

Patron His Majesty The King

The British Horse Society

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Bringing Horses and People Together

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

Reply by e-mail only.

**Objection.**

22/01/2025

Dear Sirs,

Re: Planning application **2024/62/93325/E** rear of **121 Hightown Road, Liversedge, WF15 8DG**

It is disappointing that the British Horse Society (BHS) have not been consulted on the above planning application which directly affects a public bridleway SPEN 164/30 & 164/20. The amenity and safety value of Spen 164 has not been considered; this is in fact a public bridleway over which there is a public right of way is on foot or horseback and, since 1968 on bicycle only.

Public Bridleways carry no public right of access for motorised vehicles.

We believe that the use of the public bridleway as a vehicular access route to build and occupy this property is unacceptable and against national planning guidance. Further the likely change to the surface of the bridleway would be to the detriment of the primary intended user, namely horses. Use of the bridleway by vehicular traffic will substantially impact on the enjoyment of this bridleway for all users.

Public bridleways are precious, vehicle-free resources for the rightful users to obtain air and exercise in peace and safety in the countryside. They are a resource under increasing pressure from development in the countryside and their unique and beneficial nature should be protected at all costs for the public.

We believe such a proposal will change the rural open nature of this public route to the greatest detriment. We can find no meaningful mitigating or compensating proposals put forward in the application to safeguard the public bridleway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The importance and amenity value of the public bridleway has been completely ignored. At all times in law public rights take precedence over private rights of access and development.

We note that the Definitive statement says the "nature of surface earth 451 metres and metalled 338 metres" approximate width being 1.8metres. The surface cannot be altered.

May we draw your attention to National Planning Policy Framework.

***Para 102: Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.***

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*Para 96: Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which...enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.*

Because of the complete disregard and the serious detrimental impact for the amenity and safety value of the public on bridleway Spen164 in this planning application the British Horse Society OBJECTS.

Yours faithfully

**Mark Corrigan**

Access Officer Yorkshire.

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