

The Barn  
Barcombe Mills  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN8 5BT

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Ref: Land Registry ESX 188380

Stephen Kisko  
Definitive Maps Officer  
East Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
Lewes  
BN7 1UE

24 April 2018

Dear Mr Kisko,

Re. Claimed Public Right-of-Way Bridleway Application by Mary Parker  
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Section 53

Further to our letter to Natalie McClean dated 23 February 2018 and receipt of your letter and enclosures dated 22 March 2019 we are writing as one of the landowners to restate our objection to the granting of additional bridleways within the hamlet of Barcombe Mills.

During the 15 years we have lived in Barcombe Mills we have not objected to the many walkers and dog-walkers that use our private lane. We have not erected signs to say the road is private property as we do not want to deface what is otherwise a beautiful area. We have been happy to allow free access to the many dogwalkers and families that come to Barcombe Mills from Lewes and surrounding areas to enjoy the beauty-spot that is our home.

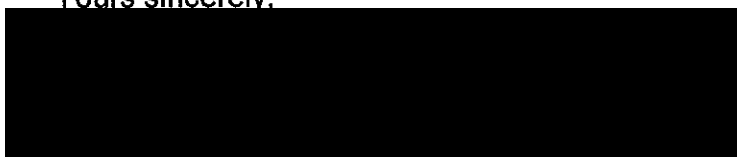
We are convinced that this application has come about because the EA has seen fit to close the gates either side of the weir road that crosses the rivers and millstreams that enter the River Ouse at this point. These gates do not restrict pedestrian access. From the many affidavits produced it would seem that users of the various bridges and lanes in the vicinity believe that the gate closure is an attempt to prohibit their access to and enjoyment of this area. From the landowners viewpoint this is certainly not the case. We are quite happy for the status quo to continue. Closing the gates in the summer months safeguards the many visitors that come here particularly at weekends and school holidays from the vehicular traffic that use the bridges. It is not necessary for Hayes Lane to become a public right-of-way for the current alternative vehicular access arrangement to continue.

However, we must draw the line on encouraging horseriders to use the bridges and the lanes of Barcombe Mills should they become designated public bridleways. The reason being that the combination of dogwalkers, families, the necessary to-ing and fro-ing of residents cars and delivery vehicles together with the addition of horseriders would be a dangerous mix. If a horse went out of control amongst children and dogs the result would be calamitous and could lead to injuries and possible litigation. We consider it grossly unfair if any liability should fall on the landowners following such events.

The only bridleway in Barcombe Mills runs west - east past the Mill Farm Livery but goes nowhere either end. So connecting Barcombe Mills Road to this length of bridleway is pointless. The nearest bridleway is along the disused Lewes to Uckfield railway line that is accessible only from Barcombe Mills Road opposite the old railway ticket office. On talking to the Mills Farm Livery owners we are informed that the Applicant does not keep a horse at the livery and has therefore no need for access to it.

It is our belief that this bridleway application has no merit and we strongly urge the Council to reject it.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

Mr Stephen Husson & Mrs Rosalie Husson