



# LONGFORD ESTATES

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22 January 2021

Dear Sirs

## **Proposed Footbridge Across the River Avon at Downton**

The Estate is aware of the forthcoming parish council meeting on Monday 25 January 2021 and agenda item 285.20 Footbridge Project and the committee's intention 'To note and approve the proposed footbridge status report and any actions that arise from it including considering reiterating the Parish Council's commitment to this project'. The Estate has obtained a copy of the 'Draft Report – for consideration by the Working Group, Proposed Downton Footbridge and Cycle Path – Status Jan 2021'. Copies of the Ecology Report and the 'Ecology Survey Summary' in regard to the footbridge project were sent to the Estate by Councillor Brentor on 7 January 2021 further to the Estate's request.

Having reviewed the Ecology Report, Ecology Survey Summary and the working group's draft report, the Estate continues to have serious concerns about this project. These concerns include but are not limited to:

- The cost of maintenance to the bridge, the proposed footpath and fences (that would be required either side of the footpath) in perpetuity
- The practicalities of who is going to inspect, maintain and repair fences on a daily basis when livestock are grazing the water meadows
- The increased potential risk of livestock escape and dog worrying of livestock
- The amount of litter that will inevitably become apparent
- The potential use of the route for undesirable activities
- The likelihood that the path will be unusable for six months of the year due to water levels
- The potential environmental impact on the flora and fauna of the main river and the water meadows
- The proposed bridge landing point on the western bank is amongst a host of water vole burrows, this is home to both a protected and endangered wild mammal
- Potential flood impact on the village (the Ecology report states that 'it is conceivable that there would be potential additional impacts during flood', this is omitted from the working group's Ecology Survey Summary)

Having reviewed the documentation made available and having consulted with our tenant farmer in regard to the potential impact such a project could have on the Estate's land and the tenant's business coupled with the concerns listed above, the Estate has decided to withdraw its agreement in principle set out in a letter dated 16 May 2016. The Estate will not facilitate a footpath to be created across the water meadows or a bridge structure to be sited on its land.

The Estate trust that the above is clear.

If you have any questions or queries please address them to me at the office above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Canty', with a small dot at the end.

**David Canty**  
**Resident Agent**

Cc: Will Dickson (by email)