

I am responding on behalf of the British Horse Society.

I am astounded that in Policy CS34 for Rural Areas there is no mention of improving the bridleway network, or any mention at all of Rights of Way. In the Core Strategy there are at least 28 statements of intent to improve walking and cycling networks (listed at end of statement) but the only mention of bridleways is in Policy CS33 which concerns Thornbury.

There are over 4,000 horses in the parishes west of the A46 ( see attached list). No accurate count has been done east of the A46 but there are many horses in these rural parishes. Taking a conservative figure of 4,000, with each horse costing over £2,000 annually to keep (Beta National Equestrian Survey] this means that equestrians are contributing considerably more than £8 million annually to the local economy.

Surely a sector making such a contribution to South Gloucestershire's economy deserves a mention in the Core Strategy and some serious input from the Council.

There is also the danger of horses and traffic mixing on our busy roads. The more off road riding is available the safer horse riders and drivers will be. There have been severe accidents and several deaths of horses in the area and these could be reduced if horses could be off the roads more frequently. An increase in the number of off road paths, better maintenance of roadside verges, upgrading suitable footpaths and allowing horses to use cycle tracks as has been recommended by Richard Benyon MP, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries would increase the off road riding facilities.

Mentions of intent to improve walking/cycling facilities

Policies CS 1,7,29,32,33,34

Chapter 3.22

4.1(x2),8,12,16,21,24

5.8

6.4

7.1,8,9

10.87

12.3,6,16,25

13.1,3,4

14.5

15.6,9

16.4

Mention of Rights of Way

10.87

Mention of bridleways

Policy CS33

Mention of horse riders

14.18 (re Tanhouse Lane recreational use)



Sheet1

Almondsbury	293
Alveston	78
Aust	37
Bitton	297
Charfield	34
Chipping Sodbury	154
Cromhall	34
Dodington	261
Doynton	91
Dyrham and Hinton	113
Falfield	31
Frampton Cotterell	112
Hanham Abbots	86
Hawkesbury	90
Hill	31
Horton	80
Iron Acton	239
Little Sodbury	21
Mangotsfield	55
Oldbury on Severn	209
Olveston	232
Pilning and Severn Beach	161
Pucklechurch	158
Rangeworthy	84
Rockhampton	50
Siston	234
Thornbury	154
Tortworth	4
Tytherington	49
Westerleigh	327
Wick and Abson	299
Wickwar	145
Winterbourne	256
Yate	42
	4248