

- Also under The Highways Act, "consideration should be given to public enjoyment of the path or way as a whole". The section of Footpath 25 in question forms a key part of a valuable and much used longer circular walk around the village. If this part of the route becomes inaccessible for any reason, it will have a severe, negative impact on the way as a whole meaning many people will end up not walking the footpath at all.

In response to the Diversion Order, I set up an online petition which so far has nearly 500 signatures and this is enclosed, along with some of the comments made by those signing. Most of those who have signed the petition live in Castle Hedingham and surrounding villages but family members and other regular visitors to the village from further afield have also felt compelled to sign. Whilst I understand that these are not 'official' objections, I hope they will evidence the strength of opposition amongst our community for the proposed diversion of this ancient footpath. The petition can be found here:



<https://www.change.org/p/keep-scotch-pastures-footpath-where-it-is/dashboard?source=location-user-profile-started>

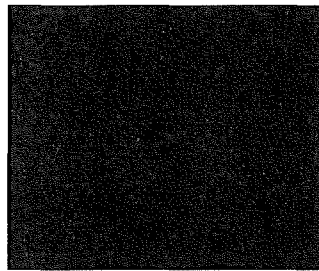
Please note that I have no intention of withdrawing this objection and would be very happy to present my case to the Secretary of State's representative or at a Public Inquiry should the landowner choose to continue with this most unwelcome course of action.

I look forward to your response and, if you are permitted to do so, I should be grateful if you would enclose with your reply a copy of the original application from the landowner so that I can try and better understand his motivations for this seemingly pointless exercise which is upsetting hundreds of people.

If you would like to discuss any of the comments in this letter, please do feel free to call me on the number below.

Yours sincerely


Samantha Stent




14th August 2022

Dear Mr Roscoe,

Objection to diversion of Castle Hedingham Footpath 25

I am writing to object to the diversion of this footpath for a number of reasons:-

1. No reason seems to have been given for the diversion of this footpath. It currently runs from where the gate was, until the current owner removed it, to the gate at the top of the field. Making it the obvious route, historically, for the residents of Rushley Green to walk down to the village and for the children going to school. The map fails to show that the field has been split in two in the last few years, and is now separately owned. The lower field is now only used to take an annual crop of hay from, no livestock are now kept in that field and some of the fences have been removed, so moving the footpath would have no effect on this. The top field is used in spring to keep sheep and lambs in, in this case the diverted footpath would be almost twice the length in this field causing more distress to the sheep as the walkers and their dogs would be going round one and a half sides of the field. This is part of the Magna Carta Walk between Hedingham Castle and Clare Castle. It seems fitting that it should follow a old footpath through an ancient pasture field which was part of Hedingham Castle's

land. Most people in the village know the name of this particular field, Scotch Pasture, when the names of most fields have been long forgotten it makes this field special and a much loved part of the village.

2. As the view from our house looks directly down this field I am well aware of how popular this footpath is. It is lovely to see people of all ages, with or without dogs, thoroughly enjoying the existing footpath, quite often people stop to enjoy the view from the brow of the hill, I even know of a couple getting engaged at that spot.

The diverted footpath is considerably steeper than the original path at the top corner making it very difficult for a lot of people to walk up and impossible for anyone with a buggy or mobility scooter. The soil here is heavy clay and in winter does become extremely slippery where there is heavy use, which there would be, and could be hazardous . When there is a heavy frost the frost does often not lift all day along the side of the field as it gets no sun all day adding to the hazard of mud. The top corner is not visible from any house so if someone were to have an accident they could be there for some time before anyone might find. The enjoyment of walking this path would be considerably diminished as the view for the most part would be lost and for a large part of the year there is no sunlight on the side of the field.

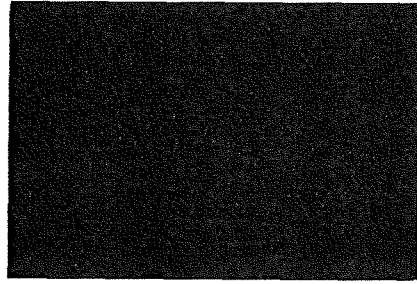
3. The current path is not within view for the most part, of either of the fields owner's houses and is a considerable distance away from both of those. But the redirected path will cross directly in front of our house reducing the privacy we currently enjoy.

In general I can see no benefit to the redirection of this footpath. We are merely custodians of where we live, this

footpath has been used and enjoyed for hundreds of years and I hope will continue to be, certainly at least by the nearly 400 people who have signed the petition to keep it where it is so far!

Yours sincerely,
Sophia Parker

Response to August



9th August 2022

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

Dear Mr Roscoe,

**Public footpath Diversion Order 2022
Scotch Pastures, Footpath 25 Castle Hedingham**

I refer to the above and wish to oppose the diversion of the footpath as described in the order. I would like to lay out here my reasons for opposition.

1. The existing route is an ancient path which has provided a through-route to the village for centuries, features as part of the historic Magna Carta Way. I would like to understand the necessity for changing the existing path which at present, descends gently to Hoe Lane at the bottom of the footpath.
2. The proposed diversion takes a line down a very steep grassy slope towards the valley of the adjoining wood which would not be passable for many people, especially in the colder and wetter months and would present a hazard to all abilities.
3. The proposed path would follow the edge of the field along the ditch between the field and the rise into the castle woods. This is rough, uneven ground which becomes boggy in winter and, unless constantly maintained will pose a hazard to walkers
4. The proximity of the woods also presents a hazard from fallen trees. In recent years there have been instances where large trees have fallen from the castle woods into Scotch Pastures across the line of the proposed redirection. There is a risk to walkers from falling trees which could not happen on the existing path. When trees do fall (and this is an inevitability) the path would become blocked until removal of the obstruction.

In reference to points 2, 3 and 4 points above, the proposed redirection would not be consistent with The Highways Act 1980 section 119(6) which states "The path will not be substantially less convenient to the public in consequence of the diversion.

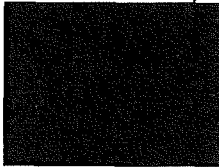
5. This is a very beautiful path with pastoral scenes, and the current route afford the public the ability to appreciate the countryside which has been sympathetically maintained as a grassy meadow. The proposed fenced in route would negate this possibility. Please refer again to The Highways Act 1980 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 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."

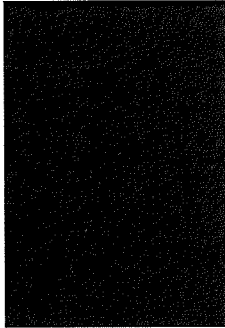
7. Reason for the change: This is an ancient pathway which has served, as a beautiful meadow on which to graze and make hay. It is a wonderful village resource and a pleasant public footpath. It would be a huge shame for it to change and I have concerns as to the reason why this footpath needs to be diverted.
8. Finally, Since I was born in the village 21 years ago, I have walked the footpath with my friends and family taking care to follow the country code. 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,



Sophie Harpur



Dear Mr Roscoe

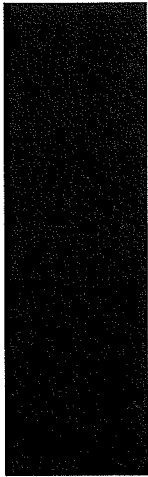
Footpath 25, Castle Hedingham

I wish to object to the proposed diversion of the above footpath on the following grounds:

- 1) The present footpath is part of the Magna Carta trail and has been such for many years.
- 2) The view from the present footpath over the village footpath is of sweeping views of the countryside, which would be hidden from the proposed footpath due to the wooded overhanging area alongside the proposed footpath.
- 3) The proposed footpath would necessitate folk negotiating a steep incline towards Rosemary Lane, which would be difficult for some.
- 4) As the proposed footpath is adjacent to woodland, the safety of for instance unaccompanied females may well be compromised.
- 5) Running next to the wooded area, the footpath may become overgrown and subsequently impassable, as footpaths in the village do not seem to be regularly cleared.
- 6) The footpath across Scotch pasture is well used by Castle Hedingham residents and others.

Yours sincerely

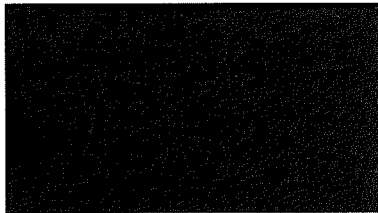
S.E. Cruse



Don't get me wrong - sorry
 I'd not make things clear to you
 in my first to about the Footpath
 25 course was signed. I have at least
 been written from 1983 with my
 along and have walk the footpath
 my son and dogs all these years
 It's a most wonderful Old Footpath
 to walk - when I walk that way
 it makes me think of the old
 villages of so long ago walking
 that way as do now. That is
 quite some think to in this day
 why does he have to be more
 often being than for lots of
 year.



I'm sorry but my writing
 but I have a Brain injury in 1994
 and still walk the path every
 day I ~~feel~~ happy in a very
~~see~~
 Don't quit your daydream wonderful
 place



24.06.2022

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

Reference: Objection to Diversion to Footpath 25, Castle Hedingham

Dear Mr Roscoe

I wish to register my objection to the proposed footpath diversion on the grounds of safety and accessibility.

I am a long term resident of the village, having lived here since June 1983, and regularly walk both my dogs around many of the local footpaths, including the one cited. The current route takes the path through the most direct route up the field, and the angle of incline is reasonably consistent through its the entire length. However the natural landscape of the field drops away to the extreme right hand side, where the new proposed route will go, about half way up, which means the angle of incline increases dramatically, probably doubling in degree of incline.

I believe this will have two detrimental effects. Firstly the much steeper incline will reduce the accessibility to anyone who is any way physically impaired. The current slope is manageable to most people, but even I, as a reasonably fit 60 year old, find the slope of the proposed route quite challenging when I have tried it in the last few weeks. This will I think result in people being less able to use the route.

Secondly I think the steeper angle of incline will make it unsafe in wet or icy conditions. The current route can already be a little slippery when conditions dictate, but doubling the angle of incline will make it all but impassable in adverse conditions, and could lead to falls and injuries to people trying to exercise their right to use the path, which could lead to litigation against either the council or the landowner.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the contact numbers/ addresses listed above

Yours Sincerely



Terence Jackson



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

22nd August 2022

Dear Mr Roscoe

My objection to diversion of Castle Hedingham Footpath 25

I completely fail to understand why the new owners of Rushley Green Farm wish to move this historic path! It is not for the most part visible from their house.

I walk this footpath regularly with our three dogs. They are wary and very nervous of other walkers and joggers. Where the current foot path is situated allows sufficient space to pass such people without the dogs reacting.

This is one of the nicest paths in the village and is extremely popular with other walkers and joggers! It is even mentioned in various walking books one of which is written by a local author.

The path has been in the same position for hundreds of years. It is part of the Magna Carta walk between Clare Castle and Hedingham Castle.

The path covers two fields which are separately owned. The lower field is used for an annual hay crop. The upper field is used for sheep grazing, especially when the sheep have their new lambs in the Spring.

The current distance from the top of the field to the boundary fence is ninety paces. Were the new path to be in place the length would be increased by a further sixty paces over a much steeper gradient, making walking difficult for the elderly and those not very fit. It would be impossible with a pram or mobility scooter.

Since we have lived here, we have witnessed two accidents in the fields. Both accidents required ambulances with the crews having great difficulty getting the casualty's to their ambulances. The diverted path would make this even more difficult


As the soil is heavy clay, in the summer it cracks but in the winter becomes wet, water laden and very slippery.

Were it to be moved however, it will be not nearly as nice as one side is wooded with neglected trees with loose branches which could potentially fall and cause serious injury or death.

Cont/...

From each end currently it is easy to see if anyone is using the path from the top or bottom of the field, the top of the field, one can see all the way down to the bottom or up to the top.

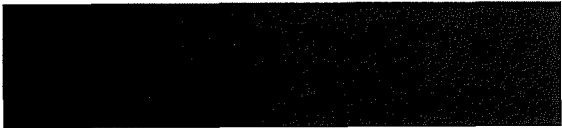
On the **Castle Hedingham Village Design Statement**, there is a photo of the existing footpath and it says that this area is of special landscape value.

Yours Sincerely 



William EH Parker

MRS E WALLER



22nd August, 2022

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

Dear Sir

RE: Public Footpath known as Scotch Pastures – Off Rosemary Lane, opposite Yeomans in Castle Heddingham.

I write to OBJECT to the diversion requested to this Historic footpath that has been in place for hundreds of years and has served the village and surrounding area well without any problems or concerns.

This footpath is used by many people of the village, dog walkers, joggers, people out taking a stroll and also visitors to our beautiful village who like to meander around this footpath, taking in the majestic presence of the castle beyond.

I, like many, use this footpath to walk with my dogs and I meet many folk with dogs to chat with and the dogs like to socialise off lead, have a sniff around and generally enjoy their freedom. This footpath is well situated for the elderly of the village as it's not too far for them to arrive in a lovely green pleasant outdoor space. Many of the elderly use this footpath daily and it's their time to not only exercise themselves and their dogs but to linger and chat, the highlight of their day. We dog walkers, mostly stick to the path and respect that it is someone's property but we may deviate from the path slightly if it becomes very wet and slippery (as happens in the winter) or if we see someone coming in the opposite direction with unsociable dogs (we have a few in the village but they are

known to us all and we respect this; this enables us to give these dogs a wide berth and everyone keeps happy. If the diversion takes place and we are shunted over to the edge of the field in an area fenced off, how can we enjoy our dog walks when we will have to be continually aware of who may be coming in the opposite direction with unsociable dogs that have to be kept on a lead and we have to get our dogs and ourselves past when space is restricted by a fence.

Not only will the proposed new path be dangerous to dogs and humans alike but in the winter it will become very slippery (especially at the Yeomans end where there is a hill) and muddy as sunlight is more limited because it will be under the lovely huge trees surrounding the Castle. And who will be keeping all those trees cut back so they do not overhang the footpath?

This footpath is not near the owner's house or garden and does not encroach on their private homeland and hay has been grown in there for many years, quite successfully, with the footpath directly through the middle.

Why do people move into an historic village, with an historic church and an historic castle and this lovely historic footpath, enjoyed by all, only to want to change it to suit themselves, I'm sure it wasn't a surprise to find that the field they had purchased had a footpath through the middle. They may well own the field but the public footpath has been there for hundreds of years and should remain where it is.

It is called an historic footpath because it is part of the history of our village. You cannot change history.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Zoe Waller.

Zoe Waller