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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2021 16:44  
**To:** Johnstone, Andy (CSO)  
**Subject:** Public Inquiry:- U72 - The Donkey Track.

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Dear Mr. Johnstone,

I wish to submit evidence to the inquiry into the U72, 'The Donkey Track'.

I am a keen walker on the Ilse of Man for 31yrs and was a member of a walking and moutaineering club in the UK for 12yrs, the Wessex Mountaineering Club, before moving to the IOM in 1989.

I have walked almost all of the green lanes, greenways and footpaths on the Ilse of Man since moving here.

The U72 first became prominent in 2018 when I heard from someone that I knew within the DOI that work was being carried out upon the eastern end of this track by the Green Lane User Group working in conjunction with the DOI to open it up for not just as a footpath or bridlepath, but for for use by vehicles. I was told that this track was extremely overgrown and impassable, with parts of it completely water-logged, and had probable not been used as a through-way or as a "road" for more then 100yrs.

As I live within Ramsey I went to investigate very shortly after. I saw that work had started on the eastern end of this track and a concrete culvert had been created in the ditch at the entrance to take reasonably heavy vehicles. Work had started to clear the track and lay gravel along it and about 20m had already been cleared of the thick tangle of willows that had grown across the track since it was last used.

I tried to walk along the track but found that it was completely impenetrable and I did not make more than 5m along it before being stopped by the overgrowth and soft nature of this eathern track.

It was very clear to me that the only way that this track could be used even as a footpath was for 60-70% of the overgrowth to be cut down and some serious drainage of the track to be carried out by by digging a ditch to one side and possibly laying drainage pipes along it.

The efficacy and sheer amount of hard work, substantial cost and probably thousands of hours to do this, and complete even some king of usable surface again for walking upon or for use as a bridlepath made absolutely no sense to me, and for the GLUG group to be involved with the cooperation of the DOI demonstrated that another motive was behind the opening up of this soft track other than to be used as just a simple footpath or bridlepath.

As part of my evidence I would like to forward at a later date

significant evidence in the form of photographs of other tracks, greenways and green lanes on the IOM for which the Green Lane User Group have used or been responsible for, or had access to, and the shocking state that these have fallen into. Atleast one of these tracks had to be closed in 2014 because of its very poor condition.

I am highly concerned about this matter and if any issues about my submission come to light please will you get in contact with me via my email address or phone [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]