

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director of Governance	General Purposes Committee	18/10/07

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 25 PROPOSED CREATION OF BRIDLEWAYS – WEST PENNINE LINK WITH THE BRIDLEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consider proposals by Lancashire County Council for the creation of a network of bridleways in the Boroughs of Chorley, Hyndburn, Burnley and Rossendale as part of the West Pennine Link with the Pennine Bridleway National Trail.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That no objection be raised to the proposal by Lancashire County Council for the creation of a bridleway at White Coppice, Anglezarke.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. Conferring bridleway status on the claimed route would recognise and thus formally protect usage of the route for horse riders. The Council has, however, no direct information on such usage of the route/paths concerned. The Council, whilst not averse to the conferral of bridleway status on the path concerned, is not seeking to promote the claim and would have no evidence to offer should the claim result in the calling of a public local inquiry. In the circumstances, the decision to raise no objection to the claim does not detract from the merits of that claim or commit the Council to support a claim about which it has no information.

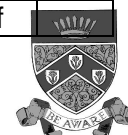
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. The only other alternatives available would have been to endorse the claim, for which the Council has no evidence, or to oppose it, for which course of action the Council equally has no evidence.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report does not relate to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Improved access to public services	
Improving equality of opportunity		Develop the character and feel of	



and life chance		Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	

BACKGROUND

6. The County Council is proposing the creation of public bridleways in the Boroughs of Chorley, Hynburn, Burnel and Rossendale. The overall trail being promoted forms part of the West Pennine Link with the Penine Bridleway National Trail. In its entirety the trail will run from Smithills Hall in Bolton through Rivington, Anglezarke and Brinscall to Blackburn with Darwen (over Darwen Moor) and thence through Green Haworth, Baxenden and over Hameldon Hill to Clowbridge Reservoir, from where trail will cross Stony Hill to join the National Trail at Red Moss.
7. In developing this trail it will be necessary to create bridleways over sections of the trail that do not currently carry any recorded public rights. Wherever possible the County Council proposes to enter into formal agreements with the owners of the land crossed by the trail to dedicate the route used as a bridleway. Bridleway creation Orders will, however, be made in respect of four areas – Anglezarke in Chorley, Oswaldtwistle and Accrington in Hyndburn, Hampton and Dunnockshaw in Burnley and Rawtenstall in Rossendale.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

8. The bridleway proposals in respect of Chorley, relate to the creation of only one bridleway. The County Council propose that this be created to run northwards from a point on Moor Road, Anglezarke for a distance of approximately 450 metres along the western side of The Goit, as shown by the solid black line 1-2-3-4-5 marked on the map attached. This route would in part be coincidental with the route of Public Footpath No. 6 (between points 3 and 4 on the map). Beyond the northern end of the proposed bridleway, horse-riders would continue their journey along a concessionary path.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

9. This report does not have any implications in the following areas:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Letter and map from Lancashire County Council	31 July 2007	862	Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
G Fong	5169	13 September 2007	