

From: Rufus Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2026 12:06
To: Helen Sparks <helen.sparks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Dominic Hazlehurst [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of Support: Ref: ROW/3350303 and ROW/3350304

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Dear Helen,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed diversion of the bridleway and footpath as outlined in the attached plan.

I have rented a studio and workshop on the site for over two years. My work as a sculptor involves long periods of concentration, the presence of valuable artworks, and regular vehicular access for the delivery and removal of sculptures, raw materials, and finished works. Quiet enjoyment, security, and reliable access are therefore essential to my ability to work.

Routing the bridleway and footpath around the back of the stable, through the wildlife strip and along the woodland stream, rather than through the working farmyard, represents a clear improvement for all parties. The current routes are, in my experience, poorly surfaced, wet, uneven, and in places virtually impassable. The bridleway in particular is a narrow, high-sided gully that carries water, is dark, rocky, and unstable underfoot, and offers little public enjoyment. I would not choose to use it, even if reopened, in preference to the proposed route.

By contrast, the existing permissive path — which has been in continuous use for approximately 18 months — is dry, wider, flatter, and more accessible, with better views and a more pleasant experience overall. Sharing this route with horse riders has not presented any difficulty during this time, owing to its width, visibility, and firm surface.

From the perspective of public enjoyment, I believe walkers and riders alike benefit from being taken around the farmyard rather than through it. The working nature of the yard, including vehicle movements, livestock management, TB testing, and calving, does not lend itself to quiet recreation or safety for the public.

I would also note that the section of the current footpath below point P on the plan is extremely wet and often impassable, and this area now contains essential infrastructure serving multiple occupants. The diverted route avoids these problems entirely.

Personally, I, along with visiting models and friends, regularly use the permissive path for rest and recreation. It offers a peaceful, open walk that complements the landscape rather than constraining it. I see no practical or experiential benefit in reopening the old bridleway, and I would be unlikely to use it were it reinstated.

In my view, the proposed diversion is not substantially less convenient to the public and is clearly expedient when considering public enjoyment of the route as a whole, as well as the likelihood of use of the existing paths in their current condition.

For these reasons, I fully support Dorset Council's proposed order.

Yours faithfully,

Rufus Martin

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Rufus Martin.

[REDACTED]

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