

Strategy and Planning  
Town Hall  
Bexhill on Sea  
TN39 3JX

08 December 2020

**Ref: Planning application RR/2020/1572 (Rye) Ramblers' Objection**

Dear Mr Worsley,

Having inspected this application we recognise the importance of the flood defence work. However, we have serious concerns about the proposed alternative routes being offered to walkers as a replacement for the northern section of the riverside path upstream of the Monks Bretton Bridge.

After walking the various public paths involved on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 we make the following observations. The existing path is popular both for local walkers and more serious hikers as it is part of three designated long distance paths, namely:

**Sussex Border Path**  
**Royal Military Canal Path**  
**Saxon Shore Way**

It is easy to use, in good condition on top of the levee and passable throughout the year. Well signed and simple to navigate, with no road or rail crossings.

In contrast, a significant part of the proposed alternative route is hard to use and far less pleasant. Starting from the northern end, at the Lock Keepers Cottage we found the following issues:-

1. No sign post where the bridle path (Playden 6c) leaves the lane (mandatory requirement)  
OS grid ref TQ 9335 2266
2. No sign post where the bridle path (East Guldeford 5a) leaves the A259 (mandatory requirement) at TQ 9390 2247.
3. Hazardous crossing of A259 trunk road operating at national speed limit.
4. Footpath East Guldeford 5b crosses mainline railway via level crossing at TQ 9399 2241.
5. Broken down gate (ESCC asset G2568) across footpath East Guldeford 5b at TQ 9407 2238.

6. The unmarked route of footpath East Guldeford 5b through a large field crosses a series of drainage channels without bridges. The field is low-lying and from its appearance, impassably wet through part of the year.
7. Bridge (ESCC asset B1559) crossing major drainage ditch at TQ 9410 2216 is in poor repair. Bridge is also not on line shown on Definitive Map making it harder to navigate.
8. Footpath East Guldeford 3a obstructed by tied-up hurdles instead of a gate on drive to East Guldeford church at TQ 9357 2153.
9. No signpost where footpath East Guldeford 3a leaves A259 at TQ 9355 2152.
10. Very hazardous crossing and walk along narrow A259 trunk road at East Guldeford. No footway or refuge on major road.
11. No signpost where footpath East Guldeford 2 leaves A259 at TQ 9352 2155.
12. Broken down stile (ESCC asset S3058) crossing footpath East Guldeford 2 at TQ 9340 2151.
13. Waymarking throughout the whole route is inadequate, and of course does not include any of the specific signs for the three long distance paths. When will these be put in place?

In the light of all these issues, we **object** to this application on behalf of the Ramblers until such time as the temporary diversion scheme is properly addressed and the problems listed above are resolved. Waymarking must be improved throughout the whole route, and include specific signs for the three long distance paths. And road signs need to be installed warning traffic of walkers in the road at the two crossings of the A259.

The three long distance paths are very popular and used throughout the year, and bring welcome custom to Rye and the surrounding area. One of the effects of the pandemic has been to greatly increase the popularity of walking, and government policy encourages this. So replacing a very good path with a hazardous, ill-maintained hotch potch for up to two years should not be considered.

Yours sincerely



Malcolm McDonnell  
Ramblers East Sussex Footpath Officer

CC Graham Elvey, Ramblers Sussex Border Path Officer  
East Sussex County Council Rights of Way Team