



Hampshire County Council

E7/pf/1929

28 November 2006

Mrs M Comber
The British Horse Society
The Old Cottage
Frith End
BORDON
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Councillor Ken Thornber CBE
Leader of the Council

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Dear Maureen

Broxhead Common

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry it has taken some time to ascertain the point which has been reached with the various issues you mention.

The Report to Regulatory Committee on 19 October 2005 regarding the application to record bridleways on Broxhead Common in the Parish of Headley is extremely detailed, and I believe covers your questions about the lease and the history of the usage of the site. I trust you have a copy as I understand you were present at the meeting.

You will also note from the application details that the subject of installing a permissive bridleway is no simple matter, and in particular would require the assent of Natural England. Before we begin tackling these constraints, we must also take into account that the National Rights of Way Casework Team is only now concluding its representation stage and has some months to go before reaching a decision on a statutory route. A permissive route is unlikely to find favour whilst there is a possibility that a statutory route may be granted.

"No Horse Riding" symbols have been placed on the common to replace some that were dilapidated. The purpose of these signs is to make it clear where horses may legally be ridden, which is currently bridleways 4, 5, and 46. This may well include the claimed bridleway route, but until the claim is resolved, it remains the case that these "paths" (as you describe them in your question c) are not bridleways.

Finally, I am pleased to tell you that bridleway 46 was cleared on 2 and 3 October by our Rights of Way maintenance staff, following a general visit to the Selborne and Headley areas on 21 September by Phil Allen and Andrew Jones when the problem was noted. I hope this clearance was to your satisfaction, and our staff will endeavour to keep this vegetation under control. I will ask Mr Allen to look into restoring the surface now that the vegetation has been cleared.

Yours sincerely

Ken Thornber
Leader

Cc: Andrew Smith, Assistant Head of Countryside