

Re: NATTRAN/Y&H/S247/4337

Proposed diversion of public footpath Footpath 60 (part) at Wolfstones Heights Farm, Holmfirth, Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees. Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Section 24.

Please find below a letter of objection from Holmfirth Walkers are Welcome to this proposed Order under Section 247 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.

Dear Sir/Madam

Holmfirth Walkers are Welcome would like to place an objection to the above proposal.

I represent Holmfirth Walkers are Welcome whose mission is to promote recreational walking for residents and tourists alike in the Holme Valley. Based at the Tourist Office in Holmfirth we have about 100 regular members. We organise and lead group walks many of which include this path.

This ancient path is not just any old path used by a few dog walkers but a very popular historical route used by locals and tourists alike. In fact, the leaflet incorporating this route is one of the most popular walking leaflets which we distribute from the tourist office in Holmfirth. Recreational walking is an important contribution to the local economy in the Holme Valley and this footpath is used by hundreds of walkers weekly throughout the year.

This historic path follows the ridge of Thong Moor in an almost straight line from Netherthong to the summit of Wolfstones a very popular local beauty spot. Modern routes tend to use the valleys but our more ancient paths used the drier ridges with clear visibility. This is one such path, any diversion from its historic route would violate its historical integrity.

Most users carry straight on across Wolfstones Road to the summit of Wolfstones which has been made even more popular by the recent erection of a memorial near the summit. This lengthy diversion will take users a considerable distance out of their way to emerge on a bend in a narrow and busy road with poor sightlines. They will then have to negotiate this potentially hazardous road. Due to the narrowness of the verge, it is impossible to walk safely to regain the path to the summit, especially when leading groups comprising children and the elderly.

This diversion, if approved, would benefit one person and considerably disadvantage 100's of users and expose them to unnecessary risk.

To allow the diversion of this iconic and historic route would be an act of iconoclastic vandalism!