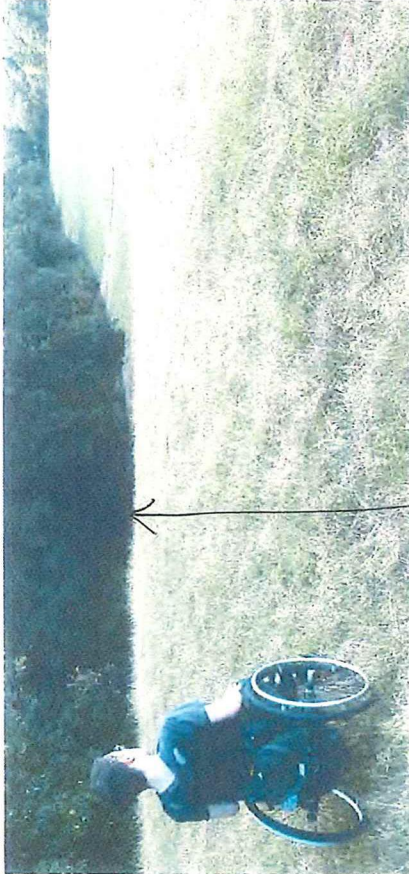




direct route  
- current foot path



much steeper slope  
under trees, not  
accessible.

19.8.22.

Mr Alan Rescoe  
Essex CC  
CMI - 1671

23 August 2022

Dear Sir

I am writing to you regarding the proposed change to the Scotch Pastures footpath in Castle Hedingham, on the grounds of loss of enjoyment and safety.

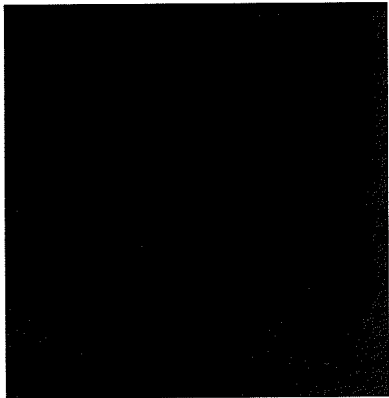
I do hope you understand that there is more at stake in country footpaths than merely getting from A to B. This right of way means a great deal to the people of this village. This is by far the best footpath in Castle Hedingham and has been enjoyed by generations. The proposed change will rob everyone's enjoyment of this ancient right of way.

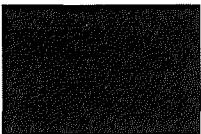
It currently goes straight across an open sunny hillside with an outstanding view at the top. The proposal is to confine walkers to the shady perimeter, beside trees, next to some sort of drainage system. The new path will be shady and damp, creating complications with slippery mud.

It is a great disappointment to think of losing the feeling of striding up or down this lovely pasture, with the sense of the wind and the open space. To be hemmed in the perimeter destroys this feeling of joy in the open air.

It is shameful that the new owners can even propose this. Surely landowners have some sense of stewardship over the land they own. I urge you to block this change on behalf of the vast majority who love the countryside but don't earn the millions needed to buy it.

Yours faithfully





Alan Pascoe,  
Definitive Map Service  
Essex County Council  
Sean House  
2nd Floor  
Victoria Road South  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 1QH

Dear Mr Pascoe

I write as a local resident of Castle Hedingham with regards to the proposed moving of footpath 25 known locally as Scotch Pasture to which I strongly object to.

I have lived in Castle Hedingham for 6 years and during my time here I have had the pleasure of walking this path most days with my two dogs Winnie and Cooper. This path is a well used route and the direction of travel can clearly be seen. The path takes you through the centre of the pasture and although up hill, it is a far easier gradient to that being proposed.

The proposed new route would take the path along the wooded edge which would require a lot of maintenance in order to keep the path open to walkers. Also the gradient at the top edge of the pasture, of the new proposed footpath, would be very difficult to manage for a vast number of residents often seen walking this path. Further more when walking the path early morning you often see rabbits and other wild life disappearing for cover along this edge of the pasture, right where the proposed new footpath will be.

At the bottom end of the path during very wet days it becomes very waterlogged and muddy the current path just about avoids the worst of the mud and as such remains passable however, the proposed new route will take you through the worst of these conditions rendering it impassable.

Finally this path, though the centre of Scotch Pasture, is part of the Magna carter walk between Hedingham Castle and Clare Castle which dates back hundreds of years. We cannot allow this very important part of our history to be altered.

Yours Sincerely



Nigel Pavely

Dr Paul Zollinger-Read C.B.E.

Monday, 15 August 2022

Ref to : NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980  
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2022  
FOOTPATH 25 CASTLE HEDINGHAM

Dear Mr Roscoe,

I wish to object to the above public footpath diversion. This path was been present for many many years. We have lived in the village for 25 years and regularly use the path. As I'm sure you are aware it is part of the Magna Carta route, an ancient footpath.

It may seem a minor alteration however if you permit this change then where will it stop? Which part of the path is next?

It's rather ironic that the Magna Carta was all about trying to limit those with power doing as they chose.

Essex has a wonderful heritage and we need to do all we can to preserve it. That requires much more than policies and "warm" debates about culture. It requires organisations such as ECC to act in the best interests of Essex's proud heritage and to be unswerving in its support.

However sadly from what I've read your lawyers aren't interested in any of the above; our heritage, our past our children's future. So maybe I need to explain myself according to section 119 of the highways Act 1980.

The Act permits the diverting a right of way where it can be shown that it's ;-

*expedient (necessary) in the interest of the relevant landowner and/or the public to do so (section 119), but only where:*

- (i) the diverted route would not be substantially less convenient to the public;*
- and*
- (ii) the diversion would not alter the termination (end point) of the path,*

*except where it would link to another point on the same highway, or a highway connected to it.*

*The effect the diversion would have on public enjoyment of the path as a whole must also be taken into account before the order is confirmed.*

### Objections under 1980 Highway Act s 119

1) Firstly there is a test for ECG to prove that it is expedient to do so with regards to the landowner and or the public. I'm not aware that such a case has been proven and it certainly has not satisfied the and/or test to the public.

2) The proposed route is substantially steeper than the existing path. The new route follows the side of the hill that our children used to use for sledging.

We have many elderly residents in the village who enjoy walking their dogs. They can manage the current path which is gradual, but will not manage the far steeper proposed path. I would recommend that you come out any day of the week and this will quickly become apparent.

Thus the proposed diversion fails on point ii above.

3) My final objection is that the proposed path border the small wood between the field and the Castle. There are many over hanging trees and it is not uncommon for branches to come down in that part of the field; thus making it difficult to walk.

We have a young dog who walks quite happily up the middle of the field; however as you approach the woods dogs pick up many scents and are much more difficult to control. This is clearly a subjective test however there is no doubt that moving the path would make the walk more challenging and less enjoyable.

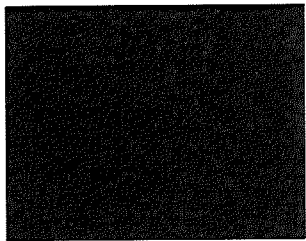
I trust my objections are clear; however my final point is that this whole process fills me with a deep sadness. The residents of Castle Hedingham love their village and want to preserve it for future generations. The debate shouldn't be about the 1980 Act, it shouldn't be about taking away from the environment it should be about enhancing it, celebrating what we have.

Expedient ; after eight hundred years.

Thanks for your

Yours,

Dr Paul Zollinger-Read



...the path is a very narrow and steep path  
to the village. Along the length of the path  
there are many small trees and bushes, and  
many small trees and bushes, and many small  
trees and bushes (some) along this path, and  
the feeling of exhilaration and freedom in the fresh air  
was immeasurable. When you get to the top and look  
down at the whole village below, there is a sense of  
peace and you remember the many generations of people  
have done this for hundreds of years.

This path has been a Right of Way for  
over 900 years. It forms part of the Mogam Gorge Way.  
Moreover it is a beloved and cherished place in the  
heart of all who live in our village and many visitors  
also.

The site of the new path to the right hand side of  
the pasture is steep and more steep. It would be  
difficult and in many cases impossible for anyone  
with mobility issues, for example walking frame, stick,  
wheelchair and push chairs. There is also the fact that  
the new path would be close to overhanging trees and grommets  
so in wet winter weather could become virtually impossible.

I have no dog, but many of the users of the path are  
dog owners and in the path was limited of the width.

make it difficult for people passing each other in a narrow central area.

Over the years when the pasture was used by the former owners for pasturing sheep and lambs, there was an agreement for villages to keep their dogs under strict control, or not to use the area for a time. And I think this was changed by the dog owners in most cases.

In winter if it snowed the pastures have been a fantastic venue for sledding and skiing for the whole village. Even the poorest children would fashion a sledge out of a big plastic washin bag - the kind of outdated experiences of fun and freedom in nature that in these days of tablets and smart phones, computers and regulated entertainment, <sup>is being</sup> forgotten.

What price can you put on the value of the countryside to the people who live within it?

I meant to write a brief letter of objection to the new route of the footpath, but I feel so strongly about this matter that I fear another has made me write more than I intended. I hope this will not distract from the practical point involved.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Patricia Moulden  
P.S. I have also signed the on-line petition.

Re. Kiblic path diversion order 2022.  
Footpath No 25, Castle Hedington.

22nd August 2022.

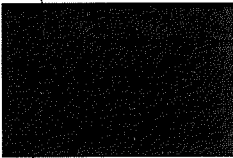
Dear Mr. Roscoe,

I write to strongly oppose the above diversion. The proposed route is longer, wetter, and steeper than than the existing path. I have been a footpath warden for 30 years and I have never known such opposition to a proposed diversion. It is rather insulting that the new owners of this land have not had the decency to tell us why they want the path diverted.

This path is on this route because people in the past walked there avoiding the wet land and the very steep slope.

My family have lived in this area for over 300 years and I don't know anyone who supports this diversion. Please do not allow this diversion

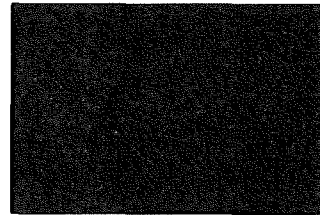
Thank you.



PETER COOK.



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



4<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Re Diversion of Footpath 25 (Pye Corner to Rosemary Lane) Castle Hedingham

Dear Sir,

I write to object to the Made Order by Essex County Council to divert Footpath 25 under Highways Act 1980 Section 119.

The objection is that, in accordance to Sub-Section 6 (a), the path will be substantially less convenient to the public as a consequence of the diversion to the path as there is a significantly steeper slope on the diversion than the current path. The current path is quite steep towards the Rosemary Lane end while the slope of the proposed diversion is twice as steep. I would note that there is a wire fence across the width of Scotch Pasture towards the Rosemary Lane end which divides the field in two and cuts across the line of the proposed diversion

This footpath is frequently used by local residents and features on Essex walking maps both printed and on-line.

I now live in Sudbury, although I was a resident of Castle Hedingham for 27 years, and frequently return to walk my dog around the footpaths the area. This is another instance of changing the routes of footpaths without due regard to the feelings and wishes of the residents. A few years ago, the footpath in Churchfields was blocked off when a landowner decided to fence the field. The footpath was rerouted but there was no order made under the Highways Act to ratify the diversion and I was told that the change to the route was 'de minimis'.

Yours sincerely,

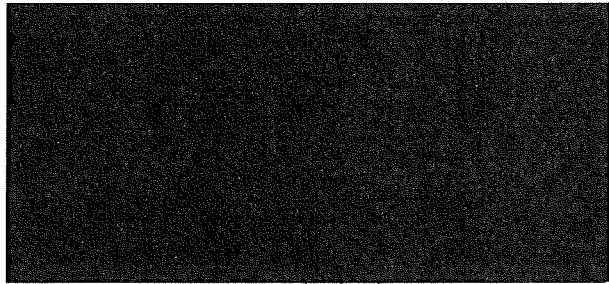


R C Wood

6/14/22

Dear Mr. [redacted]

Mr. [redacted]



6/14/22

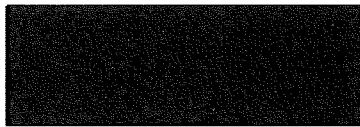
Dear Sir,

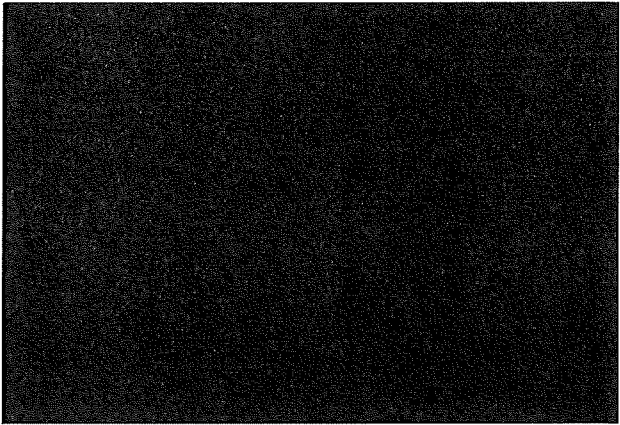
I am writing to object to the proposed  
moving of [redacted] to [redacted].

I have used this path for over 20 years  
and can see no valid reason for moving it.

As a person with heart problems I would  
find it difficult to walk the new path.

Yours Sincerely



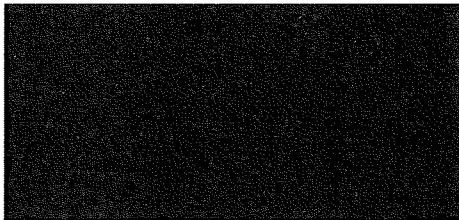


11. 8. 2012.

Dear Mr ROSE

I direct to the  
Footpath 25 castle Hedington  
Rosemary land by the property known  
as JEOMAS. To be more.

Yours



21st August 2022

Re. Public Path Diversion Order 2022.  
Footpath No. 75.  
Castle Healdingham  
Essex.

Dear Mr Hescoe,

I am writing to you to oppose the above order. I have walked this path for over 40 years, it is the most scenic footpath in the village. The proposed route would make it impractical for older / disabled people to use the path, because it is much steeper and often very wet and muddy in the corner of the field.

I hope you will agree to keep the present route.

Many Thanks.

S.E. Down.

Alan Roscoe  
Definitive Map Service  
Essex County Council  
Seax House - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Victoria Road South  
Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 1QH

21 August 2022

Dear Mr Roscoe

#### OBJECTION TO THE APPLICATION TO DIVERT FOOTPATH 25, CASTLE HEDINGHAM

This footpath is part of the historic Magna Carta Way, an important part of our heritage and I can see no good reason why it needs to be moved. If the new owners want to use the field to graze livestock then they don't need to move the footpath to do this – other local farmers who own the land nearest to the field in question all have footpaths running through their fields which are home at various times to cows and sheep. As the field in question is ancient pasture, and, I do not believe it is permitted to be used for any other reason.

A couple of years ago, there was an incident at the bottom of the existing footpath when my very large and clumsy labradoodle ran over to someone we knew to collect a dog biscuit and accidentally knocked that person over. Unfortunately, the elderly gentleman concerned fell awkwardly and broke his leg. I witnessed first-hand the difficulties faced by the ambulance crew on that occasion when they had to employ the services of several local farmers to help them carry the trolley across the grass.

I can say with absolute certainty that if an accident occurs when the footpath is moved to the new, proposed location (and fenced in), it will be almost impossible for emergency services to reach an injured person. This is because the proposed location for the new footpath is steeper and muddier than the current location. This will also make it much more difficult for the elderly, disabled or anyone with a pushchair to use it.

In addition, the proposed location of the new footpath is next to overgrown woodland with overhanging branches. 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. Also,

fencing in the footpath so that footfall is concentrated across a narrow area will mean that the footpath will become a 'mudpath' very quickly, not least because it runs along an old ditch line. By contrast, the current location is across open grassland, requires no maintenance and is always accessible.

The elderly gentleman who broke his leg is just one of many villagers who are strongly opposed to moving the footpath. In a recent conversation he mentioned that this was an ancient route used to transport coffins. I understand that local historians also have evidence of ancient 'barrows' or burial mounds in Scotch Pastures.

Relocating the footpath will also disturb a great deal of wildlife that lives on the edge of the wood and in the undergrowth at the side of the field including woodpeckers, lizards and foxes.

My objections can therefore be summarised as follows:

- the footpath is part of the historic Magna Carta Way, a stone's throw from Hedingham Castle (one of the most important Norman buildings in England), in the village of Castle Hedingham which is a Special Landscape Area – see <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/1703/castle-hedingham-village-design-statement> . It therefore needs to be retained in its present location to preserve our heritage and to adhere to our Village Design Strategy.
- 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). This also contradicts 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". [https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/green-essex-strategy/supporting\\_documents/Green\\_Essex\\_Strategy\\_30042019%201.pdf](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/green-essex-strategy/supporting_documents/Green_Essex_Strategy_30042019%201.pdf)
- relocating the footpath will make access for emergency services almost impossible;
- relocating the footpath will disturb local wildlife;
- the view of the surrounding landscape from the proposed, new location is substantially inferior being much darker and obstructed by trees (see enclosed photos).
- the proposed location for the new footpath run along an old ditch line and abuts overgrown woodland with overhanging branches and tangled undergrowth. Relocating the footpath will mean that it is very likely to become blocked, slippery and dangerous 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."