

Note from Graeme Stark as a reminder to Parishes re Public Rights of Way and the Deregulation Act 2015.

The Definitive Map and Statement is the legal record of public rights of way. The Deregulation Act 2015 contained provisions to extinguish public rights of way which have existed since before 1949 but which are not recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement by 2026. These are the routes where the case in favour of the route being a public rights of way is based on historical evidence e.g. when there's a 19th century map that shows a route was a public footpath and there is no additional evidence showing that the footpath has been extinguished since that time. Anyone can make an application to have a right of way recorded on the Definitive Map if they are able to provide evidence to support their case; having a route recorded would prevent its public rights being extinguished in 2026. If anyone would like a copy of Bath and North East Somerset Council's application pack or if anyone would like to discuss this matter further then they can do so by contacting the Public Rights of Way team at prow@bathnes.gov.uk or on 01225 477650.

Graeme Stark
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