

Information from Mendip Hills AONB

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See map (off B3135 Plummers Lane Priddy), see below

Situation is that licenced permissive path opened 1999 supported by public funds Mendip Hills AONB / Priddy PC After CROW Act 2000 most of the route and small surrounding area became registered open access land (see brown shading).

Until a couple of years ago route used by horse riders / walkers and possibly mountain cyclists (- route signed 'permissive bridleway')

In 2018 the licence was renewed with Mendip Bridleways & Byways Association (it had been held by Mendip Cross Trails Trust) and notices erected in 2019? to the effect route for members of MBBA only. Later route closed for ash die back.

Current situation is that landowners (Western Wessex Reserve Forces) will only re-open route once ash die back resolved (whole wood to be felled) and then only to MBBA members disputing that the route has ever been for 'the public'

On his way out the Ministry of Defence Access inspector? suggested that the licence would be better held by Priddy Parish Council instead of MBBA and we think this may open the door to (quiet) local use by walkers as suggested by James Heappey.

It would be really helpful if WSM PC could note the path closure and the concerns of parishioners at the closure of the path especially as it leads to otherwise inaccessible open access land and perhaps to write to Priddy PC along those lines asking if Priddy PC is intending any action?

