

**Harlow, Craig**

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**From:** Margaret Durkee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 28 January 2019 10:21  
**To:** Harlow, Craig  
**Subject:** ref; 2018/03 Footpath in the Square, Mere

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sir, Our house is directly opposite the gates in the archway, we have only very rarely used the path to access North Street, but since moving here in 1975 I cannot remember the gates ever being locked ( until recently), though it is possible if I was not using the entrance I may not have noticed. I have no knowledge of wooden gates or what was there before 1975.

Yours Mr and Mrs M Durkee, 4,The Square, Mere.

Annie Cottage  
North St.

Your ref.  
2018/03

Mere  
Wiltshire

1-2-2019

Dear Sir,

With reference your letter of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, I have lived in Mere since the early seventies and have no recollection of locked or braced gates between the square & North St. in Mere. In the 80's my daughter lived in a flat, above the shops, overlooking the ground in question & has no recollection of gardens and certainly had no key to the gates which was the residents access to the square. May I point out

How important this access is to the residents in North St. & beyond many of which are elderly people with walking aids (such as myself) and young mothers with prams & small children. There are two alternative routes to the Square - one up Manor Road which is extremely narrow with a narrow pavement which runs out half way up the road. This road is used regularly with tractors, lorries & ~~some~~ since much housing developing, many cars. Only the other day I was using this way home from the shops when a tractor came up behind me - with no room to pass me he had to follow me at walking pace when a car came around the corner

from the other direction & I was stuck in the middle while they sorted it out and at 91 years old I was really stressed. The other route to the shops is by Penny bank lane which again is very narrow and would be impossible for two prams or walking aids to pass. This route is also a fair bit longer walk for people such as myself with walking difficulties.

I hope this will help you to make a favourable decision.

Yours truly

B. Ingram (Mrs)

22nd January 2019

Mr and Mrs Johnson  
10 Denes Avenue  
Mere  
Wiltshire  
BA12 6HW

Rights of Way & Countryside Team  
Waste and Environment  
County Hall  
Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JN

Our ref:2018/03

Dear Mr and Mrs Johnson

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 s.53**

**Application for an Order to add a footpath to the definitive map and statement at The Square, Mere**

I am writing to you in reference to the user evidence form you have filled out and submitted in regards to the footpath claim in Mere linking The Square and North Street.

As part of the council's investigation into this application, evidence has come to our attention that contradicts your own given evidence.

It is our duty to investigate all evidence and get to the truth of the matter to the best of our ability before making a decision to make an order to record a public footpath or not.

The evidence which has come to our attention states the route was blocked, at various times, by either locked metal gates or braced large wooden gates at The Street end of the path by the road, the locking/bracing of the gates being consistent at night and at times during the day. The years in which it has been claimed the gates were locked or braced at different times cover the periods 1979-1985 and 2003-2010. It has also come to our attention the nature of the path / alley changed significantly in the 1970s and before this period it was private gardens and would not have been useable by the public.

I would appreciate your response to the above statements in relation to your given evidence; do you have any knowledge of the route being blocked by gates of any kind? Did you ever come across locked or braced gates when trying to use the route? If you used the path before the mid/early 1970s what are your memories of the nature/ route of the path used, did it look similar to now or has it significantly changed? Or if you have any further information you feel would be helpful in addition to the evidence or statement you have already provided I would be pleased to receive this.

If the council do make an order to record a public footpath it is likely it will result in a public inquiry where the success of any order would be reliant on your evidence being cross-examined by an inspector appointed by The Planning Inspectorate and/ or a barrister appointed by objectors.

Please reply to this letter with your comments as soon as possible and in any case by the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. I have enclosed a pre-paid envelope for your use and alternatively my contact details are below on which I can be contacted by email or phone to discuss the above.

Enclosed: Map of the area for any annotation you may wish to make.

Yours sincerely

Craig Harlow  
Rights of Way Officer



Direct line: 01249 468568  
Email: craig.harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk

P. T. O

Myself and my wife have never been approached when we have used the footpath over a very long time as far as we can remember.

## Harlow, Craig

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 January 2019 09:42  
**To:** Harlow, Craig  
**Subject:** Your letter Ref:2018/03  
**Attachments:** Scan\_0032.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning Mr Harlow

Thank you for your letter. Really not sure what you mean by your second paragraph regarding my evidence, perhaps you would supply me with a copy.

I only moved into Mere in February 2013 and at that time there were metal gates in position which to my recollection were always open. Again, to my recollection things changed about 18-24 months ago when the gates were locked and the residents of The Boardroom etc were issued with keys.

People now have to negotiate the very narrow road between the old bank and the antiques shop to reach North Street etc. This can be quite an ordeal for the elderly etc.

I hope this helps.

Yours sincerely

Chris Breckell

22nd January 2019

Mr Nelson  
10 Lynch Close  
Mere  
Wiltshire  
BA12 6EL

Rights of Way & Countryside Team  
Waste and Environment  
County Hall  
Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JN

Our ref:2018/03

Dear Mr Nelson

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 s.53**

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Enclosed: Map of the area for any annotation you may wish to make.

Yours sincerely

Craig Harlow  
Rights of Way Officer



Direct line: 01249 468568  
Email: craig.harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk



DURING

LATE 80s 90s + 2011 ONWARDS  
UNTIL GATES LOCKED RECENT YEARS  
HARD TO REMEMBER EXACT TIMES  
BUT DID WALK THROUGH TO  
TOWN, ALLEYWAY WAS EASY WAY  
TO GO AND SAFER WAY.



R WELSON  
10 LYNN CLOSE  
MERE

FORMERLY AT 3 MANOR RD  
1980 - 2017

**Harlow, Craig**

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**From:** MICHAEL TAYLOR <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 08 February 2019 11:46  
**To:** Harlow, Craig  
**Subject:** your ref: 2018/03

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd January 2019 relating to the proposed footpath at The Square in Mere. I note the comments within and would make the following comments. For the period 2003-2010, I am not really at liberty to comment as to whether the gates were locked or braced as I had moved out of Mere by that time. Whenever I did visit Mere during that period, I do not recall noticing gates one way or the other. Regarding the period 1979-1985, to my knowledge, I don't recall the gates being locked at any time that I would have attempted to pass through them.

However that is not to say they could have been closed at some time. Having been born and brought up in Mere, I am only too aware of the proclivities of local people and how these may impact on their attitudes towards people not born locally. If I may give an example. I recall walking my dog off the lead, across the fields in The Meads in the early seventies, freely wandering off the footpaths and meeting the local farmer. He was more than happy for me to do so. I went to school with his children, he knew my parents, he had seen me grow up, I was a "local", However that same farmer would angrily chastise any dog walker, male or female, old or young, who was not a "local" who did not have their dog on a lead and who did not stick strictly to the footpaths.

I am only too aware that this application is like walking through the proverbial "minefield". Memories, interpretations, local-ism etc, can and will play a part in applications such as this. I hope my comments have been helpful.

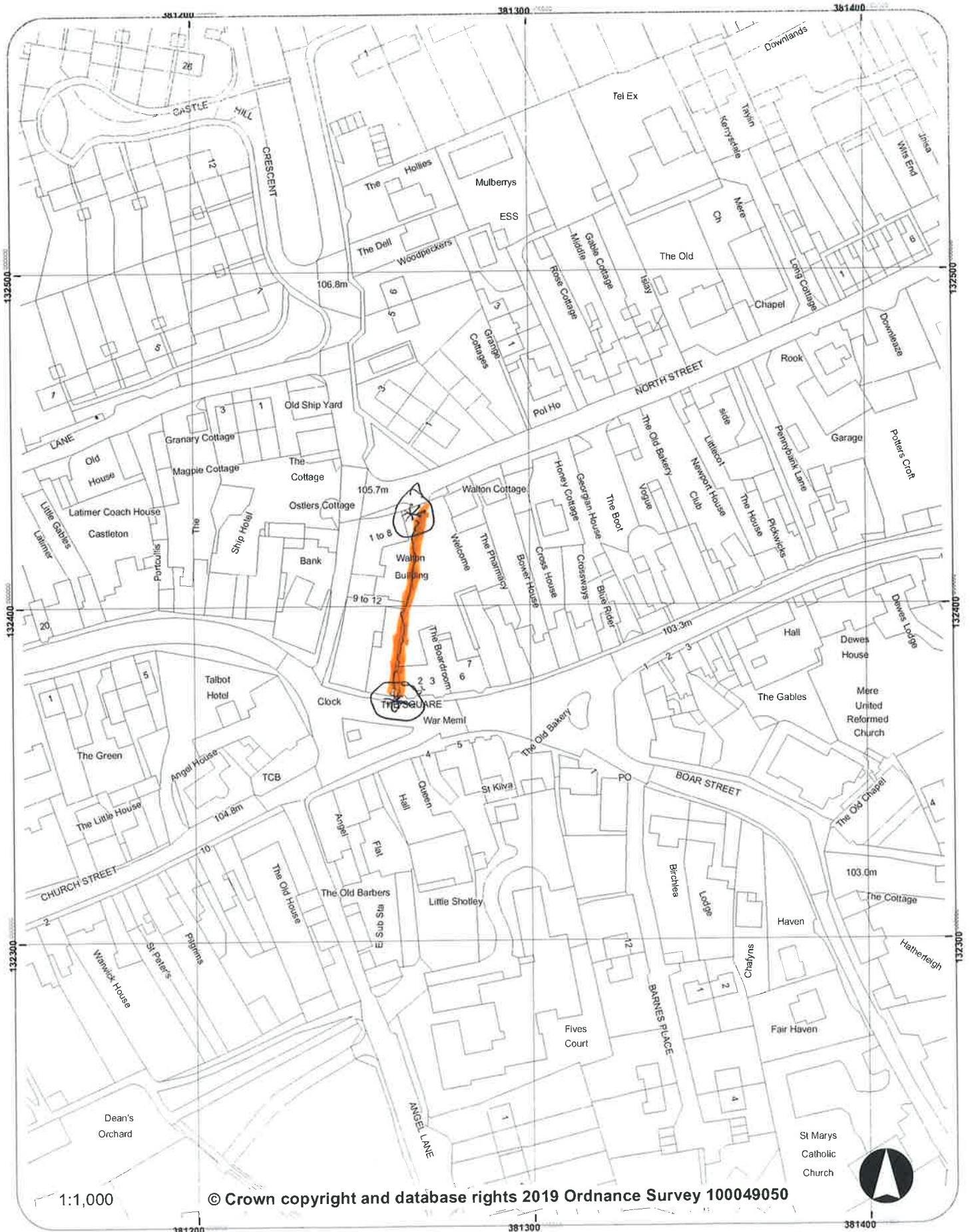
Yours

Mike Taylor

Mrs Adams (CH)

Wiltshire Council  
Where everybody matters

Application to add footpath to definitive map - Mere



3 Castle Hill Crescent  
or Lane

Mere.

Dear Mr Harlow,

with reference to your  
letter re the footpath.

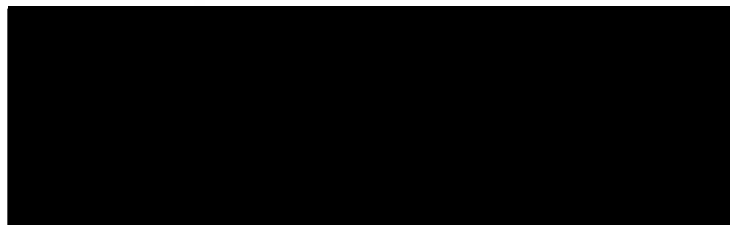
I only moved to Mere in 2009

- August - but have to say that there  
were never any locked gates until  
very recently when the lock was put on  
the gates.

It seems that some people <sup>now</sup> have a  
key to the gates.

I must reiterate that people with push-chairs  
and people in invalid carriages are at a  
great disadvantage and other people find  
it very difficult to reach the centre of Mere  
since the road to the clock tower is only  
wide enough for one vehicle until after  
the Ostlers Cottage is past.

Yours sincerely



ROSE COTTAGE  
NORTH ST.  
MERE, WILTS.  
BA12 6HH

01/02/2019

Dear Craig Harlow,

In answer to your recent letter 22/01/2019, I have no knowledge of locked metal gates or braced wooden gates. I'm afraid I have no more information than I have already given. I am missing this footpath very much so I do hope the council can find a solution soon. I do have a suggestion that may help, and that is to lock the gate at night and leave open during the day i.e. - between 9am and 5pm.

Lives & Signs of all - P. Moody

ROSE COTTAGE  
NORTH ST  
MERE  
BA12 6HH  
1-2-19

Dear Sir

In regards to the footpath linking  
The Square to North Street there is know  
more I can say, only that I have been  
using this since 1999, and since the  
flats have been there, the gate is only  
open when perhaps someone forgets to  
lock it, which is very useful for me

yours sincerely

Mrs Rainforth

PAT & JENNY SEWARD  
 OLD FORGE  
 NORTH STREET.  
 MERE  
 BRIZ 6NH

Dear Sirs.

We can only refer to the period after 1979-1985- and from memory there was only a very short time when the gate was padlocked with a chain, but was removed, after protest, to our memory there <sup>always been</sup> has a good footpath.

We are both in our eighties and find the road between the bank and the antique shop rather dangerous.

Your Sincerely

P. A. J. Seward