

14th July 2016

Richard Barron
Senior Access Officer
Stirling Council
Teith House, Kerse Road
Stirling FK7 7QT

Dear Richard

**Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Application to divert Core Path
Legal No. 00019 (Entrance to Sauchieburn Estate Core Path No. 9078Bb/63)**

Ramblers Scotland objects to the above application to divert a core path on Sauchieburn estate on the following grounds.

We are not convinced of the need to divert this path on the basis that there is a high risk of accident to people using the existing route. The road has good lines of sight and plenty of verge space and, due to the road conditions and signage, in our experience motor vehicles do not currently travel at high speeds. If it is felt that vehicles need to be restricted then other methods could be used, such as electric bollards. On the other hand, users emerging from the proposed route on to the existing core path may face a slightly higher risk than the current situation, as vehicle drivers will not be aware of the adjacent path and therefore not looking out for pedestrians as they drive through.

The existing core path is accessible for all users, including the less-abled and those with wheelchairs, buggies, prams or bicycles, whereas the proposed alternative route does not have the kind of surface which would allow this range of use to continue. We note the council's assurance that access rights would still apply on the existing line of the core path, but are aware that a new gate has been installed over this route. If the gate were to be closed at some point in the future then the options for those with a disability or with buggies to access this area would be much reduced.

Core paths were identified through a process of public consultation and it is therefore important that the criteria within the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 are clearly met. We do not believe that this is the case for the reasons set out above.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Helen Todd
Campaigns & Policy Manager

Convener: Alison Mitchell
Vice-Convener: Andy Malby
Director: Jess Dolan