



Reference: FOI 0692

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from North Tyneside Council:

I have been investigating the history of Borough Road Footbridge.

Can you confirm that prior to the construction of the timber structure over the cutting constructed by the railway Authority the route was a PRoW?

North Tyneside Council have no records of a Timber Bridge built at this location. The heritage assessment undertaken in connection with the planning application to demolish the bridge suggests that a timber bridge may have existed at one time. The relevant text of the assessment is shown below:

“Although no evidence exists to the actual date the original bridge was constructed, we can assume that the Borough Road Cut and Bridge was created some years after the arrival of the Railway. Historical map regression (see fig 1 & 2) helps us to identify that a footbridge was in place before 1858 at the time of the survey for the Northumberland LXXXIX Six Inch OS map. References in some texts refer to a laminated wooden bridge, but these references cannot be substantiated or adequately evidenced.”

No information is held on whether the route over the bridge was designated as a PRoW at the time.

Can you further confirm that the construction of the Timber Bridge was to maintain this PRoW?

See response above.

Can you also confirm that the Timber Bridge was replaced by an Iron Structure at the cost of the Railway Authority on the condition that the maintenance of the structure and the PRoW would transfer to Tynemouth County Borough Council.

We can confirm that an iron bridge was in place prior to the 1930s. No information is held on the other aspects of the query.

Tynemouth County Borough County Council replaced the Iron Bridge with a lighter Steel Structure in order to maintain the PRoW, can you confirm that this is factually correct?

North Tyneside Council have no record as to why the Iron bridge was replaced in the 1930s..

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Can you confirm that the bridge is part of the Heritage Trail promoted by Tyne and Wear Council and what discussions the Council have undertaken and with whom, to cease supporting this as part of the Heritage Trail?

No information held. Heritage trails are not a Council initiative and therefore are not part of the Council's statutory records. Heritage trails are promoted and managed by outside interest groups.

Can the Council provide full details of the legal orders that have been issued to rescind the route as a PRow?

No legal orders have been issued to date to reroute the PRow.

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Page 2 of 2