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West Sussex Local Access Forum



Our reference: Chidham & Hambrook CHD-258

Nathan.Whittington@networkrail.co.uk

9 September 2026

Dear Nathan,

Re : Consultation - Highways Act 1980 – Section 118A
Application for the extinguishment of part of footpath CHD-258 in the parish of Chidham and Hambrook

I am responding to your email dated 29 July 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 this proposal. WSLAF remains opposed in principle to any path extinguishment, where a suitable alternative route has not been proposed.

We have considered the location and the information provided by the Risk Assessment. We note that the risk identified for users is that when a train is stopped on a platform at Nutbourne station, which is close to the crossing, it can obstruct the sighting of trains approaching from the opposite direction. Using the crossing behind stationary trains poses a safety risk to users.

The proposal is to extinguish part of Footpath CHD-258 and for footpath users to make use of existing public footways alongside Flatt Road, Broad Road and Kiln Drive to connect between the parts of the footpath severed by the extinguished section, crossing the railway line by a controlled gated road crossing on Broad Road. While it increases the distance to walk, we recognise that this alternative substantially reduces risk.

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The crossing is located in an urban setting and we consider that the diversion should not adversely affect users to a significant extent. The alternative walked route is lit and on surfaced footways, and the controlled crossing provides a low risk crossing for all users. There is no impact on the amenity of the route given the urban nature of the locations on both sides of the line.

Taking all the above into account the Forum has no objection to this proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and the Forum looks forward to being updated on the progress of the proposals and would welcome being consulted in the future on any similar matters that may impact on access.

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.

Yours sincerely

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Alexander'.

Steve Alexander, Forum Officer

Copy for information to:

All WS LAF members