

Inspectorate reference number: ROW/3370751

Application to Divert Footpath 65: Response to the Ramblers Statement of Case

Point 3: Views The proposed alternative route offers different views, including protected views (i.e. both footpath users and livestock are protected from each other) that can be enjoyed across a wider range of wildlife-rich landscape. The view of the man-made reservoir (often referred to as the lake) remains to be enjoyed from a section of footpath 66 (adjoining footpath 65), as shown in image below.



Images supplied in the Appendices of the Statement of Case provide examples of the new views that will be available if the proposed diversion is accepted.

We consider public enjoyment not to be significantly affected by the loss of the view from the current route.

Point 6(i) the Ramblers' preferred alternative route In response to the proposal that the alternative route could instead be inside the current field boundary to the east of the track (comprising approximately 190m of the total diversion), our comments are:

- The cost of moving the livestock fencing as the Ramblers seem to suggest is estimated to be £2500-£3000 approximately
- This would lead to the loss of use of this portion of the field (approx.. 450 sq m) for farming.
- There is a strip already established between the track and the fencing
- Our reason for wanting to divert the current route is especially to provide a sheltered woodland grazing area for livestock in the area of the current route:
 - The Ramblers proposed alternative would then remove the benefits of this type of grazing and shelter from a different area of the farm (i.e. from this field that runs alongside the proposed new route)
 - Sheep especially use this area of the field to shelter from sun and rain.
 - The role of the trees in providing shelter has been shown recently during the intense summer heat – the image below shows the sheep using this area for shade/shelter in June 2026



This suggestion would therefore not be in our interests.

Point 6 the Ramblers' suggestion of protecting a footpath alongside the track with bollards or a low rail This would:

- entail significant cost – it is difficult to estimate the cost but both options (of bollards or a low rail) are estimated to be in the thousands of pounds
- make the track unusable on the rare occasions (5-6 days per year) when larger farming equipment (e.g. tractors) needs to pass along the track – on such occasions we will use warning signs for pedestrians, and ensure that tractor drivers are aware of the possibility of footpath users being present

This suggestion would therefore not be in our interests.

Various points: Risks of footpath user- vehicle contact As per our comments in the Statement of Case, the proposed alternative route:

- has good sightlines
- has adequate width (the track width between fences is over 4.0 metres for its length, (varying between 4.02m and 4.40m), with a narrowing for 0.01m approx. at point A at a 'gateway' (with no gate) to 3.7m
- has 3 sets of speed bumps
- will be used for a maximum of 52 events (as permitted by planning permission) at The Barn per year
- was previously used for several years by us and pedestrians accessing the nursery (including groups of very small children with staff) with a far higher volume and frequency of traffic than expected in the future, without concerns or incidents to our knowledge (it is estimated by us that usage of the track by vehicles in the future will be approximately 90% lower than levels previously when the track was used by nursery traffic)

For these reasons, we hope that the Order can be confirmed.

The Fullers, [REDACTED]

The attached OMA document “Duly Made representations and objections” is on the Essexhighways.org -opposed orders web page. Pages 7 and 8 are an email of 12 April 2025 from Andrew Ritchings of ECC to a redacted objector. The applicant is proposing to install a pedestrian passing place, 1.5metres deep by 2meters long, at a point along the lane - the proposed diversion route - where the lane is at its narrowest. The email includes a plan.

The Ramblers were unaware of this proposal by the applicant and ask that this pedestrian refuge is included in the Order if the Diversion is confirmed.

Katherine & Paul Evans

Ramblers - Braintree District Footpath Secretaries