

# HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



FREE TO MEMBERS

No. 31 AUTUMN 2011

## *Straight from the horse's mouth*

Hello Everyone

I would like to offer a warm welcome to new members and hope you enjoy this newsletter. We do now have quite a contingency of members from outside the Penwith area who have joined for the horse hikes and for the general information given in our Horse Around. We are pleased that some of you in turn are able to offer to run horse hikes in your area – giving us Penwithians a chance to ride some different country.

We have another full Horse Around for you with many issues covered, and I would like to thank everyone who has done a written contribution for this edition. Our thanks also go to Anne Bressington, Christine Hichens, Alison Lugg, and Heather Gibbons for running rides this year. We would welcome more members to run these events. Do get in touch if you can help with the horse hike programme. (The more people who learn the regular ride routes, the better we can provide continuity in the future.)

The picture below shows the new and lovely ride around Loe Pool, Helston. Anne B. couldn't wait to repeat it and has since been back but got lost! (Now you do know the way Anne, you will be able to lead it next time!) A Nancledra ride followed, and then we had a nice easy ride from Tehidy and an interesting quiet ride from Morvah over the moors. The last ride before our summer break was the Lizard horse hike and was very well attended, and with some new faces.

Sadly, my lovely mare Roana has decided she can no longer trailer travel but fortunately, my young 'Bob the Cob' is riding out well in company and taking her place.

We had a very informative talk at the AGM in March, given by horse vet Joe Ivey and because of the importance of the topic, (diseases from abroad) I took notes and have reported in this Horse Around.

At the end of March, we went up to Stoneleigh to the new impressive BHS headquarters for a volunteers conference. They are certainly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century now with state of the art technical equipment and open plan offices. It's all looking very professional. We attended the Royal Cornwall Show in June, did our access bit and helped out on the BHS stand. We took time out to watch the Camel polo – very entertaining, however they do need a little more practice!

Early this month, we had a good meeting with the new Cornwall Council Head of Environment, Jon James who is also a keen horse rider. We cantered through many issues and although they can't wave a magic wand we felt it to be a positive start. (read more later)

Finally, this is your last reminder and Horse Around if your membership has recently lapsed. A reminder will be enclosed if it has. Please do continue to support us and the work we are doing for your riding routes. Sue Knapman and crew are running their Ride4Life Cancer Charity ride on the 29 August. Please do go and support this important but great fun event. (You do need to be a WPBA member to take part.)

Happy Riding and Horse Hiking, Margaret



*Crossing Loe Bar on the new Loe Pool Horse Hike – see inside – Photo Amanda Nicholson*

## *In This Issue*

**Horse Hike Reports**  
**Bridleway Renovations**  
**Good News Stories**  
**Emerging Equine Diseases**  
**PAROW/Cornwall Council Update**  
**Steel Horse News**

*and much more ...*



**Penzance Ride 4 Life**  
**Bank Holiday Monday**



**The third Penzance Ride 4 Life in aid of Breast Cancer Charity will be on Monday 29th August 2011 at 10.00am and as usual will be held at the show fields at Trescowan Farm, Bone Valley, Heamoor.**  
**- Full Details – inside. p4**

## **WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION**

Chairman: Adrian Bigg, Treveffa Farm, Trevega, Zennor, TR26 3BL  
Treasurer: Beverley Jenkin, Secretary: Margaret Bigg,

Email: [wpba@btinternet.com](mailto:wpba@btinternet.com)

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## Lizard Horse Hike

We left Mullion on time at 11.am. There were 8 horses of different types and sizes of horses and ponies. The youngest rider being my 13 year old daughter on her 12-2hh pony, and the largest horse was about 16hh. This was our first ride out with the trailer and a really hot day. It started off nice and slow, while we and the horses all got to know each other. This was the first time on this ride, so I did not know all the places on the way but it we followed bridleways and some lanes in parallel with the coast. We had some lovely coastal views and went over all sorts of ground. It was the first time we tackled steps! We arrived at the Lizard after riding for about 2 hours. Whilst resting on Lizard Green, we were supplied with pasties and a drink kindly organised by Alison's mum and dad.



We then set off home along beautiful scenery and past Kynance Cove. There were lots and lots of gates which caused a little bit of confusion, it was a bit faster on the way back. We finally got to the trailer at 3 pm, let the ponies wind down, then loaded to come home. It took about 4 hours in total with only about 40 minutes of road riding, which I thought was great! So a big thank you to everyone for being so kind to us on our first but hopefully many rides. Adrian and Margaret were greatly missed (their horses were suffering from pollen allergy)! And a big thank you to Alison for organising the ride and to her mum and dad for organising the lunchtime stop. A really good day was had by all.

Debbie and Kirsten Smith



Debbie and Kirsten enjoying their pasties

**NOTE:** Since the ride we have contacted Natural England and they have adjusted the gates so that the catches open and close more easily. However the self closing times are set by the standard fittings used.

### Don't forget to visit :

BHS Access Cornwall  
[www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk](http://www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk)

Also **Online Interactive Riding Maps** for all areas of Cornwall

## Horse Hike Programme – Autumn/Winter 2011

Please note these dates in your diary now

Organiser  
or  
Contact

U	Ride 4 Life, Heamoor	MONDAY 29 October	Sue Knapman
U	Boskednan (nr Nine Maidens/Carfury)	11 September	Emily
UU	Nancladra	25 September	M & A
U or UU	Helston/Loe Pool	9 October	M & A
UU	Polgigga	23 October	Beverley
UU	Mining Trails, Great Flat Lode, Camborne	6 November	M & A
U	Drift Dam	20 November	M & A
U or UU	Gwinear	4 December	M & A
UU	Xmas Cracker Ride from Chapel Carn Brea	18 December	Amanda.
U	Madron	15 January	Anne

Other rides may be organised according to demand. We always welcome suggestions for new rides. **Always check with the organiser or ourselves a few days before.** The exact date may be determined by the interest in the ride and/or weather.

**Contacts:** Margaret and Adrian Tel: 01736 795098  
 Anne Bressington 330623, Emily Barraclough 333873  
 Beverley Jenkin 01326 241545, Amanda Nicholson 871876  
 Sue Knapman 07970048914

Horse Hikes are ridden at your own risk.  
 BHS Affiliation covers our members for Public Liability Insurance on organised rides.

### Juniors on Horse Hikes

All juniors must be accompanied by a responsible parent or guardian who can look after them and their safety on the ride, and can vouch for their riding competence.

If you have a good idea for a Horse Hike or wish to organise one, do please let us know!

U Easy Ride    UU Average Ride

### Membership Renewal

If your membership is due, and you have not rejoined a reminder is included with this newsletter. Many of you did renew for two years which saves both you and ourselves on administration. If your membership was due and you have rejoined and you have not yet got your card, your new membership card has been enclosed with this newsletter.

For those of you who find renewing by post tedious you may now renew (or join) online. (paypal /redit/debit)

### RENEW ONLINE

[www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/westpenwithbridleways/JoinOnline.htm](http://www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/westpenwithbridleways/JoinOnline.htm)  
 (address is case sensitive)



## **GOOD NEWS STORIES**

### **UPDATE - *Sancreed Bridleway 17, near Caer Bran Farm*** (Grumbla to Brane.)

We reported in the last Horse Around that the owner of Caer Bran Farm had installed a gate at the end of the bridleway (as shown on the definitive map) to stop horses using the bridleway through to Brane.

On our behalf, Cornwall Council looked carefully at the situation and concluded that the right of way did actually continue through the gate he had erected. Linda Holloway the RoW Enforcement Officer followed due procedure to enforce the RoW, and the landowner has now removed all trace of the gate. We will now be liaising with Cornwall Council to clear the vegetation back on the track which links through to Brane.

We are very fortunate in getting this incident resolved relatively quickly, as there are hundreds of other enforcement issues that are on Linda's desk. However this demonstrates the importance of acting fast when situations such as this do arise. Swift and positive action does send the message that such obstructions of the paths we have always used will not be tolerated. We owe our special thanks to Linda and her team.

### **STEEPLE WOODS THREATENED DEVELOPMENT**

The planning application for the care home that was going to destroy the only, and beautiful, definitive bridleway in St Ives and destroy the green area from Steeple woods to the coast was turned down by Cornwall Council. The application was only supported by one member of the Planning Committee. The developers may appeal, but hopefully sense will prevail as the proposed development goes against all planning and environmental policies. We thank all who objected and supported the campaign against the development.

### **TINNERS WAY – FOUR PARISHES TO MULFRA HILL**

We have gained permission to clear moorland paths on Nine Maidens Common and Mulfra Hill. The path from near Brook Cottage over Nine Maidens has already been cleared and the one past Bodrifty Settlement to Mufra Hill will be done very shortly. Both have been more or less impassable for the last two years and the route used passed Bodrifty has now been enclosed for grazing, so a new adjacent route is soon to be opened by Chris and Kirstan our PAROW paths Officers.

### **CHAPEL CARN BREA**

The National Trust have been working on Chapel Carn Brea Clearing and widening paths for access and firebreaks in conjunction with their conservation grazing by some Dartmoor ponies. We can now ride with ease around the hill. The NT continue to discourage riding to the top of the hill.

After liaison with us the NT also have repositioned the gate onto the old lane that runs down to Newshop. The old gate was right next to a large step. The old lane down to Newshop is now in fantastic condition after many years of neglect, the work being done by our sister organisation PAROW.

### ***The Mountie Always Gets His Man***

Req the horse and his rider Pc Martin Lindsley chased through the busy streets of Middlesbrough to apprehend a suspect. After all, a Mountie always gets his man - even if it means chasing him through the streets of a busy town centre. That is what happened when Pc Martin Lindsley, 38, and his partner, Req, an eight-year-old Shire Cross, were on routine patrol in Middlesbrough. In a series of remarkable scenes dozens of shoppers watched as the policeman and his charge galloped down a main road after their suspect. For the next mile or so the pair negotiated the traffic as the fugitive tried to shake them off. Eventually, however, the exhausted 28-year-old could run no more and finally gave himself up to Pc Lindsley and his trusty sidekick. The man then collapsed before confessing: 'I'm never going to run from a police horse ever again.'

### ***Madron Horse Hike***

A fun-filled sunny day on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, outside Madron church the eight riders and their horses set off at 11:00am. The entire ride lasted about two and half hours. We started in Madron, then we rode up Kennel Lane and followed the road up to the moor, past Nine Maidens and Men-an-Tol. We then passed by Lanyon Quoit and up Madron Carne and then all the way back to Madron church. Everyone arrived back very happy and satisfied from a really good, but hot ride. And a really big thank you to Anne Bressington for arranging the ride.

Lucy Grant (age 12).



Apologies for yet another picture of Madron Church but this ride is very popular and the photo is great, thanks to Peta-Jane. Lucy on her pony is at the right of the picture

### ***Horse Hike from Nancledra***

In glorious April sunshine, 10 happy riders, set out from Nancledra school car park taking the back lanes up to Georgia and joined the track leading on to the bridleway up over the moor to Castle-an-Dinas. Lovely views were had over the vast expanse of Mount's Bay before descending to the Chysauster road. After passing by the ancient settlement of Chysauster, they took the bridleway at Carnaquidden to Bishop's Head and Foot. Then riding back up on to the moorland to Lady Downs and Amalveor Downs, from which both north and south coasts could be seen at the same time. There were further superb views over St. Ives Bay and to the Lizard on the way down via the fantastically recently renovated Embla Vean bridleway, (Cornwall Council has done a superb job). Further quiet lanes and a bridleway link returned the ride safely to Nancledra.

All the horses and riders had a lovely relaxing 8 mile ride and thanks to go Heather Gibbons for leading it.

## Horse Hike Around Loe Pool

Going to new places with your horse is always fun! Riding through the beautiful wooded Penrose Estate, Helston, to Loe Bar and around Loe Pool on our Horse Hike in March proved to be even more special. These trails are just perfect for riding along quietly and the views they reveal of Loe Pool, its surrounding countryside and dramatic coast are absolutely spectacular! So WPBA would like to say thank you very much to the National Trust for allowing horse riders to access these trails.



*Left, Map showing the ridden trails green/blue dots. Helston can just be seen (top right)*

*The byway (blue) to Porthleven cannot be ridden because part has fallen into the sea. The National Trust are hoping to open an alternative route for horses and cyclists.*



**Riders gathered for the start of the ride.**

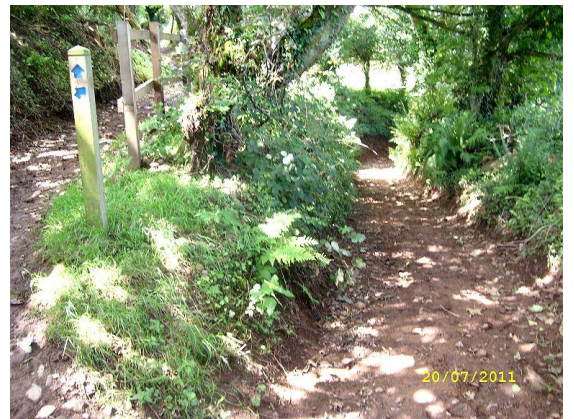
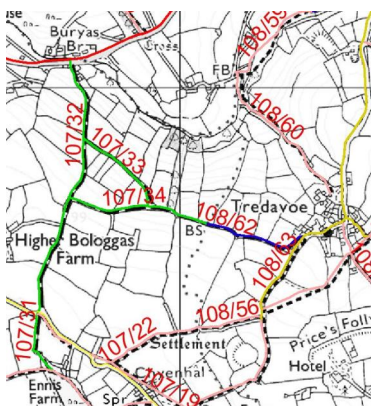
An amazing sixteen members, from Sennen and St Just, Hayle and St Ives, Breage and Cury and Gwinear, and from Helston who were keen to learn the new route, gathered in the car park near Helston's Boating Pool. We rode across Loe River before heading into the Penrose Estate which skirts Loe Pool, Cornwall's largest natural lake. Then we rode high alongside the wooded valley and out onto the coast path. We then cut back to cross Loe Bar itself – a massive sandy bank which cuts Loe Pool off from the sea. All the horses were amazingly good and calm crossing the wide beach of Loe Bar – see picture on front page. We then headed on up to the coast tracks to Gunwalloe. We returned via a network of tracks and small country lanes leading through Tangies, Goonhusband and Degibna to join the path on the east side of Loe Pool and back to the start. It proved to be a fantastic new Horse Hike, totalling about nine miles of easy gentle riding.

Peta-Jane Field

## Renovation of Bridleways by Tredavoe near Paul and Penzance - More Good News

Cornwall Council has recently completed renovation of a triangle of bridleways west of Penzance. The bridleways have been in very bad condition for some time and recently had been closed after being completely washed away, and 2 riding accidents. Cornwall Council has once again done a fantastic job, by using the natural "rab" and re-profiling the paths so that they drain properly so that future water damage will be minimised.

All the bridleway triangle has been restored. A big thank you to Toby Lowe of Cornwall Council for organising this work. The money came out of special emergency funding provided by Cornwall Council.



The bridleways connect to the A30 at Buryas bridge, Tredavoe and the lane from Drift. The middle picture shows the boulder strewn state of one of the bridleways before renovation. The RH picture shows junction of BW 33 and 34 with the work completed.

**The third Penzance Ride 4 Life** will be on **Monday 29th August 2011** at 10.00am and as usual will be held at the show fields at Trescrowan Farm, Bone Valley, Heamoor.

The ride is approximately 8 miles with shorter routes if preferred. Entry/sponsorship forms are available from Sue Knapman mob 07970048914 or e-mail [sue.knapman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue.knapman@hotmail.co.uk). or turn up on the day. Entry fee is £10 (£5 if already a member of WPBA) Rosettes to all riders and prizes for most amount of money raised. Refreshments available. This is a always a great fun ride – Please support this event and find something pink to wear.



## Morvah Horse Hike

In June eight riders assembled at Carne Farm for a horse hike around the moorland above Morvah. Two had already spent 2 hours in the saddle riding over from near Sennen to join the ride! We headed off westward along bridleway and old road to Kiegwin and then on to Higher Bojewyan. An old farm lane took us to paths and tracks across The Gump (Woon Gumpus Common), eventually emerging on to the track leading to Trehyllys farm. On reaching Trehyllys, we skirted around the base of Chun Castle and, by special arrangement, rode quietly across Carne farm fields and then over Carn Downs to reach the Morvah Road.

Crossing the road, we trekked and meandered along open moorland paths and tracks eventually reaching the summit of Watch Croft, the highest point in West Cornwall.



*Photo on the top of Watchcroft – Photo Mary Gribble*

From the trig point, there were tremendously expansive views over to Carn Galver and Greenbarrow mine and more. After standing and enjoying the views, the riders turned around and looped back down. On crossing over the bridleway leading to Watch Croft observatory a light squall enveloped the riders for just a few minutes. The road was eventually reached that took the ride back to Carne Farm. Thank you to Chris Hichens of Carne Farm for planning and leading a very pleasant trek. Good company and relaxed atmosphere made for a calm and easy 7 mile ride. Margaret's young horse 'Bob the Cob' thinks horse hikes are the best thing ever after only his second time out.

## Tehidy Horse Hike

It is always a pleasure to go riding in Tehidy Woods and the first Sunday in June was exceptional due to the continued lovely fine settled weather. 12 members met up at the North Cliffs car park, above Portreath, for a 9 mile horse hike. There were a lot less people around on this occasion, probably because it was a good day to go to the beach. We rode through the park and out to the west gate from where we took the quiet road towards Kehelland and then took a linking bridleway back to the country park.

Everyone enjoyed the cool ambience of the woods riding to Tehidy cafe. We then took the path beside the golf course leading out on to the Illogen road which we had to cross. Heading towards Portreath along a pleasant tree lined road we took the Mining Trails bridleway over to Gwel an Mor. Great views across to Scorrier are seen from here. We then followed the new trail back to Tehidy re-crossing the Illogen road and riding along the lovely pine tree drive alongside the golf course. The riders took several pathways up through the wood back to the north cliff car park. It's a joy to meander through the woodland on horse back and nobody minded when a wrong turning was taken thus prolonging the woodland ride. All the horses were extremely well behaved and relaxed.



## Horses Help Heroes

A team of horses left Lands End for John O'Groates, a journey of 1,000 miles pulling a replica WW1 ambulance. They travelled non stop 24/7 using 22 horses, but changed every 10 miles. They must have been shifting because they got to Taunton on the first day, 150 miles! Horses Help Heroes is to raise money for injured servicemen.

<http://www.horseshelpheroes.org.uk/>



*Departing from Lands End and some local riders also saw them on their way.*

## PAROW UPDATE

*Explore West Cornwall  
Tinnerns' Way*

We were successful in our bid to Local Action Group funding for funds to finance PAROW and its two paths officers for the next two years – a great relief to us all.

This means a continuation of the work to keep many of the paths we ride clear and usable, and also a new initiative of doing more moorland work to enhance and promote the Tinnerns' Way trail over the moors between St Ives and St Just.

PAROW currently also looks after the bridleways in Paul and Perranuthnoe

Visit [www.parow.org.uk](http://www.parow.org.uk)

## New Management Team for Environment and Countryside Service at Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has reorganised its Countryside Service with changes at the top. We welcome the new Environmental Manager, Jon James (a keen horse rider), and under him managing the countryside service is David Attwell who used to manage the Camel Trail.

We have had a good initial meeting with both and are hoping for a good pragmatic approach to improving our paths network.

However we do have to remember that funding is very tight, so best use has to be made of all available.

A further change is that delivery on the ground is now done by "Neighbourhood Services" under the direction of the management team. For looking after Penwith we welcome Colin Bayes, an experienced officer who previously worked in Redruth/Helston area, who replaces Toby Lowe who has moved to join the countryside service team under David Attwell.

Paths problems should still be reported to [acessteam@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:acessteam@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Golden Horseshoe Experience

In May, Lizzie Matthews and myself Beverley Jenkin had our first experience of the Golden Horseshoe ride on Exmoor.

It is renowned as one of the toughest rides in the endurance calendar, with very challenging terrain often accompanied by challenging weather. We entered the Exmoor Experience a two day ride of 40km+40km.

We arrived in Exford on the Saturday to allow the horses to settle. The first evening was spent in the cosy local pub where a jubilant racehorse owner was generously sharing his winnings buying everyone in the pub rounds of drinks. He wanted to buy us champagne but our mentor and crew member, Mandy, thought an early night was a better option!

The vetting on Sunday was an experience for the horses with tannoys blaring, marques flapping and lots of activity.



Beverley and Lizzie making good progress over the moor.

Monday morning the weather was bright and sunny, ideal for a perfect ride across moorland, open fields and through woods. Our crews efficiently met us, cooled the horses and our nerves as we rode the course. A timing misjudgement on our part resulted in a racing finish that allowed us to gallop over the finish line in gold time. We had the usual half an hour to cool the horses and get their heart rates down. To stay on gold time we had to get the horse's pulse rates down to below 55. The galloping finish gave our crews a real challenge but amazingly they managed it and we both got through the vetting and finished the first day on gold time.

The second day was cold and damp, we rode the course in the opposite direction, this time we had our timings right and both finished in gold time. Then came the nerve racking bit; cooling the horses and then presenting them for vetting. We both stood in line waiting to be called forward to the vet. Kelster's heartbeat was 44bpm, Lizzie could not believe it and she and Kelster were awarded a gold medal. Archie's heartbeat was higher and I came home with a silver. For first timers we did pretty well I think. It was a brilliant ride, one I would definitely like to do again.



Thanks to our crews; Mandy & Paul Nicholson, Jeremy Jenkin, Jane James and Nicky Jenkin who did an amazing job, and of course to our wonderful horses.

Well Done Guys!

And ....

Have you read the book "One 100 mile Horse Trek" by Major Bumsore!

## Emerging Equine Diseases

This year's AGM talk was on the Disease Threats from Abroad and update of last autumn's outbreaks of Horse Atypical Myopathy and swamp fever. We invited Joe Ivey from Rosevean Vets to come and speak to us. The following is a summary.

There are 3 main disease threats from overseas, these are EIA or Swamp Fever, a virus, African Horse Sickness, and Nile Virus. The worrying fact is that we have 'nothing in the armoury' to successfully tackle these, new to Britain, diseases.

There is an increased risk of these diseases coming to Britain due to climate change. Warmer and wetter weather, easy transport, horses flying more and importation of horses specifically from Rumania and also the greater risk from the importation of fruit, plants and flowers. The transportation of horse meat and slaughtered horses also increases the risk. The sad fact is that 80% are destined for Italy – where such diseases are endemic through meat coming from eastern Europe. The import of cheap horses is a big factor. Holding yards all over Europe and transporters using ports without disease checks and controls.

**EIA (Equine Infectious anaemia) or swamp fever**, is caused by a retrovirus. (Cases on Dartmoor) The symptoms are fever, high temperature, bloody diarrhoea, depression and weight loss. It is transmitted by horse fly and other flies after biting an infected horse – blood to blood contact. The treatment is with anti-inflammatories. Although the horse can survive, the usual outcome is that it has to be humanely destroyed. There is no vaccine.

**African Horse Sickness** is a fatal infectious disease caused by a virus spread by horse to horse. In Africa zebras and elephants also get it. It is typified by fever and respiratory distress, a swollen head and colic. 95% of cases die. It is spread by wind dispersal and midgies. There is no vaccine available in the UK.

**Western Nile Virus** affects humans as well as horses, dogs, cats and rabbits. It is an encephalitis – an inflammation of the brain. It is endemic in Africa, Asia and even now in central Europe, and Israel. Now UK horses are most at risk. The clinical signs are listlessness, high temperature, weakness especially in the hind limbs. A blood test identifies this virus. The treatment is anti-inflammatories. Vaccine is difficult because the antibodies keep changing so the vaccine would need to constantly change also.

**Atypical Myopathy Outbreak** Cases last Autumn shocked us all. It had vets baffled as no one had seen horses dying for what seemed no apparent reason, in a relatively confined local area, here in the far southwest. It is believed AM was not an infectious contagion. They reckon it was due to environmental conditions, producing a fungal toxin and bacterial toxin and clostridial toxin. Again, this could be due to climate change, but not transportation. There has been a rise of cases in Europe and is sporadic in nature. There is no vaccine.

I have asked Joe to keep us updated with any new information so we can keep you all informed.

The problem is we are not quarantining our horses from abroad. This is quite shocking knowing these risks. Editor's comment: *Is it any wonder DEFRA wanted us horse riders to start paying an annual fee for any future outbreaks of animal diseases.*

A stark warning has been put forward by World Horse Welfare, that urgent action is needed to protect the UK horse population from increasing threats of disease, that could decimate the country's £7 billion equine industry.

## HELP WANTED

- Track from Balnoon to Halsetown

We do urgently need names of riders who have used this path in the past, as we wish to claim it as bridleway. Currently riders are being stopped from using it by the owners of a caravan alongside the path. If you or you know anyone who has used this path please Tel 795098



**History of Cycling and the law (a 3 part series)  
taken from Rights of Way Law Review March 2010.**  
(This series item is also relevant to equestrian rights.)

**Part 2. Cycling on Footpaths and Pavements and  
the introduction of Cycle Tracks**

( Please read on – and you won't really loose the will to live!)

Cycling on a footpath remains a potential trespass against the landowner (as it would for riding a horse). It's a moot point whether trespass is committed if a bicycle is wheeled or carried along a footpath. A dog or pushchair is considered to be a usual accompaniment for a pedestrian. Wheeling a bike could be considered by the courts as an action that puts burden on the land above pedestrian use. Therefore a bicycle carried is less likely to be seen as a trespass committed. It is not a criminal offence to cycle on a footpath (yet it is to drive a motorised vehicle) unless a legal order has been made.

Different rules apply to cycling on a pavement. The Highways Act 1835 makes it an offence to wilfully ride upon any footpath or causeway by the side of a road set apart for the use of foot passengers or lead or drive a horse, sheep, swine etc. Although we grew up knowing this and there has been no change in the law, - few people would admonish today's children for doing so now because of the danger of traffic. Since the Highways Act 1980, cyclists can claim the presumed dedication of a restricted byway after a period of 20 year unchallenged use.

**Cycle Tracks** – It was realised the bicycle did not sit comfortably on roads yet was not allowed to use other types of highway. Thus the cycle track was born to protect cyclists by devising a new, statutory class of highway. Under the Highways Act 1980 a highway authority can build new roads, including cycle tracks and land may be compulsorily acquired for this purpose. The track will form part of the carriageway and technically giving full highway rights. This causes great consternation and a grey area in the legal world because the so called dedicated cycle track could be used by horses or other legitimate users of the highway. Although horse riders do not have a right to use road way cycle tracks, they do not commit a criminal offence in so doing.

Cycle tracks made over an existing definitive footpath give pedestrians the continued right of usage. In the case of such a cycle track (usually a leisure trail) constructed under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 horse riders would be, at worst, committing a trespass against the landowner simply because they do not have and never have had the right to use the original footpath. Many local authorities simply opt to make trails bridleway and thus become multi-user routes - as Cycle Track Orders do not have a definitive map status and thus not clear and secure in law.

There is huge lack of clarity in the law. The upshot, I think is, that if you do horse ride the cycle tracks you should not be prosecuted. And if you are a cyclist, please realise the law is a bit ambiguous and treat any horse riders using a cycle way sympathetically.

**Next time:** Cycling on Open Access land, and the need to modernize rights for cyclists. (all relevant to horse riders) - A real thorn in your tyre or stone in your hoof!



**10,000 BHS Members in the SouthWest**

Membership of the BHS for the Southwest Region has reached 10,000. This region is the first region nationally to achieve this goal.

Although membership is growing, the BHS currently only has 1.7% of the 4.3m riders in the UK! The aim is to triple that number. The more members the society has the more effective and powerful it is in lobbying the government for more safe off-road riding.

Please do continue to support the work the BHS does for all horse owners and riders. [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

**Good News -Equine Access to Cycle Trails**

Richard Benyon MP, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, has made a statement urging all local authorities to allow horse riders to use cycle trails, routes and any other ways where it is in their power to do so, and to encourage that permission or dedication to happen where it is not in their power.

Reinforcing a point frequently made by the BHS, the Minister makes clear that "Past research has shown that user conflict on shared use routes is actually infrequent but exaggerated, and that additional maintenance cost to ensure appropriate surfacing is minimal." This is excellent news.

Cornwall Council Already has a policy of multi-use where ever feasible, but there are still some cycle only trail sections in Cornwall.

**Kernow Horse Trail**

You may remember that we have been working with Cornwall Council to try and get a safe Kernow Horse Trail from Lands End to The Devon Border as part of the BHS Ride-UK initiative.

The trail uses bridleways where possible and otherwise quiet lanes. We would like some new bridleway sections to significantly improve the route that already exists. Although early days Cornwall Council are currently looking again at the possibility of getting EU funding towards the project.

In the mean time more riders are wanting to do the ride either on is own as part of a longer distance trek. The latest was a ride for the Redruth Charity Racehorse Relief.

We therefore have updated our [bhsaccesscornwall](http://www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk) website to present and map the trail as it is currently ridden – Please see <http://www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/RideUK.htm>

**.BHS National Access Conference 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**The British Horse Society's National Access Conference is being held this year at BHS Headquarters in Warwickshire on Sunday 16 October.**

The conference will feature a number of speakers from professional bodies, who will talk about practical and technical matters that affect equestrian access. Always an interesting and useful event.

Email [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) for details