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West Sussex Local Access Forum



Our reference: 20260403_SA

PROW@westsussex.gov.uk

2nd April 2026

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re : Consultation - Highways Act 1980 – Section 118A
Application for the extinguishment of footpath 325 Barnham - Enquiry No. 3250471

I am responding to your letter dated 26 February 2026 concerning the above on behalf of West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF).

West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) is an independent advisory body, established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to give access advice to local authorities, statutory organisations and non-government organisations. In giving that advice, the Forum's main objective is to ensure the existing network of public rights of way (prows), as well as the wider access network, is protected and where possible enhanced. The Forum has a balanced membership of knowledgeable and experienced users (walkers, cyclists, horse riders and carriage drivers), landowners and other interests (including conservation, disabled access, landscape). For further information about the Forum please visit www.wslaf.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals. WSLAF remains opposed in principle to any path extinguishment, where a suitable alternative route has not been proposed. We therefore wish to place on record our opposition to the extinguishment of this particular Public Right of Way (PRoW) and its consequent removal from the definitive map.

However, we understand and acknowledge that Network Rail have had to take this action in order to maintain as safe an environment as possible for both railway staff and the general public, and that in this case their safety concerns over-ride the need to preserve the existing PRoW network. We regret the fact that it has not been possible to find an acceptable diversion route for this path in this case.

Since our objective is always to maintain and improve the connectivity of the PRoW network, we very much regret the negative impact that this extinguishment will have

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on the connectivity for PRow users in this location; this extinguishment will result in a reduction of opportunities for non-motorised users accessing the countryside.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and the Forum looks forward to being updated on the progress of the proposals.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the West Sussex Local Access Forum. [Click here and type organisation] is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this Local Access Forum in carrying out its functions.

Thank you for considering WSLAF's comments. Members look forward to being updated on progress on this matter and would welcome being consulted in the future on any similar matters that may impact on access.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Alexander, Forum Officer

Copy for information to:

All WS LAF members