

Dear Mr Aston

Many thanks for your recent email

Please find below our objections:

**Objection to the Inspector's Proposed Modification pursuant to PINS Notice dated 18 April 2024 on behalf of Southport & District Angling Association. (S&DAA)**

- We note that the Modification Order was made changing all references to 'Footpath' to 'Bridleway'. We believe that the initial public enquiry was called to consider a right of way for a footpath, and that the evidence we prepared for the inquiry was based on this presumption. At no time prior to the inquiry was a bridleway mentioned to us and would suggest that we should be given an opportunity to assess the potential impact of a bridleway on the ability of our members to pursue their angling activities along the route.
- As the access to Water Lane has always been secured by a gate that provides for vehicular access (to the EA and members of S&DAA) we note that horses would not have been able to exit via Water Lane and suggest that this demonstrates that there has never been a viable bridle way along this route.
- As part of our long-standing lease with the EA, S&DAA members have **vehicular and foot** access along the gravel roadway by the watercourse. We understand that this access way (that we have held for a lengthy period) precludes the access of horses as a method of transport across it, indeed:
  - The fact that our members are required to drive along this track to our car parks would not be conducive with members of the public being allowed by horse / horse riders.
  - Towards the end of the vehicular access, we have several disabled fishing platforms where our disabled members can easily access the waterway. This is a great facility for our disabled anglers and offers the only access point along the whole watercourse for them. This area is a dedicated facility providing a safe and easily accessible space for our disabled members. As there has, to our belief, never been access to (or indeed sightings of) horse riders using this route, any change to the designation around this area would I'm afraid to say mean that we would potentially be under an obligation to remove this facility as there could be a significant risk to disabled individuals from this change in designation.
- We also reserve the right to offer evidence that is relevant to the historical use of the proposed bridleway, specifically regarding equestrian access which we believe has not previously existed.

Kind Regards

Paul Tabron  
S&DAA Secretary