

**Application Number:** Application 4/23/2336/0R1- Harras Dyke Farm, Harras Dyke, Whitehaven

**Countryside Access Team Comments:**

FP 431011 passes along the existing access road to Harras Dyke Farm and links into the wider Public Rights of Way Network surrounding Whitehaven. See attached plan.

Section 7.7 of Policy **ENV6 – Access to the Countryside** within the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 recognises that existing Public Rights of Way are protected in law.

Section 130(1) of the Highways Act 1980 places a statutory duty on Cumberland Council as the Highway Authority to: -

- Assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway for which they are the Highway Authority; and
- Prevent as far as possible the stopping up or obstruction of those highways.

We would advise that:

- The right of way as shown on the definitive map and statement must be kept open and unaltered for public use until an order made to divert, stop up or to temporarily close it has been confirmed.
- The granting of planning permission would not give the applicant the right to block or obstruct the rights of way shown on the attached plan.

**John Duffy, Countryside Access Officer**

**Date:** 19/12/2023