

I have lived in the South Petherton area for over 40 years.

I am a sheep farmer and I use Mr.Herricks farmland for grazing sheep when required.

I have walked on the land now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Herrick for over many years when in their ownership and in the ownership of the previous resident.

I can certainly see that there has been great improvements made for the walking public by Mr & Mrs Herrick.

The property has now been fully restored by Mr.& Mrs.Herrick and the farmland put back into good order which included the footpath network.

Mr.Herrick now maintains the paths in excellent condition by cutting the grass weekly and planting hedgerows and trees along all paths for walkers pleasure.

The gates and walls at the entrance to the house do not compromise or breach the width of the track in any way. They allow the same passage width as the lane and there has never been a wider width available.

I should like to explain that I placed a temporary rambler gate supplied by South Somerset District Council on Mr.Herrick's land to stop the sheep escaping and Somerset County Council told Mr.Herrick to remove it or they would take serious action. Mr.Herrick told me to remove the temporary gate. I now cannot keep sheep in that field near to the entrance gates.

There is no doubt that owing to the layout of the land on Mr.Herricks farm and the main gates being the only agricultural access from the county road to all the land it is essential and very normal to have gates in the current position to stop livestock escaping onto the highway if there is a problem. This can be caused by the gates onto the footpath network being left open or at the time of herding in the main entrance area.

Recently there was an incident in South Petherton where livestock escaped onto the road and caused a fatal car accident.

*Graham Brunt 2008*