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**Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum**

c/o The Secretary W&SCAF

3, The Island

Horton

Near Devizes

Wiltshire SN10 3LY

June 2019

The Right Hon. Michael Gove

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dear Secretary of State,

Extinguishment of unrecorded rights of way

In April of this year there was a short debate in the House of Lords on a question posed by Lord Greaves concerning progress that has been made with registration of historic rights of way and the benefit of extending the cut-off for their registration.

Whilst it was reassuring that Baroness Vere, for the Government, gave an undertaking that “where applications are outstanding, the intention is that the right of way will not be extinguished”; on the subject of an extension, there was no commitment to go further than reviewing the cut-off date with the Stakeholder Working Group. This, regardless of the fact that the CRoW Act 2000 s.56(3)(b) contains provision for an extension to 1st January 2031 which Parliament granted presumably to allow for circumstances such as we find ourselves in.

The Wilshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum strongly advocates the extension of the cut-off to 2031 in recognition of the hiatus in the introduction of regulations arising from the Deregulation Act 2015 and the delay this has caused in making any substantial progress with unrecorded rights of way.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel D. Linge MBE

Chairman W&SCAF