

18-May-2024

Sir Mark Worthington, HS2 Construction Commissioner

C.C. Rob Butler MP, Cllr Peter Martin

CLOSURE OF THE SMALLDEAN BRIDLEWAY

Dear Sir Mark,

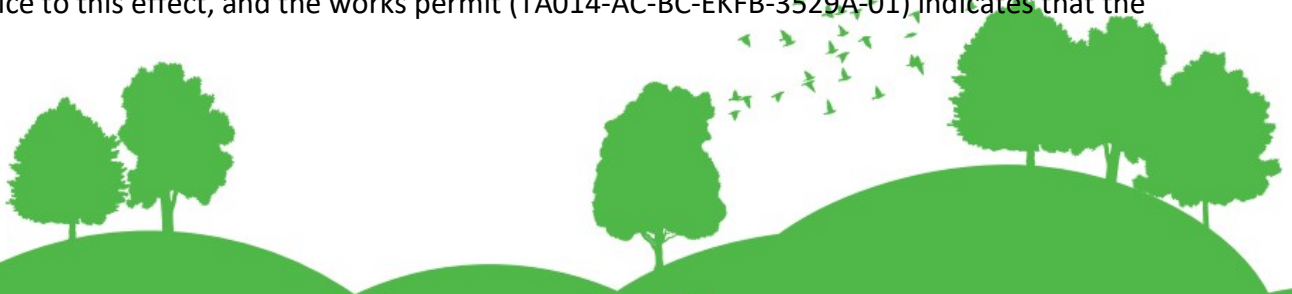
We have now received a reply from Simon Matthews, Stakeholder Director for EKFB, regarding our letter of 5th May regarding the above closure for 16 months. We received no acknowledgement of the receipt of this complaint, which was copied to your office, and it appears that you were not copied into Simon's reply to us, so both are attached to the covering Email.

The reply from EKFB simply restates that the bridleway diversion is to be closed (now on 22nd May), and that no other workable option is available. None of our other points have been addressed. This leaves the A413 as the only route available to cyclists and pedestrians approaching Wendover from Gt Missenden – but HS2 works have removed the verges rendering the route unsafe –



Concrete blocks protect the HERAS fencing, a white line protects what is possibly intended to be a footpath ? (See <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBqUGL> for more photographs)

HS2 security are informing pedestrians that the footway is closed, although there has been no notice to this effect, and the works permit (TA014-AC-BC-EKFB-3529A-01) indicates that the



footway is *not* closed – despite the absence of any provision for pedestrians. The A413 is an extremely busy route for motor vehicles.

Since our original complaint we have ascertained that the Chiltern Conservation Board who manage the Chiltern Cycleway (a 170 mile route through the Chilterns) had not been informed of the closure. The Cycleway was one of the routes kept open when a lot of the PROW's crossing the Misbourne Valley were closed. The cycleway was routed along Smalldean Lane, and the closure leaves the A413 as the only alternative route.

We ask that you consider the following points –

- Is the A413 open to pedestrians between Rocky Lane and the Wendover Bypass ? If not, then what legal steps were taken to close it? If it is open, are EKFB allowed to remove the footpath and so render it unsafe?
- Is it reasonable to give 2 weeks' notice of a 16-month closure, and to neglect to inform interested parties (such as the Conservation Board)?
- Should the closure be postponed until the A413 is made safe for cyclists and pedestrians, or until alternative routes can be implemented and signposted?
- There are few PROW's open across the Misbourne Valley. Is it reasonable that any of these are closed because of a failure to develop an alternative route?

We would ask that you instruct HS2 and its contractor EKFB to agree and deliver an alternative route prior to closing the Smalldean Bridleway.

Yours sincerely

John Gladwin

Trustee

Chiltern Society

