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Madam

Bridleways on Broxhead Common, Parish of Headley

On 15 October 2005, the Regulatory Committee considered a claim from the Three Counties Bridleways Group to have several routes on Broxhead Common recorded as bridleways (item 13). The rights-of-way officer, Colin Piper, recommended that the claim be refused, mainly on the grounds that horse riders had used a variety of different tracks across the Common, and it was not possible to identify a single route, as required to achieve a presumed dedication. The Committee acted in accordance with his recommendation, but asked that HCC, which now manages the Common, should look for ways to provide greater access for horse riders.

At the following meeting of the Regulatory Committee on 15 November 2005, under matters arising from minute 48 it was recorded that:- "members noted that the Director of Recreation and Heritage had been asked to prepare a response on how Broxhead Common could be managed for the benefit of horse riders, and this would be included in a report to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage" I have not subsequently seen any reference to this report having been completed; nor have I been consulted on it, which is the normal procedure.

Riders who have continued to use the paths as they have always done have recently reported that posts have been placed on them, apparently to discourage riders. As no agreement has yet been reached on the use of these tracks, this action can only cause conflict, and would appear to be contrary to the wishes of the Regulatory Committee to improve access for the benefit of riders. I would ask you to bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Regulatory Committee, in the expectation that they use their influence to ensure the report is completed without further delay, and a management plan is agreed which satisfies the need for safe off-road riding, without compromising other management objectives,

Yours faithfully

Brenda King (County Access & Bridleways Officer)