
DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 36, LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report considers responses received to the published order and the next stage of the statutory process for diversion of Footpath 36 at London Southend Airport.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On 11 December 2012 the Council resolved to take all necessary steps to secure the making of a Public Path Diversion Order for the diversion of Footpath 36 at London Southend Airport, under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 2.2 The diversion was considered necessary as the route of the footpath provides uncontrolled access to operational areas of the airport and crosses the taxi-way that connects the aircraft maintenance areas to the main part of the airport. With the significant development and expansion of the airport, this now presents a real danger to public safety and a serious security risk.
- 2.3 Pending determination of the diversion order the County Council made a temporary stopping up order on 27 July 2012, under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of the part of the footpath within the Airport's boundary, in the interests of public safety. In consequence of the temporary order the footpath currently ends at the Airport boundary and no formal diversionary route is available.
- 2.4 In response to the statutory consultation on the diversion order a number of representations have been received. If these cannot be resolved the order must be referred to the Secretary of State for determination, if the Council is minded to proceed with the diversion.

3 SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

- 3.1 21 representations were received from individual residents, in addition to one from a local cycling club and one from the Ramblers Association. Of these, 11 were invalid as they failed to give any proper grounds for objection.
- 3.2 With the exception of the Ramblers Association, no objections have been received from any of the Statutory Consultees. The diversion is supported by the Highway Authority and Rochford Parish Council.
- 3.3 A number of representations relate to the temporary closure of the footpath in advance of the Order being confirmed. Objections were also directed to the suitability of the alternative route in terms of its convenience and public enjoyment, and concerns that alternative measures to diversion had not been pursued.

- 3.4 The airport company has explored all options that would allow the safe retention of the existing footpath across the taxiway including tunnelling or bridging the footpath and installing controlled gates, but no practicable solution has been found.
- 3.5 Whilst the diverted route is approximately 54 metres longer, overall it provides a safer and more convenient route for pedestrians who may use the path to access the various business and leisure premises along the northern part of Aviation Way. It will also offer an all weather surface and more accessible route than the existing path which is adjacent to a water course and within a flood risk zone. In these circumstances the objections that the route is substantially less convenient are not well founded.
- 3.6 In addition, the safety risk to the public of Aircraft taxiing across the footpath and the threat to the security of the airport make a compelling case for the diversion.
- 3.7 A plan showing the existing footpath and diverted route is appended, and a copy of the representations received are available for inspection in the Members' Library.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If the Order is not confirmed there will remain a serious public safety risk together with operational risk to aircraft and a threat to airport security.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The order will need to be referred to the Secretary of State for confirmation as there are unresolved objections.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES** to support the confirmation of the Public Path Diversion Order for Footpath 36 made on 12 April 2013 and refer it to the Secretary of State for determination.

Albert Bugeja

Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services

Background Papers:-

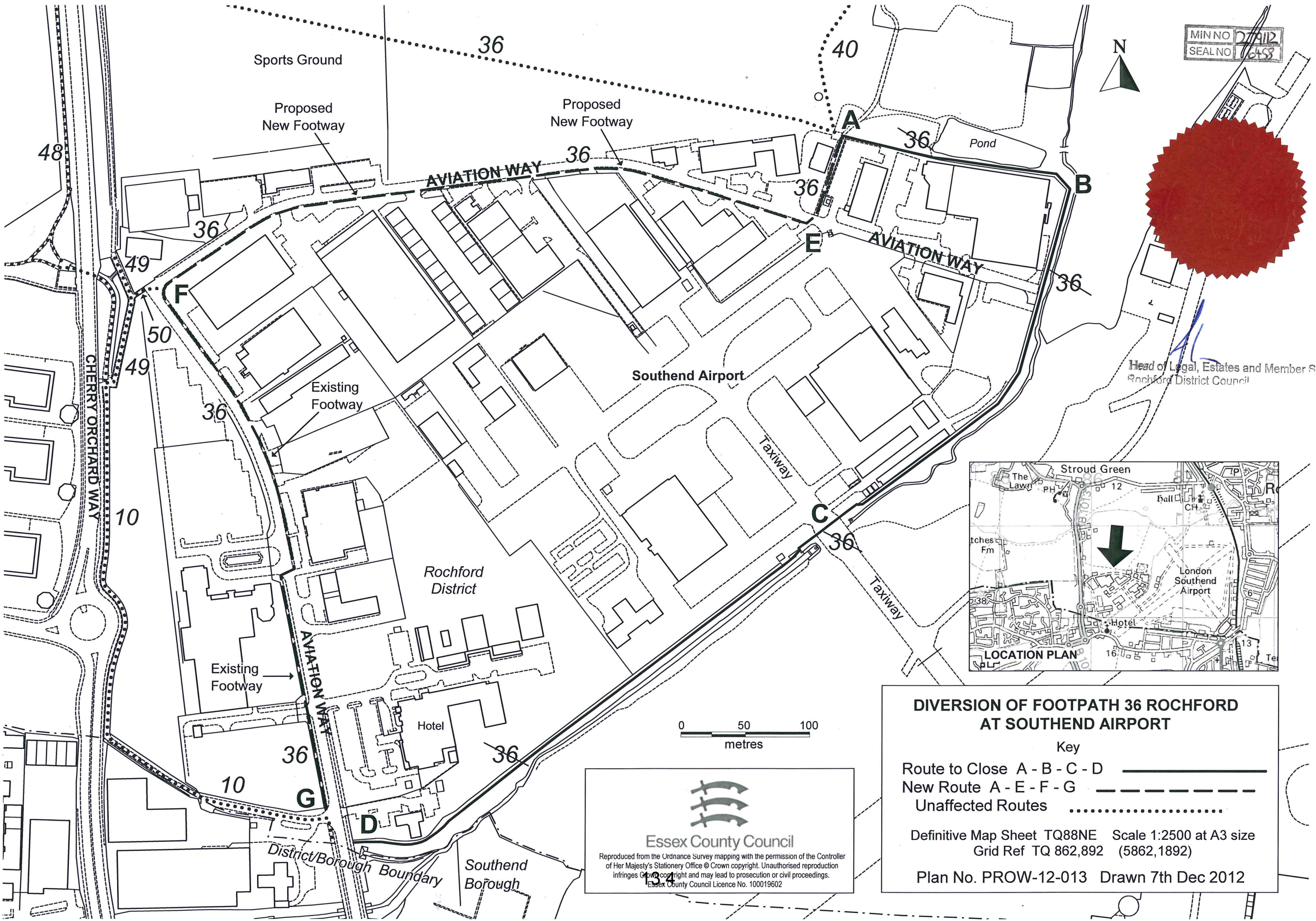
Responses to Consultation.

For further information please contact Albert Bugeja (Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services) on:-

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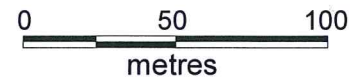
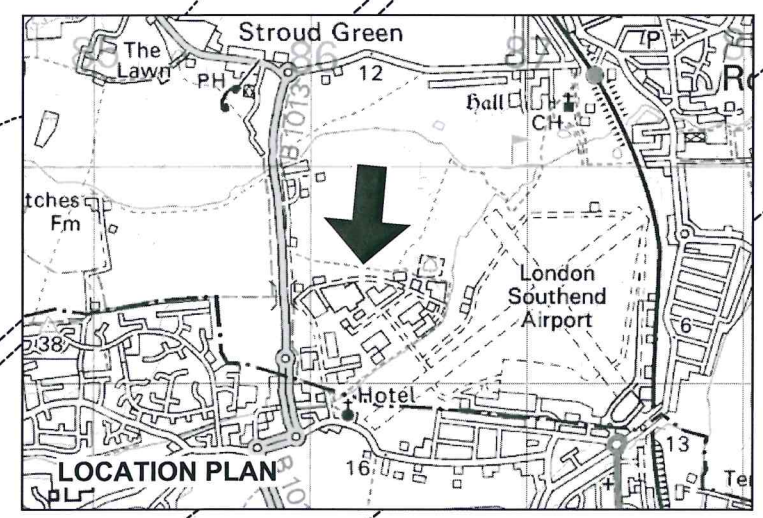
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Rochford District Council




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**DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 36 ROCHFORD
AT SOUTHEND AIRPORT**

- Key
- Route to Close A - B - C - D 
 - New Route A - E - F - G 
 - Unaffected Routes 

Definitive Map Sheet TQ88NE Scale 1:2500 at A3 size
Grid Ref TQ 862,892 (5862,1892)

Plan No. PROW-12-013 Drawn 7th Dec 2012