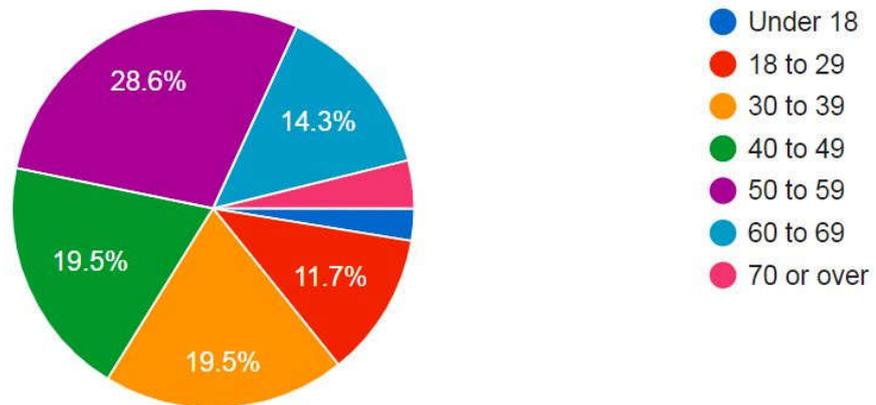


Mid Cotswold Tracks & Trails Group Rider Safety Survey - Jan 16th 2020

Responses

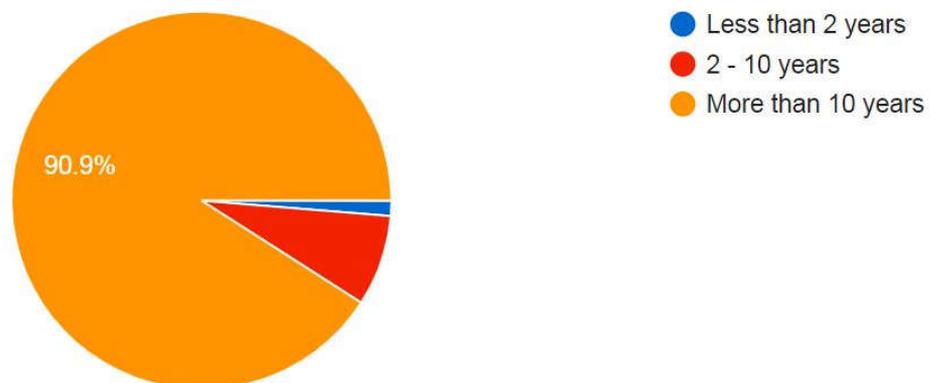
What is your age?

77 responses



How long have you been a horse rider?

77 responses



Which areas do you ride in?

Southeast area of Cheltenham

Cleeve hill

Upton St Leonard's, Painswick, Cranham, Sheepscombe, Coopers Hill

Hillesley, Hawkesbury Upton, Tresham, Alderley, Wortley, Horton, Badminton and all bridleways in between Nupend, Eastington Gloucester.

Mayhill

Eastington/Stonehouse

Around Coaley and Uley mainly

Miserden

Painswick, Bisley, Miserden

Duntisbourne and Cirencester areas

Elmore, Longney and Hardwick

Brookthorpe, Gloucester but box up and fun ride to wales, Shropshire, Wiltshire
Arlingham
Chalford
Minchinhampton
GL12
Wilts, Glos, Hants
Winchcombe, Gretton, Alderton, Dumbarton, Prescott
Dursley and the surrounding areas
Cheltenham
Brookthorpe, Matson, upton st leonards.
Shurdington Leckhampton crickley
Througham
South Gloucestershire / Badminton
South Gloucestershire, Horton, badminton, chipping Sodbury area
Haresfield, Hardwicke, Brookthorpe, Upton St.Leonards, Robinswood, Abbeydale and Abbeymead.
Avening, Horsley, Nailsworth, Minchinhampton, Chavenage, Beverston
Uley
GL6 7EP
North of Cirencester
South Gloucester
Tarlton,Rodmarton
Roads, arena
cotswolds
Southam, Woodmancote, Cleeve hill, prestbury, Gloucestershire
Standish
Apperley, Deerhurst, Hawbridge
Brookthorpe
Newtown, Berkeley, Purton
Nupend
Eastington, Nupend, Westend & Frampton On Severn
Huntingford
Tirley
East Glos/ Oxfordshire border
Gloucester
France Lynch, Chalford, Bussage
South Littleton, Evesham
Berkeley, Slimbridge (Glos)
Cotswolds/Rendcomb
Around broadway, worcestershire
North Cotswolds
Gloucestershire
Bisley
Purton, Wiltshire, Marlborough Downs
Wiltshire
Gloucester
Badgeworth, shurdington, Bentham
Duntisbourne
Charlton Kings
Notgrove, Gloucestershire

Nailsworth, horsley, Gloucestershire

Bristol south and south Glos

Uley, Cam, Coaley

Bisley

Cotswold Hills around Cheltenham, Marlborough Downs (Occasional)

Matson, brookthorpe, abbymead, abbydale

Cleeve Hill

Longney/Epney

Gloucestershire

I did ride on and around Cleeve Common, northeast of Cheltenham up to 10 mile radius.

Cleeve hill, stanway/hailes

stroud/cirencester

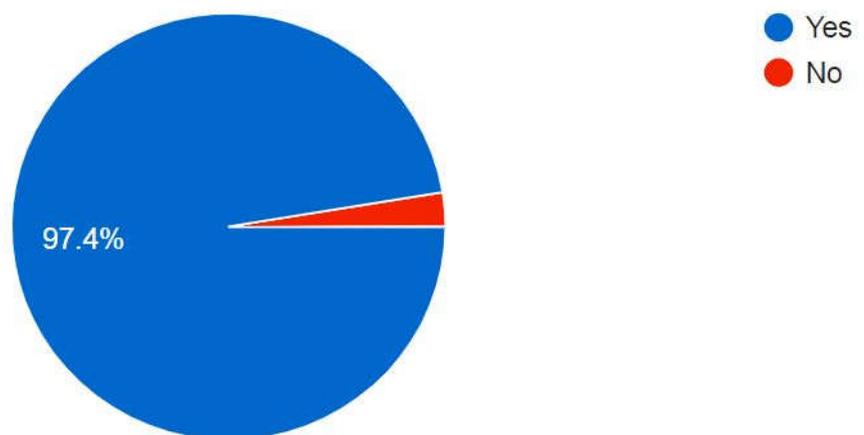
selsley common + 5 miles in each direction

Forest of Dean

Cricklade, south Cerney Ashton Keynes

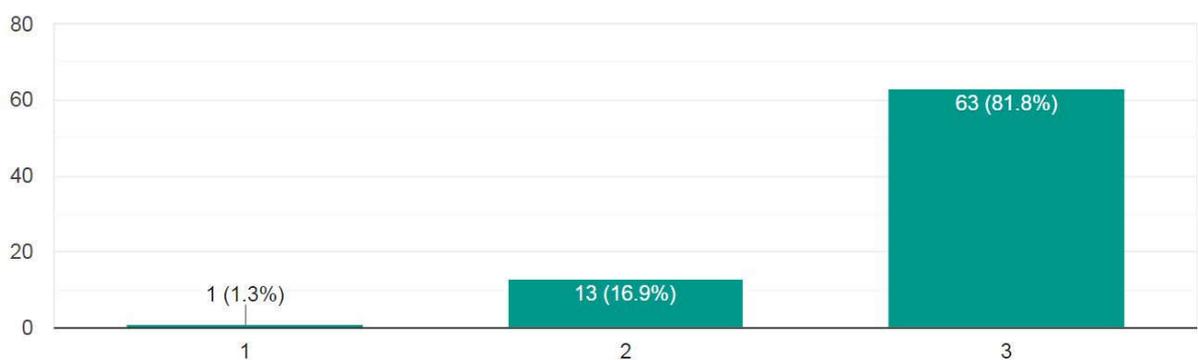
Do you have concerns for your safety riding on some roads?

77 responses



How important is it to you to avoid roads with fast traffic?

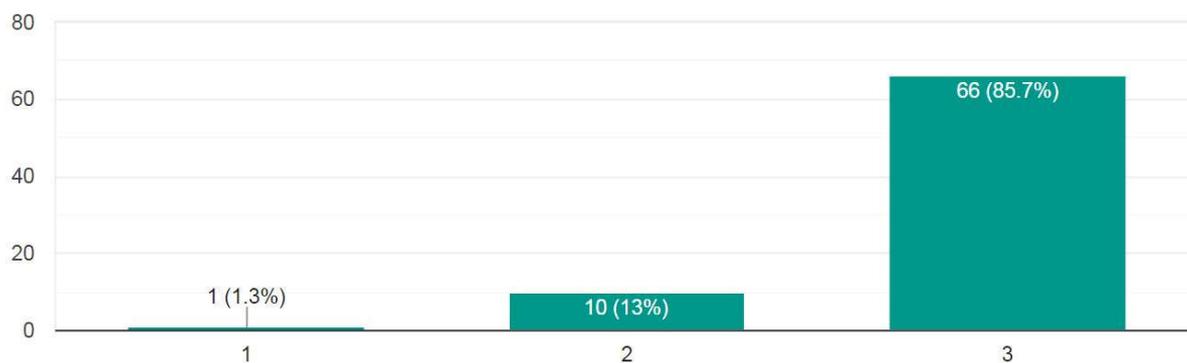
77 responses



(not important = 1: Very important = 3)

Do you think it is important that speed limits are in place on narrow rural lanes?

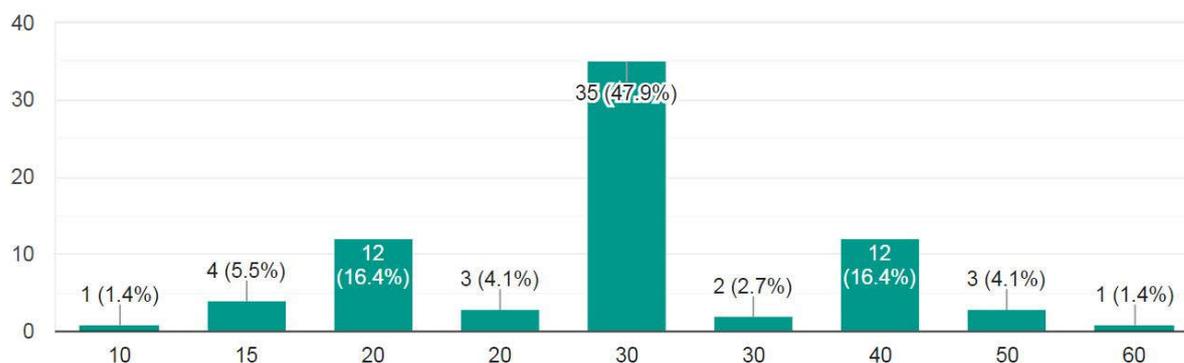
77 responses



(not important = 1: Very important = 3)

If any, what speed limit would you like to see imposed on narrow rural lanes?

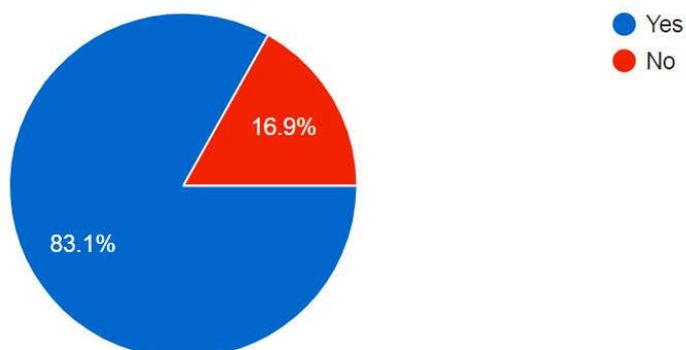
73 responses



(answers were free choice)

Do you think the availability of safe roads to ride has diminished in the area(s) in which you ride?

77 responses



Please provide any details of roads you feel are no longer safe to ride, for example is this due to new developments and/or increased traffic?

A436 has much larger vehicles on it with a 50 speed limit it is also restricted due to the bridleway at the other end running next to a shooting school which is another issue. A435 is a 60 road and people drive at the upper limit of this with hardly any regard for horses and riders

Bushcombe Lane, Stockwell, gambles lane

Due to increased traffic levels and poorer driver attitudes towards vulnerable road users

From Nupend to Eastington.

Due to highways maintenance not cutting back the hedges on narrow lanes meaning there isn't enough room for horse and cars

New roundabout layout at Eastington

The street, Coaley and Frocester Hill

Very fast moving traffic along even narrow country lanes. Attitude of drivers. The way cars pull over in a narrow road and then keep edging forward when you are going past.

Upton Lane

Fast cars and lorries on narrow lane - Arlingham Road from Frampton

All the bigger 30 roads round Chalford. Drivers going too fast and not slowing.

Local business's rapid expansion means that main road is horrendous at peak hours, CEO uses the road as a race track!

Forest Lane, Lacock both developments and increased traffic. Corsham Rd, Shaw nr Melksham increased traffic.

Main road from Teddington hands to Toddington

Upton Lane is dangerous as the traffic goes way faster than the speed limit allows

A46

Cotswold escarpment from the pike through Hawkesbury Upton Hillesley and Alderley to Wootton Under Edge.

More cars which are driving much faster, new houses,

Upton Lane is a rat run but unfortunately where our stables are.

A46 and Beverston to Tetbury road

B4070 - increase in traffic

Trewsbury Road Coates, straightroad very fast traffic.

Due to too many bad experiences with speeding cars

A436 near Notgrove, B4068 around Naunton and Foxhill

New road in Southam is too fast

Stonehouse to Standish road. Very busy and too fast/cars too close

B4213

B4066 in order to reach bridleways, due to increase in heavy traffic

A419 by shell garage heading from Nupend to Eastington

B4213 Speed limit too high and /or unlimited in places. Many bends in road

My village, Southrop has become very busy. 20 mph speed limit seems mostly ignored. As soon as cars leave the 20 zone it's a crazy racetrack.

Development and increased traffic

Most of them

All of them!!

B4632 - people driving far too fast. And Snowhill road, again people driving too fast for a steep downhill country lane. Everyone just seems to be in a rush these days!

increased traffic due to new developments and more Londoners who don't understand the countryside.

Increased traffic due to people using as a rat run

New developments which also lead to increased traffic

Badgeworth Lane, has become a rat run, speeding traffic, heavy vehicles, residents have tried to get the speed limit lowered, my friend was hit by a car on her pony and we have had many near misses

A40, Cirencester Road

All lanes around Notgrove area - used as rat runs; heavy vehicles

New developments in Keynsham have caused the lanes around publow/wollard to be a rat run and the car drivers to not slow down they do not seem to be aware of the risks around horses

I don't like to ride lanes in rush hour periods as people are driving to fast to get to work or home or school run

All roads around Longney/Epney/Elmore, they are narrow and bendy and traffic is to fast

Most roads and lanes I avoid all now

I would only now ride Bishops Cleeve to Stoke Orchard with maximum hi-viz and flashing lights front and rear on rider and horse

loads!!!!!!

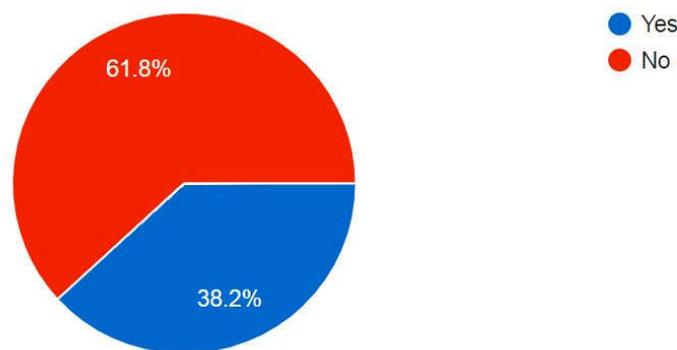
A46, b4066, frocester hill

The back roads around Hartpury, and the lanes from Newent to Cliffords Mesne. The amount of traffic on the roads these days is hugely increased, and everyone is much less considerate, in their own bubble and seemingly in a hurry

B4040 as volume of traffic has increased

Have you ever moved your horse or gone to a different riding establishment as you felt the roads were too dangerous to ride where you were?

76 responses



Do you have any other comments about road safety in the area(s) you ride and any suggestions for safety initiatives and improvements?

Leaflets , in local stores livery yards, fetes in the warmer weather months contract local driving instructors
Bridle ways onto cleeve hill are over grown so it's difficult to get to the hill to get off of the roads.

The roads around USL and Painswick would benefit from more signs warning drivers that horse riders use the roads. Black spots are Porteay Lane, Nuthill and High Street which are all used as cut throughs. More signs are needed where riders cross the A46, especially at Cranham corner, Royal William and top of nuthill.

Some drivers should just take their tests again! They are generally very considerate, but someone today passed by us very slowly but with a blind bend coming up, so he was in the middle of the road in completely the wrong place!

No

The contractors on new estate can have no consideration sometimes

Clearer signage about horses being on the road would help, particularly on blind brands on single track roads

I think drivers are not aware that a horse is a sentient being that has opinions and fears. I think there should be far more information about how to pass horses safely for cyclists and motorists. Adverts in local and national newspapers?

Most riders would prefer not to use roads, there are a lot of footpaths that are never/rarely used by walkers, would it not be best to open these up for all to use?

More permissive paths to connect bridle ways. I'd be happy to pay a fee

More signage and speed bumps to keep traffic speed slower

Lowering from national speed limit to 40mph

Would like to see a law about how to pass horses safely

Think everyone is in too much of a hurry and has no thought for other road users, in particular cyclist and horse riders.

Speed reduction. Driver education. Harsher penalties for driving offences. Also it should be made much easier to upgrade paths to be suitable for horses and retain those with unofficial status.

Just put the speed limit down

Drivers attitudes need to change towards horses, there has been a few near misses, luckily our horses are good in traffic

everywhere these days are so dangerous to ride drivers just don't seem to care anymore

Horse crossing

Regularly take my horse In Trailer to safer locations there are several footpaths parallel to roads that could easily be used by equestrians. The Cotswold way was extended behind the monument because the corner was too dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. It's heart stoppingly dangerous for horses. The extended track is more than wide enough for horses.

The speed which people drive in country lanes, the national speed limit is far too fast!

Upton Lane should be 30 mph all along as there are three riding stables along there, also the Council should allow horse riding warning signs to be put up. They say they do not want any more road signs erected there.

Better signage for horse awareness, possibly specific crossing areas, speed cameras

We have bridle paths which end on a main road with a foot path opposite, forcing riders onto the road

I have only been at my yard for 4 years so above is true for my area. I was previously in Stroud and traffic has definitely increased around there. I would have different answers if I was still there.

Most drivers are totally ignorant of how to pass a horse. Also so removed from how animals behave.

Road speed to be less however how would government actually regulate it? They won't put in speed cameras as that's too expensive

1. Permissive bridleways to link villages and bridleways which come out onto main/busy roads 2. Use of wide verges to provide horseways. Cutting back the grass against the wall/fence makes it safer to ride, giving a good margin between horse and traffic and by leaving as much growth as possible on the road side of the rider, it gives an extra perceived barrier. Note though, that in general, riding on verges is taking your life in your hands as drivers definitely disregard you and don't slow down.

Unless a dual carriageway or motorway the speed should be between 10-40mph maximum

Higher police presence and simple reporting procedure would help

Our yard is on a blind bend and turning into it is increasingly dangerous especially if there is wind and you cannot hear the cars.

Consideration for horses when developing housing estates, not just cycle paths! Signage to warn of horses on bends or crossing points on roads.

Link up existing bridleways and upgrade footpaths.

I ride mostly on country lanes with very little traffic but would be happier with a lower speed limit

We have no bridle paths and roads are getting busier all the time

The standard of driving on local rural roads is not compatible with other road users, walkers, cyclists, riders.

Police in Gloucestershire don't seem to care worst people are mothers collecting kids from school and old people

Lack of bridleways locally mean we're forced to ride on roads that often have speed limits of 60mph. New drivers should have a bigger element in their tests about other road users

Horse awareness on roads should be part of learning to drive

An increase in off road bridleways would be the best option in my opinion. Most bridleways don't go anywhere anymore so the more that there are the better so we can avoid roads altogether.

More bridleways needed as alternative to roads

I applied to Highways for the speed limit to be reduced from 60 to 30 -this was refused. I then asked whether cautionary signs could be erected - this was also refused

Total lack of off road riding, bridleways in the area are inaccessible or come out on to busy roads

We used to have a field that people ride across to access a bridlepath. Technically it was a footpath, but the land owner seemed not to mind horses as there were no animals or crops. Then a local resident complained and now horses are not allowed to use it. This means that riders have to go all through the village (the field cut off a lot of the roadwork) and now people complain there are more horses on the road! It's narrow and busy. Reinstating the path would make such a difference.

I haven't moved because it's not that easy to find a home for two horses. I stopped riding on the roads after two incidents where I was pushed into a ditch by drivers. My horses mean more to me than risk the roads. Unfortunately that's my hobby/enjoyment gone. To be honest I don't think 'rural roads' exist these days.

More awareness to drivers. As more of them use country lanes to cut off from main roads they need to be educated as to the risks around horses and the width/speed required to pass them.

Traffic too fast on blind bends on country lanes

Road surfaces (slippery) and hazards are more of an issue than traffic

All single track roads 30mph Max, Motorised give way to NMU, classified as Green Lanes.

Road signs and driver/cyclist training on how to behave around horses

I'm not sure how to make it safer, cars and lorries are just too fast

No, except that it is safer the more frequently riders do use a road and the numbers on any road triangular warning signs where bridleways/byways cross or meet any road

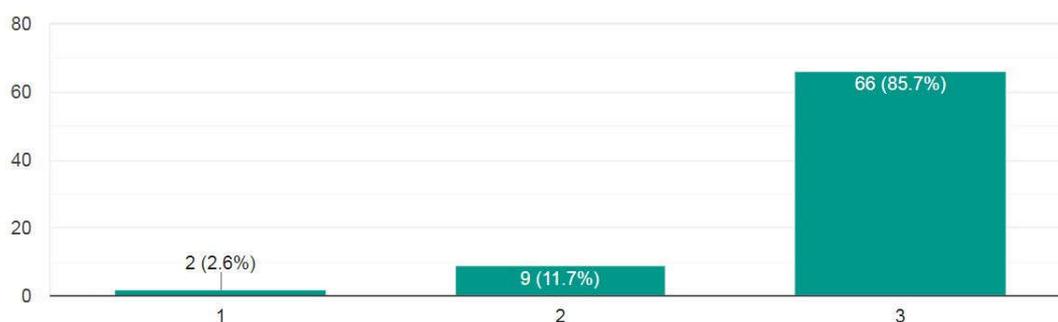
more people = more cars = more dangerous for horses. leaflet horse safety on MOT's, answer questions when renewing road tax online about how to pass horses and also cyclists.

Cameras to be installed, perhaps even road islands to slow traffic down completely

Bridleways and Byways

How important do you feel the condition of the bridleways/byways is to your safety?

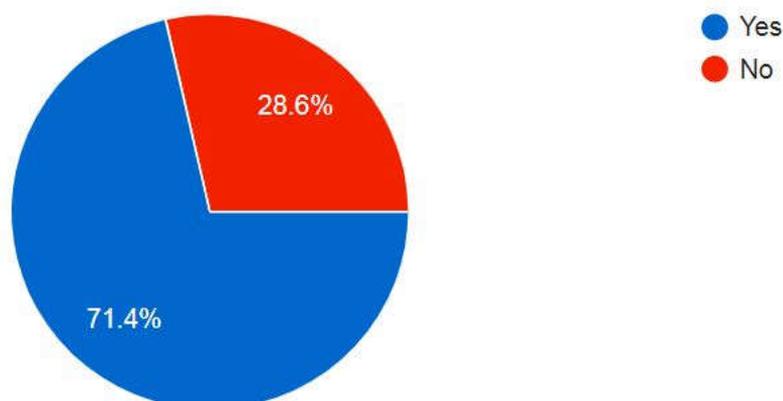
77 responses



(not important = 1: Very important = 3)

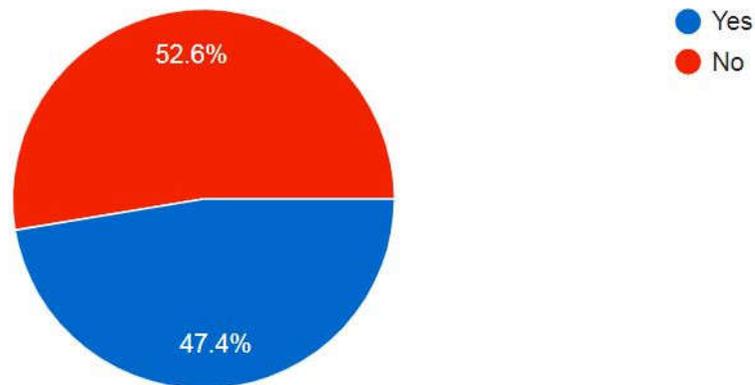
Do you have concerns for your safety riding on some bridleways/byways?

77 responses



Are there routes you used to ride that you no longer use because they include
bridleways/byways you feel are now too dangerous to ride?

76 responses



Please give brief details of the issues which you feel make bridleways/byways a risk for you or your horse.

Developments in close proximity to bridleways or multi use tracks (motor bikes) and gates that are hard to use

Very over grown..barb wire fence line along very narrow overgrown tracks.

The occasional unsafe gate

When the gates are very difficult or when they are overgrown or have fallen down fences

Brambles and overgrown hedges

Most back onto main roads etc

No warning signs on new estates

Bad repair of surfaces and illegal motorbike use

Bridleways are often very overgrown and some gates very difficult to open on horseback

Slippery, muddy and rocky surfaces The presence of off road motorbikes is probably the thing I am most frightened of- my horse gets frightened by the noise and the bikes have made the bridleways and byways very rutted and almost impossible to ride along.

Opening and closing dodgy gates perhaps

Loose livestock, unsuitable gates and too many gates meaning on and off too frequently

Uneven terrain. Not enough of them!

only due to heavy rain - makes them very slippery in the mud!

Muddy gateways, dangerous gates. Fly tipping

Overgrown and gates are difficult

The overgrown paths, or where trees come down makes it more dangerous, and also we meet other users, who are not respectful around the horses

Shooting and bad gates

some of the bridleways are inaccessible as they are not maintained properly or the farmers have blocked access

Gates not openable, barbed wire and orange netting alongside bridleway

Motorbikes causing ruts and damaging tracks, unsuitable surfaces, poor drainage

Poor gates and use of obstacles to partially block gateways

Na

Inconsiderate cyclists and motor cyclists who also use them.

Some are too overgrown. Soil erosion leaving surfaces too hard and stoney. Fly tipping. Tricky gates.

Trees get overgrown and make it impassable

When the ground is too rutted/stony/muddy. Or through fields of cows/horses

Mostly to do with gates and access points to routes. But also surface on some cases especially with wet weather. Horses grazing on route in a couple of cases.

Used by public for biking , loose dogs etc

Lack of maintainance , also lack of bridleways

Maybe if they're shared with bikes

Bushes growing in, especially against electric fences. Also there is a particularly cheap and nasty type of rider's gate opener/closer which can't be used one handed because it never stays stable enough - it catches up in tack (especially martingales) causing the horse to panic. You know it's happened to someone by the bend in the cheap and nasty handle! Also a pain is the closer which is on too tight a spring and only has a hole in the gatepost (no latch). Likewise gates on auto close springs which are too quick to close trapping horse or catching it behind. Finally, sad to say, horses turned out!

They get very overgrown and are sometimes not passable

Not maintained so have rabbit and badger holes in them. Farmers plough up to edges of field so no established ground to ride on. Farmers pkznt maize crops across bridleway and reporting this makes no difference!

Low branches and holes in ground

Dangerous low branches, face height brambles, deep mud and vehicle ruts.

Extremely muddy and overgrown. Also sometimes inaccessible due to housing estate building.

Often deep mud or very stony which is a problem for barefoot horses

Overgrown

Our bridleways are good but many of them lead to busy roads - as a result, some are seldom used

They don't if you have them we need more in Gloucester

People dumping rubbish and other users who don't keep dogs under control or cycle at high speeds

There isn't enough of them and getting to them as I have to go on roads

Use by motorbikes /quads for obvious reasons and the hunt churn the ground up making it impassable.

Fallen trees

Sometimes difficult gates

not maintained so overhanging branches and fallen trees can block a path, footing can be bad but that's part of living in the Cotswolds! Green lane scramble bikes ruin some paths particularly in winter.

Electric fencing, difficult narrow gates, bottomless mud, large numbers of horses grazed on bridleways

Unkept tracks, too narrow. Shoots taking place over bridleways making them unsafe

Overgrown. Also some are used by powered bikes which erodes the surface

Been fenced off with too narrow paths with barbed wire and sheep wire, gates that are difficult to open without dismounting, poor signage of paths

poor footing, low branches , bad gates

Off Roaders using them at speed and ruining the ground. Theres no respect for horse riders

Over grown bridle ways meaning we have to go on the he roads. In August 2018 we gathered as many riders, walkers etc and cleared one track that you could barley walk down let alone ride on horse or bike, the track lead from the horsley road to wallow green, it was good fun my mum provided lunch for everyone and after it looked great, it should of been done by the council though.

Have come across some were gates r locked and also very overgrown. Also not all horse gates are horse friendly!

Use by motorbikes in Shadwell woods sometimes. With heavy rain some are also quite eroded comin off Uley Bury

Hard uneven surfaces are not good for horses soundness, ruts from motorbikes are an issue in places

Some gates have damaged my arm, Multiple shots in adjacent shooting school (Coberley 41), deep bog at Dryhill Farm (Badgeworth 108), many others.

Some over grown, narrow

Loose dogs, poor surfaces, bad gates

Sometimes dogs off the lead can be very difficult.

Some of the bridleways down the east side of Cleeve Hill are too washed out and gullied to be ridden at all and some are too muddy and slippery to be ridden down hill except in very dry weather

Massive increase of use by motorised vehicles on Byways and mountain bikes on bridlepaths also loose dogs horses are 4 wheel drive, lots of mud makes it more difficult but still doable.

Some gates that are difficult to use/open. Some overgrown routes, now too enclosed to ride through

Inappropriate language spoken by public about me

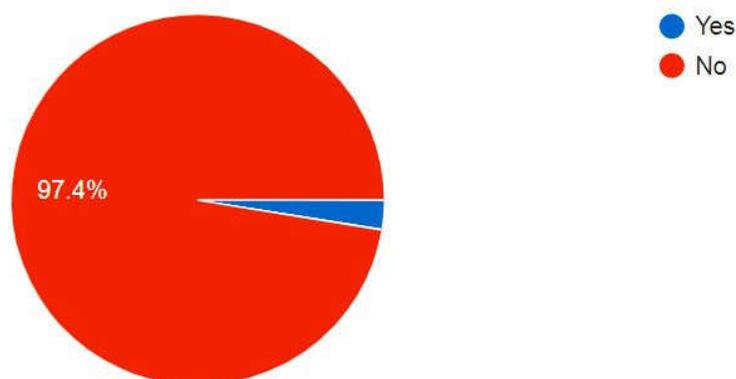
Badger sets and rabbit holes

Very poorly maintained and gates that farmers make very hard to open when mounted

Planning and access projects

Do you feel that horse riders are considered equally with walkers and cyclists in county/district/parish planning or access improvement projects?

78 responses



Do you have any comments about planning or access improvement projects and the inclusion/exclusion of horse riding e.g. monies spent or consideration given to riders compared to that of walkers or cyclists.

The bridleway at the shooting school in upper coberley was over looked when planning was put in to extend the shooting range we are looked at as a transport relic and not an important part of the countryside

All improvements to access projects for walkers and cyclists should also include horse riders

Horses have been around far longer than cyclists and do no more damage to bridleways: they should always be inc. in rights of way talks (apart from footpaths only)

More access to other bridle paths in area

Local council are very keen to encourage cycling but have a bit of a blind spot about being able to access rights of way without having to use busy roads, whether bikes or horses

I just think riders are largely ignored as a whole. Cyclists and walkers have much more choice in where they can go, and more importantly are welcome. A lady shouted at my friend and I recently on Rodborough Common claiming that she didn't have to keep her dogs away from the horses as horses are not permitted on common land. I was very upset by the incident but unfortunately it is not an isolated case.

Seems difficult to get any funding regardless of if you walk or ride!

Not enough done to include horse riders in access for all initiative as non horsey people on committees that make decisions

I don't feel that riders are considered at all compared to walkers or cyclists in my area We cannot use canal paths The lanes are now too dangerous There are no byways or bridleways available

Horse riders seem of little interest to most councils. We feel unwelcome and excluded. Considering the vast amount of money horse owners return to the economy we deserve greater consideration.

Put in gates that a horse rider can open i.e. with the tall latch so we don't have to bend over

I feel like foot paths are better maintained, and also pedestrian gates are maintained to a higher standard than equestrian access gates.

when planning routes they should provide for horse riders too

Too many difficult gates on bridleways, poorly maintained bridleways - shame because this leads horse riders to use footpaths or other routes, including dangerous roads

Please see previous response. Horses were purposely excluded from use of extension to the Cotswold way to avoid dangerous corner around monument. The extension was mostly on pre-existing tracks suitable for horses.

A lot more cycle paths rather than bridle paths

Horse riding always seems to be an after thought.

Much more consideration should be given to multi user bridleway/pathways (barring motorbikes!) and opening up designated safer rides where possible.

When new developments are built affecting bridleways - more consideration should be given to creating EXTRA safe routes given that the new building work will cause more traffic on the roads.

Not direct experience big bit is clear many rights of way officers do not understand the needs of horse riders. Understandably if they are not horse riders.

Underrepresented group

More bridleways needed

There are SO many walking/cycling routes- hardly any bridleways

Walkers and cyclists seem to get priority ☐

Off road routes could be shared by all. There are miles of quiet footpaths that could be made accessible. eg previously proposed route from standish

More housing and more cars make for riding on the road more dangerous

A lack of consideration to riders, in areas that are established with stables, livery yards and equestrian suppliers

Upgrade suitable quiet footpaths (footpaths that are not heavily used by walkers).

Horses are often left out of planning and are the poor cousins of walkers and cyclists

Nothing spent on horse access as far as I'm aware

Horse riders should be as important as cyclists and walkers , they are in many ways more vulnerable

No consideration at all to horse riders

We don't seem to get any consideration

Footpaths go in everywhere and alternatives made, but bridleways just seem to be cut off

No funding for bridleways from new developments, only for footpaths/pedestrian

Cyclists seem to be "top dogs" at the moment as regards consideration of tracks & byways. Totally unsuitable surfaces for horses are quite often used.

Horse riders are constantly ignored

far more footpaths than bridleways

Some bridlepaths are not in good condition - i.e safe surface, bushes, trees cut back and properly opening gates.

Riders certainly don't get the same consideration as walkers and cyclists. Its about time they did.

Horse riders should be allowed to use all of the public footpaths and cycle paths we help to keep them open. Also if given a choice we would all ride off road.

A lot more needs to be spent on all rights of way, and systemic change is essential to have landholders appropriately paid for looking after them. Prow have a tiny fraction of the amount needed to maintain the current off-road network. Also Highways must be tasked with keeping verges and side growth on highways in good shape and free of rubbish. The current situation has verges, which are essential as refuges and places to allow cars to pass as well as to walk/ride on are effectively no-go and dangerous.

They should be the same, walkers and cyclist are given far more consideration

For whatever reason riding and access by riders seems less important than other groups. It's sad as we face the same difficulties as cyclists on the road and walkers on paths

Horse riders are given less consideration than cyclists both on road and off road when changes are planned or considered

everyone should be considered equally and equestrian and mobility scooter users are not

increasing bridle ways = less horses on the road = less horrid accidents

Considering horse riders as well as everyone else

If you wish, please provide other comments regarding riding safety and access to riding routes.

One horse has been killed and rider with life threatening serious injuries and another rider with broken bones that necessitated a lengthy hospital stay (to my immediate knowledge, there may be others) whilst riding on the single track Sandpits Lane where there is a footpath the other side of the hedge This Lane gives essential access to several bridle paths. It's a rat run which could easily be avoided if common sense was applied to rights of way.

Would be good if incentives could be offered to land owners to allow access for riders

increase the number of general use tracks - funding should be percentage of council tax so as more houses are built more money is spent multi use tracks

Clearer signage for bridleways would be useful, as well as clearer info on rights of way. More consideration for maintenance of surfaces where motorised vehicles are allowed as well as other users.

There is a general feeling that motorists consider horse riders a nuisance and should not be on the road. They do not appreciate that we would much rather not have to use them but do not have any alternative. It would be great if we were allowed to ride around the edges of arable fields but the majority are kept shut. I'm sure a lot of riders would be prepared to pay for the privilege so they could get off the roads.

The current appalling condition of most of the bridleways I use (within 8 miles of Seven Springs, Cheltenham) put off most horse riders from riding away from their stable and very local area. Very few would venture on to main roads or highly trafficked minor roads, which are essential to connect to Bridleways due to entirely valid safety concerns.

I did report my concerns about the Edgeworth bridleway to Gloucestershire county council but just received an automated reply to say they may not be able to deal with my request!

we just ask that we have the same opportunities as all other people don't forget there are many children riding ponies why should they not be able to ride in safety

I have reported numerous issues via the Council website and have had no response whatsoever,! nor are the issues resolved.

The biggest problems seem to be a general lack of respect for other road users, mostly from drivers and the failure of local councils to act to protect / provide for other road users.

Poor access due to difficult-to-open (or occasionally dangerous-to-open) gates is a deterrent to using some bridle routes

Hacking is an important part of training for a horse / pony and can be a very relaxing fun way of the partnership of horse and rider but people have become too afraid to venture out and see the wonderful countryside which is a shame

Wearing hi viz should be a legal requirement on horse and rider if using roads during their route, there are still too many riders without visibility on roads

Why can't more footpaths be changed to bridleways making it safer for us so we have to go on less roads

Councils and police around the area should be more conservative towards the horse riders , after being nearly hit the other day on my youngest we reported the incident to the police with cctv , and have heard nothing back!

I'd like to thank you!

More needs to be done on safety how many horses and riders does it take to be killed before something is done

Education of drivers would help. Hi viz should be worn by all riders.

Shots should not be allowed on or near bridleways

Repairs and cutting back trees and woodland not done often enough