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**From:** Cllr Rushforth, Collette <[Collette.Rushforth@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:Collette.Rushforth@wyre.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** [Saturday, March 28, 2026 10:24:09 AM](#)

**To:** leanne.murray <[leanne.murray@btinternet.com](mailto:leanne.murray@btinternet.com)>

**Subject:** Fw: Rebuttal evidence regarding adverse effect of proposed quarry on use of Bourbles Lane Bridlepath.

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Bourbles Lane Bridlepath is a major asset to the horse riders ( and indeed walkers and cyclists ) in the local area when Green spaces and safe riding are becoming ever more scarce.

The bridlepath runs from the A 588 ( Head Dyke Lane)right through the whole of the proposed quarry site, ending on Little Tongues Lane in Preesall. Approx 1.5 km in length.

There was a long, hard fought court battle by Fylde Coast Bridleways Association to achieve this bridlepath status in the 1970s.

If you look at the attached site plan , you can clearly track its route from start to finish.

Initially there is some clearance between the bridlepath and any workings, but as you continue you move ever deeper into the " valley of the shadow of death" with high bunds restricting visibility of horse, rider and operator of any vehicle...this point is also a proposed " Crossing point "of Vehicles which will be large, noisy, and in close proximity to equestrians.. this is NOT a safe situation for equestrians!

As each phase is worked there will always be major dangers to horse riders, with the bridlepath running between Phase 3A and Phase 4, the adjacent to firstly Phase 2, and finally Phase 1.

This long fought for and widely used bridlepath will become unusable due to safety reasons , which is totally unacceptable!

I write this confidently both as an experienced horse rider of over 50 years, and as my experience as being formerly employed as an Equine Welfare Officer for one of the leading horse charities in the country ( HAPPA).

I would now like to bring into question the quotation made by the appellant from a British Horse Society document entitled “ Noise on Routes Used With Horses”

The appellant has pulled out two paragraphs from this document which relate to general noise reactions of a horse. They have been extremely selective and thus manipulative of the reader here, as if you read the full document (which is attached as a pdf for your attention above )you will get the true picture of a horses reaction to noise .. specific note should be taken to the comment.. “ there is a risk to handler, rider or carriage driver”

The full document makes it quite clear that the hazards to which a horse and rider would be exposed in a fully operational quarry would make this route unsafe for the average horse rider, although fully trained police or military horses may well manage l this environment.... a level of training which is beyond that of the average horse & rider.... perhaps a specially trained animal eg police horse could manage... this amount of training , and even type of animal is not easily achievable for the average horse owner.

Further to the comments of the British Horse Society a general “ google search”:gives a very full and detailed list of issues that would be present to negatively impact on the safety of horse riders.

I will write this up in full for you here....

*“Based on concerns raised in planning consultations and equestrian safety guidelines, a quarrying and inert waste infill site operating along or through a bridleway presents several specific hazards that are likely to frighten horses. Horses are prey animals, and their instinct is to flee ( bolt spin or rear) from unfamiliar, loud or sudden stimuli.*

*Specific things that would frighten horses in this environment include:*

### **1 HIGH VOLUME HEAVY TRAFFIC**

- **Lorry Movements:** *The sheer size and frequency of HGVs eg 50-80:movements per day) entering and leaving the site, particularly on narrow access lanes , can frighten horses.*
- **Blind Corner Conflicts** *If the bridleway connects to a site access point on a bend, horses may suddenly encounter large vehicles leading to dangerous spooking behaviors which could force them into traffic.*
- **Speed and Noise :** *Fast moving or noisy Lorries can cause horses to shy , plant ( refuse to move), or flee.*

### **2. Specific Noises and Vibrations**

- **Sudden Mechanical Noises:** *Crushing machinery, excavators, diggers, generators and reversing beepers are loud and often unexpected.*
- **Impact Noises :** *The sound of metal on metal, dropping rubble, or tipping loads can trigger flight responses.*
- **Ground Vibrations:** *Horses can detect vibrations through their feet and teeth and intense vibrations from heavy machinery can cause anxiety.*

### **3. Visual and Environmental Stimuli.**

- **Moving Machinery:** A shovel or bucket moving rapidly in a horse's peripheral vision is a major cause of spooking.
- **Inert Waste Materials:** Heaps of rubble, bright coloured plastic sheeting, tyres or large pipes left near the bridleway are "scary" objects.
- **Dust and Vapours:** Dust clouds especially if they contain synthetic fibres from recycled material, or smells from oil or chemical containers can spook horses.
- **Excavations :** Open trenches, pits or sudden changes in terrain along the path.

#### **4 Changes to the Bridlepath itself.**

- **Loose sharp surface:** The tipping of material may leave sharp rubble or gravel on the track which can cause pain and reluctance in horses, leading to nervous behaviour.
- **Poorly Maintained Surfaces:** Mud, debris, or excessive water resulting from construction activity can make the path unsafe.

#### **Personnel and Operations.**

- **Workers in High- Visibility Clothing:** Unfamiliar figures moving about in bright clothing can be a trigger.
- **Fencing/ Restricted Views:** The creation of new, high or stark fencing, can make a horse feel trapped, which might trigger a flight response ( bolt, buck or rear).

#### **Potential Consequences.**

**\*Spooking/ Bolting:** The horse may bolt back towards a road or into the quarry site.

- **Injuries:** Risk of injury to the horse and rider from slipping on poor surfaces, collisions or falling into pits"

Please note that I have copied this information out verbatim to show the full extent of the potential impact of a fully operational quarry/ inert waste infill on the bridlepath that runs throughout its extent.

The information clearly highlights the total inadequacy of the appellants claims re any noise impact on horse and [rider.It](#) also clearly shows that it is not only the noise impacts

that are of importance here, but also **SIGHT** is of major importance re the impact of workings of the development on the legitimate , equestrian user..... plus more!

If you refer back to the pdf above (British Horse Society):you will see that they reference " noise attenuation ".

There is no mention of this in the application...in fact there is absolutely no mitigation of any sort with regard to equestrian safety when using the bridlepath..... but of course with the highly selective information presented to you.. they are wanting to create the picture that there is actually no problem at all... when there clearly is!

I have had discussions with Jill Broadhurst ( Chair of Fylde Coast Bridleways Association) [today](#) 31/01/26, to check if either Mr Callum Baxter, The Baxter Group, Mr Simon Rees or Greenfield Enviro have been in touch in any way to liase or discuss any possible mitigation to help to reduce the dangerously negative impact on the equestrian when using the Bourbles Lane Bridle path..... **NOBODY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH AT ALL!**

If this development were to be given the go ahead, this bridlepath would become unusable for the hobby riders around here and this is absolutely not acceptable.

The evidence/ opinion expressed above dies nit fall in line with the appellants claim if “ no impact “ on the bridlepath.

I ask that this appeal is rejected due to what would be this loss of a massively important local amenity due to safety concerns.

Kind Regards,

Cllr Collette Rushforth.

**Councillor Collette  
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