

## **Use of Land Provisions**

### ***Importance of the 'package' remaining as a whole***

24. We are aware that the law governing rights of way is highly contentious and commend the SWG for its achievement in reaching a consensus on the issue of recording unrecorded historic rights of way. We acknowledge also that maintaining that consensus requires the package of reforms contained in the draft Bill to be accepted as a whole. (Paragraph 130)

### ***Provisions in the draft Bill***

25. Whilst the SWG has managed to forge a consensus in support of the package, aspects of the new provisions are still under discussion both within the SWG and more widely. We expect the Government to show leadership and balance to take this vital part of our Report to a successful conclusion. (Paragraph 139)

### ***Cost and backlog***

26. We have some concerns about the current backlog of rights of way applications and the likely additional pressures caused by the reforms and the imposition of the cutoff date. We question whether the implications for local authorities, in particular, have been fully assessed by the Government. Against this background, if these clauses are to go forward in this Bill, the Government will need to address the impact on local authorities. (Paragraph 145)

### ***Root and branch reform***

27. We took the view at the outset that we would focus our attention on the clauses in the draft Bill and that we would not consider proposals for additional provisions. Given the level of public interest in rights of way, however, we drawn to the attention of the Government the wider rights of way concerns raised in the course of this inquiry and urge them to take action to meet them. (Paragraph 154)