

**From:** Bob Grave <

**Sent:** 18 December 2025 20:29

**To:** Sparks, Helen <[helen.sparks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:helen.sparks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Letter of Support: Ref: ROW/3350303 and ROW/3350304

**Dear Helen,**

**Letter of Support: Ref: ROW/3350303 and ROW/3350304**

**From Bob Grave,**

**Date 18.12. 2025**

**Firstly, I would like to say from a horse riders perspective the new diverted permissive passage provides a fantastic alternative from the old disused bridleway.**

**The old bridleway is currently impassable and in my opinion best left in its natural state where it richly supports an abundant and diverse flora and fauna.**

**To disturb the habitats here destroys what has been allowed to flourish for many years and in my opinion would be a reckless act when there is already a better alternative.**

**As a neighbour I have visited this old bridleway on numerous occasions and in its current condition feels very dark and enclosed but also extremely wet. Walkers and particularly horse riders would struggle through here in the winter even if it was opened up. Users would probably avoid it in favour of a less convenient but alternative safer route.**

**As a horse rider the new permissive alternative was the 'welcome' missing link that connects to all the other bridleways north of here and my key link to access them.**

**It gives me safe passage to Lewesdon Woods, Pilsden Pen and all the trails that link up with Beaminster Down.**

**I train horses in open spaces and by moving it away from the farm makes it mentally less stressful for the horses because there is less chance of conflict with the farm machinery.**

**It gives me and other riders alike a much safer access to the top particularly riding young and nervous horses.**

**Riding through the alternative route I would happily recommend to the Riding for the Disabled who I host at my stables. The ground is well drained, stable under foot with good visibility and plenty of light coming through the trees. Access in and out of the wood is also very good.**

**When I rode through it for the first time I was struck by how well it had been prepared for both riders and walkers enough space for both users.**

**It is one of the most beautiful, peaceful and enjoyable sections of my ride to the top. Alternatively, I would have had to negotiate a very difficult parallel unstable track at the end of Bowgrove Rd. This is used by enduro motorbikes and 4 wheel drive vehicles which proves quite dangerous for horse riders.**

**In summary the new permissive path makes absolute sense because it actually gives walkers and horse riders something to use , 'here and now' and an option we have not had for decades. Let the old bridleway remain undisturbed so it can thrive with all its important habitats. In return we have a beautiful safe new pathway where everyone wins.**

**Bob Grave**

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