

Consultation responses from T Farthing

FROM

MARY ROSSITER  
 [REDACTED] WOODROW RD.  
 MELKSHAM  
 SN12. [REDACTED]

TO

MR. T. FARTHING

[REDACTED]  
 BEAVACRE RD  
 BEACRE, MELKSHAM.

(1)

Dear Mr Farthing.

I am writing to confirm that you have given me permission to walk with my dog on your land.

The land in question is Queensfield Farm, Woodrow Road, Melksham. That has been newly purchased by you, for this I am very grateful.

Previously I had permission to walk on Forest Farm land from Donald the farmer, mainly around the forty acre field, and beyond. But this has now changed due

Is a change of occupancy at  
Forest Farm.

My dog is eleven, and I am  
seventy four as it wont be forever.

However you have made it easier  
for me now, and not have to worry  
if I am trespassing on your farm  
land.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

3.6.2018.

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██████████ CHALLEYMEAD BROWCHAMON GIFFORD  
MR MELISHAM SN128 ██████████

18.6.18

Dear Sir

When I lived at  
158 Woodrow road. with my  
mother and father and after  
I left home to the best  
of my knowledge the  
gate next to our bungalow  
always had a chain &  
padlock on it as Mr  
David Gully at the time  
used to keep cattle out  
in the field.

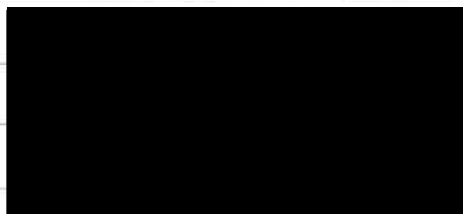
Yours  
sincerely

██████████

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Woodrow Rd  
MILKSHAM  
WILTS.

who it may concern  
have had permission of the part  
li. of Forest Farm (The Busnell &  
) and The Farthing to walk  
river bank on the properties  
the brook to Halfpenny.  
& I have crossed the river  
the old Black Bridge for the part  
es.



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████████ Bath Rd.  
Shaw  
Melksham  
Wilts.

16 June 2018

To whom it may concern.

My Name is Chris Carpenter.

I used to live at No.3 Thames Crescent, Melksham.  
between the years of 1993 and 2005.

During this time I often walked across the land farmed by the Farthings between the Murray walk and the black bridge, and of course I asked their permission to do so as there were private property signs there, one by the black bridge down near the river near Trent crescent and another by the field gate off Murray walk. If their bull was in the field with the cows, I would avoid walking in the fields for fear of getting chased.

I remember they had some big old metal gates on the river bridge some time ago so you couldn't get across .

Prior to the year 2000, there were only a handful of people who ever walked there and it was only fishermen who walked along the riverbank.

Any people who claimed they have walked on the proposed route were actually trespassing if they had not been given the farmers permission.

Yours sincerely

████████████████████

C. Carpenter

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Beacons,  
Melksham  
Wiltshire  
SN2 [REDACTED]  
17/6/18

Rights of Way Countryside  
REF SM/2017/03+04

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived in Beacons all my life and over the last 25-30 years I've walked regularly from my home to Melksham. I use the footpath from Beechfield House exiting it just before the houses down to the Black Bridge and across to Murray Walk. I have known the Farthing family all my life and they gave me permission to walk across the land that they farmed on both sides of the River Avon.

I can clearly remember that there were metal gates across the bridge which were locked, so I was unable to take my normal route for a couple of years, this I reckon was 18 or 19 years ago, the gates were vandalised, and never replaced.

It is only 6 or 7 years ago that the fields either side of the river have been ploughed up and planted with maize, and only since then has the number of walkers and trespassers increased.

Prior to this the Farthings kept a lot of cattle there, and I rarely saw any other people out walking, and those that did that I spoke to had all like myself been given permission from the Farthings.

There were two "Private Property" signs, one is down by the river before you get to the Black Bridge, but is now in poor condition, and the other, which has since vanished, was on a post next to the metal field gate off Murray Walk.

I write to support Mr Farthing to have the application for a public right of way thrown out, as this is actually private land, that has been wilfully and systematically trespassed in recent years by an increasingly large number of people.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED] (PATRICK GREENMAN)



M Crook  
Corfe Road  
Melksham  
Wilts  
Sn12

7

18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sirs

Footpath Application – Murray Walk – River Avon

As secretary of Avon Angling Club I have an intimate knowledge of the above mentioned area, having fished and maintained the river bank for approximately 40 years.

Avon Angling members (in excess of 250) have benefitted for many years from Mr Farthing's permission to fish along this stretch of river and allowing us to erect several stiles for ease of access for our members, although it has always been private property.

- 1) There has been a private property sign and fence by the black bridge (off Thames Crescent) for as long as I can remember and until recently a stile for angler's access.
- 2) In Murray Walk the five bar gate has been locked and a private property sign affixed, with cattle residing until a few years ago.
- 3) The stile by Scotland Road bridge was constructed by Avon Angling Club to allow access for members and again there was a private property sign.

We as an Angling club would object to the granting of a public footpath as we have had to endure dog walkers aka trespassers with dogs running freely and unsupervised and the numerous inconsiderate owners failing to pick up faeces which poses a health risk to our members and will surely increase if made into a public footpath.

Regards  
M Crook





Mr M Robinson  
[REDACTED] Beanacre  
Melksham  
Wilts  
Sn12 [REDACTED]



16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

To whom it may concern.  
Sally Madgwick  
Wiltshire Council  
Rights of way and Countryside  
Reference:- SM/2017/03 & 04

My family moved to Beanacre in 1976 when I was three years old.

My Father used to take me when he walked our dog on Mr Farthings land on both sides of the river and I always understood that this was with Mr Farthing's permission as it was private property.

I can remember metal gates being locked on the Black Bridge because I used to walk back from a friends house in the Forest area of Melksham. Due to the gates I used to walk to Murray Walk, cross over the river and then walk back along it. Once past the houses I would rejoin the footpath that runs behind Beechfield House Hotel and follow it back to our house This would have been 18/19 years ago and after a short while the gates got vandalised/destroyed and not replaced. There still is a Private Property sign before you get to the Black Bridge and there was another one by the field gate at Murray Walk. This is no longer there, removed by vandals I guess.

Before Mr Farthing started to plant maize I can remember cattle being in the fields and very few people walking in those fields. Those who I did meet and speak to had been given permission by the Farthing family. I believe the maize has been planted for the last six/seven years. Over this time I have seen a large increase in people walking on Mr Farthings land and I have also noticed dog walkers not clearing up their dogs mess. I have found dog mess in plastic bags left in the fields and hedges and plastic bottles and beer cans left in the maize. Fence wire has been cut by people to make access easy.

I wish to support Mr Farthing in having the application for a public right of way thrown out. Over the last few years I have witnessed a big increase in the amount of litter/rubbish left on his land which has happened since the increase in people trespassing and not respecting what is private land.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Mr F D Robinson

Beanacre

Melksham

Wilts

SN12

9

16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

To whom it may concern.

Sally Madgwick

Wiltshire Council

Rights of way and Countryside

Reference:- SM/2017/03 & 04

I have lived in Beanacre since 1976. Within the first couple of months of moving to Beanacre I met the Farthing family. This is when I asked their permission to walk on the land that they farmed on both sides of the river Avon. I have had dogs all my life so walk daily on Mr Farthings property often using the footpath which runs close to Beechfield House Hotel, I then come off the footpath, walk down to the Black Bridge and across to Murray walk. I then often walked into Melksham.

Over the last seven years or so Mr Farthing & family have planted maize on their land and I have noticed that over these years more and more people/walkers have trespassed on their property causing damage to their crops and fencing.

I remember before the maize was planted the Farthings kept cattle on the fields. At that time very few people walked in their fields and those that I met had been given permission to do so by the Farthing family.

About 19 years ago I can remember that you couldn't walk across the Black Bridge as there were metal gates padlocked together. I believe these were there for about two years until the vandals broke them and they haven't been replaced.

I can remember a Private Property sign being on a metal post near the field gate off Murray Walk. The sign is no longer there, having been removed, I believe, by vandals.

One Private Property sign remains, by the river before you get to the Black Bridge.

I wish to support Mr Farthing in having the application for a public right of way thrown out.

I have walked daily for many years on Mr Farthing's property. In recent years I have seen a large increase in people trespassing on what is private land.

I have witnessed fence wire cut, dog mess left on the ground and the maize crop damaged where people walk on it!

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

F D Robinson

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Woodrow Road  
Melksham  
Wilt  
SN12  
office@pactd.net

19 June 2018

To Who It May Concern

I am writing this letter with regard to the application for new footpaths across my farm and Tim Farthing's. In the first year that I have been a tenant at 1 Forest Farm I have had a great deal of difficulty with dog walkers trespassing across your land. It has been a great first year at the farm and I very grateful for the opportunity I have been given but it has been very difficult at times with people not sticking to the footpaths and just walking where they want to. I have been subject to a barrage of on line abuse from some of the local community, had fences torn down and thrown into the river, glass bottles smashed and cans left in fields and dog waste bags tied to gates and trees. My wife has also been verbally abused out walking in the fields, which resulted in police involvement and an official complaint made against the individual.

People have approached me and asked permission to continue to walk over the farm as the previous tenant had allowed them, but I have said that everyone is to stick to the one footpath which comes across my land, and explained my reasons why. However, this has been resolutely ignored.

With the new applications that have been sent in to the council, the trespassers created open days and evenings for people to go and fill in forms, sign letters and make an application. This has resulted in everyone submitting duplicate information and replicating the same form multiple times.

Sincerely yours,

  
Gareth Powell

# Tim Farthing

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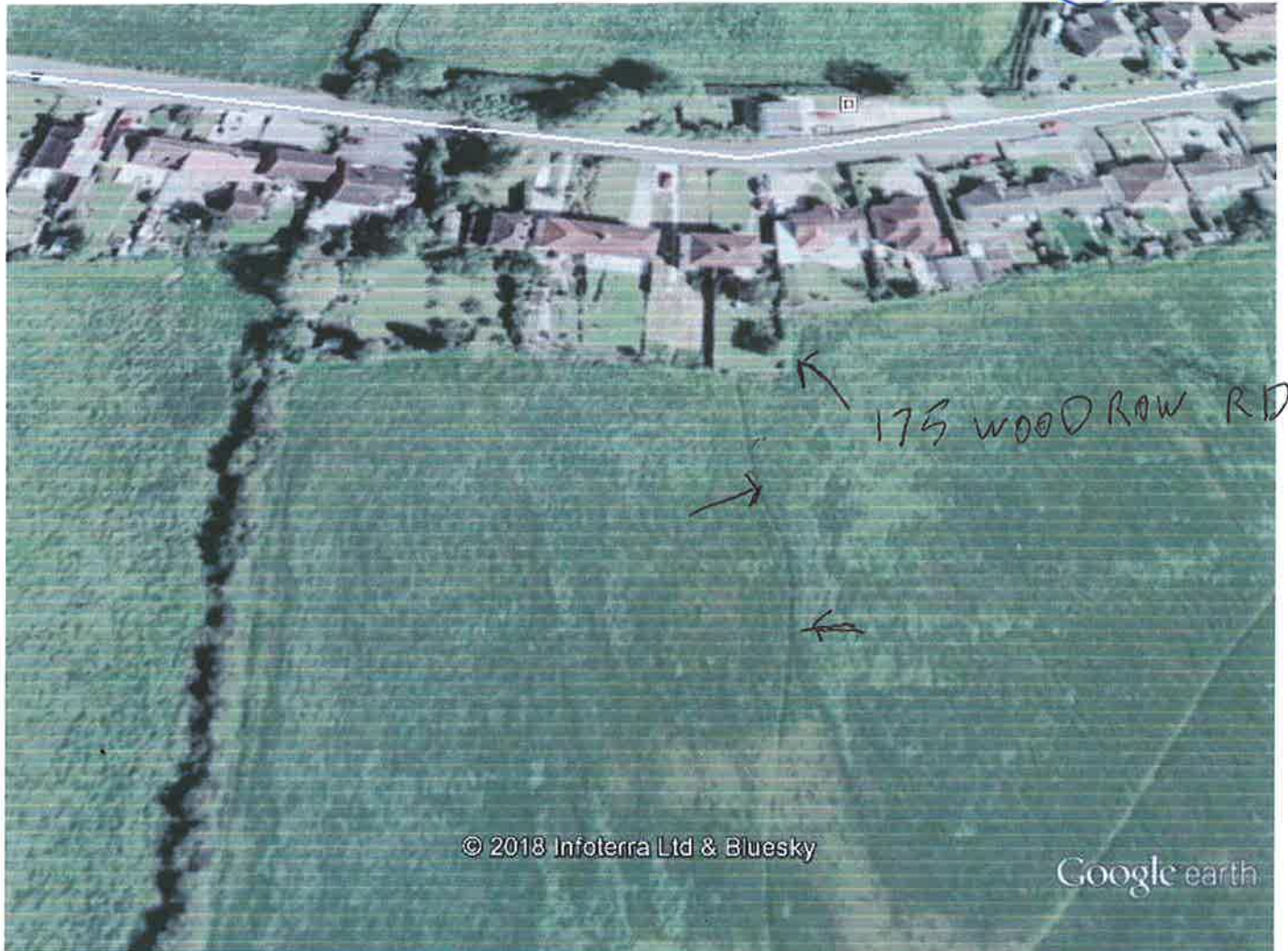
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 June 2018, 13:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** MURRAY WALK

Good day

I lived in Woodrow road and Forrest road from the year 2000 until 2004  
I was able to go for walks from Murray walk to the Black Bridge and back round with the kind permission of Tim Farthing who owns the land.

Regards  
Jeremy Thompson





Google earth



2002

This map clearly shows that the Carter family from 175. Woodrow Road, accessed the Guley's land via their own garden gate at the bottom of their garden. Obviously this is not the 'proposed footpath'. If the Carters want a footpath it should be routed straight through their garden onto Woodrow road.



Google earth



2006

This Google earth aerial photograph, taken approximately end of May 2006 after our silage has been harvested clearly shows the paths walkers have taken from our gateway off the Murray walk, which is definitely NOT the route of the proposed footpath, so people cannot claim to have regularly walked the proposed footpath.

These paths in the photograph would have been created between December - May once the cattle had been taken away, we often found that the barbed wire had been cut next to the locked metal 5 bar gate. The Cattle always grazed there from June-Dec along with our bull.



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COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY UK LTD.  
BATH RD • MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE, SN12 8AA • 01225 703101

Mr. Timothy Farthing  
Half Way Farm  
Bean Acre  
Melksham  
SN12 7QA

8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

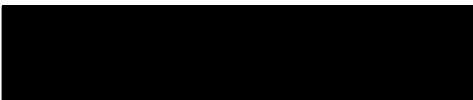
Dear Mr Farthing,

**Ref: Black Bridge inspection report as commissioned by the Environmental Agency**

As discussed with you by telephone on Saturday morning 6<sup>th</sup> May, the Environmental Agency recently commissioned a "scour inspection report" on the Black Bridge. They have informed us that the **bridge was unsafe to use** and we want to make you aware of this. A copy of the letter from the Environmental Agency and the "scour inspection report" are included with this letter.

Please refrain from using the bridge. You did mention during our conversation on Saturday morning that there might be an alternative route for you to get access to the land you are currently renting from us. I suggest that we meet on an afternoon this week, or next, to check the viability of this proposed alternative.

Yours sincerely



**Philip Schneider**  
Chief Engineer  
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Europe Ltd  
Telephone +44 (0) 1225 357766  
Mobile +44 (0) 7921 408716  
Fax +44 (0) 1225 357219  
Email [pschneider@coopertire.com](mailto:pschneider@coopertire.com)

Gavin Champion-HR Director  
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Europe Ltd  
Bath road  
Melksham  
Wiltshire  
SN12 8AA

**Our ref:** FR/14/S090

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**Your ref:**

**Date:** 10/04/2017

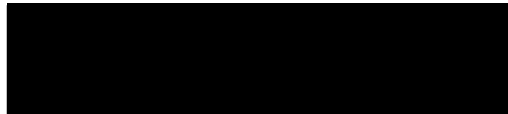
Dear Mr. Champion

**Black Bridge scour inspection report**

Following your correspondence with my colleague Melvin Wood, contractors CH2M have carried out a Scour inspection report on our behalf regarding Black Bridge in Melksham. As part owner of this bridge we have enclosed a copy of this report for your reference. As you will see, there is settlement and scour to the East abutment which has caused rotation of the structure. We have suspended our load assessment following the extensive scour found at this structure.

As part owner of the bridge please take note of the reports contents.

Yours sincerely



**Paula Humphrey**  
**Bristol Asset Performance**  
**Flood Risk Management**

[Enc CH2M Scour inspection report, & Living on the edge:]



# Scour Inspection Report

## Black Bridge (BA37)

PREPARED FOR: Environment Agency  
COPY TO: Leigh-Ann Jones  
PREPARED BY: Simeon Davies  
DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017  
PROJECT NUMBER: 487026

### Introduction

Black Bridge (BA37) carries a field accommodation bridge from east to west over the River Avon.


The structure is a two-span reinforced concrete deck cast on to six steel I beams with permanent concrete formwork panels, supported on a central engineering brick and stone pier and engineering brick and stone abutments.


The bridge measures 4.87m wide with equal 8.1m clear spans. Access to the watercourse was gained via the south west embankment; access to the abutments and central pier by the inspection technician was gained via water entry using surface supplied diving equipment.




Black Bridge (BA37)  
Grid Ref: ST 90684 65027  
South Elevation (Downstream)

## Inspection Findings

Access requirements	Waders	Drysuit	Diving	Platform/boat
Location	West abutment			
Photograph				
Construction details	The abutment is constructed predominantly in engineering brick with intermediate stone courses and is founded on stacked stone masonry blocks. It measures 3.16m high, 4.63m wide and 0.92m thick.			
Foundation details	The foundations appear to be stone masonry blocks bearing directly on to the natural riverbed, measuring up to 630mm high from the silt/stone riverbed.			
Water depth at abutment	0.7m at the abutment face, max depth within the channel was 2.0m.			
Direction of flow in relation to abutment	Parallel to abutments.			
Invert / bed material	Loose bed material, consisting mainly of silt and sporadic large stones.			
Existing scour protection	The engineering brick is founded on stacked stone masonry blocks, which protrude 700mm out from the face of the abutment; measuring 630mm high from bed level over the length of the abutment. There is a stone masonry revetment to the south west embankment, extending downstream, partially obscured by the adjacent earth embankment.			
Scour	There is no scour to the abutment or the stone masonry foundations. There is minor open jointing to the abutment face due to vegetation growth.			

Access requirements	Waders	Drysuit	Diving	Platform/boat
Location	East abutment			
Photograph				
Construction details	The abutment is constructed predominantly in engineering brick with intermediate stone courses and is founded on stacked stone masonry blocks. Upper courses of concrete block have been added. It measures 3.75m high, 4.63m wide and 0.92m thick.			
Foundation details	The foundations appear to be stone masonry blocks bearing directly on to the natural riverbed, measuring up to 630mm high from the silt/stone riverbed.			
Water depth at abutment	1.45m at the downstream elevation, 1.3m at the upstream elevation; max depth within the channel was 2.0m.			
Direction of flow in relation to abutment	Parallel to abutments.			
Invert / bed material	Loose bed material, consisting mainly of silt and large stone.			
Existing scour protection	The engineering brick is founded on stacked stone masonry blocks, which protrude 700mm out from the face of the abutment; measuring 630mm high over the length of the abutment. There is rock armour to the south east embankment, extending downstream. A concrete revetment extends upstream of the structure, predominantly obscured by the adjacent earth embankment.			
Scour	<p>There is settlement to the entire abutment. There is a concrete block repair/reconstruction to the top of the abutment measuring 720mm high on the downstream elevation reducing to 485mm high on the upstream due to the angle of the abutment. The south side of the abutment is 265mm lower than the north side (clearly visible in the photograph).</p> <p>There is scour to the south side of the abutment, measuring 1.7m long, 0.8m high and 1m deep. The stone masonry block foundations are missing over this length, with erosion to the riverbed and beneath the abutment.</p>			

	There is scour to the base of the concrete revetment to the north east of the abutment, measuring 0.5m high, 0.5m wide and 0.7m deep.
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Access requirements	Waders	Drysuit	Diving	Platform/boat
Location	Central Pier			
Photograph				
Construction details	The pier is constructed in engineering brick with a stone masonry intermediate course and cut water. The pier measures 5.15m wide, 920mm thick and 3.1m high.			
Foundation details	The foundations appear to be stone masonry blocks bearing directly on to the natural riverbed, measuring up to 700mm high from the silt/stone riverbed.			
Water depth at pier	0.7m at the cutwater, max depth within the channel was 2.0m.			
Direction of flow in relation to pier	Parallel to pier.			
Invert / bed material	Loose bed material, consisting mainly of silt and large stones.			
Existing scour protection	The engineering brick is founded on stacked stone masonry blocks, which protrudes 800mm out from the face of the abutment; measuring 700mm high around the perimeter of the pier.			
Scour	<p>There is scour to the base of the cutwater, measuring 1.1m high, 0.92m wide and 1.2m deep.</p> <p>There is scour to the east side of the pier, measuring 1m long, 0.2m high and 0.5m deep.</p> <p>There is an area of missing brickwork to the north end of the west face of the pier, measuring 330mm long, 280mm high and 220mm deep.</p> <p>Around the pier, there is open jointing to the stone masonry foundations, measuring up to 200mm deep.</p> <p>There is scour to the downstream face of the pier, measuring 920mm wide, 500mm high and 300mm deep.</p>			

## Discussion and Recommendations

- 1) There is settlement and scour to the east abutment, which has caused rotation of the structure. The downstream 1.7m is completely unsupported due to the scour to the stone masonry foundations. In the short term, the abutment requires stabilizing by underpinning to prevent further deterioration of the structure. A long-term solution would also be required.
- 2) A weight limit should be attached to the structure following the load assessment calculations from the investigation works.
- 3) The voids to the cutwater should be filled, to prevent further deterioration of the pier, which could destabilise the bridge.

Additional Photographs/Notes



Photograph No. 1: Scour to the cutwater of the central pier



Photograph No. 2: Scour to the east abutment



**Photograph No. 3: Missing brickwork to the central pier**



**Photograph No. 4: Typical open jointing to the stone masonry block foundations**