

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

The British Horse Society

Email enquiry@bhs.org.uk

Abbey Park,

Website www.bhs.org.uk

Stareton,

Tel 02476 840500

Kenilworth,

Fax 02476 840501

Bringing Horses and People
Together

Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

The logo for The British Horse Society, featuring the text "The British Horse Society" in white on a dark red square background.

National Infrastructure Planning

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol

BS1 6PN

Via email changeconsultationA66NTP@nationalhighways.co.uk

4th May 2023

A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project: DCO design changes

I am writing on behalf of the British Horse Society (BHS) a membership charity with over **119,000** members representing the UK's **3 million** regular riders and carriage drivers, in response to the current A66 Northern Trans-Pennine plans. The BHS is the largest and most influential equestrian charity in the country, working to improve the lives of horses and their owners through its four core foundations of education, welfare, safety and access.

The BHS objects to the DCO design changes. The BHS objects to this application on the grounds that the application does not meet the tests of NPPF Paragraph 100. The BHS objects on the grounds that equestrians are being marginalised in the scheme with walkers and cyclists are being favoured. Throughout this scheme equestrians are excluded, the arguments for inclusivity of walkers and cyclists can be extended to equestrians using the mechanism of the Equality Duty. This is a form of discrimination, and the Equality Act 2010 created a Public Sector Equality Duty for authorities to provide equal opportunities for all, which means that an authority needs a cogent reason for excluding equestrians.

For the scheme to be the best use of public money and greatest public benefit the following:

- Equestrians use all roads as well as bridleways. National Highways appeared to only consider horses where there was an existing bridleway but are providing routes for cyclists where there are no bridleways.
- Under passes with rights of way and agricultural traffic are far safer and therefore preferable for equestrians than road over bridges.
- Traveling community being discriminated against if they are not allowed access to Appleby fair, which has existed as a fair for horse trading since 1685.
- All linear routes must be all inclusive that is preferably restricted byway or bridleway.
- All structures crossing scheme routes, that is under passes or bridges must also be for all users. They are erected at vast public expense and should not just be for the private use of a landholder. In an ideal world even if an under pass or bridge is erected as an accommodation facility, as it does not currently join a public highway, it should be future proofed and made as a public right of way for it to be connected when in improving the network in the future.

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

The British Horse Society

Email enquiry@bhs.org.uk

Abbey Park,

Website www.bhs.org.uk

Stareton,

Tel 02476 840500

Kenilworth,

Fax 02476 840501

Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Bringing Horses and People
Together

The logo for The British Horse Society, featuring the text "The British Horse Society" in white on a dark red square background.

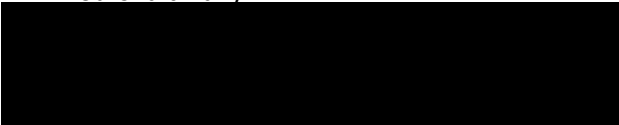
There are a number of Definitive Map Modification Orders (applications can be found on the relevant authorities registers) which have been submitted by the BHS, these routes must be protected and not subsumed within the proposed A66 scheme.

DC-02, DC-12, DC-16, DC18, DC-04 exclude horse riders, this is unacceptable.

Equestrianism is a popular activity in this part of the country, and one which contributes significantly to the local economy. The equestrian community currently has many difficulties in finding safe access within the area. Many of these issues could be addressed and resolved through good planning of future routes. We hope therefore that National Highways will support this, and local equestrians affected by the proposals. The British Horse Society welcomes any queries about our response and would like to continue to engage with the applicant and PINs to ensure the inclusion of equestrians in these plans.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of this response further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Charlotte Ditchburn
Access Field Officer North / North West

 [@bhs.org.uk](mailto: [redacted]@bhs.org.uk)