

## **Bridleways**

*HC Deb 27 November 1980 vol 994 c161W 161W*

### **§ Mr. Greenway**

asked the Secretary of State for the Environment **if he will take steps to ensure that commercial riding establishments are not precluded from the use of bridleways in any forthcoming legislation; and if he will make a statement.**

### *§ Mr. Monro*

**The Government have no intention of discriminating, either legislatively or otherwise, between commercial riding school and other equestrian use of bridleways.**

## **Horse Riders**

***HC Deb 27 April 1982 vol 22 cc250-1W 250W***

*§ Mr. Greenway*

**asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether he is taking any steps to improve access to the countryside, including the national parks, for horse riders.**

*§ Mr. Macfarlane*

**The provision of facilities for access to the countryside by horse riders is primarily the responsibility of local, including national parks, authorities. My right hon. Friend introduced measures in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which will substantially reduce the cost to local authorities of creating new bridleways where needed.**

The Countryside Commission, which has a responsibility for promoting access to the countryside, introduced in August 1980 a grant-aid scheme designed to provide better facilities for horse riders. Grants under the scheme are available both to local authorities and to private individuals and bodies.

## **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: RECORDS**

*HL Deb 01 November 1983 vol 444 c551WA*

§ Lord Mayhew

asked Her Majesty's Government:

**What action they propose to prevent the loss of public footpaths as a result of the failure of the highway authorities and the Department of the Environment to adhere to the procedural timetable laid down in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.**

§ Lord Skelmersdale

**Public rights of way do not cease to exist simply through failure to record them in definitive maps.** It is of course desirable to keep up-to-date definitive maps and statements of public rights of way. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 introduced a new and more flexible procedure for this purpose which was brought into operation on 28th February this year and should prove more effective than the previous arrangements

## **Bridleways**

*HC Deb 22 October 1987 vol 120 cc913-4*

*13. Mr. Michael Mc Nair-Wilson*

asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what discussions he has had with the chairman of the National Farmers Union **about bridleways across farming land.**

*§ Mr. Gummer*

I met the deputy president of the National Farmers Union on 13 October, when we discussed, among other things, the question of access to the countryside.

*Mr. McNair-Wilson*

May I urge my right hon. Friend **to consider setting up an inquiry into the current network of bridleways? May I suggest to him that there should be an expansion of the bridleways to meet the huge increase in riding as a leisure pursuit, so as to take riders off busy country roads and lanes** and to assist farmers who find that the lines of some traditional bridleways are detrimental to good agriculture?

*§ Mr. Gummer*

I am sure that my hon. Friend is right to stress the need to accept within the countryside the demands of access, which very often run counter to some of the demands of conservation and agriculture. The Ministry tries hard to bring those different demands together. In the meantime, we are discussing with others how best to help gain access to bridleways in the environmentally sensitive areas where we are directly responsible. My right hon. Friend **the Minister is discussing with the Countryside Commission how best to continue to try to produce better access to the countryside for the rider and the pedestrian.**

## **Footpaths and Bridleways**

*HC Deb 11 February 1988 vol 127 c295W*

*Mr. Cummings*

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment **what positive moves he is taking to promote public awareness of their ancient rights of travel on public footpaths and bridleways.**

*Mrs. Roe*

**The Countryside Commission has recently published proposals for improving and extending public enjoyment of the countryside,** including measures for raising awareness of a variety of recreational activities. My right hon. Friend welcomes this initiative.

## **Horse Riding**

*HC Deb 12 February 1988 vol 127 c384W*

*Mr. Allan Roberts*

To ask the Secretary of State for **Defence if he will take steps to abolish limits on the number of permits for horse riding on his Department's land** and towards the setting up of circular bridleway routes for each Ministry of Defence permit area; and if he will make a statement on any problems presently being faced by permit holders and those awaiting permits, in the Aldershot area.

*Mr. Freeman*

It is Ministry of Defence policy to allow maximum use of its facilities for recreational purposes where such use is consistent with military requirements and with the interests of tenants and licensees and where it does not affect the local amenities and environment unreasonably. Within these parameters it is up to the local military commander, in consultation with the PSA estate surveyor, to decide to what extent horse riding may be permitted.

**The huge popularity of horse riding in the Aldershot area has necessitated the operation of a permit scheme so as to control the number of riders on MOD land.**

The number of permits issued is reviewed annually and reflects military training requirements and conservation interests, including the avoidance of soil erosion. In view of the large number of applicants on the waiting list, discussions were held with the British Horse Society in November last year with a view to doubling the number of permits but restricting the number of days each member of the public could ride. This proposal has not yet been accepted. It is not, however, my intention to abolish limits on the number of permits for horse riding in this area or to set up circular bridleway routes for each permit area.

## **Footpaths and Bridleways**

*HC Deb 12 July 1988 vol 137 cc134-5W*

*Dr. David Clark*

To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food whether he has plans, or has held discussions with other bodies, about introducing **an experimental scheme to allow farmers to maintain footpaths and bridleways as agents of county councils;** and if he will make a statement.

*Mr. Gummer*

[holding answer 11 July 1988]: My officials have held discussions with the Countryside Commission about an experimental scheme proposed by the Commission **under which farmers would maintain footpaths and bridleways under contract to the highways authority.** I would fully support the aims of such a scheme