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|  | PROW & Access Service Invicta House County Hall Maidstone Kent. ME14 1XXPhone: 03000 413420Ask for: Mrs Maria McLauchlanEmail: maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk Date: 14th June 2022Your ref:Our ref: PROW/SR527/1607 |
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Dear Consultee

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| **Re: Highways Act 1980 - Section 119****Proposed diversion of public footpath SR527 at Hever and Chiddingstone in the District of Sevenoaks, postcode TN8 7NG** |

An application has been made by the landowner, Hever Castle Limited, to divert part of public footpath SR527 at Hever and Chiddingstone for the following reasons:

The existing length of footpath SR527 to be diverted currently runs mostly parallel to, and elevated above, the private estate road onto which it is proposed to divert it. The existing path crossed over the road via a bridge which has had to be removed due to it being unsafe. Despite thorough investigation into the matter, it is unclear who is responsible for the maintenance of the bridge even if it were possible to replace. The existing legal alignment of the path is, therefore, currently closed off on safety grounds as there is no access over the road where the bridge was situated.

The proposed diversion will run along the private estate road, which has been available for the public to use since the bridge’s removal. The new route will be a little longer, but will be wider, have a gentler gradient and have a hard surface, whereas the existing route would get very muddy and slippery, was narrow in places, and had a steeper gradient in parts.

I enclose an extract from the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way showing public footpath SR527 and a larger scale map (1:2500) showing the proposed diversion.

The length of path to be diverted is shown by a solid black line between points A-B-C.

The proposed new route is shown by bold black dashes between points A-C.

I would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed form (or email your comments), taking into consideration if you think the proposal is in the interest of the landowner and/or public, how convenient the new path is compared to the existing, and the effect it may have on public enjoyment of the path as a whole.

I recommend that you visit the site to view the proposed route but bear in mind that the existing definitive alignment is not accessible.

I should be pleased to receive your views on the proposal by **15th July 2022.**

Yours faithfully

Mrs Maria McLauchlan

**Public Rights of Way Officer**

 Enc.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROW & ACCESS SERVICE**

**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – DIVERSION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY**

***YOUR CONTACT DETAILS:***

Proposal to divert part of public footpath SR527 at Hever and Chiddingstone

**Reference: PROW/SR527/1607**

This consultation expires on **15th July 2022**

I should be grateful if you would kindly complete the following and return it to me as soon as possible:

[ ]  I agree the proposed diversion is in the landowner’s interest

[ ]  I do not agree because ………………………………………………………………………….……

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[ ]  I agree the proposed diversion is not substantially less convenient to the public

[ ]  I do not agree because ………………………………………………………………………………

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[ ]  I agree the proposed diversion would not negatively impact upon public enjoyment of the route

[ ]  I do not agree because ………………………………………………………………………………

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[ ]  I agree that the new point of termination will not be substantially less convenient to the public

[ ]  I do not agree because ………………………………………………………………………………

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**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

**Email:** **maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk**

or

**Mrs Maria McLauchlan, KCC PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone,**

**Kent, ME14 1XX**