

Development Services Manager
West Dorset District Council
Stratton House,
58/60 High West Street,
Dorchester

Dear Sir,

5th October 2009

1/D/09/001363 OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION POUNDBURY PHASES 3 AND 4

Within the South Dorset Ramblers group we have been running a campaign to bring about improved rural access from Poundbury, in line with the provisions made in the Poundbury Development brief of 2006. Since the above application does not comply with these provisions we therefore object.

The application does provide for use of an underpass beneath the A37 with linkage linking to an existing bridleway and we welcome this proposal. The Development Brief however proposes two rights of way from the A35 underpass, one heading east to join an existing bridleway leading to Maiden Castle and one heading south to the Maiden Castle road. These routes are shown as points AXY and AXB on the enclosed map and neither are provided for in the application.

As an alternative to the AXB route the application proposes access to Maiden Castle Road at point G and suggests improved pedestrian facilities along this busy road. We do not consider such a route desirable but it could be acceptable given the provision of a dedicated and separate ROW beside the road. Unless this is physically separate from the road we believe it will be subject to vehicular ingress.

As an alternative to the AXY route the Duchy is offering route AKLM (or AKLNM). We consider this circuitous and unpleasant. We believe people from Poundbury wishing to go to Maiden Castle will find the existing road crossing at N a more attractive prospect than walking down to the underpass only to then walk back up the other side of the road. We would like to see the use of the existing A35 crossing obviated on safety grounds and for this reason cannot accept the proposals as they stand.

In conclusion the Campaign Committee objects to the planning application since it fails to meet the requirements for rural access as specified in the Development Brief. We welcome however the concessions made by the Duchy regarding the use of the underpasses and remain willing to discuss ways of resolving the issue of direct access to Maiden Castle.

Yours sincerely

Peter G Evans
Coordinator, Poundbury Rural Access Campaign

Encl. Statement of Countryside Access Map (amended)

