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Simon Kearey
Chairman
Chiltern Society
White Hill Centre
White Hill
Chesham
Buckinghamshire HP5 1AG

by email: HS2@chilternsociety.org.uk

17 May 2024

Dear Simon,

Smalldean Bridleway Closure

Thank you for your letter dated 05 May 2024 regarding the proposed closure of Small Dean bridleway. We recognise that closures of this nature do impact communities and we seek to minimise the impact as much as possible. This topic was discussed in the recent meeting with representatives of the Chiltern Society and Chiltern Conservation Board on 09 May and we summarise the situation below:

- The bridleway diversion that is currently used was established by EKFB in September 2022. Assurance 979 requires that we use reasonable endeavours to provide access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and by providing the realigned bridleway we have been able to meet this requirement to date.
- We are now approaching the stage of construction where we need to carry out a range of significant construction activities in this area that involved deep excavations forming earthworks embankments, construction of the Grove Farm underpass and other drainage works. Excavations vary in depth from between 8 and 12 metres and will use large construction equipment. Unfortunately, whilst we carry out these works, we are unable to maintain access for members of the public.
- We anticipate that this closure is necessary to be maintained until September 2025.
- We have carried out detailed reviews with Buckinghamshire Council Officers – who are the ‘beneficiary’ of Assurance 979 – and explained the work we need to carry out and explore possible options for maintaining access. The outcome of these reviews has demonstrated that we are unable to maintain a

safe means of access during this next phase of works. We are in discussions with the Council about the integration of the permanent works construction with the Misbourne Greenway scheme.

- Similar reviews and discussions have taken place over the past two weeks with representatives of Wendover Parish Council and Wendover HS2 Action Group. The outcome of these reviews is the same, every possible option proposed has been explored and unfortunately found to be unworkable.

Our advanced works notice informing of the closure was issued on 29 April providing notice of two weeks. We have delayed closing the bridleway for a week to enable further dialogue though as outlined above we have been unable to establish a viable route. We therefore expect the closure to take place on Wednesday 22 May.

Yours sincerely
for and on behalf of the Eiffage Kier Ferrovial BAM JV

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Matthews'.

Simon Matthews

Interface and Stakeholder Director

cc Cllr Peter Martin Buckinghamshire Council
Laura Leech Buckinghamshire Council
Richard Nuttall HS2 Ltd