

Sarah Thomas
36 Stirling Road, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, SN10 4DD
Telephone: 01380 812477

28th November 2011

Barbara Burke
Rights of Way Officer
County Hall
Trowbridge

Dear Ms Burke

Bridleway Modification Order for Diversion – Easterton 26

It has been brought to my attention that the above bridleway is in the final stages of your department agreeing a diversion. I would like to make you aware of the concerns I have, as do many of my horse riding friends.

Since the pig farm's development, horse riders have been forced from using the EAST 26 bridleway due to the pig farm being in its place, an alternative has been made available; a very narrow track, some distance away from EAST26 (I believe this would be the diversion you are currently considering), through the centre of the pigs with (for most of it) an almost invisible single strand electric wire either side separating us from the pigs. A horse wouldn't see this electric fence and if shied from the pigs, would almost certainly get entangled and/or shocked from the fence, causing further panic and quite possibly, an accident.

The most sensible of horses are very often frightened by pigs much more than other farm animals; due to the high-pitched squeals, the smell and the way they move. This bridleway has already been made impossible to pass as well as its alternative, due to the risk. Therefore, many horse riders have chosen not to use it, despite its convenience.

Bridleway EAST26 forms a convenient link from Eastcott (Easterton) to a very popular bridleway offering the choice of many safe routes to Easterton Sands, Potterne and Urchfont, all avoiding the main roads. Should EAST26 be re-routed, it would mean an even further distance to manage our horses past the pigs whilst riding along the busy B3098. This section of the road has high banks, causing a further risk, as the pigs would be almost head height to the horse. Riding along this stretch of road, under these circumstances, would most certainly create a serious hazard to all the road users, due to the high risk of the horse shying away from the pigs and into the path of a vehicle. I'm sure in time there would be a serious accident involving a horse and a vehicle.

For the safety of all road users, horses and riders alike, EAST26 should remain, as its original route and have Post and Rail fencing either side of the path, with a minimum distance across of 12ft. This will allow enough room for the horse to pass wide, if the pigs are against the boundary of the bridleway and for horse riders pass each other safely.

I urge you to understand and consider my concerns and those of other local horse riders, and the reasons for wanting the original route re-instated. I hope you have enough information to make the right decision, if only from a safety aspect. Should you wish to discuss anything in this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Sarah Thomas



Wiltshire Bridleways Association

Please reply to:

Mrs R. Cunningham

Staddle House, Charlton St Peter, Pewsey, Wilts. SN9 6EU

Tel: 01980 630321 Fax: 01980 635153

14th November 2011

Ms Janice Green
Rights of Way Officer
Wiltshire County Council
Department for Neighbourhood and Planning
County Hall,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire BA14 8JD

Dear Ms Green,

Ref: JG/PC/87 2011/02

**The Wiltshire Council (Sheet SU 05 NW) Easterton 26 Diversion Order 2011 and
Definitive Map Modification Order no.8, 2011**

With reference to your letter of 11th October 2011 concerning the above-mentioned proposed Order, and copy of the Order with map and Public Notice.

The Wiltshire Bridleways Association object to the above order route on grounds of impracticality due to the movement of traffic along the proposed route and the adjacency of the pigs. Also, in order to keep both horse and rider safe and off the road, a track inside the field line is required.

We feel an alternative route to that proposed should be something more suitable for equestrian use, closer to the original route and a minimum of 4metres in width for the entire length. This route should then be protected with suitable fence and rail.

Please note are objections and suggestions accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Rosie Cunningham

Rosie Cunningham (Mrs)
WBA Administration Secretary

Patron: The Countess of Cardigan

12th March 2012

Wiltshire Bridleways Association
Staddle House
Charlton St. Peter
Pewsey
Wiltshire
SN9 6EU

Rights of Way Section
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref :JG/PC/87/2011/02

Dear M/s Green

Diversion Order, Bridleway 26, Easterton.

Thank you for your letter of 21st February concerning a possible diversion of the above bridleway. I would like to draw your attention to the circumstances which brought this request about. This bridleway has been accessible in the past as the land was unfenced. Suddenly, a fence appeared along the roadside, obstructing the bridleway, with no gate in it for horses riders or walkers. Wiltshire Bridleways contacted the R.O.W. warden for the area, but no action was taken to remove the obstruction and get the route reopened. The landowner made no attempt to resolve this before setting up his pig enterprise. In a very short time this has become a massive operation.

Under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, subsection 2b it states " a public path diversion order shall not alter a point of termination of the path, (where it is on a highway) , otherwise than to another point which is on the same highway, or a highway connected with it, and which is substantially as convenient to the public. Moving the bridleway further east along the B3098, a busy and fast road at this point, with no usable verges, will cause more inconvenience and danger to walkers and horse riders, and is therefore unacceptable.

We propose moving the bridleway west to Eastcott, to minimise the amount of road use, and to connect more easily with the other Easterton rights of way, nos. 19 , 20, and 28. This should be more commodious to the public, and would have the added benefit of separating horses from pigs and farm vehicles and electric fencing.,

If the landowner is interested in principle in considering our suggestion, we would be happy to attend a site meeting to discuss this further,

Yours sincerely



PP Mrs R. Cunningham.
Wiltshire Bridleways Association.



Wiltshire Bridleways Association

3 Chestnut Close
Rowde
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2PY

21st October 2012

Dear Janice,

I am writing on behalf of Wiltshire Bridleways Association, as I understand you have been in communication recently with our chairman John Holley regarding Easterton Bridleway 26.

At present there is a diversion on this route which is not acceptable and dangerous for horse riders, as not only does it run through a pig farm, it also entails riding further along the very busy B3098 than the definitive route.

I have been asked by John Holley to write to you giving a number of suggestions for an alternative route for your consideration. These are as follows and outlined on the attached map.

Route 1

A to B along track

B to C along field edge

C to D along field headland to original exit of bridleway 26.

Route 2

A to B along track

B to E to F to join up with the original route.

Route 3

A to G headland path to pick up the start of the original bridleway 26, and the bridleway to be fully protected by post and rail minimum width of 15 feet.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Haley

