PUBLIC NOTICE

Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Definitive Map and Statement for Central Bedfordshire as at 10 October 2014

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE) (MAULDEN: BRIDLEWAY NO. 32) MODIFICATION ORDER 2026

The above Order made on 6 March 2026, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by adding to them the bridleway from the end of the alleyway next to 20 George Street (Order map – point A) to Bridleway No. 18, Maulden (Order map – point F).

The length of Bridleway No. 32, Maulden to be added extends from the end of the alleyway next to 20 George Street at a field entrance at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OS GR) TL 0565 3805 (Order map – point A) in a north-easterly direction for approximately 4 metres to its junction with Footpath No. 12, Maulden at OS GR TL 0565 3805 (Order map – point B) then continues over the route of Footpath No. 7, Maulden in a generally east-north-easterly direction for approximately 126 metres along a field boundary to its junction with an unaffected part of Footpath No. 7, Maulden at OS GR TL 0576 3810 (Order map – point C) then continues in a generally east-north-easterly direction for approximately 83 metres through a graveyard to a field boundary at OS GR TL 0584 3814 (Order map – point D) then continues in a generally northerly direction for approximately 66 metres over a Site of Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI") to OS GR TL 0586 3820 (Order map – point E) then continues in a generally north-north-easterly direction for approximately 238 metres over the SSSI to terminate at its junction with Footpath No. 17, Maulden and Bridleway No. 18, Maulden at OS GR TL 0598 3841 (Order map – point F).

The bridleway has a width of 4 metres.

A copy of the Order and the Order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Central Bedfordshire Council Highways, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford. Any inspection will be by appointment only, please contact definitivemap@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 6530 to arrange an appointment. A copy of the Order and the Order map are available to view and download for free at https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/84/definitive_map/425/definitive_map_-_modifications/1. Paper copies of the Order and map may be bought at a charge of £4.00. An explanatory statement can be obtained by phoning 0300 300 6530.

Any representation or objection relating to the Order must be sent in writing to the Highway Asset Intelligence Team Leader, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5QT or definitivemap@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk not later than 30 April 2026, and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made. Representations and objections must include either a postal or e-mail address. Any representations or objections made will be in the public domain and will be available for viewing/copying by members of the public.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn the Central Bedfordshire Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State, may itself confirm the Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation any representations and objections which have been duly made and not withdrawn will be sent with the Order. These will be made publicly available by either the Council or the Planning Inspectorate.

Dated 12 March 2026

Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5QT

Gary Powell
Service Director, Highways

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Definitive Map and Statement records the existence and route of any rights of way that exist over a parcel of land. The Map and Statement provides conclusive evidence of the existence of public rights of way and are very important for the landowner and users as a record of where the public has a right to walk, ride horses and drive vehicles (both motorised and non-motorised).

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 ORDERS

Under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Council has a duty to keep the Definitive Map and Statement - which is its legal record of public rights of way - up to date through a process of continuous review. When the Council discovers evidence that the Map or Statement is incorrect and needs changing (called modification) it will do so by making and advertising a legal order - called a Definitive Map Modification Order.

THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE ORDER.

It has been prepared to explain why the order has been made.

THIS ORDER

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has directed Central Bedfordshire Council to make an order to add a bridleway in the parish of Maulden to the Definitive Map and Statement following the successful appeal of the applicant against the Council's refusal to make a modification order. The Order will add a public bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement for Central Bedfordshire which will run from the end of an alleyway off George Street (Order map – point A) through the graveyard of St Mary's, then across the SSSI grassland area to connect with Bridleway No. 13, Maulden (Order map – point F) near Maulden Woods. The added bridleway would have a width of 4 metres.

OBJECTING TO THE ORDER

Objections or representations relating to the order must be made in writing by the date stated in the Public Notice to: **Asset Intelligence Team Leader, Highways, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5QT** or definitivemap@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

This Council is willing to discuss the concerns of anyone considering objecting or making representations relating to the order. Please telephone number 0300 300 6530 or e-mail adam.maciejewski@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

If there are no objections to the order, or if all objections are withdrawn, this Council will confirm the order at which point the Order will come into operation.

If objections are made and these are not withdrawn, this Council must forward the order to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who will appoint an independent Inspector to consider the evidence and hear the objections, normally by means of an exchange of written representations or by holding a local hearing or public inquiry. Objectors to the order will be given the chance to put their case at an inquiry or hearing and will be able to cross-examine any witnesses produced by this Council. The inspector may then decide to confirm the order, with or without modifications, or may decide that they should not be confirmed.

THIS ORDER HAS NO EFFECT UNTIL AND UNLESS CONFIRMED.