

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

The British Horse Society

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Fulfilling your passion for horses

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Mrs J E Piper  
Countryside and Rights of Way Support Officer  
Countryside & Landscape Services  
Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Pontllanfraith House  
Pontllanfraith NP12 2YW

June 24<sup>th</sup> 2014

Dear Mrs Piper

**Re: Application to Delete Bridleway 152 and 153 in the Community of Mynyddislwyn.**

With reference to the Application above to delete bridleways 152 and 153 from the Definitive Map, I must object to this proposal.

After reading the Report by the Acting Director of the Environment – and the various documents accompanying it – I can find no valid reason for the deletion of these two bridleways.

There is plenty of evidence of their use over the years by both horseriders and walkers. Bridleways are multi-user paths which can be used by both walkers and horseriders, whereas footpaths are restricted to use by walkers only. Bridleways therefore offer better value for money in the Rights of Way system.

According to the statistics shown in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Caerphilly, only 10% of Public Rights of Way are bridleway, while footpaths make up 78%. Walkers, in fact, have access to 100% of the Rights of Way network. The percentage of bridleways is quite low compared to that of Wales as a whole.

There are many riding horses and ponies kept in the Mynyddislwyn area with very little off-road provision for them. It is vital therefore that these two bridleways are not lost or downgraded. The ROWIP suggested that more provision should be provided.

According to the British Horse Society website [www.horseaccidents.org.uk](http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk) , road traffic accidents involving horse riders form the largest single group of horse related accidents reported to them. Most of these accidents take place on minor roads and country lanes similar to those that riders have to use in the Mynyddislwyn area where they have no off-road alternative.

All horses are required, by law, to have a passport and according to the latest statistics held on the National Equine Database (NED) there are 2,639 registered in Caerphilly County Borough and most of these are riding horses. The owners of these horses and their riders put a great deal of money into the local economy, over and above their normal contributions as citizens. According to British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) statistics every horse owner puts up to £3,000 per horse per annum into the local economy for feed, care, livery and other expenses. In Caerphilly this would equate to almost £8million per annum.

I would request therefore that you give serious consideration to the needs of horse riders and the implications that deleting these bridleways would have on the local horse riding community of Mynyddislwyn. If gates have been removed and replaced by fencing, then these fences simply form an obstruction on a statutory rights of way. There are also many instances where there may be a stile in place on such a right of way but there was invariably a gate alongside in the first instance.

Thank you

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Hyett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mrs Jeanne Hyett  
BHS Regional Access and Bridleways Officer, Wales.  
County Access and Bridleways Officer. Caerphilly.

Report it at  
[www.horseaccidents.org.uk](http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk)



If the type of incident you wish to report is not covered, please send an email to  
[s.hardy@bhs.org.uk](mailto:s.hardy@bhs.org.uk)  
containing details of the incident

[www.horseaccidents.org.uk](http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk)



Been involved in an equine incident? Report it at  
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Statistics make a difference  
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Check out the website for a reporting form. If the

incident you wish to report is not covered, please send the details to

**[s.hardy@bhs.org.uk](mailto:s.hardy@bhs.org.uk)**

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