

Headley Farms

Estate Office

Headley Wood Farm

Headley, Bordon

Hampshire

GU25 8YU

Phone 07831 884207

porter@nelsonmills.co.uk

Colin Piper Esq.,
Rights of way map review officer,
Hampshire County Council
Recreation and Heritage Department
Mottisford Court
High Street
Winchester

18th January 2005

Dear Mr Piper

Reference : CEP / CR665 Application to record public bridleways on Broxhead Common, Headley – Section 53 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

Firstly a correction for your records , Peter Musselwhite is the Manager of my poultry farm who will be writing to you independently as an employee of myself and as a resident of Broxhead , my estate manager and agent is Simon Porter who's contact details appear above.

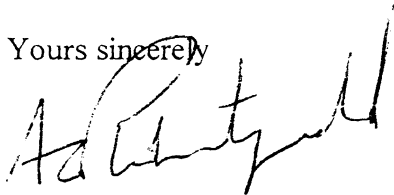
Broxhead Common is part of the coarse sandy soils of the Folkestone Beds and is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest notified under section 28 of the above captioned act, as documented by English Nature , it comprises a mosaic of heathland and acid grassland and the diversity of habitats supports a rich invertebrate fauna including 25 nationally rare and scarce species, a rich flora and three species of birds listed in Annex 1 of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds namely Nightjar , Woodlark and the Dartford Warbler. The nationally rare Sand Lizard is present on Broxhead a species declining throughout its former range in Britain, largely due to the destruction of its heathland habitat. **Broxhead is vitally important to wildlife and contains habitats and features that cannot be recreated, it is in unfavorable condition and declining,** so it is therefore important to ensure that this sight is not lost and that it continues to be managed for its wildlife interest, thus forming a vital component of the biodiversity of Hampshire. **For this very reason the common has been leased to Hampshire County Council (H.C.C.)**who have already made inroads towards the conservation and restoration of this heathland by controlling encroaching scrub and checking bracken growth.

Whilst I recognize that H.C.C. have a duty to the general public to provide and maintain public access to vast areas of Hampshire, I feel that this particular area already has a comprehensive network of both bridleways and footpaths sufficient to meet the needs of any wayfarer be it mounted or otherwise. I am of course not averse to grant permission to naturalists access to the area to undertake habitat and species surveys provided their data is used to aid decision making processes for the benefit of wildlife but I strongly object to the notion that this narrow corridor of Hampshire be subjected to any further heavy equine traffic just to satisfy the whims of a handful of local jockeys. Indeed English Nature objected to proposals for new bridleways back in 1999, I feel confident that their views will not have changed on the basis that this proposal is in direct conflict with the management principles for conservation of this SSSI.

One further point, it has become evident that local motorcycle enthusiasts are using both bridleways and footpaths for recreational use causing distress both to local inhabitants and my sheep, if further paths were made available for public use you would effectively be creating a "scrambling circuit" thus destroying Broxhead Common uniqueness as a SSSI.

Trusting that this matter will receive very little more of your valuable time,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.G.P. Whitfield', written in a cursive style.

A.G.P. Whitfield