



**Eastleigh**

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22 April 2024

Dear Ms. Errington,

**RE PLANNING APPLICATION F/24/96895 – ONE HORTON HEATH**

These are comments on behalf of the Ramblers' Association.

The proposals clearly show the intention to alter the alignment of rights of way which will require legal orders under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to implement. The applicant should be reminded that it cannot be assumed that such proposals will not be contested and if the Secretary of State supports the position taken by objectors, they may not lead to those routes being diverted. The Order process should therefore be concluded to the stage that confirmed orders are in place before works commence.

The "Overall Green Infrastructure Proposals Plan" has in the Key the words "Proposed Rural Bridleway suitable for cyclists". A bridleway has to be open to equestrians. A footpath with dedicated rights for cyclists only has to be open to pedestrians and cyclists. A bridleway that is constructed to 3 metres in width has to have passing places at every 100 metres if in a straight line and more often if there is not forward visibility. It needs to be within an overall width of 5 metres. This is because two horses that are not compatible with each other cannot pass in a width of 3 metres and it is not safe for pedestrians and cyclists to pass that close to a horse. If your Council makes an Order to change the footpath network to a bridleway network then this issue will arise. We refer you to the attached guidance from the British Horse Society and the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum.

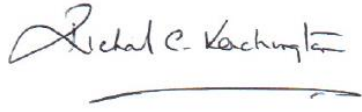
The design proposed would only be suitable for a footpath with rights for cyclists and there are bends and lack of visibility in places that would create dangerous conflict between speeding cyclists and pedestrians. There needs to be a thorough review of these proposals with this in mind. For instance, on the northern boundary there is a "U" bend that would only be acceptable if there was no ground cover obscuring forward visibility. There are other locations where forward visibility splays should be provided such as in the north east corner.

If they are to be bridleways, we strongly suggest the designers look at Bridleway 724 Bishopstoke where it runs north from Sewall Drive which you will be familiar with as we corresponded over the design issues with that development which have led to a satisfactory solution.

There are sections where the proposed routes abut the red line and here special attention will need to be made to the design of the adjoining development both in terms of the appearance from the right of way, forward visibility but also in terms of the protection afforded to the premises of adjoining residents.

The way that an effort has been made to accommodate and adapt the existing footpath network to its new environment is to be applauded but they will be incredibly well used and a safety design assessment is needed if footpaths are to be opened to other users.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Richard C. Kenchington', with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons),  
Footpath Secretary, EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

To  
Dawn Errington  
EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Copy to  
The Clerk  
Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council.

#### ATTACHMENTS

The British Horse Society – Advice on width, area and height in England and Wales

Hampshire Countryside Access Forum – Equestrians in Hampshire