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12 September 2007

Councillor Ken Thornber CBE

Leader of Hampshire County Council

The Castle, Winchester

Hampshire SO23 8UJ

Telephone 01962 847750

Fax 01962 845969

E-mail ken.thornber@hants.gov.uk

www.hants.gov.uk

Mrs M Comber
m.comber@btinternet.com
By Email

Dear Mrs Comber

Thank you again for your email dated 9 August 2007. I am sorry that my reply to you has been delayed.

The paragraphs to which you refer in the Inspector's report do imply that, in his opinion, the lease could allow for horse riding on the common. The report does not say that routes for riders must be provided under the terms of the lease. The common is managed primarily for wildlife and nature conservation. However the County Council does wish for public access to be provided where this would be of benefit to the public and where it would not be harmful to the nature conservation value of the land. I can certainly understand, now that the Inspector has made a judgement on the existence of public rights, that it would be the right time to review with the landowner the possibilities for allowing permissive access for riders. Northern Area Team of the Countryside Service will do this and will keep you informed of progress.

Applications to modify the Definitive Map and the appeals process do take a long time. Whilst this is partly out of our hands, I do appreciate that it is a long time to wait before the research commences and we are doing what we can to try to reduce this.

Yours sincerely

Ken Thornber
Leader

Cc: Andrew Smith, Recreation and Heritage