

From: Bob Grave <
Sent: 18 December 2025 20:29
To: Sparks, Helen <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 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

Softhorse.uk

Please note that the contents of this email and any attachments are privileged and/or confidential and intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this email and its attachments, you must take no action based upon them, nor must you copy or show them to anyone. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error and then delete this email from your system.

Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on Planning Inspectorate systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The Planning Inspectorate has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses. It accepts no liability for any loss or damage caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks.

The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Inspectorate.

DPC:76616c646f72



Please consider the environment before printing this email