



Hello Everyone,

Yes, we are still here and we are busy, but our focus has been on the bigger picture. We are tackling and working with the Ramblers on our Project 2026. We want to get all the routes you ride on to the definitive map or submitted before that date. This work is so important, it is being rolled out nationally by the BHS. We urgently need to secure riding routes for the future. We hope you saw us on Spotlight recently. Cornwall Council is recognising the work that needs to be done and has recently voted for extra funding for rights of way. Anyone can help if they are keen to get involved. More later.

I expect, like me, you have signed up to receive various regular email newsletters. No doubt, also like me, you have great difficulty in keeping up to date with all this and especially if you also do Facebook and Instagram etc. I know Debbie has been doing a great job updating you via Facebook and with Beverly, has organised horse hikes.

We would like to welcome many new members who have recently joined us and we welcome returning members.

Over the last year we can hardly be accused of bombarding you with communication via email! It's a fast changing world and I believe we are all on 'info overload'.

We hope you like this overdue E-Bulletin. The AGM will be held in early May, and we will let you know when we have details. So its heads down to business for us.

Good riding.

Margaret

Horse Hike Update

Last year we had a couple of lovely rides out, one from Boswens, St Just which took about 2 hours, we stopped at the Queens arms in Botallack before coming through Trewellard. We travelled through Poldark land and the scenery was spectacular, and all horses and riders were amazing. It was so nice to ride somewhere different than outside your front door and to do so much off road riding. Thank you so much to our amazing host leading the ride and her partner for the help. I hope we will get to do this ride again soon. We also had a ride from the Great Flat Lode near Four Lanes which again was about 1 half to 2 hours. Again all horses behaved amazingly well, and again so much off road riding, riding around all the old mines, both rides were on a Sunday and started at 11 am.

I also ran a ride from Rosudgeon but unfortunately we only had one rider join but we had a great time riding through Gwallon woods.

I have managed to get bridleway number 112/26/1 and 112/22/2 and 112/25/1 cleared Re packet Lane to Lower Colenso with very good results. Also path 112/28/1 which was re-cut back after you even had trouble walking it. There is just one small narrow part on path 112/26/1 that still needs more work, but a big thank you to Linda Holloway from Cornwall Council for ensuring these paths were cleared.



Although it took a whole summer it did get done to a good standard, we now need to move onto the next paths - a good start on the problem on these bridledways.

Clare and I went out one Sunday to cut back path 109/19/3 which took us 2 about 2 hours and both came back suffering from very bad backs !!!! I ended up loaded with pain killers and stretched out on the couch as did Clare. Laura Jane had help from her yard to also clear a path round Greenbury so a big thank you for that too.

We need to keep going together to get our local paths cleared, please do not give up on trying as its so nice to ride a track without having to duck on your horses' necks. I can't use exercise sheets as they just get spiked by thorns so we do need to get these paths reported and attended to.

Thank you to everyone for leading the rides. I for one absolutely loved it

Debbie (Rosudgeon)

Project 2026

Adrian is continuing to enhance and develop the Project 2026 Web based interactive mapping and recording Project which has been adopted nationally by the BHS. The BHS also has a new project 2026 Officer to do targeted research. His name is Will Steele and he is targeting Cornwall as one of four counties to pilot the mass submission of DMMO Applications to beat the 2026 deadline for recording old paths on the definitive map.

Anyone can help with this project. There are now over 2000 paths we have mapped in Cornwall that need researching and protecting against 2026 if feasible.

Please see <https://www.bhsaccess.org.uk/dobbin/Project2026.php?id=southwest/2026Cornwall>

(Yes the password is "2026")

The Ramblers are working very closely with us on this project. In West Cornwall they have already submitted significant number of DMMO Applications and mostly for restricted byways (carriage and riding rights).

These paths include:

The Old Lane to Newshop that runs around south of Chapel Carn Brea.

The "dogs leg" lane that runs from opposite Lands End Airport to lane past Joppa.

We will be shortly be identifying many more easy target DMMO Applications

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Bridleway 17 Sancreed

You may remember that some years ago that the end of bridleway 17 from Grumbla to Brane was blocked by the adjacent landowner. The recorded bridleway does not continue all the way to the byway at Brane although the old lane does – this is typical of the many issues with the definitive map. In this instance Cornwall Council took a strong stance and enforced the removal of the obstruction. However although there have been no further problems, apart from the path being overgrown, the map problem remains and the path could be obstructed again. We have got good witnessed evidence from our members of their use of the path up to when it was obstructed. Up to this time however we have not submitted a Definitive Map Modification Order Application to get the bridleway properly recorded as we did not want to immediately provoke the issue again.

The good news is that a member of West Cornwall Footpaths Preservation Society, who we are working closely with, is now submitting a DMMO application using our evidence and that of walkers to get the rest of the path recorded as bridleway thus safeguarding it for the future.

Cornwall Council DMMO Processing

The Secretary of State has given yet another direction to Cornwall Council to determine an order within 6 months. This is on a path near Redruth which was obstructed only in early 2017. Whilst this is good news in one sense it does nothing for the 100+ DMMOs in the queue that have been there for much longer.

CC do not have the capacity to process the number of directions that have now been given by SoS. But the SoS does now appear to have policy of putting pressure on Local Authorities in light of the 2026 deadline.

Pass Wide and Slow / Dead Slow

We know of the great success of Debbie Smith's "Pass Wide and Slow" campaign supported by Derek Thomas MP and with debates in parliament. Her campaign is continuing.

The British Horse Society has a similar campaign "Dead Slow" lead by the BHS Director of Safety Alan Hiscox (who was a mounted police officer). This too is an ongoing campaign with nationwide and political initiatives.

Alarming new statistics have revealed nearly two horses a week are being killed on UK roads, with 845 incidents involving horses and drivers reported to The British Horse Society last year.

The British Horse Society (BHS) collates statistics each year to understand the rate of incidents involving horses and riders on UK roads. In the last year alone, 87 horses and 4 people have been tragically killed whilst riding on the roads and 73% of incidents reported occurred due to vehicles passing by too closely.



Public Rights of Way Signs

All off road definitive paths and tracks namely footpaths and bridleways should by legislation have a green sign showing the way where it leaves a public road. West Cornwall Footpaths Preservation Society surveyed and found that a great many are missing. They are working to try and rectify the situation by lobbying Cornwall Council and also to do some installation work themselves in a bid to try and shame the council. They have a reporting form on their website <http://wcfps.co.uk>. Please visit and report of any that you know are missing.

Cornwall Ramblers REACT

Cornwall Ramblers continue to have REACT days whereby they descend on an overgrown footpath or bridleway and get clearing and do other work in partnership with Cornwall Council. They would welcome any help and particularly from horse riders or cyclists on bridleway clearance. You can find out where they plan to be next if you visit their website:

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/group-finder/areas/cornwall/r-e-a-c-t.aspx>

Penrose Bridleways

You may remember that the coastal byway fell into the sea late 2017 meaning the horse riding bridleway route to Porthleven Leven was lost once again. The National Trust have now provided a replacement bridleway link that gives fantastic views. They have also provided a lower footpath route to replace the coastal byway.



Photo of section of new bridleway

The bad news is that the byway link down to the beach is now getting washed away. Alison Lugg has had a site meeting to discuss the situation with the NT ranger. We are liaising with the NT on possible solutions.

St Hilary 81 – Gwallon

You may remember a good number of years ago a new bridleway route was provided to replace the line of the definitive bridleway that is in error and has never existed on the ground. The landowners agreed to this diversion and we provided gates to help them agree. However Cornwall Council has never processed this diversion as they discovered an old mineshaft near the path. At last we understand they are proceeding with the diversion and the good news for riders is that they have agreed the removal of the gates which were such a nuisance to riders.

Trungle Farm - Gwinear

This farm has recently been sold and the new owner immediately erected gates to stop any access by horses or walkers to the road through the farm. The road is part of an important link from Angarrack to Gwinear. A local rider is preparing a DMMO Application based on in excess of 20 years uninterrupted use.

Bridleway Across the stream at Trezelah

This was opened by Cornwall Council over a year ago but a landowner has continued to block it so that now even walkers cannot use it. Some folk are really nice aren't they! We are hoping that Cornwall Council will address this yet again.

Goonhilly Permissive Bridleway

Our members Alison and Cecilia on the Lizard have negotiated a permissive bridleway around part of the edge of Goonhilly Earth Station. This will provide a safe access from Cury and Cross Lanes to the downs on the other side of the busy St Kevern Road. Good headway is being made and the fence has been opened up and the path can be ridden. We were able to donate a bridleway gate from PAROW stores to the project and thus saved local riders having to fund one. Natural England is managing the moorland around the station and this was one of the conditions the Earth Station set on us. Natural England still has to complete gate infrastructure.

Penwith Landscape Project and PAROW

This multi-million pound project over 5 years in the very west of Cornwall is funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant and with contribution from Cornwall Council and started last spring. The project has a Paths Officer and a Practical Tasks Officer. PAROW (Penwith Access and Rights of Way) has now formally transferred all equipment including compact tractor over to the Wildlife Trust for use by the Project. See before and after.



PAROW will now be wound up. We hope they continue the good work in maintaining access and the landscape that PAROW has done over the last 15 years. One specified output of the Project is to establish the Tinnors Way over the moors from St Just to St Ives, all as definitive bridleway. One bridleway they have cleared is one of the new bridleways on Mulfra Hill.



Road Schemes

The dualling of the A30 between Chiverton and Carland Cross is going to provide many benefits for horse riders. Adrian has been liaising with Cornwall Council and Highways England over the multi-user provision associated with the scheme. One feature is the removal of the roundabout at Chiverton. We are hoping they are going to provide a bridge for cyclists, horses and walkers over the A30 at that point.

The other scheme is the widening and rebuilding of the roundabout at Loggans Moor (Hayle Lid). They are proposing to remove the foot/cycle bridge and replace it with traffic lights crossing! over SEVEN lanes!!

Horses have been known to use the current bridge. PLEASE do let us know if you know anything about its use by horses. Full consultations are later this year.

“Cycle” Trails

You may have seen in the press and on TV about three major new Cycle Trails in Cornwall with no mention of horse riders. We were on to this straight away. The three trails referred to are the A30 dualling trails, Newquay to Perranporth railway trail and Marazion Trails. We riders are already included in the A30 trails and will be also on the Newquay Trail. This will be similar to the Camel Trail. We await details of the Marazion/Hayle Trails. UNFORTUNATELY as always we riders are excluded from any publicity and even by government. We and the BHS are constantly battling to correct this blatant discrimination.

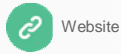
SUSTRANS Initiative

We have just learnt that Mark Weston, the British Horse Society Director of Access, is now a member of SUSTRANS UK Steering Group. That's just great news. At last they are including us.

SUSTRANS have asked him for details of any current particular problems where SUSTRANS infrastructure is preventing horse riders access to parts of the national cycle network that riders currently would like to access.



Email



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