

Helen Denton

Definitive Map Officer

Rights of Way Service, CHN103

Hertfordshire County Council

Your ref: HJD/EH438DIV

16th August 2016

Dear Ms Denton,

**Consultation on proposed diversion of Thorley Bridleway 10 and Sawbridgeworth Footpath 1 following the grant of planning permission under the Town & County Planning Act 1990**

I am writing on behalf of the Bishop’s Stortford & District Footpaths Association (BSDFA) with regard to above mentioned Bridleway and Footpath diversion proposal. By way of background, BSDFA was founded in 1957 to preserve, protect and maintain the public Rights of Way network and rural verges in the Hertfordshire and Essex border area around Bishop’s Stortford.

With the planning consent for the agricultural reservoir granted the Association understands the need for the diversion of Thorley Bridleway 10. However, we can see no merit in the proposal to create a dog-leg between points D and H when it would be more logical for the bridleway to follow the direct line of the proposed temporary diversion (from H to TL4782 1873).

The Consultation provides the Rights of Way Service with an opportunity to address the long-standing problem of Thorley Bridleway 10 not following its legal route through the Thorley Wash Farm residential development. For many years Bridleway 10 users have been required to use the farm track to the north of Thorley Wash Farm. It would make sense for this route to be registered as the official right of way.

This is a popular route for local residents, which provides direct access to the River Stort and the recently created Thorley Wash Nature Reserve. It is essential that any right of way diversions are clearly marked and safe before any reservoir construction work commences and that they remain open throughout.

Yours sincerely

Dave Webber

On behalf of The Bishop’s Stortford & District Footpaths Association