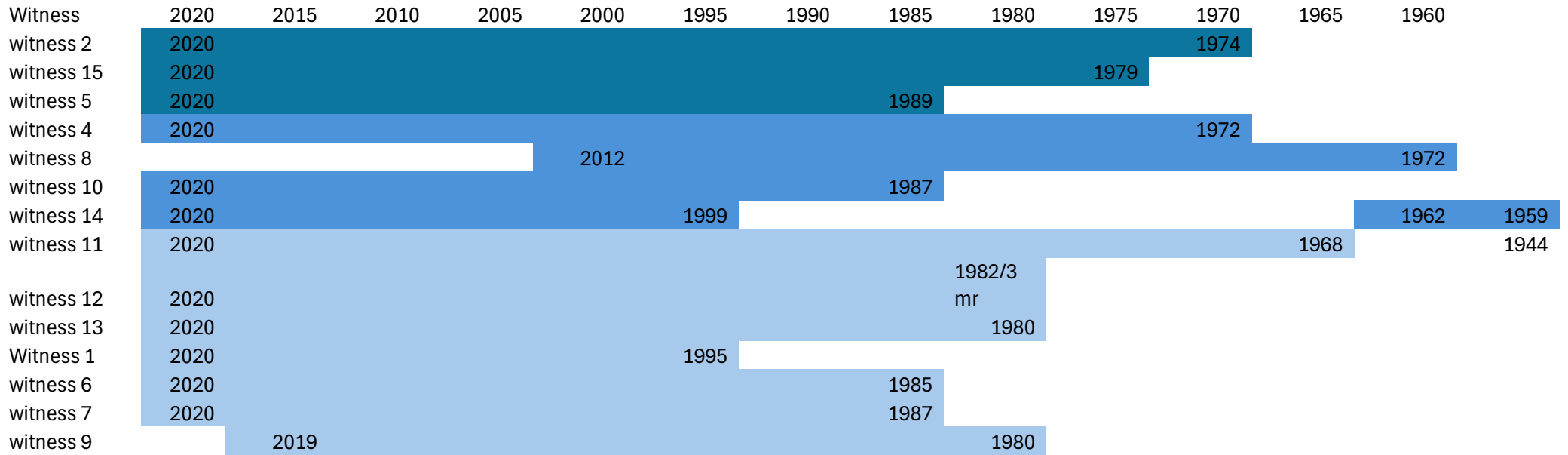


Appendix 4

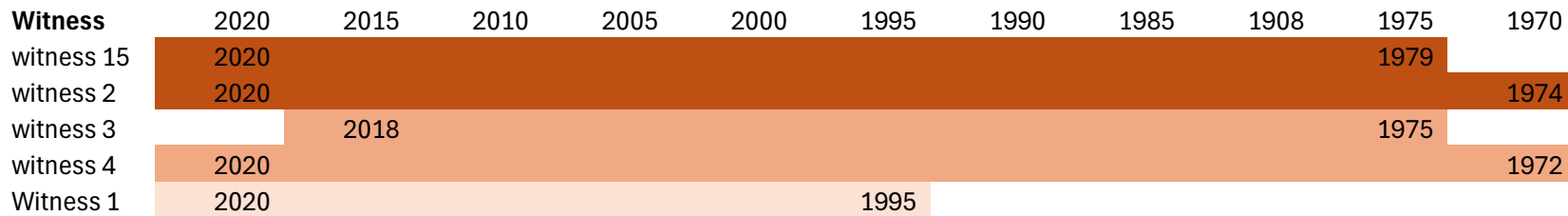
User Evidence

Route A-B-C



Shading represents frequency of use darker is more frequent.

Route A-B-D



From the 15 user evidence forms that were submitted with the application, 9 people have been interviewed. A hand drawn plan of the route that they walked was included with the evidence forms, and at interview the witnesses agreed the consultation plan reflected the paths they had used.

None of the witnesses said they were challenged during their use of the route or knew of anyone else who had been challenged. No obstructions were remembered or described until a gate was erected in 2020 on the south side of the railway bridge and this being locked, it prevented users from walking. This constitutes one date of challenge for users for the purposes of S31 of the HA80 ie, 2000 to 2020

Between Bexton Lane and the railway bridge all users had walked the same route. North of the railway bridge from point B, 5 people used the route B-D and 11 people used the route B-C, that is, a few people used both routes. Frequency of use has been daily, with others including both routes in a configuration of use which was less regularly used for the railway line and most usually that route was used for a period of a few years and incorporated into a long distance route. It was more popular for users to more regularly walk along the shorter route to link paths either side of the railway line. Use was for recreational exercise, dog walking and more particularly linked to family outings with children or the local scouts and cubs groups.

The period of use claimed by the witnesses who support the application is from a period in the 1950's-1960s when as children they went to the area before the motorway was constructed. Use continued for most witnesses with breaks in use caused by periods of residence abroad or another change in circumstances. During interviewing no one had been aware of the parish paths leaflet described above, although a few were aware of a leaflet about paths. One witness thought the route A-B-C was shown as a footpath on an Ordnance Survey map as a dotted line. A few were aware of the landowner and the change in ownership although seemed not to know at which date that occurred. Most knew and may have spoken with about the (late) farmer who lived at Blackhill Farm. One witness had asked permission from the farmer at Yew Tree Farm, however it isn't known when this happened and it isn't confirmed if the farmer was the tenant of the relevant land at that time.