BOAT -application to redesignate as a bridleway

Quatt Malvern Parish Council asks that Shropshire Council make a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) in respect of the BOAT at Wootton in Quatt Malvern Parish and shown on the Shropshire Definitive Map.

The Council requests that this right of way be redesignated as a bridleway.

The reasons for this request are as follows:

a) There is no legitimate reason for the BOAT to require use by vehicles. There are no properties served by the road nor access to agricultural land. The road joins Wootton Lane with Holt Lane but an alternative route is available through nearby Duken Lane, a public highway.

b) The surface of the road is so bad that only tractors, trial motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles can use it.

c) There has been a problem for many years with a minority of 4x4 off road enthusiasts using the road and breaking through in to adjoining farmland and woodland, much of which is owned by the National Trust, causing damage to trees and hedges.

The National Trust, in association with Quatt Malvern Parish Council and other agencies, has placed concrete blocks in places along the route to prevent this abuse but some of the blocks have been dislodged by the irresponsible users to continue their harmful activities. Responsible off roader organizations have tried to discourage the abuse by some of their fellow users but this has been of no avail either.

d) There are frequent instances of fly tipping along this BOAT, cased by its secluded nature .

The attached photographs, taken on 12th September 2025, illustrate the extent of the abuse which has been occurring.

It is the belief of Quatt Malvern Parish Council and that of the National Trust, that if the BOAT was redesignated as a bridleway, suitable gates could be erected at either end of the road to allow access by horses and pedestrians but to preclude vehicles.

This would stop the irresponsible 4x4 users and prevent people using vehicles to take rubbish in to the road for dumping.

The Parish Council appreciates that the status of this right of way was considered by an inspector in the 1990s and that it was designated as a BOAT from being an RUPP.

However, the Council would respectfully suggest that circumstances have changed since that time and as inspection of other BOATS in the area has not revealed the same problems, the BOAT at Wootton should be treated as a special case.