

3rd April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

DIVERSION OF PART OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NUMBER 19, RAMSBOTTOM

I write with reference to the above application for a footpath diversion and your objection to the Order that was made by the Authority on 1st November 2023.

Several objections were received and I hope I can cover the main points that were raised as follows –

1. The proposed location of a kissing gate in a low point of the connecting bridleway creating a risk of flooding on the path.
2. A steep slope from the kissing gate to the boundary with Redisher Woods.
3. A boggy area at the boundary with Redisher Woods.
4. The diversion route on the existing concessionary path along the boundary of Redisher Woods is often waterlogged and uneven.

I can confirm that the applicant had already agreed with the Authority to resolve the majority of these issues before the application was accepted and a Diversion Order advertised. However, the applicant has now undertaken to carry out further works to ensure the diversion route is more commodious than the existing line of the public footpath. I can summarise as follows –

1. The kissing gate will be located away from the low point of the bridleway, at the location indicated on the diversion plan as Point D. This is south of the location of existing stile in the fence.
2. Steps with a handrail will be installed on the steep slope. There will be more steps than initially intended with a second set being built to ensure the potentially waterlogged area approaching the boundary with Redisher Woods (Point C) remains as accessible as possible through adverse weather conditions. This will increase the total number of timber and crushed stone steps to twenty six. The lack of a usable, safe surface on this section of the diversion (between Points D and C) was highlighted as an issue during a site visit with three objectors and the Authority believes this has been fully addressed by the proposal to increase the number of steps.
3. The section of path running alongside the boundary to Redisher Woods (Points C to B) will have drainage installed and be provided with a crushed stone surface supported by timber edging along the downslope edge.

In addition to the above points, the stile in the Redisher Woods boundary fence (Point B) will be removed, making use of the footpath easier for all. It is also intended that the Authority


will carry out improvements to the steps in Redisher Woods either at the same time the works are carried out on the diversion route or very soon afterwards.

Given the above proposals, the Authority feels that the diversion and improved section of path in Redisher Woods would provide an obvious and improved route linking the Woods with the bridleway on Redisher Lane whilst offering the landowner better security and use of their land and **I would be grateful if you would consider withdrawing your objection to the diversion and informing the Authority of your decision.**

If all objections are withdrawn, the applicant has undertaken to carry out the necessary works. The Authority can then inspect those works and if it is satisfied that the diversion has been constructed as agreed, the Order can be confirmed. If all objections are not withdrawn, the matter will be sent to the Secretary of State for consideration and there is likely to be a considerable delay in reaching a decision, which may require a Public Inquiry to be organised. The public footpath remains in its original position until the Order has been confirmed.

Please can you provide the Authority with your decision regarding your objection as soon as possible and no later than 28 days from the date of this letter.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Chadwick", written in a cursive style.

David Chadwick
Public Rights of Way Officer