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From: [REDACTED] cwrams.co.uk
Sent: 22 October 2019 14:20
To: Josephine Upchurch
Subject: Re: Statutory Consultation Notice - Watergate Lane, Crook - 3/18/075 - (Our reference REAL/ST/AROW/JU/3/18/075)

Good afternoon Josephine,

I am very pleased that you made contact with me about this Right of Way and I want you to know that Crook and Weardale Ramblers Group fully support the upgrade of FP56 to a Bridleway.

Our group have attempted to follow the correct route of this PROW more than once this year and have failed to be able to do so. On these occasions we found that irrespective of any future upgrade being granted the condition of the current PROW is a disgrace, especially during the months when undergrowth and new tree growth is in full force.

In order that I can feedback current up to date information, one of our local group members has attempted to follow the correct route of FP56 again this morning so that I may offer his findings in this reply as follows:

- The FP starts by the main road and has a gate with a padlock, a stile and a sign in red.
- It's probably wide enough for a horse.
- At the crossing of the Bitchburn Beck, there's a metal bridge which is designed to stop horses, bikes, prams etc.
- The path is currently reasonably clear, apart from some damage to way-marks but will need to be cleared of the overhanging trees and maintained.
- The "top" of the path has a stile but it's off-route. This detour is de-facto and accepted as the path and has been used regularly. The actual route goes through a gate and there's a public footpath sign pointing at the correct start. This is blocked by a rusty pair of gates, a huge block of concrete and vegetation.
- We feel that irrespective of any future upgrade of FP56 into a bridleway the current FP should be made to follow the correct route.

Finally, I wish to make it clear Crook and Weardale Ramblers Group welcome sharing use of FP56 with horses and cyclists by upgrading it to a Bridleway thus enhancing our local area and also be of benefit to as many people as possible!

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

Footpaths Officer,

Crook & Weardale Ramblers.

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

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The
British
Horse
Society

Fulfilling your passion for horses



24th February 2021

To:
Josephine Upchurch
Definitive Map Officer
Public Rights of Way
Durham County Council,
County Hall,
Durham
DH1 5UQ

Ref. REAL/ST/AROW/JU/3/18/075

Statutory Consultation Notice – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Proposed Amendment to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way Alleged At Watergate Lane, Crook – 3/18/075

Dear Josie

Response from the British Horse Society

The British Horse Society fully supports this proposal to upgrade the footpath known as Watergate Lane to a Bridleway.

The route has been in place for more than 250 years as set out in the Inclosure of 1761, a legal document to this day. There is also good supplementary evidence for this route.

It is obvious to us that this Bridleway fell into disuse after the 2nd World War when there weren't many leisure horses around as people did not have the means to care for them.

As stated in our previous response, this proposal will bring greater safety for those who ride horses and cycles and future generations can also enjoy them.

Regards



Access and Bridleway Officers

On Behalf of 'The British Horse Society' (Durham)