

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Helions Bumpstead FP7 Made Extinguishment Order - Ramblers Objection
Sent: 06/07/2026 13:11:03

Hello again [REDACTED],

As per my email re Wethersfield, we will leave discussion as to responsibilities within the Essex Ramblers to that organisation.

It is our view that the circumstances of this s118 order are different from those of the Wimbish Footpath 70 order, the decision of which you cite., just as they are from the Great & Little Leighs Footpath 4 order, which was confirmed.

Our position that the footpath is not needed now or in the future remains unchanged and the OMA will therefore reach a decision on the next steps together with the applicants with consultees being informed as and when appropriate.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] Public Path Order and Development Officer



[REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 June 2026 12:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Helions Bumpstead FP7 Made Extinguishment Order - Ramblers Objection

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re: Braintree District - Helions Bumpstead FP7 Made Extinguishment Order - objection on behalf of the Ramblers

1) In February 2020, I did not seek re-election as Essex Area Footpath Secretary at the Ramblers Essex Area AGM.

Nobody volunteered for the post at the AGM.

Subsequently [REDACTED] became the acting Area Footpath Secretary. [REDACTED] has been the duly elected Area Footpath Secretary at subsequent Area AGMs.

2) Historically there was an Area Footpath Secretaries Committee, a sub-Committee of Essex Area Council. The Committee met in person. Members were the Group/District Footpath Secretaries and the Essex Area Footpath Secretary. The Committee business included Path Orders. The Ramblers members in the volunteer Group/District Footpath Secretary posts are confirmed at the annual Ramblers Essex Area AGM.

The last scheduled meeting of the Area FP Committee was 11 March 2020 called by [REDACTED] in his role as Acting Area Footpath Secretary. [REDACTED] pre-meeting email included - **my bold**..

>Situation Update on Group Footpath Secretaries Operation.

>

> Until the post of Area Footpath Secretary is filled, I have volunteered to act in a temporary capacity and will Chair the Footpath Committee scheduled for March 11th. This meeting will discuss the future operation of Footpath Secretaries. With this in mind it is hoped all appointed Footpath Secretaries would be able to attend to be involved in this important discussion.

>

> As a first step the Executive Committee feel an understanding of the position and operational responsibility of all Footpath Secretaries be made clear.

>

> **All Footpath Secretaries are appointed by Area Council, the highest body in Essex Ramblers, to work on their own initiative and authority.**

> **Decisions on diversions or path orders are solely that of the local Footpath Secretary. Area Officers will only rubber stamp this.**

> Issues with blocked or non maintained PROW found and reported to ECC by local Footpath Secretaries, will be fully backed by Area Officers, and if requested they will provide support and direct involvement.

>....

I have no further records about the Area Footpath Committee. I suspect that it was a casualty of COVID and that the March 2020 meeting did not happen.

3) Post-COVID: Ramblers Essex Area Council becomes the Essex Area [ROW] Hub

The problem of a lack of volunteers is experienced in many areas including Ramblers Essex Area Council. The North-West Essex group of the Ramblers Essex Area, which covered Braintree District, folded in 2024 because of a lack of volunteers for Committee posts in 2022/2023.

At the February 2024 Ramblers Essex Area AGM, the formation of the Area Hub with a more limited role than Area Council was approved. The approved Minutes include the Chairman's Report by [REDACTED] which included - **my bold:**

.. [REDACTED] explained, Essex had taken the decision to continue, **but only dealing with Path Maintenance Issues.** With an improved relationship with Essex Highways, and this being a major element of Ramblers work, concentrating of this made sense. The Area will therefore become a single function operation under the title ROW Hub, using the limited resources to support local volunteers and still represent Essex members. [REDACTED] detailed the changes in operations, **with the regular 3 monthly Hub meetings dealing Area Finance and Path Maintenance only.**

The meeting was asked to approve this change, which was accepted.

4) The Ramblers Essex Area Footpath Secretary therefore has no role in supporting or not supporting responses to Path Orders made by duly confirmed Ramblers Essex Area Footpath Secretaries.

5) The objection to the Helions Bumpstead footpath 7 Extinguishment Order was duly made by myself and [REDACTED] as confirmed Ramblers Braintree District Footpath Secretaries and must be considered as the formal representation on behalf of the Ramblers.

6a) I repeat the reference made in paragraph 4) of the objection, to two points from the recent PINs Inspector's report (May 2026-attached) on the decision not to confirm the extinguishment of a section of Wimbish footpath 70 (Uttlesford District), that are especially relevant namely...**my bold...**

21. Section 11 of the DEFRA Presumptions Guidance says: "it is in the public interest that any change to remove or reduce the impacts on the property owner or occupier of the existing public right of way **should, wherever possible, involve diversion or replacement of the way rather than extinguishment alone**"....
28. In turn, I do not consider that the proposed Order satisfies the legislative tests set out in S118 HA 1980 [need and usage of the footpath], and it is therefore not expedient to confirm the Order. This conclusion is consistent with the DEFRA Presumptions Guidance, which says confirming authorities should only be predisposed to confirm an Order where the relevant legislative tests are met.

No diversion is being proposed only a complete extinguishment.

6b) I also repeat the final point 5) in the objection..

Without prejudice, the suggestion is made that the footpath could be diverted to run around the edge of the land associated with 2 Drapers Green, the western semi-detached dwelling by point A. This would move the path further away from the dwelling.

7) I do not recall any Braintree District objections that have been referred to PINS since 2020 where we have been the sole objectors on behalf of the Ramblers as Braintree District Footpath Secretaries.

[REDACTED]
Ramblers-Braintree District Footpath Secretary
email: [REDACTED]
tel: [REDACTED]

On 22/06/2026 09:50, [REDACTED] wrote:

RESTRICTED

Good morning [REDACTED]

We had hoped that having considered this footpath extinguishment proposal in context that you would not object to it.

Your personal feelings towards extinguishment orders have been made clear by you in other responses, and I am also aware that the Ramblers Association as an organisation would not like to see PROW extinguished – subject to the legal tests. It is our contention that there is no actual public need, current or future for this footpath and we believe that the response, or lack thereof, to this order consultation confirms this.

You were the sole objector for this footpath extinguishment order. Neither the parish council, who you reference in your objection, nor the locals or any other user groups submitted a representation in respect of it.

The obvious conclusion from the consultation is that is not a footpath that is or would be missed and that the majority are therefore content to see its removal.

It is not my intention to address each of the points raised by you at this time, but I will mention that the procedural error on the order plan (property numbering) that you referenced results from our use of Ordnance Survey basemap data. This data is taken by all organisations who use in good faith. We are neither responsible for its accuracy nor did we (as you appeared to suggest) either deliberately or erroneously alter the house numbering (to no fathomable end). This in any case had and has no bearing on the order and I can see that the Ordnance Survey have since corrected their error.

As previously with the Wethersfield order, in frustration at this, other recent objections (often as here, made as the sole objector), and what appears to be a worrying trend of looking to find issues and objecting without good cause, we referred your objection to [REDACTED] the Essex Ramblers Footpath Secretary, who confirmed that he cannot, on behalf Essex Area Ramblers, agree to the objections put forward, and thus is unable to support them.

Consequently, we cannot now accept your objection as the official response of the Essex Ramblers and will now look to get the order confirmed. [REDACTED] advised that he is happy to discuss his reasons for his decision on this and the other order with you if required.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Public Path Order and Development Officer

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 June 2026 16:07

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Helions Bumpstead FP7 Made Extinguishment Order - Ramblers Objection

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Re: Helions Bumpstead public footpath 7 Made Extinguishment Order - Ramblers Objection

On behalf of the Ramblers the proposed extinguishment of the entire length of Helions Bumpstead Public Footpath is objected to.

1) Footpath 7 provides an off-road route between Camps Road and Drapers Lane. As such it provides a pleasanter environment than walking along vehicular roads. Although Drapers Lane is a No Through Road, the Parish Council June 2025 Minutes item 102/2025 note that..."*Trucks going the lane [Drapers Lane] at over the speed limit resulting in the edge of the lane being eroded and trenches developing..*". As such the Ramblers consider that footpath 7 is needed.

2) The Order notes that the existing legal line of footpath 7 runs... "*through boundary features gardens and a paddock...*". Public rights of way often run through paddocks and generally pass through hedges/fences/gates - so this is no reason to extinguish a public right of way. The now

enclosed, previously arable land, to the rear of The Cottage is separated from the dwelling by a hedge and has not had planning permission for change of use to a garden. The only curtilage land that the path passes through is the land on the west side of the semi-detached dwelling, 2 Drapers Green - NOT 1 Drapers Green.

3) There is a procedural error on the Made Order map. The section of footpath running north-east from point A is shown on the Order Map as passing through land associated with "number 1" of the pair of semi-detached properties. Essex Highways maps and the Land Registry Title Plan EX599601 for 2 Drapers Green (see attached), show that the western semi- is number 2 Drapers Green - NOT number 1. The footpath substantially runs through the wooded section at the western end away from the dwelling.

4) Two points from the recent PINs Inspector's report (May 2026-attached) on the decision not to confirm the extinguishment of a section of Wimbish footpath 70 (Uttlesford District), are especially relevant namely...

21. Section 11 of the DEFRA Presumptions Guidance says: "it is in the public interest that any change to remove or reduce the impacts on the property owner or occupier of the existing public right of way should, wherever possible, involve diversion or replacement of the way rather than extinguishment alone"....

28. In turn, I do not consider that the proposed Order satisfies the legislative tests set out in S118 HA 1980 [need and usage of the footpath], and it is therefore not expedient to confirm the Order. This conclusion is consistent with the DEFRA Presumptions Guidance, which says confirming authorities should only be predisposed to confirm an Order where the relevant legislative tests are met.

No diversion is being proposed only a complete extinguishment.

5) Without prejudice, the suggestion is made that the footpath could be diverted to run around the edge of the land associated with 2 Drapers Green, the western semi-detached dwelling by point A. This would move the path further away from the dwelling.

Ramblers-Braintree District Footpath Secretary

email: [REDACTED]

10 June 2026

On 14/05/2026 11:04, Pathorders wrote:

Hello

Please see a communication received by The Ramblers below and attached, for your information and/or consideration.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Ramblers

Volunteer Footpath Admin Assistant

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 May 2026 8:53 AM

Subject: PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDERS FOOTPATH 7 HELIONS
BUMPSTEAD, DISTRICT OF BRAINTREE MADE ORDER CONSULTATION

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RESTRICTED

Dear Sir/Madam,

Highways Act 1980 Section 118

Essex County Council has made an Order to extinguish Footpath 7 in the parish of Helions Bumpstead in the District of Braintree.

The footpath passes through the gardens of several properties and the attached DEFRA Presumptions Guidance applies.

Attached is a copy of the Made order and the Notice which will be posted on site and appear in the Haverhill Echo on Thursday 14 May 2026.

You have already been informed of this proposal, but if you have any further comments to make, please do so by 12:00pm (midday) on 11 June 2026.

Kind regards



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Find out more: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk>

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From:

To:

Subject:

Sent:

PPO Helions Bumpstead FP 7

22/06/2026 08:38:53

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Hi [REDACTED],

As promised a response to the objections.

1. This path does not join up with others, and only goes in a half circle from one road to another point on an adjoining road. The route used by walkers along the roads is shorter and also closer to the first adjoining path on the other side of road. This path has been walkable for a number of years and during that time no objections have been raised nor actions taken by the local Footpath Secretary to get the path open. It seems walkers are happy with the shorter alternative.

2. I fully accept your explanation of this.

3. My position is summed up in points 1 and 2 in your response.

4. Your explanation, which I fully support, is clear. The objectors are confused thinking. The reference to a diversion is made as being another issue to be addressed, but is actually about an alternative that is being used.

5. My response to this is made in 1 above. It is not needed and the local Footpath Secretary has made no attempt to prove otherwise over the years. In terms of the "off - vehicular road route to be provided". There is already a wide verge along the whole route, and with half the length being on a dead end road with minimal traffic, I would suggest this the existing provides a suitable escape from traffic if needed.

To sum up, this is a path that adds nothing to the network. The local Footpath Secretary has never raised it as being needed to be open, nor have local walkers. The objections raise no point to its value, nor to the continued use of the roads as an alternative. The procedures raised to justify non closure and the incorrect documents do not on their own make little reason why, as Area Footpath Secretary I should support this.

I cannot, on behalf Essex Area Ramblers agree to the objections put forward, and thus am unable to support them..

[REDACTED] Essex Area Footpath Secretary.