

Information for Mr. M. Enright, Swindon Borough Council Re Permissive Footpath Suter's Lane, Ducksbridge, Wanborough. Document 1

I have been an active member of the Wanborough Anti-Flood Group for many years. This is because Burycroft and The Marsh are two roads that regularly flood during the winter months. They are also two roads that have seen a huge increase in traffic mainly due to the local residents finding it a short cut through to the M4 and Old Town and when there is a huge tailback on the A419 drivers will divert through Burycroft and The Marsh to join the A419 past Commonhead thus cutting any queuing or waiting time. The impact that this has on Burycroft and the Marsh is considerable. For most of the year the verges are not walkable i.e. overgrown, uneven and dangerous. The recent addition of houses at St. Katherines and now at Suter's Lane, Ducksbridge means that at the dangerous point of the double bend more traffic will be entering this very rural narrow road making it well over capacity and not fit for purpose. The provision of the Permissive Footpath by the owners gave local residents and hikers a save passage avoiding the stress of the bends.

The Marsh/Burycroft regularly experience hold ups when two HGV vehicles try to pass; indeed the largest of HGV's regularly follow their SAT Navs and find themselves stuck on either of the two double bends. Additional to this is the fact that this is a regular route for horses, cyclists and pedestrians. Below is a photograph of a training HGV that has just entered The Marsh and will be navigating it's way around the two double bends, oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and horses.



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS ON A REGULAR BASIS WHEN A BUS MEETS AN HGV ON A STRAIGHT BIT OF ROAD... NOTE THAT PASSING IS NOT AVAILABLE HERE NOR BETWEEN HERE AND THE DUCKSBRIDGE BEND. NOTE THAT CARS ARE QUEUING BEHIND THE LORRY AND THERE WERE CARS BEHIND THE BUS. A FEW SECONDS BEFORE AND THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A DISASTER ON THE DUCKSBRIDGE BEND... A FEW SECONDS AFTER AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DISASTER ON THE NEXT VERY NARROW BEND.



IT IS TIME THAT HEALTH AND SAFETY WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY. FLOODING REGULARLY OCCURS AT THE BEND WHERE THE MARSH MEETS BURYCROFT AT THE END OF GREEN LANE. PEDESTRIANS WALKING AROUND THIS BEND WILL BE IN ADDED DANGER AND ALSO SPLASHED. THE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH THROUGH THE DUCKSBRIDGE SITE AFFORDED PEDESTRIANS A SAFE ROUTE AT TIMES OF FLOODING AND FROM THE DANGER OF BEING HIT BY TRAFFIC.

DOCUMENT 2

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE FLOODING AT THE CORNER WHERE THE MARSH MEETS BURYCROFT. THIS TYPE OF FLOODING CAN OCCUR AFTER A FEW HOURS OF HEAVY RAIN. NOTE, THIS IS NOT WINTER FLOODING.





THE VERGES ALONG THE MARSH AND BURYCROFT ARE IN AN AWFUL STATE BECAUSE PASSING OF VEHICLES, HORSES AND PEDESTRIANS MEANS THAT TRAFFIC (MOSTLY LARGE VEHICLES) GO OFF THE ROAD IN ORDER TO PASS

INFORMATION FOR MR ENRIGHT DOCUMENT 3



THIS IS THE STATE OF THE VERGE JUST BEFORE THE DUCKSBRIDGE BEND ON A VERGE WHICH SHOWS HOW WHEN THE VERGE HAS BEEN CUT FOR PEDESTRIANS TO STEP ONTO IT IS REGULARLY REDUCED AND DAMAGED.

HGV'S DELIVERING TO THE DUCKSBRIDGE SITE.... BOTH LORRIES TRAVELLED DOWN THE MARSH TO THE SITE WHICH WAS NOT PART OF THE BOWER MAPSON TRAVEL PLAN – THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO TRAVEL FROM WANBOROUGH ROAD TO THE SITE.



The Permissive Footpath has been regularly used by residents for well over 20 years.

We have lived in Farncombe, The Marsh, Wanborough for 38 years and have regularly walked that route.

It affords a safe passage around a blind double bend.

Recently, we have walked around that bend on a number of occasions and had “near misses” as many vehicles come tightly around where it narrows.

I sincerely hope that the Health and Safety aspect of the Permissive Route will be taken into consideration. Any other footpath route will not be so easily accessed and will not encourage usage as it will exit at a point further up the private driveway.

C. Inskip

20th June 2017

Farncombe, The Marsh, Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AR