



## **Public Footpaths and Bridleways**

In 1949 the Government of the day ordered all local councils to each produce a definitive map of the public rights of way in their area. Over the years since some councils like Wirral have been formed by merging many smaller councils into one larger council and these maps have had to be merged.

There is concern that with the difficulty of merging each of the council's maps some of the public rights of way may have been missed and left off. A new Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is proposing that any of these public rights of way that are not on the council's current definitive map by 1st January 2026 would be lost forever.

The current Wirral council definitive map can be seen on their website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/public-rights-way/public-rights-way-wirral>

Your Heswall Society committee are keen to make sure that any public rights of way in Heswall, that were on the 1929 definitive maps before the Councils merged, are on the current council definitive map and are not lost forever. To this end members are being asked to look at the current map and to inform the committee if they know of any footpaths and public rights of way in the Heswall area that are not on this current map. Any footpaths brought to their attention will be forwarded to the council footpaths officer for further investigation.

It would be a great loss for any public footpaths we currently have to be forfeited forever just because they have not been put on the council's official definitive map.

If you think that there are any Heswall footpaths and bridle ways omitted from the map please email [richardheswall@gmail.com](mailto:richardheswall@gmail.com) or contact any member of your committee.