

E-mail Correspondence

22 January 2009, 11:17

From: Andrew Denham, Black Canon Collective
To: Russell Burton

Hi Russell

I've finally had the go ahead from both Paul Grugeon (Deputy Land Agent, Longleat) and Rodney Garton (Head Forester, Longleat) to use the extended area of woodland around the allotment. As you can imagine we're thrilled about this....

I've attached three maps; the LandPlan map that I purchased from OS (in both .tif and .jpg formats) and a marked up (.jpg) version showing our existing allotment (in blue) and the extended area within which we can work (in dark green).

You'll notice that the extended boundaries are roughly placed; essentially the trails mustn't be visible from the Longleat drives (Longcombe and Redway). They must also fall sufficiently short of any fenced boundaries to allow easy access for fence repair etc.

The plan is to bring some of the trail into the allotment so that riding disciplines aren't segregated unnecessarily and to encourage riders to ride some of the allotment trails as options when completing a loop.

The woodland is used by horse riders (who pay an annual roaming fee), dog walkers and is a working forest being thinned periodically for timber. I think that there is a pheasant enclosure also but I will have to confirm this at the weekend. Casual MTB'ers also use the extended area but stay on the existing forest tracks. We are now the only users of the allotment site other than the odd dog walker.

We are mindful of the potential for conflict so are very keen to work with these groups to ensure a suitable compromise is achieved.

Our goal is to create a 4 season sustainable trail that caters for a broad range of riding abilities whilst always being accessible to the novice end of the scale. If optional sections are needed to achieve this range of appeal then we are keen to build these in too. The format and layout of the trail is of course completely open to your design.

We aim to raise the funds for this trail ourselves but will also be looking to secure donations and outside investors. We don't have a specific figure in mind as we have no real idea of what the costs will be. Could you roughly estimate the build costs involved in such a project so that we can get some idea of what we're facing?

We're allowed to utilise the existing tracks if need be but it is highly unlikely that any will be repaired or re-surfaced by Longleat to this end. The majority are quite usable and where in need of repair could be done so by the club.

With 50 members we have the potential to contribute some man power to the project but do understand that this may not be the best way of going forward with the build. It does however mean that trail maintenance should not be a problem. That said we all have a lot to learn about good trail design, build and maintenance so would like to be as closely involved with the project as possible. We're keen to learn.

Our ultimate goal is to create a focal point for local MTB riders and a facility on which the BCC can hold varied events, from time trials to coaching days to enduros.

Once a proposal has been drawn up we will meet with both Paul and Rodney to walk the site and agree the terms of the land use. Essentially though we are being allowed to route a trail through the extended area but will not be taking on a licence for the whole area as we have done with the allotment, just the land that is used to build the trail.

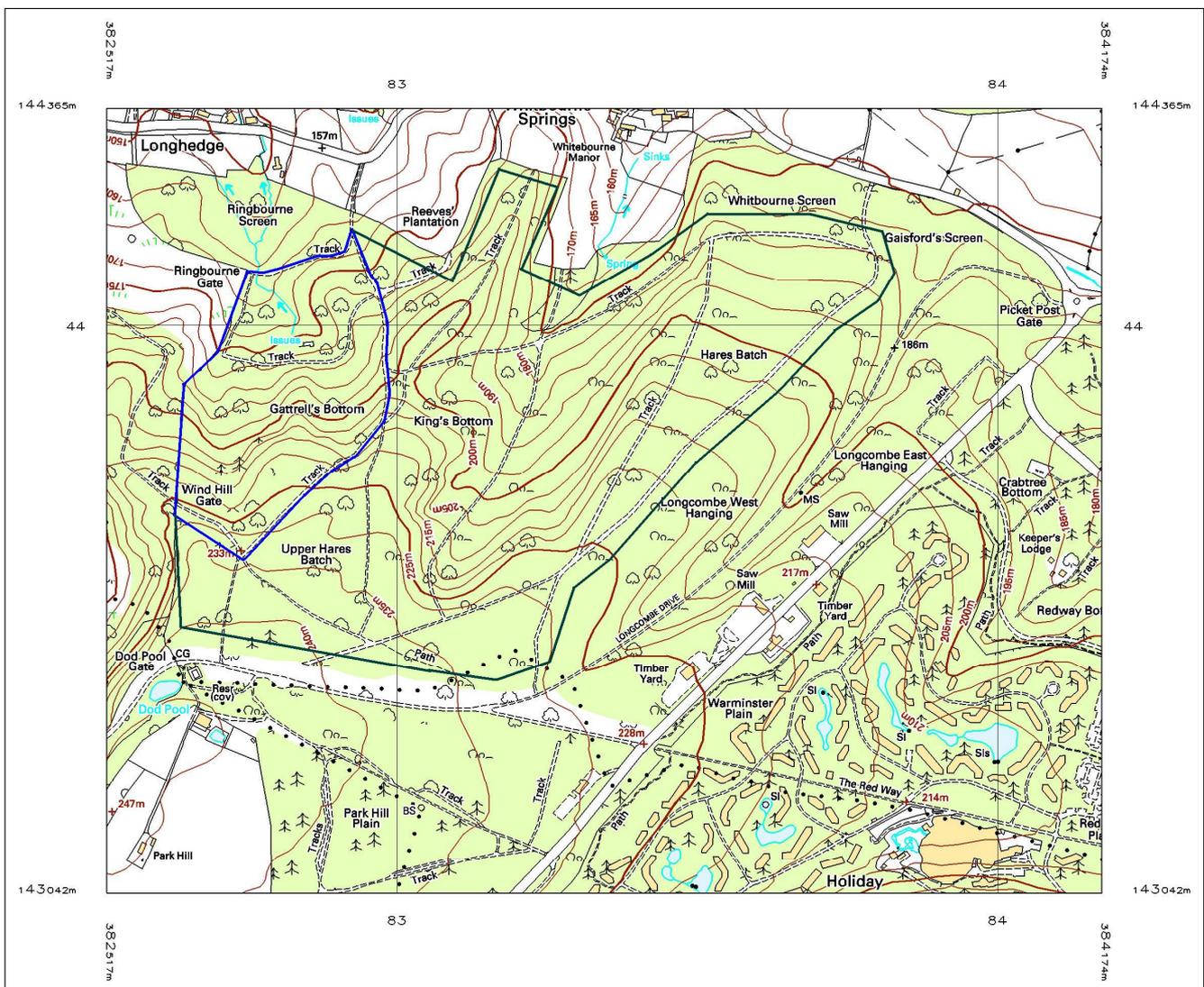
Please ask if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Andrew Denham



OS Landplan® Data



© Crown Copyright 2009
Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited
without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey.

