

**Leeds Footpath 207 and Permissive Bridleway
Summary of Consultation Comments**

Issue	Received from	Comments Received	Response to Comments Received
Objections			
<p>1 Questioning the need to divert the path</p>	<p>1 Walking Organisation and 3 Local Interest Groups</p>	<p>Comments give examples of other sites with PROWs running through – e.g., Carr Manor which has gates to temporarily close the path while pupils pass, and Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. Consultees ask if a similar solution has been considered here?</p> <p>Consultees also point out that pupils already walk up Gipsy Lane to the woods for cross-country running so crossing this path should not be a problem.</p> <p>Consultees consider that no evidence has been presented that the PROW is a source of concern.</p>	<p>The applicant states: <i>“It is the School’s/ Trust’s preference to divert the path to allow the integration of the proposed facilities within the school secure line boundary for safeguarding reasons.</i></p> <p><i>There have been incidents of anti-social behaviour, trespassers on motorcycles and bikes and parents bringing things to their children. The local area also has numerous issues with travellers setting up sites on and ‘spare and open’ land.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the enclosing vegetation and lack of lighting, the existing PROW is not a safe route for pupils. The existing cobbled path is not considered to be fully accessible to all users.</i></p> <p><i>The diverted path will run to the south of the new pitch/ tennis courts and then along the edge of Middleton Wood, offering the users attractive views over the former golf course and the ancient woodland. In addition, the area to the south of the proposed new pitches is subject to a wider masterplan delivered by LCC and it will include new planting, cycling tracks and more. It is proposed that the new path will be surfaced with Flexipave which is considered to be an improvement from an accessibility perspective.”</i></p>

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<p>2 Satisfaction with the existing route</p>	<p>1 Walking Organisation</p>	<p>The existing PROW is well used. The existing PROW is well screened from the school site and on the south side existing vegetation would shield the new sports facilities from the existing path.</p>	<p>Applicant comments: <i>“We appreciate that parts of the path/ bridleway are screened but the diversion aims to avoid the school having a split site that ultimately allows the members of the public to walk between the new facilities and the main school campus. The core purpose of the proposed development is to allow the school to deliver their curriculum so safeguarding of the pupils during their PE lessons is a key priority for the school.”</i></p>
<p>3 Heritage value of the path</p>	<p>1 Walking Organisation 2 Local Interest Groups</p>	<p>The PROW is part of the landscape heritage of the area and has been promoted as part of the South Leeds Heritage Trail. It has local and national historical and cultural significance and should be retained. It is the very old Beeston ward boundary. It dates from at least 1847/50 and possibly 1700’s It links to other historic paths and sites – Monks path (FP206) and Stank Hall Barn. Path is a feature in a nationally significant historic mining landscape (part Scheduled Ancient Monument). and should be retained. Path is a heritage asset and to remove public access would be an act of cultural vandalism.</p>	<p>The physical form of the existing cobbled path will remain in situ but due to the need to integrate the application site within the school secure line boundary, access to it will be restricted. It will not, therefore be possible for it to continue as a public right of way if the planned development is to be fully implemented. The Planning Decision Notice for application 22/01376/FU includes a Condition 12 stating <i>“Prior to the development being brought into use, a scheme to retain and maintain the section of footpath known as Leeds 207 as shown contained in the red line application boundary shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include a management plan to maintain and preserve the footpath's historic stone setts, hedging and tree line for the life of the development and shall be implemented upon commencement of use of the development. Reason: To protect the historic alignment and character of Leeds footpath 207.”</i></p>

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4 High quality stone setts could be lost	1 Local Interest Group	They were covered over for protection more than 10 years ago on part of the route.	See Point 3 Above
5 Reduction in number of routes	1 Walking Organisation	The area onto which the PROW would be diverted is grassland over which the public can freely walk. There are at least 2 unrecorded lines of tread So 3 routes would be lost and replaced with 1.	Initial proposals included numerous paths, but applicant was advised by the PROW team that diverting the existing route to a single path would be preferable. There are no recorded or claimed public rights of way in this location. However, the further development of the remainder of the former golf course will include further paths as well as new cycling routes.
6 Change in character of path	1 Local Interest Group	Path is bordered by hedgerow - attractive rural entrance to ancient woods from Beeston. It has character and sense of history. The alternative would be characterless and overshadowed by development and tall metal fencing. The current route has mental health benefits because it is attractive.	The development would result in the existing path being more enclosed and overshadowed than either the current situation or the diverted path. See applicant's comments regarding the existing path in Point 3 above and regarding the new path in Point 1 above.
7 The new route will be longer with steeper gradient. The diversion will discriminate against the less able. Further comment that visibility would be obscured by a fence, thus less	2 Local Interest Groups	The current route is quickest from Beeston to the park and closest to bus stop at Dewsbury Road/Tommy Wass junction. It is shorter and has an easier gradient. The diversion is a poor substitute because of the gradients.	It is true that the new path will rise to a higher elevation than the existing path. The existing path falls on a fairly even, very gentle gradient by from its junction with Gypsy Lane to the end of the section to be diverted. The diverted path will be approximately 100 metres longer than the section to be closed and will rise from Gypsy Lane for about 125 metres, then fall over the remaining 325 metres. However, the gradients will not be steep and the path will not be fenced in as suggested by one comment.

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safe for people of vulnerable groups.			<p><i>Applicant's comments: We appreciate that the diverted path will add journey time for some users but as outlined above, the diversion is driven by safeguarding of the pupils. In addition, due to the proposed surfacing and width of the new route (3m), the diverted path will be in fact more accessible than the existing cobbled path. Furthermore, we consider that the new path will be safer than the existing one, not only due to its improved wider surface but also due providing a better visibility to its users.</i></p>
8 Reduced views from new route	1 Walking Organisation	New route would have a degraded view caused by the new sports facility.	The new sports facilities will be screened by new landscaping that will include a mixture of trees and native shrubs. The new footpath will offer views over the former golf course land and the ancient woodland.
9 The new path has potential for conflict with cyclists	1 Local Interest Group	Many walkers use the existing path because cyclists dominate other routes in the area.	Given that the diverted path replaces an existing footpath and permissive bridleway, there is unlikely to be much change in the type of use as a result of the diversion. In addition, as outlined above, the masterplan for the area includes additional separate cycling routes.
10 Diversion doesn't comply with Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	1 Local Interest Group	Specifically refers to Key Strategy 1 (Quality), 2 (Climate and Biodiversity and 3 (Access for All)	The proposed diversion is not considered to conflict with Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. It will also improve accessibility.

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11 Construction of the new path will reduce biodiversity	1 Local Interest Group	Particularly refers to impacts on hedgerows and trees	130 new trees will be planted to replace trees removed to facilitate the proposed development, with the majority of the new trees being planted within the wider area to the south of the application site. In addition, the applicant is undertaking extensive shrub planting, totalling some 2.4 hectares.
12 Impact of diversion on potential use of route	1 Local Interest Group	The current route is an ideal location and length to be part of a “15 minute City” or “20 minute neighbourhood” for residents of Southleighs, The Allenbys and The Links and connects these housing areas.	The diverted path will add journey time for some users but, due to the proposed surfacing material and width of the new route (3m), the diverted path will be more accessible than the existing one.
13 Impact on Ancient Woodland	1 Local Interest Group	Objector believes that the buffer zone applied to the Ancient Woodland to the south of the site should be 50 metres wide, not 15 metres.	Current regulations and policies require a 15 metre buffer zone. Although a wider zone is included in the Council’s draft Local Plan Update, this is still subject to consultation and not confirmed. The applicant has confirmed that a BS5837 tree survey, Environmental Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Impact Assessment have been undertaken as required and that these cover the development site and the wider area where the diverted path would run. All parts of the diverted path located in any root protection zone will be surfaced with a specific type of Flexipave in accordance with guidance in BS5837:2012.
Other Comments			
13 Comment re: signs on new route	Horse Riding Representative 1	Requests that the route is clearly and correctly signed	Officers have shared information about signage requirements with the applicant.
14 Comment re: status of new route	Horse Riding Representative 1	Would prefer this to be a permanent bridleway, not just permissive	The proposed diversions links to existing footpaths and permissive bridleways but does not link directly

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			to any public bridleway or higher status route. Therefore, a public bridleway on the diversion route would be a cul-sac.
15 Flood Risk	Council Flood Risk Management	There is risk of surface water flooding in lower lying lands. Please ensure that there is adequate drainage to cope with this	The planning application is supported by a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy. In addition, the proposed surfacing material is permeable.
16 Adjacent structure	Council Bridges Section	Structure LO2972 is close to the location – please contact the Managing Agent – LCC Parks&Countryside.	Structure is shown on the consultee’s plan as Middleton Wood Footbridge which is to the east of the diversion and not affected.
17 Support	Horse Riding Representative 1	Supports inclusion of a bridleway within the scheme	
18 Support	Horse Riding Representative 2	Welcomes the addition of a 3 metre wide bridleway and Flexi Pave surface, which will be of benefit to all users including horse riders.	
19 Support	A Leeds Local Access Forum member	The proposal “Looks sensible to me”	