

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

15th MAY 2002

**THAMES PATH - PROPOSED DEDICATION
OF A LENGTH OF FOOTPATH AT LATTON**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek the approval of Members for Swindon Borough Council to make a Public Path Creation Order in relation to a section of the Thames Path in Wiltshire.

Background

2. The County Council has been acting on behalf of the Countryside Agency to implement the Thames Path National Trail. Although some of the length in the County is on existing public paths, a number of stretches have been created and dedicated as public rights of way.
3. Negotiations have taken place over the years with the landowner at Water Eaton House and the attached plan (**Appendix 1**) shows the proposals. The closure of footpath 9, the diversion of path 10 and the dedication of new paths were confirmed by the Magistrates on 7th November 2000 and the Definitive Map was amended on 8th February 2001 to reflect the changes.
4. The stretch north of Water Eaton House (B-Y) shown on the plan is in the ownership of a different landowner and negotiations for this stretch have been unsuccessful. It has therefore been decided to make a Public Path Creation Order for the continuation of the path.

Proposal

5. Swindon Borough Council has to make four Public Path Creation Orders to implement the Thames Path within its area and is willing to make the Order in respect of the length which is in Wiltshire.
6. In order to proceed, it will be necessary to obtain Committee authority for the County Council to enter into an Agreement with Swindon Borough Council under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the County Council's function under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 to be discharged by Swindon Borough Council.

Conclusions: Options Considered

7. The County Council could make the Order in its own right, but there will be savings in Officer time and resources by Swindon Borough Council making all the Orders at one time.

Recommendation

8. That authority be given for Swindon Borough Council to carry out the Public Path Creation Order for that length within Wiltshire.

Reason for Recommendation

9. See paragraph 7.

RICHARD J. LANDER

Director of Environmental Services

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None.

Environmental impact of the Recommendation contained in this Report:

None.