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North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)
Public rights of way section
Business and environmental services
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD

cc: Mel Hobson, County Councillor for South Milford

**Subject: Order 2021 No 304 Temporary prohibition of pedestrians, cyclists, and horse traffic on public
bridleway 35.59/20/1 South Milford**

3rd October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

South Milford Parish Council (SMPC) opposes the temporary prohibition of the bridleway 35.59/20/1 in South Milford of pedestrians, cyclists and horse traffic from the 11th October 2021 to the 10th April 2022.

The bridleway 35.59/20/1 between Common Lane / Lund Sike Lane and the A162 is the only pedestrian access between South Milford and Common Lane to the east of the train line, given the ongoing temporary closure of path 35.59/5/1 (Order 2020 No 271 until 2nd September 2022).

This bridleway 35.59/20/1 allows for pedestrian access to the Milford Garden Centre, The Maltings Tea Room, and to the path connecting South Milford to Monk Fryston (35.59/6/1) and Hambleton (35.59/1/1). This bridleway 35.59/20/1 is also important for cyclists and horse riders, given that it provides access to Common Lane on the east without needing to go on the A162.

Without the bridleway 35.59/20/1, pedestrians would have to walk on the verge of the A162, which is extremely unsafe. The A162 is a busy road with both cars and HGVs, often at speeds of 50-60 mph, which services the Sherburn Industrial Estate and the residents in the area.

The period of closure, from the 11th October 2021 to the 10th April 2022, is inconsistent with the information in the letter from Yorkshire Water. This letter states: "*Work will then move onto the public footpath on Common Lane, which we'll need to close for about 2 weeks. [from the 11th October]*" According to this letter, Yorkshire Water will conduct work on the bridleway between 11th – 24th October. Therefore it is unclear the rationale for the temporary prohibition until the 10th April 2022.

SMPC appreciates that the bridleway may need to be closed for a short period of time whilst works are carried out in that direct area. If this is the case, the closure period should be minimised to a few weeks at most (e.g. 2 weeks as per Yorkshire Water letter) with signage making this clear. Although this can pose difficulties to local residents, the short period of time, together with the essential nature of the work, would make it more acceptable. If this is the case, SMPC asks NYCC to update the timelines in the temporary prohibition accordingly and install the appropriate signage.

SMPC considers that it is not acceptable that pedestrians lose access to Common Lane to the east of the A162 until April 2022. If work is taking place on the bridleway for more than a few weeks, SMPC considers



that the appropriate action is to either ensure that a section of the bridleway remains open to allow passage by pedestrians; or to seek permission from the landowner of the field to the north of the bridleway, which is uncultivated, and establish a temporary diversion.

Moreover, SMPC notes that no communication or warning was received from NYCC regarding this temporary prohibition. This is disappointing, particularly given the ongoing communications by SMPC regarding public rights of way in the area.

To avoid further issues in the future, SMPC suggests that any plans for temporary prohibitions/diversions/extinguishments and creations be discussed with SMPC in the first instance, before their implementation.

Kind regards

South Milford Parish Council