A.G.P.Whitfield Headley Wood Farm Headley Hampshire GU35 8SG

Ms Maggie Blair Democratic Services Hampshire County Council Chief Executive's The Castle Winchester Hampshire SO23 8UJ



11<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear Ms Blair

## Re: STATEMENT BY A.G.P.WHITFIELD TO SUPPORT THE DECISION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO REFUSE TO RECORD A BRIDLEWAY BETWEEN CRADLE LANE AND BRIDLEWAY 54 IN THE PARISH OF HEADLEY

I have owned the Headley Wood Estate since 1970 and have never given permission for anyone to ride on the section marked.

On the very rare occasions when we have caught horse riders trespassing we have asked them to leave and not trespass again.

As this proposed route is sandy any horse prints are easily visible and so that we know for certain that this route is almost never used.

I own four cottages near the proposed route and three of the tenants have been there between 12 and 50 years. They will confirm that it is extremely rare that horse riders trespass here.

Over the years we have erected signs with the wording "Headley Wood Estate – Strictly Private", to deter people from roaming over my property, I regret to say that they have all been vandalised or taken.

I own Broxhead Common North which I let to E.H.D.C as a nature reserve. The proposed bridleway (and footpath) would pass very close to the quietest part of Broxhead Common. This is an SSSI holding several red listed species including ground nesting Nightjars, Sand Lizards and Smooth Snakes. This part of Broxhead is there main refuge as the Lindford end has seen a tenfold increase in dog walkers in the last 30 years. Also horse riders will not keep to the bridleways and are causing great disturbance. This will be confirmed by the warden.

The recently opened bridleway 54 is only a few hundred yards from Cradle lane down a very quiet road. I use this road daily and rarely see another vehicle. In 37 years I do not remember a single incident involving horse riders.

Finally I can say for certain that no one has ridden this route on a regular basis for 20 years.

Yours faithfully,

AG!

A.G.P.Whitfield

