

Stuart Hayball



To Whom it may concern,

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

Re: Pathway proposal at Chantry Farm

Our cows have been kept at Chantry Farm for the last few years. We have grazed the fields here and harvested the grass for hay. During grazing, the buildings and routes in to the farm are used for treating cattle and transporting them to and from the farm and fields, and this happens on a regular basis. The current footpath running straight through the middle of the farm and bottom of bridleway are not ideal for this, for several reasons:

1. Public access through this area can cause our animals to become easily distressed, which can make them very unpredictable and difficult to treat. This poses a health and welfare risk to the animals; risks the animals not being able to receive the necessary treatment, and therefore, goes against the Red Tractor Animal Health and Welfare Standards that we must adhere to.
2. This situation is also dangerous. It presents a health and safety risk directly to the animals being treated or moved, as well as the farmer/vet treating them, and to any members of the public passing through, due to the unpredictable nature of the animals and the surrounding working farm environment.
3. We can experience the issue of 'animal worrying' by members of the public using footpaths. Whilst most members of the public behave appropriately around the animals in these environments, there are, unfortunately, some instances whereby members of the public do not adhere to the advice given, causing unnecessary distress and harm to our animals, and the potential to cause harm to the public themselves. This is particularly true of the farmyard and its various entrances top and bottom (Point A) where members of the public often stand and talk.

4. Members of the public using these routes to walk their dogs, is a regular occurrence, but unfortunately, this does greatly increase the risk to our cows of developing Neosporosis, passed on through dog faeces not picked up by the owners. Sadly, this can cause our cows to abort their developing calves, as well as other health issues in both our calves and adult cattle - again, contradicting Red Tractor Animal Health and Welfare Standards.
5. Farm machinery and public safety - It goes without saying, that having a pathway running through the farm, as well as the potential for horses, walkers and their dogs to be at the bottom of the bridleway (point C) if it was opened up is an extremely high-risk area for members of the public to be in when there is heavy farm machinery around and in constant use in a relatively small area for the scale of large machinery used. Unfortunately, there are many members of the public who are not familiar with this way of life and the risks associated with it, as well as those who are, but choose to ignore all safety advice etc, not only putting themselves at risk, but also other people, as well as the farmer and our animals. All the routes into and out of the farm are used by our animals, tractors, trailers and other machinery, by ourselves and contractors on a regular basis (points A & C.) These are the only routes available for access to all fields to the west and east of the bridleway and footpath. This junction is therefore in constant use, it is steep, narrow and has tight, blind corners for machinery to use.
6. Biosecurity risk - public walking through the farm via the existing pathway, not using the appropriate footbaths to disinfect footwear, as a result increase the risk of further spreading disease, again going against the Red Tractor Standards that we are required to adhere to.
7. Litter dropping by members of the public walking through can also be an issue. This encourages pests, which carry disease, another risk factor we must consider for our cows, and once again makes adhering to Red Tractor Standards very difficult.
8. Members of the public using the current pathway have also in the past, left gates open, resulting in animals getting out and into other people's gardens, causing disruption and inconvenience, as well as additional health and safety risks.
9. Because the farmyard is at the top of a public road (Point A & C), we have to use occasional electric fencing to manage our animals in and out of the farm, this is at odds with unrestricted access for the public, their horses and dogs. This makes managing our animals safely very difficult.

Supporting the new pathway is common sense, and would help to minimise all these risks, as well as help to ensure the safety of both us as farmers and our animals, as well as members of the public and their animals, without compromising on the route, and

improving the scenery, and enjoyment for the public using it. It is not any less convenient, as it is about the same distance to walk around as the existing pathway and bridleway, with a much more stable, dry and secure under foot ground level to walk on.