

*Status: This version of this part contains provisions that are prospective.*

**Changes to legislation:** Deregulation Act 2015, Paragraph 5 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 March 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

## SCHEDULES

PROSPECTIVE

### SCHEDULE 7

#### ASCERTAINMENT OF RIGHTS OF WAY

#### PART 1

#### WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

5 After section 54A insert—

#### “54B Modifications of definitive map and statement by consent: England

- (1) This section applies where it appears to a surveying authority in England (whether or not on an application under section 53(5)) that —
  - (a) it might be requisite to make a modification to a definitive map and statement in consequence of the occurrence of one or more events falling within section 53(3)(b) or (c)(i) or (ii);
  - (b) the basis for the authority's view that it might be requisite is documentary evidence of the existence of a right of way before 1949; and
  - (c) in a case where the authority form that view following an application, the authority have served notice under paragraph 2(4)(b) of Schedule 13A that they are considering the application.
- (2) The authority shall ascertain whether every owner of the land to which the modification relates consents to the making of an order under section 53(2) or would so consent if the authority made one or more of the following orders (“special orders”)—
  - (a) a diversion order;
  - (b) an order altering the width of the path or way;
  - (c) an order imposing a new limitation or condition affecting the right of way.
- (3) A diversion order is an order which, for the purpose of diverting the line of the path or way or part of it—
  - (a) creates any such new path or way (of the same kind) as appears to the authority appropriate; and
  - (b) extinguishes any public right of way over so much of the path or way as appears to the authority to be appropriate.
- (4) If every owner consents to the making of an order under section 53(2) (without the making of a special order), the authority—

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- (a) may make the order under section 53(2); and
  - (b) if they do so, shall include in the order a statement that it is made with the consent of every owner.
- (5) If an owner would consent to the making of an order under section 53(2) only if one or more special orders are made, and the other owners (if any) do not object to the making of such an order or orders, the authority may make the special order or orders in question and, if they do so, shall—
- (a) make an order under section 53(2);
  - (b) include in that order a statement that it is made with the consent of every owner; and
  - (c) combine any special orders and the order under section 53(2) in a single document.
- (6) Before making a diversion order, the authority must—
- (a) be satisfied that the path or way will not be substantially less convenient to the public in consequence of the diversion; and
  - (b) have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.
- (7) As soon as reasonably practicable after an authority are satisfied that they have power under subsection (4) or (5) to make an order under section 53(2), the authority must—
- (a) give notice to each owner that they are satisfied that they have that power; and
  - (b) include in the notice an explanation of the effect of subsection (9) of this section.
- (8) An order under section 53(2) which includes a statement that it is made with the consent of every owner is referred to in this Act as a modification consent order.
- (9) An authority must determine whether to make a modification consent order before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with—
- (a) in the case mentioned in subsection (1)(c), the day on which the authority served notice under paragraph 2(4)(b) of Schedule 13A in respect of the application;
  - (b) in any other case, the day on which notice is given under subsection (7).
- (10) The Secretary of State may by order provide that, in cases or circumstances specified in the order, subsection (9) applies as if for the period of 12 months mentioned in that subsection there were substituted a longer period specified in the order.
- (11) An order under subsection (10) shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

#### **54C Modifications of definitive map and statement by consent: supplemental**

- (1) An authority may not make a diversion order under section 54B(5) so as to alter a point of termination of a path or way—
  - (a) if that point is not on a highway; or

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- (b) (where it is on a highway) otherwise than to another point which is on the same highway, or a highway connected with it, and which is substantially as convenient to the public.
- (2) An authority may not make such an order so as to alter the line of a path or way such that it falls on land owned by a person whose consent was not sought under section 54B(2), unless that other person consents to the alteration.
- (3) Where a modification consent order takes effect, any path or way, or any part of a path or way, which is shown in a definitive map and statement in consequence of the order or any special order combined with it under section 54B(5) is maintainable at the public expense (including so much of a path or way as has been created by the making of a special order altering the width of an existing path or way).
- (4) Where it appears to an authority—
  - (a) that if a modification consent order were to take effect, a path or way, or part of a path or way, would be maintainable at the public expense by virtue of subsection (3); and
  - (b) that work is required to be done to bring the path or way, or the part, into a fit condition for use by the public,the authority may not confirm the order under Schedule 14A until they are satisfied that the work has been carried out.”

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2015/994 art. 13 Sch. by [S.I. 2015/1405 art. 2\(3\)](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 110A inserted by [2016 c. 12 s. 16\(1\)](#)