- This document contains a facsimile copy of the current edition of the Definitive Map for the Isle of Wight. The Definitive Map and Statement is the record of public rights of way which the Council has a duty to maintain for public reference under the WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981. This duty was first placed on Local Authorities by the NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949.
- The frontispiece is a copy of the title page of the Definitive Statement which legally defines the Relevant Date of the Definitive Map. The complete Definitive Statement includes written details of individual rights of way and may be inspected at County Hall in Newport.
- This edition of the Map has been prepared in pursuance of sections 53 and 57 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to incorporate modifications made to the Definitive Map and Statement since the last published edition. Individual orders for any modifications made after this date can be inspected at County Hall pending the next revision.
- The Definitive Map and Statement 1997 was the first edition to be prepared under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It replaced the 1st Review Relevant Date 8 February 1968 which had been prepared under section 33 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside 1949 to up-date the original Definitive Map and Statement for the Isle of Wight, Relevant Date 11 November 1952, prepared under section 32 of the same Act.
- Three kinds of highway are required to be shown on the map: footpath, bridleway and byway open to all traffic. A byway open to all traffic is a carriageway which is mainly used as a bridleway or footpath. The legal effect of the Definitive Map and Statement and other details are explained briefly in the following introductory pages. Any further queries may be addressed to the Council's Rights of Way Section.
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- This copy of the Definitive Map is for public inspection and reference only and remains the property of the Isle of Wight Council to be returned on request.