

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	WSCC/030/21
Name	British Horse Society Access
Address	SHERLOCKS, OKEHURST LANE, OKEHURST LANE, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 9HR
Type of Comment	Objection

The British Horse Society, West Sussex, SE Region objects to Planning application WSCC/030/21. Please reply to: Sherlocks, Okehurst Lane, Billingshurst, WSx. RH149HR.
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
22.08.2021

Objection to Planning Application No WSCC/030/21 Pallinghurst Woods.

The British Horse Society (BHS) is the UK's largest equine charity and equestrian membership organisation and the governing body for recreational riding. Its charitable objects include the promotion of equestrian safety, particularly on roads, and equestrian access to bridleways and other off-road multi-use routes for the public benefit.

There are more than 2500 DEFRA Equine Passports recorded in the local area. (BHS SE Region Passport Numbers by Postcode. Cranleigh to Billingshurst. April 2021)

On behalf of The Society, and recognising concerns raised by local riders, I would like to make the following comments:

I concur with the objection made in the WSCC Rights of Way Consultation response by Darryl Hobden.

There are four elements of this application which will seriously affect the access to, and use of, bridleways from B2133 Loxwood Road and within Pallinghurst Woods.

- 1) Increased HGV traffic movements on the B2133 Loxwood Road, emanating from the A281 at Bucks Green, impacting on the safe access to, and linking of, local bridleways.
- 2) Conflict between the current use of the lay by area north of B2133 Loxwood Road, which is the entry to BW 3240, and HGV activity associated with the application.
- 3) Proximity of the existing bridleway to the application access road with associated HGV movements.
- 4) Crossing of the bridleway by the application access road with associated HGV movements.

The West Sussex Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026 (WSCC) states :

1.4.5 page 32. Equestrianism in West Sussex Equestrianism is important to the economy of West Sussex as it provides jobs and attracts business.

In a predominately rural county, a large percentage of which is located within the SDNP, horse riding (and to a lesser extent horse carriage driving) is a popular and growing leisure pursuit. As a result, equestrians form a significant but vulnerable road user group which we will support and seek to protect.

Expanding on the four points above :

- 1) Bridleway access always begins and ends on a public highway. The network is benefitted by safe road links. The B2133 Loxwood Road serves bridleways 3240 north, 1351 south, 2847 south, 810 northwest and 817 via Barnsfold Lane west. See Map A. The Loxwood Road is not recognised as a part of the County Strategic Road Network for HGVs, and should therefore not be used as a regular route serving this application. Part of this route is used by Carriage Driving for the Disabled. See Map B. There is doubt this activity could continue with 42 HGV movements per day.
- 2) The layby area, between the B2133 Loxwood Road and bridleway 3240, is highway land and used for pedestrian, cycle and equestrian access to the bridleway from the east and west and for parking. The in and out facility means it is also suitable for horse box parking. HGV movements would

conflict with the current and long standing use.

3) Horses are sentient beings that react to noise and movement, especially traffic. The proximity of bridleway 3240 to HGV movements along the application access road is a hazard that would adversely affect the current safe enjoyment of this valuable off road route.

4) The crossing of bridleway 3240 by HGV traffic will introduce a hazardous area of conflict to the detriment of equestrians and all other path users.

In Conclusion :

This planning application poses a serious threat to the safe use of the bridleway network within and surrounding the proposed site for equestrians. There is no essential need demonstrated to place such a facility on this rural site. It should be refused.

Hilary Jubert.
Access and Bridleways Officer
British Horse Society
West Sussex.

Attachments Map A, Map B

Received

22/08/2021 10:06:20

Attachments The following files have been uploaded:

[Map A bridleways served by Loxwood Rd.pdf](#)

[Map B Loxwood Rd disabled driving route.pdf](#)