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Okel Tor Mine Wildlife Reserve
Harewood
Calstock
Cornwall
PL18 9SQ

Nigel Vaughan Esq.
Senior Legal Assistant
Western Group Centre
Radnor Road
Scorrier
Redruth TR16 5EH



9 August 2000

Dear Mr Vaughan

Re: Okel Tor Mine Wildlife Reserve - Public Rights of Way

Further to our telephone conversation, please find attached a map of the above site together with a statement.

You may be aware that Okel Tor is part of the Tamar Valley Regeneration Project instigated by Peter Sainsbury of Cornwall County Council Land Reclamation Unit. It has recently been scheduled as a ancient monument by English Heritage, and the river bank is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The attached plan shows the two public rights of way across the site: a public bridle path and a cul-de-sac public footpath.

We have agreed to create a new permissive path past some of the mine buildings once they have been made safe, thus creating a small circular walk at the end of the public footpath which is presently a dead end. The route for this has yet to be agreed with English Heritage however it will bridge some deep ponds and reed beds which are presently inaccessible.

Vegetation clearance work has been undertaken in order to provide access for building stabilisation and other safety works. Unfortunately this together with publicity and curiosity of local residents (especially children) has resulted in increased incidences of trespass and vandalism to these areas. Recently, for example, the builders' dumper truck was pushed off the track and down a slope into some trees.

The public footpath is clearly defined, and marked with danger notices due to the hazardous nature of this site with unstable land and buildings, spoil heaps contaminated with heavy metals and mine shafts. There is also a notice at the start of the path advising members of the public to keep to the definitive route. Other areas around the house, garden and orchards are marked private.

For reasons of public safety and to protect the wildlife habitats (badger setts and ground nesting birds) we do not intend to dedicate any additional rights of way across the mine.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction mark, used to obscure the signature of the sender.

Greg Smith

Encs.