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20th November 2011

Chair of the Planning & Regulatory Functions Sub-Committee
North Yorkshire County Council,
County Hall,
Northallerton
DL7 8AD

Dear Chairman and Members

Re: Creation order to record a public bridleway on the definitive map and statement at Lingy Plantation, Ebberston, Ryedale

I am writing on behalf of Ryedale Bridleways Group to urge you to support the creation order to record a public bridleway on the definitive map and statement at Lingy Plantation, Ebberston, and to give authority for the Council to submit the order to the Secretary of State for a decision on whether or not the order should be confirmed.

Ryedale Bridleways Group represents a wide cross section of horse riders who regularly use the bridleways network in Ryedale. Our aim is to work with the County Council, NYMNP and other bridleways users such as the Ramblers and the Cycle Touring Club, to maintain and improve the network. From the outset we have supported this creation order, and over the last three years, have voiced our support at the Council's Rights of Way Liaison group meetings.

The proposed route joins an existing unclassified, un-surfaced road (UUR) which in turn links to a bridleway. Without this route it is not possible to access the eastern end of the UUR without making a 5km detour to the south. This route has been used harmoniously by walkers, horse riders and cyclists for many years and forms part of the well established Moors to Sea Cycle Route. There is therefore clearly a need for it to be recorded on the definitive map. As you will know, a creation order such as this, made under the Highways Act 1980 is primarily about 'need' and quite different to a definitive map modification order made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which relies on historic evidence and /or 20 year user evidence.

We are very disappointed that the British Horse Society has objected to the order. This objection was made without consulting local users and the Society has

continued to object in the knowledge that their stance is not supported by local users. The British Horse Society could lift their objection at any time and despite a number of requests from our group, refuses to do so. We understand that the BHS's objection is based on their view that the route should be open to horse drawn vehicles. However, in the past the route has been misused and badly damaged by motor vehicles and we are very concerned that by making the route accessible to horse drawn vehicles it will once again open it up to damage by motor vehicles. When the order was advertised, to our knowledge no representation was made by any person wanting to use the route with a horse drawn vehicle and indeed the route has been blocked on and off for many years to horse drawn vehicles.

We therefore strongly support the Council in their making of the order for a bridleway.

Yours sincerely,

E.V. Newbronner.

Liz Newbronner
Chair of Ryedale Bridleways Group