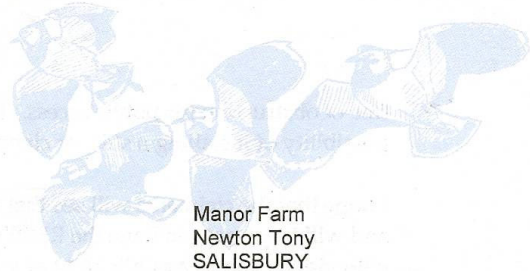




for birds
for people
for ever



Manor Farm
Newton Tony
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 OHA
Tel/Fax 01980 629215
www.rspb.org.uk

Sally Madgwick
Rights of Way Officer
Wiltshire County Council
Department of Transport, Environment & Leisure
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JD

Your ref SM/PC/170

6 August 2009

Dear Sally Madgwick

**Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 53
Claimed footpath from path Newton Tony 11**

Thank you for your letter of 6th July, with the enclosed Notice of Order and the Order Plan, relating to the above claim for a right of way at Manor Farm, Newton Tony.

I can confirm that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (the RSPB) is the only landowner for the whole of the length of claimed right of way under consideration.

Please note that the RSPB has no dispute with the claim for a right of way along proposed route, however the RSPB does object to the inclusion of access through the 6 metre (not 3 metre) double gate at SU20915 39756.

The six metre gate at this position has been locked in the past for periods of up to 12 months, and certainly whenever livestock have been put into this field, either when in arable ley grassland or on stubble turnips in the winter. This is necessary to prevent rustlers having the opportunity to load up sheep into the back of a vehicle within the field, and ensure that the gate is not inadvertently left open when livestock are present. It has also been locked when there have been concerns about hare coursers being active in the area to avoid damage to crops. This locking of the gate is therefore an essential part of farm management and security.

The RSPB does not wish to compromise the future security of the farm, and so must object to the public use of this 6m double gate. The RSPB does acknowledge that people use the gap beside the gate for access onto the path, and would be willing to retain this gap and take on the responsibility for maintaining the gap beside the gate

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free of obstruction for public access. The RSPB would be willing to discuss the possibility of installing a stile, or clapper gate, in this location.

I hope that the claimants will see that this objection is made on reasonable grounds, and will be pleased to have the RSPB's support for the future maintenance of the path via the gap as a public right of way.

If you have any further queries I will be pleased to address these with you and can be contacted on tel. 01980 629845.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Cashman

Patrick Cashman
Site Manager
RSPB Wiltshire Reserves