

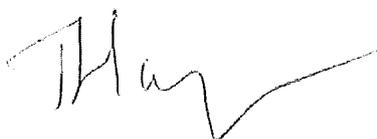
5. This is a very beautiful path with pastoral scenes, and the current route afford the public the ability to appreciate the countryside which has been sympathetically maintained as a grassy meadow. The proposed fenced in route would negate this possibility. Please refer again to The Highways Act 1980 which states: "consideration should be given to public enjoyment of the path or way as a whole."
6. Social distancing: Although we are optimistic that the worst of the pandemic may be over, there is still a need for social distancing. It is also very difficult to keep dogs away from potentially dangerous dogs and while this is achievable under current conditions, this would not be possible along a 'fenced in' 2-metre path.

When considering points 5 and 6 above please refer again to The Highways Act 1980 which states: "consideration should be given to public enjoyment of the path or way as a whole."

7. Reason for the change: This is an ancient pathway which has served, in balance, as a beautiful meadow on which to graze cattle, and make hay. It is a wonderful village resource and a pleasant public footpath. It would be a huge shame for it to change, I know that view very well and provides much succour, particularly during the lockdown phase. I have grave misgivings as to the reason why this footpath needs to be diverted.
8. Finally, I have lived in Castle Hedingham for 22 years and whilst the land was in the care of the Doe family there has never been a need to alter the access to the field. It does not seem right that this should now change just because the land has changed ownership.

Please consider each of these points and look forward to you confirmation that you have received and reviewed them.

Yours Sincerely,



Juliet Harpur

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2022
Footpath 25 Castle Hedingham

Dear Mr Roscoe

I am writing to you to record my objection to the above order.
The reasons for my objections are as follows:

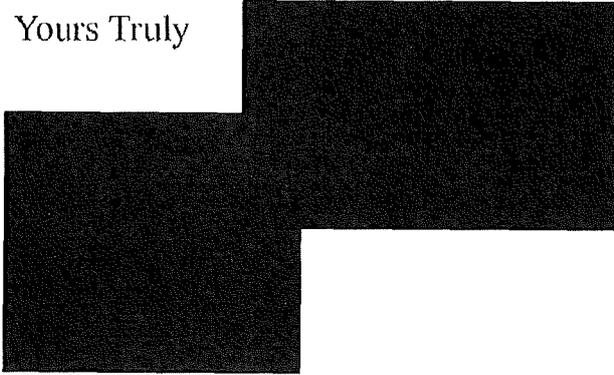
- the footpath is part of the historic Magna Carta Way, a stone's throw from the 900 year old Norman keep of Hedingham Castle, and needs to be retained in its present location to preserve our heritage;
- the proposed location for the new footpath is much steeper than the current location which will make it very difficult for the elderly or disabled to use it (or anyone with a pushchair);
- the proposed location of the new footpath abuts overgrown woodland with overhanging branches and tangled undergrowth and does not currently allow for unimpeded access across the field. By contrast, the current location is across open grassland and requires no maintenance meaning it is always accessible. We have seen from other treelined footpaths in the village that these are regularly blocked for several days at a time when trees and branches come down. Relocating the footpath will therefore mean that it is also likely to become blocked in future following bad weather;
- The relocation will therefore be in contravention of The Highways Act 1980, Section 119(6) which says "The path will not be substantially less convenient to the public in consequence of the diversion."
- Also under The Highways Act, "consideration should be given to public enjoyment of the

path or way as a whole".

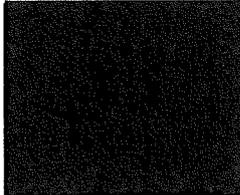
- This section of the footpath forms part of a valuable and much used circular walk of the village.

Relocating it will have a severe, negative impact on the way as a whole. This flies in the face of ECC's Green Essex Strategy 2019 document in which one of the stated objectives is to "Increase use and inclusivity of green infrastructure across all social groups and abilities".

Yours Truly



Footpath 25 in Castle Heddingham
Essex County Council



15th August 2022

Mr Roscoe
Essex County Council
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH

Dear Mr Roscoe:

I would like please to submit my objection to the proposed public path diversion order 2022
Footpath 25 in Castle Heddingham.

I have been a resident of Castle Heddingham for 16 years and during that time I have walked our various dogs almost daily along this footpath. The footpath currently runs through a lovely open field which is usually well maintained. It allows for good vision ahead to see other people as they approach and allows you to pass others safely from some distance. This was not only extremely important during the Covid restrictions but also when seeing others with dogs who may prefer not to approach other dogs or people.

The proposed new footpath would be substantially less convenient. It would be located alongside woodland belonging to Heddingham Castle. Although I do not know who would be required to maintain the trees here, I would assume it to be the Castle and I find it unlikely that this would be done with enough regularity as to not cause a problem. The footpath leading to the field is also owned by the Castle and has a great many trees. In bad weather trees have fallen and at times the path has remained unpassable for several days. This has happened on numerous occasions. I believe that the proposed footpath would soon be encroached by overhanging branches etc making it an unpleasant and difficult walk. It would also be in an area of great shade causing the ground to become boggy and difficult to walk on.

Mr Roscoe
15th August 2022
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Having the footpath fenced in would also make passing others coming in the opposite direction extremely difficult. During Covid restrictions, you were required to allow a minimum 2 metre distance between yourself and others. This would be impossible if the path itself is only 2 metres in width. No one could have foreseen the recent pandemic and you cannot rule the possibility of something similar happening again and the proposed path would not allow the rules to be adhered to,

Also having had a dogs all of my life, not every dog is approachable. Some dogs may become frightened or aggressive when in close proximity to another dog or person. There would not be the possibility to pass some distance away from another walker which may cause avoidable frightening incidents. Currently the field is large enough to give other walkers a wide berth should you feel it necessary.

My husband has lived all of his life in Castle Hedingham. He has so many memories of walks through that field over the last 51 years with childhood friends, family and our own children. It is part of village life and memories, and I just cannot see a compelling reason to change its location. It is enjoyed by so many people and the proposed location will prevent some from carrying on enjoying it. The new path will be a steeper gradient, narrow and will exclude people with mobility issues, those with pushchairs etc from enjoying something that has been part of the village for so long.

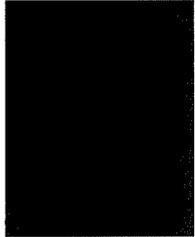
I hope you will listen to my views and that of many people within the village and not allow this change to go ahead.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Mrs Lisa McFaul

Mr Alan Roscoe
Definitive Map Service
Essex County Council
Seax House
2nd Floor
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH



23rd August 2022

Dear Mr Roscoe,

I'm writing to voice my objections to the proposed order to reroute Footpath 25 in Castle Heddingham. It is my understanding that objections should be made on the basis of the impact the planned rerouting has on the 'enjoyment' of using the path. Whilst this is obviously quite subjective, I feel that there are several significant ways in which moving the footpath will impact on users' enjoyment.

Firstly, the new route is much steeper in places. This will impact on access for anyone with mobility issues. Additionally, the grass becomes very slippery after any rainfall, and with the new gradient this is likely to make the path unusable in the winter months. If the path is unpassable, this will therefore greatly impact my enjoyment of using it.

Secondly, the current route has a lovely view of the castle and surrounding woodland. Enjoying this view will not be possible if the route is changed as proposed. The current path also enjoys full sunshine, the rerouted path is shaded by the trees throughout. Therefore, the new route will be colder, wetter and less enjoyable to use.

Furthermore, the proposed rerouted path runs alongside a ditch, which provides some sort of drainage system for nearby houses. It often has water running along it. Walking alongside this ditch will make the path much wetter and less pleasant to use, as the ditch often floods in the winter.

As I'm sure you are aware, a petition that was signed by around 450 people and reported in the Halstead Gazette has highlighted the strength of feeling from local people on this issue. On paper it may look like a simple change to make, with the path only moving a few metres to the edge of the field. However, accessing this footpath in its current form is important to the people of Castle Hedingham.

It is unclear why the landowner and Essex County Council feel that this ancient footpath needs to be rerouted, as unfortunately this information is not in the public domain. This raises the question: what are the benefits of moving this footpath? The benefits appear to be solely for the landowner, who would be able to fully develop the site. This would obviously greatly impact my 'enjoyment' of using the path, as with development the environment would then be totally changed.

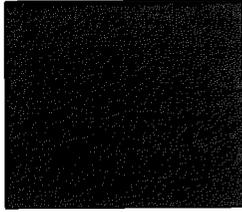
I truly hope that the council will reconsider this proposal and keep the footpath in its original location.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Dr Mary Veater.

Dr Mary Veater

29/8/22



Dear Mr Roscoe,

Re: Footpath 25, Scotch Pasture, Castle Hedingham - Change of route.

I (along with the over 400 who have signed the Change.org petition) am writing to express my objection to the rerouting of the current footpath for the following reasons:

1. This very well used footpath has been in existence since at least 1888 and is therefore of significant historical value in its present place.
2. Scotch Pasture is pasture land and not suitable for growing crops. During the past 40 years that I have walked the footpath, sheep and cows have grazed without consequences for walkers. There seems to be no commercial advantage therefore in rerouting the footpath.
3. I'm sure you are aware of the 2002 DEFRA Rights of Way Improvement Plans - Statutory Guidance to Local Highway Authorities in England.

2.2.18 states, 'In making their assessments, local highway authorities should work on the principle that the needs of people with mobility problems should always be taken into account in the management, maintenance and improvement of local rights of way.'

Also, Natural England in February 2022 launched its New Countryside Code which said landowners must ensure their land can be easily reached by 'visitors with different abilities and needs.'

The reroute of Footpath 25 at the top end of Scotch Pasture is so steep it will be impassable for anyone with a mobility disability thus denying many of their right to access this particular countryside walk.

Thus, the current, gently sloping footpath should remain and, indeed, consideration be given to altering the kiss-gate that gives access to Rosemary Lane, so it is not a barrier to those with mobility issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Roscoe
Definitive Map Services
Essex County Council
Seax House
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford CM1 1QH

Dear Mr Roscoe

Re: Public Path Diversion - Order 2022 - Footpath 25 - Castle Headingham

I am writing to object to the proposed diversion of footpath 25 for the following reasons:

The diversion route along the side of a steep hill will make it difficult for both elderly and disabled people to have access to the benefits of safe walking as the diversion will be situated to an area susceptible to flooding which leads to the ground being too muddy to walk safely.

As regular users of the footpaths in the area we are concerned we will be restricted when the weather is bad. Also there has been no reason given for the proposed change surely this should be disclosed to those who use the footpath on a daily basis.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we trust you will consider our objections.

Yours sincerely



Mr & Mrs Flynn

scotch pastures is ^{part of} a popular circular
walk enjoyed by many and an important
social activity and to move it and make
the route less accessible to many is sad.
Fencing the path is also going to cause
problems for those with dogs, all trying
to pass each other within the confines
of the fence. I am aware that it is the
landowner's right to fence a footpath as
they wish, in either location, but again,
this is just a sad thing for those who
regularly walk and enjoy scotch pastures.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G. Carter



22/08/2022

Mr. Alan Roscoe
Definitive Map Service
Essex County Council
Seax House
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Dear Mr. Roscoe

RE: PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2022 FOOTPATH 25 CASTLE HEDINGHAM

I am writing to object to the proposed diversion of footpath 25 Castle Hedingham, for the following reasons.

- 1: The proposed division is a steep hill which would make it difficult for the elderly and disabled walkers and those with a pushchair.
- 2: The path borders a wood with over hanging branches.
- 3: The footpath being part of the Magna Cater Way is part of our village heritage.

Yours Sincerely
J Rulten
Mrs.





19th August 2022

Alan Roscoe
Definitive Map Service
Essex County Council
Seax House, Second Floor
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Dear Mr Roscoe,

I would like to register my objection to the proposed diversion of Footpath 25 in Castle Hedingham. This historic pathway, part of the Magna Carta Trail, is currently situated across the centre of Scotch Pastures and is accessible and well used by much of the community. The proposed alternative location for the footpath is along the right hand side of the field along a less accessible, much steeper route. If the footpath is indeed moved this will make it virtually unusable for my family as my son is disabled and uses a wheelchair to access and enjoy the local countryside. I have taken a couple of photographs but it is difficult to demonstrate the difference in access on my phone camera but I assume that you will walk the footpath yourself before coming to a conclusion.

I feel the proposed relocation would be in contravention of The Highways Act 1980 Section 119(6) – The path will not be substantially less convenient to the public in consequence of the diversion. The proposed route is impeded by overhanging branches and brambles and it is quite possible that it may be blocked by debris over the winter months.

Tobogganing down Scotch Pastures has been a right of passage for the children of Castle and Sible Hedingham for generations, dogs have been walked there and families have enjoyed the countryside without any issues. There does not seem any tenable reason for the footpath to be moved.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Nicola Barton.