

# Proposed Re-routing of Path across Racecourse 6 Furlongs Start Chute – Walton Downs

The 6 Furlongs Start at Epsom Racecourse has for many years had a path/horsewalk bisect the chute that creates the Start, shortly before the point at which racehorses enter the Starting Stalls. There is a small area of grass behind it, then plastic railings to create the back of the chute.

This path is in regular use at present by horses in training having completed their exercise on the bottom, 9 furlong AWT, as part of their route to home.



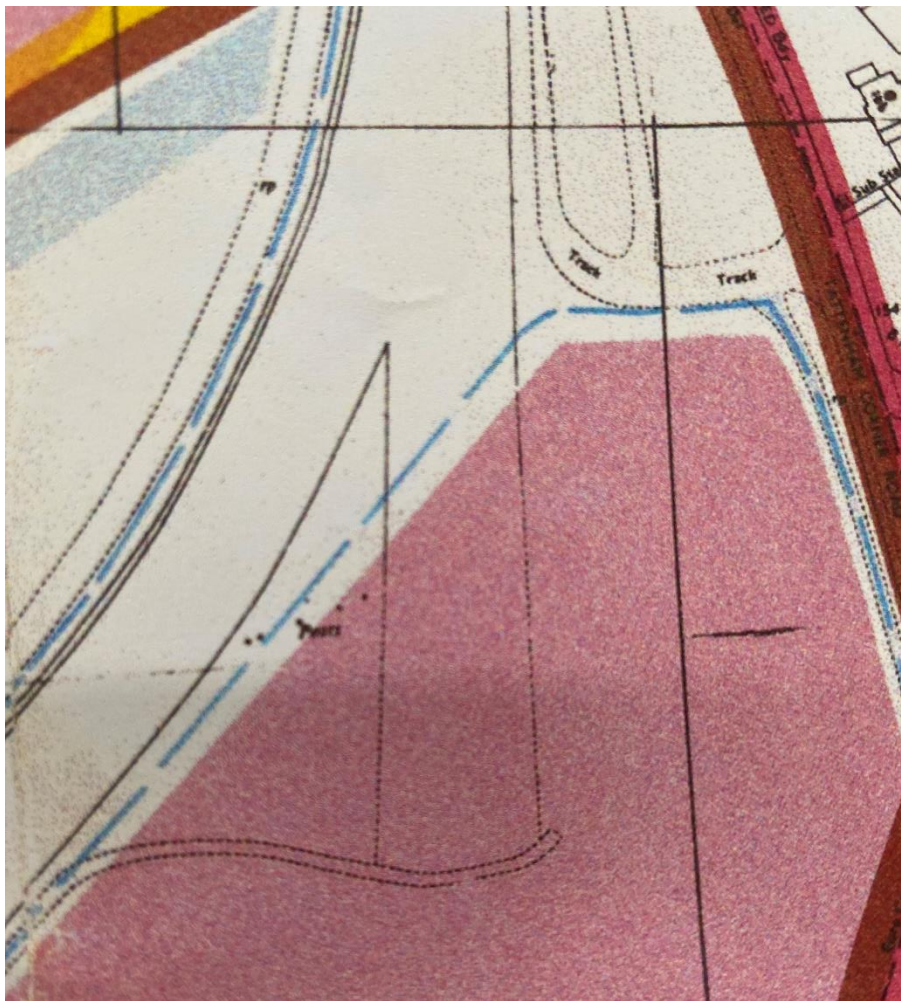
The build up over many years of debris and material has left the ground in that area increasingly very rough and uneven, and is beginning to cause issues with horses becoming unbalanced when entering the Starting stalls before a race. It is also unsightly and unbecoming of modern racecourse presentational standards.

The Racecourse seeks approval for the permanent closing up of this crossing point, its levelling, and for the instatement of a fully and permanent grass surface. This will prove much safer and acceptable for the running of 6 Furlongs race going forwards.

The Racecourse would propose, at its own expense, to create a new path/horsewalk of similar width immediately behind the current extent of the chute, which would rejoin the current main path at its western (Walton Downs) side. This path then forms, as it does now, part of the exit for horses in training from the 7 furlong Polytrack AWT at the top of Walton Downs.

Anecdotally, some trainers are already using the route proposed behind the chute, currently grass, due to the uneven nature of the track across the chute.

In terms of the legal position, the signed map of the 1984 Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act shows a track, without status, immediately behind the full extent of the chute, but does show a Hack Ride in this area some 100 yards further down the chute - in the direction of Tattenham Corner. To the Racecourse's knowledge, a track at this point has not existed in living memory, nor should its inception be encouraged. Any Hacks in this vicinity during authorised hours currently make use of the crossing across the start chute being discussed, and going forward would equally be allowed to make use of the new proposed route behind the chute.



The proposal to reroute the path was discussed at a recent TGMB meeting, where those trainers present had no objection to the proposal, and agreed that it would be a benefit to the starts of 6 furlong races. TGMB as a body gave its approval.









Current Raceday arrangements – grass clippings deployed to 'blind' the crossing