

From: Binny Mathews [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 January 2026 15:15
To: Helen Sparks <helen.sparks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of Support: Ref: ROW/3350303 and ROW/3350304

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of the proposed diversion of the bridleway and footpath as shown on the submitted plan.

I am 64 years old and a regular visitor to the site, and in recent months this has been particularly important to me as I recover from a hip operation. Gentle walking forms part of my ongoing rehabilitation, and the choice of route has made a significant difference to what I am physically able to manage.

In my experience, the existing footpath and bridleway are extremely difficult to use. The surfaces are often wet and uneven, with loose stones, narrow sections, and steep or awkward footing. The bridleway in particular feels confined, unstable underfoot, and prone to surface water. I would not feel safe walking there, especially following surgery, and would be very unlikely to use it even if it were reopened.

By contrast, the current permissive path is far more accessible. It is wider, flatter, drier underfoot, and feels open and safe. The gradients are manageable, the surface is consistent, and the route is genuinely enjoyable. Since it was opened, I have been able to use it comfortably and confidently as part of my recovery, which would not have been

possible on the old routes.

I also believe that many other people would benefit in the same way, including older walkers and those with limited mobility. The diverted route feels more inclusive and usable, rather than technically available but practically inaccessible.

From the point of view of public enjoyment, the new route is clearly preferable. It avoids taking walkers through a working farmyard and instead offers a quieter, more attractive walk alongside the woodland and stream. It feels safer, more peaceful, and more appropriate for recreational use.

For these reasons, I strongly support the proposed diversion and believe it represents an improvement both in accessibility and in the overall enjoyment of the path.

Yours faithfully,

Binny

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