

Mrs Kerry Noël,

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23rd December 2025

FAO: Helen Sparks, Planning Inspectorate

Re Ref: ROW/3350303 and ROW/3350304

Dear Ms Sparks,

I wish to record my support for Dorset Council's proposal to link the existing but unused bridleway and footpath via the permissive path at Chantry Farm. I have used this permissive route frequently over the past year and a half and consider it to meet the necessary criteria of convenience, enjoyment, and anticipated public use. The former bridleway is not a route I would choose to use even if it were reinstated, as it is narrow, uneven, and often acts as a channel for surface water, making it unsafe for walkers and horse riders alike. Its enclosed, sunken character limits visibility and passing space, and the access point at C leads directly onto a steep blind bend regularly used by agricultural vehicles and livestock, which presents a clear safety risk. The alternative footpath through the farmyard is also unattractive, frequently muddy and routed through an active working area with machinery, animals, and associated noise.

By comparison, the permissive path offers a far more suitable and appealing route. It is wider, level, and well drained, making it accessible to a broader range of users, including families, older walkers, and those with limited mobility. The path crosses a wildflower meadow, follows a wooded stream, and climbs gently to rejoin the existing footpath, providing an attractive and peaceful walking experience. The surface remains firm throughout the year and comfortably accommodates shared use; encounters with horses and other walkers have never posed any difficulty. Based on past attempts to use the old bridleway and footpath, which proved unsafe or impractical, I would be unlikely to use them in the future. The permissive route is clearly more convenient, more enjoyable, and far more likely to be used, and represents a sensible and well-considered solution for both the public and the landholding.

I strongly support the new proposal.

Your sincerely,

Kerry Noël