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Applicant response to initial consultation  
Application PL/2024/004

Following the initial consultation and the comments received, we would like to take this opportunity to provide a detailed response. We have carefully reviewed the feedback and considered the points raised and our response below seeks to address these matters and clarify our position.

Summarised points in relation to our response:

- **Public use:** The initial consultation has provided a clear consensus regarding MELK103, that it is rarely used and considered unsuitable for public access. This position has not been challenged and strongly supports the view that MELK103 is no longer necessary for public use.
- **Hedgerow:** During public consultation residents of The Bramblings have identified themselves, as the rightful owners of the hedgerow. Land registry mapping would support this. In light of this confirmation, we formally withdraw any previous comments suggesting that we might assume ownership and maintenance of the hedgerow.
- **Green Corridor:** Consider that referring to MELK103 as a 'green corridor' reflects an interpretation rather than an established designation within the adopted Neighbourhood Plan and planning policy. While the site may currently contain vegetation due to long-term lack of maintenance, we consider that this alone does not confer Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) status under the relevant local and national policy framework.
- **Ownership:** The land behind the properties on Fieldfare Way is unregistered and is not maintained by Wiltshire council, the developers of the estate nor the current management company Greensquare Accord. It is not subject to the estate service charge applied to residents of the wider 'Skylark Estate' and beyond.
- **PL/2024/10345 and potential upgrades to MELK103:** the level of investment required to retain and enhance MELK103 is not considered an effective or proportionate use of resources, given the established case for extinguishment and the availability of multiple, safer alternative routes that have superseded its original function.

A more detailed response to the initial consultation is provided below:

## **1. Public Use**

During our time residing on Fieldfare Way (approximately 8 years), we have observed the progressive deterioration of Public Right of Way MELK103. Over recent years, this has culminated in numerous dead trees within the adjacent hedgerow falling across the right of way and into our property, resulting in significant damage to sections of our

boundary fencing. In addition, the ground level along the right of way has noticeably subsided. This ground movement has caused both our fence and that of our neighbour to lean outward, indicating ongoing instability.

A considerable number of dead trees remain within the hedgerow and appear to be precariously balanced. These trees pose a genuine and immediate risk to our property, our private amenity space, and to neighbouring properties. They also present a clear hazard to anyone attempting to use the right of way.

It is evident from the feedback received during the initial consultation that there is a clear consensus regarding MELK103, that it is rarely used and considered unsuitable for public access. This position has not been challenged and strongly supports the view that MELK103 is no longer necessary for public use. Instead, Fieldfare Way, along with other established pedestrian routes throughout the wider 'Skylark estate', are recognised as the preferred and natural pathways for movement within the area.

## **2. Hedgerow**

Within our initial application, we noted that despite making reasonable and proportionate enquiries, we were unable to identify an owner for the hedgerow or the associated verges/land located on either side of the designated path. Both Wiltshire Council and the original developers of the Skylark estate confirmed that they hold no ownership or jurisdiction over this land and therefore could not provide further clarification on responsibility of maintenance.

During the initial consultation period for our application, Mr and Mrs Jeske of The Bramblings came forward and identified themselves, along with neighbouring property owners, as the rightful owners of the hedgerow. This information is welcomed and we acknowledge and appreciate the clarity it brings to the matter going forward in relation to who is responsible for the maintenance of the hedgerow. In light of this confirmation, we formally withdraw any previous comments suggesting that we might assume ownership.

We would welcome and strongly support the owners identified undertaking essential maintenance and improvement of the hedgerow, including the removal of the dead and unsafe trees and any necessary restoration works in replacing the dead trees with similar species. The hedgerow provides an important level of visual screening and privacy for properties on both Fieldfare Way and The Bramblings, contributing positively to residential amenity and the overall character of the area.

The retention and ongoing enhancement of this hedgerow is considered very important, and it is therefore in the shared interests of all adjoining landowners and residents to ensure it is properly maintained. The observations provided by the ecologist are welcomed, and these will be carefully reviewed and considered if any future development proposals are considered appropriate.

We have no intentions of removing the hedgerow, our wishes primarily remain with the removal of dead and decaying trees, some of which have already fallen and damaged our property and cars. (See below photos).



*Damage to our property, fence and cars on Fieldfare Way – Circa December 2024*

### 3. Green Corridor

Comments suggesting that MELK103 functions as a green corridor are, in our view, not entirely accurate. This footpath has been neglected for a considerable period, as demonstrated, resulting in significant overgrowth and a lack of proper maintenance.

In the eight years we have resided in Fieldfare Way, we are aware of approximately two or maybe three occasions where MELK103 has been cleared by volunteers, which was in direct response to our initial queries into who should maintain the footpath and secondly to the extinguishment application being submitted. To our knowledge no other maintenance or clearing has been carried out. This unmanaged state has contributed to its current appearance, which may give the impression of a 'green corridor' due to

the overgrown and impassable nature, but this does not reflect its intended function or planning designation.

Although the site currently supports a substantial amount of vegetation across the path and the privately owned hedgerow offers a suitable and established habitat for nesting birds, its primary designated function remains that of a public footpath. This should be cleared of all vegetation and obstacles to allow its primary function. Much of the existing vegetation consists largely of brambles, vines and stinging nettles, which are generally not regarded as being of high ecological value and do not constitute a priority habitat. Whilst wildlife may occasionally use this pathway, it is important to note that their movement is not dependent on MELK103 alone. Wildlife species, including foxes, utilise a variety of routes, such as the existing road network, adjacent verges, and the numerous areas of public open space available in the immediate vicinity. These alternative areas provide connectivity and foraging opportunities, reducing reliance on any single route. Foxes, in particular, are frequently observed navigating along roadsides including Fieldfare Way and within the immediate green spaces adjacent, demonstrating their adaptability and use of multiple pathways within this urban environment.

Policy 12: Green and Blue Infrastructure of the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 (2020–2038) seeks to protect, enhance, and appropriately manage the integrity, quality, multi-functionality, and connectivity of the GBI network across the Plan area. As part of this policy framework, a diagrammatic representation of existing GBI assets and their potential connectivity is provided in Figure 12 (*page 82 of the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 - 2020–2038*), as identified within the supporting GBI Evidence Base Report. Notably, Figure 12 does not identify MELK103 as a component of the GBI network, nor does the wider evidence base attribute any GBI function to this site.

On this basis, we consider that referring to MELK103 as a ‘green corridor’ reflects an interpretation of its current appearance rather than an established designation within the adopted Neighbourhood Plan. While the site may currently contain vegetation due to long-term lack of maintenance, we consider that this alone does not confer (GBI) status under the relevant policy framework, nor does it constitute evidence of a formally recognised ecological function. In the absence of any such designation, assessment, or policy-supported role, MELK103 cannot reasonably be regarded as a GBI asset within the meaning of the Neighbourhood Plan or wider planning policy, in our view.

#### **4. Ownership**

During the course of the application, concerns have been raised regarding how the ongoing maintenance of MELK103 would be managed should the footpath be extinguished. We share and acknowledge these concerns. Our secondary rationale for seeking an extinguishment relates to the fact that there appears to be no clear registered owner for this narrow portion of land. This absence of identifiable ownership is likely to have contributed to the long-standing lack of maintenance and raises legitimate questions about who would be responsible for its future management if the path were to remain in situ and potentially upgraded.

Fieldfare Way was developed (circa 2016) after the construction of the 'Skylark Estate', following the grant of the relevant planning permissions and the completion of associated Section 106 (S106) legal agreements (*dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008*). Planning permissions for the construction of Fieldfare Way was submitted to the LPA circa 2014/2015 (14/03652/OUT & 15/08660/REM). The narrow strip of land designated as the northern section of MELK103 has been consistently excluded from development proposals and historic transactions involving this parcel of land, resulting in the loss of an identifiable owner over time. Management responsibility for the open spaces and the general upkeep of the estate has since been transferred to Greensquare Accord, this excludes Fieldfare Way and the strip of land behind the houses.

The triangular parcel of land located to the south of the application site is formally designated as public open space and its status is secured through the existing S106 legal agreement (*dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008*). This parcel of land continues to be maintained by Greensquare Accord as part of their wider estate management obligations. There are no proposals, either within this application or in potential future application to alter, repurpose, or otherwise change the function or appearance of this area of public open space.

Fieldfare Way was constructed after the 'Skylark Estate' when planning permissions and legal agreements had been made. Greensquare Accord have taken over the management of the open spaces and upkeep of the estate, the triangular piece of land to the south of the application is designated as public open space, bound by legal agreement and is managed by Greensquare Accord. These legal agreements and permissions exclude Fieldfare Way.

Following enquiries and researching the historic maps show the portion of land that runs behind the houses in Fieldfare Way, which the northern section of MELK103 covers is currently unregistered land. (See Land Registry map below).



The narrow strip of land that runs behind the house in Fieldfare Way have been omitted from subsequent sales of the land and planning permissions. Notably:

|                                     |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 15/08660/REM<br>Reserved<br>Matters | 303<br>Sandridge<br>Common<br>Melksham<br>Wiltshire<br>SN12 7QR | Erection of 24 No. dwellings and associated works (Reserved matters application pursuant of Outline permission 14/03652/OUT with matters relating to landscape, appearance, layout and scale) | Approve with Conditions 23/12/2015 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|



## 5. PL/2024/10345 and potential upgrades to MELK103

It is acknowledged that there is a planning application (PL/2024/10345 - Land north of the A3102, Melksham) for the *'construction of 295 homes; public open space, including formal play space and allotments; sustainable drainage systems; and associated infrastructure; with 0.4ha of land safeguarded for a nursery. The principal point of access is to be provided from a new northern arm onto an improved arrangement of the Eastern Way/A3102 roundabout junction, with an emergency access onto the A3102. Additional access points are proposed for pedestrians and cyclists'* is currently in the process of being determined by the local planning authority.

The comments provided by the Countryside Access Development Officer, Paul Millard, are acknowledged and appreciated. We welcome his engagement with the matter and his clarification of the current position and providing the information of potential allocation of funds for the improvement of MELK103 in which we and neighbouring properties were unaware of. Despite this potential allocation, we maintain the view that

the legal tests relating to this right of way have been satisfied and predate the submission of this application.

Furthermore, we believe that the level of investment required to retain and improve MELK103 would not represent an effective or proportionate use of funds potentially allocated in the draft Section 106. The Skylark estate benefits from multiple alternative access points to the A3102 at frequent and convenient intervals, as echoed by Melksham Town Council's response, ensuring that connectivity is already well established and provided for without reliance on MELK103.

We welcome Paul Millard's concluding observation that any funding potentially allocated to the preservation of MELK103 could instead be redirected to other rights of way, specifically MELK46 and MELW60 which would benefit connecting the new development north of the A3102 (if approved) with the existing dwellings to the east and connecting with Savernake Avenue and the Melksham Forest Area and east towards New Road and Lacock. It is noted that MELK46 and MELW60 measure approximately 680m in length, combined. We agree that such an approach would represent a more appropriate, efficient and beneficial use of available resources, directing investment toward routes where it is likely to deliver greater public value and long-term benefit.

We also wish to express our concerns regarding the potential implications of the comments made by Paul Millard in relation to the scale of works that may be required should this extinguishment application not be successful. Any substantial upgrades to MELK103, particularly those involving alterations to ground levels or the raising of the path, would have a direct and negative impact on the privacy and security currently afforded to our property and those of neighbouring residents.

Given the immediate proximity of the right of way to our private gardens and boundary treatments, any elevation of the path or significant engineering works could result in users of the route having an elevated vantage point into private residential amenity spaces. This would materially reduce privacy, increase overlooking and create an unwelcome sense of intrusion. Furthermore, any potential changes to ground surfacing with a 'hard topped' material could introduce additional risks relating to boundary stability, drainage and long-term structural integrity, all of which are already areas of concern due to existing subsidence and tree-related issues.

For these reasons, the potential scale and nature of required upgrades reinforce our view that pursuing the reinstatement of this route is neither proportionate nor in the interests of neighbouring residents or wider public benefit.

The Illustrative Layout Plan (drawing number: 2513292.1), submitted to WC on the 13th November 2025 and submitted under application reference PL/2024/10345, demonstrates the intention to install a pedestrian crossing on the A3102 to the east of the line of MELK103, if approved. The position of this proposed crossing appears to be located broadly equidistant between two existing, well-used pedestrian access points: the paved and illuminated exit from Fieldfare Way and the corresponding access from Redwing Road onto Sandridge Common/A3102.

This arrangement indicates that safe and convenient pedestrian connectivity to the A3102 will continue to be provided through established, accessible and existing formalised routes, irrespective of the status of MELK103. The proposed crossing therefore reinforces the adequacy of existing infrastructure, further supporting the view that investment in reinstating MELK103 would be unnecessary and duplicative.



*Snip of Illustrative Layout Plan submitted with PL/2024/10345. Red arrows indicating existing exits from Fieldfare way to the west and Redwing Road to the east, orange arrow indicating MELK103 northern exit. Blue circle shows the proposed location of the pedestrian crossing should plans be approved.*

We appreciate the time and consideration given to our submission and thank you for reviewing our comments in full.

Yours sincerely,  
Tom and Gabrielle Crabtree

- Ownership query emails:

**Alfredsales** <alfredsales@newlandhomes.co.uk>  
 To: "giovanna23@gmail.com" <giovanna23@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 6, 2023 at 11:56 AM

Dear Mr and Mrs Crabtree

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you.

We have checked the Land Registry portal and this subject piece of land falls under the ownership and responsibility of the Local Authority just mentioned below.

If you contact the Local Authority they will be able to direct you to the right Department.

Kind regards

Alfredsales Team



**Alfredsales**  
 Services & Referrals  
 Alfredsales Administration()

**Newland Homes Limited**  
 Ringwood Court  
 Buxton Way  
 Buxton  
 Cheshire SK16 5TB  
 01457 422000



newlandhomes.co.uk

Our Video channel reminds that all of our other land site based staff will be working flexibly but are fully overwhelmed by a week.

For General enquiries see: [info@newlandhomes.co.uk](mailto:info@newlandhomes.co.uk)

For Sales enquiries call our website:

For Customer Care visit: [alfredsales@newlandhomes.co.uk](mailto:alfredsales@newlandhomes.co.uk)

\*Source: RRP (Rent a Sale)

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- Photographic evidence illustrating the progressive deterioration of MELK103, from circa June 2022 - 2026







**From:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed extinguishment of footpath MELK103  
**Sent:** 16/01/2026 10:44:54

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**From:** Buss, Jenna <Jenna.Buss@wiltshire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 13 January 2026 11:25  
**To:** Harlow, Craig <Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Glover, Emma <Emma.Glover@wiltshire.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed extinguishment of footpath MELK103

Craig,

Thank you for your email consulting ecology on the proposed extinguishment of footpath MELK103. From the photos the footpath doesn't look to be too well used and has become overgrown forming what appears to be a semi mature hedgerow which forms a green corridor linking that eastern edge of Melksham between the north and south across the A3102. I note we have records of bats and hedgehog in that area, both would make good use of this corridor connecting the eastern half of urban Melksham to the surrounding local landscape to the north east.

It would also appear that there is a permission for the land on the northern side for the creation of additional residential developments and is allocated in the local plan. The application associated with it (PL/2024/10345) proposes a pedestrian crossing to be constructed close to the northern tip of footpath MELK103 and the continuation of the hedgerow is to be retained which would mean retention of this footpath could link this area of development to the southern area of Melksham whilst retaining the green infrastructure/corridor which would be of benefit to both pedestrians and ecology. Should the footpath be extinguished, the retention of the vegetation along this corridor could not be secured which would create a loss of green infrastructure /wildlife corridor within this eastern area of Melksham.

If however, the proposal is to move forward and remove this footpath we would advise that ecological advice is sought in the removal of any vegetation proposed, the site likely to support a number of breeding birds and so any works within the bird nesting season could negatively impact upon these nesting species.

We would be happy to discuss further as/when ecology input is required.

Many Thanks  
Jenna

**Jenna Buss**  
**Senior Ecologist**  
Climate and Environment

**Wiltshire Council**

Please note my normal working hours are Monday – Thursday 8:30-3:30

Email: [jenna.buss@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jenna.buss@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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**From:** [John Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Your ref: P/2024/004  
**Sent:** 12/12/2025 11:05:26

---

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Many thanks for your clear explanation of the changes proposed for Fieldfare Way. You've managed to put our minds at rest about the small but to us important patch of land involved.

John Edwards  
[REDACTED] Fieldfare Way

On Thu, 11 Dec 2025 at 12:53, Harlow, Craig <[Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr Edwards,

The extinguishment of the recorded public footpath would not materially affect that parcel of land. That land is set aside and managed as public open space by Green Square Accord, as part of the section 106 agreement following the construction of the estate. The status of the land as public open space would remain and there are no plans to change the access or land in any manner at this time.

Any extinguishment order would extinguish the linear route of the recorded footpath from the definitive map and statement only. It is required to extinguish this section of path in addition to the section behind the houses of Fieldfare Way, which was the section subject to the initial application, as we cannot leave a public footpath at a dead end. It was therefore necessary to consult on extinguishing this footpath ( MELK103) from its junction with Skylark Road north to Sandridge Road, including over land owned and managed by Green Square Accord and the public open space.

To clarify there are no intentions to stop the public from accessing this section of land, as it will remain public open space, and there are no known plans to change this section of land physically in any manner. The practical result of any extinguishment will be the removal of any public right to access the recorded route of the footpath behind the houses to Sandridge Road, which is currently overgrown and inaccessible.

I hope the above helps.

Best Regards

Craig

**Craig Harlow MIPROW**

**Definitive Map Officer**

Definitive Map and Highway Records

Wiltshire Council

County Hall

Trowbridge

BA14 8JN

Direct Line: 01249 468568

Email: [craig.harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:craig.harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)



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**From:** John Edwards [redacted] <[redacted]@wiltshire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 December 2025 12:54  
**To:** Harlow, Craig <[Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Your ref: P/2024/004

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)  
Re: Extinguishment of footpath

Having considered the proposals for the above I would offer the following points.

I am unsure as to how the proposal will affect the area of land roughly triangular in shape between A and the turn the footpath takes from approximately north to north northeast. Basically I am talking about the area south of northing 164150. The green area is part of the local amenity as it is safe for young children. The hedges and trees are havens for wildlife and offer a means of deadening noise and should be retained.

Before commenting further I would need to see more details about how the southern section of land would be allocated and changes in land use envisaged.

I realise that this response is later than requested but would still ask for the above to be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely

John Edwards

■ [Fieldfare Way](#)

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**From:** [Claire Jeske](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Subject:** Your ref P/2024/004  
**Sent:** 04/01/2026 09:54:30

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Craig,

We received the letter explaining the proposed extinguishment of footpath Melksham 103 (part), Skylark Road, Melksham, SN12 7GD.

We would like to oppose this application as part of this area is owned by the residents of 21 The Bramblings (us), and our neighbours residing in 20 and 19 The Bramblings. We live the other side of the Byway from this application.

Upon purchasing our properties from Taylor Wimpey part of the land which is hedgerow is within our property boundary. This is defined by a barbed wire fence, with the other side being a public Byway. Our properties were built several years before the houses who are requesting this purchase.

It is our understanding a public Byway cannot be bought for private land.

- This status gives the public certain access rights (e.g., foot, cycle, horse, vehicle depending on the type), and these rights cannot be bought out in the normal way because they are statutory public rights.

Whilst we agree the land is rarely used as it is over grown there are times volunteers for the council have tended to the area. There has been no antisocial behaviour along the Byway as it practically impassable. We have lived in our property since 2014, long before the houses were built and have never encountered any issues or concerns, this land runs the entire length of our property, driveway and garden.

The Byway dips very low compared to the residents gardens who are asking to buy the land, and would question why or how they could take this into their gardens.

Crucially not all of this area proposed for purchase is public Byway, it is owned by us in The Bramblings so this would need to be taken into account when defining what part of this area is considered for this purchase.

We would also be very opposed to losing the privacy provided by the hedgerow as the houses are on higher land than ours and therefore would be looking directly into our garden if hedgerow was removed.

There is thriving wildlife living in the hedgerow, squirrels, birds etc. The wildlife would be displaced if hedgerow was removed.

In summary, part of this area is within our properties boundaries, not all the area is Byway. The remaining Byway provides privacy for many residents and natural space for wildlife to thrive.

We strongly oppose this application.

Our contact details are [REDACTED] We are happy to discuss this further or as required.

Please keep us informed of the next steps, and we would appreciate acknowledgment of this email to confirm receipt.

Best wishes  
Claire & Daniel Jeske

21 The Bramblings, Melksham, SN12 7GF

**From:** [Sue](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Response - P/2024/004 Proposed Extinguishment of Footpath Melksham - MELK 103 (part) Skylark Road, Melksham SN12 7GD  
**Sent:** 22/12/2025 12:00:35

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Subject: P/2024/004 Proposed Extinguishment of Public Right of Way - MELK 103

Dear Craig,

With reference to the above application please note that I could not find it registered on the Changing a Right of Way website as per the notification letter, in the event that the application is still active, I have the following comments in relation to the applicants summarised points:

**1. The path is scarcely, if ever used.**

Response - Noted.

**2. It is an area which attracts antisocial activity, including litter and graffiti.**

Objection - Having lived here for over a year I have not witnessed antisocial behaviour along this footpath.

**3. There is an adopted alternative highway along Fieldfare Way.**

Response – Noted, there is now an alternative paved route, however in principal WCC should preserve our public rights of way to prevent the general erosion of access to the countryside.

**4. If the extinguishment is successful, the land over which MELK 103 leads could be incorporated into the curtilages of properties adjoining the path subject to appropriate planning and land registry permission etc. this would improve the amenity of the properties.**

Objection - The footpath MELK 103 backs on to my property, one of the reasons I purchased the property was the established existing native hedgerow to the rear of the gardens that functions as a wildlife corridor linking to new and existing hedgerows throughout the Skylark estate and beyond. It is my concern that if the footpath is extinguished the property owners would purchase the additional land and remove the hedgerow and its habitat links to the wider estate and countryside. By placing garden fencing across the footpath this would also prevent free movement of native mammals such as Foxes, Hedgehogs etc. which I have witnessed using this route.

This is a relatively new development (built within the last 8 years). As noted in the **Habitat Regulations Assessment of Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 2020-2038**

**Policy 17:** Trees and Hedgerows states –

‘Existing trees and hedgerows on development sites should be retained where possible and incorporated as placemaking features in new development... Integration of existing hedgerows into private curtilage must be avoided where possible.’

**Policy 12** Green Infrastructure (GI) item 1. also states the ‘protection, management, *enhancement and connectivity of existing GI*’

**Wiltshire Core Strategy** states in **Core Policy 50** (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) 'Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value as part of the design rationale. There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, buffered, and managed favourably in order to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in the long-term.' Also refer to **Core Policy 52** Green Infrastructure i. retain and enhance existing on site green infrastructure.

Should WCC consider granting permission to extinguish MELK 103, there must be a reserved matters condition that the Hedgerow is protected in its entirety with no integration into private curtilage. A root protection plan should be produced showing Root Protection Zones RPZ (in compliance with BS5837) to ensure no adverse effects to the continued health of the Hedgerow, by the digging of foundations for house extensions, new boundary treatments or excavations and alteration of drainage within the Root Protection Zone (RPZ).

In conclusion WCC acknowledge the climate emergency in 2019 which includes its commitment to preserving and protecting the natural environment, the closing of the footpath and potential purchase of the land by individuals would prevent access to maintain the Hedgerow which provides vital foraging and shelter for many invertebrates, birds, bats and mammals. It would be preferable for WCC to adopt the land to preserve this vital wildlife corridor.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Lohan

■ Fieldfare Way,

Melksham, SN12 ■

Cc.

East Ward Councillors - Gillian Elson and Charlie Stokes

■

**From:** [Committee Clerk](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Extinguishment of Footpath Melksham 103 (part), Skylark Road, Melksham, SN12 7GD  
**Sent:** 15/01/2026 08:33:33

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

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Good morning Craig.

The Committee considered the request on Tuesday and sorry for the delay in coming back to you. I was not in the office yesterday.

Members took the view that this footpath no longer served a purpose as there were various alternative, and much safer, routes. They did however have concerns over future ownership and maintenance of the area if the footpath is extinguished. Other than asking that this concern be considered when making a decision, Melksham Town Council has no objection to the proposed extinguishment.

Have a good day.

Andrew



**Andrew Meacham**

*Committee Clerk*

**01225 704 187**

[committee.clerk@melksham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:committee.clerk@melksham-tc.gov.uk)

[www.melksham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.melksham-tc.gov.uk)

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Melksham Town Council, Town Hall,  
Market Place, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6ES



**From:** [Fiona Dey](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Cc:** [Teresa Strange](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Extinguishment of Footpath Melksham 103 (part), Skylark Road, Melksham, SN12 7GD  
**Sent:** 19/12/2025 12:48:13

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Dear Craig,

Thank you for consulting with Melksham Without Parish Council on the proposed extinguishment of Footpath Melksham 103 (part). Melksham Without Parish Council note that the footpath is not in the parish but is adjacent to the boundary.

Councillors support the extinguishment in principle but as the land currently provides a wildlife corridor, they want to see it maintained as green infrastructure as per Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Policy 12 – Green and Blue Infrastructure, and not incorporated into residential curtilage. If this is not possible, members do not support the extinguishment.

Kind regards  
Fiona

Fiona Dey  
Parish Officer  
Melksham Without Parish Council  
First Floor  
Melksham Community Campus  
Market Place, Melksham  
Wiltshire, SN12 6ES

[REDACTED]  
[www.melkshamwithout-pc.gov.uk](http://www.melkshamwithout-pc.gov.uk)

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**From:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed extinguishment of footpath MELK103-Initial consultation  
**Sent:** 16/01/2026 10:38:51

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**From:** Millard, Paul <[Paul.Millard@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Millard@wiltshire.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 14 January 2026 12:05  
**To:** Harlow, Craig <[Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.Harlow@wiltshire.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Braine, Ben <[Ben.Braine@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Braine@wiltshire.gov.uk)>; Roscoe, Vicky <[Vicky.Roscoe@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.Roscoe@wiltshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed extinguishment of footpath MELK103-Initial consultation

Dear Craig

Thanks for reminding me of this one, I have requested a section 106 contribution from planning application PL/2024/10345. Planning approval has not been determined for this site but I believe the request for a contribution has made it into the draft section 106 agreement. I have asked for £30,000 towards surfacing MELK103 the width of the surfacing is still to be determined but I would hope that we can achieve a minimum width of 1m. The surfacing of the path should not require the removal of any trees growing from within the hedgerow but will require the removal of any vegetation growing from within the path width. It is likely that we may need to remove some vegetation from the hedge if they are overhanging the path. It is hoped that the finished surface of the path will not be any higher than the current surface. But this may change should we be required to use a no dig technique to protect any tree roots. The surfacing will extend from the footway along Sandridge Road to the end of the existing tarmac path on the Public Open Space.

In the event that this path is extinguished the section 106 money can be used on Public Rights of Way MELK46 MELW60.

Kind regards  
Paul

Paul Millard  
Countryside Access Development Officer  
Rights of Way and Countryside  
Local Highways  
Wiltshire council  
Telephone: Internal 12821 External +44 01225 712821  
Email: [paul.millard@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.millard@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
[www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Subject:** P/2024/004 Proposed extinguishment of Public Right of Way - MELK103  
**Sent:** 12/01/2026 16:14:15

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Subject: P/2024/004 Proposed extinguishment of Public Right of Way - MELK103

Dear Craig,

We are writing in regards to the above application.

We live at [REDACTED] Fieldfare way and have done so since the house was built in December 2016. We agree with the proposed extinguishment.

Our garden has a small incline towards the path and our fencing is about head height if someone should be walking past. We feel our privacy and security would be compromised if it should remain as a ROW and public use.

At the beginning the path was scarcely used but as time went on and it became more over grown it was never used, and if someone did decide to go down there, unless they were armed with various gardening equipment, they would not get very far. Since the cut through joining Skylark road and Sandridge road has become paved and lit, this is now the route people take.

Whilst there doesn't appear to be much activity at our end of the path (Sandridge road end), I have noticed there are often youths congregating at the other end (Skylark road) in the green triangular bit at the entrance to the path.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the proposal soon.

Kind regards  
Vicky & Peter Murton

**From:** [Dave Yearsley](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Definitive Map](#)  
**Subject:** P/2024/004 MELK103 Fieldfare Way - Ramblers Object.  
**Sent:** 26/07/2024 22:41:44

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Hi Tom and Gabrielle

It was nice to meet you both on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July when the West Wilts Ramblers Work Party cleared the overgrown path.

**Regarding the Northern end of MELK103.**



The West Wilts Ramblers Committee briefly discussed the proposed Definitive Map Modification Order to extinguish the Northern end of MELK103 from OS Grid ref ST 91829 64153 to ST 91853 64227, on 1<sup>st</sup> July, and unanimously agreed that we would object.

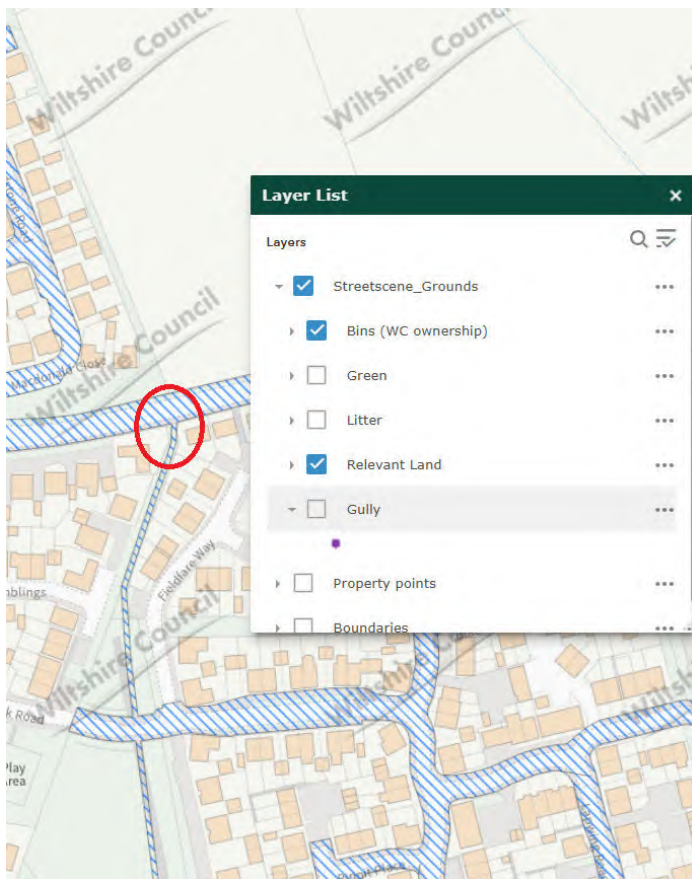
In brief, to divert the Northern part of MELK103, into the road (Fieldfare Way), would mean losing about 80 metres of green space and would not be a gain.

**Most of the route of the historic path**



from Bowerhill to Sandridge Common still exists. Where it goes through urban development it has influenced the creation of green space. Hopefully, if there is more development on the Northern side of the A3102 (Sandridge Common) a green corridor will be built into the landscape.

The Ramblers are concerned about the state of Wiltshire's Rights of Way and believe that green urban space is essential for community wellbeing.

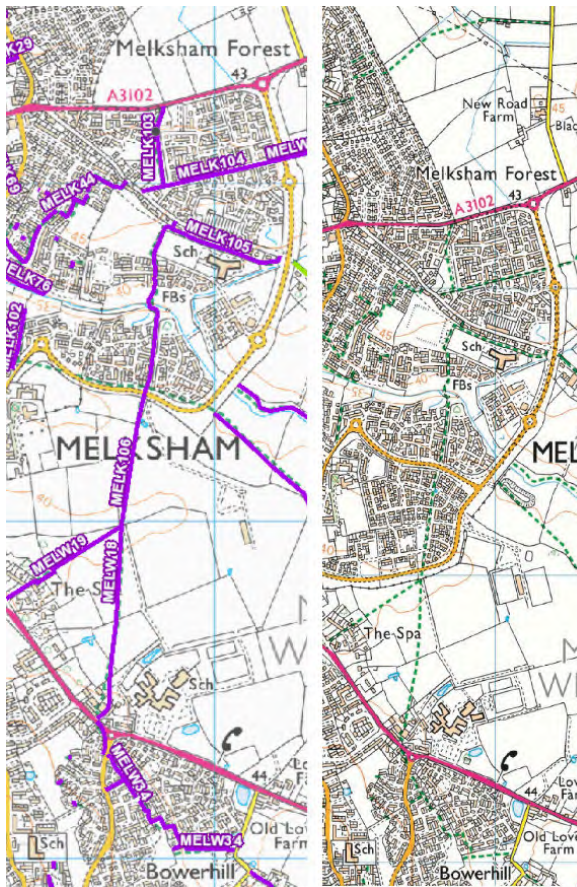


The Right of Way/Green Space to the West of Fieldfare Way is defined as Relevant Land by the Council which at the least, means they will pick up litter. The Council is responsible for the Right of Way surface and is reliant on the Public to report shortcomings - <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting> . Unfortunately, in recent years the County has not routinely tidied the short Northern end of MELK103. In contrast the triangle of green space just South of ST 91829 64153 is mown regularly.

**For unknown reason paved surface not in line with right of way**



Currently, the definitive map and Ordnance Survey show a green route through the urban landscape which makes it easier, for walkers from Bowerhill to Sandridge Common to avoid potential cul de sacs.



Ideally, nearby residents could help to maintain the Northern end of MELK103 and ensure it is a pleasant community space that is less likely to attract litter, garden waste or delinquency.

It should be noted that West Wilts Ramblers do not often object to changes to Rights of Way.

Regards

Dave Yearsley

West Wilts Ramblers Footpath Officer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Devizes SN10 [REDACTED]

**From:** [Roscoe, Vicky](#)  
**To:** [Harlow, Craig](#)  
**Cc:** [Braine, Ben](#)  
**Subject:** Response in Support of the Extinguishment of Footpath MELK103 (part)  
**Sent:** 20/01/2026 14:38:12

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Dear Craig,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed extinguishment of part of Footpath Melksham 103 (MELK103).

We wish to support the application for extinguishment. In our view, the section of path in question is not required for public use, as there is a good quality, all-weather, accessible alternative route running parallel to MELK103 via Fieldfare Way and its footway. This alternative is already well used, is hard-surfaced throughout, and provides a safe, reliable connection between Skylark Road and Sandridge Road in all seasons.

Given the suitability and availability of this adopted alternative highway, the retained section of MELK103 does not offer any additional public benefit. The public would not be disadvantaged by its removal.

For these reasons, we support the proposal to extinguish this section of Footpath MELK103.

Kind regards

Vicky Roscoe & Ben Braine

Countryside Access Officer  
Rights of Way and Countryside



Tel: 01225 718647

Email: [Vicky.Roscoe@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.Roscoe@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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