

Sent: 09 September 2013 11:53

To: Hopkins, Gregory;

Subject: Pennard Burrows: GH/GDL/ROW 231/237/238

Dear Mr Hopkins,

On behalf of the British Horse Society I wish to make written representation on the concurrent creation and extinguishment orders at Pennard.

On the whole there is a net gain of bridleway which I fully support, and given that there has been no progress in persuading the owner of Bendrick Drive to dedicate this route as a public bridleway, I am willing to set up and submit a modification order to claim this section of the route to Pobbles.

However I wish to express concern that losing Bridleway PD6 makes it impossible for riders local to Pennard to make a shorter circular ride and that some riders have expressed this concern to me and do not want to lose this ROW - as their representative I must make this concern known. I also need to point out to you that PD6 is not depicted on plan 5 of the creation order as another PROW when it perhaps ought to have been?

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind the Local Authority that other equestrian routes in current use over Pennard Burrows have been discussed with the Countryside Access Team, and so I would not like to see the current orders be the final chapter on improving the network for equestrians here.

All the best

Sent: 10 October 2013 22:21
To: Hopkins, Gregory
Cc:
Subject: Ref: GH/ROW-231,237,238

Ref: GH/ROW-231,237,238

Creation and Extinction orders concerning Rights of Way at Pennard Burrows and Golf Course, and East Cliff and West Cliff

As a local resident and dog and horse owner, I use all these paths frequently, both on foot and horseback, and am very happy to support most of the changes suggested. They generally confirm the routes already in actual use, and it will give me peace of mind, to know that these beautiful routes are entrenched in law for my own ongoing use and for the next generation.

My only concern is with respect to Bridleway PD6 which the Order proposes be (a) rerouted and (b) downgraded to a footpath.

I have no objection to the rerouting of PD6 to "PD 6b", as shown in Plan 5, as it reflects the route in current use (from the Golf Club House to the water tower).

However, I object very strongly to the possible loss of this rerouted Bridleway PD6b to equestrian use, and do not see any reason for this, particularly considering its continued use for pedestrians. It is an excellent track for horses, being grassed and relatively even surface (unlike many other tracks in the area), and has good visibility to allow golfers in play both to see anyone on the route and to be seen by them. Horseriders can (and do, when requested) get out of the way of golfers in play far more quickly than pedestrians, and thus cause minimum inconvenience to them.

PD6 currently allows a very useful alternative route from Parkmill to Southgate and allows a nice circular ride in conjunction with the Sandy Lane route (proposed new PD7 and PD60) especially at

high tide, when Pobbles Beach is inaccessible, or when time is short. The alleged rerouting to the path adjacent to the road I do not consider meaningful, as there is already a path there, which has been in regular use as a permissive way for many years. If the landowner wants to go to the trouble of preventing use of this route Pennard Road and Sandy Lane are still available as alternatives along much the same route. But there is no alternative to the route straight across the golf course, as provided by the current PD6.

I would be very sad to lose the bridleway across the golf course, and can see why no good reason why this excellent pathway should be denied to equestrians in the future. If it is to be rerouted away from the middle of the course it should rather be to the western edge of the course where there is no other alternative way at high tide, rather than to the east, where the road can provide access if need be.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please let me know if you need this letter in any other format or if anything else is required.

Please convey my thanks to the ROW team at Swansea Council for their excellent work with regard to all these rights of way. These path improvements are truly enhancing my quality of life.

Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement
Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
Swansea
SA1 3SN

13th October 2013

Dear Sir,

Re: Concurrent Creation and Extinguishment Orders for Various Public Rights of Way across East Cliff, West Cliff, Pennard Burrows and Pennard Golf Course, in the Community of Pennard (Grid Ref: DD 551 873)

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED FOOTPATH CHANGE AT PENNARD GOLF COURSE (though not to those at East Cliff, West Cliff or Pennard Burrows)

holder, and keen off-road cyclist, I object to part of the proposed extinguishment of bridleway PD6 (your plan 4).

Since 1985, I, my family, and many others, including members of Club, have cycled off-road from Southgate to Parkmill, via a variant of the bridleway PD6 that crosses the golf course. Because the precise route of the bridleway is not clearly marked, the route invariably cycled is actually E-E1-E2-G3-G2-G1-G (your path creation plan 5)

The objection of cyclists to the proposed new bridleway route (Plan5: E-H4-H3-H2-H1-H-G4-E2) is that it will be impassable to bicycles, unless hardcored, as much of it comprises long stretches of loose sand. One can neither cycle along sand, nor would one want to, as sand is very abrasive and rapidly destroys bike chains, gears, bearings, brakes etc..

I propose a compromise. The route E-E1-E2-G3-G2-G1-G be for cyclists/pedestrians, and the proposed bridleway route E-H4-H3-H2-H1-H-G4-E2-G3-G2-G1-G be for horse-riders. Both these routes are common beyond E2, so we only need consider E-E2. The existing bridleway starts at E, proceeds to E1, and then towards E2, but halfway towards it deviates at an unmarked point I term E1a. Cyclists therefore have an existing right to cycle between E and E1a, and will have the right to cycle beyond E2 on the new bridleway. If the existing wide track E to E1a is retained for cyclists, and the short section E1a to E2 is approved for cyclists, then the existing bridleway E1a to D6 can be extinguished.

I would point out that:

- a) most cyclists wear helmets, so the route E-E2 is safer for cyclists than walkers;
- b) highway water drains to and deeply floods for long periods the proposed bridleway section E-H4, a problem exacerbated by the Golf Club having constructed a flood defence wall between the bridleway and the golf course.

I take this opportunity to encourage the Council to provide more off-road all-weather cycle routes on Gower, suitable for mountain bikes. My cardiac consultant recommends I cycle, but I am scared when doing so on our Gower roads. When cycling, I have had countless potentially serious incidents with cars, despite wearing high-viz clothing etc.. Drivers pull out in front of one, overtake and then turn left across one, pass too close or force one off the road.

That bikes and cars do not mix is evidenced by the fact that 4 of our Olympic cyclists have since been knocked off their bikes by cars. Hence my plea for more off-road cycle routes on Gower - it would aid tourism too.

Yours faithfully,

Sent: 15 October 2013 12:18

To: Hopkins, Gregory;

Subject: Changes to bridleways at Pennard Burrows Gower GH/GDL/ROW 231/237/238

Dear Mr Hopkins,

On behalf of the Gower Riding Club, I wish to make this written representation on the creation and extinguishment to Bridleways at Pennard Burrows Gower your reference - GH/GDL/ROW 231/237/238

On examination of the proposals, I am pleased to see that there is an overall gain to the bridleway system and that the adoption of the actual ridden routes in both East Cliff and West Cliff are a benefit. However, I would like to object to the proposed loss of Bridleway PD6, Pennard Golf Club to Tower Field.

This bridleway has been in use for many years and is regularly used by equine users; particularly in the winter months, who use it to safely cross the burrows. The use of this bridleway has been made difficult for equine users, due to the behaviour and attitude of some members of Pennard Golf Club who believe that the bridleway does not exist and are abusive to riders using the bridleway. This situation has been made known to the City and County of Swansea Countryside Team on many occasions.

I am given to understand that the request to alter this bridleway has been made by Pennard Golf Club who claim, that its removal is in the interest of Health and Safety. This claim is wholly unjustified and has been made in order to benefit the Golf Club and its Membership. The bridleway tends to be used in the early morning or late afternoon / evening and is used by riders exercising their animals before going to work or stabling them for the night. At such times there are rarely any golfers on the course and I find their claim to benefit "Health

and Safety" hard to understand. In fact there will be a greater Health and Safety risk should this bridleway be lost; as equine users will be forced to use the main road and at a spot which is well known to be dangerous. This will increase the risk not only to equine users but to pedestrians and car users as well should this Bridleway be removed.

The loss of this bridleway will extend the time taken to exercise our members animals, create substantial inconvenience and as I have shown, cause an increased risk to their safety and that of others.

On a separate note, I would also like to express my disappointment that there appears to have been little headway in resolving situation at Bendrick Drive which joins the burrows and leads to Pobbles Beach. The failure to resolve this issue makes the loss of Bridleway PD6 even more unacceptable. The adoption and conversion of the "Bendrick Drive" access to Pobbles and the Burrows to a bridleway is long overdue and I am in discussion with the British Horse Society to whom we are affiliated, in order to submit a modification order.

I await your response with interest

Yours Faithfully