



North Staffordshire Bridleways Association



COUNTRYSIDE
CIRCULATION LIST

25 JUL 2001

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

COPY TO:

J C RIDLEY

PFM JO G.S. NI
MJB BDW 2001 EQ



24/7/01

Your Ref. 4MTM/LL602G

Dear Mr. Murphy,
Applic. For upgrading of F.P.8 Caverswall on the Definitive Map.

Thank you for your letter of 26th June. The N. Staffordshire Bridleways Assoc. would certainly wish to support any claim for higher status for this route. As a former RUPP we believe that it must have a minimum of bridleway rights. It seems probable that it is of the same status as the adjacent lane (BOAT 9) which is shown in identical manner on old maps.

The lane currently classed as F.P. 8 has been in use by local horse riders for as long as this Association has been in existence (some 10 years or so) and has been used by our members on organised Rides through that area. It is the 'alternative' course of our long distance route around The Potteries and used when doing shorter circular rides based on that route. We received immediate complaints when stiles were erected across the lane and wrote to Mr. Gregory in February, 2001 I enclose a rough copy of same in case it has not come to your attention. As we have not received any reply to this correspondence I do not know to whom it has been passed either in your Dept. or in R-o-W and would be most grateful if you could locate it and arrange for a reply to be made.

We are now extremely concerned to hear that an illegal metal pole barrier has been erected across BOAT 9---allegedly by a nearby property owner. I would appreciate it if you could let me know what action is being taken to effect the removal of this obstruction.

Yours sincerely,

N.S.B.A. Research Officer.

*Rey 94587.
Take to check on BOAT 9*



North Staffordshire Bridleways Association



Affiliated to the British Horse Society

J C RIDLEY

Dear Mr. Gregory,
Re. FOOTPATH 8 CAVERSWALL C.P.

17/2/01

It has recently been reported to this Association that horse riders have found their way blocked by newly erected stiles on this route. As a former RUPP shown on old maps as a lane of identical type to the adjacent RUPP which has become a BOAT (9) NSBA has always considered that 'F.P. 8' carries higher rights.

We are aware that the route is in current use by horse riders and that there are people who can give Evidence of such use over many years without encountering any difficulties. As it happens our Association held an organised ride through the area just before the stiles were installed. Although on this occasion we used BOAT 9 we find F.P. 8 equally as convenient for our Rides when doing events including The Potteries Ring Route long distance route that we have researched.

We would therefore request that you review the Definitive Map status of this route on the basis that an error of Classification has been made. In the meantime we would be most grateful if your Department could contact the relevant body who erected the stiles and arrange their removal to restore the status quo!

On a similar topic horse riders recently encountered barb wire across another 'green lane' that is a RUPP that has been erroneously classed as a Footpath. I do not know the number of the route so I enclose a map excerpt of its location near Caverswall. Again the lane has been in use by horse riders even though one end of it has become very overgrown. The obstruction of this lane necessitates a three mile diversion around local roads (1/2 hour riding time) including a very twisty length of road that is not very safe at certain times of the day. Bearing in mind the VERY large population of horses in the Caverswall area this is a most regrettable development.

I would be grateful if you could investigate these matters as quickly as possible and look forward to receiving a reply from one of your officers. I regret that I am frequently out of the house during office hours so my ansaphone is permanently on --- -it takes only very brief messages so a reply in writing is required!

Yours sincerely,

Jane Ridley
Miss Jane C. Ridley

NSBA Research Officer

