

**The proposed diversion would reroute the footpath from Point A to Point C, rejoining the original route at Point B. The alternative route has been in informal use for some time and is considered more convenient for walkers. The diverted section would have a width of two metres and would cross a managed field, providing improved accessibility compared to the current alignment. Overgrown grass along the new route would be cut back, and new signage and waymarking would be installed to ensure clarity for users.**

This Statement has been prepared to explain various aspects of the Order.

#### **THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE ORDER**

The Nottinghamshire County Council has made the Diversion Order in the interests of the landowner.

The Nottinghamshire County Council is satisfied that the Order complies with the following legal grounds and tests laid down in the Highways Act, namely that the diversion is not substantially less convenient to the public and in the interest of the landowners to enable better land management and/or in the interest of the public and it is therefore expedient that the paths be diverted.

THE ORDER WILL COME INTO EFFECT ONLY AFTER IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED: making and advertising the Order simply provides an opportunity for objections or representations to be made.

Objections or representations relating to the Order must be made in writing by **7<sup>th</sup> May 2026** to the Countryside Access Team at the address which is given in the Notice or sent by e-mail to [Countryside.Access@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:Countryside.Access@nottscc.gov.uk) Please include your name and contact information.

The Nottinghamshire County Council will be willing to discuss the concerns of those considering objecting or making representations relating to the Order. Anyone wishing to do so may contact Cecilia Chum in the Countryside Access Team on 01159774422 between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm, Mondays to Fridays inclusive.

The right of objection to an Order is a statutory right, but it should be exercised in a reasonable manner. The costs involved in dealing with objections to Orders may be awarded against objectors in cases of unreasonable behaviour.

If any objections are made and not withdrawn, then the Council will have to refer the Order to the Department of the Environment for determination. An Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate will then hear the objections at a Public Inquiry or Hearing, or in writing if the objectors agree. The Inspector can confirm an Order, confirm it with modifications, or refuse to confirm it. If no objections are received or if any objections received are subsequently withdrawn, the Council will be able to confirm the Order itself but it has no power to modify Orders.

Where a new path is being created by a Creation or Diversion Order, the change will come into effect only after a specified period from the date of confirmation to allow time for any necessary works to be undertaken.